

NEWSLETTER, MAY 2009

THEATRE.....

The saying “ short, but sweet “ could easily apply to our most recent production of “**Noises Off**”. Due to unfortunate circumstances, the production did not run the full 5 weeks. With a mostly volunteer organization, the efforts of those who work for “the joy of doing it” are greatly appreciated. Putting on a play takes the blood, sweat and tears of many and whether the play runs one week or six, the work is the same. Thanks to *Gai Jones* all those who gave their time and talent to this production.

Coming up next is the timeless story of the boy who could fly, **Peter Pan**. J.M. Barrie’s classic drama arrives May 15 and will play through May 30. After auditioning 60 possible cast members, director *Gai Jones* and assistant director *Michael McGraw* whittled it down to 35. Herb Hemming produces. The intergenerational production will delight all ages with fairies, mermaids, animals, lost boys, Indians, and pirates. There are many parent/child combinations on stage as well as Ojai favorites *Doug Freidlander* (Capt. Hook) and *Nelson Fox* (Smee). It is really fun for all, on stage and in the audience. The performances are Friday & Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Call 640-8797 for reservations and info.

Coming up in June is our annual musical. This year’s choice, “**A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum** “ brings back the triumverate of Tracey Williams, directing ,Len Klaif, producing and Margo Haas, stage manager. Dates are June 26 to July 25. Look forward to it!!!!

The Art Center Theatre Branch will offer a **Summer Youth Theatre Workshop**, taught by *Gai Jones*. The workshop will be held each day 8:45 a.m. to 11 a.m. ,July 13 to July 23. It will end with a showcase of CHARLIE BROWN AND FRIENDS on the evening of July 23 at 7 p.m. This is for youth in grades 1 through 5. The charge is \$10 an hour for a cost of \$180. If you register before June 10 there is a discount of \$30. Pre-registration is required. Call Gai at 640-6472 or email her at gai.jones@sbcglobal.net. For registration form or further info.

DANCE.....

Saturday, May 9 is the night for dancin’! **CONTRA DANCING**. Live music with the band “Chopped Liver” featuring Michael Mendelson on fiddle, Jeff Spero – keyboards, Suzanne Duffy on flute. All steps will be called and prompted by Jonathon Southard. Beginners class at 7 p.m. Fun for all, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Dancers of all ages are welcome. No partners necessary. Admission is \$9, \$8 for Art Center members, \$5 for teens. Call Karin at 933-0660 for more info.

LITERARY.....

This month, *Liz Grumette* has invited *Barbara Wagner* of Laubach Literacy of Ventura County to come tell us about her organization. She will speak of their efforts to train and support volunteers to provide tutoring to adults who need help learning how to read, write and speak English. Refreshments will be provided. Donations appreciated. Monday, May 11 at 7 p.m. in the Gallery.

ART.....

From May 8 through June 3rd, we will host the third annual members only exhibit from the Santa Barbara Printmakers. 100 members strong, the **Santa Barbara Printmakers** are a group of artists dedicated to promoting and producing art that uses hand and press printing techniques for the purposes of artistic exploration and expression. This includes etching, monotype, woodblock, collagraph, linocut, clay, lithography and digital programming. The members are comprised of emerging as well as established artists.

The Front showcase will display the sculptures of *Edward Miller*. “Village People” returns to the Beato Showcase with the sketches and drawings of the fabulous *Ingrid Pratt*.

Reception for all artists is Sunday, May 10, 1-3 p.m. All welcome.

SPECIAL EVENT.....

ONE OF THE BEST EVENTS OF THE YEAR HAPPENS THE WEEKEND OF MAY 23 & 24. **ART IN THE PARK CELEBRATES 32 YEARS**. THAT’S OVER 3 DECADES OF HOSTING ARTISTS FROM OJAI, VENTURA COUNTY AND REGIONS FAR AND WIDE. ARTISTS WHO HAVE CREATED ITEMS RANGING FROM WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS TO FINE JEWELRY. ARTSISTS WHO HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY SELECTED BASED ON THE QUALITY AND ORIGINALITY OF THEIR WORK. THIS YEAR’S FESTIVAL WILL FEATURE RETURNING ARTISTS AS WELL AS FIRST TIMERS, MELLOW MUSIC IN THE GAZEBO

AND REFRESHMENTS. STROLL THE TREE LINED PATHS OF LIBBEY PARK, MEET THE ARTISTS.
ENJOY A DAY OF ART AND MUSIC. 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M. FREE ADMISSION. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT
THIS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER!!!!!!!!!!