

LEADERSHIP UPDATE - Fall/Winter 2013

13TH ANNUAL GALA TO FEATURE JAY LENO!

On **Friday, February 7, 2014** the Foundation will celebrate our **13th Annual Gala** featuring award winning television talk show host and comedian, **Jay Leno**.

We began planning our Gala over the summer after our outstanding Gala Co-Chairs, Lucille Smith, Kathy Martella and Brenda Maraman agreed to join us again. We hit the ground running with the addition of our returning and new talented committee members and have secured numerous sponsorships. We are well on our way to being completely sold out!



Our Returning Gala Co-Chairs:
Kathy Martella, Brenda Maraman and Lucille Smith.

The Van Wezel Foundation expects this Gala to be the best yet, so mark your calendars and plan to attend. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Foundation at (941) 366-5578 or visit our website at www.vwfoundation.org.

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WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE FOUNDATION, YOU ASK?

Twenty-seven years ago civic leaders had the vision to create a Foundation that would support the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and provide our youth and disadvantaged citizens the opportunity to enjoy one of our community's greatest treasures. We are proud to say their founding vision is alive and well! The Van Wezel Foundation's mission is to enrich lives through the performing arts. Our focus is on children and ensuring that they receive financial support to attend Van Wezel Schooltime Performances. Additionally, the Foundation supports the Access to the Arts Programs as well as the beautification of the hall. All proceeds from our annual Gala go to support these initiatives.



SAVE THE DATE!
Friday, February 7, 2014
FOR TICKET
INFORMATION
CALL 941-366-5578

**A MESSAGE FROM MIKE MARTELLA,
CHAIRMAN OF THE VAN WEZEL FOUNDATION BOARD**

In the first six months of the Foundation's new campaign "Where Inspiration Takes Center Stage" we have recruited our first eight Founding Members. Each invested \$25,000 or more in our new Founders Society. What a great start! I want to thank our President, Monica Slater-Van Buskirk and her staff and our wonderful advertising partners, John Jakes, Board Member and chair of the Advertising Committee and Cheray Keyes-Shima Managing Partner of KSC, Inc., for the successful initiation of this campaign.

Each founding member has shown how much they believe in and value the Foundation's support of our programs for bringing the performing arts to our area's children. The Foundation supports the beautification and maintenance of our Performing Arts Hall and we also continue our community Access to the Arts Program that supports missions like the new Veteran's Program in the Hall which is part of the Legacy of Valor. These members of our new Founders Society have shown outstanding leadership and dedication to the Van Wezel Foundation and truly validate the continuing support of the hundreds of individuals who each year donate their time, talents and hard earned dollars to sustain the Foundation in its mission. I want to thank everybody for their support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Martella".

WELCOME BACK BRUNCH - The Foundation welcomed our friends and donors to the 2013/2014 Van Wezel Performing Arts season at a first-time Welcome Back Brunch on Sunday, October 27th. This spectacular event drew a crowd of nearly 100 and was very well received. Our patrons spent an extraordinary afternoon in the Grand Foyer and enjoyed a preview of the newly enhanced patio. Singing sensation, Jimmy Mazz, who has toured world-wide, gave a performance that had our guests singing along, dancing and clapping their hands to a range of music by the Rat Pack, Elvis and other famous performers. Mattison's outdid themselves with a delicious buffet featuring a carving station of roast tom turkey, a build a bagel station featuring lox and all of the accompaniments and the most delightful cheese blintzes! The Foundation was overwhelmed with positive comments and has definitely decided to make it a yearly event. Our next Welcome Back Brunch, will be held in November, 2014 to allow even more of our returning seasonal residents the opportunity to attend.



Scott Anderson
Richard Van Buskirk
Marlon & Joan Brown



Gloria Moss
Jim Hallwich



Rachel Payne Jakes
Phil & Julie Delaney



Delia Smith-Orth
Sally Schule
Monica Van Buskirk

FRIDAY FEST CONTINUES ITS SUCCESS!

The Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall held the 2013 Friday Fest summer concert series over the post season months of June, July, August and September. The weather was cooperative all summer and the shows were very successful! Thousands of individuals from the community came to the concerts and all enjoyed the music performed by local bands. The Foundation ran a series of contests on social media for each Friday Fest and our participation rate was fabulous! We were happy to award a pair of show tickets to each of the four contest winners. The Foundation was pleased with the attendance of the donors and Hall sponsors in the VIP area. We're looking forward to another great summer in 2014. Thanks for joining us!



A MESSAGE FROM MONICA, PRESIDENT AND CEO

We would like to mention two very important Van Wezel programs. These are the performing arts programs supporting the needs of **Title 1 Schools** and the **Access to the Arts** programs, featuring the newest addition, **Military Access**. For individuals and families who could not otherwise attend Van Wezel performances, these programs help make affordable access possible.



For students in Title 1 Schools, the opportunity to see nationally recognized performing arts companies in the Schooltime Performances may be in jeopardy. These curriculum rich performances allow students to explore the arts in a way that is not possible in the classroom. Unfortunately, there are many children that cannot afford the low cost of just \$7 each to attend. Assistance is needed to provide ticket funding for Title 1 School children to attend Van Wezel Schooltime Performances.

The Access to the Arts Programs enable families, seniors, veterans and military families to attend Van Wezel performances at no cost. The Access to the Arts Programs returning from last season includes Total Access and Senior Access. The Total Access Program provides pre-show dinner and performances for 17 families from partner organizations. The Senior Access Program provides access to shows for many local seniors each year. Our new Military Access Program is focused on providing access to active duty military, veterans and their families and is co-sponsored by the Patterson Foundation as part of its Legacy of Valor campaign.

We are energized by last season's success! Now we are poised and ready to work even harder to make our 2013/2014 the best season yet. With the continued generous support of all our donors, we are sure to make it so.

- *Monica Van Buskirk*

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE

enter to win
THE **ALL-NEW 2014 IS** 250 F SPORT **BUY TICKETS**

LEXUS
donation: **\$100**
only 1,500 tickets

drawing to benefit the
VAN WEZEL
FOUNDATION

drawing: 7:00 pm
Friday, February 7, 2014
at the
Van Wezel Foundation Gala

**13TH ANNUAL
VAN WEZEL
FOUNDATION
GALA
WILL FEATURE
A CHANCE DRAWING
FOR A
2014 LEXUS IS 250 F SPORT!**

**REGISTER TO WIN AT
VWFOUNDATION.ORG**

**ONLY 1500 TICKETS
WILL BE SOLD!**

Van Wezel Foundation, Inc. meets all requirements specified by the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act. A copy of the official registration #CH3676 and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.

WHERE INSPIRATION TAKES CENTER STAGE

The Van Wezel Foundation is extremely pleased to announce the very successful first six months of our new campaign “Where Inspiration Takes Center Stage”. The campaign, which introduces the **Founders Society** level of giving, is focused on inspiring donors to provide a higher level of funding for the Foundation’s programs. These programs bring 25,000 children to Van Wezel’s School Time Performances each season.

We are pleased to report that the “Inspiration” program has already attracted eight Founding Society members at levels of \$25,000 or more. The leadership and dedication of the early founding members indicates that others will soon follow. As a way of showing our appreciation, the Foundation will display a portrait of each founding member on a beautiful celebratory wall in the Founders Lounge. These portraits were taken by the famous photographer, Barbara Banks.

The Foundation’s innovative program “Where Inspiration Takes Center Stage” is an ongoing campaign and we are hopeful to expand the society membership. Please contact us at 941-366-5578 or mstrauss@vwfoundation.org for more information.

Announcing
THE FOUNDERS SOCIETY

A program for those who dare to dream about making a difference.

Our new Founders Society offers you giving opportunities that will bring hundreds of school children through our doors to be inspired by live performances and will support needed improvements in the Performing Arts Hall.

Plenty of inspiring perks for you too!
Join the Founders Society today.

For information about the terrific benefits of Founders Society membership, call Michele Strauss or Elsie Merrill at (941) 366-5578.

WWW.VWFOUNDATION.ORG

WHERE
Inspiration
TAKES CENTER STAGE

VANWEZEL
FOUNDATION

Van Wezel Foundation Inc. meets all the requirements specified by the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act. A copy of the official registration #CH3676 and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-435-1392 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.



LEGACY OF VALOR

The Van Wezel Foundation was selected as one of 12 organizations to engage in a month-long effort to gain support for their ongoing programs and services benefiting veterans— all of which align with the Patterson Foundation’s “Legacy of Valor” campaign honoring veterans and their families in Southwest Florida. The campaign ran from October 15 through November 15, 2013. The Van Wezel Foundation was thrilled to be a part of this innovative initiative.

During that time frame, the Van Wezel Foundation collected donations which the Patterson Foundation matched dollar-for-dollar. Individual gifts of up to \$1,000 per donor per organization were given online.

The Van Wezel Foundation was proud to collaborate with the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall’s Military Access Program. The Patterson Foundation’s “Freedom, Pass It On” campaign emphasizes the supporting role that veterans and their families have played in maintaining our freedom, including freedom of the heart, mind and soul seen in our performing arts.

The Foundation received over \$13,000 in donations that were matched 100% by the Patterson Foundation. Another success for us!

SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCES - The Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and the Van Wezel Foundation are excited to present the 2013/2014 School Time Performance Schedule, posted above right. The Foundation is an integral financial piece to the success of these shows. Without the help of our valuable donors, we could not bring 25,000 children to our theater each year!

NEW FRIENDS AT THE VWF!

We'd like to recognize new friends at the Van Wezel Foundation! All of our donors are special to us; we could not accomplish our mission without their help! They've supported us at shows, the Gala, and much more! Thank you to our new friends, longtime friends and all who have helped the Van Wezel Foundation in its success.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Kobren
 Dr. John M. Ferretti, LECOM
 Mr. and Mrs. Sean Natarajan
 George Steitz & Susan Williams
 Lisa DeBartolo & Don Miggs

Cherie and Ralph Gorenstein
 Jill and Scott Ramsey
 Dottie and John Westerberg
 Carolyn Lowell
 Ruth Kreindler

VAN WEZEL FOUNDATION STAFF

Monica Van Buskirk - President and CEO
 Michele Strauss - Director of Development
 Tami Prince - Marketing & Events Manager
 Elsie Merrill - Donor Relations Associate
 Jeff Granston - Donor Relations Assistant
 Cathleen Mai - Financial Assistant

**BECOME A DONOR AND RECEIVE SPECIAL BENEFITS!!**

Making an annual contribution of \$2,500 (or more) to the Van Wezel Foundation rewards our "Friends" with exclusive benefits as our way of saying "Thank you".

Some of the many benefits include:

- Best Seats: Special notice to purchase two tickets to any of the Van Wezel sponsored programs
- Participation in the ticket return program, up to four tickets per year
- Reserved parking
- Special Event invitations
- Van Wezel program book listing
- Access to the Founders Lounge one hour prior to curtain and during intermission for all Van Wezel sponsored programs.

If you're not a Friend already, why not join this year? With all the fabulous upcoming shows - it's a great year to be a donor!

VWF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Martella, Chairman
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VANWEZEL
FOUNDATION

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Sarasota, FL 34236

Postage