

THEATRE..... “**Cabaret,**” one of the greatest musicals of all time, opens on June 25. Not only does it have stunning songs and fascinating characters, it also has a compelling and highly political storyline with a message from history that can’t be ignored. Set in the turbulent Berlin of the early 1930’s, it positions the rise of the Nazis against the apathy of the masses – a wind of change that would have serious consequences for all. “**Cabaret**” will be directed by *Tracey Williams*, with choreography by Ventura Community College’s *Jeff Wallach*, musical direction by *Jimmy Calire*, and costumes by *Edmund Arrendondo*. The show captures the glamour and vibrant songs of the café and nightclub society, sung by a talented and enthusiastic cast. *Holly Ferguson*, who played “Marion the Librarian” in our production of “The Music Man” two years ago is back as Sally Bowles. *Cecil Sutton*, fresh from “Charley and the Chocolate Factory” plays the emcee role. And Art Center newcomer *Zack Farber* as Clifford Bradshaw, will absolutely stun audiences with his world class voice. “Cabaret” will run through July 25 with performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Call 640-8797 or log on to “OjaiAct.org.”

Gai Jones, Ojai resident, award winning theatre educator, director, actress and theatre ed textbook author of *Raising the Curtain*, offers an acting workshop for youth. This twelve week on-going, sequential Theatre Acting for Youth workshop meets from 8:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. on July 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29 ending in a showcase of **Charley Brown and Friends, Part II** on the evening of July 29 at 7 p.m. The charge is \$180 or \$150 if registered prior to June 16. Preregistration is required. No on-site registration. Contact Gai Jones at gai.jones@sbcglobal.net or pick up registration form in Art Center lobby.

AUDITIONS--- We are looking for actors to star in **Other People’s Money** scheduled to play August 13 to September 11. *Steve Grumette* will direct this comedy and is looking for 2 men, the first age 35 -50, the second age 60 -70, 1 woman, in her 30’s, 1 woman in her late 50’s or 60. Auditions will be held Saturday, June 19, 1 p.m.; Sunday, June 20, 7 p.m.; Monday, June 21, 7 p.m. Call Steve at 649-4000 or producer *Howard Leader* at 485-5007.

An evening of fun and games with **Ventura Improv Company** will be on Sunday, June 6, at 7 p.m. After last year’s sold out show, we are thrilled to welcome them back with all of their insanity and fun. \$15. \$12.

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LITERARY.....On Monday, June 14 at 7 p.m. the Literary Branch will present a talk by novelist, biographer, and critic *Geoff Aggeler*. His recent novel *The Firewatcher* is set in the mountains above Ojai during fire season. When the fire breaks out, the heroine, a fire lookout for the forest service, has to deal not only with the fire, but with a convict escaped from a prison fire crew. *Mr. Aggeler*, who has taught literature and fiction writing at the University of Utah and U.C. Santa Barbara, spent five seasons on the fire control with the U. S. Forest Service. He will talk about his novel and some of the experiences that prompted him to write it. Refreshments provided. Suggested donation of \$5.

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ART.... What is better than an art exhibit with food as the subject? The Annual Photography Branch Exhibit “**EAT**” will celebrate food, and all that it is, utilizing all photographic styles: photojournalism, agrarian landscapes, food still lifes, photomontage, etc. Artists interested in participating should bring entries, with entry forms and fees to the Art Center on Thursday, June 3, 6-8 p.m. or Friday, June 4, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Non-selected work must be picked up Friday, June 4, 5 – 7 p.m. Cash awards given for first, second and third place winners in the amounts of \$150, \$100 and \$75. Fees are \$15 each or 3 for \$40. Non-refundable. Call Roger 933-2828 for more info.

In the showcases: *Celeste iida* in the Beato Case, *Celia Hartman Reich* in the Front Showcase. Reception for all artists is Sunday, June 6, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

The Ojai Group had an interesting idea. This group of women thought it would be nice to have a place to paint together with other artists. The Art Center just happens to be the perfect place. Hence, the Ojai Open Studio was conceived. Each Wednesday morning, starting June 2, from 9:30 to 12:30, artists are invited to gather, to work together in an inspiring setting with other artists of all abilities and media. Tables, chairs, coffee and good company provided. Bring your own materials and projects. Drop in welcome. \$10 per session. www.theojagroup.com.

Hot Summer Days, Hot Summer Nights, is coming up in July. Take-in date for this annual exhibit will be July 10. Get your creative juices in gear.

