

- Religious News -

Oratorio Singers to Perform J.S. Bach's St. John Passion

The Oratorio Singers will perform J.S. Bach's St. John Passion on Sunday, March 29, under the direction of Trent Johnson. This concert, which will be held at 3 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield, marks the 18th year in which the group has performed a major choral work with professional orchestra and soloists.

Past works include Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem, Mendelssohn's Elijah, Belshazzar's Feast by William Walton, and the Christmas Oratorio and Mass in B Minor by Bach.

Opening Reception Set For Festival Art Show

The opening reception for the Festival Art Show will be held on Sunday, March 22, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Westfield, 125 Elmer Street.

Original artwork by area artists in oil, acrylic, watercolor, drawing media, pastel, mixed media, sculpture, photography and textile arts will be on view.

Awards for the juried and judged show will be presented at 3 p.m., following a reading of Emily Dickinson poetry by Dr. Maryanne Garbowski, the Professor of English at County College of Morris in Randolph, at 2:30 p.m.

The art show continues through Wednesday, April 1. Exhibition hours are Sundays, March 22 and 29, from 9:30 to 10 a.m., 11 a.m. to noon, and 2 to 4 p.m.; on Tuesdays, March 24 and 31, from 7 to 9 p.m., and on Wednesdays, March 25 and April 1, the art show will be open before and after the Mid-Day Musicales from 11 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 2 p.m.

The Mid-Day Musicales on Wednesday, March 25, will feature Juana Zayas on the piano. On April 1, the Baroque Chamber Trio will appear.

All events are free and open to the public. The church is handicapped accessible.

Oratorio Singers attract members from all of northern New Jersey. The 75 singers that make up the group bring a wide range of diversity.

The St. John Passion is recognized as one of Bach's greatest works, said Mr. Johnson. It is a dramatic musical setting of the events leading to the death of Jesus Christ; his betrayal, arrest, trial, and crucifixion, as related in the New Testament.

Within this oratorio, there are roles for all of the major figures involved in the crucifixion, namely, Jesus, Peter, Pontius Pilate, and the Evangelist, who narrates the story. The chorus takes on the roles of the angry and mocking crowd and the gambling soldiers and also comments on the moods and feelings engendered by the drama.

These comments take the form of some of the moving chorales written by Bach. Many will be familiar to the listener because of the independent performance they have enjoyed, explained Mr. Johnson.

It is said that a performance of the St. John Passion that does not leave the listener in tears has failed, he added.

This season is Mr. Johnson's fourth directing the Oratorio Singers and is one of many in his career in conducting, composition and organ performance. Formerly the Associate Director of Music of the 2,300-member Church of St. Columba in Washington, D.C. and the Associate Organist at Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, he has conducted many large choral works from the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic Periods.

These include the Requiems of Faure and Durufle, Britten's St. Nicholas, Mendelssohn's Elijah, the Poulenc Gloria, and Masses of Haydn, Mozart, and Schubert. A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory and The Juilliard School of Music, Mr. Johnson is an active recitalist, performing organ literature in major churches throughout the Northeast.



IS THIS YOU?...This year, the Presbyterian Nursery School is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and is looking for former alumni to share in its history on Sunday, April 26, from 3 to 5 p.m. Pictured above are the two women who founded the school in 1948, Helen Coombe, left, and Ruth Woodruff Boetke. Also pictured are former students Bonnie Irwin and Ricky Smith. For more information on the anniversary celebration, please call the school at (908) 233-0766.

UCC Honor Society Chapter Nominated for Top Rating

For the third consecutive year, Union County College's Iota Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), an international honor society for two-year colleges, has reached the top level of achievement as a Five-Star Chapter, among 1,300 chapters worldwide.

It is one of 70 chapters to be nominated for this designation. Final selection will be announced at the PTK's international convention on Thursday, April 2, in Nashville, Tennessee.

At the PTK regional convention on January 20 and 21 in South Jersey, the chapter was awarded the Leadership Hallmark

Award for its members' leadership ability.

This ability was demonstrated through its fund-raising efforts, leadership course instruction presented by chapter faculty adviser, Professor A.H. Roholt-Moen of Westfield, and service to the community, according to a college spokeswoman.

The chapter's community service activities include blood drives, book sales, and fund-raising for children with AIDS.

The chapter also earned the region's Fellowship Award for its "exceptional outreach" to other PTK chapters to attend its many activities, the spokeswoman revealed.

Legal Secretaries, Others To Attend May Convention

The New Jersey Association of Legal Secretaries (NJALS) will hold its 1998 Annual Meeting/Convention from Friday through Sunday, May 1 through May 3, at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset. The theme for this event is "Touched By An Angel."

All legal secretaries, receptionists, file clerks, bookkeepers, mail clerks, and others working in the legal field, including law offices, state, county and municipal government agencies and departments, and legal departments within corporations, are invited to attend.

The weekend begins on Friday evening with informal meetings and an informal hospitality session. The Annual Meeting takes place on Saturday morning, with a legal education luncheon and discussion groups conducted in the afternoon.

On Saturday evening, the Annual Installation of Officers Banquet Dinner will be held. A buffet breakfast and organizational meeting will take place on Sunday morning. Participants may attend either the entire weekend or register for activities of their choice.

The registration deadline is Friday, April 10. Those who register after this date must pay a \$10 late registration fee. Individuals do not have to be members of NJALS in order to participate.

For further information, please call the local NJALS Marketing Committee member, Susie Mack, at (908) 789-8550, Extension No. 26.

Piano Concert to Celebrate 25th Year of Polish Group

As part of this year's ongoing activities celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Polish Cultural Foundation (PCF), its Vice President for Cultural Affairs, Josephine Cukier of Mountainside and Operations Manager Izabela Gregrowska of Lawrenceville, have arranged for a second concert this year, in an ongoing series, a piano concert by Margaret Wacyk.

As a soloist, Ms. Wacyk has performed in the United States, Canada and Europe. She is also actively involved in performing chamber music.

Ms. Wacyk was selected to be presented in Strasbourg, France, at an international concert showcasing promising young musicians in 1996 and was invited to participate in the Aspen Summer Music Festival last year.

Currently, Ms. Wacyk continues to pursue an active career as a soloist. Upcoming engagements this season include her New York recital debut in Weill Recital hall at Carnegie Hall this month as well as an orchestral concert with the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra in Florida.

The program featuring Ms. Wacyk

will be held on Sunday, March 22, at 4 p.m. in the auditorium of PCF, 177 Broadway in Clark.

A donation of \$12 for adults and \$5 children includes refreshments and meeting with the artist after her concert.

For more information, please call the PCF office at (732) 382-7197 or Josephine Cukier at (908) 654-7634.

Mature Drivers Offered Chance to Boost Skills

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Catholic Community Services is sponsoring American Association of Retired Persons-Mature Driving Program titled "55 Alive" on Monday and Tuesday, April 13 and 14, at 505 South Avenue in Cranford, from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

This program offers the mature driver 50 years of age and over an opportunity to sharpen his or her driving skills, and may also qualify them for reduction of points against their driver's license. It may also entitle them to a reduction in the cost of their car insurance by 5 percent.

The fee for the full program is \$8, which covers the cost of materials. For more information or to register, please call (908) 497-3941.

BOARD OF EDUCATION SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, NEW JERSEY

In accordance with the New Jersey Statutes relating hereto, Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of the School District of the Township of Scotch Plains and the Borough of Fanwood has prepared a tentative budget for the school year beginning July 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 1999, which is on file and open to inspection at the Secretary's office in the Administration Offices, Cedar Street and Evergreen Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

It should be observed that expenditures are shown under a GAAP format (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) approved by the New Jersey Department of Education. This format shows the School District's tentative budget by general program rather than in the line item structure, thus providing the reader with a better understanding of how the District plans to utilize community resources.

Public Hearing on said budget will be held at the Administration Offices, Cedar Street and Evergreen Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey, at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 1998.

The tentative budget will be on file and open for examination from the date of this Notice until March 24, 1998 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., prevailing time, on regular school days, in the Office of the Secretary, Administration Offices, Cedar Street and Evergreen Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

The school district has proposed programs and services in addition to the core curriculum content standards adopted by the State Board of Education. Information on this budget and the programs and services it provides is available from your local school district. (NOTE: Because of the compressed election and budget schedule in effect this year, this budget is being advertised prior to review and approval by the Commissioner of Education and is subject to revision.)

Matthew A. Clarke Board Secretary Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education Scotch Plains, New Jersey

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET STATEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 1998-1999

UNION — SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD REGION

Table with columns: ENROLLMENT CATEGORY, OCTOBER 15, 1996 ACTUAL, OCTOBER 15, 1997 ACTUAL, OCTOBER 15, 1998 ESTIMATED. Rows include Pupils on Roll Regular Full-Time, Pupils on Roll Regular Shared-Time, etc.

Table with columns: BUDGET CATEGORY, ACCOUNT, 1996-97 ACTUAL, 1997-98 REVISED, 1998-99 ANTICIPATED. Rows include GENERAL FUND, Revenues from Local Sources, Revenues from State Sources, etc.

Table with columns: BUDGET CATEGORY, ACCOUNT, 1996-97 EXPENDITURES, 1997-98 REVISED APPROPRIATIONS, 1998-99 APPROPRIATIONS. Rows include GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE, Regular Programs - Instruction, Special Education - Instruction, etc.

Table with columns: PUBLIC NOTICE, PUBLIC NOTICE, PUBLIC NOTICE. Rows include Other Support Services - Students - Special, Improvement of Instructional Services, Educational Media Services - School Library, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, General Fund (Unreserved), General Fund (Reserved) Capital Reserve Account, General Fund (Reserved) Adult Ed. Programs, General Fund (Reserved) Legal Reserves, Debt Service, Totals. Rows include 01595 Est. Appropriation Balances, 01600 Appropriation Balances, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99. Rows include 01595 Est. Appropriation Balances, 01600 Appropriation Balances, 01605 Est. Appropriation Balances, etc.

*Please note that if the law had been in effect in 1996-97, it is probable that the subsequent year balances would have been lower.

Table with columns: Per Pupil Cost Calculations, 1995-96 ACTUAL, 1996-97 ACTUAL, 1997-98 ORIGINAL BUDGET, 1997-98 REVISED BUDGET, 1998-99 PROPOSED BUDGET. Rows include Total Comparative Per Pupil Cost, Total Classroom Instruction, Classroom-Salaries and Benefits, etc.

The information presented in columns 1 through 3 as well as the related descriptions of the per pupil cost calculations are contained in the 1998 Comparative Spending Guide. This publication is available in the board office and public libraries. The same calculations were performed using the 1997-98 revised appropriations and 1998-99 budgeted appropriations presented in this advertised budget. Total Comparative Per Pupil Cost is defined as current expense exclusive of tuition expenditures, transportation, residential costs, and judgments against the school district. In 1997-98 and 1998-99, it also includes the new restricted entitlement aids. With the exception of Total Equipment Cost, each of the other per pupil cost calculations presented is a component of the total comparative per pupil cost, although all components are not shown. The employee benefits percentage does not include pension and social security paid by the State on behalf of the district. Employee benefits is a component of each of the per pupil cost calculations.