

Fall 2008

## Newsletter

### **Talk Theater Returns!!!**

Due to a generous grant from Mortar Net, Inc., and its President Tom Sourlis, we will be able to have talk theater again this winter for the first time since 2006. Mark your calendars for the last Sunday of January (25<sup>th</sup>, 2009), the last Sunday of February (22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009), and the second to the last Sunday of March (22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009) for this event.

The 2009 Talk Theater will be "American Idol, Literary, Not Literally". With the help of Tony Mockus and the usual gang of volunteers we will be reading you nominations for the best (and worst) in American Literature.

You the audience will be the "panel" and will be encouraged to make snide remarks (especially if you have an English accent) about the readings. The audience will then vote on the three best at the January and February events.

At the final event in March the six nominees will have more extensive readings and the audience will choose the final "American Idol, Literary, Not Literally".

Each program will begin at 3 p.m. and last no more than 90 minutes. The price of tickets will be \$10 per event or you can purchase all three for \$25.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE, you can nominate your favorite, or least favorite American author. Please indicate the portion of his or her works that you would like read, and if possible include a Xerox copy of that portion of the work.

So pull out your checkbook, send us money for tickets now, put on your thinking cap, and tell us who you think should be nominated as Americans Literary Idol. Each snippet that we read from the works should be no less than 30 seconds long or no longer than 4 minutes long. Try to get your nominations (and checks) in before the first of the year. We look forward to hearing from you.

### **Annual Event Draws Big Crowd**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Event of the Aquatorium Society held its best on August 9<sup>th</sup>, had over 150 people in attendance, all of whom made a donation. The funds raised over \$9,000 helped us complete the re-roofing of the three wings on the Aquatorium. This is the final step before the revitalization of the Chanute wing.

Again, the Society wants to thank the participating restaurants, The Miller Pizza Company, Ono's Pizzeria, Miller Bakery Cafe, The Baker House, Beachstro, Flamingo Pizzeria, and Papparazzi's of Valparaiso for their participation and wonderful food. The beer was supplied by our friends at Kidstuff Playsystems right here in Miller and a special donation was made by Mortar Net to cover the cost of the other beverages.

Without them, and without you, we could not continue to be the only successful restoration project in Northwest Indiana.

## The Work Continues

This year the Society was able to restore the grand staircase with the help of our good friends Mike Wilkie and Janet Bean, we were able to open Quentin's Quarters in the Tuskegee Garden, we completed the restoration of the northwest corner facade and we completed the planning and architectural work for the Chanute Garden.

In all we spent well over \$36,000 on restoration work. Now our treasury is empty but we are moving ahead. With the help of Talk Theater, the coming Annual Event in 2009, and other ideas, we will raise the funds necessary to start the construction of the Chanute Garden.

And here is one of those ideas, in 2004 The Society opened the Miller room, being the foyer as you come into the building, we put up some thirty pictures of Miller in the nineteenth century and early twentieth century and a few pictures relating to the history of Gary. As you will recall, there was an entrance fee for this event for \$25 and then people bid on the pictures that they wanted to sponsor in the Miller room. This year we hope to do it again and add thirty more pictures including some 1930 menus from Miller restaurants.

Tentatively, this event will be held sometime in May and should be a lot of fun.

WISHING ALL OF YOU THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS, THE WARMEST OF WINTERS, AND THE COOLEST OF GIFTS.

The Society Board

(order form attached)

## Order Form

Yes, I want to help choose a new American Idol ( Literary, Not Literally).

Enclosed find my tax deductible check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets to all three events.

(Optional) Nomination Form

I also nominate the following author: \_\_\_\_\_ for his/her work in the following piece found on pages \_\_\_\_ thru \_\_\_\_.  
(Enclose copy if possible)

Although I am looking forward to this wonderful literary event, I have been told there will be punch and cookies served and getting out of the house on a cold Sunday afternoon, are my real motivations, but you won't tell anybody will

**Events are January 25, 2009, February 22, 2009 and March 22, 2009.  
Tickets are \$10 per person, all three for \$25.**

**Mail to:**

**The Society  
607 S. Lake St.  
Gary, IN 46403**

P.S. Don't forget our Aquatorium website -[\*\*Aquatorium.org\*\*](http://Aquatorium.org)