

People & Places

Unsung Heroes

Providing activities for special athletes

BY JENNIFER SHAPIRO-SACKS
Special Correspondent

Name: Sherry Will
Residence: Boynton Beach
Birthplace: Detroit
Family: Husband, Dan Will; son, Danny Will; daughter, Michelle Cummins; and two grandchildren
Career: Retired director of medical records for ManorCare in West Palm Beach



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sherry Will, pictured with Bobby Kilby, is active with Special Olympics Palm Beach County's Heavenly Angels program.

Organization: Special Olympics Palm Beach County, whose mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The Palm Beach County chapter has more than 1,000 participants and offers sports competitions for 21 teams and individual sports, including bowling, gymnastics, power lifting, softball, aquatics and basketball as a means to achieve physical fitness, self-esteem and life skills.

How long have you been volunteering there?

Fifteen years and I also volunteered for Special Olympics in Michigan.

Why do you volunteer?

I got involved because I have a special-needs son, and it's the highlight of my week.

Why did you choose this organization?

Because I think it's the grandest and best there is. I was involved with other organizations, but they only had so many weeks [available]. With this, we bowl year-round, which is fantastic. For a lot of these kids, this is all they have is the Saturday bowling. We're trying to make it the best we can. It's the highlight of our lives.

Describe your volunteer role.

Heavenly Angels is the

name of the bowling team named by the previous person who started the group. She started it because she had a handicapped son. I knew her from taking my son there. When she couldn't handle things, the rest of the parents got together. We have six certified coaches and all have a job. My job is to collect money to pay for the bowling and handle things when kids need physicals and put out notices and newsletters.

What are your goals when you volunteer?

I think it's the excitement in the kids, and they don't even care what their scores are; it's just being up there and bowling. They say to you, "Come down and see what I bowled." Their excitement is the reward. Four of our bowlers are going to states in Orlando.

What does your organization need?

We are always open for donations. We have a holiday party for them and birthday parties for them. Some of them have nothing but bowling once a week, and we pay for them if they can't afford it. We have donations from sev-

eral organizations to be used for those who can't afford to bowl.

Is there a moment that stands out that made you think, "This is why I volunteer?"

One in particular is for my special Bobby. He has cerebral palsy and is in a wheelchair and can't move anything but his head. He's the editor for our newsletter. I'm working with Bobby and having him suggest what he wants in his newsletter. His joy and excitement, it is so exciting for him. He's been ill and is finally doing better, and seeing what he can accomplish without moving a muscle has been one of the biggest rewards.

For more information, visit Sopbc.com or call 561-966-7019.

If you know a Palm Beach County resident who deserves recognition for volunteer work, email the information to tan90210@aol.com. Nominations should include volunteer's name, city of residence, a contact name and phone number, and a brief description of why this person deserves special recognition.

'Seinfeld' star directs musical at Mizner Park

BY MARVIN GLASSMAN
Staff Writer

Jason Alexander, best known for playing George on "Seinfeld," is directing the musical "When You're In Love, The Whole World Is Jewish" in Boca Raton.

The musical was a commercial hit during its 2013 run in Los Angeles and is based on two records, a 1965 comedy album "You Don't Have To Be Jewish" and its 1966 sequel, "When You're In Love, The Whole World Is Jewish."

The 90-minute show features six ensemble actors performing 25 fast-paced comedy sketches. The plot involves a young Jewish man wanting to marry his Catholic girlfriend and his wish to have a rabbi show her what her life will be like as she is immersed in Jewish culture.

Sketches include portrayals of Jews and non-Jews interacting in business, travel, family and marriage. Alexander recognizes some of the characters from his Jewish upbringing in New Jersey but adds new twists to make the sketches more contemporary.

"The musical has people that not only I, but everyone attending recognize as people they grew up with either in their families or as people they know in the Jewish



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jason Alexander directs the musical "When You're In Love, The Whole World Is Jewish," running through Jan. 11 at the Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center.

community," he said. "I added some new surprises, but the routines are based on famous Jewish jokes and situations."

Among the stars is actress **Rena Strober**.

"I play many characters, from the *shiksa* (non-Jewish) girlfriend, a *yenta* (busybody) and many other types of Jewish women," she said. "We all get plenty of laughs as the many sketches have characters that even look like many people in the audience."

Alexander studied magic and was at first a professional musician on stage be-

fore turning to acting. His big break in show business came when he played George, the neurotic, obnoxious, self-deprecating single man on "Seinfeld."

"It was a blessing to be George because I was a perfect fit for any kind of role for a neurotic character to add to a comedy," he said.

Alexander also starred in lead roles in Broadway musicals and won the 1989 Tony Award for his work in "Jerome Robbins' Broadway." He is proud of his Jewish roots, often talking about his many trips to Israel while speaking throughout the country for Jewish federations.

"Being Jewish and caring about Israel is part of my DNA. I really owe a lot to my mother (**Ruth**), who is 95 and lives in Coconut Creek. She is my biggest cheerleader, and she is better at selling tickets to this musical than anyone else," he said.

Alexander will honor his mother in February, starring in a fundraising show for her temple, Congregation Kol Tikvah in Parkland.

"When You're In Love, The Whole World is Jewish" runs through Jan. 11 at the Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center, 201 Plaza Real.

For showtimes and tickets, call 561-910-7727 or go to Worldisjewishtheplay.com.

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