

RidgewoodPatch

Arts

Squeaky Clean Suds Up the Stage

The family-act performed for the
18th consecutive year

By Laura Bertocci July 8, 2011



It was some good, clean fun at the Kasschau Shell on Thursday night when band Squeaky Clean took the stage to rock, roll, and scrub the audience with their family-friendly tunes for the 18th summer in a row.

“Everybody put your hands in the air, and roar like a lion!” guitarist Glenn Paul Manion told the crowd. And roar they did, prompting the band to begin a rendition of “The Lion Sleeps Tonight,” that had bystanders swing dancing along.

Other favorites on their set list were covers of The Foundations “Build Me Up Buttercup,” the Beatles “A Little Help From My Friends,” and The Temptations “The Way You Do The Things You Do.” Audience members sang, danced, and clapped along while children chased each other near the stage.

“We really feel that we’re being supported here,” said upright and electric bassist Suzanne Smithline, whose sentiments were confirmed by the rush of fans that crowded the stage for autographs after the show.





David Schneider and his wife Melly Terrin came to see the band that played at their wedding. “They’re just awesome,” said Schneider. “They’re always encouraging people to sing and dance.”

Squeaky Clean is a family operation, founded by husband-and-wife team Glenn Paul Manion and Suzanner Smithline when they started playing together in college.

“We were doing folk music in the Village during the Seventies,” said Smithline. “We had a manager and played some really awful music, and then Rockabilly began to appeal to us.”

The duo had three children that often traveled or played with the band. Their 15-year old daughter Addison, who plays the saxophone, recalled visiting Ridgewood as a child. “I love it here, this was always the highlight of my summer,” she said. “I remember being out there on the lawn before I even played with the band.”

“It works for us,” said Smithline of the band composition, which also includes ten-year Squeaky Clean drummer Phil Leone. “I’m sure one day Addy will decide she doesn’t want to hang out with us any more,” prompting Addy to protest with a, “Never!”

“It makes being on stage natural,” explained Addison, referencing Squeaky Clean’s humor and energy between songs. “This is how we act at home.”

For more information about Squeaky Clean, or to order their CD, visit their [website](#).

