Lunchtime at the Wayne Public Library

The Wayne Public Library offers an antidote for the hustle and bustle of the work week. Pack a brown bag lunch and visit their Lunchbox Learning Series. At noon, the series serves up conversation, coffee, tea and cookies, and at 12:30, an hour or more of entertainment or learning.

The Lunchbox Learning Series—a monthly staple at the Library for nine years—has been under the direction of Adult Services Department Librarian Deborah Rosenblatt, since 2004. Presented in the meeting room of the Wayne Public Library at 461 Valley Rd., topics change monthly.

This month’s programs revolve around the joy of music, opening on Jan. 12 with Salvatore Chiarelli, who was vocally trained in both Italy and New York City for the opera. Chiarelli has a wide range—singing in seven languages, and presenting a program in many styles and genre of music.

Philomel’s Song returns to the Lunchbox Learning Series on Jan. 26 to perform works of voice, flute and piano in English, French, German and Russian, as well as works by female composers Lori Laitman, Nancy Nourse, Catherine McMichaels, and winner of the 2010 Pulitzer Prize, Jennifer Higdon.

Rosenblatt noted this is the fourth engagement of Philomel’s Song in Wayne, and said the performance is “a dynamic partnership between flute and voice through art songs.”

The Lunchbox Learning Series is funded through a variety of sources, including PCCHC, but Rosenblatt noted it was first launched thanks to The Friends of the Wayne Public Library, support which continues today.

“The need for grant money has increased and the library works hard to maintain high quality professional programs for the public,” added Rosenblatt. For more on the program, call her at 973-694-4272 ext. 5210.
2011 marks the 10th year of the popular New Legacy concert series at the Ringwood Public Library. A project of the library, funded by grants, donations and ticket revenue and carried out by volunteers, New Legacy brings world class touring musicians in the American roots genre to Ringwood. Launching the 2011 season is Little Toby Walker, an extraordinary finger-style blues guitar player, singer and songwriter, who will perform on Jan. 30 at 2 pm. Tickets are $10 and available at the Ringwood Library by mail (enclose a self addressed stamped envelope 30 Cannici Dr., Ringwood, NJ 07456) or on the web at www.ringwoodlibrary.org (click on New Legacy). For questions regarding this or other New Legacy concerts, call 973-962-6256.

Elvis Presley is Alive and Well on Lincoln Avenue in Fair Lawn, New Jersey.... So reads the title of a poem by Maria Mazzotti Gillan, which has inspired a commemorative event for The King. On that same road on Jan. 8—on what would have been his 76th birthday—Elvis will be alive and well in poetry and song. In honor of The King’s birthday, join poets Maria Mazzotti Gillan, Laura Boss, James Gwyn, and others as they share their poems that feature or reference Elvis. Bards and balladeers are invited to the Ridgewood Christian Reformed Church, 271 Lincoln Ave., Ridgewood, from 1 to 4 pm. Come out to listen or to participate in this free event. So, tune up your guitar, dust off your jumpsuit and practice your best Elvis impersonation, as it is sure to be a memorable afternoon. Poets who would like to participate should submit their intent to James Gwyn at ERGO.therefore@gmail.com by Dec. 31, so he can get a reading list together. Acoustic musicians note that there are some mics, but best to bring your own. W

The Music at the Mission Series continues on Jan. 15 with Aztec Two-Step. This folk/rock duo, which is named after a poem by beat poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti, has been active since releasing a self-titled debut album in 1972 on Elektra Records. Since then, Rex Fowler and Neal Shulman have gone on to be one of acoustic rock’s most enduring acts. Tickets are $22; $25 at the door. Show starts at 8 pm; doors open at 7:30 pm. Music at the Mission is at 1452 Union Valley Rd., West Milford. For tickets: www.musicatthemission.org or call 973-728-4201.

A Musical LoveFest: The “Feel-Good” Concert Experience. Sustainable West Milford (SWM) offers many things to the community—from monthly educational gatherings to music at the Farmers’ Market. SWM has also been awarded numerous accolades for its efforts, further validating the organization. However, SWM, like all non-profit organizations, requires donations from benevolent individuals to operate successfully. That’s why it is hosting a fundraiser concert on Jan. 23 at the Italian Villa in Warwick, NY, from 4 to 6 pm featuring Bridgette Kossor, Wendy Watson-Hallowell and Friends for A Musical LoveFest: The “Feel-Good” Concert Experience. Tickets are $30 in advance ($35 at the door) and includes appetizers and entertainment. Cash bar available. Get tickets at www.sustainablewestmilford.org or 973-853-2139. For info about the venue, visit www.silviositalianvilla.net/Benvenuti.html.

Cabaret at the Ringwood Friends of Music: Mix the vocals of Patti Graham with the trumpet and piano of Bob Leive and get ready for a fun night of Cabaret on Feb. 12 at 8 pm (snow date Feb. 13 at 7 pm). The free concert is at Community Presbyterian Church, 145 Carletondale Rd., Ringwood. Info, call 973-962-4477 or 973-835-5862. W
The Passaic County Cultural & Heritage Council (PCCHC) at Passaic County Community College has announced the organizations awarded grants for arts and history programs and events, which are scheduled to take place in Passaic County during 2011.

Forty-nine Passaic County organizations received a total of $64,831 in funding for projects that bring the arts to our communities through the Local Arts Program Grant. This grant is made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts / Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Additionally, through a general operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, six county organizations received a total of $7,530 in re-grant funds for local or New Jersey history projects.

The following Passaic County organizations were awarded arts grants ranging from $700 to $2,390 for a variety of programs, including concerts, dance, theater, and art exhibits: Action Theatre Conservatory, Inc. - Clifton; American Hungarian Museum - Passaic; American Labor Museum / Botto House National Landmark - Haledon; Arco Ensemble - Woodland Park; Borough of Prospect Park; Boys & Girls Club of Northwest New Jersey - Wayne; Catholic Family & Community Services - Paterson; Chopin Singing Society, PSAA #182 - Passaic; City of Passaic Dept. of Recreation; Clifton Arts Center, Inc.; Clifton’s Historic Botany District, Inc.; Clifton Recreation Department; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. - Paterson.

Also, Eat Local, Inc. - Ringwood; Friends of the Long Pond Iron Works - Hewitt; Friends of the Louis Bay 2nd Library - Hawthorne; Future Scholars Learning Center - Paterson; Greater Paterson OIC; Harmony Singers - Wayne; Heart of Hannah Women’s Center - Paterson; Holy Rosary Young Men’s Club - Passaic; Holy Spirit Association - Clifton; Iron Mountain Stage Company - Ringwood; Juvenile Education & Awareness Project - Passaic; Little Falls Alliance for a Better Community; Mental Health Clinic of Passaic; Music at the Mission - West Milford; New Jersey Community Development Corporation/Paterson Arts Council; New Jersey Foundation for Dance and Theatre Arts - Wanaque; New Jersey Music & Arts, Inc. - Clifton; North Jersey Media Group Foundation - Woodland Park; Panther Academy - Paterson.

Also, Passaic County Motion Picture & Television Film Commission - Totowa; Passaic Public Library; Paterson Free Public Library; Paterson Youth Photography Project; Ringwood Friends of Music; Ringwood Manor Association of the Arts; Ringwood Public Library; St. Catherine’s of Bologna Performing Arts Guild - Ringwood; St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (After School Program) - Paterson; St. Timothy Musicales - Wayne; Sustainable West Milford; Theater League of Clifton, Inc; Township of West Milford; and the Wayne Public Library.

The six organizations receiving grants for local or New Jersey history projects are as follows: American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark - Haledon; Hawthorne Historical Society; Passaic County Historical Society - Paterson; Passaic Public Library; Ringwood Public Library; and the Wayne Public Library.

PCCHC grants are available to non-profit Passaic County organizations that have planned an art, cultural or history project to take place in Passaic County. Arts grants operate on a calendar year basis (January 1 – December 31), whereas history grants are based on a fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).

Arts and History grant applications are available in May of each year, and grant workshops take place in June at PCCC campuses in Paterson and Wanaque. Grant applications are due in late July. For more details, call Ashley Kesling, PCCHC Local Arts Development Coordinator at 973-684-6507 or email akesling@pccc.edu.
The Ivanhoe Artists Mosaic was formed to nurture the arts, and create a venue for events in Paterson. Housed in a historic wheelhouse on the raceway side of the Great Falls, the group is dedicated to providing arts and culture for the community. Located at 3 Spruce St., across from the Paterson Museum and next to Burger King, the Ivanhoe is hosting free monthly open mic nights from 8 to 11 pm. From the spoken word to live music, performance art and more, all are welcomed to participate or just watch. Upcoming dates are Jan. 26, Feb. 23 and March 30. For more dates and info, go to www.ivanhoeartists.org.

The Big Read is accepting applications from nonprofit organizations seeking funding to conduct month-long, community-wide reads between September 2011 and June 2012. The Big Read is a national program designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture. Organizations selected to participate in The Big Read will receive grants ranging from $2,500 to $20,000 and other in-kind gifts. Approximately 75 organizations from across the country will be selected. The deadline is Feb. 1. Questions? Go to www.neabigread.org.

The Passaic County Film Festival deadline is Jan. 28. This is the seventh year of the festival, which is a juried exhibition of student and independent filmmakers’ work. The Festival, which is on April 16 at the Fabian 8 Cinema in Center City Mall in historic downtown Paterson, will showcase film projects created by students and independent filmmakers who live, attend school, or work in Passaic County. After the viewing on April 16, the Passaic County Filmmakers Award – The Costello, named for the late and beloved Patersonian comic Lou Costello – will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners from the High School, College and Independent Filmmaker entries, said Deborah Hoffman, Director of Economic Development. The public is invited to this free event. There is free parking in the adjacent lot. All videos and films are rated “G.” For more info, contact the Passaic County Film Commission at 973-569-4720, via film@passaiccountynj.org, or go to www.passaiccountynj.org/film.

The Giggles Children’s Theater at St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital in Paterson is always looking for performers to volunteer to act, sing, dance, do magic, puppetry, etc. here at Giggles. Audience members are the pediatric patients at St. Joe’s, and the goal is to prove that “laughter is the best medicine” by lightening their hearts and taking their minds off pain and fear for at least a little while. “We host many different solo performers, as well as groups from high schools and colleges, performance schools and community theaters,” said Director Marie Caliendo. Shows are scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:30 pm, and occasionally on Tuesdays at 6 pm. To participate or volunteer, contact Caliendo at 973-754-4623 or mcaliendo@missions.org.