Good songs support good deeds

Bright outlook

"The theme, as you would guess from the title, is all about the bright side of life — lemons to lemon-ade kind of topics," Feldman said.

"It’s a beautiful message," Buinis added. "When you’re down and out, how to turn life around."


"The music comes from all different genres. There'll be songs that people know really well; there'll be songs they've never heard of before," Feldman said. The two-act show includes theater music, standards, Beatles songs, folk tunes and more. There will be solos, duets and trios.

The purpose of the showcase is to dispel some myths about cabaret and show people what the Acts Of Kindness Cabaret entertainers do. "We’ll be doing a full performance," Feldman said, "but we’ll also have a chance to talk to the audience about how we work, how we can help — and how there can be no catch."

Starting Acts Of Kindness Cabaret filled a need for Feldman.

"I'm a musician so I don't make a lot of money," she said. "I always want to write checks to people, and I can't. I kept trying to figure out a way to use what I do in my life to give back."

Feldman soon discovered that it was easy recruiting other professional performers. "Many people out there want to help. They just need to be given an avenue," she said.

Giving back

Cabaret artist Buinis has performed with Acts Of Kindness Cabaret for three years. When Feldman asked her to join the organization, Buinis said, "The first thing that I thought was, 'Fabulous. Here’s a built-in audience.' The second thing was, 'What a way to do what I love and to be able to give back.' Hilary has hit the jackpot with this."

New York native Buinis performed at some of her hometown's premier cabaret venues before moving to this area, where she has continued to sing in cabarets. She will soon start rehearsals for a musical called "The Glorious Ones" at Illinois Theatre Center in Park Forest.

Feldman said that all the performers who work with Acts Of Kindness Cabaret love being part of the organization. "We are put in touch with passionate, giving, caring people who are — like us — doing the best they can with what they have," Feldman said.