

## NEWSLETTER, JANUARY 2009

“Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man”. Benjamin Franklin.

**A GLANCE BACK.....**As we end 2008 we look at some highlights of the past twelve months.

**The Art Branch's** Gallery committee organized twelve art exhibits. The year started with the watercolor and oriental brush paintings of *Tiger Huang*, followed by two local artists, *Mary Cogswell* and *Jean Smart* blending talents with “Potpourri”. *Irena Jablonsky* returned with her large, bright oil paintings with *Sally Reid* in the Fireside Room. A photographic exhibit from Global Resources, “*Faces of Africa*” helped raise money for aids victims in Africa. *The Santa Barbara Printmakers* returned in May for their annual show. Our Photography Branch's annual show this year was titled “*Road Show, Images Along the Road*”. The summer months saw “*Hot Summer Days, Hot Summer Nights*” in July and “*Big, Bold and Beautiful*” in August. “*RAz, Raz and Raz*”, mother, daughter and son artists proved talent is hereditary, followed by the annual *Ojai Studio Artists Exhibit* and the annual *Gold Coast Watercolor Society Show*. The year ended with a holiday exhibit, “*The Wonder of Wreaths*”. The showcases displayed the three dimensional work of *Virginia Buckle* (ceramics), *Jim Perkins* (wood), *Sooz Glazebrook* (ceramics and jewelry), *Nancy Wynands* (jewelry), *Charloa Quail* (jewelry and mixed media), *Dvora Fried* (window boxes), *Julie Wellings* (ceramics), *Tomi Ito-Levin* (ceramics) *Mel Greenblatt* (mixed media), *Sandy Wolk* (sculpture). The Beato Showcase exhibited the drawings of local people by the Thursday morning Life Drawing Workshop appropriately named “*Village People*” featuring such familiar faces as *Joan Kemper, David Mason, Peggy Russell, Julie Tumamait, Reba Seba* to name a few.

**Our Theatre Branch** had a terrific year starting off with “**Madwoman of Chaillot**”, (directed by John Slade) followed by “**Acts of God**” written and directed by Peter Fox, and a very successful children's play “**The Velveteen Rabbit**” with Gai Jones at the helm. Ojai was declared to be “River City” during the run of “**Music Man**”, directed by Tracey Williams, June 20<sup>th</sup> – July 18<sup>th</sup>. “**Rabbit Hole**,” (directed by Steve Grumette) “**The Nerd**,” (directed by Tom Eubanks), **The One-Act Festival** (produced by Howard Leader) and “**It's a Wonderful Life**” (directed by Gai Jones) ended the year with a bang. We had Shakespeare in the Gallery with 11 actors playing 30 roles and those fabulous Dames to Duchesses returned to our stage for a third time.

**Our Music Branch** continued to fill the halls with music and people with four classical concerts. The first on March 30 featured the Ventura Piano Quintet playing Schubert's “The Trout” and Hummel and Von Weber. A month later, April 27, “Dvorak in the Afternoon” featured a variety of ensembles – violin & piano, string trio, and string quartet. September 21 Sharon Cooper, violinist, Joyce Cates, pianist played the music of Schuman, Brahms, Vitali/David, Chaussen, Debussy and Elgar. Local favorite, Robert Krupnick returned to a filled out house on October 19.

**The Literary Branch** held monthly events featuring local writers and poets. They discussed such topics as Writing in Ojai, listened to such authors as *Joan Nicholson, Jacquelin Winspear, Catherine Dain*, presented such fascinating guest speakers as *David Mason* and *David Fuller*, and enjoyed the comraderie of kindred souls.

**Our Dance Branch** started off the new year with a big New Year's Eve bash last December 31 followed by Contra Dances in March and November featuring live music for people of all ages to enjoy.

We held our most successful **Art in the Park** with the largest number of participating artists, a great line-up of music in the gazebo and good turn out by the public.

One of the biggest highlights of the year was a benefit concert featuring **Lorna Luft, Asunta Fleming** and **Alan Thornhill**. September 6 was a night we will not soon forget. It was truly special in every way.

In addition to our own activities we feel fortunate to share our space with others. Last year we hosted Hearts of Fire, The Storytellers Festival, The Ojai Music Festival, Help of Ojai, The Yoga Crib, The Ojai Studio Artists, The Ojai Film Festival. We had recitals, memorials, weddings, birthday parties, a barmitzvah, concerts and receptions. IT WAS QUITE A YEAR!

### LOOKING AHEAD.....

**The Theatre Branch** invites everyone to welcome in the New Year with a Season Preview on Wednesday, January 14 at 7 p.m. Short scenes will be offered from each of the plays scheduled for 2009 – *Private Lives, Noises Off, Peter Pan, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Broadway Bound* and *The Glass Menagerie*. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Memorable Moments Awards will be presented, followed by a party with free refreshments. There will also be a raffle of 2 free season tickets. Season tickets will be available to purchase for the great price of \$65 for Art Center members. Come, party, enjoy and your season tickets will be waiting.

Auditions for **NOISES OFF**, directed by Gai Jones are Sunday Feb. 8, Monday Feb. 9 and Tuesday Feb. 10, 7 – 8 p.m. The parts call for 5 males, 4 females, ages 20's – 70's. The play is a fast paced British farce about theatre deliriums, a celebration of truly awful theatre and a backstage explanation of how things got that way. Use Americanized British dialect for auditions. Bring a personal calendar, headshot and resume. Sides will be available. Prepare a 1 minute comic mime portraying a variety of emotions. Performance dates are March 27 – April 25. Contact Gai for further info. [gaijones@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gaijones@sbcglobal.net).

On Monday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m., in recognition of the Inauguration, the **Literary Branch** will present several readings of great political speeches that swayed the public. Barack Obama came to prominence partly because of his eloquence and for the most part is his own speech writer. Catherine Dain will read part of a speech from Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the 19<sup>th</sup> century leader of the women's suffrage movement.

The first **Chamber Music Concert** of the new year, Sunday, January 25 at 2 p.m. starts the year off with a bang. Andrew Radford, principal bassoonist in the Santa Barbara Symphony and heard in countless movie scores will perform with award winning pianist Natasha Kislenco. With tongue in cheek, their program is entitled “Music for Bassoon and Piano by the Un-Dead. You will hear delightful music by Andre Previn, tangos by Astor Piazzola and much more. \$10 general admission, \$8 Art Center members. Call 640-8327 for more info.

**The January Gallery Exhibit** will feature Ojai's most talented artist couple, *Kirk Lowry and Iris Williams*. Their work has a huge WOW factor. Big, bold, colorful, exciting, energetic pieces will fill the walls. Lupe Vasquez will exhibit in the Front Showcase. Reception will be Sunday, January 11, 1-3 p.m.

*Richard Franklin* will resume Wednesday **Life Drawing Classes** for 8 weeks starting January 21 thru March 11. Work with live models, learn to draw the human body and study form, proportion and contour and shading. 7-9:30 p.m., Call Richard to register 646-2770

