

## A Year of Discovery Ahead

In just a few days many of you will be receiving your invitation to become members of the Eatonton-Putnam Arts Foundation for 2009. It has taken a while to get this information organized and put together because we wanted it to be meaningful and worth your while. We have a tremendous schedule of events ahead for 2009 so I hope you will give our invitation serious consideration.

You are being invited to become a member of the foundation (E-PAF) because it holds more benefits than events at The Plaza Arts Center alone. Membership to E-PAF gives you access to the center and its many performances but also to PAPA productions and the Old School Museum's exhibits. You will receive advance notice of events and invitations to previews, not open to the general public.

PutnamArts is the teaching arm of E-PAF and we are working on a schedule full of classes and workshops including summer camps for our children. Membership will afford you discounts on the price of enrollment and, of course, E-PAF continues to bring great summer concerts to you thanks to the Meet Me at The Plaza committee.

The response to the arts center has been overwhelming and, for me personally, very humbling and rewarding. The founders of this facility did an amazing job of creating a first-rate center for our community, as well as the region, and we want everyone to be a part of it. If you have already attended one of our many wonderful events, we hope you will be moved to become one of our exclusive Charter Members in 2009. Charter memberships are limited in number and will only be offered this first year. Sustaining Members will receive many valuable benefits, too, and Supporting Members will receive discounts for tickets and fees as well. We established special rates for our senior citizens and students so they, too, can do their part to be connected to the community through the arts center.

Among the many offerings we have planned for 2009, we will kick off the year on January 20 with "Lewis Grizzard: In His Own Words" performed by the eerily-familiar Bill Oberst, Jr. Lewis was legendary in the area and no doubt you will want to be on hand to re-live his side-busting humor for yourself (remember: membership to E-PAF will get you first-come tickets). We have also made Valentine's Day easy for you by allowing you to 'Take Your Date Back to '58' with the Great American Rock 'n Roll Revival. For those who can't stop shakin', we will move from the theater to the reception hall after the concert where we will continue to dance to the music of the Sock Hops while having a sock hop of our own. Lots of other entertaining events are on the way but we are particularly excited to be bringing the Manhattan String Quartet to our stage next September (again, membership gets you advance tickets and the best seats).

Of course there will be more but I hope this whets your appetite and finds you eagerly awaiting your invitation. If you don't receive your invitation by mail, that's not because you aren't invited; it's because we don't have your address, so let me know if you would like to be included.

'Twas the Right Before Christmas' Festival of the Arts begins this week and we hope you will cut out our ad with all the details so you don't miss anything. Becoming a member of E-PAF will get you advance notice and ticket purchasing opportunities for the many extraordinary events scheduled for 2009, and we look forward to having you join us for a year of discovery ahead.