

# TV star Tim Allen is a hit in his own hometown

## SUBURBAN ACCENTS



SALLY GERAK

Send submissions for *Suburban Accents* to Sally Gerak, 635 Paxton, Birmingham 48009 or call 646-6390.

Hometown comedian Tim Allen admitted to being a tad nervous at the beginning of his performance Wednesday evening at the Birmingham Theatre. But he quickly got on a roll, lampooning everybody from his shop teacher at Seaholm High School to Bob (GM chief) Stempel. The audience loved it and Allen didn't miss a beat during his gig, which lasted way over an hour.

People came from the entire metropolitan area for Comedy Night I, which Mark Ridley emceed. Mike Danner, Lisa Goich and Mark Ridley were great warm-ups for Allen, the star of TV sitcom "Home Improvement."

The evening was a fund-raiser for Forgotten Harvest. "We have a full house (1,136 people) and we've raised at least \$75,000," said chairwoman Janet Mardigan, an FH board member. She was pushing in her praise of Allen and the other performers, none of whom would accept a penny for his or her work, and FH staffer/volunteer Pat Anderson, who helped organize this major FH benefit.

The FH organization is the essence of simplicity. Surplus food from such establishments as Machus restaurants, Vic's Fruit Market and Gayle's Chocolates is picked up by one driver, Chris Blakey, in FH's one refrigerated truck and delivered to such agencies as COTS and Lighthouse.

"We could use a whole fleet of trucks," said FH board president Nancy Fishman of Troy, adding, "My vision is for Detroit to be the first major city in the U.S. to be hunger free." FH (657-GIVE) welcomes food donations (40 servings or more from health department-approved sources), volunteers and contributions.

The 300 Comedy Night I patrons (150 tickets) enjoyed meeting Allen and his wife/partner Laura Deibel during a reception before the show. Comestibles were donated by local restaurants.

Localities supporting the cause included Lucy Benham, Ellen and Robert Dickman, Joyce Keller, Jessica Cooper, Paula Blanchard, Jacquie Ridley, Ellen and Marc Whitefield, Eleanor and Marvin Weinstein, Solange and Norman Messellian, Riki Schaffer, Laurie Pappas, Shelley Shindler, DeDe Weinberg, Ed Sosnick, Ann and Ken Calvert, Marge and Armando DeCapite, Suzanne and Jessica Aberly, Howard Arnkoff and the Mardigan clan. Helen, Ed, Bobby (whose friendship with Allen dates back to high school days), Tom and Marilyn Mardigan Varbedian and their three daughters, two sons-in-law and Mark Hickey.

## A magic act

Jane Cobb's diabetes-caused blindness does not interfere with her mothering duties (Annie, 9, and Allison, 7) or business interests (Southfield gift basket shop and husband Robert's two marina and restaurants). But Jane's blindness does make the West Bloomfield couple dedicated chairwoman and chairman of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Evening of Brilliance

on Nov. 13 at the Ritz-Carlton Dearborn.

The Cobbs convened committee members Friday to address invitations. Bettina Gregg hosted the work session at Forest Lake Country Club.

Incidentally, those invitations dramatically illustrate the benefit theme - Make Diabetes Disappear. Pictured on the cover are two darling youngsters costumed as magicians. Both children, Emily Davis, 9, daughter of Steve and Helen Davis of Bloomfield Hills, and Aaron Newman, 6, son of Howard and Marilyn Newman of Farmington Hills, have diabetes.

Evening of Brilliance patrons and major JDF contributors will be seated Thursday at a dinner party hosted by Valerie and Don Bortz at their Bloomfield Hills home, Adams Castle. The Bortzes, along with Rita and John Hadow and Ken Meade are Evening of Brilliance honorees.

Estelle Elkus and Lauren Lisa are chairing the patron dinner. Guests will get a first-hand report from international JDF officers on the latest research developments.

Reservations (\$175, \$500 patron, \$1,000 benefactor, \$2,000 trustee) for the eighth annual Evening of Brilliance are available by calling the JDF office (569-6171).

## Short 'n' Sweet

Some 125 guests turned out for Thursday's dazzling champagne reception at Jules R. Schubert Jewellers in Troy. They inspected the brilliant Cartier Jewelled Watch collection, sipped fine champagne and congratulated the Schubert family on its 75th anniversary in the gem business. Most importantly, however, the \$50 tickets raised nearly \$10,000 for the Tennis & Crumpets support of Bone Marrow Transplant Research at Children's Hospital in Detroit.

Local host committee members included Gene Applebaum, Julie Cummings, David Hermelin, Pat Marrella, Barbara Nigro, Sheila Ryan, Kilty Storen and Katie Valente.

Trudy and Pat Costello will host the Autumn Benefit Cocktail Party for the Ladies of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Sunday, Sept. 20. Proceeds (\$30 donation) benefit the poor and needy of Oakland County. Bev Stenger (647-0731) and Mandy Lughamer (646-7011) are taking reservations.

Our Town Art benefactors will preview the exhibition and meet the artists at a cocktail party chaired by Valerie Straith on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at The Community House in Birmingham. To be a benefactor (\$175) call TCH (644-5832).

The Detroit Institute of Art's Italian Galleries Restoration Fund will benefit from proceeds of a tri-color event at Jacobson's Birmingham store, 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23. Italian fashion, food, spirits and music will be included for \$25. For some, a highlight of the event may be meeting handsome bachelor Massimo Ferragamo, youngest son of the legendary founder of the Ferragamo shoe dynasty. Call the DIA (833-7969) for reservations.

Detroit Arista Market chairman Carol Roberia reports much excitement involving the market's move and grand reopening at Stroh River Place on Friday, Sept. 25. A benefit dinner by the Rattlesnake Club (\$100, \$150) in the South Atrium will cap the gala. Call DAM (962-0337) for reservations.



Comedy Night I: Laura Deibel (left), Tim Allen and Janet and Ed Mardigan join forces to raise money for Forgotten Harvest.



Laughing matter: Lisa Goich and Mark Ridley warm up for Comedy Night I during reception at Birmingham Theatre.



Inviting affair: Georgeann Kralik (left), Steve Davis, Hal Bay and Kathleen O'Quinn check out JDF invitation list.

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