



MARCH-APRIL, 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our fiscal year has come to an end and I'm pleased to say it was spectacular. If you had a chance to read the annual report, you can see just how successful it was. If you haven't read it, you can go to our website, www.lemonbayplayhouse.com, click on "About Us" and select "2020 Annual Report," or we have copies in the lobby. Our Annual meeting went off without a hitch and the three incumbents, Jim Manns, Melissa Mutkosky and myself, were reelected for another term. The officers will stay the same; I will continue as President/Treasurer, Jim Manns as Vice President, and Patty Tuff as Secretary. I am very proud of this Board. They all have worked very hard to make LBP the success that it is and will continue to do so.

The Volunteer Appreciation Party also was a great success. See the article further in the Spotlight for pictures and description. I am very pleased with the committee that put this party together. They did an outstanding job.

On the new theatre front, we recieved an alert that the Lutheran Church on Indiana Avenue was up for sale so we hastened to tour the place and get our architect involved. It seems that their congregation had dwindled and they were unable to afford the upkeep on the building. Well, after they got our hopes up, they changed their minds and decided to keep the building for the present. Another disappointment for us. In addition, I was finally able to get in touch with the woman who owns the property directly across Dearborn Street from the Theatre. Unfortunately, she does not wish to sell at this time or any other time from what I was able to discern from her diatribe. So much for that one. We will continue to look for a suitable location here on Dearborn Street or close by. If you have any ideas, don't hesitate to let me know.

The 2020/2021 season is all settled, including a record 13 Showcases. The season ticket brochure will be sent out shortly and the schedule will be posted on the website in due course. It will be another spectacular season, I can guarantee it. In addition to our Season Ticket package, and the Flex Pass option, we are instituting a special for our full-time resident patrons. We will be offering a special price of \$36 on the purchase of tickets for the combined first and last show of the season. Watch for that.

Respectfully,

Bob La Salle



LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE NEWS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT READER'S THEATRE?

BY KATHY AMELIA

We are halfway through our season at Readers Theatre and our audience has some new faces at our monthly sessions. We have enjoyed reading some new pieces by local writers and hopefully by bringing their thoughts to life, helping their final versions. I want to personally thank Harry Burkey and Vincent Scarsella for giving us interesting material to present. Our outreach performances have been successful, highlighting the unique form of Readers Theatre to people in adjoining communities. Our reply cards that are left with these groups have come back with positive remarks and encouragement to continue this part of Readers Theatre. Please continue your attendance at our first Monday of the month sessions that run through May. Bring a friend! See you on the aisle!

LEMON DROPS SUMMER CAMP

BY CHERYL HASTINGS

For the eighth year in a row, Lemon Bay Playhouse will host The Lemon Drops Summer Theatre Camp. Registration for the camp starts April 1. Camp will be held July 6-24 from 9:00 am to noon, Monday through Friday, ending with two evening performances on Friday, July 24 and Saturday, July 25. The cost for the three week camp is \$210.00 per camper. The camp is limited to 21 students ages 8-14. If a child has "aged-out" and has been part of the camp in the past, he or she is welcome to enroll. Openings fill quickly and early registration is encouraged. A \$40.00 deposit is required at registration time. The application and deposit are due by June 15. Applications can be found at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com or can be picked up at the Lemon Bay Playhouse Box Office, Monday through Friday, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. For more information call the Box Office at (941) 475-6756.



IN MEMORY OF ANN FOSTER

BY DEB POLING



Lemon Bay Playhouse lost a valued volunteer and friend on February 3. Ann Foster was involved with Readers Theatre, house manager and was a house manager chairperson. We offer our deepest sympathy to her family and friends. The following is a tribute written by her good friend, LeeAnn. Rest in peace, Ann.

Ann Foster moved to Tangerine Woods in 2004 and the place hasn't been the same since. We who were her friends and neighbors on Newbury Court watched in amazement as she flitted from activity to activity. She was rarely "home." When she was home, she was often hosting neighbors and friends in her home or carport for happy hour.

Her social life was enviable. She was involved in the Englewood Fun Chorus which entertained shut ins at our nursing facilities and similar locations. When the original chairperson of Adopt A Family, Peg Totman went to be with God, Ann took on that responsibility. She performed duties of host and usher as well as performing at Lemon Bay Playhouse. Among her other interests, she found time for bowling and shuffleboard. She played Mahjong and loved hosting movie nights. She took over the chairmanship of the library, a daunting responsibility. Additionally, she was in charge of getting name tags for the new residents. It was not all work in spite of the numerous tasks and responsibilities. Along the way, she made many friends and remembered every one of them on their special occasions. She belonged to a group that celebrated monthly birthdays at a local restaurant. As if that wasn't activity enough, her hobbies included quilting, sewing, reading, and singing at local karaoke nights. Her interests broadened as she aged and she included travel as part of her enjoyment.

Family was the most important aspect of her very busy life. She was a very proud parent. She often spoke lovingly of their accomplishments. She visited them in the Northeast and North Carolina several times a year. She looked forward to visiting with her two sons and two daughters several times during the year. She was a devoted mom and a loving grandmother.

She was predeceased by her husband Leon Foster, Jr., her fiancé, David Rettig, Sr., her only sibling, Virginia Zapalac, and stepdaughter Cynthia Foster.

Ann is survived by her children, Linda DiGiusto and her husband Mark, Diane Bragdon and her longtime partner, John Reeves, John LaFleur and wife Robin, Thomas LaFleur and wife Paula, stepdaughter Deborah Boisvert and husband Daniel, stepson Leon Foster III and wife Lisa.

Memorial donations may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 1040 Woodcock Rr, Ste 119, Orlando, FL 328033510

LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE NEWS

CANCELLATIONS!

BY DEB POLING

Due to the current situation, Lemon Bay Playhouse will cancel all performances scheduled in March, April and May. This includes the remaining performances of *Lend Me A Tenor*, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, Alana Opie and LBP Comedy Festival. LBP is a small, non-profit, community theatre which thrives in Englewood due to our valued patrons. The financial impact of these cancellations is estimated at approximately 24% of our gross income. We are asking you to consider donating any tickets for cancelled performances back to the theatre. This will limit the financial impact to the theatre and ensure availability of live theatre in Englewood. We will honor all obligations and process refunds if desired. No credits for next season will be offered as our goal is to keep the financial impact to the current season. You may contact the Box Office by phoning 941-475-6756, or email boxoffice@lemonbayplayhouse.com. Please understand our volunteer staff is limited and your patience is appreciated. Everyone stay safe, and we hope to see you in the near future.



VOLUNTEER PARTY

BY DEB POLING

Saturday, February 29, marked our Annual Volunteer Party held at Tringali Community Center. This is LBP's opportunity to give a sincere 'Thank You' to all our dedicated and loyal volunteers. Turnout was great with 92 volunteers and guests attending the event. 'An Extra Day in Paradise' was the theme since the event was on leap day. Tropical decorations and attire made it very colorful and fun. Scott Blum's Jazz Trio provided wonderful music before and after the delicious meal which was catered by J.F. Ducky's.

Volunteers with 250+ hours of service to LBP were recognized and received special name tags as follows:

| Volunteer | 2019 Hours | Volunteer | 2019 Hours |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Bob La Salle | 1,589 | Richard Blanchard | 280 |
| Dottie Warner | 774 | Gloria Bandy | 278 |
| Donna Hadley | 500 | Jack Rabito | 275 |
| Jim Manns | 450 | Barbara Connelly | 250 |
| Jim Sciarrello | 417 | Kathy Hudson | 250 |
| Cheryl Hastings | 384 | Ginny McIver | 250 |
| Lora Resignato | 332 | Kathy McSteen | 250 |
| Kathy Amelia | 294 | Mama Mia Schneider | 250 |
| Henry Reisinger | 290 | | |

Congratulations and Thank You for all you do for the Playhouse! Stop in to see Bob, and he will attach your special 2019 tag to your badge.

This year a committee was formed to assist with planning and coordinating the evening. A special Thank You goes to: Coco Adams, Ralph and Marion Barnes, Barbara Connelly, Mike and Barb Grotheim, Bob La Salle, Sharon Sweet, Barbara and Paul Van Loon, and Jane Warburton for all the help they provided.

Volunteers: Mark your calendars for next year's party scheduled for Saturday, February 27, 2021!



96 W. Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223

Celebrating our 33rd Season! 2019-2020

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <i>THE LADIES FOURSOME</i> by Norm Foster | September 11 – September 22, 2019 |
| <i>LYING IN STATE</i> by David C. Hyer | October 16 – November 3, 2019 |
| <i>IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE</i> by Joe Landry | November 26 - December 15, 2019 |
| <i>2 ACROSS</i> by Jerry Mayer | January 15 - February 9, 2020 |
| <i>LEND ME A TENOR</i> by Ken Ludwig | March 4 - March 29, 2020 CANCELLED |
| <i>THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE</i> by Neil Simon | April 22 - May 10, 2020 CANCELLED |
| <i>THE SAVANNAH SIPPING SOCIETY</i> by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, Jamie Wooten | June 3 - June 21, 2020 |

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Printing and Mailing: The Olde Englewood Mailing Co.

LBP Box Office is open Monday-Friday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Phone 941-475-6756

Visit our website at: www.lemonbayplayhouse.com (or scan the QR code)



Mission Statement

“We strive to improve diversity and enrich the greater Englewood community through live theater, volunteerism, education in the performing arts, and to provide a venue for other cultural activities.”

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BY DEB POLING**

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Volunteers with 250+ hours of service to LBP were recognized and received special name tags (see the current issue of the Spotlight for a list of those volunteers).

Congratulations and Thank You for all you do for the Playhouse! Stop in to see Bob, and he will attach your special 2019 tag to your badge.

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