

Arts & Leisure

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WALNUT CREEK JOURNAL



CONTRIBUTED

CLEVELAND-BASED PHOTOJOURNALIST JANET MACOSKA is displaying a sampling of her work in the exhibit "Jews Rock! A Celebration of Rock and Roll's Jewish Heritage" at the Friedkin Art Gallery at the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center.

Celebrating Jewish rockers

Photo Exhibit

"JEWS ROCK! A CELEBRATION OF ROCK AND ROLL'S JEWISH HERITAGE"

WHERE: Friedkin Art Gallery, Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek

WHEN: Through Nov. 28

INFORMATION: www.jewsrock.net; www.cccc.org; 925-938-7800, ext. 258

HOURS: 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday
Closed Saturday and Sunday

■ Photo exhibit highlights work of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame lensmith

By Janice De Jesus
CORRESPONDENT

WALNUT CREEK—A major fine art photography exhibit has unveiled this fall and Walnut Creek is among one of its stops on its four-year tour.

"Jews Rock! A Celebration of Rock and Roll's Jewish Heritage," currently at the Friedkin Art Gallery at the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, highlights some



JANET MACOSKA

AMONG THOSE INCLUDED in the exhibit of Janet Macoska's photos are KISS' Gene Simmons (left) and Paula Abdul. The exhibit runs through Nov. 28 at the Friedkin Art Gallery within the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center in Walnut Creek.

award-winning photographs by photojournalist Janet Macoska.

The photos were taken throughout Macoska's music photography career, which be-

gan in 1974, and includes photos of rock and roll greats of Jewish descent such as David Lee Roth of Van Halen, Slash of Guns and Roses, Paul Simon

See ROCKERS, Page 11

El Campanil's 'Jubilee;' theater goes to class

ANTIUCH'S BEAUTIFUL El Campanil Theatre celebrates its 80th anniversary with a special show, "Jubilee," on Nov. 15.

"We're bringing back some of our most outstanding entertainers, who've drawn standing ovations since the theater reopened as a performing arts center in 2004," says executive director Rick Carragher.

Originally a vaudeville venue with headliners such as Roy Rogers, Edgar Bergen, Charle McCarthy and exotic dancer Sally Rand, the theater now hosts a variety of classic movies, theatrical performances and concerts. The Nov. 15 celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. and includes a champagne and dessert reception. Call 925-757-9500 or go to www.elcampaniltheater.com.

Hold on to your hats — that larger-than-life human whirlwind Auntie Mame is back.

The Willows Theatre Company presents "Mame" from Nov. 17-Dec. 28 at its Concord facility. With book by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee and music by Jerry Herman, the blockbuster has continued its popularity since taking Broadway by storm in 1956 with Rossline Russell in the title role.

The story of the crazy life of the eccentric Mame and her bohemian clique that laughed in the face of the Great Depression seems a timely selection, given today's uncertain economy. Richard Elliott directs the Willows production, which stars Scarlett Hepworth as Mame, Katie Anderson as Agnes Gooch, Cynthia Rogers Baggott as Vera Charles and Ron Pickett as Mr. Upson. Call 925-798-1300 or go to www.willows.com.

Rockers

FROM PAGE 12

and Art Garfunkel, Gene Simmons of Kiss and Billy Joel.

Even though Macoska has been photographing musicians from various backgrounds, she thought an exhibit focusing on Jewish musical icons and their contribution to rock and roll would be an excellent tribute.

"This is a great opportunity to show these rock and rollers that not even Jewish people knew were Jewish," said Macoska in a phone interview from her home in Cleveland, Ohio. "This is such a great source of

pride and inspiration."

The exhibit will make its way to other Jewish community centers, major museums and synagogues around the United States. Along with the exhibit, a hardcover book with the same title has also been released this year.

Macoska, whose work has appeared in such magazines as Rolling Stone, People and Vogue, said "Jews Rock!" appeals to people of different backgrounds — people who appreciate rock and roll's history and music in general.

"There's something for every age group in this exhibition. Rock and roll is a part

of popular culture," she said. "(Before) nobody thought rock and roll was going to be around this long."

Macoska, a Cleveland native, said her first published photo — of Sonny and Cher — appeared in a teen magazine when she was only 13 years old.

"Rock and roll was really what I loved. I knew I wanted to be some kind of journalist in music," said Macoska, now 54. "I became a photographer who could also write."

Macoska, a photographer for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, said she's proud of Cleveland's rock and roll roots.

"Cleveland was a great place to grow up with all this music," she said.

Judith L. Markowitz, director of Jewish life programs at the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, said it is an honor to have an exhibit of this caliber in Walnut Creek.

"I think 'Jews Rock!' is a milestone in our gallery as we're establishing a vibrant cultural center here in Contra Costa County and the East Bay," said Markowitz. "We want to be the center for local Jewish artists to show their work."