

# Seniors and children go on virtual 'trips'

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*Staff writer*

Wrentham's Lisa Manning took seniors and children on a virtual cruise to the Caribbean and Hawaii last week as well as a trip back to the Fabulous '50s.

Manning, who used to perform on cruise ships, did a cabaret show with puppets Friday morning at the Newell Center in front of seniors as well as children from the Family Ties children's center.

Manning sang and danced using her own style of entertainment, which featured her puppet "friends" and audience participation.

She asked the youngsters if any had ever been on a boat. Some said they'd been on a ferry; others said they'd been on a whale watch.

The first stop on their "trip" was Nassau, the Bahamas. Manning brought out Capt. Gus the puppet as they sang "Sea Cruise." She then sang island music and told the audience to imagine the tropical heat, steel drums and beautiful flowers.

The ship then docked in St. Thomas, where Manning and Miss Chiquita the puppet sang another island song.

Last stop on the trip was Hawaii. The audience was told to imagine being at a luau and watching hula dancers. Manning had the children get up and dance to the popular '80s song "Hot, Hot, Hot."

After their sea cruise, the audience got taken on a trip back to the Fabulous '50s, during the time of The Hit Parade.

Manning sang "Dear Hearts and Gentle People," "How Much is that Doggie in the Window," and "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter."

She brought out Howdy Doody and led the audience in a rendition of "It's Howdy Doody Time."

"That's what we used to watch instead of Barney," she told the kids.

She added, "When we weren't watching television we went to the movies." She sang the theme song from *The King and I* followed by "Do Re Mi" from *The Sound of Music*.

Manning's show ended with an appearance by Elvis, who sang and danced with her to "All Shook Up."



Left, Lisa Manning performs with one of her many puppets at her show last Friday morning. Above, Brittany Christopher shakes the hand of Puff the Magic Dragon.

Photos by  
Christine Cochrane

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perform at senior center*

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