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Christine Lavin: Life is full for the singer-songwriter

By ED CONDRAN • CORRESPONDENT • June 4, 2010

[Christine Lavin](#) loves cold pizza for breakfast so much that she named a song, an album and a book just that.

"Cold Pizza For Breakfast: A Mem-wha" hit shelves Tuesday. It's the amusing folkie's look back at her eventful life.

"Something always seemed to be happening with me, even before I became a musician," Lavin said.

Lavin, who will read passages from her tome and sing songs Tuesday at the Ocean County Library in Toms River, has great anecdotes back to her teenage days when she served as a babysitter for the New York Jets.

She put a certain future coach, who apparently is as brash as his infamous dad, to bed during the mid-'60s.

"It's not as if I have vivid memories of it but I did sit Rex Ryan," Lavin said. "I babysat a bunch of the Jets players and coaches children when the Jets trained in Peekskill, NY. "That's my connection to the Jets. I hope they play in the 2014 Super Bowl in New Jersey."

Lavin, 58, takes the high road when recounting experiences. The amiable singer-songwriter sticks to the positive when talking about those in the music industry.

"I could have embarrassed people but I chose not to," Lavin said. "I just didn't want to do that. There are so many fun stories to tell. I didn't need to trash anybody. I'm not that kind of person."

Lavin spins great yarns about those dear to her, such as fellow singer-songwriter Cheryl Wheeler, legendary composer Ervin Drake and her favorite football player Joe Namath.

"I enjoyed writing about the people I respect and admire such as Ervin," Lavin said. "He's 91 and still vital. He wrote so many songs that Frank Sinatra sang such as 'It Was a Very Good Year.' Anyone who was friends with Frank is an interesting person and then there is Joe Namath. Who didn't love Joe Namath back during his heyday? But today we have Mark Sanchez, who is the Mexican Joe Namath."

Lavin is hardly unconventional and the same can be said for "Cold Pizza." Lavin steps out of narrative often. The book is much like a conversation with the veteran bard. It's unpredictable, funny and entertaining.

"I had fun writing it," Lavin said. "I have a lot of stories to tell and it was about time I write something like 'Cold Pizza.' "

When Lavin appears at the library, she'll take a page out of her concerts and banter with fans and give out prizes.

"I'll bring a person who is born uncomfortably close to Christmas and another, who is born too close to New Year's," Lavin said. "Those people missed out a little in life and they can get a present at the show. It's not something everyone does but that's me. I don't do things like everyone else does."



Christine Lavin will appear Tuesday at the Ocean County Library in Toms River to promote her new book, "Cold Pizza For Breakfast: A Mem-wha." (STAFF PHOTO: THOMAS P. COSTELLO)

CHRISTINE LAVIN

7 p.m. Tuesday Ocean County Library, 101 Washington St., Toms River To register, call 732-349-6200