

JESPY JOURNAL....

Articles written & researched by the clients. Please enjoy the articles.



Celebrating Winter!

Get Organized Month

Skating Month

Polka Music Month

First Foot Day

January 1

Bird Day

January 5

Static Electricity Day

January 9

International Kite Day

January 14

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 20

Compliment Day

January 24

Inspire Your Heart with Art Day

January 31

THE J STREET BAND by Roger Baron

In 2017, I had the joy and exhilaration of playing in the J Street Band, which is JESPY House's new music band. I play the trumpet in the band, which is led by Michael Preston and is composed of a little more than ten members.

The band formed in the summer of 2016, and we started out by experimenting with different songs. Toward the end of 2016, though, we started rehearsing seriously and picked songs for our first gig, which was at the JESPY Jubilee in February 2017. The gig was part of a cultural arts exhibition at the Jubilee, and we were well received at that event.

The J Street Band played several other gigs throughout 2017 – outdoors at a JESPY client and family fun festival on the JESPY campus in May, at a reception at the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ building in Whippany in June, at a concert with other bands and singers following the Disability Pride parade in Trenton in October, and two gigs in December – one at a kids' pre-Hanukkah party at Temple B'nai Or in Morristown, and another at the Judi House during Hanukkah week. We were cheered very much at all of these performances. We also played a couple of times at the Sam Ash music store on Route 22 in Union.

The songs that we've played so far are a mix of well-known tunes and original songs including John Lennon's "Imagine," Rihanna's "Love on the Brain," Harry Styles' "Sign of the Times," the Beatles' "Come Together," Tom Petty's "Free Fallin'," Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'," Adele's "Make You Feel My Love," the song "Summer Nights" from the Broadway show and movie "Grease" (sung by John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John), Anthrax's "Pieces," a remake of the Animals tune "House of the Rising Sun" by a group called Five Finger Death Punch, and two original songs called "Tonight" and "Sunset Jam." ("Love on the Brain" and "Sign of the Times" appeared on this year's Billboard top 100 singles chart at numbers 33 and 87, respectively.)

Besides me, the band consists of Dan Reuter, Michael Nimrod and Ethan Solander on the bass guitar, Bryan Krantz on the electric keyboard and saxophone, Khair Marshall on the drums, Atara Stern and Mike Jaslow on vocals, and Jonathan Banilower, Tommy Fresco, Chris Daub, Harold Evans, Eric Specht, and Sal Cangliosi on the conga drums.

As for me, this was the first time in more than three decades that I have played in a music band, and so far, it's been great and satisfying for me. Way before 2016, my band experience was primarily in school – I played drums in the elementary school band, trumpet in both the junior high school and high school concert bands, sousaphone in marching band in high school, and trumpet in a town recreation band for a couple of summers plus in one winter concert when I was at Rider College. I played and marched with bands at Cranford High School football games and at Memorial Day parades in Cranford. I also played songs many times for my peers at my dorm and at some social events when I was at Rider.

The J Street Band has its own Facebook page and was the subject of an article entitled "JESPY House band to rock federation meeting," which appeared in the New Jersey Jewish News last June. The band is looking forward to becoming more popular and playing more gigs in 2018 and beyond. Maybe someday we'll start creating albums and having our songs played on the radio, and thus become a popular music act in the United States

Hi-Yo, Silver!



On January 31, 1933, a Detroit radio station hit broadcasting gold when it aired the first episode of a western series called *The Lone Ranger*. It was an instant hit, and 2,956 radio episodes were produced, followed by a series of books and television shows, a half-dozen movies, and countless games and toys. *The Lone Ranger* phenomenon became a cultural touchstone for an American nation hungry to romanticize its Wild West roots.

Perhaps the greatest appeal of the Lone Ranger was in his strict moral code. He may have hidden behind his signature black mask, but he never hid his desire for truth and justice. The Lone Ranger always used perfect grammar and never swore or used slang. He never drank or smoked. Scenes never took place in rough saloons but in restaurants serving food rather than liquor. The Lone Ranger had a pistol, as any western hero should, but he never shot to kill. He instead used his gun to disarm others and bring them to jail. Criminals were never glamorized with wealth or fame, nor did they enjoy positions of power. These decisions were made deliberately by the show's creators, Fran Striker and George W. Trendle. They intended *The Lone Ranger* to be wholesome family entertainment with a hero destined to become an honorable American icon.

The Lone Ranger hit the American public during a particularly fragile time. Many Americans were suffering during the Great Depression and had lost faith in their government and social institutions. The public needed a working-class hero—an ordinary man with extraordinary abilities—who promised to protect those who couldn't help themselves and bring order to a lawless frontier. Such a hero was easily adaptable to any era or medium. As such, *The Lone Ranger* transitioned easily into books, television, and the big screen over the decades. While *the Lone Ranger* has suffered its critics, especially due to its depiction of Native Americans, the Lone Ranger himself has endured as a symbol of justice and truth.

Korea & Nuclear weapons

by Rich K

North Korea has been developing nuclear technology since the 1950s.

Although the country currently has no operational power-generating nuclear reactor, efforts at developing its nuclear power sector continue. Moreover, North Korea has developed nuclear weapons.

I think that mankind should be careful when thinking about nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons should not be on this planet. It can cause so much destruction and problems.

North Korea has been a nightmare and it is not right they threaten South Korea and other countries.

Special Olympics By Jane Clark

Special Olympics I love you so much. You are the best and I am so happy and glad that you guys stood behind me. You guys stood behind me and helped me to fulfill my goals in making it to the Special Olympic USA World Games this past March in Abu Dhabi. I could not have done it without you guys, and you are like my second family. Thank you JESPY staff, Jerica, Tabatha and Tara and the rest of JESPY.

Thank you once again.

THE MUSIC OF 1968: HOW MUCH OF IT DO YOU KNOW?

by Roger Baron

The year 1968 (50 years ago) was a very interesting and memorable year in pop music that had plenty of great songs and albums.

There were 16 number one songs on the Billboard Hot 100 chart that year, three less than the year before, but six of them were at the top for four weeks or more. The six songs that were number one for four-plus weeks included “Hey Jude” by the Beatles (nine weeks; this was the Beatles’ biggest hit song ever), “Love Is Blue” by Paul Mauriat, “Honey” by Bobby Goldsboro, and “People Got To Be Free” by the Rascals (each five weeks), and “(Sittin’ On) The Dock of the Bay” by Otis Redding and “This Guy’s in Love with You” by Herb Alpert (each four weeks).

The other number one songs of 1968 included another Beatles song (“Hello, Goodbye”), “Judy in Disguise (With Glasses)” by John Fred and His Playboy Band, “Green Tambourine” by the Lemon Pipers, “Tighten Up” by Archie Bell and the Drells, “Mrs. Robinson” by Simon and Garfunkel (from the 1967 movie “The Graduate”), “Grazing in the Grass” (an instrumental tune by Hugh Masekela), “Hello, I Love You” by the Doors, “Harper Valley PTA” by Jeanne C. Riley, and two Motown songs at the end of 1968 – “Love Child” by Diana Ross and the Supremes, and “I Heard It Through the Grapevine” by Marvin Gaye. Other popular songs from 1968 included “Young Girl” (#2), “Lady Willpower” (#2) and “Woman, Woman” (#4) by Gary Puckett and the Union Gap, “Born to be Wild” (#2) and “Magic Carpet Ride” (#3) by Steppenwolf, “Classical Gas” by Mason Williams (#2), “Those Were the Days” by Mary Hopkin (#2), “Mony Mony” by Tommy James and the Shondells (#3), “Jumpin’ Jack Flash” by the Rolling Stones (#3), “La-La (Means I Love You)” by the Delfonics (#4), “Simon Says” (#4) and “1,2,3, Red Light” (#5) by the 1910 Fruitgum Company, “Sunshine of Your Love” by Cream (#5), “Yummy Yummy Yummy” by the Ohio Express (#5), “Midnight Confessions” by the Grass Roots (#5), “Dance to the Music” by Sly and the Family Stone (#8), “Do You Know the Way to San Jose?” by Dionne Warwick (#10), and “Scarborough Fair” by Simon and Garfunkel (#11). Top music albums of 1968 included the Beatles’ “White Album,” “Electric Ladyland” by the Jimi Hendrix Experience, “Beggars Banquet” by the Rolling Stones, “Cheap Thrills” by Big Brother and the Holding Company, soundtracks from the movies “The Graduate” and “Romeo and Juliet,” the original cast recording of the Broadway musical “Hair,” and the first albums by Fleetwood Mac, Three Dog Night, and James Taylor. Other musical events in 1968 included the Bee Gees making their American television debut on “The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour,” James Brown appearing on national television in his attempt to calm angry people across the United States after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., Elvis Presley’s “Elvis” television special on NBC, which became that year’s highest rated television special, and “The Rolling Stones Rock and Roll Circus” filmed concert show that also included the group the Who and singer Marianne Faithfull.

Chemotherapy by Erich Specht

What a difference a year makes. Last year at this time I collapsed in a bowling alley in West Orange and was admitted to St. Barnabas hospital in Livingston. I was on oxygen for a few hours and had x-rays and Cat scans.

I then had surgery and they took 3 pints of blood and had a biopsy done. I had my lungs drained as well. In December of last year. I started Chemo for a few days and started to get better.

I started back in special Olympics and did Bocce ball and tool home the gold medal. I went out with a bang. I was so emotional at summer games after all the things I went through. I also played soccer even with everything going on. I took 4th place in soccer with my team and did very well in bowling.

This will not stop me from competing and being with family and friends. I thank everyone for all the support and love. Live life to the fullest and thank the man upstairs, he will be there for you.

Thank you all!!!!

Texas has seen seven mass shootings over the last 10 years, and many of them sparked public debate about what legislation should be passed to prevent another one. While University of Texas/Texas Tribune polls consistently show that Texans are divided about gun control — with 40% to 50% saying they want stricter gun laws — all but one of the laws passed over the past decade by the state’s Republican-controlled Legislature have expanded where guns are allowed, who can have a firearm in schools and the right to openly carry guns. The timeline below details how state lawmakers and the public have responded to mass shootings — through legislation and University of Texas/Texas Tribune polls — since the 2009 Fort Hood shooting. We used Mother Jones’ mass shootings data and definition of a mass shooting, which relies on the FBI’s definition of a mass murderer, to determine which shootings to include in the timeline. Among the criteria: The shooter killed at least four people. The U.S. government revised this in 2013 to three people, which is why the second Fort Hood shooting is included. The killings were carried out by a lone shooter. The shooting occurred in a public space. Victim counts don’t include shooters who died or were wounded during an attack.

Researched by Jason Nirenberg

My trip to Boston

By Jody Kanner

On Monday, July 29th to Saturday August 3rd, I went to Boston with my friend Jill, Steven and my husband Dan. We went to visit Jill's brother and his wife. They live in Boston.

We had a nice time and did a lot of tourist things. We visited most of the historic sites like the USS Constitution. We went to Fan evil Hall and Quincy Market which is Fan evil Hall. We went to the NY aquarium on our first full day in the Boston area. We had lunch in the famous cheers bar called Bull & Finch. I saw the bar area where the show was taped. We all went to Prudential tower and went to the top of the observation deck. We also visited the Paul Revere homestead and went to see the Boston Red Sox.

We had dinner with Jill's brother Jon and his wife Maddy.

I like traveling with Jill, Steven and Damn, it was fun.

There is a lot to do in Boston and we couldn't do everything because we had to drive to the different places. We also went to Bunker Hill, climbed it, which was 294 steps. Steven went but he stayed at the bottom while Jill, me and Dan climbed them.

I was tired after climbing them, but it was well worth it.

The whole trip was.



(Nicole had to throw in this picture)

Passion is fashion by Heather Schwam

Over the last several years, JESPY's recreation department has expanded, and now multiple artistic forms of expression are offered. Whether it's dance, music, fiber arts or just art, there is something for everyone. Everyone has encouraged and watch my artistic journey with knitting grow and yes, I'm passionate about that. It may seem weird to some but to me it's an artistic coping skill. A way for me to express myself. So, if you see me on the street, and there is something you are passionate about say the words "passion is fashion" I will love to celebrate what makes you happy. What is your artistic passion?? Remember, we all can't be good at everything we do, but we as a community can be great in encouraging the journey and celebrating the successes. Until next time friends. Passion is fashion, and passion is always "in "

Switched at Birth by Jane Clark

Kimberly Mays and Arlena Twigg were switched at birth at Florida hospital in 1979, something that came to light after Arlena had a blood test as a child. Mays, 41, opens in an interview 30 years after the scandal came to light. A 20/20 special due to air Friday night suggests the girls may have been deliberately switched when they were born in 1978. The show features interviews with Arlena's siblings, who tell of their devastation when she died of a genetic heart defect aged 9. Kimberly was 11 when she began to meet the Twiggs but Robert Mays, the father she had known from birth, soon cancelled their visitations. She would eventually split her time between both families but had a troubled few years and ran away from Robert's home. Kimberly went on to marry her then boyfriend in 1997 and had a son, Devlin. Kimberly Mays made national headlines in 1988 when it was revealed that she and Arlena Twigg had been given to the wrong parents a decade earlier. LOOK IT UP!!!!!!!!!!!!