

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF SENIOR BOX OFFICE**

*SENIOR BOX OFFICE IS YOUR TICKET TO CREATIVE LIVING*

*a quote from an earlier SBO publication.*

SBO began informally in April of 1982. During the first five years, notices regarding tickets offered to seniors to attend local cultural events were sent to Senior Centers by BCDA staff member, Rob Wood and by Stanley Plaine, SBO'S first volunteer and first board president.

The more formal organization of Senior Box Office began in 1986. Memberships were solicited and brochures were mailed to members on a quarterly basis. SBO has 28 sponsors who have provided cultural and educational opportunities to our members for the past 25 years, including low or no-cost admission to concerts, plays, museums, guided tours, sports events and lectures.

Today, SBO, a 501- C3 volunteer organization, enjoys the participation of about 175 organizations! Additional opportunities include a Speaker Series, Travelogue Films and a Book Club. Our current membership is about 850 senior households. The \$25 annual membership fee provides our operational budget, including the support of our salaried personnel.

From the beginning, the SBO Travel Group was an arm of SBO and provided trips to a range of destinations. Today, our energetic Travel Committee consists of 5 volunteers. They research, plan and lead day trips, or more extensive overnight and overseas trips while are open to SBO members and other seniors in Baltimore County.

The third component of SBO is a very active group of volunteers who usher at local theaters and concerts. Their services are very much appreciated, and they are able to see the shows/concerts, gratis. Their service provides them an opportunity to attend these events in addition to any events for which they have received vouchers.

*And for the future....*

The key to our continued successful operation is the volunteers, as well as the potential connections and ideas provided by our members. We urge you to be an active participant in SBO by telling us about opportunities you would like added to the brochure. Please share your talents, hobbies and interests with us as "Members-In-The-Know," Give us a call. We are always delighted to hear from you.