

## Entertaining Youngsters With Oldies Hits

**By Liz Rhoades, Managing Editor**

A New Hyde Park couple is entertaining and teaching youngsters through oldies hits, sprinkled in with some of their own songs with a unique local theme.

Squeaky Clean, comprised of husband and wife team, Glenn Paul Manion and Suzanne Smithline, have been performing together since 1983. Now, their three children are involved in the group's latest venture, a CD titled "Pull Together."

"We started out working in lounges and went to the rockabilly style," Manion said. "We wanted a wholesome look and the name Squeaky Clean makes fun of our image."



*The cover of Squeaky Clean's new CD.  
The group is from New Hyde Park.*

Shortly after, the couple started working with children in a summer arts program. "We told kids about music and it was fun," he said. "Now we work primarily in schools and at senior centers."

The music focuses on hits of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. Squeaky Clean's presentations incorporate history of those eras as well as styles and trends. "It's a 50-minute multimedia program," Smithline said.

And the kids love it. It's entertaining as well as informative and touches on such important issues as the civil rights movement and key figures of the eras.

Squeaky Clean's latest venture is the CD, a real family collaboration. Their three daughters, Leila, 17, Coralynn, 13, who plays the trumpet, and Addison, 9, who helped design the cover, all did vocal backgrounds. "They even suggest oldies songs for us to perform that they hear in commercials, movies and television shows," Smithline said.

The CD features Smithline as the lead singer, who also plays the upright and electric bass; Manion, also a lead singer, who plays electric and acoustic guitars, keyboard and trombone, with Phil Leone and Alan Michaels, both on drums and percussion.

Selections include such favorites as a smooth version of the Beatles' "We Can Work It Out," Sonny and Cher's "I Got You Babe," "At The Hop," "Downtown" and "Build Me Up Buttercup" (this one was suggested by one of their daughters.)

The oldies hits are interspersed with some original songs, including Smithline's catchy "Motorman," and Manion's lively "The Kids From Queens." The latter should be taught in every public school in the borough.

The song has a good beat and the words hit home. "We don't care where you came from, we're just glad you're here. Come and ride the Seven Train and see the Unisphere. It reminds us 'It's A Small World,' we sure know what that means. 'Cause everyone's from everywhere when you're a kid from Queens." And that's just the chorus.

The CD is available through the band's web site [www.gmfmusic.com](http://www.gmfmusic.com). It costs \$15.95 plus tax.

This summer, the group will be performing at day camps and nursing homes throughout the area. In the fall, Squeaky Clean will again focus on school shows.