



# SPOTLIGHT

DECEMBER 2008

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Jim Hanushek

Thanks for all the positive comments about the new look of the lobby. I've passed your compliments on to Janet Landis who engineered the project. And to answer a question I was asked, "Yes, it's still in the plan to move, and those wonderful new benches will go with us!" We will, however, be in our current building for a few years yet, so some work was and still is required.

In regards to work to be done, I'm sure you've heard about the domino theory. Well, it pertains to our building as well. We will be purchasing a system of assisted listening devices for the theater to make it easier for those with hearing impairments to enjoy our performances. In order to make them effective, we need to add another microphone to the sound system on the stage. In order to power the microphone and the new stage lights that have been added, we need to modify the wiring. In order to modify the wiring, we need to bring our breaker boxes up to the current electrical code. (This is an old building!) In order to bring the boxes up to code, we need to modify the cabinets in the kitchen. I hope it stops there! All in all, though, we're making your experience at the theater both more pleasant and safer.

As you can see from the other articles in this newsletter, we are scheduling more performances between our regular productions. (We hope you'll share that information with your friends and neighbors!) As we've expanded our activities, we found that Bob LaSalle, acting as our production manager and Board member, was spending all of his time working at LBP, including overseeing some of the upgrading mentioned in the previous paragraphs. The Board of Trustees decided to create a half-time paid position of Production Manager and asked Bob to accept it. Bob has resigned from the Board to avoid any conflict of interest.

Does that mean we no longer need volunteers? Absolutely not! What it does mean is that as we grow, we need someone to coordinate all of our activities and add consistency to our production procedures. We are still a community theater, and volunteers are our life-blood. In fact, if you've considered volunteering, this could be your time! The busier we get, the more we need you to volunteer for one of the many and varied areas necessary to our success. Call now and leave a message for Joy Kyper, our volunteer coordinator. Tell her Jim sent you!



## FREE CHRISTMAS SHOW AT LBP

Join us for our Christmas show, *Santa's Letters*, by Emmett C. Loverde to be performed on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 pm and Sunday, Dec. 21, at 2:00 pm. Both performances are free, and will be performed in Readers Theater style; that is, there will be minimum movement and the play will be read by the actors – it is not memorized.



This family-oriented story is about a young boy, Edward, played by 12-year-old Eric Ernst, the letters he sends to Santa, played by Larry McGee, and the ones he receives back from Santa throughout the year. Edward is joined on stage by two sisters, played by Jane Williams and 14-year-old Charlotte Crowley. His father is played by Richard Blanchard, his teacher is played by Lynn Means, and Edward's girlfriend is played by Trish Kinghorn. Santa's helper is played by Carol Louisgnan. The play will be narrated by Jack Rabito, the Director of this show.

So, get into the holiday spirit - bring the whole family to this two-act Readers Theater FREE performance! Please bring a gift of canned goods or non-perishable food for Helping Hand of Englewood.



## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS



Bev and Jim Berkshire

"Wow! What a great set!" This is the usual response to sets decorated by LBP's talented team of Bev and Jim Berkshire.

Bev and Jim are from the Elkhart, Indiana area, where Jim was an electrician and Bev had a variety of occupations over the years. She owned her own restaurant, sold it, and later managed other restaurants. Her last

job before retiring was as a seamstress in a mattress factory. Bev says that she's had enough sewing to last a lifetime!

Thinking ahead to retirement, the Berkshires bought a home in Englewood in 2002. After Jim's heart attack in 2003, Florida's sunny weather and casual lifestyle convinced them that moving to Englewood in 2004 was a wonderful idea.

They were looking for some activity that they could do together. They found out about Lemon Bay Playhouse and attended *Scandal Point* in March of 2006. They later attended a LBP open house, where they found out about all of the volunteer opportunities available. Jim had worked with a community theater in Indiana and was interested in lighting and sound. Bev and Jim both did some set painting for *Blythe Spirit* and wrangled the car backstage for *Driving Miss Daisy*. When Mary Lou Ardrey was directing *The Foreigner*, she was impressed with the couple's ideas and asked them to do the set décor for her play. Those of you, who saw the play, know what an outstanding job they did. There was no turning back! Since then, they've done the sets for *Crimes of the Heart*, *Crossing Delancey*, *The Long Weekend*, *Night Watch*, and *All My Sons*. Right now, they are in the midst of making our stage come alive as a 1950's Houston apartment, 2 bus stations, a bus, and an old house in Bountiful, Texas. Now there's a challenge! You'll have to see *THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL* to find out how their ideas transformed our small stage.

Not limited to set décor and backstage work, they've both volunteered in the LBP box office, Jim has helped out in the sound/light booth, and Bev had a walk-on part in one of our Intermission Series plays.

Still "Snowbirds" during the summer, the Berkshires return to a lakeside cottage in Indiana, where they can spend summers with kids and grandkids. After the grandkids are grown, Bev and Jim expect to become year-round Englewood residents. We can hardly wait.

Thanks for the great job you do, Bev and Jim! And as always, thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers, who make Lemon Bay Playhouse the great place that it is!

### SEEN A GOOD PLAY LATELY??

LBP is always on the lookout for good play suggestions! If you have seen a play, whether comedy, mystery or drama, that you enjoyed and think would be great for LBP's stage and audiences, please send an email to tremodilly@hotmail.com or drop a note to LBP, Attn: R. Tremo before Feb. 15th. We can't guarantee it will be presented, but the Play Selection Committee will gladly consider it for its 2009 Reading List!

## ACTRESS TO PORTRAY LOUISA MAY ALCOTT AT LBP



Ruth Crocker as Louisa May Alcott

Connecticut actress Ruth Crocker will bring her one-woman show *The Secret Life of Louisa May Alcott* to Lemon Bay Playhouse, 96 W. Dearborn Street, on December 7 at 2 PM.

Though primarily known for her novel *Little Women*, Alcott wrote dozens of short tales and adventure stories during her lifetime. To illustrate Alcott's "secret life", Crocker draws from Alcott's diaries, letters, journal entries and from *Hospital Sketches*, in which she described her experience as a nurse during the Civil War

"Louisa May Alcott lived during a time unlike any other in the history of the United States. It is my privilege to portray this fascinating and dynamic woman," Crocker says.

Tickets are \$15.00 and may be purchased by visiting or calling the box office at 475-6756 or on the website [lemonbayplayhouse.com](http://lemonbayplayhouse.com). Box office hours are from 10 AM to 2 PM daily.

### DO WE HAVE A DEAL FOR YOU!

Lemon Bay Playhouse is offering a discounted two-show package for December. Louisa May Alcott will be there on December 7, and Mark Twain will be appearing December 12, 13 & 14. You can save \$5 by purchasing tickets to both shows.

Tickets for each show are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Everyone buying a ticket for both shows will save \$5 on his/her purchase. Tickets are available online at [www.lemonbayplayhouse.com](http://www.lemonbayplayhouse.com) and at the box office from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM weekdays at 96 West Dearborn Street, Englewood, (941) 475-6756.



### IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, December 15, 2008

6:00 p.m.

#### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, February 23, 2009

7:00 p.m.

**ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE PLAYHOUSE  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED!**

## MARK TWAIN AT LBP



In costume but without makeup, Kurt Sutton will perform a one-man recreation in *An Evening with Mark Twain* at 7:30 PM on Friday, December 12, and Saturday, December 13, as well as 2:00 PM on Sunday, December 14, at the Lemon Bay Playhouse.

Mark Twain is an easy person for Kurt Sutton to play on stage. Not only is he deeply familiar with Twain's written work, but he says he doesn't need makeup to play the role. "I can age right into the role," joked the 63-year-old.

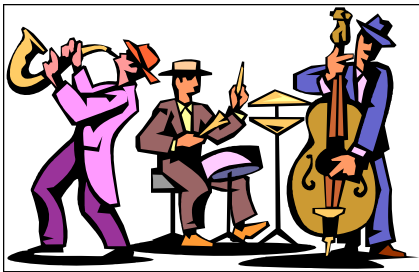
Dressed like the author and wearing a white wig and mustache, Sutton relates the life of Mark Twain through songs, storytelling, and quotations from Twain's written work. "It makes a good family show," Sutton said, "so people can come and bring their kids."

Sutton saw Hal Holbrook portray Twain years ago and considered that when he created his own one-man show. The most noticeable difference is that Sutton's show contains music. "A lot of people who know Mark Twain may not be aware of Twain as a great musician. He played guitar, banjo, and piano," explained Sutton.

The music in the show is primarily from Twain's era with traditional songs such as "A Bicycle Built for Two" and "Tom Dooley."

Tickets are available at \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Order tickets online at [www.lemonbayplayhouse.com](http://www.lemonbayplayhouse.com) or contact Lemon Bay Playhouse box office, 96 W Dearborn St, Englewood, 475-6756, from 10 AM to 2 PM weekdays.

## SWING TIME AT LBP



Scott Blum is bringing his 5-piece swing band to Lemon Bay Playhouse for a performance on Friday, November 28, at 7:30 PM.

Drummer and Percussionist Scott Blum started his music career at age thirteen. His music experience with drum

set and percussion includes Latin Percussion, Afro Cuban Percussion, Jazz, Pop, Dixieland, Country Western, Folk, Latin, and Blues. Performances include dance bands, theatre productions, parades, ethnic festivals, operas, concerts, orchestras, television, radio, and studio recording.

A native of New Jersey and a resident of New York, Scott recently relocated to the Bradenton/Sarasota area. He has performed with nationally recognized artists including: Archie Shepp, Beaver Harris, Jimmy Garrison, Marshall Brown, Dave Burrell, David Amram, Esteban, and Twinkle.

Tickets, at \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, are available online at [www.lemonbayplayhouse.com](http://www.lemonbayplayhouse.com), or by phone (941-475-6756) at the box office, 96 West Dearborn Street, Englewood, from 10 AM to 2 PM Monday thru Friday.

## TAKE THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL WITH US IN JANUARY

The third play of the 2008-09 season is the highly acclaimed drama, *THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL*, written by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author Horton Foote (who is still writing at age 92) and directed by Linda MacCluggage. This is the poignant story of Carrie Watts, an aging widow living with her son, Ludie, and his wife, Jessie Mae, in a cramped flat in Houston, Texas. Her dearest wish is to return to her old home in the small farming community of Bountiful.

Mrs. Watts takes her pension check and runs off to the Greyhound station where she learns she can only go as far as Harrison, a town near Bountiful. Ludie and Jessie Mae are right behind her but with the help of some kind strangers sympathetic to her plight, Mrs. Watts might achieve her goal of seeing Bountiful once again.

The set is designed by Jim and Bev Berkshire. Pat Saracco, assisted by Beth Saurer, is handling costumes. Ann Hanushek is stage manager.

*THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL* runs January 7-25, Wednesday through Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Visit [www.lemonbayplayhouse.com](http://www.lemonbayplayhouse.com) any time and purchase your tickets online, or drop by or call the box office, 475-6756 open Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.

Longtime LBP actor and active backstage volunteer Doreen Barnett plays Mrs. Watts. Other LBP veterans include Robin Mazey and Elaine Levin as the married couple, Ludie and Jessie Mae Watts; Larry McGee as the Harrison bus station agent and Nick Nichols as the Sheriff. We welcome these newcomers to our stage: Jackie Flannery in the role of Thelma and Tom Athens as the Houston Ticket Man.



Cast of *THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL* include: seated l-r, Elaine Levin, Doreen Barnett, Jackie Flannery. Standing l-r, Larry McGee, Robin Mazey, Director, Linda MacCluggage, Tom Athens. Insert: Nick Nichols

## 2009 ENGLEWOOD CALENDARS AT LBP

Caleendars with paintings of Englewood scenes, including LBP, and the dates of 2009 activities are available at LBP for a donation of \$16. These make great gifts!





96 W. Dearborn Street  
Englewood, FL 34223

## *Celebrating our 22nd Season!*

### 2008-2009 SEASON



<b>WAIT UNTIL DARK</b> by Frederick Knott	September 3-21, 2008
<b>THE PLAY'S THE THING</b> by Ferenc Molnar (Adapted by P.G. Wodehouse)	October 29 - November 16, 2008
<b>THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL</b> by Horton Foote	January 7-25, 2009
<b>ANGEL STREET</b> (Gas Light) by Patrick Hamilton	March 4-22, 2009
<b>NORMAN, IS THAT YOU?</b> by Ron Clark & Sam Bobrick	April 29 - May 17, 2009
<b>BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE</b> by Leonard Gershe	June 24-July 12, 2009

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**Contributors:** Jim Hanushek, Ann Hanushek, Linda MacCluggage, Ann Shaughnessy  
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LBP Box Office is open Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Phone 941-475-6756

**Visit our website at: [www.lemonbayplayhouse.com](http://www.lemonbayplayhouse.com)**

"It is the Mission of Lemon Bay Playhouse to enrich the Greater Englewood community through theatrical productions, other cultural activities, challenging volunteer opportunities, and education and training in the performing arts."