

from the front page

# World War II History Club Honors Veterans in Song

The group hosted a concert in dedication to veterans and their late president and founder, Don Goldstein.

By **MARIAN RICHARDSON**  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Music is the soul of an era. The World War II History Club members held their annual musical concert Jan. 16 at North Lake Presbyterian Church. Nearly 1,200 people filed into the building and filled the pews in preparation to be transported back to another time. With the 20-piece orchestra of crooning saxophones, beating drums and melodic voices of singers, the audience got to enjoy sounds of an era close to their hearts.

"We have a lot of people who remember the World War II music ... and we have an enormous amount of veterans (in The Villages)," Liza Walters, vice president of projects and special events for The Villages Honor Flight, said. "They love this kind of music."

Walters said the World War II History Club has hosted the concert since 2012. In the beginning, they organized the event at SeaBreeze Recreation Center, but soon, the popularity of the concert began to spread.

"(The concert is) always packed out," Walters, of the Village of Duval, said. "We had our first concert at North Lake Presbyterian Church last year ... (because) we outgrew the recreation centers."

Tom Sgritta, president of the World War II History Club, believes the power of music draws in the crowds each year. "It's classic American music and people like it all over the world," Sgritta, of the Village of Belvedere, said. "It's a genre that a lot of people like because it strikes a chord with them."

The orchestra swept audiences away with the sounds of various songs from notable musicians from the 1940s and 1950s with whirling horns and moving tempos.

Bruce Miller, emcee of the concert, said the event shared a special date with the "King of Swing," Benny Goodman.

"It's the anniversary, 80 years to the day, of the 1938 Benny Goodman Carnegie Hall Jazz Concert," the Village of Hemingway resident said. "It's considered a recording classic. The majority of the songs will strike a very sentimental note (with the audience)."

Sgritta said his favorite song from the WWII era is "In The Mood," a timeless song by Benny Goodman.

The WWII musical concert partnered with The Villages Honor Flight, a program that flies veterans free of charge to Washington, D.C., to visit memorials of the respective wars they served in.

All the proceeds of the concert benefit The Villages Honor Flight.

"The music is important to the veterans, but I think the outpouring of people will mean a lot more to them," Sgritta said. "I know the veterans who have gone on Honor Flight who have just come back with tears in their eyes, sometimes weeks afterwards. (They tell us) 'thank you for doing this' and our response is 'thank you for what you did ... all you did was save the world.'"

The musical concert also was in tribute to Dr. Don Goldstein, a renowned historian, veteran, teacher, and founder of the World War II History Club. Goldstein passed away in December 2017, but his legacy lives on in the hearts of the many lives that he touched.

"Don was a very special man. I met him about five years ago at a local author's fair in The Villages," Sheila Gherardini,

of the Village of Buttonwood, said. "I was very interested in meeting him because of the World War II connection. He made it so real. It was interesting to listen to him."

Gherardini said meeting Goldstein and reading his books reminded her of her father who fought in WWII.

"He was a tank driver in General Patton's Third Army. He was right in the foray of the Battle of the Bulge," Gherardini said. "Don leaves a wonderful legacy."

"Don would be thrilled (to see this year's concert)," Margaret Sgritta, leader of the World War II History Book Club, said. "He worked so hard last year to get everything set up and get the tickets sold."

Goldstein's wife, Mariann, and her sister, Nancy Pflum, attended the concert, sitting at the front of the house to enjoy the show that Goldstein had put his heart into each year. The members of the World War II History Club worked to organize the event with the intention to make him proud.

"I think he would love this," Mariann said. "I think he's watching up from heaven with a big smile on his face."

Mariann, of the Village of Hadley, said her late husband was an educated man whose passion for history, veterans and people reached the lives of his students.

"He taught for many years and his students absolutely loved him," Mariann said. "A lot of them kept in touch with him on Facebook. He could relate (to anyone) and kept you interested in his teaching. He was very interested in World War II and veterans who fought at Pearl Harbor."

Pflum said Goldstein is dearly missed by their family.

"He was a great brother-in-law. He was a well-loved member of the family," Pflum said. "He loved to have a good time because he loved life."

# Art Garfunkel Shares Songs and Personal Writing at The Sharon

The singer, poet and actor performed Tuesday, even reading excerpts from his new autobiography.

By **KRISTEN FIORE**  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

There weren't any flashing lights or fancy instruments in The Sharon on Tuesday night. It was just Art Garfunkel, the audience and the music.

The singer and poet took to the stage with his guitarist and pianist and sang songs and shared excerpts from his new autobiography, "What Is It All but Luminous."

He spoke about his career, his family and the early days of rock and roll.

"I get so nervous doing these things," Garfunkel confessed to the audience. "What is it, 76 years of doing this? I do it because I love it."

And it was obvious that the artist does have a passion for what he does. He spoke to the audience as if they were old friends and when he



Submitted photo

Grammy Award-winning American singer Art Garfunkel performs on stage at the Bloomfield Stadium in Tel Aviv.

sang, a silent trance fell over the building.

Mike and Ed Iby, of the Village of Del Web, came to the show hoping to hear songs from his Simon & Garfunkel days.

"We grew up with him, pretty much," Mike said. "He's very good. He's from our era."

Garfunkel did sing plenty of songs from that era, such as "April Come She Will," "The Boxer," and "Homeward Bound."

He also spoke a bit about the early days of rock and roll.

"In those days, we just had Elvis and the Fab Four," he said.

"There were no iPads. Facts were just things you knew." Arch Simonson, of the Village of Bonita, said he has seen Garfunkel perform twice, once with Paul Simon in Fort Lauderdale. He said he was excited to see him perform again.

"His music is beautiful, but also very meaningful," Simonson said. "I'm looking

forward to hearing the beautiful and familiar songs that he's recorded over the years, both with Paul Simon and by himself."

Garfunkel was battling a cold, but for the most part, his voice, which has been described as haunting, is still smooth and steady.

The audience gave an applause of recognition at the start of almost every song.

After singing "Scarborough Fair," Garfunkel addressed the lyrics.

"It took me most of my life to figure out what the words to 'Scarborough Fair' actually meant," he said. "I used to think it was about beautiful wallpaper. But then I realized it's about loss. We're all destined to sing about loss."

Under deep purple lighting with nothing but a piano, a guitar and a microphone for company, Garfunkel gave an intimate and nostalgic performance.

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Despite popular belief, wealthy people aren't the only folks who may need revocable living trusts.

Attorney Andrew Curtis, Esq. – whose practice concentrates on the areas of trusts, estates and elder law – is very familiar with this common misconception.

"It's a false notion," he said. "For example, I recently had a fellow, whose mother had just died, visit my office. All she owned was a \$100,000 condo, and her will read, 'I leave my condo to my child.' Clear and simple. Well, the child had to go through probate before he could sell the condo, and the legal fee was \$2,500. A revocable living trust could have avoided this."

Below, Curtis has shared many other reasons why a revocable living trust may be advisable for a person of modest means.

A trust might also allow you to "rule from the grave" – after you pass on, your assets may be distributed according to specifications made while you were still alive. This may prevent potentially undesirable scenarios, such as your children leaving their inheritance to people you never liked, like a spouse. If you leave your assets to your kids in a lifetime trust, they may each use the money for normal living but, upon their deaths, the remaining assets will pass to your grandchildren or to the surviving sibling(s) – not to their spouse. Further, the trust can protect against your spouse leaving the money to a new spouse or significant other after you are dead.

Trusts are extremely useful in second marriage situations. If you simply leave your assets to your new spouse, he/she is free to leave them to his/her children, not yours, once you pass away. This scenario is avoidable with a trust, however, and the assets would pass to your kids.

Trusts may be used to manage assets inherited by children who aren't good with money. For example, you may provide that the child will only get the income from his/her inheritance.

Trusts may also protect your children's inheritance if they go bankrupt, divorce or face a lawsuit. Further, if you have a handicapped child, a "supplemental needs trust" may be utilized to prevent loss of his or her government benefits.

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