



SPOTLIGHT

FEBRUARY 2009



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jim Hanushek

There's lots of stuff going on, so I'm going to keep my note short this time.

The folks who attended our Christmas program provided donations for Helping Hand of Englewood. We were able to take them 8 full boxes of food and \$110 in cash donations. If you were one of the folks who participated, thank you!

Thank you also to all of the members who returned their ballots regarding the bylaws amendment. Ninety-three "Yes" votes were necessary to pass the amendment; we received 114 votes in favor.

If you have internet access, I'm sure you have seen at least one video on YouTube.com. We've started putting links to YouTube videos on our website. Our website has a link to a video of Cynthia Sayer (see the article on p. 3) playing and singing *Sunny Side of the Street*. Her website, also linked to from our site, has additional songs to listen to. She'll be here with Herb Bruce (trombone) & Mark Neuenschwander (string bass).

If you search for Lemon Bay Playhouse, you'll find a review of *The Trip to Bountiful* by one of our volunteers. You can also leave your own comment there.

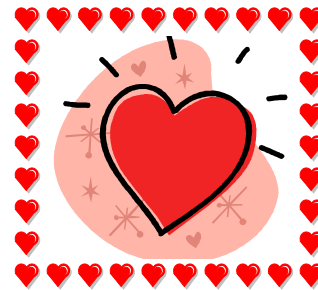
Have trouble hearing? The extra stage mike has been installed. Now you can stop at the box office as you enter the theater and ask for one of the "assisted listening devices". They have received an overwhelmingly positive response. Patrons who have used them say that they're able to hear every word.

Enjoy, Jim Hanushek

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

We're looking for someone to take over the construction of the "lobby photo board" for the playhouse. All photos and materials needed will be provided. All we need is your artistic talent and desire to help. Please contact Ann Hanushek (474-9610), if you are interested.

Also, please return your 2008 Volunteer Hours Card to the box office as soon as possible. Thanks for your many hours of dedication to the playhouse. 2009 cards are now available.



Happy
Valentine's
Day!

WINE, FOOD, AND ART TO BENEFIT LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE



The Third Annual Dearborn Street Wine Walk will take place on Saturday, February 28, from 3:00 PM until dusk. Walkers will enjoy delicious foods by area restaurants, fine wines, and beer, all hand-selected for your tasting pleasure! Displays by local artists and tunes by local

musicians will add to the enjoyment of the attendees. This year, Elm Street, from Dearborn north, will be closed to vehicular traffic during the walk.

The net proceeds of this event all go to Lemon Bay Playhouse! Tickets, at \$25 each, are available at the box office at 96 W. Dearborn Street (475-6756), and at Vino Loco Wine and Tapas, 420 W. Dearborn Street. Act fast, since there are only 250 tickets available!

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Monday, February 16, 2009
6:00 p.m.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Monday, February 23, 2009
7:00 p.m.

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE PLAYHOUSE

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS



Mary Lou Ardrey

The heady rush at the sound of applause signaled a theatrical future for Mary Lou Ardrey. She made her debut at the tender age of four, as one of a large group of young dancers. After they had tapped their little hearts out, they scampered upstage to climb up and sit on a fence, while the STAR, in a much prettier costume, sang and danced. One chubby little tapper couldn't make it onto the fence, so Mary Lou jumped down, and with much effort, boosted her up. The audience applauded, and Mary Lou took her bow.

The theater continued to intrigue Mary Lou. When her parents took her to the New York World's Fair in the late 1930s, she saw the miracle of television. On the screen, they demonstrated how lost children could be reunited with their parents. What an opportunity! Mary Lou seized the chance, got lost, and headed for the TV studio. Her embarrassed parents rushed to claim her after she made her successful TV debut.

Mary Lou continued to participate in school productions, but art became a driving force in her life. She majored in fine arts at Montclair College in New Jersey and found much joy in sculpture. In the 1960s, she started carving marionettes. There was great satisfaction in writing the scripts, developing and costuming the characters, building the sets, and acting out the parts. A group of friends, The Merry Loonies, helped stage the productions. By 1970, her fame had spread, and she was chosen by the Players of New Jersey to do their Christmas program for over 1000 children. The president of the group immediately made Mary Lou a member of the Players. Mary Lou says she was fortunate to work with such talent, live and on stage.

For over 30 years, Mary Lou acted, directed, wrote and produced shows, and served the board of the Players for 18 years as secretary, vice president, and finally, as president for 6 years. She also co-hosted a TV talk show in New Jersey, taught creative drama in public schools and the Starz Academy of Venice, and was Director of Creative and Performing Arts at the YMHA.

In 1989, Mary Lou and her husband, Lee, moved to Florida. While attending a performance at Lemon Bay Playhouse, they met Paul Hyatt and talked about Mary Lou's theater experience. Two days later, Paul called and asked her to direct *The Odd Couple - Female*.

That was just the beginning of Mary Lou's work at LBP. She continued to direct for *Social Security*, *Lost in Yonkers*, *Everybody Loves Opal*, *Opal Is a Diamond*, *Opal's Husband*, *Scandal Point*, *A Shot in the Dark*, *Breaking Legs*, *The Foreigner*, and many children's productions and variety shows. You may find yourself smiling fondly as you remember some of these shows.

Wherever help at LBP was needed, Mary Lou heeded the call and pitched right in. Over the years, she's been Membership Chairman, served on the Board of Trustees, taught the Children's Workshop, chaired the Intermission Series, worked on the Play Selection Committee, organized the mortgage burning ceremony, helped revise by-laws, co-chaired the committee to obtain new lighting, sound, and curtains for the theater, and handled cast parties and special events. She's also been Costume Chairman and Set Décor Chairman and performed the duties of stage manager. On the stage, you've probably seen some great props she created, such as the bust ofocrates, used as the murder weapon in *Cliffhanger*.

Mary Lou has especially enjoyed the comradery of working with actors, encouraging the cast members to trust and depend on one another, and produce a great performance. She also enjoys visiting with the theater patrons, when she acts as a house manager.

All of us at LBP salute this talented lady. Thanks, Mary Lou, for all of the wonderful things that you do!

MELANIE MASSELL SINGS JAZZ IN THE AFTERNOON



Lemon Bay Playhouse is bringing Melanie Massell to Englewood on Sunday, March 29, at 2:00 pm. A seasoned, professional vocalist with a broad range and unique interpretive style, Melanie Massell will touch your heart with her renderings of jazz standards, bluesy ballads and torch songs.

An Atlanta native, Melanie Massell has been performing professionally and charming audiences since childhood. After majoring in theater and performing arts, her career began with acting in bit film parts, expanding to television and radio commercials and then to national and international singing performances.

Melanie has consistently delighted crowds at clubs, weddings, special events, festivals, and premier hotel venues throughout the Southeast with her vocals and charisma.

After many years of touring, she relocated to the Sarasota/Bradenton area in 2007.

Melanie has repeatedly been a featured performer at the Atlanta Jazz Festival, was nominated as "Outstanding Jazz Artist" at the Coca-Cola Music Awards, and appeared at Atlanta Symphony Hall as Featured Artist with the Atlanta Concert Band.

"Songs performed the way they're supposed to be sung...Melanie's show is two thumbs up" says Tom Houck of Creative Loafing.

Tickets, at only \$15 each, are available online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com and at the Lemon Bay Playhouse Box Office, 96 W Dearborn Street, Englewood, phone (941) 475-6756.

CPR/AED TRAINING CLASS

Every day, the skills learned from a Red Cross training course save lives. In an effort to increase the safety of our audiences and people in our community, LBP has joined with the Charlotte County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

CPR/AED training will be offered at the LBP on Saturday, March 7, from 12:30pm until 5:00pm. This is a certification course that will teach you what to do in the case of emergencies, including medical emergencies such as heart attack. Skills during this class will be those you can use in the event of any size emergency. For example, in Port Charlotte recently CPR skills were used to save the life of a drowning toddler and also a retired fisherman.

CPR, cardiocitation, is a pulmo- nary resus- method to pro- tated blood to organs until more medical help arrives. AED, automated external defibrillator, is a machine that delivers a shock to the heart to help it resume a normal rhythm. AEDs are becoming more prevalent in locations where people gather. The rate of someone surviving a heart attack with CPR only is between 8%-13%. The use of an AED increases the survival rate to between 40% and 50%.

The training simulations involve the physical activity necessary to perform CPR. Participants must be able to kneel on the floor for up to 10 minutes. Appropriate clothing is suggested!!

There is no charge for this training. However, space is limited to 10 participants. Register by calling the box office at 475-6756. The deadline for registration is Saturday, March 1.

ANGEL STREET (Gas Light) UP NEXT



Seated: l-r, Bob La Salle, Lee Lawler.
Standing: l-r, Ann Hanushek, Director
Ralph Barnes, Nick Nichols. Inset:
Amanda Gworek

Rehearsals are already underway for the March 4-22 production of *ANGEL STREET*, directed by Ralph Barnes. This is a classic mystery thriller written by Patrick Hamilton. It was first produced on the London stage under the title of *GASLIGHT*. It is a story of the sinister Mr. Manningham, who is mentally torturing his wife to drive her insane.

He is being pursued by police inspector Rough who is seeking evidence to convict him of an unsolved murder. Last seen in *Night Watch*: LBP Production Manager, Robert La Salle, and Lee Lawler are playing the Manningshams and Ann Hanushek is playing the housekeeper. Nick Nichols (fresh from *THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL*) is Rough. Amanda Gworek rounds out the cast as Nancy.

Leo G. Carroll and Vincent Price starred in the 1941 stage production at the John Golden Theater on Broadway for a total of 1295 performances. The expanded 1944 movie version of *GASLIGHT* included Charles Boyer, Ingrid Bergman, Joseph Cotton, and a teenage Angela Lansbury who played the saucy young maid, Nancy.

JAZZ BANJO CONCERT



As part of its effort to bring a variety of performances to Englewood and the surrounding community, Lemon Bay Playhouse has scheduled a unique jazz concert by Cynthia Sayer for Saturday, February 21, at 7:30 PM.

Cynthia Sayer is internationally acclaimed as one of the leading jazz banjoists, and is also known for her vocal, entertaining, and multi-instrumental talents. Ms. Sayer has worked with such artists as Woody Allen, Dick Hyman, Milt Hinton, Bill Cosby, George Segal, Wynton Marsalis, Les Paul, Odetta, Marvin Hamlisch, Bucky Pizzarelli, Kenny Davern, Dick Wellstood, Bob Wilber, Doc Cheatham, Warren Vaché, Ken Peplowski, and many others. She tours regularly and is featured in concert and at festivals worldwide.

Cynthia is a 10+ year veteran of Woody Allen's New Orleans Jazz Band, on piano & vocals. She appears in *Wild Man Blues*, the award-winning feature film documentary about Woody Allen and the band on tour in Europe. She was the banjoist with the New York Philharmonic performances of *Rhapsody In Blue*. Cynthia performed for two USA Presidents (once at the White House), in concerts at Carnegie Hall, with the New York Philharmonic, and at the Metropolitan Opera House, performing in a Twyla Tharp production for the American Ballet Theater. Cynthia co-starred in *The New Spike Jones Show*, as featured in People Magazine and The Wall Street Journal's front page. On the lighter side, she is the subject of a Trivial Pursuit game question (90's Edition), plus was the official banjoist for The New York Yankees.

Tickets, at only \$15 each, are available online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com and at the Lemon Bay Playhouse Box Office, 96 W Dearborn Street, Englewood, phone (941) 475-6756.

ACTING CLASS GRADUATION!



Lemon Bay Playhouse Adult Acting Classes will present highlights of their ten-week session with presentations of several short scenes on February 7 at 7:30 PM at the playhouse. These short presentations will spotlight both beginner and intermediate students in a variety

of humorous and thought-provoking scenes guaranteed to entertain you.

The show is open to the public while seating is available! Admission is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted!

The Intermediate Acting Class consists of: Marcia Cochie, Bob La Salle, Christine Reynolds, Jim Walsh and Tammy Wisnewski.

The Beginning Acting Class students are: Kathleen Amelia, Raeanne Brenneise, Joyce Cleary, Marieta Crown, Jane Dean, Raymond Jasica, Virginia Kenyon, Wanda Malloy, Cliff Murphy, Gid Pool and Patricia Schroeder.

ENCORE FOR DIVA AND THE ITALIAN GUY



Diva and the Italian Guy, are returning to Lemon Bay Playhouse on February 12, 13, and 14 at 7:30 PM. Marcy Downey and Buddy Sebastian have the spontaneous and fun style of a Vegas lounge act. Swing tunes, oldies, Broadway favorites, country, and comedy songs are all part of the act.

They'll even take your requests. Marcy's incredible singing voice has been hailed from coast to coast, and Buddy's Italian-American background is an endless source of hilarious stories and fractured versions of songs.

Marcy and Buddy sing the blockbuster song hits of the great divas and famous male entertainers: Barbra Streisand, Bette Midler, Judy Garland, Louis Prima-Keely Smith, Dean Martin, Bobby Darin and more. But that's just the beginning - the comedic chemistry between these two professionals on stage is irresistible, and the laughs just keep on coming. Not since Sonny and Cher, has a duo produced so much entertainment value.

This critically acclaimed duo has been performing together for over 30 years, on stages from Lake Tahoe, to Los Angeles, Boston, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Florida. Their show business experience includes stage, radio, TV, and movies. They have appeared with such celebrities as Rodney Dangerfield, Fabian, Jack Carter, Pat Cooper, and others. During their two years as a featured act at Harrah's, Lake Tahoe, Buddy also hosted his own morning comedy radio show. Marcy's voice has been heard singing commercial jingles on radio stations throughout the country.

Because of their off-the-cuff style, and the interaction with the audience, the show is never exactly the same twice. They have FUN, and want to make sure the audience does too. It's a guaranteed good time!

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96 W. Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223

Celebrating our 22nd Season!
2008-2009 SEASON



WAIT UNTIL DARK by Frederick Knott	September 3-21, 2008
THE PLAY'S THE THING by Ferenc Molnar (Adapted by P.G. Wodehouse)	October 29 - November 16, 2008
THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL by Horton Foote	January 7-25, 2009
ANGEL STREET (Gas Light) by Patrick Hamilton	March 4-22, 2009
NORMAN, IS THAT YOU? by Ron Clark & Sam Bobrick	April 29 - May 17, 2009
BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE by Leonard Gershe	June 24-July 12, 2009

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LBP Box Office is open Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Phone 941-475-6756

Visit our website at: www.lemonbayplayhouse.com

"It is the mission of Lemon Bay Playhouse to enrich Englewood and surrounding communities through theatrical productions, volunteer opportunities, education and training in the performing arts, and to provide a venue for other cultural activities."