



OUR 29TH YEAR TO BE COLOSSAL!

THE OSCARS COME TO THE AQUATORIUM!

1. It's true, we have gone Hollywood! On January 27, 2019 at 3 pm the first movie ever to win an Oscar, "Wings," will be shown in the Tuskegee room at the Aquatorium in beautiful Aquatorium scope. Other Oscar winning films will follow in February and March. The Society is able to do this because the Board, using grants, purchased electric rolling shutters that will cover the windows in the Tuskegee room and make it suitable for theater. We can only seat 55.5 people so make your plans now. Each showing will be \$10 or entrance to all three will be \$25 if tickets are purchased before January 27th.

So here's the run down:

3 pm, Sunday, January 27, 2019 – the first motion picture to win an Academy Award, Wings, will be shown. This movie features the "it" girl, Myrna Loy and a cameo appearance by a very young Gary Cooper. This cameo appearance shot Cooper to stardom. The movie is in black and white with some color and is mostly a silent movie with sound. It's a little over two hours long, so there will be an intermission in the middle with Rex (aka popcorn) Blackwell serving as your concessionaire.

Wings won the Academy Award because of its sterling World War I dogfights with bi-planes literally shot in the air with the stars having to learn how to fly airplanes. It's quite a unique movie and has some of the best action sequences ever filmed. When Myrna Loy received the Oscar for best actress she was said to look at the statue and say "this looks just like my uncle Oscar" and so the Oscars it is.

This movie was so popular that it played in New York City for three years beginning in 1927. The price was an astounding \$2.00 per ticket, which in today's money, would translate into about \$40. However, you can see it for only \$10!

2. On Sunday, February 24, 2019, the movie "Red Tails" will be shown at 3 pm. This movie is based on the exploits of the Tuskegee Airmen and while it didn't win an Oscar, we decided it should have. What could be more right than going to the Aquatorium during Black History month and watching one of the few authentic movies made about black history and the Tuskegee Airmen in the Tuskegee room at the Aquatorium? As they would say in Hollywood, "this is really big" (or was it Ed Sullivan that said that?) Anyway, if you've seen the movie come see it again, if you haven't seen the movie it's well worth your while. And, again it's only 10 bucks to see a good movie, have popcorn from good old pops Blackwell and see your friends and neighbors, not to mention the new rolling shutters at the Aquatorium. Of course all movies will be shown in aqua-vision!
3. Have you ever seen a Fellini film? At 3 pm Sunday, March 24, 2019, here's your opportunity to see one of the best -- "La Strada" a movie Fellini made with American actor, Anthony Quinn. While Quinn was chasing lions in the coliseum during the regular work day, he would get up early in the morning and make this masterpiece with Fellini. La Strada (which means the road) was the first foreign language film ever to win an Academy Award. This 1954 classic is considered Anthony Quinn's finest work and perhaps famous Italian film maker Federico Fellini's most famous work. If you have never seen a Fellini film, here is an opportunity. If you have seen Fellini films and have been confused, this is an opportunity to see a movie that is not that confusing.

So be there or be square. Send in your \$25 now for all three movies. You will find a coupon at the end of this newsletter.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

Our 29th year will continue on Friday, May 17, 2019, at 6 pm with our annual pizza party. There will be pizza, salad, beer, wine, pop and water for everyone to enjoy the spring and continue supporting the Aquatorium.

Then on Sunday, June 30, 2019, at 3 pm we will have a special celebration for the opening of the “French Connection” room.

Did you know that Father Marquette was born in Laon, France and once paddled his canoe on the very spot where the Aquatorium is, or that Octave Chanute was born in Paris, or that Miller Beach was the site of the love affair between Nelson Algren and French philosopher, Simone de Beauvoir?

All of these things and more will be celebrated in the opening of the “French Connection” room which is currently, mundanely, referred to as the inside foyer connecting the Tuskegee room to the Chanute room.

It will be fun, it will be interesting, it will be Aquatoriumish! So put it on your calendar today – more news will follow.

Then, at 7 pm, on August 24, 2019, the Aquatorium will have its 29th annual event. These are the fundraisers that have sustained us these last 28 years and given us the leverage to raise the \$4,550,000 we have raised in the first 28 years allowing us to rescue, repurpose and rehabilitate the old Gary bath house into a destination point in Northwest Indiana. We all did this together so let's keep going.

2018 WASN'T A BAD YEAR EITHER

In 2018, we raised nearly \$22,000 in direct donations and nearly \$60,000 in rental fees. These rental fees allow us to pay the every day operating expenses for the building; such as insuring it against any liabilities for both us and the city at a cost of \$2,213 per year, keeping our fire alarm system and grass sprinkler system in good condition, paying dumpster fees, keeping our heating and air conditioning systems going, buying additional tables and chairs, maintaining our internet site, and keeping the building clean and operating efficiently.

We were able to do all this and retain over \$20,000 for future maintenance, which will include interior repairs and painting, repainting the outside gates and doors, having a handicapped bathroom, and allowing George Rogge to continue his quest to get the basement dried out.

Remember that with the exception of our maintenance staff and our manager, the Aquatorium is an all volunteer organization and will continue to be so.

On the operating side we spent about \$8,000 on our new blinds that allow us to turn the Tuskegee room into a theater. We kept in contact with you, the membership, covered the cost of fundraising and operating the events, and paid for the creation and installation of plaques for the Mustang Fighter on the east side of the front of the building. We continued work on the building.

In this account we also ended up with a little more than \$21,000 for future work on the facility.

As usual, a full accounting of all the funds will be part of our 2019 annual report which will be passed out at the event in August of 2019.

Together we have created a great facility and we will continue to do so with your help and participation. Below you will find a coupon for our “Oscars come to the Aquatorium” events in January, February and March. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

The Society Board of Directors

Yes, I want to attend all three movies. Enclosed find my check for \$ _____.
Admission(s) to all three at \$25 per person for a total of \$_____.

I can't attend all three but I would like to attend the one(s) I have checked below:
_____ 1. Sunday, January 27th at 3 pm – “Wings”
_____ 2. Sunday, February 24th at 3 pm – “Red Tail”
_____ 3. Sunday, March 24th at 3 pm – “La Strada”

Enclosed please find my check for _____ admission(s) at \$10 each for a total of \$_____

I can't make these movies but I am enclosing a check for \$_____ as my donation to the Aquatorium.
Keep up the good work.

PLEASE MAKE OUT ALL CHECKS TO “THE SOCIETY” AND MAIL TO:
607 S. Lake Street, Gary, IN 46403 in the enclosed envelope.