

## **More than Books**

### **Reserve Your Library Foundation Theatre Tickets**

Call the library at 815-233-3000 to reserve your seats for the Thursday, May 8, special opening night performance of The Winneshiek Players comedy, "Lend Me a Tenor."

Opening night is a fundraising collaboration between the Freeport Public Library Foundation and the Winneshiek Players. Tickets are \$40 per person (\$30 for Winneshiek members) for an extravagant evening that begins at 6:30 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and complimentary beverages. The curtain goes up at 7:30 p.m., but wait! There'll be a champagne intermission, and, following the play, coffee and sweets will be served as attendees have the opportunity to mix and mingle with the cast.

The proceeds go to benefit the library as well as supporting The Winneshiek Players, who, in their 88th season, are proud to be the nation's oldest continuously running amateur theatre.

The Freeport Public Library Foundation was only organized in 1993, but since its organization, it has been busy attracting and raising funds for technology, materials, programs, and services that are beyond the scope of the library's operating budget, or, as I call it, "the icing on the cake."

Consider opening night, May 8, a great opportunity to support two of our local non-profits in one fun-filled, delicious evening.

### **More about the Foundation**

Proceeds from the Freeport Public Library Foundation fundraising efforts make possible such library programs as summer reading. Last year's summer reading program was able to provide a book prize for every child who signed up, thanks to the generosity of the Foundation, whose board members realize that reading gains made during the school year are easily lost if children don't continue to read over the summer months.

It is the Library Foundation that hosts the oh-so-popular American History Speakers Series, which concluded this month with Alan Wenzel's standing-room-only presentation, "1967: The Tumultuous Sixties Arrive in Hollywood." The Speaker Series made its first appearance back in 2004, organized by Dr. Finch and James Winker, to bring people to the just-opened library and show off the new library's meeting room space. After completing its Tenth Anniversary Edition, there are no signs of a drop in interest - or attendance - for the Series. The lectures and refreshments are free and open to the public, courtesy of the Foundation.

"Books for Babies" is a Foundation program that delivers a collection of books and information about reading in an attractive packet for new parents so that all Freeport babies have books in their home to jump start their ability to read and learn. Look for its promotion in this column in the near future, and I'll look for you at "Lend Me a Tenor" on May 8.

### **Reviews of "Lend Me a Tenor"**

"Disbelief, Merrily Suspended: With a nod to the style of Marx Brothers classics like "A Night at the Opera," the play is filled with manic disagreements, elaborate subterfuges and broadly telegraphed attempts at seduction." - The New York Times

“Lend Me a Tenor is, in all the best senses, a complete farce...that keeps the audience laughing from the ingénue’s operatic mime to the frenetic finale. The pacing, energy, and confusion are all there, and the director and cast have raised it to its full comedic potential. Find the time to let them tickle every funny bone you have.” - Broadway World.com

“Lend Me a Tenor” received nine Tony Award nominations when it opened on Broadway and won for Best Actor and Best Director . It has been translated into 16 languages and produced in 25 countries.

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