



HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

An Event to Raise Funds
for the Brewster
Veterans Hall of Honor

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

11:30 am—1:00 pm

Brewster Place
Klinge Activity Center



LUNCH & ENTERTAINMENT

Featuring Ash Reynolds

*Learn how you can honor
a veteran's legacy.*

TICKETS \$25

To purchase tickets,
contact Jamie at
785-274-3398

The Veterans Wall of Honor in the Dorothy Trueblood Resident Art Gallery has been cause for many meaningful conversations and inspiration. Comprised of photographs of veterans living and working at Brewster, this assortment of photos has become a place of honor and reverence for our nation's veterans.

Brewster Place is growing and expanding to offer amenities to enhance and improve service to Brewster residents and the Topeka community. An important piece of this expansion includes a new **Veterans Hall of Honor** located adjacent to Main Street in Redwood South. The Hall of Honor will lead to an elevator and bridge that will connect Redwood to the new expansion, which includes an indoor pool, cultural arts center, restaurant, wood shop, wellness center and other amenities at The Evergreens. Each branch of service will be highlighted, and the photos of all of our Brewster veterans will be on lasting display.

In addition, we are undertaking an effort to record the stories and memories of our resident veterans, and these will become a highlight of the Hall. This will be a place where stories and memories of our resident veterans will be shared to ensure these witnesses to history are honored through time.

Projects such as this cannot be done without the support of those who find meaning in what our service members have done for our country and our ideals. On Tuesday, March 3 we will host a special event, **Honoring Those Who Served: An Event to Raise Funds for the Veterans Hall of Honor**. Tickets are \$25 and proceeds will go toward funding the project.

There are many ways you can support the project, whether sponsoring a specific component of the Hall of Honor or with contributions to the overall project.

To learn more about how you can be part of this exciting project, please call President & CEO Joe Ewert (a veteran himself), at 785-274-3392 or email him at Joe.Ewert@BrewsterLiving.org. ■

MISSION

Brewster Place is a retirement community providing all of its residents opportunities for an optimal quality of life.



The Brewster Health
Center is accredited by
The Joint Commission.

A FOND FAREWELL

LARRY RIGGINS, VP & CFO

RETIREMENT RECEPTION

Thursday, March 26 | 1:30 pm

Redwood Klinge Activity Center

LARRY RIGGINS was hired in 1999 to serve as Brewster's Chief Financial Officer.



Larry recalled, "My first day on the job I noticed a box in my office and found out that it contained manuals for a new software program that was to be installed." He

continued, "It quickly became apparent that, by default, I was going to be the administrator of the software as well as administrator of our newly installed server with its network of four PCs."

Also during his first month on the job, Larry began working on Brewster's first \$10 million tax exempt bond issue which was to provide permanent financing for the newly constructed health center, pay off an existing HUD loan on the Main Building, and provide project money for renovation of the old medical unit into new assisted living units.

Larry said, "Fast forward to today, including the 2017 bond issue, Brewster, in total, has issued \$87 million in bonds generating \$50 million in project money." He continued, "As much as I like working in the

world of finance, accounting, computers and spreadsheets, my connection to Brewster quickly elevated in the early years. The not-for-profit mission of serving our residents, daily encounters with the greatest generation, and seeing the culture of Brewster demonstrated by staff as they became extended family to residents is very gratifying." Larry experienced this in a personal way when his dad moved from Kansas City to Brewster Place. Larry said his father, George, later confided that he should have moved to Brewster 10 years earlier — which is a tribute to Brewster.

More than anything, however, throughout his career, Larry has earned the respect and admiration of staff, board members, family members and professional associates. Larry's faith and integrity is evident in everything he does and his steady presence and guiding hand has been vital to Brewster's success. He exemplifies the term servant-leader and the legacy he leaves is profound. Larry said, "I am grateful for the opportunity to work at Brewster and the privilege to associate with the many residents, staff and board members over the years. Brewster is well positioned to accomplish much in the future." ■

LISTENING SESSIONS with JOE AND LEA

Your input matters! You are invited to attend a **Listening Sessions** with President & CEO Joe Ewert and Vice President of Operations Lea Chaffee. Similar to last year's sessions, Joe and Lea would like to hear your input about the services and amenities that are provided — the successes and challenges. **Please RSVP to Jacy at 274-5050** to reserve your spot. Groups are limited to eight per group.

Monday, March 16

10:00 am | Redwood Founders Room

2:00 pm | Brewster Bean at Evergreens

Monday, March 23

10:00 am | The Evergreens Hobby Room

2:30 pm | Redwood Founders Room

Tuesday, March 24

10:00 am | Assisted Living Monarch

2:00 pm | Brewster Health Center FLR ■

EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL

by Diana Reed,
Brewster Place resident



MAJOR GENERAL JACK STRUKEL



Major General Strukel's Awards and Decorations

Distinguished Service Medal

Three Bronze Stars

Two Air Medal Awards

Four Army Commendation
Medals

Combat Infantryman Badge

Department of Defense
Identification Badge

Woven into the fabric of his life by a loving family, Jack Strukel became a beautiful tapestry. His lifetime was one of service to others, hard work and devotion to a country that offered a path to magnificent dreams fulfilled.

"I grew up in the tiny town of Cockerill, close to Arma in Crawford County, Kansas," the solid, tall man said. "It was a coal mining area. My family was from Slovenia. They were coal miners there. When Grandpa Jack came across, he was sponsored for five years by Crawford County to work the coal mines in Southeastern Kansas." His eyes shone like he was remembering. "When the family came here, Grandpa had three rules for us." Jack held out his hands and counted. "One, we had to love America, two if they call you for service, GO, and three, you've got to work. And, we did work."

Like a story in a book, he told, "I was born in the Great Depression and some people, especially the widows with children, didn't even have enough to eat. You see, during the Great Depression, and through those hard times, things were really bad. People were sick. The doctor got around on a little pony. He carried a bag. My dad earned sixty cents a day. People who could afford it, raised chickens and eggs and a couple of pigs. Maybe the pigs had some babies. We had two cows; one for milk and one for butchering."

"People were hungry, he said, so we made care packages for our neighbors." He wiped his misty eyes with his kerchief. "We had metal containers with lids. Mother put in sausages, vegetables, meat, with bread on the top. My little brother and I took the packages to single old men, widow women, people with little children, out of work coal miners. We were about five years old. We had things to do for others. We grew up in that atmosphere." Minutes went by while the remembrance of the Great Depression seemed to hang in the room. Finally, Jack began to speak again.

"My mother taught me how to read and write," he said, "and I started school at four years old." The teacher, Miss Wilson, wasn't sure if I could do it, but she tested me and I read on at the third grade level. She took me and taught me." He looked around, amazed. "Can you imagine?" he asked himself, "what my mother did, but I learned."

Deep challenges were also a part of Jack's upbringing. Coal mining sickened his father with black lung disease,

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FROM the CHAPLAIN

REV. ROGER JACKSON, M.DIV

I don't know about you, but for me winter is depressing. When it is cold day after day, with little to no sunshine, it becomes depressing. But there is hope — hope in a brighter tomorrow, because spring is on its way — and I can't wait until it arrives. With spring comes the celebration of the Easter season, and as Christians, it is because of Easter that we can have hope — hope in a new life.

So, let me ask you, how do you prepare for Easter? In our society it seems like we prepare for everything, at least the department stores do. Think about it. We do a pretty good job in preparing for Christmas and there are signs everywhere that something special is going to happen. But to prepare for Easter, what do we do?

For Christians, Easter is the most important day of the year, or it should be. Easter is the day we celebrate the central event of history, the day Jesus rose from the dead in order to make eternal life possible for you and me. For centuries, Christians have prepared for Easter by observing Lent, a period

BIBLE STUDY

The Case for Easter by Lee Strobel

Mondays, March 23—April 13

3:00—4:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

that begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year was February 26 and concludes on Thursday, April 6, Maundy Thursday.

Traditionally, people observe Lent as a period of repentance, denying themselves a particular pleasure, like giving up chocolate or soda. Some take on a new task of service during this time, like volunteering at Doorstep or the Rescue Mission once a week, to indicate their repentant spirit and prepare themselves in heart and mind for the celebration of Resurrection Sunday! But we don't do that much anymore.

Another way we can prepare for Easter is to read our Bible more or get involved in a Bible study during Lent. I would like to invite you to a four week Bible study called "The Case for Easter" by Lee Strobel. This video study will explore what the Bible actually says about the events of Jesus' death and resurrection, and what the eyewitness accounts reveal about the accuracy of the events that took place. Please join me and know that all are welcome! ■

INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMS



MEADOWS MENTORS

Friday, March 20

1:15 pm — Lobbies

Please call Chelsy Wessel at 274-3394 if you are interested in this program. ■

MAKE IT MONDAY

"GOOD LUCK" CARDS FOR KIDS

Monday, March 23

1:00 pm | Klinge Activity Center

We are wanting to make good luck cards for the 5th grade class for their state assessments. ■

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING OUTSIDE OF BREWSTER PLACE?

There are lots opportunities in our community! Give Chelsy a call at 274-3394 to learn more.



FEATURED HOME MARCH

BIRCHWOOD COTTAGE 4

With 2,000 square feet, three bedrooms and three bathrooms, a private patio and a prime location near The Market on Main Street, this Birchwood cottage is perfect for a single person or a couple wanting lots of space with a great location.

There are only eight Birchwood cottages, and this featured home comes with updates included. With luxury vinyl wood flooring in the living room, dining room and kitchen, this home has a warm feeling complemented by a gas fireplace for long winter days. A vaulted ceiling in the living room offers a spacious feel and accentuates the open kitchen design that includes updated cabinets and stainless steel appliances.

The master bedroom and bath, guest room, guest bath, and washer and dryer are all located on the 1,200 square foot main level of the cottage. The lower level adds another 800 square feet and includes the third bedroom and bathroom as well as a living area and office.

For more information, please call Lifestyle Consultants Chris Gallagher at 274-3351 or Kathy Clark at 274-3314. ■

MARKETING EVENT

Minimize Your Move, Maximize Your Space and Right Size Your Life | Dessert & Discussion

Tuesday, March 10 at 3:00 pm

Topeka and Shawnees County Public Library | Marvin Auditorium 101 C

We encourage residents to pass this invitation along to their friends and family — help give them the “nudge” to move to Brewster Place! ■

MARCH MADNESS BREWSTER BRACKET CHALLENGE

We will once again have our annual bracket challenge to coincide with the Men’s NCAA Basketball Tournament. Brackets and instructions will be distributed on Monday, March 16 and will be due back by Wednesday, March 18 by 5:00 pm. Please join us for a **FREE Kick-Off Hotdog Lunch** on Thursday, March 19 at 11:30 am at the Main Street Pavilion. ■

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

MAKING TRACKS: AMERICAN RAILROADS THEN AND NOW

**Wednesdays, March 11, 18 and 25
2:00—4:00 pm | Main Street Chapel**

This course examines the economic, political and cultural impact of U.S. railroad corporations, passenger and freight trains, as well as workers who built, ran and maintained them. Focusing on years from the Civil War to the present, we'll view film clips, read book and magazine excerpts, listen to railroad songs, and see photos from the instructor's own collection.

Instructor

Carl Graves, Ph.D., holds a master's degree in US history from KU and a doctorate from Harvard. He taught at the university and community college levels, and at Kansas City's Pembroke Hill School. ■

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taking the man at age 50. Jack graduated high school at age sixteen and he enrolled at Pittsburgh State, majoring in Psychology and Physical Education. He joined the Air Force and at 21 became a Sergeant in Classification and Assignment Identification during the Korean War. Higher ups saw the natural leader, fine discipline, and intelligence of the young man, and they gave him two stripes, making him Chief of Classification. He was transferred to O'Hare in Chicago and continued his Air Force career.

"I have always been so blessed," Jack said without pride, although he was obviously chosen over again for his kind manner and his fine judgement. When his term in the service was complete, he went back to Kansas and earned a M.A. in School Administration at the age of 23. He met and married the love of his life, Janet Gayle Holmes, a Chemistry major who became a beloved teacher. They eventually raised three children and were married for 63 years. Unfortunately, Mrs. Strukel passed away this past year. In 1956, Jack went to Vietnam and then moved to Joplin, Missouri where he taught school at Diamond High School. He became the Coach and the Assistant High School Principal there. He became the Associate Principal and Coach at Girard High School from 1961-1968. He was elected Mayor twice in Joplin.

In 1968, he volunteered to go to Vietnam and transferred from the Air Force to the Army and was an Infantry Company Coordinator and the Liaison Officer. In 1968 he earned the rank of Captain and went to Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs. After several advances, he earned the rank of Major and in 1969, full Colonel with the Iron Triangle, 137th Infantry.

In 1969, he earned the rank of Brigadier General, and in 1981, General with one Star and then two Stars when he led National Guard Units and Army Reserves in the Dakotas. In the late 1980s, General Schwarzkopf awarded him Assistant Department Chief of Staff.

How does a man achieve such a life?

Major General Jack Strukel says, "It has to be genetics and training by examples by my family. In my family, we loved the country. We worked every day. My greatest blessing was my wife of 63 years, my three children, and the men I worked with."

The little boy who delivered food to the hungry with his brother, the four-year-old who read at the third grade level, who learned at his family's knee how to love his country, how to work, how to go, he has made us all proud.

The American story. ■

SCAM SEASON

Scams come in many forms. You can be contacted by scammers via phone calls, emails, and text messages. Always be suspicious when **people you do not know** ask you for your personal information. This includes your Social Security number, Driver's License number, and/or credit card or bank account numbers.

If someone calls, text messages, or emails you stating that they are a law enforcement officer or agent, and tells you that you have a fine or warrant and they can help you take care of it with a simple phone call, this is most likely a scam. Do not provide them with credit card or debit card numbers.

Lastly, the IRS WILL NOT call, email or text message you. They will send letters through the mail and provide you contact information. If a contact seems unusual, trust your instincts.

Contact Security at 274-5000 if you have any concerns. We will help you investigate the legitimacy of the caller or sender. ■



CREATIVEARTS *with Kris Saia*

MAKE IT MONDAY

Monday, March 9

1:00 pm | Redwood Lounge

Attention Yarn Lovers:

Karen Taylor owns the wonderful Yak N Yarn shop in Fairlawn Plaza, but she's stepping out of her store to lead a class at Brewster. No experience necessary — join us to make a simple mug-rug, and to yak about yarn projects with Karen. Supplies will be provided, but please let us know you're coming so we have enough materials. Call Kris Saia 274-3317. ■

CAT PAWTY

Monday, March 16

2:00 pm | Klinge Activity Center

We're not even kitten... we're having a purrfect get-together. Help us make simple toys for Helping Hands Humane Society's kitty colony, and enjoy some meow-velous treats... and don't forget to wear your whiskers! ■

ALCOHOL INK ART CLASS

Thursday, March 26

1:00 pm | The Evergreens Art Studio

Artist Lisa Cool comes by her creativity naturally — her parents, Bob and Marion Knight, are two of Brewster's most talented makers. Lisa has offered to teach us one of her favorite skills -- join us to make a beautiful alcohol ink project. We'll learn how to combine ink, alcohol, and fire to make a swirling art piece on glass. Amazing! All supplies will be provided, but space is limited -- call Kris Saia 274-3317 to reserve your seat. ■

PERSONALGROWTH

by Serena Kent, LMSW, Director of Wellness

**Do you have a lifelong habit
of personal growth?**

PONDER THIS

There is not a time in our life in which we should not be willing to grow. Do you feel stuck? Do you feel as though you want to move past the same old routine? If so, you are probably in need of personal growth in your life. When you start to make a habit of personal growth, the results will bring more meaning to life and in turn it will enhance your relationships, self-image and confidence.

CALENDAR

How can you use the events here at the Brewster to improve yourself? Join the book club, reading brings wisdom to your life. Attempt watercolor, trying a new hobby stretches your imagination. Be a part of one of the many exercise classes, being physically fit shapes a better you.

CHALLENGE

Finding the path for a new journey of growth will be different for each person. To help you create a path to your goal, here are some questions to ask yourself. *What are my strengths? What are my weaknesses? Do I have good habits? Do I have bad habits? How can I improve a characteristic of myself? And why is this growth important in my life?* Then, take the time to write down what you need to do to gain the knowledge and experience to achieve this goal. Lastly, set a realistic timeframe to make growth achievable. Practice short term goals that will boost your confidence to succeed in long term goals. Spring is around the corner, so there is no better time than the present to start the growing process. ■



HUMANITIES KANSAS

Talk About Literature in Kansas Book Discussion

DEARLY BELOVED

MARCH

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End

by Atul Gawande

APRIL

Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?

by Roz Chast

MAY

Medicine Walk

by Richard Wagamese

The humanities help us understand what it means to be human — to seek connections with people and places. **Talk About Literature in Kansas** book discussions draw on diverse forms of literature to help us see more clearly who we are as people, and define ideas that will shape a future worthy of generations to come.

Society admonishes us to live now, be in the moment, don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today. This conveniently allows us not to think about our own end. Death and dying are uncomfortable topics. Our spring book discussion series is called **Dearlly Beloved** and each volume in this series takes on this taboo subject from a variety of perspectives.

(humanitieskansas.org)

To participate in the series, please call Jamie at 274-3398 to reserve your set of books. Our first discussion will be on **Tuesday, March 24 at 2:00 pm.**

Humanities Kansas provides financial assistance to non-profit entities such as Brewster to provide sets of books, discussion leaders, and special publicity. ■

LIVE YOUR FULLEST LIFE at Brewster Place

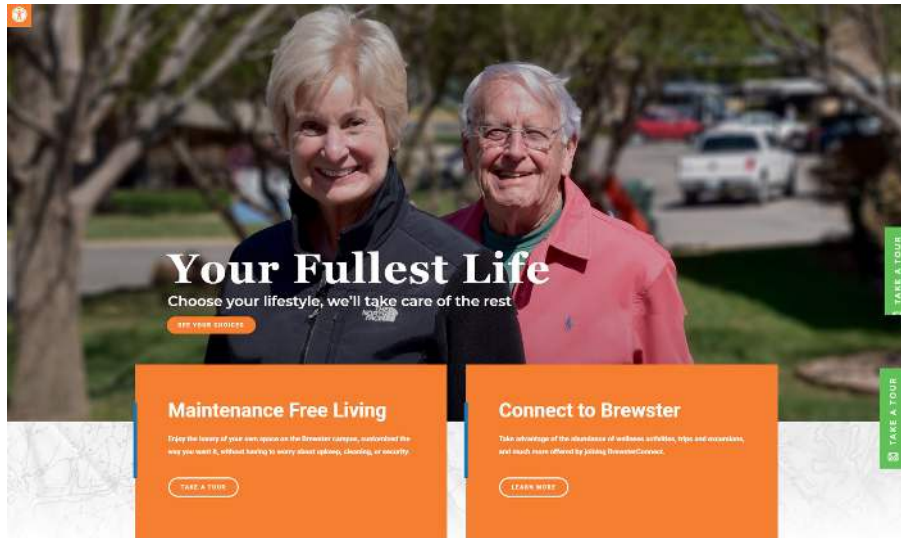
Check out our NEW website!

Features include:

- Lifestyles
- Services
- BrewsterConnect
- Videos
- History
- Team bios
- Events calendar
- Brewster News
- Menus
- Careers
- Foundation
- Campus map
- Schedule a tour
- More to come!



HOME ABOUT LIFESTYLES HAPPENINGS FOUNDATION CAREERS CONTACT US



Visit us at BrewsterLiving.org



And remember, we are also on Facebook:

facebook.com/brewsterplace.org/

On Campus — A few highlights!

CRYSTAL BRIDGES TRIP MEETING

Monday, March 2 | 1:00 pm | Redwood Founders Room

Let's meet to complete some paperwork and get the final details for our trip to Arkansas.

CIVIC MUSIC CLUB

Tuesday, March 3 | 7:00 pm | Redwood Lounge

Come enjoy the beautiful voices of Deo Gloria Singers.

BRIDGE FOR ALL

Wednesday, March 4 | 1:00 pm | Brewster Bean at The Evergreens

Come and play Bridge with Jamie. Enjoy coffee and conversation too!

SILVER WIND ENSEMBLE

Saturday, March 7 | 2:00 pm | Redwood Lounge

Come and listen to the beautiful sounds of this group.

NEWS & VIEWS WITH KEVIN MCFARLAND

Tuesday, March 10 | 10:15 am | Redwood Chandler Sun Porch

The world is quickly changing. Kevin will walk us through current activities going on in the world.

BRIDGE

Tuesdays, March 10 and 24 | 6:30 pm | Redwood Lounge

Please give Doris Davidson a call at 286-1432 for more information about this group.

KU OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING SERIES

Wednesdays, March 11, 18 and 25 | 2:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

Please see article on page 5.

BREWSTER FIVE TO THRIVE LUNCHEON

Tuesday, March 17 | 11:30 am | Redwood Klinge Activity Center

For March, we welcome Dr. Peter Loo, who will talk about non-surgical solutions for orthopedic pain, his involvement in the Community (*he's the Medical Director for the Topeka Pilots and USD 501 sports*), and happenings in the KU St Francis Campus Brewster Family Clinic. Lunch is \$7 and can be charged as part of your meal plan. Reservations are required by March 14 by calling Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

MARCH MADNESS KICK-OFF HOT DOG LUNCH

Thursday, March 19 | 11:30 am | Main Street Pavilion

For more information, please see page 5.

MARTY EDWARDS SING-ALONG

Saturday, March 21 | 6:00 pm | Redwood Lounge

Marty Edwards will provide popular music from the 40s through the 80s.

ED FARRIS AND FRIENDS MUSIC PROGRAM

Monday, March 23 | 2:00 pm | Redwood Lounge

Come enjoy the beautiful sounds of this group.

HUMANITIES KANSAS BOOK TALK

Tuesday, March 24 | 2:00 pm | The Evergreens Community Room

Please see back page for more information.

TEA TIME

Tuesday, March 31 | 2:00 pm | The Evergreens Brewster Bean

Let's take advantage of the cold weather and gather inside for a spot of tea and a rest from our daily chores. We can meet new friends and catch up with old friends. BRING YOUR OWN CUP (BYOC).

Off Campus — Don't miss the trips!

TOPEKA FESTIVAL SINGERS

Monday, March 2 | 6:30 pm | Lobbies

The Singers will feature songs from around the globe including Irish Tune from County Derry, Ciao, Bella, Ciao (Italian), Jamaican Medley, Annie Laurie (Scottish), and several American songs. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door for \$18. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for transportation reservations.

UNION STATION IN KANSAS CITY: GENGHIS KHAN

Thursday, March 5 | 8:30 am | Lobbies

This look at ancient Asia begins with the film *Mysteries of China in the Regnier Extreme Screen Theatre*. The movie captures one of the great archaeological events of the modern age, the discovery of the Terracotta Warriors and the Tomb of the First Emperor. Then, set your own pace in the world-class exhibition that explores the culture, conquests and heritage of the world's greatest conqueror, Genghis Khan. The exhibit invites you to experience life in 13th-century Mongolia, where you can view rare treasures from 13th-century Mongolia; more than 200 spectacular objects dramatically displayed to illustrate this legendary story. View gold jewelry and ornaments, silk robes, musical instruments, pottery, sophisticated weapon and numerous other fascinating relics and elaborate artifacts. Cost for tickets and transportation is \$30 per person. Lunch is Dutch treat. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

ON STAGE LIVE

Monday, March 9 | 6:30 pm | Lobbies

Sons of Serendip is a unique *Billboard Charting* quartet consisting of a harpist, cellist, pianist and lead vocalist. The quartet was a finalist on Season 9 of *America's Got Talent*, gaining popularity by offering fresh interpretations of popular music. Since the talent competition, Sons of Serendip has toured nationally, lighting up audiences with their creative and emotionally stirring arrangements and original compositions. Notable performances include the Creative Arts Emmy Awards. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door for \$18. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for transportation reservations.

ALL AMERICAN BAND CONCERT

Sunday, March 15 | 2:00 pm | Lobbies

Sigma Alpha Iota presents this wonderful concert. Tickets are \$6 and benefit scholarships for Washburn University music students. Directed by Chief Warrant Officer (ret) Stephen J. Patterson. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

TOPEKA CIVIC THEATRE

Thursday, March 26 | 6:00 pm | Lobbies

Topeka Civic Theatre presents **We Will Rock You**. This show features more than 20 hit songs from the rock band Queen. **We Will Rock You** follows two revolutionaries as they try to save Rock in a post-apocalyptic world. Featuring the songs, "Another One Bites the Dust," "Bohemian Rhapsody," "Killer Queen," "We Will Rock You," "Somebody To Love," "We Are the Champions," "Don't Stop Me Now," and many more. **We Will Rock You** has been performed in 28 countries around the globe and seen by more than 16 million people. Tickets are \$33. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.

NEW THEATRE AND RESTAURANT

Wednesday, April 1 | 10:00 am | Lobbies

The current show is **Original Church Basement Ladies** starring Cindy Williams. The play is inspired by the books of Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson. The play promises lots of laughter as the reviews state, "If laughter is the best medicine, this comedy will raise the dead!" Tickets are \$33 and includes lunch. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations.