Paterson’s Sports Legacy Celebrated

That spirit of joy in sportsmanship in Paterson is celebrated in the free photo exhibit Local Heroes: Paterson Sports in the Golden Era of the 20th Century. Presented by the Jewish Historical Society of North Jersey, (JHSNJ) the photos will be displayed at the Wayne YMCA, 1 Pike Dr., through July 4.

The photos cover decades of Silk City sports history, from kids at the YMCA and the YMHA, to school competitions, to semi-professionals events at Hinchliffe Stadium like the baseball Negro League, boxing and hometown celebrities, such as native Patersonian Lou Costello, seen in this photo.

After WWII, the last team of women baseball players were barnstorming around the country playing exhibition games. When they got to Paterson, a team of all-star old-timers was pulled together from the local talent to face them. It turns out, Costello was in town for a visit from Hollywood and he wanted to jump in.

“Jump in is literally what he did. If you look carefully at the picture you can see that Costello is wearing dress shoes,” said Marty Rittenberg, who was at that game as a boy. He remembers, “Lou Costello just rolled up his pants — and they gave him a shirt.”

Mort Rittenberg, Marty’s dad, who was an all around sports hero and beloved Paterson coach for decades, was the original inspiration for the exhibit and his image is heavily featured in it. “He always had a broad smile,” said Marty, who is a Trustee on the Board of the historical society. “He was looking out for every kid. He wanted to see them all succeed.”

The JHSNJ exists to celebrate the wealth of Jewish history in Bergen, Passaic and Hudson counties. Formed over 30 years ago initially to collect oral histories, the society’s continuance has been championed by President Emeritus, Jerome Nathans. The collection is housed at the Barnert Medical Complex at 680 Broadway in Paterson. For info, call 862-257-1208.

Other Upcoming PC Arts Events

June 1:  19th Silk Walk Project Unveiled, Haledon
June 2:  Entries for Passaic County Art Exhibit Due, Totowa
June 11: Lunchbox Learning Program, Wayne
June 13: Young Playwrights Project, Believe!, Clifton
June 14: NJBG Summer Music Series, Ringwood
June 14: 6th Annual Paterson Art Walk, Paterson
June 15: Lambert Castle Music Series, Paterson
June 26: Little Falls Thursday Music and Market, Little Falls
PCCHC Grants Available with deadlines on July 10 & 17
Passaic County Technical Institute senior Nicole Romero headed a team which included Nayley Moran, Jennifer Lopez and Paul Harris to produce a music video entitled Traffic which was awarded the top prize in the 10th Annual Passaic County Film Festival on April 26. She was awarded a $1,000 check from the North Jersey Federal Credit Union (NJFCU) and will also work with the NJFCU to create a 30-second commercial.

Other winners include:

**High School Short Films**
1st Prize Man vs Wild by Kasey Dondershine, Nick Rosone from West Milford High School
2nd Prize Foresaid by Max Straubinger, Kyra Zwahlen from Lakeland Regional High School
3rd Prize Fresh Prince of Bel Aire by Erica Deluccia from Passaic Valley High School

**High School Documentary**
1st Prize The Tunnel of Oppression by Alicia Garcia from Passaic Valley High School
2nd Prize Unmasked by Nicole Romero from Passaic County Technical Institute
3rd Prize Intersection Ahead, Will You Make the Right Turn? by Nicole Romero, Nayley Moran, Jennifer Lopez, and Paul Harris from Passaic County Technical Institute

**High School Music Video**
1st Prize Traffic by Nicole Romero, Nayley Moran, Jennifer Lopez, and Paul Harris from Passaic County Technical Institute
2nd Prize 1, 2 Step by April DePrima, Annie Ney from West Milford High School
3rd Prize The Cup Song by Erlime Rosario, Brittany Walker, Maria Lantigua, Amber Kitchings from Rosa Parks High School of Fine and Performing Arts

**High School Public Service Announcement**
1st Prize The Paterson School App by Nia Adams, Joana Mendez, Adiana McKinney, Wendoly Mora, Zekena Holman from Rosa Parks High School of Fine and Performing Arts
2nd Prize Dream Act by Nicole Romero, Nayley Moran, Paul Harris from Passaic County Technical Institute
3rd Prize Texting and Driving PSA by Frankie Lagana from West Milford High School

Independent Film Makers & University Film Makers
1st Prize When You Wish… by Jack Romano (Oak Ridge) from Purchase College, SUNY
2nd Prize Mine by Casey O’Connell (Hewitt) from William Paterson University
3rd Prize Decisions by Amanda Lindsay (Wantage) from William Paterson University.
More info at film@passaiccountynj.org.

Monavision Films offers middle school and high school student filmmakers the opportunity to have their short films (10 minutes or less) screened prior to the premier of Simpler Times. Entries will be accepted through June 22 at monavisionfilms.com. Simpler Times, starring Jerry Stiller, was directed by Pompton Lakes native Steve Monarque and filmed in Pompton Lakes and West Milford. Winning student films will screen at 5 pm and 8 pm on July 1 in the Carnevale Center at St. Mary’s Church, 17 Pompton Ave., Pompton Lakes. Donations will be accepted to benefit the Outreach Ministry of St. Mary’s Church which provides services and assistance to the poor, sick and disabled. Simpler Times follows Harry (Jerry Stiller), a recently widowed man who has reluctantly moved in with his daughter (Amy Stiller) and son-in-law (Steve Monarque). On his first morning in their home, all Harry wants is a peaceful cup of coffee and his daily newspaper. Instead, he finds himself on a bizarre search through town that leaves him newspaper-less and trapped in the world of modern technology. The story features Stiller’s trademark comedy stylings and a special guest appearance by Anne Meara, the other half of the legendary comedy duo Stiller & Meara.

At the Passaic County Film Festival, from left, Lourdes Cortez, President & CEO of the North Jersey Federal Credit Union, Freeholders Hector C. Lora, Nicole Romero, Freeholder Pat Lepore and James Giffin of the credit union.
The New Jersey State Botanical Garden (NJBG)
Summer Concerts begin on June 14 and offer live music on the lawn. Concerts begin at 6:30 pm, and are moved into the Carriage House in bad weather. A $5 donation is requested. The series opens on June 14 with an evening of Big Band and smooth jazz with the James L. Dean Band. On June 27, the Sixteen String Band performs classics from the 60’s, 70’s & 80’s, from the Beatles to Tom Petty. Rising folkie Loretta Hagen brings her “one part Americana, two parts Folk, a dash of Country-flavored rock” out under the stars on July 11. The 10-piece Willy Dalton Gang presents a mix of jazz, funk and Latin music on July 25. The Buddy Holly-inspired Rave On! takes the stage on Aug. 8. Folk/contemporary No Fuss and Feathers Roadshow closes the series on Aug. 22. Info at njbg.org.

The American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark provides tours and badge completion projects for Boy and Girl Scouts. Topics include: Child Labor; Immigrant Workers’ Domestic Life of the early 1900’s; Paterson Silk Strike of 1913; and current labor issues. To discuss scouting projects, call 973-595-7953 or go to www.labormuseum.net. The Museum will unveil the 19th phase of its Silk Walk Project on June 1. The fundraiser began in 1994 and offers patrons the chance to purchase engraved bricks (priced from $50 to $200) for placement at the Landmark’s front walkway and under its grape arbor. The Botto House is at 83 Norwood St., Haledon, and was the meeting place for over 20,000 silk mill workers during the 1913 Paterson Silk Strike. W

The Passaic County Senior Citizen Art Exhibition is open to those age 60 and over. There is no fee to enter but entries must be show-ready and participants are limited to one exhibit. To enter, bring one show-ready piece of art to Senior Services from 9 am to 4 pm on June 2 to 5. Entries will be displayed June 9 to 27 at the Passaic County Senior Services office, 930 Riverview Dr., Suite 200, Totowa. A reception and an awards ceremony is on June 27 at 2 pm. For details, call 973-569-4060. W

The 6th annual Art Walk in Paterson is on June 14 and 15. The Paterson Arts Council has brought together hundreds of regional and international artists to exhibit their art, create site-specific installation art and perform on multiple music stages throughout the Great Falls Historic District at the Art Factory, the adjacent National Park, the Paterson Museum and Center City Mall. Art Walk 2014 is free and open to the public June 14 from 11am to 7 pm and June 15 from 11am to 6 pm. For more information, email arts@artfactory.us.com.

Little Falls Alliance for A Better Community (ABC)
Thursdays Music and Market Series opens on June 26. Staged at the Gazebo in Memorial Park, at Main St. and Wilmore Rd., the 5th Annual Series is free and takes place 7 to 8:30 pm through Aug. 28. The Market is open for shopping from 5 to 8:30 pm while the musicians take the stage at 7 pm. For a line up of performers and details, call 973-812-7916 or go to www.abc-littlefalls.org. W

The Lunchbox Learning Program at the Wayne Public Library on June 11 presents The Life & Death of the Hindenburg, with actor Tom Ainsworth discussing the spectacular and deadly destruction on May 6, 1937 of the luxury ‘lighter than air’ dirigible in Lakehurst. On June 25, photographer Walter Choroszewski will present Cinema & Television The New Jersey Connection. Sponsored by the Friends of the Wayne Public Library, doors open at noon for coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and cookies and each one hour program begins at 12:30 pm. Free and open to the public, the library is at 461 Valley Rd., Wayne. For info, call 973-694-4272 x5408 or write to rosenblad@waynepubliclibrary.org. W

ATC Studios presents a staging of the 2014 Young Playwrights Project, Believe! Open to middle and high school students, who submitted short scenes or monologues that reflected their concept of Believe!, some 40 scripts went through two rounds of evaluations. Finalists (Tina Gupta, Kelsey Jazlin Gomez, Clifton; Jazmin Celeste, Anny Diaz, Andrea Bonilla, Passaic; Desmond Morgan, Kyla Seegers, Kelvin Martinez and Casie Sydney Jagessar, Paterson; Elisabeth Michaud, Montville; Mariah Ayscue, Montclair; Nileema Ahmed, North Haledon) are assigned directors, are cast, rehearsed, and receive public production at ATC Studios, 68 Union Ave., Clifton on June 13 at 7 pm. The audience and judges will select three of the finalists and their performances will be posted on the web. To attend (admission is $5), email atcstudios411@gmail.com or call 862-243-ATCS to reserve seats. See more at atcstudios.org.

The PCCC Art Galleries and Studio Option Program presented its 2014 Student Art Competition winners. They are: Giancarlo Medina, First Prize, Eman Alnababteh, Second Prize and Andrew Kirchner, Third. Other finalists: Albert Bustos; Anayeli Morales; Caroline Bogush; Eric Francisco; Jonathan Prokopowitz; Jonte Silver; Jose Diaz; Marcos Salazar; Roxanne Bresnee; Tova Akerman. The competition was organized by PCCC Art Professor Alphonso Dunn. For more details, contact Jane Haw, Gallery Curator, at 973-684-5448, or write to jhaw@pccc.edu. See more at www.pccc.edu/art/gallery.
An American Master Artist’s Retrospective: Louis Bouché is a groundbreaking exhibit at the Clifton Arts Center showcasing mural sections that once hung in the lobby of Shulton, the former Clifton cosmetic company. These mural sections were painted by Bouché between 1946-1948 and were titled Womanhood throughout the ages pays scented tribute to Venus, Goddess of Beauty. The mural’s accurate workmanship includes the cosmetics, hair-dos and costumes of the various periods. The American artist, muralist and decorator grew up in Paris and died on Aug. 7, 1969 in Pittsfield, Mass. In conjunction to the mural sections, the Woodstock (NY) Art Association and Museum is loaning selected paintings from their permanent Bouché collection. The Art in Embassies Program from Washington, DC is also loaning the 1948 painting of Spring in Park by Bouché. The exhibit opens on June 25 and is displayed through July 26. A reception, open to the public, is on June 24 from 4 to 8 pm. Admission $3 for non-members. The Clifton Arts Center & Sculpture Park is at 900 Clifton Ave. Call 973-472-5499 or go to cliftonnj.org.

The PCCHC is offering arts and history re-grants. The deadline for arts applications is July 10, 2014 and for history applications, July 17, 2014. Go to www.pccc.edu/pcchc for details. Contact Susan Balik at sbalik@pccc.edu or 973-684-5444 to discuss the grant process.

Lambert Castle, home of the Passaic County Historical Society, at 3 Valley Rd., Paterson, presents In Tune with Nature on June 15 at 5 pm. The Eco-music ensemble Englewinds will launch the 2014 Lambert Castle Concert Series. The performance will also mark the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act with classical music celebrating open space, wild animal habitat and more. Admission to the concert is $15. Seating is limited, no reservations will be taken. On June 22, at 4 pm on the north lawn at Lambert Castle, the Clifton Community Band presents Music at the Castle: A Welcome to Summer. Admission to the concert is free, donations requested. Parking at the Castle is limited, and will be first come first serve. Other off-site parking will be available. Bring your own seating. In the case of inclement weather call to confirm that the concert has not been cancelled. For a list of concerts and more details on the Society or the hours of the Castle, go to lambertcastle.org or call 973-247-0085 ext. 207.