The staff at The Parents Place/Club de Padres of Catholic Family & Community Services believe that God has given every single one of his special children many talents. Now, their months of hard work, patience and dedication will pay off, when the Club presents *Hear Our Music, Hear Our Song*, on Sept. 26 at 7 pm at the Father English Community Center, 435 Main St., Paterson.

Raymond Vazques, a certified music instructor, has helped these young adults with physical and cognitive disabilities overcome their disadvantages to discover their God given talents. Vazques said he believes that a musical education helps each student learn critical skills that are applicable in various situations in life, including following instructions and working in groups.

Students have been training for this show since January. However, the concept for the program was conceived in the Summer of 2008. It was then that Parent’s Place/Club de Padres program coordinator Zoraida Martinez recognized a growing number of young clients who expressed an interest in musical performance.

Zoraida Martinez supported the idea and began seeking funds and support. In January, 2009, The Parent’s Place/Club de Padres received an arts re-grant through the Passaic County Cultural Heritage Council at PCCC. Additionally, The Parents Place Executive Director Joseph Duffy was able to solicit donations and instruments from parishes and private individuals, and the work began.

Now, nearly nine months later, these young adults are ready for the show of a lifetime. For more info, call 973-523-8404.
The 18th Annual Labor Day Parade will step off at 1:30 pm on Sunday, Sept. 6 at the American Labor Museum, 83 Norwood St., Haledon and weave its way through Haledon and Paterson to conclude at the Great Falls. Groups or individuals who would like to commemorate the spirit of Labor Day can sponsor a float or a listing in the commemorative journal by calling 973-595-7953 or emailing labormuseum@aol.com. Deadline to register is Aug. 21. There will be a pre-step off ceremony in Haledon at 1 pm at the Museum. The Museum will be open until 4 pm. The parade, co-sponsored by the American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark, the Borough of Haledon and the City of Paterson, is part of the annual 2009 Great Falls Festival, held in and around the historic district at the 77 foot high Great Falls in the historic district of Paterson.

The 2009 Great Falls Festival opens on Sept. 5 and continues through Labor Day Weekend, concluding on Sept. 7. Hours are from 3 to 11 pm and include amusement rides, games of chance, clowns and other street performers, a car and motorcycle exhibition and wrestling matches. The weekend concludes with a fireworks finale. For information on the City of Paterson’s Great Falls Festival, call Marcia Sotorrio at 973-278-4019 or write to: msotorrio@patcity.com

The Belly Dancing Labor Days Arts Show is on Sept. 5-7, from 1 to 10 pm at the Ivanhoe Artists Mosaic, 4 Spruce St., Paterson. Celebrating the music and poetry of the Great Falls, the event features artists Christine Conforti, Don Kommitt, Mike DePatria and Joe Muti. Musicians are Standley Alston and Ray Sam Mealie. Free admission with a poetry open mic. iam@ivanhoeartists.org.

Wayne resident Jerome Mykietym (above) has come full circle with the release of his freshman blues album, Sing It, White Boy! His observations on global warming (Hothouse Blues), homelessness (Man in the Box), the state of the economy (Inflation Blues), the war (Bullet Blues) and love’s rejection (Been Retired From Your Love) permeate the CD and stand tall next to covers of the classics. Mykietym has recorded professionally since 1963, when he had his first single release (vinyl) for the Dunes label while a sophomore in college. He then got a deal with Laurie Records where for the next six years he turned out 15 singles. With only some minor hits and having started a family, he took a steady job but still kept up with the writing, singing and “the dream.” Mykietym has played many different genres of music, but his love of the blues began in high school and this album takes him back to his roots. Sample his sound at www.myspace.com/thereclamators or purchase the CD from that site.

And Then There Were None, the latest production by the Theatre League of Clifton, will be staged on Oct. 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 at Clifton Public School Number 3 on Washington Ave. And Then There Were None is a detective fiction by Agatha Christie in which ten people, who previously committed murder but escaped due to technicalities, are tricked into coming to an island. Even though the guests are the only people on the island, they are all mysteriously murdered in the manner of the nursery rhyme, one by one. It is Christie’s best-selling novel with 100 million sales to date, making it the world’s best-selling mystery and the seventh most popular book of all time. Details at: www.theaterleagueofclifton.com.

Sandy Shevak and participants in the Quality of Life Summer Program will repaint the mural on the Mercer St. side of Passaic’s Public School Number 9. Tommy Silva, a local human rights activist and tattoo artist, will lead the artistic instructions with assistance by friends Rey Contreras and Tone Alvarez. The group will repaint the artwork and add Yuri Kochiyama and John Brown to the mural. Call Shevak at 862-668-9386.
The Passaic County Cultural & Heritage Council and The Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College have launched Access to the Arts for All, which includes audio descriptions of publications, DVDs of past workshops and brochures in Braille. Audio versions for publications on the following topics are available for free: The Hamilton Club Art Collection, The Hamilton Club Building, The Federici Studio Collection, The Poetry Center and the PCCHC. DVDs of past technical workshops are available for loan. Events on file include the Americans with Disabilities Act Workshop—Arts Access for ALL and the Publicity and Marketing Workshop. Call Ashley Kesling at 973-684-6507 or write her at: akesling@pccc.edu.

The Poetry Center at PCCC has announced the winners of the 2009 Allen Ginsberg Awards. The First Prize was shared by Eileen Moeller, of Philadelphia, PA, for her poem *Milk Time*, and José Antonio Rodríguez, of Binghamton, NY, for his poem, *Veins Like Maps*. Josh Humphrey, of Kearney and Sarah Jefferis, of Ithaca, NY, tied for the Second Prize for their poems *Catherine Rose at One Week Old* and *Learning to Spell*, respectively. Kevin Carey, of Beverly, MA, won the Third Prize for *Loved Hockey*. The Ginsberg Awards are annually given to established and emerging artists, with over 2,000 submissions accepted each year. First prize earns $1,000, second gets $200 and third earns $100. Winning poems, honorable mentions and Editors Choices are published in the following year’s Paterson Literary Review. Winners will read at an award ceremony on Nov. 7 in the historic Hamilton Club Building of Passaic County Community College, 32 Church St., Downtown Paterson at 1 pm. Admission is free. The Paterson Poetry Prize of $1,000 is given annually by the Poetry Center for a book of poetry (48 pages or more) published in the previous year, with a minimum press run of 500 copies. First prize winner is Li-Young Lee of Chicago, Illinois, for his collection of poems, *Behind My Eyes* (W. W. Norton & Co., New York, NY). For more details about either contest, contact Maria Mazziotti Gillan, Executive Director, The Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College, at 973-684-6555. Go to www.pccc.edu/poetry for a full list of awardees.

The Passaic County Cultural & Heritage Council at PCCC received a Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts for excellence in artistic quality, programming and public service in the arts. The citation was presented by members of the New Jersey State Legislature at the State House Annex on May 21. The PCCHC assists local organizations that undertake arts and cultural projects within the county and promotes awareness of the diversity of arts in Passaic County, which is home to over 140 ethnic groups.

The Poetry Center will be 30 in 2010 and to mark the milestone PCCC is sponsoring the contest, *The American Voice in Poetry: the Legacy of Whitman, Williams, and Ginsberg*. Submissions should utilize literary tradition that honors place, voice, and specificity but should not imitate poems by Walt Whitman, Allen Ginsberg and William Carlos Williams. Selected poems will be published in an anthology and the winners will be invited to read their poems at a book launch to be held on April 10, 2010 at the Poetry Center, which is located in the historic Hamilton Club Building, 32 Church St., Paterson. Submit only two poems per person, two manuscript pages long. Include two copies with contact info. Only unpublished poems are accepted. Deadline is Nov. 15. Send submissions to Maria Mazziotti Gillan, Executive Director, Poetry Center, PCCC, One College Blvd., Paterson, 07505-1179. For info, call 973-684-6555, or visit www.pccc.edu/poetry.
New Jersey Music and Arts hosts Fall Fest 2009, a celebration of the season with performances of music, drama and dance at the Passaic County Community College auditorium in Paterson on Oct. 23 at 7:30 pm. Among the performers will be the New Hope Players, the WAIT Dance Team, the Arts and Folklore School Dance Ensemble and more. Tickets are $10. For large print programs and FM listening systems call by Oct. 9. Call 973-272-3255. W, L, P, A

The Garden State Opera presents its Passaic County fall production at the YM-YWHA on Scoles Ave. on Nov. 7 at 7:30 pm. There will be four scenes from Paul Hindemith’s opera Mathis der Maler and Donizetti’s Italian opera buffa Il Campanello. The performance is in support of Clifton Public Schools’ Adopt a Music Student program that assists students in financial need to acquire an instrument for music lessons provided by the district. Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for seniors and students. Call 973-272-3255 or gardenstateopera.homestead.com.


The Passaic County Historical Society hosts a Beefsteak dinner to be held on Oct. 6 at 6:30 pm at the Brownstone, 351 West Broadway, Paterson. Entertainment will be provided by Uncle Floyd Vivino, radio and television star. Tickets are $50 and must be pre-purchased by calling 973-247-0085, ext. 201.

The Passaic County Historical Society hosts a Beefsteak dinner to be held on Oct. 6 at 6:30 pm at the Brownstone, 351 West Broadway, Paterson. Entertainment will be provided by Uncle Floyd Vivino, radio and television star. Tickets are $50 and must be pre-purchased by calling 973-247-0085, ext. 201.

Vision of a Better World Conference will be held on Oct. 10 at Seton Hall University. Its purpose is to inspire humanitarian consciousness and to motivate individuals to contribute. In addition to the conference, which includes speakers and 36 workshops, there will be an essay contest for juniors and seniors in high school, with the subject being, ‘What is Your Vision of a Better World?’ Deadline for submissions is midnight on Sept. 18. For full guidelines, visit www.suntfprograms.iwarp.com.

The Silk City Arts Festival seeks two male and up to three female dancers for a cabaret show on Oct. 30 and 31, and other performances. Modern and jazz dancers with two years experience are preferred. Send a headshot and resume to Erin Pride at info@silkcitartsfestival.com. For info, visit www.edpdanceproject.com.

Poets & Writers, the nation’s largest nonprofit organization serving creative writers, announced that the 2010 Maureen Egen Writers Exchange will be held in New Jersey. The contest is open to poets and fiction writers who are residents of the Garden State and have never published a book, or have published only one full-length book of fiction or poetry. The winners will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to New York City in October 2010 to meet with top literary professionals, including editors, agents, publishers, and prominent writers, and to give a public reading. This year’s judges are Sophie Cabot Black (poetry) and Nahid Rachlin (fiction). To date, 78 writers from 31 states have participated in P&W’s Writers Exchange. Past winners have had their books published, received awards and fellowships and laid the groundwork for their professional lives as writers. More details at www.pw.org/files/WEXApplication09.pdf