

By Erin Rice
e-Ticker News

Once again, “Mitchell’s Magic Christmas” display at 16 Francis Street in Claremont wowed visitors with a dazzling display of Christmas lights and beautiful, happy holiday music. Though the display will be up through Christmas, Saturday night was host to a special guest, Judy Pancoast, who performed wonderfully to a crowd of excited visitors.

A singer/songwriter from New England, Pancoast’s career has been 36 years in the making, demonstrating an unwavering determination to achieve personal and professional goals. Just one hit song is all she



asking for. “Christmas songs live on, every year the same ones are played. I want that kind of legacy,” she said. To be this dedicated, it takes a very special, unique, highly motivated and energetic individual to accomplish all that she has as she continues to march, head held high, toward her dream.

Pancoast wrote and sang several of the songs featured at Mitchell’s display, which was also the kickoff performance to her tour this year. She will be performing at houses across the country and as far away as Wales in the United Kingdom. It seems her song, “The House on Christmas Street,” though an unofficial hit, is a favorite among fans and avid decorators.

The song, written in 1998, was meant to honor those who take the time out of their busy lives to bring extra Christmas cheer, those who create “that house” where traditions are made. At the time, synchronized light shows were virtually non-existent. “I

Mitchell’s Annual Magical Christmas Display Comes Alive With Musical Guest

couldn’t have imagined it would be used this way,” said Pancoast.

Now, many decorators, if not all, who create elaborate, synchronized light shows feature that particular song. In Mitchell’s case, several years ago, he began posting videos of his display featuring Pancoast’s songs. So, it wasn’t long before people were asking for her to come perform live at Mitchell’s Magic Christmas. “This will be Judy’s third visit to our display and we love having her here. She is extremely talented and puts on a fun show for everyone,” said Mitchell.

Year after year, Pancoast has pitched her songs to radio stations in an effort to have that one hit, and year after year her efforts are turned down. The smaller, independent stations are more inviting; however, she still shoots for the stars and pursues the bigger, company-owned stations. Thus, the ambitious tour this year: to hopefully create enough “buzz,” as Pancoast puts it, that her efforts can no longer be ignored. She is on a mission, driving around the country, flying to England, with just the holiday season for time. Santa is not the only one with a seemingly impossible deadline this year.

Many of the houses Pancoast has visited over the years feature some type of charity they are collecting donations for, but never anything to help themselves with the added electric costs, for example. Mitchell’s Magic Christmas collects donations for the Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD). Pancoast said, “I really hope we had enough people



Judy Pancoast performing in Claremont Saturday evening.

come to donate to CHaD because that’s what it’s all about.”

Mitchell’s display consists of countless figures and scenes as well as 47,000 lights, which coincidentally is the exact number of lights on “The House on Christmas Street,” and will be up through the Christmas holiday.



Photos By Matt Collier

To enjoy a video of Judy singing, go to

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