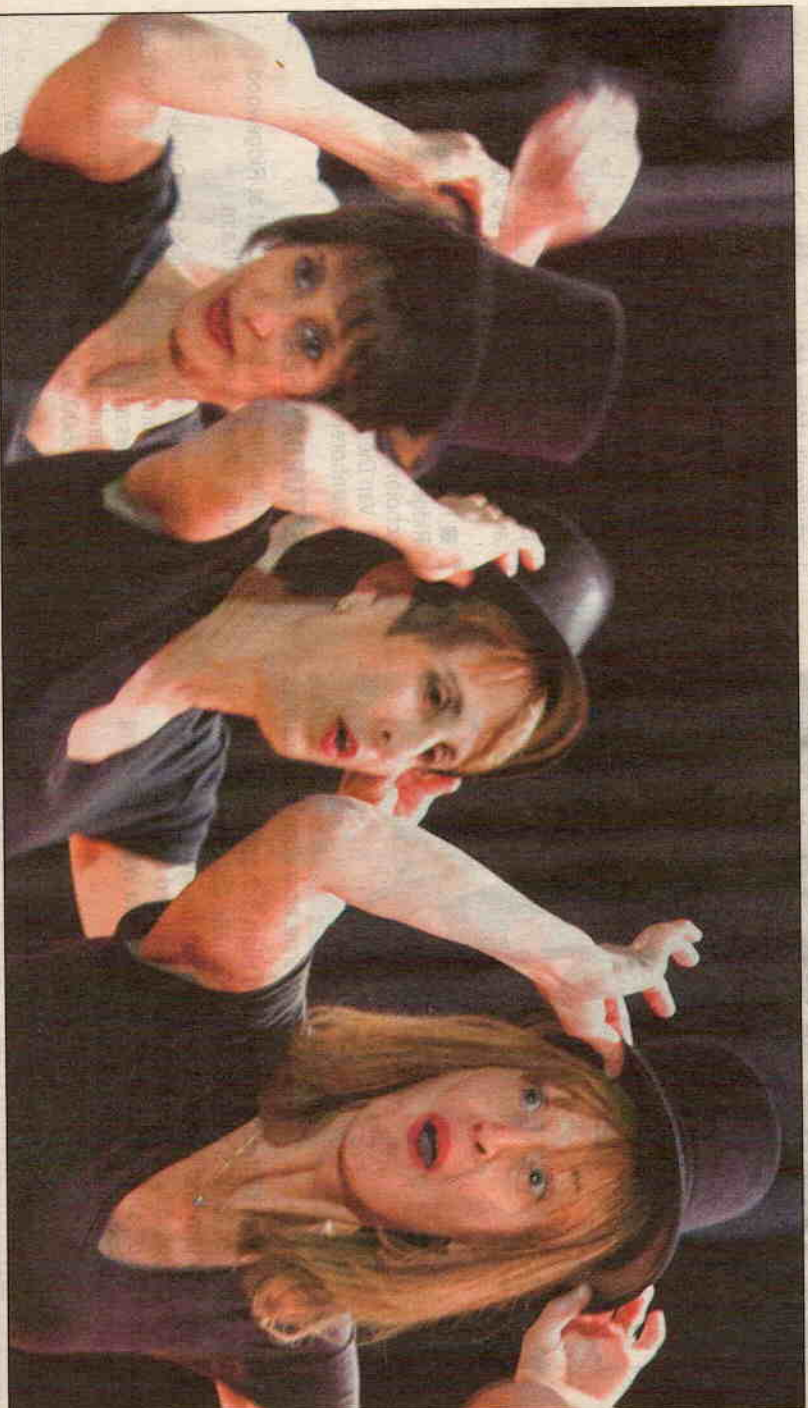


SERVING THE VILLAGE SINCE 1889

THE RIDGEWOOD NEW

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2011



PHOTOS/W.H. GRAE

From left, Rebecca Cronk, Arlene Kornhaber and Terry Anzano perform "Together, Wherever We Go" during Jamboree 2011 dress rehearsal on Sunday.

JAMBOREE 2011

Presenting 'Life' as they know it

BY GLORIA GEANNETTE
Managing Editor



It's that time of year again when exhausted Ridgewood High School (RHS) parents and their children are talking nonstop about Jamboree. Teenagers and younger children can't wait to see their own parents and those of friends on stage doing what adults do best – embarrassing themselves and their offspring.

As wonderful as that can be, the best thing about the musical show called Jamboree is that it's a huge source of scholarship money for Ridgewood High School graduates, organizers said.

"In the past seven years, we've given out over \$600,000 in scholarships," noted Bill DiModugno, who is a producer along with Alane Steinacker and Rob Goodgold. The annual show has been going strong since 1947.

DiModugno is a 1980 RHS graduate who considers Jamboree an integral part of Ridgewood. Although his parents never performed on stage, his mother helped with fund-raising. When his older sister started performing in Jamboree several years ago, DiModugno was hooked and couldn't wait for his own children to reach high school age. Now he has a senior and freshman at RHS as well as a sixth-grader, so he'll be able to participate for many more years.

This year's theme is "That's Life" – family, work, community and love.

To the accompaniment of a live band and music tracks, the dancers and singers bring the subjects to life. For the work theme, the song "9 to 5" represents the doldrums, while "Five O'Clock World" by The Vogues is about the fun that can follow a work day. The "Razzle Dazzle" number from the musical "Chicago" features a big courtroom scene in a "shout out" to all the attorneys in the cast.

A spoof on Fleet Week in New York City is part of the community theme. For love, songs include the show-stopping rendition of Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance."

"The Gaga number is absolutely spectacular," DiModugno said. "You see these moms up there on stage who are so amazing they could be in the real Gaga video."

That's high praise coming from a producer who is a theater professional. DiModugno has produced shows in New York City and now has a company that specializes in setting up out-of-town tours for other Broadway shows.

"We have more than 90 people in the cast and we're having a blast," he said. "Once it's over, you can't wait for the next one to start."

Jamboree 2011 will be performed at 8 p.m. tonight and 7 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets can be purchased at the door. For more information, visit rhsjamboree.com.

Amanda Steen practices a routine in preparation for Jamboree 2011.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



PHOTO/W.H. GRAE

From left, Bob Sohval, Bill DiModugno and RJ Konner perform during a dress rehearsal for Jamboree 2011.

Jamboree 2011, 'That's Life' will be performed this weekend

TO THE EDITOR:

Jamboree 2011 – "That's Life!" – shines a light on the hope and humble nature of our village. This variety show of song and dance promises to be an evening you won't soon forget.

Scholarship funds are raised from ticket sales and the journal ads and the proceeds distributed to needs-based seniors pursuing higher education – and their dreams. Over the past

six years, Jamboree has distributed approximately \$645,000 to 117 graduating seniors.

This year's 65th show boasts over 85 onstage parents and guardians, a nine-piece band and countless volunteers and backstage heroes who make this show a success.

Come out and see the nearly sold-out event tonight at 8 p.m. and tomorrow at 7 p.m. at BF Middle School, 335 N. Van

Dien Ave. (tickets –rhsjamboree.com or at the door). Do your part . . . buy a ticket/take a seat.

We're so grateful to the multitude of sponsors, businesses and gift-in-kind donors who support Jamboree 2011. Please patronize our benefactors and thank each one.

Sean J. McCoole
Ridgewood

Anne Robinson: Keeping a smart balance

VILLAGE VOICES

Joyce Venezia Suss

Occupation: Mother, pediatrician, volunteer in the schools.

How long I have lived in Ridgewood: I moved to Ridgewood when I was 7 years old. I went to Willard School back in the day when everyone walked, not only to and from school, but back and forth for lunch too. No one got rides, even in the worst weather (and it was uphill both ways!). I graduated Ridgewood High School (RHS) in 1977, met my husband in college and we were married at Mount Carmel Church a month after I graduated. We lived in Texas and Massachusetts while we finished our education, then came back to Ridgewood 20 years ago to raise our family ... and we lived happily ever after.

Interests: Dance, sports, travel, walking, reading, cooking and baking.

My favorite place to relax in Ridgewood: Walking along the Duck Pond trail.

A "perfect day" in Ridgewood: Coffee with my husband by the fireplace, a long walk, a Ridgewood football or lacrosse game, dinner at La Lanterna, a New Players show or dance recital, then a cappuccino at Ridgewood Coffee to top off the evening.

The best thing about Ridgewood: The pride in our history and traditions; our dedicated teachers and administrators; our beautiful downtown area with shops like Oliver's, Bagelicious, Best of Everything, and Quality Shoe Repair where the owners give so much back to the community.

One thing I would like to change in the village: I'd bring back shops like Woolworth, Drapkins, the Hardware Store, and



CHRIS PETERS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Anne Robinson, a village resident on and off since she was 7 years old, admits that her guilty pleasure is a "big, gooey ice cream sundae." Above, she enjoys a sundae from Ben & Jerry's.

Sealfons - those places that had everything you need. I'd especially love to bring back the antique penny candy case at Sealfons. When I was little, we would go there with a handful of pennies and come out with a tiny paper bag filled with all of our favorites!

The best part of my job: Being with children; they don't judge you, even when you are completely silly.

The most difficult part of my job: When I was a [medical] resident, I became attached to the children who were repeatedly

admitted to the hospital. Seeing how brave they were even when they knew they had so little time left was a heart-breaker. One little guy called for me on his last day. I thought it was because he was afraid and wanted me close. He whispered to me that he just wanted to be sure that I was OK.

I am most proud of: My three children. They are the greatest joy of my life.

The quality I like best about myself: I'm a positive thinker.

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SHARING THE FUN



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Judy Wheeler, left, Pastor Linda Hart Green, Marilyn Clark, president of Women of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Hans-Jurgen Lehmann, trustee, and Mary Ann Bennett, program director of SHARE, gathered at their annual holiday luncheon for residents of SHARE senior housing. The event, held at Emmanuel Baptist Church, was a huge success. Highlighting the afternoon was pianist Michael Svechin, a student of Holmstead School, who entertained by playing holiday music along with the classics.