

Women's words

The 15th annual Women Writers Reading will be held at 8 p.m. March 30 in Daugherty-Palmer Commons at St. Mary's College of Maryland. The free forum will include readers from ages 5 to 75 and will represent a diversity of backgrounds, colors and creeds reading from their poems and stories. A reception and live music will follow the reading. The college is on Route 5. Call 240-895-4493 or e-mail scmagruder@smcm.edu.

Take a spring hike

Enjoy a free spring hike on the Gravatt East Trail in Calvert County. Listen to the peepers and view the first springtime flowers. The guided hike will be led by American Chestnut Land Trust member Sue Hamilton. Bring binoculars and meet at 9 a.m. March 31 at the ACLT Barn on Scientists Cliffs Road, Port Republic. The hike will last until approximately noon. Call 410-414-3400 or go to www.acltweb.org.

Plane fun

Join the paper airplane experiment from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. March 31 at the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons. Learn about draft and lift and balance while perfecting a design. There will be a prize offered every hour for the plane that flies the farthest, with a grand prize awarded at the end of the day. Grand prize winner need not be present to win. The museum is at 14150 Solomons Island Road. Call 410-326-2042, Ext. 41, or go to www.calvertmarinemuseum.com.

Sweet Rosalie

In 1794, Henri Stiers and his family, including 16-year-old Rosalie, fled their home in Belgium to escape Napoleon's advancing army. The vivacious Rosalie eventually married George Calvert in 1799 and became mistress of his plantation, Mount Albion. Spend some time with Rosalie, portrayed by Mary Ann Jung, at 2 p.m. March 31 at the Calvert library in Prince Frederick. Members of the audience will be British and Americans during the War of 1812 as Rosalie's story progresses through her life, the Star Spangled Banner and Maryland history. Admission is free. The library is at 850 Costley Way, Prince Frederick. Call 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



COURTESY OF PATUXENT PLAYHOUSE

Hotel hijinks

The Patuxent Playhouse will present "Laffing Room" March 30-31 at St. John Vianney Family Life Center in Prince Frederick. A dilapidated hotel in Vermont is the base for a sting operation to catch a ring of petty criminals. Karen Mattingly as Irma and Keith Mervine as Eben Putney are but two of the characters who appear. The "guests" are not petty but their behavior is highly suspect. Performances will be at 8 p.m. March 30-31 and at 2 p.m. March 31. Tickets for the 8 p.m. shows are \$15; tickets for the matinee are \$10. The center is at 105 Vianney Lane. Call 410-414-9099, e-mail info@patuxentplayhouse.com or go to www.patuxentplayhouse.com.

Machiavelli makes mischief

Niccolò Machiavelli's comedy "The Mandrake" will be performed at 8 p.m. April 5-7 and 12-14 and at 2 p.m. April 7 and 15 in the Bruce Davis Theater on the St. Mary's College of Maryland campus.

Machiavelli makes hay of commedia traditions, building his comedy around a single question, "Who will win the love and the bed of youthful beauty Lucrezia?"

Will it be her rich, old lawyer of a husband, Nicia, or the handsome young upstart Callimico?

To one up Nicia, Callimico enlists the aid of artful con man, Ligurio, and is passed off as a doctor who has concocted a magic potion from the

mandrake root which, he promises his wizened rival, will make the childless Lucrezia conceive.

Lucrezia's mother and a corruptible friar, Brother Timothy, are also persuaded to help overcome Lucrezia's scruples against sleeping with a man who's not her husband. But the catch is that the first man who sleeps with Lucrezia after she takes the potion will die.

The resulting twists and turns lead to nonstop hilarity until, in the end, everyone gets exactly what they hope for and, quite possibly, deserve. The college is on Route 5. Ticket prices are \$4 or \$6. Call 240-895-4243 or e-mail boxoffice@smcm.edu.

On the calendar

Theater

Flappers – The Maurice J McDonough Performing Arts Department will present "Thoroughly Modern Millie," by Richard Henry Morris, Jeanine Tesori and Dick Scanlan March 30-April 1 at the school in Pomfret. Performances are at 7 p.m. March 30-31 and at 2 p.m. April 1. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors and \$7 for children and thespians with card. The school is at 7165 Marshall Corner Road. Call 301-609-8198 or e-mail jhey1@ccboe.com.

Yellow brick road – La Plata High School will present "The Wizard of Oz" March 30-April 1. Performances are at 7 p.m. March 30-31 and at 2 p.m. April 1. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors and \$5 extra for VIP seating and the lounge. The school is at 6035 Radio Station Road. Call 301-392-5567.

Egypt rocks – The Port Tobacco Players will present "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" through April 1 at the Port Tobacco Players Theater in La Plata. Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors. The theater is at 508 Charles St. Call the box office at 301-932-6819.

Auditions

Bedtime laughs – The Port Tobacco Players will hold auditions for the summer musical "The Pajama Game" at 7 p.m. April 4 at Milton M. Somers Middle School, 300 Willow Lane, La Plata; and at 7 p.m. April 5 and 12 and 3 p.m. April 14 at the PTP theater, 508 Charles St., La Plata. Come prepared with a song (bring sheet music or a CD/cassette without vocals) and be ready to move (dance steps). There will also be cold readings from the script. Call 301-934-6819.

Concerts

Ward Virts – Pianist Sheldon Goldberg and soprano Ramona Crowley will perform at 7 p.m. March 30 as part of the Ward Virts Young Artist and Community Series at the College of Southern Maryland Prince Frederick campus. Admission is free, seating is limited. The college is at 115 J.W. Williams Road. Call 301-870-3008, Ext. 6010, for Charles County; 240-725-5499, Ext. 6010, for St. Mary's County or 443-550-6199, Ext. 6010, for Calvert County, stop by the Prince Frederick campus Room 101 or go to www.csmd.edu/finearts.

Young music – The Charles County Youth Orchestra and Encore Strings will hold its spring concert at 7 p.m. March 31 at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Waldorf. Tickets are \$8 and will be sold at the door. The church is at 301 East

See Calendar, Page 8