

JEFF WESSMAN SALUTES SINATRA

Jeff Wessman, a newcomer to Lake Park, won the hearts of many residents with his *Tribute to Sinatra and Friends* on April 15th in Fellowship Hall. Using an IPOD full of big band accompaniments and his own excellent speaker system, he sang, danced and commented on the music. Friendly and charming, he opened with *Where or When*. His healthy baritone and knack for capturing the essence of Sinatra's style elicited such enthusiastic applause that he seemed quite surprised. From then on he was really swinging with *Come Fly With Me*. Hands were patting and feet tapping as he went on to *Take A Chance on Love*, accompanied by Nelson Riddle. *Nice Work if You Can Get It*, Cole Porter's *e At Long Last Love* and *I've Got You Under My Skin*, also accompanied by Riddle, were irresistible. Audience participation increased as Jeff sang and the big bands played on.

Jeff, who is from San Rafael, asked how many in the audience had seen Sinatra in person, and where they had seen him. Most enthusiastic were those who had seen him in New York. *All of Me*, Porter's *I Get a Kick Out of You* and Mercer's *I Thought About You* concluded the Sinatra collection. Then Jeff turned to Dean Martin with *Ain't That a Kick in the Head?* Nat Cole with *LOVE* and *I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter*, taking on the persona of each of these Sinatra friends. Harry James' trumpet solo in the break of *This Love of Mine* was a magical foil for Wessman's baritone. We were all lost in dreamland. Gershwin's last song, *Our Love is Here to Stay*, *Oh Look at me Now*, *South of the*

Border (we all sang the Ay, Ays), *Fly Me to the Moon* and *The Way You Look Tonight* completed this marvelous trip through the songs of our youth.

I was surprised that such a young man even knew most of the music on the program. Jeff is a musician and song writer and has a recording business. He loves the music of the 30's, 40's and 50's and feels it has everything. His enthusiasm plus his uncanny talent for mimicking the style of these great singers of the past made for a memorable evening. We hope he will come again.

Mary Lynn Cox, reporting.

Dear Jeff -

Here is your copy of the review I wrote for our newsletter.

I thank you so much for making us all feel young & lighthearted again.

Mary Lynn Cox