



FAITH FILES

GARY SOULSMAN



The Serafin String Quartet has performed at Carnegie Hall.

Quartet kicks off music series at Trinity

The Serafin String Quartet, which made its Carnegie Hall debut in 2004, launches a new performance series at Wilmington's Trinity Church, 1108 N. Adams St., on Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

The quartet will be joined by pianist Charles Abramovic and bassoonist Eric Stomberg.

A highlight of the free concert will be the early chamber works of Jennifer Higdon, who won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize in Music for her Violin Concerto.

The Sunday concert also includes the Schumann Piano Quintet and the first string quartet written by Beethoven.

The Serafin Quartet was formed in 2001 for a one-time concert at the Wilmington Public Library but members stayed together. Because of their reputation, they have had a chance to premiere works by Mark Hagerty (2007), Richard Belcastro (2006), Drew Hemenger (2005) and David Laganela (2004).

Members are: Lawrence Stomberg on cello, Molly Carr on viola, Timothy Schwarz on violin and Kate Ransom on violin.

The arts series is the brainchild of Kathryn Jakabcin, voluntary coordinator for the Arts at Trinity Program, who helped with a similar program at Calvary Episcopal Church in Brandywine Hundred.

She says the church has a role in safeguarding the arts and, if the Trinity program is a success, she would like to include other forms of art.

William J. Stegeman and his company Jackson ImmunoResearch, of West Grove, Pa., have been primary sponsors of the series.

Next up is the Angel Band with Nancy Josephson, Aly Paige and Kathleen Weber at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 26.

Students help food program

More than 100 students in grades six through 12 from local Presbyterian churches will gather Sunday at Red Clay Creek Presbyterian for an afternoon of service.

Students hope to pack between 10,000 and 20,000 meals for "Stop Hunger Now," a nonprofit program started in 1998 in Raleigh, N.C. There is an affiliated office in Philadelphia and cities around the world.

For an average cost of 25 cents a meal, the program uses volunteers to pack dehydrated meals of rice, soy and vegetables. The meals are easily transported to crisis areas.

Since the program started, more than 125,000 volunteers have packaged more than 45 million meals.

The church is located at 500 McKennans Church Road in Mill-creek.

Contact Gary Soulsman at 324-2893 or gsoulsman@delawareonline.com

FAITH-BASED EDUCATION

For area Muslims, a place to learn, worship and grow



Islamic School of Delaware principal Nidal Abuasi frequently visits with students during the school day. Abuasi hopes to eventually expand to 12th grade. THE NEWS JOURNAL/GINGER WALL



ABOVE: Sheikh Abdul Hadi teaches the Qu-ran at the Islamic school on Salem Church Road in Newark.



LEFT: Children gather for prayer at Masjid Abraham, the mosque adjacent to the school.

New Islamic school blends secular and religious study

By GARY SOULSMAN
The News Journal

At 8:30 a.m. the soccer balls are put away and the chatter dies, as more than 40 students line up in a multi-purpose room to pray for Allah's blessing.

It's how the day starts at the Islamic Academy of Delaware, a Newark school for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade, on Salem Church Road.

Standing before the students, who are uniformly dressed in navy and white, is principal Nidal Abuasi who is nattily turned out in a grey suit, shirt and tie – as well as a salt-and-pepper beard.

Now in his third month at the academy, Abuasi has the quiet authority of a man who's confident that the 110 children in his care will do fine if they are supported and challenged.

And when Abuasi begins to talk about plans to simulate the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca) – one of the pillars of Islam – he encourages students to get involved in making models of sites connected to the Hajj.

"We will reward every single person who participates," he says. "Ask questions if you have any of your teachers. I want to see that you do your best."

Soon children are off to their classes, which Abuasi will visit through the day. He says it's his responsibility to learn about all the students as well their parents and teachers.

There is no getting around long hours for the staff because the academy has entered a new phase. Started in 2008 with a kindergarten and first grade, the school expanded this year into a two-story wing attached to the Masjid Abraham (Mosque of Abraham). The wing was built for \$1.1 million.

There is now a day care and classes that go to sixth grade. It is Abuasi's goal to add a new grade every year until the academy stretches to 12th grade.

"I am hoping to have a modest science lab, computer lab and art studio," he says.

First he's had to set patterns of arrival, dismissal, lunch, daily

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CALENDAR MORE ON PAGE B7

HALLOWEEN

"Ghosts in the Graveyard." One-hour walking tours of the cemetery of Old Swedes Church. 6:30-9 tonight and Oct. 29. \$10; \$6 for kids 6-12. Call 652-5629 or visit www.oldswedes.org.

"The Pirate Coast." Interactive half-hour show featuring the demonic Capt. Kidd and his band of ragtag pirates. 5-9 p.m. today-Sunday, Oct. 28-30. Clear Space Theatre Co., 20 Baltimore Ave., Rehoboth Beach. \$5. www.clearspacetheatre.org.

Halloween Hoopla Saturday. Smyrna Opera House, 107 S. Main St., Smyrna. \$10, children, free for adults. 653-4236 or www.smyrnaoperahouse.org.

Weekend

THINGS TO DO IN THE REGION

Grand, 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. \$13-\$26. 652-5577, www.ticketsatthegrand.org.

MUSIC

Andrew Bird. With Martin Dosh. 8 tonight. The Grand, 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. \$30-\$38. 652-5577, www.ticketsatthegrand.org.
Nate Myers & The Aces. Blues rock. 10 tonight. Dogfish Head Brewings & Eats, 320 Rehoboth Ave., Rehoboth Beach. No cover. 226-2739, www.dogfish.com.



Andrew Bird performs in 2008. GETTY IMAGES/H. WALKER

John Gallagher Jr. With John and June Gallagher. World Cafe Live at the Queen, 500 N. Market St., Wilmington. \$19. www.worldcafelive.com.
KingSnake, Chrome Lord, Black Cowgirl, Melon. 9 tonight. Mojo Main, 270 E. Main St., Newark. \$5. www.mojomain.com.

FESTIVALS

Blackbird Creek Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. today. Blackbird Creek Reserve, 801 Blackbird Landing Road. www.dnrec.delaware.gov.
Delaware Wine & Beer Festival. Noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Pizzadili Vineyards & Winery, 1671 Peach Basket Road, Felton. \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door; \$5 for those not drinking; kids 12 and younger get in free. 800-233-5368, www.visitdover.com.

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