



The Family Buzz

Bancroft's Electronic Newsletter for Family Members

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Thirty-one students graduated from The Bancroft School this week in a very moving ceremony that made us all both laugh and cry. Pictured above are students Peggy Allen, Heather Bohley, and Steven Green, members of the Graduation Chorus, who sang the song, "Friend, I will remember you."

Upcoming Bancroft Events

Bancroft Idol
June 19, 2009
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Moose Lodge
Lindenwold, NJ
(856) 651-9510, ext. 102

7th Annual Summer
Inclusion Conference
July 8 & 9, 2009
New Jersey Coalition for
Inclusive Education, Inc.
Ewing, NJ
(732) 613-0400
<http://njcie.net>



25th Annual BIANJ
Sun and Fun Day
July 16, 2009
Ocean City, NJ
(856) 589-5797

York Lecture Series
September 25, 2009
Cherry Hill Library
(856) 429-5637, ext. 279

York Lecture Series
October 21, 2009
Cherry Hill Library
(856) 429-5637, ext. 279

Student Opera Receives a Standing Ovation!

An original opera created by some of our students ended with a standing ovation, which rocked the historic Ritz Theatre in Oaklyn, N.J.

Nine Bancroft School students developed "For the Love of Mummy" - working together to write, compose music, design sets, and make costumes, posters and invitations for the show.

Set in the 1930s, "For the Love of Mummy" was a journey from Egypt to Hollywood in search of a necklace stolen from a mummy's tomb. The surprise "whodunit" was packed with romance, adventure and espionage as told through its music and libretto against an Egyptian backdrop.

The students - who dubbed themselves the HOPE Superstars Opera Company - played the following roles:

Stud Stealer..... Zachary Freedman
Rob U Blind..... Michael Smith
Sandy Travels..... Rasul Carter
Ima Beauty..... Niesha Rey
Ins. Stanley Snoops... Joshua Reyes
Danger Williams..... Steven Moffit
Police Officer..... Jesse Weindorfer
Orchestra..... Travis Belnavis and Steven Green

Now in its eighth year, Bancroft's opera project is based on a program offered by the renowned Metropolitan Opera Guild, to selected schools across the country. Bancroft is one of the only schools in the nation successfully adopting this program for students with special needs.

Special thanks to Nicki Hyder for all her efforts in supporting the students, as well as Holly Blackiston, Abbie Murphy, Jim Murphy, Victor Murray, Michael Rhodes, Maria Rosa, and Blake Smitley, plus Bruce Curless and his staff at the Ritz Theater. We also wish to thank the Drumcliff Foundation for its continued generosity in making this original opera program possible for our students.

The Courier-Post also wrote an article covering the show, which you can read by [clicking here](#).



Joyful Noise Singers Perform for Chorus America Annual Conference in Philadelphia

By Gary Herman

Participants at the recent Chorus America Annual Conference in Philadelphia rose to their feet in a standing ovation. The reason? A performance by Joyful Noise, the singing group hosted by Bancroft that has been getting rave reviews, both in our area and also across New Jersey and as far as Connecticut.

My daughter Jessica is a proud member of the chorus, and it serves a vital purpose in her life. She loves to sing and talks constantly about Joyful Noise rehearsals and performances.

Joyful Noise adds so much to her life. And performing with the group at the Chorus America event allowed her to interact with some of the leading choral conductors and composers in the nation, as well as from Canada and South America.

Entitled "Commissioning for the 'Exceptional' Chorus," Joyful Noise's session was led by its Music Director Allison Fromm and featured five noted choral composers who have written music for Joyful Noise. Thirty of our singers performed nine compositions written especially for them - including four world premieres! Members also had the opportunity to address the audience. They shared their excitement about the new songs and about singing with the musicians who came to perform with them.

Chorus America graciously invited Joyful Noise family members to join its audience of professional conductors, executive

directors and board members for this special event. Following the performance, singers, staff and more than twenty family members were also treated to a reception of tasty quesadillas.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Allison, Cathy, Rob and Mark, my daughter's life is enriched in so many ways.

Singer Ellen Levesque told staff, "It was a beautiful presentation - very patriotic and wonderful."

Parent Elene Kurtzman remarked, "It was a thrill to be in the audience at the Joyful Noise performance. Seeing the chorus together, all of the volunteers who make this happen, and witnessing the many steps in the rehearsal process was an unbelievable experience. Composers and conductors came in from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Massachusetts, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota to perform with Joyful Noise. Such participation is a true demonstration of the broad support for this program."

Special thanks to Bancroft staff and family members who made this exciting experience possible.

Bancroft is lucky to have this talented group spreading great music and goodwill across the region.

DDD Today Newsletter

Please see below for the current issue of DDD Today (PDF version). Featured articles include:

- A Life Transformed;
- Upcoming Trainings and Conferences;
- Olmstead Update.

[Click here for DDD Today](#)

N.J. Providers Host Call-In Session

The New Jersey Association of Community Providers is hosting its 2nd Annual Statewide Conference Call-In Session on Tuesday **June 30** from 5 to 7 p.m. The session will feature a panel of experts who will answer questions regarding community living for people with developmental disabilities and brain injuries. It is an opportunity to learn about individualized services and supports available across New Jersey.

Topics to be included are: day services, housing options, community services waiting list, social/recreational issues, employment and more. Registration is required.

To register or for further information, please contact MaryAnn at (609) 406-1400 or e-mail her at Admin@njacp.org.

[Click here for more information](#)

DDD Legislative Alert:

Bill to register offenders against people with disabilities

A State Senate bill that would establish a registry of offenders against individuals with developmental disabilities was released from committee on Monday and will continue through the legislative process.

Testifying that day on the legislation was Ken Ritchey, assistant commissioner of the Division of Developmental Disabilities, who spoke to the Senate Law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committees.

Stated Ritchey: "Today in New Jersey, it is possible for a caregiver who has been fired for abusing, neglecting or exploiting an individual with developmental disabilities to walk out the door, go down the street and be hired by another agency to perform the same care giving duties.

"This is exactly the type of situation a Central Registry of Offenders Against Individuals with Developmental Disabilities would help prevent, and why I am here today to speak about this bill."

To view Richey's full testimony, [click here](#).

DDD Today first mentioned this legislation - Senate Bill 2516 - in its March 2009 issue, which can be [viewed here](#).

Golf Tournament a big hit

Bancroft's 26th Annual Golf Tournament brought in the golfers and the "green."

Some 170 golfers competed in the June 1 event, which raised more than \$110,000 for Bancroft programs and services.

For the first time, the event was held at two premier golf courses in Southern New Jersey - Tavistock and Woodcrest country clubs. The weather was beautiful and everyone enjoyed a great day of golf.

The dinner was held at Tavistock, and the evening ended with a show by local comedian Joe Conklin, who performed his famed sports impressions and stand-up routine.

Special thanks to Conner Strong, the event's Marquee Sponsor, and to The Graham Company, the evening's entertainment sponsor. We appreciate all our sponsors, golfers and volunteers for making the event such a resounding success.

Plan now to join us for the Butterfly Ball!

Mark your calendar now so you won't miss this fall's Butterfly Ball - our biggest fund-raiser of the year - on Saturday November 21 at the Mount Laurel Westin in Mount Laurel, N.J.

This year we are delighted to recognize Barbara and Jack Tarditi with the Margaret Bancroft Award, while Stewart Business Systems will accept one of the two awards for Corporate and Community Leadership.

We look forward to additional exciting announcements about our Butterfly Ball leadership in the days to come.

Join other Bancroft families, friends and supporters to enjoy a very special evening together, while raising funds needed to support our mission. For further information, please contact Joan Galon King at (856) 348-1140.

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