



#Where it's happening!
NJ's Premier Dining & Entertainment Guide

FREE

May 2016

Vol 5 • no 4

 **LIKE US!**

 **FOLLOW US!**

 **POST WITH US!**

Sports Bars

Pro Sports Schedules

Local Band / Artist Profile

All That's Beer

Libations

Restaurant Profile

Catering

Broadway Shows

Comic Relief

Dining Guide

Happy Hours

Local Entertainment

Concerts & Theater

AC Entertainment

Special Feature:
New Jersey Wines ...

Thanks to some quick thinking friends, (a shout out to both Mike Clifton and Donna Meyer), I was introduced to Sam Fede. Sam was raised in Matawan, NJ and after graduating from high school, he embarked onto the next stage of life and joined the Marine Corps. He's a married father of girls and now spends most of his time on the west coast. That is when he's not working, and he's always working.

VENUES

COMIC RELIEF

Sam Fede



by Steve Ortlieb

Venues-NJ: Matawan, New Jersey, circa 1960, and now a Los Angeles based professional comedian. Cruise ships, Vegas, Reno, C'mon, HOW?! I mean, I know you were class clown but fill us in. How do you get from Matawan to where you are today?

Sam Fede: I never wanted to be a comedian; I wanted to be the next Elvis. That dream died young and I joined the Marines. After that I tried a stint in the coin room at a hotel in Vegas and a couple of other crappy jobs until I ended up owning a blueprint company in Newport Beach for 12 years. I always thought lots of money was the goal but after making it and being miserable I knew it was time for something else. I decided to go to school and become a lawyer. I saw a comedy class at the local college and took it. I decided if I can make people laugh I could certainly persuade a jury. I came out first in the class, took the advanced class and came out first in that as well. I was immediately offered paid gigs and figured "heck this is way easier than going back to school so I jumped in with both feet. My first full year as a comic I went from making 6 figures to making four thousand dollars, the next year I made ten thousand so it was tough sledding at first but it's certainly paid off. I'm one of the lucky ones, I get paid to do something that I would do for free and I make people happy doing it, what more could you ask from a career? Ok I'd rather be catching for the Yankees but until they ask...

V-NJ: When I was in the Marine Corps I used to do open mike's whenever I could, when did you first decide to try it?

SF: I was caught imitating a DI in boot camp and everyone was laughing, the other DI caught me and made me do it for all the other squads DI's. It was awful 12 grown men standing there with their

arms folded and NOT laughing once, now its 1200 people sitting with their arms folded and not laughing once). I guess that was the first time I ever "went up" as we call it. The first real time I went up was 12 years later at The Laugh Stop in Newport Beach Ca. and I haven't looked back since.

V-NJ: A quick glance at your schedule and it's obvious you spend a lot of time on the road. How does that affect family life, I mean it's gotta be tough sometimes, right?

SF: It was very tough in the beginning when my girls were young, I missed soccer games and drill events but made up for it by being 100 percent locked in when I was home. I never really sat around watching TV. I was always on the track running with the girls or playing with them so we are all really tight now. The girls liked my job and I shared it with them as often as I could, taking them to Vegas hanging by the pools all day, stuff like that.

V-NJ: What do you have coming up and when



are you gonna be back east so we can see you here in Jersey?

SF: I do quite a few cruise ship gigs and I just finished The Laugh Factory in Reno and I'm heading back to Vegas 4 more times this year, so I'm really looking forward to that. I'm VERY excited to be heading back to Iraq and Kuwait this June. I've performed for the troops over there 3 or 4 times already and it's always a treat. They are the most appreciative audiences and it's always a blast. As far as Jersey, I'd LOVE to do a charity benefit for The Maximum Hope Foundation but it's difficult finding a venue. I approached The Stress Factory but we were unable to match up on dates so I need to find somewhere that can accommodate 3 or 4 hundred people for an evening, any ideas? :):)

For more info about Sam you can go right to his website at <http://www.funnymansam.com>.

