

# Tribute performance of Billy Joel's music comes to Doylestown club

Todd O's River of Dreams, a tribute performance of Billy Joel music, takes place at PuckLive!, 1 Printer's Alley, Doylestown, at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11. Todd brings years of piano bar

and dueling piano experience to the evening of Billy Joel music. Todd's band: Scott Fisher (bass); Lou Fassano (guitar); Damian Proulx (sax); Neal Carson (Synth); and John Kehe

(drums), brings life to classics like, "Scenes From an Italian Restaurant," "Angry Young Man" and "Ballad of Billy The Kid," and creates the feelings that only come from live rockin'

music. Todd O's River Of Dreams is comprised of musicians who have played thousands of gigs. Todd has sung with Pink, Chicago, and The Philadelphia Orchestra, as

well as Broadway Theater Stars. "River Of Dreams" puts some unique twists on Billy Joel classics and takes requests from the audience. For information, call 215-348-9000.

## Creative musical recording workshops offered

Creative Musical Recording workshop sessions, led by music industry pro and Apple Records recording artist Lon Van Eaton, begin Jan. 12 in New Hope. Every workshop is tailored to

individual needs and desires in the four, three-hour weekly sessions. Participants take home a CD of a complete recording made with a group, learning specific techniques, like some the Beatles used.

Bring a song, an instrument, an idea or an open mind. Van Eaton's unique MUSIX system philosophy leads workshop members through listening/analytical skills, uses examples of popular recordings,

and progresses through the standard stages of: composition, recording, mixing, and mastering. Workshops are small and personal, for all experience levels, including children, at Imagine A

Better World Productions, a 1749 converted school house on Holicong Road near Peddler's Village. For details and reservations, visit Imagine a Better World online.

# On the Spiritual Side

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## Caroline Oakes: Mind and Spirit Another kind of New Year's resolution

The thought of making a New Year's resolution rang hollow for me this year.

(Though I certainly do appreciate the decision of one friend who, in an attempt to come up with an actually achievable New Year's resolution this year, resolved meaningfully to eat more chocolate.)

I began thinking about how New Year's resolutions differ from the intentions and hopes we have for ourselves in the context of our spiritual or religious traditions.

Don't these traditions encourage

us to make resolution-like statements of intention as we embark on the uncharted territories of our spiritual lives this new year, or into yet another liturgical year?

I remember as parents of our first child who was about to be baptized, my husband and I had to meet with the Episcopal priest in order to learn more about the baptismal ceremony.

Initially, it all seemed rather perfunctory to me — sitting with the priest and reading together from The Book of Common Prayer the covenant we would renew during

the ceremony, stating how we are called to live our lives.

But then we suddenly came upon a question and an answer that jumped off the page and stayed with me ever since:

Question: "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?"

Answer: "I will, with God's help."

There is so much packed into that question — "Will you respect the dignity of every person?"

If I lived into those words alone

every day of this year, that would be more than a resolution — that would be a prayer. I would be living a prayer.

And the answer "I will, with God's help," (whatever we understand God to be): Unlike New Year's resolutions, this answer states outright that we aren't going it alone, that what we're attempting to do, in fact, cannot be done alone, cannot be done without letting go of our ego.

Of course, this question and this answer are basic and integral to all spiritual traditions.

Hmmm ... so what if, instead of making a New Year's resolution, we instead live a New Year's prayer — a prayer we return to every day of the year, in the company of the Divine?

And of course, we can also always turn to that other achievable resolution: To eat more chocolate.

Caroline Oakes, a Bucks County resident, has a master's degree in Ascetical Theology. Follow her on Twitter @carolineoakes.

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## Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart publish their story

The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart have been a quiet presence in Bucks County for 50 years.

Ministries on their Yardley campus home include Grey Nun Academy — a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence — and, for many years, D'Youville Manor, an assisted living facility for men and women of all faiths.

Yet, the story of their name and their journey from 18th century Canada to 21st century America is unknown to most Bucks residents.

That gap of knowledge has been corrected with the publishing of "Paths of Compassion, a History of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart." The book, written by Grey Nun Sister Patricia Geary, recounts the story of Marguerite d'Youville, the congregation's foundress, as well as the story of the women religious who have followed in her footsteps for four centuries.

A Grey Nun for more than 50

years, Sister Patricia has served as a teacher and school administrator in her hometown of Philadelphia, as well as in Atlanta, Buffalo, Long Island, and Lakewood, N.J.

A professor emerita of education, she holds a doctorate in communicative arts from Atlanta's Georgia State University. "Paths of Compassion" opens on the landscape of 18th century Canada and highlights the birth of one of the century's early arrivals, Marguerite Dufrost de Lajemmerais.

Author Geary recounts Marguerite's life from her childhood in Quebec through her unhappy marriage to the disreputable Francois d'Youville, her widowhood at age 29, and her founding of a religious community to her 1990 canonization as a saint of the Catholic Church.

Marguerite's story is one of disappointment, an unhappy marriage and the deaths of her infant



Sister Patricia Geary is the author of a newly published history of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart. Copies of "Paths of Compassion" are available by calling 267-364-0505.

children, as well as one of her deep faith, her compassion and her commitment to serve God and those in need.

The book tells a second story: how Marguerite's commitment, compassion and belief in Divine Providence continued after her death and into the present day through the thousands of women who serve in ministry as members of the six autonomous congregations of Grey Nuns. It also tells why Grey Nuns are so named.

"Paths of Compassion" focuses primarily on the good works of Sister Patricia's community, the only American congregation, the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart. "Over the years, the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart founded and operated schools, hospitals, orphanages, nursing homes, and facilities for the poor and the abused," Sister Patricia said.

"The book provides a deeper understanding of the radical commitment of the sisters, despite seemingly overwhelming obstacles, as they established one ministry after another. Like Marguerite, they worked hard,

lived lives of compassion and placed their trust in Divine Providence."

Sister Patricia points out that Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart continue to carry on Marguerite's legacy of compassion as educators, guidance counselors and health-care workers, in pastoral care and as ecological advocates.

Why is a 300-page history of a 300-year-old congregation of women religious a relevant publication in 2013? "Marguerite taught her sisters to labor not only with charity but also with practicality and purpose," Sister Patricia said. "These qualities are as relevant and significant as they were in 18th century Canada. There is inspiration for today in the story of these women, whose lives were dedicated to the needs of others."

Interested readers can order copies of "Paths of Compassion" by calling 267-364-0505.

## St. Andrew's choir sings Bach

J.S. Bach's Cantata #7, "Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam" ("Christ our Lord came to the Jordan") will be presented at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church, York and Main streets, Lambertville, N.J., at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 12.

The cantata will be part of the regular Sunday liturgy. It will feature the choir of Saint Andrew's Church, soloists,

a baroque orchestra and harpsichord and organ continuo.

The choir will also sing "Asperges Me, Domino" by Tomas Luis da Victoria, and both the prelude and the postlude will be presented by members of the baroque orchestra.

The choir is under the direction of Michael T. Kevane, organist-choirmaster at Saint

Andrew's.

The next performance in this series of Sunday Bach Cantatas, Cantata No. 150, BWV 150, "Nach dir, Herr, verlanget mich," will be at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, March 9.

All are welcome to attend. For information, call 609-397-2425, e-mail standrews@snip.net or visit the church at standrewslambertville.org.

## HAPPENINGS

### Danboro church shows movie

Pleasant Ridge Church of Danboro hosts its monthly fellowship event at 4 p.m. Jan. 12.

There will be a showing of "The Magic of Belle Isle," starring Morgan Freeman, and free snacks.

For information, call 267-994-4365.

### Perkasie church hosts seminar series

"Living the Questions," an eight-week seminar, runs each Sunday morning in January and February, from 11 a.m. to noon over coffee, at Perkasie Mennonite Church, 320 W. Chestnut St.

The series is fueled by DVD presentations that feature John Shelby Spong, Walter Brueggemann, Helen Prejean, Amy Jill Levine, Matthew Fox and other theologians connected with the Progressive Christian movement. Discussion is part of each session.

The series looks at core teachings of the Christian faith in light of new scholarship and finds new meaning and a variety of interpretations that help Christians learn to see the historical Jesus in new ways.

Learning how to listen and discuss with openness the ideas of others is also a goal of the class. Classes are free and open to the community.

For information, call 215-257-3717.

### Delaware River Blessing set

Celebrate the close of the Christmas season and the Feast of the Baptism of Christ with the annual Blessing of the Delaware River at 3 p.m. Jan. 12, at the park on Ferry Street, New Hope.

Join St. Philip's Episcopal Church in the ancient tradition, which connects the feast to the natural world and the need to protect its natural resources. For information, visit stphilipsnewhope.org, or call 215-862-5782.

### Kingdom Hall holds open house

Quakertown Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1000 Doylestown Pike, Quakertown, hosts an open house and dedication Saturday, Jan. 11.

The open house, which includes refreshments, takes place from 12:30 to 2 p.m. and is followed by the dedication at 2 p.m. and dedication talk at 3 p.m. The dedication program includes the history of the Quakertown congregation, along with interviews and experiences, and pictures of the construction work.

### Second grade takes part in service

Temple Judea of Bucks County, 38 Rogers Road, Furlong, holds a Shabbat Family Service in which second-graders from its religious school participate, at 7 p.m. Jan. 17.

For information, call 215-348-5022.

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Contact Holly Olson  
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hollybqc@verizon.net

**Worship Directory**

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