



The DeMystics close the show with a well-deserved bow by (from left) Priscilla Keresev, Karen Breslin, Theresa Turetzky, Jennifer Jiles

Panas Parents Club Hosts a Spirited Fundraiser

Story and Photo by Stephanie Conte

Do you believe in magic? As the classic Lovin' Spoonful song played in the background of people settling into their seats and slotting tickets into raffle baskets at Verplanck's Mt. Carmel Society, I couldn't figure out if I did. But if anything was going to give me an answer, one way or the other, it would be this show. So I sat back and waited for **The DeMystics** to join the stage.

On March 21, the **Panas Parent Club** presented an **Evening with The DeMystics** to raise money to support **Walter Panas High School's** senior scholarships, student breakfast, senior day events

and staff appreciation.

The DeMystics are a group of four women — **Priscilla Keresev, Jennifer Jiles, Karen Breslin** and **Theresa Turetzky** — who practice the skill of spiritual mediumship. With 70 audience chairs filled, the four women described how they came to be, both as mediums and as a group. Jennifer, a skilled actor, Emmy Award winner and now medium, shared that the women all work in different ways. They may practice a 'clair', like clairvoyant, clairsentience, clairaudient, claircognizant, or be a card reader, as Theresa is.

What makes this group unique is their joining together. Both Jennifer and Theresa learned the practice of medi-

umship from Priscilla. They'd always had gut instincts or intuitions, but Priscilla taught them to harness those instincts into a conversation (or a 'clair') with the dead. Their union is part of their charm, and part of their mission to destigmatize, demonstrate and educate the supernatural.

In the introductory portion of the evening, one of The DeMystics elaborated: "We like to think of the 'clairs' as a sixth sense. We know everyone has one, and there are so many other avenues where people can use it. [Mediumship] is a skill, not a gift. It's like learning a language."

With that sentiment in mind, the "demonstration" portion of the evening began.

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"I've got a mother coming through. She's very into cats — did she have a cat? Or do you have a cat? She's coming through as an immigrant. Did she believe in the evil eye? Can anyone relate to this?"

Ah! Someone can. To the right of me, someone raises their hand with a light sob. "That's my mother." Everyone stills, except the DeMystic who is holding two conversations — one in this room and one in the Afterlife. The medium shares some personal details about the woman's potential situation at home, and the woman confirms. "She's here for you."

I'm still wondering if I believe in magic when I feel eyes on the side of my head. I get a feeling I know what's coming, so I look away. It doesn't work. Theresa, with her angel cards in hand, asks, "You, in the black jacket. Can I read for you?" Tentatively, I agree.

My first card does not bode well for this reading, or for my beet-red cheeks. "Are you de-

fensive?" I don't think I am, but if I say no, will that sound defensive? "I don't think so," I shrug. Theresa tells me that my first card, the surrender card, suggests otherwise. Ok, noted.

As the night proceeds, many attendees benefit from the speed rounds of reading, and The DeMystics encourage the audience to remember that many souls may come through on one microphone: "Take what you can take from [this reading] because the spirits talk to each other," Priscilla said.

What might sound like your grandma could also be someone else's aunt, but it doesn't have to be as simple as one or the other. The DeMystics believe the spirits come through together, with one message meant for many. Karen emphasized: "If it resonates with you, accept it."

Peekskill resident Stephanie Conte is a regular contributor to River Journal.

You can donate to Panas Parent Club via Venmo @PanasParentClub-Treasurer or mail a check to PPC c/o WPHS, 300 Croton Ave, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y. 10567. If you are a business owner who would like to help the Club with a fundraiser, contact panasparentclub@gmail.com.