

NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER 2008

While still in the glow of a very successful benefit concert with **Lorna Luft**, we'd like to thank a few people who worked tirelessly to make the evening so special. Thank you to *Edmond Arredondo* and *Herb Hemming*, to *Ruth Hemming*, to *Oatley Kidder*, to *Bonnie Reige*, to *Linda Harmon* and to all who supported this event with attendance or contributions. It was indeed a thrill to hear Lorna and other special guests, **Asunta Fleming** and **Alan Thornhill**. A perfect blend of talent, scrumptious appetizers, libations, silent auction items, and a full house made it an evening we will not soon forget. We're talking about next year.....

THEATRE THINGS..... The hilarious comedy, **The Nerd**, plays on our stage weekends through Oct. 19. Written by Larry Shue, **The Nerd** is an uproarious take on promises you wish you hadn't made. It's about a Vietnam veteran who vows to do anything for the guy who saved his life, not knowing that guy is a hopeless nerd, totally socially inept and impossible to get rid of. Tom Eubanks directs a cast he describes as "a mix of old and new faces... all who have a good sense of not just comedic timing but naturalistic acting style, which is perfect for this play." Performances are Fri & Sat at 8 p.m., Sunday at 7 p.m. For tickets call 640-8797 or log on to: www.OjaiACT.org. (p.s. there's a surprise at the end.)

AUDITIONS.... Catherine Dain, producer of *It's A Wonderful Life*: "It's beginning to feel a lot like.... Well, autumn. And that means the Theatre Branch is holding auditions for the holiday show. This year we are doing a fully staged non-musical version of the classic heartwarmer, *It's A Wonderful Life*, a play by James W. Rodgers based on the Frank Capra film. All roles are open and actors and actresses of all ages are needed to fill them. Auditions are Sunday, Oct. 26, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., Monday & Tuesday, October 21 & 28, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Callbacks will be Wednesday October 29. Bring headshot, one page resume, Nov./Dec. calendar. Sides will be available. We are looking for technical staff also. For information, email director Gai Jones at gai.jones@sbcglobal.net."

ART.... The **Ojai Studio Artists** celebrate 25 years of bringing art and art lovers together for a weekend of personal visits to the studios of over 45 members. This annual pilgrimage offers collectors the opportunity to see new creations, view works in progress and enjoy personal contact with the artists. Many new works of painting, sculpture, jewelry and pottery will be on display. The first stop should be the Art Center Gallery where a sampling from each artist will be on exhibit. Choose your favorites and be on your way. Everyone will meet back at the Art Center on Saturday night, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for a reception with food, beverages and a live auction. The gallery exhibit continues through October 29. For tickets to the tour call 805 646-8126 or go online - www.ojaiarttour.com.

MUSIC.... Remember the wonderful recital last year by *Robert Krupnick* on our Steinway piano? On Sunday, October 19 at 2 p.m. he will be back again, performing solo pieces by Mozart, James Tenney, Arvo Part and Chopin. In addition, he will be joined by *Yue Deng* and *Amy Hagen*, violins, *Kirsten Monke*, viola, and *Virginia Kron*, cello, in a performance of Bach's Concerto for Piano, Strings and Basso continuo. Admission is \$10 or \$8 for Art Center members and students. All tickets sold at the door. For further info, call 640-8327.

LITERARY On Monday, October 13 at 7 p.m., the Literary Branch will present AN EVENING WITH DAVID MASON. This prominent Ojai historian and raconteur will read a ghost story and tell us about its origins. Concluding the program, playwright Peter Fox ("Acts of God") will interview David, inquiring about some of the changes in Ojai over the last 70 years or so. Suggested donation is \$5.00.

On Tuesday, October 28 we will hold a special class in preparation for our holiday art exhibit. The success of last year's December exhibit, *The Wonder of Wreaths*, inspired two local artists, Gretchen Greenberg and Nan Kyra to offer a wreath workshop. The idea is to have fun, inspire each other and get in the creative spirit of the season. All those interested, should bring materials, usual or unusual, natural or not so natural to make wreaths which may then be submitted for consideration for the December show. The workshop is free and will be from 6 - 9 p.m. in the Raymond Room.

