



Calendar of events

A LOOK AT
THE WEEKS AHEAD

Saturday, Nov. 10

There will be an Italian dinner, sponsored by the fundraising committee of Waters Memorial United Methodist Church, on Saturday, Nov. 10, beginning at 4 p.m. in the church fellowship hall at 5400 Mackall Road in St. Leonard. Cost will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6 to 12 and children younger than 6 eat for free. Carryouts will be available. There will be entertainment, door prizes and a silent auction. For more information, call the church office at 410-586-1716.

There will be a visitor and foster family training, hosted by the Golden Retriever Rescue of Southern Maryland, at the Lexington Park Library on Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. to noon. The event is for those who are thinking of volunteering in one of those two ways. No commitment is expected. To learn more about the rescue, go to www.goldenretrieverrescueof-southernmaryland.org, or call 301-994-0132.

Cardinal Hickey Academy will host its 10th annual auction gala, "New York, New York," on Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. The auction will be held at the school, which is located at 1601 W. Mount Harmony Road in Owings. For ticket/donor information, contact Beth Meader in the development office at 410-286-0404 or 301-812-0404, or e-mail chadevelopment@com-cast.net.

The Tri-County Animal Shelter will host an open house on Saturday, Nov. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to celebrate National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week. There will be activities for kids, raffles for baskets full of cat and dog supplies and crafts. Many pets will be available for adoption.

The Humane Society of the United States sponsors National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week, a yearly event to encourage communities across the country to show their support for their local animal shelter.

This year, National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week will be recognized from Nov. 4 to Nov. 10. The Tri-County Animal Shelter is located at 6707 Animal Shelter Road in Hughesville.

For more information, call 301-932-1713 or 1-800-903-1992.

There will be a craft show featuring handmade items at the St. John Vianney Catholic Family Life Center, located at 105 Vianney Lane in Prince Frederick, on Saturday, Nov. 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature more than 50 crafters and a concession stand. Free parking and admission.

Our Lady Star of the Sea will host a live art auction on Saturday, Nov. 10, in the Providence Room of the school located on Solomons Island.

The preview party will begin at 7 p.m. with the live auction starting at 8 p.m. AJ Ross Auctions of Holbrook, N.Y., will conduct the auction, which will feature more than 150 custom framed and matted works of art including lithographs, etchings, serigraphs, animation cels, watercolors, original oils signed by the artists, music memorabilia and NASCAR sports memorabilia.

Featured artists include Kinkade, Wooster Scott, Picasso, Delacroix, Chagall, Boulanger, Neiman, Fauchere and Shaviko. The majority of the art will have opening bids ranging from \$45 to \$300. Opening bids are generally 50 percent less than traditional framed gallery prices.

Tickets for the event are \$20 per person in advance and \$25 per person at the door. The ticket price includes complimentary wine, cheese, appetizers, desserts and a chance to win one of the door prizes. The funds raised by this event will benefit the building fund for Our Lady Star of the Sea.

For tickets, call 410-326-3008 or go to the Web site at www.olss.com.

Sunday, Nov. 11

The Calvert Marine Museum Society will host its fourth annual Holiday Basket Bingo Extravaganza benefit at the Calvert County Fairgrounds on Sunday, Nov. 11. Doors open at 11 a.m. and games begin at 12:30 p.m. More than \$15,000 in prizes will be given away. All regular game basket prizes also include a Vera Bradley bag and/or Vera Bradley accessories. Seating is limited, and all tickets are available for pre-sales. Everyone must have a paid admission, including all children. There is no entry fee for children younger than 6.



STAFF PHOTO BY REID SILVERMAN

Keith Mervine, left and Frank Faust will play roles of Juror No. 3 and Juror No. 8 in this weekend's production of "12 Angry Men," performed as "12 Angry Jurors," with Patuxent Playhouse at the St. John Vianney Family Life Center at 8 p.m. tonight and tomorrow. The play will also be performed Nov. 16 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Patuxent Playhouse to perform '12 Angry Men'

BY MEAGAN BOSWELL
STAFF WRITER

On a hot day in the middle of Chicago, 12 jurors sat around a table deliberating over a verdict they were soon to deliver.

For 11 of the jurors, the evidence proved the alleged murderer was guilty; but for one, there was room for reasonable doubt, and one was all it took to keep the jurors from presenting their verdict to the court.

The single juror needed to prove a point, to get the others to reconsider the evidence, to set aside prejudices of the minority defendant with a criminal background and make a decision based on the facts of the case and nothing else.

This weekend the result of those deliberations will be revealed as Patuxent Playhouse presents "12 Angry Men" — revisited as "12 Angry Jurors" — at the St. John Vianney Family Life Center.

"The basic point of the show is to take you inside the jury room," said Jack Reynolds, president of Patuxent Playhouse, a nonprofit community theater group. "It kind of puts in focus some of the prejudices that we all have and that we all carry with us on a daily basis and how that helps to formulate our opinion on things. It's kind of a perspective of the jury system and how it works and how it's supposed to work."

The production's 13-member cast has been rehearsing at least twice a week for about two months, Reynolds said. Cast members are from the tri-county area, and the show is about two hours long, with an intermission.

According to Reynolds, the play is an adaptation from "a very popular movie back in the 50s."

"It was originally written for TV, then turned into a movie, then turned into a play," he said.

Randy Geck, director of the show, said characterization in the play is "very interesting" with a lot of opposite roles shown.

"People who are bigoted versus thought provoking. Strong and demur personalities," he said. "But by the time it's all over everyone has an opportunity to stand up strong."

Geck said the play begins with a guilty verdict but slowly that verdict starts to change.

"It gives us a very good view not so much into ourselves but into the judicial system and how wonderfully blind it needs to be," he said. "It is a very, very good exercise in and study of our system. I do look forward to the audience walking away from it shaking their heads saying 'I need to think about this,' and they will. It is a thought-provoking production."

If you go

"12 Angry Men," presented as "12 Angry Jurors," will be performed at St. John Vianney Family Life Center Nov. 9 and 10 at 8 p.m., Nov. 16 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for 8 p.m. performances and \$10 for the 2 p.m. performance. The Family Life Center is located just off of Main Street in Prince Frederick.

The play is considered a drama, which Reynolds and Geck said are becoming rare with community-based theater groups.

"You don't see a lot of drama. A lot of groups are doing comedy," Reynolds said. "It's nice to do something different."

"I like it because the play is a drama," Geck said. "It has a little bit of humor too. It goes by very quickly. The audience will walk away going 'what happened, how did it happen so quickly?' There's a lot of twists and turns throughout the play, which is nice. It goes from the left to the right to the left to the right until we finally come out where we want to be."

Geck said those attending the shows should know that it is a courtroom drama with a "roller coaster ride to the final verdict."

And he said, "at first it seems to be a production about racism. But what's very interesting is that if you listen to the dialog racists or racism is never mentioned."

Geck said that rather than examine race specifically the play focuses more on "our human tendencies to stereotype."

He hopes the show will get people thinking.

"The play never directs us, never tells us what to think. It invites us to think about one thing or another, but it never tells us, so when it's over the audience needs to look back and say 'goodness, now I understand what they're talking about.'"

And, he said, this production has a different feel than some dramas.

"Rather than being a dark drama this is more of a daylight drama in that the audience will walk away with a good feeling that the right thing happened for the right reason," Geck said.

"It's most definitely appropriate for all ages," Reynolds said, adding that there is no violence or profanity throughout the play. But, he said, because the play is a drama "it has some pretty intense moments."

Those moments help the audience to better appreciate and think about what is happening during the deliberations, Geck said. "I am very excited about this production,"

he said. "... I'm sure the tri-county [area] is really gonna get a thought-provoking view out of it."

Patuxent Playhouse is a nonprofit theater group founded by Reynolds' wife, Geri, and some of her friends in 1989.

"She founded it because coming out of Calvert High School there weren't any other theater groups," Reynolds said. "Her and a couple of friends got together and said lets make a theater group. Her vision ... was to incorporate it with other nonprofits in the county so whatever Patuxent Playhouse made, a percentage would go back to other organizations."

Reynolds said money raised from each show goes to the next show and to summer youth programs.

The purpose of Patuxent Playhouse is "to provide quality family entertainment, something that a little different than just going to the movies," Reynolds said. "Also because I love to act. For a lot of people who are into drama, it gives us a place to go to act."

Summer theater groups also "gives the youth [opportunities] to express themselves artistically as opposed to expressing themselves realistically — the way I look at is I would much rather have my kids acting, rehearsing a show than out roaming the streets at night," Reynolds said. "Sometimes it's the only release these kids have. Doing the show lets them step out of reality a little bit."

The next two weekends productions of "12 Angry Men" are all adult cast members with various theater backgrounds.

"I've met a lot of new people," Reynolds said of this production's cast. "It's really cool to meet people who have worked with other groups and see how they do things. It's been a learning experience. I love the cast members. ... Although we may be at different companies at different times we're still all actors — everybody does it for the love of theater."

It's those cast members that will make an impression on audience members.

"The cast is really gonna be the whole play," Geck said, adding that the set, by design, is "very minimal." "The cast is very strong. I'm very thrilled with the people who are on stage."

Geck said the play is "a classic" and the cast is sure to deliver a solid performance to the audience's liking.

"I'm very happy with the effort this cast has put forward," he said. "Come out and judge for [yourselves]. ... It's very much fun and it's a very good production."

"It's a great show," Reynolds said.

E-mail Meagan Boswell at mboswell@somdnews.com.