

WEATHER WATCH:

Milwaukee, WI

82°



high 82° | low 68°

[Detailed Forecast](#) | [7 Day](#) | [Doppler Radar](#)

JSOnline
MILWAUKEE • WISCONSIN
JOURNAL SENTINEL
2010, 2008 Pulitzer Prize Winner for Local Reporting


Landmark
RESORT
Landmark Resort
Your Relaxation Expert
Egg Harbor, WI, 800-273-7877 • thelandmarkresort.com

[Home](#) [News](#) [Watchdog](#) [Opinion](#) [Sports](#) [Business](#) [Food & Dining](#) [Entertainment](#) [Features](#) [Photo/Video](#)

Tuesday, August 10, 2010 [Got a Tip?](#) [NewsWatch](#) [Weather](#) [Obituaries](#) [Blogs](#) [AP Wires](#) [Mobile](#) [Contact Us](#) [RSS](#) [C](#)

 [Entertainment](#)

[Home](#) » [Entertainment](#)

Daughter carries on Shari Lewis' Lamb Chop routine



Mallory Lewis, with Lamb Chop, is carrying on the puppet act started by her mother, Shari, who died 12 years ago.

By *Cailley Hammel* of the *Journal Sentinel*

Aug. 6, 2010 | (33) COMMENTS

 [enlarge photo](#)



Journal Sentinel file photo
Shari Lewis with Lamb Chop in 1983.

Recent Coverage

[Daughter carries on Shari Lewis' Lamb Chop routine](#)
[Lovett dishes out large helpings of talent and charm at State Fair](#)

2010 State Fair

At the InterContinental Milwaukee Hotel, a girl walks by a table in the Clear Lounge. Out of the corner of her eye, she sees something familiar and turns to get a better look.

Then, she freezes.

"Oh, my God," she says, with wide eyes and a grin.

"Oh, my goodness gracious," she hears back, in a squeaky voice.

The voice is that of Lamb Chop, and this is the reaction she gets each and every day. The sock puppet, best known for starring in PBS' "Lamb Chop's Play-Along" with Shari Lewis, is performing this weekend at the Wisconsin State Fair. Shari Lewis passed away 12 years ago; her daughter, Mallory Lewis, now performs with the puppet she considers to be her sister.

And just like Lamb Chop, Mallory Lewis, who is in her 40s, revels in the awe of fans as they, after just a glimpse of the puppet, are reminded of their childhood.

"Imagine if everywhere you went, you were greeted with smiles and love and people clearly connecting with you emotionally," Lewis said. "I am the luckiest person in the whole world."

"And it's all 'cause of me," Lamb Chop said.

"And it's all because of you," Lewis agreed.

In the same way Lamb Chop was passed down from mother to daughter, the legacy of Lamb Chop has been passed on to Lewis' 11-year-old son, James Abraham Tarcher Hood. James usually travels with his mother as a road manager, working behind the scenes by setting up sound equipment and selling merchandise. And he is the only person aside from Shari and Mallory to have had his hand inside Lamb Chop.

"She is so real in his life, as she was in mine," Lewis said.

The idea that she is a childhood icon to both children and their parents is something Lamb Chop seems to enjoy, too.

"For me, it's multigenerational pleasure," Lamb Chop said.

While Lamb Chop's bond with children continues, Lamb Chop has another side to her.

She also performs a show called "Lamb Chop After Dark," which highlights the character's brazen political attitude.

"I have lots of opinions, and I'm right," Lamb Chop said.

When asked about Lamb Chop's values, Lewis described her as a "liberal Jewish Democrat."

"Without a doubt," Lewis added, ". . . she calls them like she sees them."



Find schedules, deals, previews and more in our [State Fair section](#).

After Saturday's 3 p.m. performance at the State Fair's WEAC Family Variety Stage, Lamb Chop will perform the "After Dark" act at Bonkerz Comedy Club at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal St., in shows at 8 and 10 p.m.

So far, Lewis and Lamb Chop said they have enjoyed the fair.

"Everybody's really nice here, but there's too much cheese," said Lamb Chop, who claimed she has dairy allergies. And she's staying away from the fair's traditional foods on a stick.

"I figure if I don't eat it, it won't eat me," she said.

Although Lamb Chop said she misses performing with her mother, she says she enjoys performing with her sister.

"Well, you know, I taught her everything she knows, but not everything I know!" Lamb Chop said. "But I love my sister."

"I love my sister," Lewis said in return.

It's a relationship that Lewis says isn't changing anytime soon.

"By the time we're done, between me and Mom, I hope that Lamb Chop will spend nearly 100 years," Lewis said. "So I think her legacy is the timelessness of quality entertainment."

"You don't have to be dirty to be funny to adults, and you don't have to pander to be funny to children. And that quality entertainment is quality entertainment."

If you go

What: Mallory Lewis with Lamb Chop & Hush Puppy

When: 3 p.m. Saturday

Where: Wisconsin State Fair's WEAC Family Variety Stage

How much: free with admission to the fair