

“JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS” just loaded with talent

by C Michael Traw

The new San Jose Musical Theater made it debut on last Sunday night at the San Jose Women's Club in downtown San Jose to a completely sold-out house with standing room only. What talent on that stage, led by the legendary Kathryn Crosby, who received a standing ovation for her rendition of “It's All Right with Me” to close the first act. She told a story before each song about her life with Bing and her life in Hollywood. She still commands such class and stature at age 82, looking lovely in cream and white fur. Her second act dress in black was as sultry as her alto voice as she sang “Love For Sale” which was initially banned from the radio because of its lyrics and became an instrumental hit when it was first written. She was matched on stage by Campbell's own Tammy Nelson, who delivered three uptempo selections from the 1962 revival of “Anything Goes”. She just brings a smile on your face as she belted out “Take Me Back to Manhattan”, “Let's Misbehave” and “Blow Gabriel Blow”. What a voice and what fun to watch. She did Ms. Merman proud.

James Creer opened and closed the show with his special magic with “Another Openin, Another Show” and “Every Time I Say Good-bye”. He, too, brings a big smile of enjoyment as he loves what he is doing.

Choreographers Nicole Tung and Alex Hsu were audience favorites with their song and dance to “You're the Top” and Nicole's solo to “I'm the Laziest Gal in Town” paired with Mary Martin's debut song “My Heart Belongs to Daddy”.

Another audience favorite was West Valley Light Opera's Marge Hand with her “Nobody's Chasing Me” from Porter's lesser-known “Out of this World”.

Karen DeHart showed Porter's clever lyrics with his story/patter songs “The Physician” and “A Tale of the the Oyster” as did Nick Nakashima and Romar DelClario with his great melodies of “It's Delovely” and “All Through the Night”.

Sheila Savage, who never fails, scored with two songs from “Can Can” with a great French accent and “Down in the

Depths”, another Merman song- AND she also looked fabulous in a purple frock.

A new face to the South Bay, Shannon Day, brought home two lovely soprano numbers with “So in Love” and a great rendition of “Begin the Beguine”. Hope that we get to see more of her.

Local performers Laura Stanford and Mike Hugill brought back memories of Grace Kelly and Bing Crosby with “True Love,” one of Porter's last hits.

Former AMT performer Phil Broughman accompanied himself and reminded us that Porter had written “Don't Fence Me In” first sung by Roy Rogers. Such versatility with this songwriter. He could write anything, as demonstrated by Steve Anthony and “Miss Otis Regrets” first introduced by Monty Wooley.

And who could forget Ms. Paula Warren” paying tribute to Ms. Merman

with her “Anything Goes” medley and remembering the World War II hit that keep the soldiers in Europe thinking of why we have to protect their home country “You'd Be So Nice to Come Home to”

It was wonderful to see Brandon Biggs back on stage after studying in Europe singing along with Kevin Kelly, showing off the big baritone/tenor numbers from “The Broadway Melody of 1940” and Kelly's salute to “Kiss Me Kate.” Both have great voices and show that Porter could write any kind of song.

All in all it was a wonderful night at the theater. Such a shame that it was only one night.

Kudos to producer Lucy Haab and her team for putting this all together.

Will look forward to other productions from this group. Stay tuned.

C Michael Traw serves as Artistic Director of San Jose Musical Theater.

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GOOD DAYS AND BAD DAYS

by Pamela Spahr

I am a caregiver to my husband who has had at least two severe strokes, many mini-strokes, and now has middle stage Alzheimer's disease. I remember when I brought him home from Skilled Nursing. He did not come home with an instruction manual, so I was left on my own to unravel the puzzle that was my new husband.

I remember being so confused about how to manage him. I did not know what he could and couldn't do for himself. Plus, he was still so weak from the strokes (it took me weeks to realize just how weak he really was). I wanted to make sure that I did everything right; that he was comfortable, and that he was well cared for.

With his early dementia we could not hold a conversation, because he was not “present” most of the time. He asked the same questions over and over again. He was delusional. For the first few weeks, I would correct him if he said something wrong or I would interrupt him if he asked repetitive questions. It made both of us miserable. It took me a while to realize that he wouldn't remember what I said. And, he could not process any incoming information correctly. So, I stopped correcting him; he relaxed and so did I.

In the beginning, some days were good days and some days were bad days. On the good days he was bright, cheerful, and talk-

ative. I could get him to focus on eating or on me, or on where he was going when he was walking. And, he could get out of a chair relatively easily, with my help.

On the bad days it was like herding jello. It took so much time to get him focused. He would stare into space or ramble on conversationally, for an hour. It took so much time to get him out of a chair. If I wanted him to walk to the car, he would wander off in another direction or he would stop and turn around and go back the way he came, or he would fixate on something shiny in the back seat of the car. At first, I thought that he just wanted sympathy on his bad days. Then I realized that his brain was still healing and that this was all part of the process.

Sometimes he would have a series of bad days and then have a few good day. It took me a while to realize that he would not just have bad days, but he will have bad weeks and sometimes bad months.

I think that it is hard for new caregivers to realize that their loved ones may regress and then recover. It is part of the ebb and flow of the disease.

Being a good caregiver requires that you as a caregiver accept the bad days and have fun on the good days.

Remember to smile and remember to breathe!

Cheers from the Inspired Caregiver

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CAMPBELL REAL ESTATE August 2015

ADDRESS	SALES PRICE	B/B	AGE	LOT SIZE	SQ. FEET
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Cherry Blossom Lane	\$1,225,000	4/2.5	16	3,443	2069
Century Court	\$1,025,000	3/2	60	7,082	1404
Morrene Drive	\$865,000	3/2	55	6,252	1354
Springfield Drive	\$1,130,000	4/2	48	6,117	1528
Montezuma Drive	\$1,115,000	4/2	54	6,663	1980
Darryl Drive	\$1,000,800	3/2	42	11,331	1646
Erin Way	\$890,000	3/1	68	7,701	1242
Union Avenue	\$880,000	3/2.5	35	2,145	1318
E. Campbell Avenue	\$1,400,000	4/2.5	53	8,804	2434
Valerie Drive	\$1,400,000	4/2.5	44	5,995	2036
SOLD/CLOSED ESCROW, CONDO/TOWNHOMES					
Shelley Avenue	\$890,000	3/2.5	8	2146	1594
Redding Road	\$880,000	3/2.5	28	1897	1790
N. Central Avenue	\$800,000	3/2.5	29	1074	1602
N. 2nd Street	\$800,000	2/2	8	570	1512
S. Bascom Avenue	\$505,000	2/2	31	902	841
Duncanville Court	\$775,000	3/2.5	37	1080	1727
Apricot Avenue	\$425,000	1/1	35	940	895



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