

Old Patrician



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Things We Will Do and Things We Might Do

As I explained in the last issue of *Old Patrician*, we are thinking about going to the Florida Stage production of *Ella*. There is a tentative signup sheet on the SocComm bulletin board. If you are interested in this event, please sign the sheet so that we can gauge enthusiasm for this show before we commit to buying tickets. A few more words about the Florida Stage can be found below.

As you can see from the picture on the right, my foot is still a problem. Therefore the Wine 'n Cheese on the Beach event has been transformed into a Wine 'n Cheese on the Deck party. And, since I probably did some damage setting up for the last barbeque, I am going to need a few able-bodied people to set up for this activity scheduled for Friday evening, May 13, 2011.

The Wine 'n Cheese activity is one of our oldest, most popular, but grossly misunderstood events the SocComm runs. I use the name because it is catchy, but this leads to some false conclusions. First, a number of people have come up to me and said "I would have come, but I don't drink wine." So, let me be very clear, "wine" is a euphemism for any beverage at all. The person who challenged me is a confirmed martini drinker. Others don't imbibe alcohol at all. So let's call it a Beverage 'n Cheese party.

Alas, that does not do it at all. Since we started these events in 2009, the "nibbles" were oh so much more than cheese. Of course, plenty of people brought cheese; and fine cheeses they have been. However, many of the "cheese plates" have looked like covered one dish suppers. Dips, salads, shrimp plates of all varieties, meatballs, and full entrées complete the repast. So, what to call the party? Beverage and Meals just does not have the proper ring.

It would take the wisdom of Solomon to sort out this whole naming convention. And so, in spite of the fact that it is more than wine and more than cheese and we are having it on the deck we will leave the name alone. You will just have to retain this copy of *Old Patrician* to understand the name.

Pat and I have been subscribers to the Florida Stage ever since we moved down here full time. In fact we have been going to their plays much before that time. We have enjoyed their summer musicals too. However, not everyone does. Their seasonal plays often have a dark theme such that their patrons find it hard to adjust to the lighter fare during the summer. Perhaps this is true to us who live at the Patrician too. It is for this reason that I posted the signup sheet. But, as of the first of May, no one has joined me in signing up. So, this week, please add your name to the list so we can see if there is anyone who wants to hear the music of Ella Fitzgerald.

I can tell you that the move from Manalapan to the Kravis Center was a positive one for the Florida Stage. Not only can they now mount productions that involve extensive scenery, they have the depth of stage that stories often require. If you saw *The Story Telling Ability of a Boy* in their old digs, the set was very cramped. Now contrast that with this season's *Cane* where the stage was transformed into a section of the Hoover Dike. Now that's upgrade!

Here is what they say about themselves: In July 2010, at the end of our 23rd season, we took up residence in the Rinker Playhouse at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts. The partnership between Florida Stage and the Kravis Center provides us with a higher profile performance venue and better theatrical and audience facilities, while retaining the intimate setting that has been a Florida Stage hallmark. It provides the Kravis Center, the region's largest performing arts facility, with a resident professional theatre company of national stature.

Some things are new: the seating, the look of the lobby, our increased ability to showcase the work of our lighting and set designers. But, more importantly, many things stay the same: the quality of the work, the excitement of being a part of new work created for audiences



The foot issue.

across the nation, and the lively discussions created by the issues we take on. In short, it is Florida Stage at its finest: a good story, well-told, produced by artists acknowledged as some of the best in the country, presented in the most innovative, creative, comfortable setting imaginable.

Looking back, we had about 25 people for the value meal held at the Gourmet Deli House in the Ambassador. I thought the quality of the food to be as good as their original location in Greenacres. In my humble, well maybe not so humble, opinion this place is far better than the "two birds" in Lake Worth. But, their location is poor so I don't expect long tenure.

If all goes as planned I expect a visit to the Delray Yacht, the Boca Museum of Art, and the aforementioned *Ella* to happen this summer. This is in addition to the scheduled barbeques. If we can squeeze in a *Summer of the Grape* dinner at Michael R. McCarty's we will go; if of course they run that feature again this year. If not, summer specials at name brand establishments in and around Palm Beach always abound.

If anyone has an idea for something the SocComm can run, don't be shy. You know where I live. And, because of the foot, I am not going very far!



Sign up for Ella at the Florida Stage

We are on the Internet:
www.s-i-inc.com/Patrician
If you are not getting this by
e.mail send me e.mail at:
bob@s-i-inc.com