



It's Time to Celebrate

Break out the champagne, it's time to celebrate 100 combined years of theater and music in Brazosport. The 2012 – 2013 Season has marked 70 years since the beginnings of community theater here. For 30 of those years, Brazosport Symphony Orchestra has lived as a beautiful affiliate, bringing a symphony in song.

LITTLE THEATRE OF BRAZOSPORT

In the war-torn years of 1942–1943 and in an area better known for mud and mosquitoes, the early stirrings of desire to develop a more cultural atmosphere resulted in the beginning of the Little Theatre of Brazosport, which progressed from an idea of eight people working in defense plants, schools and as housewives, to the production of a full three-act play on a school stage on October 29, 1943. The founding eight enlisted six more, and these fourteen put up \$10.00 each to finance the first production. In an area hungry for entertainment, the group fast became a core of social and cultural life in the community and in the years 1947–1949 found itself with 500 sustaining members. In 1948, the Theatre was granted a state charter as a non-profit community organization dedicated to offering entertainment and education in the theater arts to all citizens of the community. The Theatre found its first "home" in a sturdy, landmark house on the levee of the old Brazos River in Velasco.

BRAZOSPORT MUSIC THEATRE

In the summer of 1964, the Fine Arts Council, the Little Theatre and the Art League joined forces to produce *Brigadoon*. This project, begun to provide a summer activity for interested citizens, was a success in every way. Disappointed that the three organizations chose not to produce musicals on a regular basis, a group of enthusiastic participants met to make plans for the organization of a group to produce summer musicals. In September of that year, after a successful summer production of "The King and I", the first general membership meeting of the group was held. The charter was granted July 3, 1967. In 1976, both theater groups joined The Brazosport Art League and The Brazosport Museum of Natural Science in making the newly constructed Center for the Arts and Sciences their home.



BRAZOSPORT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

In the Summer of 1982, a small group of students and community people joined to form a string ensemble. An August concert was held at the Music Theater and was very well received. That small string group became the nucleus for the Brazosport Symphony Orchestra formed as an affiliate of The Music Theatre and three concerts were performed for the 1982–1983 season. From there, dedicated volunteers worked to organize a Symphony Board of Directors and Symphony League. These groups were to operate and maintain the Brazosport Symphony Orchestra which was granted a charter in 1983.

BRAZOSPORT CENTER STAGES

Ten years later, Brazosport Little Theater and Brazosport Music Theatre merged to become Brazosport Center Stages. Together with their affiliate Brazosport Symphony Orchestra, they have continued to grow in participation of actors, technicians, musicians and audience. The quality of each production and concert exceeds the previous season. Many exceptional soloists have performed with the Brazosport Symphony Orchestra, both from within the community and outside professionals. Six concerts are presented each season, including three subscription concerts and pops, holiday and family concerts. There are an average of six theater offerings each season including the still much-loved summer musical started in 1966.

SPECIAL CELEBRATION CONCERT

To acknowledge their long history of quality entertainment and performance education, Center Stages and the Symphony Orchestra have joined forces to present an anniversary gift to Brazosport, *Broadway in Brazosport – A Symphony in Song!* On March 23 and 24, The Clarion will be filled with beloved Broadway favorites from Gershwin to *South Pacific*, from *Mame* to *Annie*, from *The Sound of Music* to *Phantom of the Opera*, from *Hair* to *Hello Dolly!* and everything in between. Join us for an unforgettable evening, or afternoon, of entertainment. If you like a little wine with your song, you are invited to be a part of the Celebration Reception before the Saturday, March 23rd performance. \$50 buys a seat in the balcony of The Clarion for the performance as well as wine and hors d'oeuvres before the show and at intermission. For tickets for the reception, which are limited, as well as regular performance-only tickets see The Center Calendar of Events on the next page.



Encouraging Budding Artists to Bloom

Everyone has enjoyed a quiet walk through Brazosport Art League's Gallery at The Center, but BAL is about so much more than looking at art. It also is very much about creating art. Whether a youngster just discovering the joy of putting color on paper or a retiree checking off a bucket list, there is an opportunity to enhance creativity and hone technique in BAL's studio.

Art Odyssey

Part of The Center's annual Summer at The Center, Art Odyssey offers children in grades 1 – 6 a chance to explore techniques and crafts from a variety of experienced teachers. Information about 2013 classes will be featured in the May/June Center newsletter.

Christa Moore's Art Classes for Children

In her second year to teach art at Angleton Junior High, Christa previously taught Kindergarten – 5th grade art at Houston ISD. She works in a variety of mediums including oils, watercolors, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, and collage. Each class meets Tuesdays for 6 weeks in the studio. Christa: "I believe that art and creativity are the gateway to so many wonderful opportunities and that through the process of creation we not only find joy, but truly develop critical thinking and problem solving skills that enhance all aspects of our journey." If you have questions about current and future classes please call Christa Moore at 979-215-9465 or by email at christamooreartworkshops@gmail.com

The Paint-In

Here is an opportunity to work and learn with other artists in the area. At the Paint-In the artists can get help, give help, or provide support to each other as it is needed to keep producing art. The atmosphere is very casual and friendly. Artists bring their own lunch and come and go at their leisure. Everyone is welcome, and the sessions are especially helpful for beginners. BAL membership is required after three visits. Watercolor paper is available for purchase and a mat cutter is also available. On the first and third Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m., there is a live model for sketching practice, usually four 20-minute sessions.

Dolores Reynolds' Art Class

Offering classes in oils and pastels, students of any level are welcome. These classes are held each Tuesday morning (Sep–May), 9:30 to 12:30. Dolores has taught classes in the BAL Studios for over 15 years. She began her fine art training in 1976 taking lessons with well known local art teacher, Julia Crainer. Dolores credits Mrs. Crainer with giving her the strong foundation and confidence to continue her art studies. Dolores then continued her art education with the late, great artist/teacher Dick Turner for a number of years. She has also studied with a number of nationally known artists including Daniel Greene, William H. Earle, Albert Handell, Steve Napper and Bob Rohm among others and continues to study.

Not yet retired, but ready to stretch your creative muscles? There are evening and weekend opportunities for adults.

Saturday Art Specials

Approximately once a month adults are welcomed to explore techniques and crafts from a variety of experienced teachers. Classes are all day with a short break for lunch. Limited space available, see The Center Calendar of Events on the next page for information about the latest SAS.

Evening Art

Meeting the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 7 – 10 p.m., Kevin Cromwell leads an intrepid group of art explorers through 6-meeting projects in various media. Artists of all ages and levels of experience are welcome. For information contact Kevin, kepcrom@gmail.com.



Calendar of Events at THE CENTER for the Arts and Sciences

THE BRAZOSPORT MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

Rated one of the ten best museums in Texas by Frommer's Travel Guide. Largest collection of shells on display in the South with shells from around the world. Life-size dinosaur casts; amazing wildlife; exciting fossils; glamorous gems & minerals; fascinating archeology; hands-on children's area piques children's interest in the natural world. Displays change frequently. Visit www.bmns.org or call 979-265-7831 for more information. Open Tuesday-Saturday • 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. and Sunday • 2-5 p.m. and during Center Stages productions. Free admission.

MUSEUM AFFILIATES

March 5 & April 2 • 7 p.m. • Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County
• Meetings, the 1st Tuesday of every month in the Museum, are open to the public. Bring a covered dish to share. For more information, see www.seashellsearchers.org

March 12 & April 9 • 7:30 p.m. • Brazosport Archaeological Society
• Meetings, in the Museum, are open to the public. Join them in their study of the prehistory and history of the lower Brazos River region. The Society is a non-profit organization created to stimulate an active interest in the discovery, conservation, and salvage of archaeological sites, and the recording and preservation of archaeological remains using scientific procedures. For more information, visit www.bmns.org.

March 25 & April 22 • 7 p.m. • Brazosport Birders and Naturalists •
Meetings, the 4th Monday of every month in the Museum, are open to the public. All those interested in birding and conservation of our natural resources are welcome. For more information, visit their page on Facebook.

THE BRAZOSPORT ART LEAGUE

GALLERY EXHIBITS

Free admission to all galleries; exhibits change every 5-6 weeks. Center Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday • 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday • 2-5 p.m. and during Center Stages productions. The Thelma Martin Members' Gallery displays original works for sale by League members. The Art Shop sells original artwork, cards, stationery, miniature paintings, ceramics, jewelry and other small gift items.

Through March 10 • Silver, Bronze 'n Bones • Works by Amanda Danning. Though acclaimed for her forensic sculpting abilities, Amanda is an accomplished sculptor in her own right. She has worked in and with all sorts of subject material and in various scales using a variety of different media including wood, bronze and resin composite. A passion to draw was the beginning of her artistic journey and it continues today when she sets brush to canvas. She has been commissioned to do portraits, both personal and historical. Though she paints primarily in oils, she also enjoys drawing in pastels as well. Sponsored by BASF.

March 12 - April 14 • People's Choice Show • Works by Art League members. Visitors to the Gallery have the opportunity to vote for their favorites. Sponsored by Dow Chemical, Texas Operations. Awards Reception Saturday, April 13, 7-9 p.m. Open to the public.

April 16 - 28 • High School Art Show • Works by area High School seniors in competition for a scholarship given by BAL. Sponsored by Freeport Welding. Awards Reception Sunday, April 21, 7-9 p.m. Open to the public.

April 30 - June 2 • Essential Works of Art • Works by Gayle Pendergrass & Thomas Chaffee. Sponsored by Phillips 66. Public Reception Sunday, May 4, 7-9 p.m. Open to the public.

COMMUNITY SATELLITE EXHIBITS

Work by Art League members on exhibit in the community at the following locations: The Dow Chemical Co., A.P. Beutel Building • Lake Jackson Civic Center • Lake Jackson Public Library • Clute City Hall Lobby

IN THE STUDIO

Saturday Art Specials • 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. • March 9: Pat Blaikie - Encaustic Painting - hot wax painting, notably used in mummy portraits from Egypt and in early icons. • April 13: Sherry Hall Shelton - Painting Trees and Landscapes • \$25/Non BAL Members: \$15/BAL Members; plus materials & sack lunch. Call Duane Alcorn 979-265-0777 to enroll and for information.

March 24 • 2 p.m. • General Membership Meeting • Demo by Barbara Feiner on collage.

Art Classes for Children • Tuesdays • 5 - 6 p.m. • For students 7 - 11 years, fees are for each 6-week session and include all materials • March 19 - April 23: Landscape Watercolor - \$125; April 30 - June 4: Figure Drawing - \$115 • Information: Christa Moore, christamooreartworkshops@gmail.com or 979-215-9465.

Oil & Pastels Class • Tuesdays • 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • All skill levels. \$50/month (4 classes). Call Dolores Reynolds, 979-266-9805, or email dolrey@comcast.net for registration, supplies and details.

Paint-In • Mondays & Wednesdays all year • 9 a.m.-5 p.m. • An opportunity for members to learn from each other while working on their own projects in varied media. These fun & casual sessions are very helpful for beginners, and everyone is welcome. Come three times as a guest; membership required thereafter. Information: Linda Roberts, 979-265-6253.

Life Drawing • 1st and 3rd Wednesdays • 2-4 p.m. during Paint-In • \$4 model fee. Information: Harry Sargent, 979-297-4766.

Evening Art • 2nd and 4th Thursdays • 7 p.m. • \$4 model fee. Information: Kevin Cromwell, kepcrom@gmail.com.

SPECIAL THANKS...

To Baystar Printing for publishing the Center's Events in The Community Newsletter.
To *The Source Weekly* for their donation of ad space.
To Jan Foerster of Plant Tenders for her on-going care of the plants in The Center.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS Were Received From:

Orren & Margaret Gaspard
in memory of
Lula Skeete

Michael & Becky Gilliland
and Bob & Carol Bohley
in honor of
**Bruce & Mary Meyers
Anniversary**

Susan & Keith Plowman
and Bob & Carol Bohley
in memory of
Natalie Parker

Lisa Baker & Family and Larry &
Donna Jablecki
in memory of
James "Buddy" Parker

Sherry Tesch
in honor of
San & Jean Edquist

THE BRAZOSPORT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND BRAZOSPORT CENTER STAGES

March 23 @ 7:30 p.m. & March 24 @ 2:30 p.m.

Broadway in Brazosport: A Symphony in Song

A joint production by BCS & BSO, not included in either BCS or BSO subscription tickets. All seats must be purchased. For more information about concert and Celebration Reception, see article on front page.

TICKET RESERVATIONS

Broadway in Brazosport: a Symphony in Song
(\$17/adults; \$12/children)

Celebration Reception

6:30 p.m. March 23 only

(\$50/person - includes concert tickets)

March 6: clarion.brazosport.edu or Clarion Box Office, 979-320-3156,
for Center Stages and Symphony Members.

March 9 - 17: Online only

March 18: Both online and Clarion box office open to the General Public.

Clarion box office: 979-230-3156, 2-6 p.m.

Online reservations at clarion@brazosportcollege.edu require credit card:
Visa, Discover & MasterCard accepted. Secure site, password protected.

BRAZOSPORT CENTER STAGES

March 24 & April 21 • 2-4 p.m. • Gerrard Teen Guild Meeting •
A learn-by-doing theater program with monthly meetings for teens. Newcomers welcome. Please bring a folder & pencil and wear shoes with closed toes to all meetings. Call The Center Office, 979-265-7661, for more information.



**April 19, 20, 26 & 27 @ 8 p.m.
April 21 & 28 @ 2:30 p.m.**

Leading Ladies by Ken Ludwig. This energetic comedy of mistaken identities features two down-on-their-luck Shakespearean actors who have been reduced to performing in the Amish countryside of Pennsylvania. When they learn that a wealthy old woman in search of her two long-lost heirs is on her deathbed, they devise a plan that sends them on the performance of their lives. Performed in the Arena.

TICKET RESERVATIONS

Leading Ladies
(\$13/adults; \$10/children)

April 10: Online Box Office opens for Center Stages Members.

April 14: Center box office opens for Members only

April 15: Both online and Center box office open to the General Public.

Center box office: 979-265-7731, 2-5 p.m.

Online reservations at brazosportcenterstages.org require credit card,
Visa, Discover & MasterCard accepted. Secure site, password protected.

THE BRAZOSPORT PLANETARIUM

In the Planetarium Lobby: Space exploration wall with NASA TV, interactive computer stations and displays • ViewSpace: Images from Hubble, Spitzer & Chandra telescopes with the latest news about our solar system, updated daily by astronomers at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Maryland. • Gift shop items include the latest in astronomy books, supplies & gifts for all ages. Lobby is open to the public at no charge while school is in session, Tuesday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and before Planetarium Shows.

March 5, 12, 19 & 26 and Friday, March 15 • 7 p.m. • The Wildest Weather in the Solar System • New Full Dome show by National Geographic. Come on a spectacular journey packed with eye-popping visuals, high-end CGI, and cutting-edge science, to witness the most beautiful, powerful, and mysterious weather phenomena in the solar system. From a storm the size of a 100-megaton hydrogen bomb, to a 400-year-old hurricane, to a dust tempest that could engulf entire planets, you'll be glad you live on Earth! Audiences will fly through the thick atmosphere of Venus, magnetic storms on the sun, liquid methane showers on Titan, and anticyclones whirling at hundreds of miles per hour on Jupiter. Co-sponsored by Brazosport Rotary. Also, Tonight's Sky • What's over your house tonight? Tickets available 20 minutes before the show. \$5 Adults, \$3 Students. Call 979-265-3376 for information.

April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 and Friday, April 19 • 7 p.m. • Saturn Program to be announced, will include ***Tonight's Sky*** • What's over your house tonight? Tickets available 20 minutes before the show. \$5 Adults, \$3 Students. Call 979-265-3376 for information.

March 19 & April 16 • 7:45 p.m. • Astronomy Club • Following Planetarium show in the Planetarium • Open to the public.



**April 20 • 4 p.m.- 10 p.m.
Spring Astronomy Day**

Great family fun and learning at this free event, rain or shine. Safe Solar viewing during the day and Moon, stars & Venus, Saturn & Mars. Free planetarium shows, interactive computers, lobby gift shop, demonstrations and much more! Call 979-265-3376 for more information.

The Center will be closed Friday, March 29 through Sunday, March 31 in observance of Easter.