

NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2010

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Theatre Branch.....The first two weekends of April are the final two weekends of our theatre production of **Love Letters**. Four real-life couples over four weekends take turns interpreting A.R. Gurney's poignant play that follows two friends' correspondance from age seven through their twilight years. **Love Letters** opened March 19 with *Tracey Williams* and *Cecil Sutton*, followed by *Tree Bernstein* and *Buddy Wilds*, March 26 – 28, *Lynn Van Emmerik* and *Bill Spellman*, April 2-4, *Suz Montgomery* and *John Hankins*, April 9 – 11. A ticket for one performance is good for all others. Enjoy different versions of the same material, each fascinating and original. Performance times are 8 p.m. Friday & Saturday, 4 p.m. Sunday. Call 640-8797 or online at OjaiAct.org.

Literary Branch..... On Monday, April 12 at 7 p.m. in the Gallery the Literary Branch will present a program with composer *John Biggs*. *Mr. Biggs* has written music to poems by a number of poets including Wilde, Neruda, Longfellow, Poe, Benet, R.L. Stevenson, and two Santa Barbara poets, Terre Ouwehand and Perie Longo. He will play excerpts of several examples of his text settings and discuss how text can inspire musical ideas. The lecture will close with a live performance by soprano *Mary Rawcliff* of Mr. Biggs' "Soliloquy from Planet Earth." Suggested donation \$5. Refreshments provided.

Art Happenings.... *Erin Lee Gafill's* new work, **The Passionate Landscape**, will be on display in our Main and Signature Gallery April 2 through May 5. She says of her work, "I use color, pattern, and texture and the sheer delight and physicality of paint at the service of a composition, my work seeks to explore the subject of time, the value of rest and the need for pleasure."

The Beato Showcase.... The Thursday Morning Life Drawing Class, with an interesting model dressed in a purple moosehead and boots, had so much fun sketching they wanted to share their renderings in an exhibit they call "**Moose & Boots.**" Reception for all artists is Sunday, April 11, 1-3 p.m.

Photography Branch... Things are gearing up for the annual photography exhibit in June. This year the subject of food and eating will be the focus. See enclosed flyer for more info.

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Norman Kirk, well-respected teacher, formerly of Ventura College, will teach a 6 week workshop in **Watercolor Painting** starting Thursday, April 1. A range of subjects will be covered with the emphasis on composition, technique and concept with small class size for maximum personal attention. Learn in a relaxed atmosphere from a master painter. Time is 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Call Norm at 525-9788 for further information and registration.

The 33rd Annual Art in the Park will be held Memorial Day Weekend, May 29 &30. This annual juried, fine art festival blends art and music, in the beautiful backdrop of Libbey Park. Approximately 60 artists display their wares - everything from oil paintings to finely crafted woodwork, chosen for quality and originality. Artists interested in applying should contact the office for an application. Deadline is April 15. Cash prizes. Call 646-0117 or go online to download an application at "Ojaiartcenter.org".

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On *Saturday, April 24*, Ojai's own Renaissance a cappella vocal group, **Madrigali**, return for an evening of song and music in the **2nd Annual William Shakespeare Concert**. Dressed in authentic costumes, this group is always great fun. 8 p.m. For info call 640-8797.

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Coming up... We are thrilled to join forces with Brian Bemel and Performance to Grow On to bring "**The Catholic Girls Guide to Losing Your Virginity**" to our stage for 3 nights only. May 28-30. Call 646-8907 or go to www.ptgo.org (click on Special Attractions). More next month.

The Ojai Group have come up with a great idea. **Open Studio Space**. Starting June 2, artists can come paint, draw, sculpt, etc. with other artists in an inspiring setting. Break out of the isolation of creating alone and share the fun. Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. www.theojagroup.com

