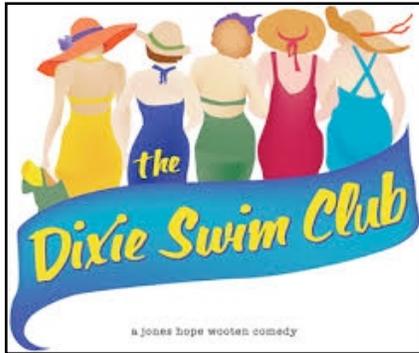


NEWSLETTER

Dixie Swim Club

Director, Judy Kropp, brags about her great cast!



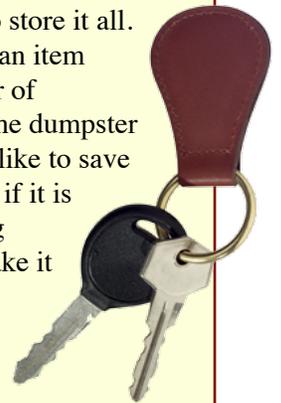
Dixie Swim Club is a play that revolves around five women who get together every August to renew their college friendship. It opens as the women are in their 30's and proceeds to showcase three other weekends as they age and help each other through both the high and low points of their lives.

Judy Kropp will be directing this show. She held auditions Dec. 2 and Dec. 3. With Little Women still on the OLT boards, the auditions were held at RMCC. The cast members are all veterans of the OLT stage having performed many dramatic and musical productions between them. Deborah Tennison will play Sherrer, while Dinah will be portrayed by Jennifer McPherson. Amanda Stipe and Diana Bernadine will play the parts of Lexie and Jeri Neal respectively. The cast is rounded out with Jessica Kropp as Vernadette.

The show will be performed two weekends. The first weekend will be in the form of a dinner theater at Mena Mountain Resort and take place February 13 and 14 just in time for Valentine. The second weekend will have the show in the Ouachita Little Theater on February 20-22

Clean Up Campaign

A board new year's resolution is to clean the theatre by discarding unused items ranging from props to furniture, to costumes. Marilyn Brown and LaDonna VanWolf are in the vanguard of the effort. If anyone would like to get involved in getting the theatre into tip top shape your help will be appreciated. We are aware that some of the items used in shows long ago may have some sentimental value, but there is not enough room to store it all. If you know of an item that is in danger of winding up in the dumpster and you would like to save it, come by and if it is on the chopping block. If it is, take it home.



THE EYES OF THE APOSTLE

After it was decided to perform Don Hesse's "Eyes of the Apostle" some second thoughts were expressed by a number of members. The main problem was, "who would direct this major production". Scott O'Rear has accepted the directorial challenge and is working with Lamar Austin and



Lorraine Timmerman to polish the script. Scott indicated he would like to hold auditions toward the middle of January. This will be the first show Scott has directed and has requested the help of all members in making this a show to remember. Eyes of the Apostle is scheduled to play March 20- 29

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have told folks that I am in a position similar to what Gerald Ford faced when he became President of the United States. For the younger readers who may not remember, Gerald Ford was Speaker of the House when Vice President Spiro Agnew and President Richard Nixon both left office in the middle of their terms. In such a case the constitution directs the Speaker of the House to become president. A few months ago I was just a board member with the title of Past President. When both the OLT president and vice president resigned, I agreed

to take on the presidential duties until the next election.

Upon taking office we have made progress on several fronts, not the least of which was the staging of three very successful shows. Congrats to all concerned. As a result finances are on the positive side. We have also been able to enlist Scott O'Rear as director of the spring play, "Eyes of the Apostle". I have reworked the OLT web site to keep it up to date as well as presenting archival data. For example, all the shows ever done by OLT are listed on the web site.

Because of the scheduling of our shows and the flux in leadership, the board voted not to participate with a contest play. Many were disappointed, but our expansion of programs has spread us too thin and normal maintenance has suffered. For that reason we will be making a major push to get the theatre back in tip top



Marilyn Brown writes

JOLT member Katie O'Rear is planning a bake sale on Tuesday, Jan. 6, in front of James' Foods from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m., or until they sell out. Katie, with some help from friends and family, has been conscientiously painting the OLT lobby and bathrooms and wants to earn some of the funds herself to pay for the paint and supplies.

Help support her dedication and enthusiasm by donating baked items to sell? They can be dropped off to her in front of James' at 4 p.m.

If you're too busy to bake, perhaps you could stop and buy something to take home to your family for your evening dessert.

Suzanne Snow takes new job

Board member, Suzanne Snow, wrote us about a big life change for her. Here is what she wrote: Late last week I had a job offer from an urban farming operation in Fayetteville, and of course I have accepted. I'm so excited, and it's bittersweet to leave Mena, but I think I am ready. My position starts January 12th, so I guess I have to go ahead and resign from the OLT Board. It has been wonderful to work with everyone and get to know them, and of