

Press Release/for immediate release

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DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS

Avalon. On July 23rd, people are invited to join Access to Art for its *Miss Avalon* sunset cruise in the back bays of Avalon. Departure is at 7 p.m. sharp. A fund raiser for its 11th annual Sam Maitin Summer/Fall Chamber Music Festival, it includes, a la Mark Twain, wine, women and song, with a little food thrown in for good measure. Boarding is at 7 p.m. sharp. A disc jockey and delicious hors d'oeuvres are all part of the package including cruising on the back bays of Avalon. When is a boat trip not merely a boat trip? When it is a singing extravaganza, with lots of food, wine, and song and a classical guitar thrown in for good measure.

Jim Maher, classical guitarist and singer, who will perform on the boat trip began his musical career formally at Temple University where he studied classical guitar with Anna Kotsarenko. Anna Kotsarenko was a protégé of Segovia. Maher began playing the guitar at nine years old on a guitar he received Christmas Day. By the end of Christmas day, he could play simple tunes. He also began making up his own songs, something that has persisted to this day. It was the beginning of a lifetime occupation. Shortly after that, his parents began guitar lessons for the aspiring musician. "My dad played piano and my mother sang, so music was always a part of my life; my children are also musically inclined," he said. Jim is a cantor at Our Lady of the Angel's R.C. church in Cape May Court House, as well. Jim's songs are primarily about love, so prepare for a romantically inspired evening as you watch the sunset, enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, wine and non-alcoholic drinks while taking in the sunset on the back bays of Avalon.

"About 25 years ago I began performing in musicals, the first being "Fiddler on the Roof," as Fyedka at the Gateway Playhouse. Since then I have been in about 40 musicals." Maher said. Asked about his favorite composers, he says: "Parrega (Romantic period) and Dowland (Renaissance) are two of my favorite composers for guitar." Jim said.

Boarding is at 6:30 p.m. with departure at 7 p.m. sharp. Board at Avalon Fishing Center, 14th & Ocean Drive, Avalon. Tickets are \$50. per person. Send checks to Access to Art, Inc. at 417 E. Pacific Ave., Cape May Court House, N.J. Or call (609) 465-3963 for reservations.