

ENTERTAINMENT

Local theater group to serve love

Dinner theater event planned for Feb. 13

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day dinner is served – and there's a performance to go with it.

Backus Community Center will open its doors Feb. 13 for "Room to Act," a dinner theater-type event hosted by the local theater group, the Borealis Bards.

"One of our members introduced us to a delightful collection of short love-themed scripts," said Beth Lowthian, the group's founder. "We found them intriguing and something we wanted to perform. A dinner theater seemed the perfect venue to offer them. And if the theme is love, then Valentine's Day seemed perfectly fitting."

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a cash bar followed by dinner at 6 on the Backus stage. After the meal, there will be a total of three performances held in different rooms throughout the first floor of the handicapped-accessible community center. Half of the audience, Lowthian said,

Get involved

Anyone interested in joining Borealis Bards can contact the group at info@borealisbards.org or by calling Beth Lowthian at 502-693-4858.



will move to one room, the other half to a second room.

"Each room will offer a collection of short plays that share a theme of love and relationship," she said. "At the end of each collection, the audiences switch rooms."

The Room to Act event concludes with participants returning to the stage for dessert and a final collection of dramatic readings and performances carrying on the theme of love.

"The evening offers a fun twist to a dinner theater due to the fact the audience travels to the performers rather than the other way around," Lowthian said. "Attendees will enjoy seeing their friends and neighbors act in these light-hearted

If you go

Who: Borealis Bards
What: "Room to Act" dinner-theater performance
When: 5:30 p.m. Feb. 13
Where: Backus Community Center
Why: To support local theater and other community events
Cost: \$30 — tickets are available until Feb. 11 at Backus and City Drug

and funny skits."

Laughter, Lowthian continued, is guaranteed. She said many of the pieces are by playwright Christopher Durang, known for works of outrageous and often absurd comedy. In addition, many scripts were written by the performers.

"This is truly a community theater group," she said. "All actors and backstage support are locals."

Admission to the Feb. 13 performance and dinner is \$30 and can be purchased in advance at the Backus office and City Drug until Feb. 11. Space is limited, Lowthian noted. Proceeds from the event will go toward supporting Backus Community Center programs.

Cavaliere to perform at Fortune Bay Casino

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Felix Cavaliere's message has always been to stand for peace, love, and happiness. The singer songwriter in a news release said making people feel good is primary to his 50-year career that includes the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Songwriter Hall of Fame, Vocal Group Hall of Fame, and Grammy Hall of Fame.

Now, northern Minnesota will have its chance to hear him live.

Felix Cavaliere's Rascals will take the stage of the Fortune Bay Casino in Tower, Minn., Feb. 12 and 13. Both shows are at 7 p.m. and are only for adults 21 years of age and older. Tickets cost \$29 and can be purchased online at www.etix.com, via phone at 800-992-7529 or in person at 1430 Boise Forte Road. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. the night of the shows.

Cavaliere is a classically-trained pianist who was born in Pelham, New York. The release said the musician idolized Ray Charles, Marvin Gaye, and Sam Cook. He embraced the Hammond Organ and pioneered a fresh rock 'n' roll sound.

After leaving Syracuse University to form the Escorts, he became a backup musician for Joe Dee and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Felix Cavaliere will perform at the Fortune Bay Casino in Tower, Minn., Feb. 12 and 13. Both shows are at 7 p.m.

the Starlites and later Sandy Scott, before starting his own hall of fame career.

Early in 1965, Cavaliere formed the Young Rascals with Dino Danelli, Eddie Brigati and Gene Cornish. That October, they caught the attention of promoter/manager Sid Bernstein

with their high-energy set at Long Island's elite club, Barge. The group signed to Atlantic Records, and is now called The Rascals. The release concluded the group's song, "Good Lovin,'" struck No. 1 in February 1966. It followed suit with a string of hits.

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Win a \$50 gift certificate from one of our sponsors by entering our "Share Your Perfect Romantic Evening Contest." Tell us in 200 words or less how you would spend the perfect romantic evening. A panel from the International Falls Journal will choose the winning entries. Five winners will be selected on February 11th, 2015, just in time for Valentine's Day.

Please, one entry per person.

Entries will be accepted through 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10th, 2015.

All entries must be submitted online. This is an online-only contest.

The winning entrants will be notified by Thursday, February 12th, 2015. The winners will be announced in the newspaper editions published the week of Valentine's Day.

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