

"One Night Only"
Thursday, April 30, 2009
McCallum Theatre
Palm Desert, California



Michael Childers presented the annual "One Night Only" event at the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert, Calif., on Thursday, April 30. This event brought the best of Broadway and Hollywood performers to this great stage. "One Night Only" benefited Jewish Family Services of the Desert. Childers continues bringing the best to the community. Even in these hard economic times, the McCallum was filled to capacity. He brought his vision to the people of the valley with top talent who unselfishly volunteered their time for this cause. This event would not be possible if not for the efforts of so many local philanthropists and friends of both the McCallum Theatre and the Jewish Family Services charity. Barbara Fromm and Sherry Schor co-chaired the festivities with event director Ken Katz. So many names should be mentioned it would take the whole story to name them all. They donated so much time and money, not for recognition, but because they have such great hearts for all in need. We thank them for all they do for everyone in the whole valley.

The evening was full of great entertainers and singers accompanied by the local fabulous McCallum orchestra. Comedian Bruce Vilanch started off the evening with his wit and stories.

The entertainers have all had hits performing on Broadway, television and movies. Sally Kellerman sang with her distinctive, sultry voice. Loretta DeVine is currently on "Grey's Anatomy" and Valerie Pettiford in "House of Payne." They took time from their busy careers to sing for the crowd. Broadway stars Brent Barrett, Shoshana Bean, Davis Gaines, Ty Taylor and Sean McDermott, to name just a few, sang their hearts out for the audience. Michelle Lee from "Knot's Landing" fame sang from the floor in front of the stage. A McCallum regular, Freda Payne, also graced the stage for the evening's performance. Entertainer Alix Korey now lives in Rancho Mirage. Vicki Lewis, Sharon McNight and Liliane Monteveco brought their own distinctive styles to the stage. Actress Rita Moreno, best known for her role in "West Side Story," and actress Linda Purl from "Matlock" surprised the audience with their wonderful voices.

The big surprise of the evening was 12-year-old Rocco Fiorentino. Totally blind, he is one gifted young man. I heard him play the piano the night before and was amazed at his talent. Then to hear him sing was so awesome. He has won many awards already in his young life, has made a CD and has been on several TV shows. He is a true inspiration for youngsters with disabilities.

A VIP cast party was held the night before at the Palm Springs home of David Lee. Most the cast members of Jewish Family Services, event staff and sponsors attended. Entertainment started with a pianist while guests mingled. A buffet supper was offered for all and drinks were served. It was a lovely place for a party. Toward the end of the evening, all the guests gathered around to hear a new pianist at the piano. Young Fiorentino was at the piano. His fingers just flew across the keyboard. It was plain to all that he loved to play; it showed in his face and in the music he played.

An afterparty for VIPs, cast, sponsors and members of Jewish Family services was held at Piero's Acqua Pazza at the River in Rancho Mirage. Great food was served to a hungry crowd. Of course, it was close to standing room only, as almost everyone attended to celebrate another successful performance.

This is one event no one would want to miss next year.