Beyond the footlights are the IV drips and wheelchairs. But when the curtain rises twice a week at the Giggles Children’s Theater, the spirits of sick children are lifted and the show goes on at St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital in Paterson.

Giggles Theater was originally created only to entertain the youngest patients at St. Joe’s. Today, Marie Caliendo, Executive Director of Giggles since 2012, opens the performances to all Passaic County children and other residents. Students at local day care centers, after school programs and home school organizations can also attend these free shows.

Giggles is on the 2nd floor of St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital, 703 Main St., but it is a project of Medical Missions for Children, a nonprofit organization formed in 1999 by Frank and Peg Brady. Their mission is to help improve the medical outcomes of children in under-served communities in the US and in over 100 countries around the world.

From a child’s perspective, Giggles provides a short escape from the fear and monotony that often coincides with a hospital stay. Giggles presentations are delivered via closed circuit television to the bedside of children too ill to come to the theater, and are broadcast via satellite and internet to other children’s hospitals. For info or to get on the Giggles’ mailing list, call 973-754-4960, email mcaliendo@mmissions.org or learn more at www.mmissions.org

---

Other Upcoming PC Arts Events

Nov. 1: Lena DiGangi Gallery Exhibit opens, Totowa
Nov. 2: You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown, Clifton
Nov. 3: Jerry’s Girls, Clifton
Nov. 3: Paterson Literary Review Reading, Paterson
Nov. 3: Young Artists Showcase, Ringwood
Nov. 4: Count Basie Orchestra, WPU, Wayne
Nov. 7: Architects as Artists Exhibit, Clifton
Nov. 11: Suzy Bogguss in Concert, Ringwood
Nov. 13: Stories from the Past Exhibit, Paterson
Nov. 14: Lunchbox Learning Program, Wayne
Nov. 15: Sol Stein Awards, North Haledon
Nov. 18: Silk City Jazz Fest, Paterson
Stories from the Past is an exhibit of mixed-media paintings by Mohamed Khalil on view from Nov. 13 to Jan. 10 in the Broadway & LRC Galleries at Passaic County Community College, Broadway at Memorial Dr. in the downtown historic district of Paterson. A reception for the Egyptian-born artist who now resides in New Jersey will be held in the Broadway Gallery on Nov. 15, 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Admission to the exhibit and reception is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday, 9 am to 9 pm and Saturday to 5 pm. For details, call 973-684-5448, write jhaw@pccc.edu or go to www.pccc.edu/art/gallery.

Architects As Artists is an exhibit and sale by various members of AIA Newark and Suburban Architects, a Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. With 50 pieces of art by 15 architects, the exhibit opens on Nov. 7 and is displayed through Dec. 15. There will be a reception open to the public on Nov. 10 from 1 to 4 pm. Admission is $3 for non-members. The gallery, located on the grounds of the Clifton Municipal Complex, 900 Clifton Ave., near the Well Water, is open Wednesday through Saturday from 1 to 4 pm. Tours are available by appointment. For more details, call 973-472-5499, or visit www.cliftonnj.org or search Facebook.

The 2012 Sol Stein Awards will be presented to D. Michael Langford, National President of the Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO, and John Nichols, award-winning author and writer for The Nation. Hosted by the American Labor Museum/Botto House, the 30th Annual Awards Gala is on Nov. 15 at The Tides Estate of North Haledon at 6:30 pm. In addition, a Special Recognition Award will be presented to Nick Messina, a photographer and member of the NJ Press Photographers’ Association. An Inspiration Award will be presented to Isabellina (Lena) Iaconio, an Italian immigrant, former Paterson resident, and extraordinary seamstress, who is nearing the age of 102 years. The American Labor Museum is within the Botto House in Haledon, which was the site of rallies during the Paterson Silk Strike of 1913. It was declared a US Historic Landmark in 1982 in recognition of its role in the effort to end child labor and secure improved working conditions. Hours are Wed. to Sat. 1-4 pm or by appointment. Call 973-595-7953 or go to www.labormuseum.net.

The Lena DiGangi Gallery, 320 Union Blvd., Totowa, will showcase the work of Paula Sole Magone, artist and author, through Nov. 28. Magone works in oil, reverse painting on glass and large tapestries. Art on exhibit will also be available for purchase, with proceeds going to the Fact Foundation and PSM Anti-Bullying Scholarship Fund. The gallery also offers adults and children’s art classes, and features many fine works of art, originals, lithographs and prints, and is open daily from 10 am to 6 pm, or by appointment. Call 973-942-7400.
Ringwood Friends of Music presents a Young Artists Showcase on Nov. 3, at 8 pm. Performers include Nicolas Giacalone, piano; Emily Piziak, guitar; Charlie McLellan, violin; and Michael Kern, tenor. Fresh from performing at the Ringwood Friends of Music 2012 Youth Performance Festival, these four gifted young performers will present solo and ensemble masterpieces by Dowland, Bach, Scarlatti, Haydn, Beethoven, Chopin, Paganini, Fauré, Bernstein, Duarte and Appalachian folk songs. Free admission, the concert is at Community Presbyterian Church, 145 Carletondale Rd., Ringwood. Call 973-835-5862 for info. 

Saxophonist Oliver Lake (inset) and his Organ Quartet will perform at the Paterson Free Public Library on Nov. 18, 2 pm, the second concert in the library’s 3rd Annual Silk City Jazz Festival. On Dec. 8, Saxophonist Andrew Lamb and his trio will perform in the third and final concert in the series. Shows are free as the goal of the festival is to present a range of interpretations and to give Passaic County residents a chance to “hear first class musicians without having to jump the economic and logistic hurdles of jazz clubs.” The concerts are in the Assembly Room of the Danforth Library at 250 Broadway. For details, call 973-321-1223 or email luck@patersonpl.org.

Manhattan Jazz is the next feature in the Wayne Public Library’s Lunchbox Learning Program. The Nov. 14 event will showcase Philip Amarante’s trio of vocals, bass and piano performing songs of George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Irving Berlin. They’ll also draw from the song books of the outstanding Swing Bands of Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Count Basie and Jimmy Dorsey. The free program is from 12:30 to 1:30 pm; doors open at noon for refreshments. The library is at 461 Valley Rd. Call 973-694-4272 ext 5408. W

William Paterson University’s WP Presents! Echoes of Sinatra on Nov. 3 at 8 pm with a musical and narrative journey through the Chairman of the Board’s career. WPU’s renowned Jazz Room Series, celebrating its 35th anniversary, presents the Count Basie Orchestra on Nov. 4 at 4 pm. Relive the timeless songs and harmonies of the famous duo as Aztec Two-Step performs ‘The Simon and Garfunkel Songbook’ on Nov. 16 at 8 pm. These performances and others are at the Shea Center, at 300 Pompton Rd., Wayne. For fees and info: 973-720-2371 or go to www.WP-Presents.org.

Folk singer Suzy Bogguss and her trio take the stage at the New Legacy Concert Series at the Ringwood Library on Nov. 11 at 5 pm. Tickets $30 at the library or online at www.ringwoodlibrary.org/newlegacy. The Ringwood Public Library is at 30 Cannici Dr. Call 973-962-6256. W

The Theater League of Clifton presents You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown, based on the comic strip Peanuts by Charles M. Schulz, opens the current season. Performances are Nov. 2, 3 and 4 at the Aprea Theater on 199 Scoles Ave. Visit www.theaterleagueofclifton.com for tickets. W

Blue State Productions, in residence at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 380 Clifton Ave., Clifton, presents Jerry’s Girls on Nov. 3, 4, 8, 9 and 10. The musical celebrates the works of Jerry Herman with songs from Mame and La Cage Aux Folles. Visit www.BlueStateProductions.com.

The Distinguished Poets Series of the Poetry Center at PCCC is celebrating the publication of the Paterson Literary Review (PLR) Issue 40, with a reception on Nov. 3 at 1 pm. This free event will feature readings by the contributors of this issue, and will take place at the Hamilton Club Building, 32 Church St., Paterson. PLR Copies are $13 and will be available at the reading; shipping, if needed, is an additional $5. Call the Poetry Center at 973-684-6555 or visit www.pccc.edu/poetry. W
Grants Awarded to 48 Groups by PCCHC

Forty-eight organizations have received re-grants from the Passaic County Cultural & Heritage Council (PCCHC) at Passaic County Community College for arts and history programs scheduled to take place in Passaic County during 2013.

Forty-two Passaic County organizations received a total of $62,207 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 $7,517 in re-grant funds for local or New Jersey history projects.

The following Passaic County organizations were awarded 2013 arts grants ranging from $600 to $2,050 for programs, including concerts, literary and photography workshops, dance and theatrical performances, and art exhibits: Action Theatre Conservatory, Inc., Clifton; American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark, Haledon; Chopin Singing Society, Passaic; City of Passaic; Clifton Recreation Department; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Paterson; Eat Local, Ringwood; Friends of Passaic County Parks, Paterson; Friends of the Long Pond Iron Works, Hewitt; Friends of the Louis Bay 2nd Library, Hawthorne; Greater Paterson OIC; Harmony Singers, Wayne; Heart of Hannah Women’s Center, Paterson; Holy Rosary Young Men’s Club, Passaic; Inner City Ensemble, Paterson; Inner Faith Performing Arts, Inc., Paterson; Iron Mountain Stage Company, Ringwood and the Juvenile Education & Awareness Project, Passaic.

Also: Little Falls Alliance for a Better Community; Medical Missions/The Giggles Children’s Theater, Paterson; Mental Health Clinic of Passaic; Music at the Mission, West Milford; NJBG/Skylands Association, Ringwood; NJ Foundation for Dance and Theatre Arts, Wanaque; NJ Music & Arts, Inc., Clifton; NJ State Opera, Clifton; North Jersey Media Group Foundation, Woodland Park; Passaic Board of Education; Passaic County Film Commission, Totowa; Passaic Public Library; Paterson Arts Council; 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; Wayne Public Library.

Six organizations receiving grants for local or New Jersey history projects are: American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark, Haledon; Hawthorne Historical Society; Inner City Ensemble, Paterson; Paterson Museum; Ringwood Public Library and Wayne Public Library.

Six organizations receiving grants for local or New Jersey history projects are: American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark, Haledon; Hawthorne Historical Society; Inner City Ensemble, Paterson; Paterson Museum; Ringwood Public Library and Wayne Public Library.

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

Arts and History grant applications are available in May of each year, and one-on-one meetings will take place May through early July at the Hamilton Club Building in Paterson to assist organizations with the application process. Applications are due in mid-July.

For more details, call Susan Balik, Associate Director, Cultural Affairs at 973-684-5444 or email sbalik@pccc.edu.