

I imagine that if most of us asked our husbands what they wanted to do for Valentine's Day they would respond with something like, 'you know I love you; I don't need a special day for that' and, in their y-chromosome way, they would be right. Unfortunately, they don't get it. What good is getting flowers sent to your house where no one will see them but you, when they could be sent to your office so you can show them off? The object is to publicly show your love (and boost the sales for chocolate candy and Hallmark).

Valentine's Day conveniently falls on a Saturday so your plans don't have to be complicated. What better way for your husband to publicly acknowledge his affection for you, than to bring you to The Plaza Arts Center for the Great American Rock 'n Roll Revival? Tickets are only \$20 each and will cover a 2-hour show starting at 7:30 that is guaranteed to have you mentally back in your teenage and college years, when we had music you could really dance to. And knowing that you might not be able to sit still, we have planned a good old-fashioned sock hop afterwards in the reception hall where we have asked the musical group The Sock Hops to stay and play. The chairs will be pushed back and the refreshments nostalgic and we now have the ability to sell wine and beer, which will be for sale at the dance. You need to take your date back to '58 and shake things up a little. You might even get lucky.

On Sunday, the Texas A.M.E. is holding their worship service at the center at 2:00 pm when they will be honoring one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, Hiram E. Little, who will be here in person. He will be joined by the Atlanta Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen and the Buffalo Soldiers. The church is paying tribute as part of Black History Month and we are very proud to be a part of that celebration. The service is free and open to the entire community.

Many of you are huge music fans and have a vast array of musical preferences, but I doubt that Pierre Bensusan has been on your radar. After Friday, February 20, he will be. Pierre is a world-class acoustic guitar player who is coming from France to play for us. He was named Best World Music Guitar Player for 2008 by *Guitar* magazine and I can assure you, you will be mesmerized by his talent. He is also the subject of a documentary film about his life called *Strings Without Borders: the World of Pierre Bensusan*, which illustrates how he uses the power of music to cross borders, promote tolerance and inspire respect. The film explores his boundary-shattering musicality and allows viewers an intimate window into the life of this dedicated and prolific musician. We will share a short preview of the film as well.

Just like my ignorance of the 'musical' term 'Kazanetti', little did I know that it's very unusual for guitars to be played with strings like violins and violas, when I asked Pierre's agent if he would consider having our resident string-quartet perform with him that evening. Turns out, Pierre got very excited about the idea, so Kazanetti brought in Ron Voltz to specially arrange a couple of pieces for strings and guitar. So this collaboration will be quite a treat and not something you will likely see or hear again anytime soon. I am personally excited by the unique experience this promises.

Don't forget the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual swing dance brought to you by the Putnam County Jazz Band on February 27, when we will have a reception beforehand a public display of art work from some very talented high school students. Saturday, February 28 is the return engagement of "Bully! An Adventure with Teddy Roosevelt" and the GCSU Orchestra will perform on March 7. We have added a concert by perennial local favorites, Banks and Shane, on Friday, March 13 when they will do their tribute to The Kingston Trio. My toes are already tapping!

See you at The Plaza.