For over 60 years, Gaetano Federici beautified his adopted city of Paterson, completing about 40 commissioned public monuments within a two-mile radius of Paterson’s City Hall. Politicians, philanthropists and religious figures were among the subjects for this talented artist now known posthumously (as of 1964) as the “sculptor laureate of Paterson.”

Some of Federici’s artwork is owned by the City and managed by the Paterson Historic Preservation Commission. Though some of his sculptures, plaques and lunette carvings are on City property, others are on the grounds of private properties and churches, such as St. Michael Overpowering Lucifer atop St. Michael’s Church door. Also, many of the pieces in the Federici Studio Collection in the Hamilton Club at PCCC showcase the elaborate process the artist undertook to craft these bronze statues.

Another collection of Federici’s works are under the care of the Passaic County Historical Society, which operates the Lambert Castle Museum. Recently, many of these pieces have been sponsored for restoration.

On June 4, from 1 to 5 pm, the City of Paterson Historic Preservation Commission, in partnership with the Passaic County Historical Society and PCCC, will present The Legacy of Gaetano Federici Symposium. Held at Lambert Castle, 3 Valley Rd., Paterson, there will be presentations about the life and art of Federici, as well as a virtual tour of his commissioned public monuments.

Seating is limited; call Kelly Ruffel at 973-321-1220 ext. 2263 to reserve your spot. There is a $10 fee; payment must be made in advance. Make checks to City of Paterson Trust Fund, and mail to: City of Paterson Historic Preservation Commission, 125 Ellison St., 4th Floor, Paterson, NJ 07505.
Workers: Books & Photographs is a display at the American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark that showcases a personal collection acquired by Eugene Glickman, Professor Emeritus of Music at Nassau Community College and Director of the Harmonic Insurgence Choir. The exhibit features books and photographs from many eras that illustrate the lives of workers throughout the U.S. Located at 83 Norwood St., Haledon, the Botto House was the meeting place for over 20,000 silk mill workers during the 1913 Paterson Silk Strike. The museum is open Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. Tours are offered Wednesday through Saturday from 1 to 4 pm or by appointment. For more info, go to labormuseum.net, email labormuseum@aol.com or call 973-595-7953.

The Ringwood Manor Association of the Arts presents its 37th Young Artists Expo through June 5. The exhibit features artwork and photography from students in grades 4 -12 from schools throughout the region. The Barn Gallery is in Ringwood State Park, Sloatsburg Rd., Ringwood. Call 973-839-0921.

Wayne Public Library’s Lunchbox Learning Program on June 8 features the husband and wife team of Svitlana Syrtsova and Sergey Krivonos playing piano duets. On June 22, photographer Walter Choroszewski will present Jazz, Pop & Rock, The New Jersey Connection. On June 29, writer and poet, Dr. William Baer, will present a program entitled Classic American Films: Conversations with the Screenwriters. Open at noon for coffee, patrons may bring their own lunch. Programs begin at 12:30 pm and last one hour. Sponsored by the Friends of the Wayne Public Library at 461 Valley Rd. Call 973-694-4272 x5408 or write to rosenblattd@waynepubliclibrary.org.

The Giggles Children’s Theater at St. Joseph’s Children's Hospital offers weekly live performances to provide sick and injured children opportunities for healing through the arts. Shows are televised throughout the medical center to reach all patients regardless of their mobility. The public may also attend these free live events. On June 2, the Inner City Ensemble will perform at 6 pm; on June 16 at 10:30 am, The Bell Tones singing group will perform; and on June 23 the Manheim Auto Group will do a fun story time about cars at 3 pm. Giggles is on the second floor Seton Building, St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center, 703 Main St., Paterson. For further write to mcaliendo@mmissions.org or visit mmissions.org.

The Passaic County Senior Citizen Art Exhibition is open to those age 60 and over. Entries will be displayed through June 24 at the Passaic County Senior Services office, 930 Riverview Dr., Suite 200, Totowa. An awards ceremony is on June 24 at 2 pm. Call 973-569-4060.

The 2016 Lambert Castle Concert Series goes outdoors on June 12 as the Clifton Community Band, under the baton of Maestro Robert Morgan, presents Music at the Castle: A Welcome to Summer. On June 26 classical pianist, Sophia Agranovich, and her Sublime Passion, Haunting Beauty program will warm the main room of the historic structure. The New Jersey Music Society members perform a cornucopia of selections on July 10 in Music through the Ages: Greatest Hits from Opera to the Jazz Age. On Aug. 7, lyric soprano Annamaria Stefanelli returns to Lambert Castle with tenor Rory Angelicola to present operatic favorites, ranging from Italian arias and duets to favorite American classics. The cost for each concert, which begins at 4 pm, is $15. The castle is at 3 Valley Rd. Paterson. Details at lambertcastle.org.
‘Dark Light’ took top honors in the 12th Annual Passaic County Film Festival on April 23. Produced by Gina Guerrieri, a filmmaking teacher at William Paterson University, whose father took his own life when she was younger. The film “viscerally dramatizes and communicates an understanding of what depression really is,” says Ms. Guerrieri, who received the Costello Award, named for Paterson’s favorite son, the late comedian Lou Costello. “I attempted to use the language of cinema to try and convey what it feels like to be in a depressive episode, set with music, special effects, visuals and narration,” she explained.

North Jersey Federal Credit Union also provided two awards—PCTI student Matt Romano received $1,000 for Mac vs. The Mud, a part-animation and part-film short about a pig who fears mud. West Milford independent filmmakers Mike Dygos and Larry Curran shared $500 for Seniors in Sinatra’s Backyard, a documentary about residents of Cedar Crest retirement community in Pompton Plains celebrating Frank Sinatra’s 100th birthday. Taking third place in the University and Independent Short Film Category was Sad Eyes by Mark X. Potenza of William Paterson University.

The winners in various categories are pictured above with Passaic County Freeholder Pat Lepore at front.

In the High School Short Film category, some 30 entries were culled and the winners include: To This Day by Crystal Tepale, Kimberly Lopez, Natrell Nichols, Sergio Pujols, Jahnae Moultrie of PCTI and Chasing Sophie by Crystal Tepale Jahnae Moultrie, Sophia Ciaravino, Sergio Pujols also of PCTI.

In the High School Documentary Short Film category the following were honored: Band of Brothers and Sisters by Kyra Zwahlen, Lakeland Regional High School; The Forge: A Jewel in The Highlands by Matt Romano, PCTI; The Risk of Life by Frank Lagana, West Milford High School.

The High School music video category was competitive. Winners include: Doo Wop by Jahnae Moultrie, Harwin Vasquez, Anaya E. Gass, PCTI; Plant Life by Kyra Zwahlen, Lakeland Regional High School; Deck the Halls by Max Straubinger, Lakeland Regional High School.

Students dealt with various topics in the High School Public Service Announcement Category. Winners are as follows: Unrealistic Standards by Paola Apolinario, Alayna Andres, PCTI; Heroin by Frank Langana, James Tashjian, West Milford High School; What We Need by Erika Robertson, Almia Pudup, Christian Vizcarra, Ariela Szwarc, Paola Apolinario, Kimberly Huerta, Briana Clay, PCTI; HIV by Rosanna Sanchez, Kristina Nieves, PCTI.

The Festival is funded, in part, by the PCCHC, the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Bascom Corporation, ROSS International, and the PCCC Foundation. For info on the 13th PC Film Festival, which is April 22, 2017, write to film@passaiccountynj.org, call 973-569-4720 or go to passaiccountynj.org.
Russell Thompkins Jr. and The New Stylistics (above left) will bring their classic Philly Soul Sound to Passaic County Technical Institute, 45 Reinhardt Rd., Wayne, to headline the Super Star Search Finals on June 24 at 6 pm. Produced by Ron (Ronfo) Foster and Kindred Spirits Orchestra, tickets are $25 when ordered through Music/Art of NJ at 877-764-2282 or purchased in advance at Fabian 8 Cinema in Paterson at 973-764-1616.

The Inner City Ensemble (ICE, pictured above) will conduct an open-house on June 9 at 6 pm in the PCCC Theater (corner of Memorial Dr. and Ellison St). The program, led by Artistic Director Nicholas Rodriguez, will feature students from Paterson Public Schools. The presentation will also launch the Alumni Choreography Laboratory with a dance preview. Contact Nicholas Rodriguez at 973-684-6507 or nrodriguez@pccc.edu.

The PCCHC is offering 2017 arts and history re-grants. The deadline for arts applications is July 7, 2016 and for history, July 14, 2016. Arts re-grants range from $700 to $5,000, and for history, from $500 to $3,500. The applicant must be based in Passaic County; be a tax-exempt non-profit organization or a government entity; have been in existence at least two years; demonstrate that the project has clear artistic or historic merit; match every $1 of the arts re-grant with $1 of its own, and match every $1 of the history re-grant with $0.50 cents of its own; create programming that culminates in a public presentation; and use the re-grant for an arts or history project to take place in Passaic County from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2017. Go to pccc.edu/cultural-affairs/pcchc for details. Contact Nicholas Rodriguez at nrodriguez@pccc.edu or call him at 973-684-6507 to schedule a meeting to help with the grant writing process.