

Arts and Entertainment**Hot Mamas reunite for Strawberry Fields**

by Michael A. Dondero

"This is just a great day, great cause, and great food," Renee Campbell said to the crowd at the Hot Mamas reunion concert Sept. 20. The duo of Campbell and Sylvia Feldman gave the concert to benefit Strawberry Fields Inc., a local non-profit agency that provides services for people with developmental disabilities and mental illnesses.

The concert was held in the backyard of Feldman's house where the audience sat surrounded by a garden of homegrown vegetables. Feldman shares the house with Fran McDermid, an employee of Strawberry Fields Inc. who organized the event.

The Hot Mamas began performing in 1989 and continued to play throughout the early 90s in such venues as Café 210, the Phyrst, and the Surf Club (now called the Dark Horse Tavern.) The event marked one of the few times they have performed together publicly since Feldman left State College in 1996.

"It was sort of a 20th anniversary of the Hot Mamas," Feldman said.

Feldman and Campbell met when the two began speaking after Campbell's solo shows, where Feldman said Campbell's talent overwhelmed her. They realized they had a mutual love for the same kind of music and began playing together.

"Neither of us are particularly extroverted, but we sound good together," Feldman said.

When Feldman left the area, Campbell had one child. When she returned in 2002, Campbell was pregnant with her fourth. The two hardly found time to perform together, yet when they get together Feldman says "its always great fun." Campbell works in home schooling and is involved in giving music classes at her church and throughout the community.

For the benefit show, audience members brought their foldout chairs, blankets, and dogs to Feldman's backyard where the duo offered a range of original songs and covers of artists such as Bob Dylan, Bob Marley, and Joni Mitchell. Many spectators said they enjoyed the opportunity to eat some

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--Sylvia Feldman

locally purchased food and hear acoustic music, while participating in a good cause.

"I'm really excited to be a part of such an important event," said one audience member.

The benefit was an effort to raise money for one of the Strawberry Fields' projects, the Fairweather Lodge, a home that houses four people who have recovered from mental illnesses.

McDermid, the coordinator of the Fairweather Lodge, said that while they did not reach the \$2,000 goal they had set, she was grateful for everyone who came out. The event raised more than \$1,000. The proceeds will be applied to specialist training of Fairweather Lodge residents Dave Hull and Scott Fawcett. Both men will become peer-mentors to people who are in the early stages of a mental illness.

Strawberry Fields Inc. receives more than 90 percent of its revenue from government sources, according to the group. The recent budget cuts in Pennsylvania have affected its funds, forcing staff to think of new strategies to come up with money.

"Typically the county has been able to fund people to attend training, but this year they don't have the funds so that is why we're doing the fundraiser," McDermid said.

While Strawberry Fields Inc. typically holds fundraisers it is rare that all the proceeds go to one division. Aside from the Fairweather Lodge, Strawberry Fields Inc. offers various services to individuals in various stages of a mental illness, including programs for both children and adults.



Photo by David Hull

Sylvia Feldman and Renee Campbell perform at a recent benefit on the deck of Feldman's house. It was one of the few performances the two have done since 1996 when Feldman left State College.

Hull is a Centre County native who has been a part of the Fairweather Lodge since last May. He said that the set-up of the house allows its residents to spend a lot of time brainstorming ideas.

"We were sitting around talking and Fran handed us a pamphlet, and we liked the idea. We talked about it for a few days, then we went back and said we'd like to do this," said Hull, a Penn State graduate.

Fawcett and Hull will be sent to Williamsport for their training which Hull said would equip them with the tools to "be a buddy, set some goals, and convey that you can get through this."

Hull feels that once they have some training behind them, he and Fawcett could be very effective as peer mentors. During the concert, he offered the crowd his own barbecue chicken and grilled corn.

When the idea of the benefit concert surfaced through one of their brainstorming sessions, McDermid and the residents decided to ask Sylvia Feldman, her partner, if she would perform.

Feldman, a software company employee

and beekeeper, said she was excited about the opportunity to help the cause. She had visited the lodge and was impressed by its innovation.

"It seemed to me to be a cutting edge model, and I think it's incredible that Strawberry Fields is embracing it and making proactive changes in people's lives," she said. "It's such a great program, an empowering program, it was kind of a no-brainer to want to be a part of it."

Feldman hopes to continue participating in concerts to support Strawberry Fields, perhaps making it a bigger event in the future. "I'm visualizing Woodstock in a couple of years," she said.

When she decided to participate in the benefit, Feldman thought to ask her old band mate, Renee Campbell, if she'd like to perform.

Feldman was excited about the outcome of the concert and optimistic about its cause. "It's great fun and the start of great things to come," she said.

For more information, contact Strawberry Fields, (814) 234-6023.

Be who you are.

agnostic, atheist, believer, doubter, humanist, egotist, naturalist, activist, pacifist, optimist, pessimist, 7th day horizontalist, gay, straight, bicyclist, curious, creative, able, depleted, dilapidated, caffeinated, thirsty, open minded.

10 a.m. Sundays

Services vary from week to week, so come often. Stay for coffee, conversation, and a thought-provoking 1-hour program that follows.

Come as you are. Find fellowship.
Share the journey.

Oct 4 - 10 a.m. "Growing Our Diversity" Led by Lois Durran and Marian Dornell Our liberal faith can help heal our wounded world - if we pool our resources to develop spiritual communities that are more welcoming to all people.

11:30 a.m. "Getting to Know UU Coffee"

Learn about Unitarian Universalism in a small friendly group of newcomers and members.

11:30 a.m. "A Dialog on Race and Ethnicity" (ADORE)

Guest speaker, Dr. Donna King, joins Marian Dornell and the Diversity Committee in a bold dialog about racism from many viewpoints - drawing from the Underground Railroad, local history, civil disobedience, and other social justice initiatives.

7:30 p.m. **Soulful Sundown: "Cultivating Peace"** Peace is elusive. Led by Lois Durran, this service delves into ways to invite more Peace into our lives.

Oct 11 - 10 a.m. "Head, Heart, Body, Soul", Rev. Mark Hayes

To be a whole healthy person means integrating all aspects of our selves.

Each part must be nourished and developed if we are to live life to its fullest.

11:30 a.m. "Dream Class" Explore the meaning of your dreams in a class led by Dr. Paula Franklin, based on the dream work model and the educational and literary work of Rev. Jeremy Taylor.

11:30 a.m. "Thank God for Evolution" Based on Michael Dowd's book, *Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World*, Rev. Mark Hayes leads a discussion course to help you discern and enrich your philosophical and spiritual worldview and the very meaning you make of life.

Oct 18 - 10 a.m. "Standing on the Side of Love", Rev. Mark Hayes Who is worthy of love? If we take love as our guide, how does that affect what stands we take for justice and compassion in our world?

11:30 a.m. "Learning from Transitions" Sharing in a small group fosters spiritual growth and relationships of substance and depth. Bev Henshaw facilitates a sample Small Group Ministry Session, a great way for newcomers to feel connected.

11:30 a.m. "The True Costs of Incarceration: Does It Work and Can We Afford It" Discussion led by Thom Brewster, Director of CentrePeace, who has a vision for 'justice' and rehab in our county and state prison system.

3 p.m. **Winterfest Concert, violinist Clara Lyon.**

7:30 p.m. **Soulful Sundown: "The Masks We Wear"** At some point, we all wear masks to hide who we are, what we feel. Lois Durran leads this service about our individual masks and finding ways to do without them.

October Social Action Events - Please Join Us!

Citizens for Healthcare Reform Meetings Oct 12 and 26, Mondays at 7PM
State College Municipal Building, Rm 241, 243 S. Allen Street
All welcome to work on federal and state reform!

Bus to Harrisburg Rally, Oct. 20, Tuesday - Healthcare for All PA
leave State College 6-7a.m., leave Harrisburg 2p.m. Rally and advocacy with legislators!
\$20 bus fare, scholarships available. black.bj@gmail.com

"CROP Walk for Hunger Relief", October 18, Sunday
1:30 p.m. from St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 3.1 miles thru downtown and campus to raise funds for global and local programs. Contact Jeff Schmidt 2234-2102 or www.cropwalkonline.org

For Writers Group, Meditation Group, Game Nights, and Social Action activities, check www.UUFCC.com/webcalendar

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Stacked Omelette, Jazz on the Side



photo by Suzan Erem

Arthur Goldstein plays jazz for audience members at Webster's Bookstore Cafe Sept. 20 as part of a new series of Sunday brunches the cafe is offering. In the foreground, children from the Novikov and Petrunin families, residents of State College, enjoy their meals and drinks.

Know an interesting performance, venue or artist
you'd like to see in Voices? Fill us in!

Write to voices@voicesweb.org with the details.



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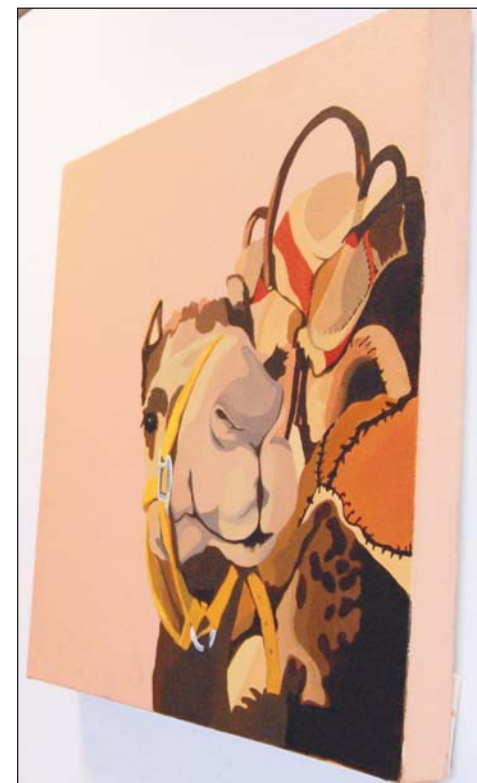
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Penn State displays new art



Photos by Katie Bennett


Penn State is currently featuring these three exhibits. From left, paintings by Erica Harney at the Eisenhower Auditorium Conference Room, Fiber Arts: Three Perspectives by various artists, at the HUB-Robeson Gallery and What It is that Controls our Thoughts and Feelings by Jessica Silverberg at the Student Health Center.



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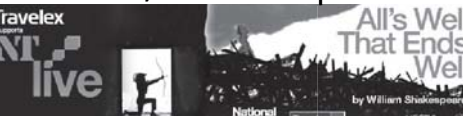

Carolina Chocolate Drops
 Thu, Oct 1
 8 pm



Delbert McClinton
 with special guest
 Mary McBride
 Fri, Oct 2
 8 PM


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All's Well That Ends Well
 By William Shakespeare
 Presented by National Theatre
 Sat, Oct 3 • 2 pm

The Disco Biscuits
 Sun, Oct 4
 8 PM

An Evening with Keller Williams
 Fri, Oct 9
 8 pm



The Metropolitan Opera
 '09-'10 **HD LIVE**
 presents
Puccini's Tosca **Verdi's Aida**
 Sat, Oct 10 Sat, Oct 24
 1 pm 1 pm


The Bear Rhymes with Woman Tour
 Carbon Leaf & Stephen Kellogg & The Sixers
 with special guest
 Dawn Landes
 Thu, Oct 15
 8 PM



The Show: The Tour
Yonder Mountain String Band
 with special guest
 Danny Barnes
 Sun, Oct 18
 6:30 PM



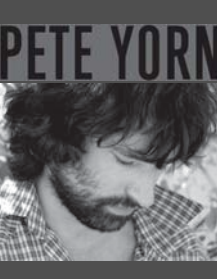
Galactic
 with special guest
 The Hood Internet
 Wed, Oct 21
 8 PM




Times Talks
 NY
 Times Talk
 with John Irving
 Wed, Oct 28
 7 pm



PETE YORN
 Pete Yorn
 Fri, Oct 30
 8 PM



An Evening with Lotus
 Sun, Nov 1
 7:30 PM



from Defense, pg. 7

Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation funding, higher education for disadvantaged students and National Aeronautics and Space Administration research but do not show the amount spent on each. DiEugenio referred media calls to the Office of Public Information.

In 2002, those efforts expanded to Penn State's "nonlethal weapons research." Some reports indicate Penn State's research in this area has more than "nonlethal" ramifications and is being tested on American civilians (see Voices Sept. 2008).

By 2007, the university's lobbying efforts had grown to \$240,000 and included Department of Homeland Security issues as well as Department of Energy initiatives and Poison Control Centers.

By 2008, the university's lobbying budget expanded to \$520,000 to lobby for these programs plus the American Recovery and

Reinvestment Act and, under the Department of Defense, the Advanced Force Protection Technology.

That lobbying paid off when Penn State received, among other federal government largess, more than \$51 million in stimulus funds as of Sept. 9, according to university reports.

National level defense contractors with subsidiaries or subcontractors in Centre County helped draw federal monies to the area as well. The defense industry contributed an estimated \$89 million to federal campaigns from 2000 to 2008, according to campaign finance watchdog Center for Responsive Politics. Approximately \$54 million of that went to Republicans during a time when Pennsylvania was represented by two Republican U.S. senators and a House delegation dominated by Republicans, though Democrats did not suffer much, with only slightly less going to them. In fact, the majority of lobbying funds shifted to Democrats in the 2008 elections.

In Pennsylvania, healthcare interests contribute more to support the election of Pennsylvania's federal legislators than defense industry interests. But defense funds flow across different lines regularly, for example from defense contractors to Penn State in the form of contract work and student scholarships.

"From recruiting to research, this relationship has grown to include contract support of over \$2.6 million and philanthropic investments of over \$1.25 million," reads an October 2003 press release from Penn State boasting of a contribution from Raytheon.

The Matrix

Contemporary muckraker Nick Turse uses his fictional character "Rick" to describe what impact defense contractors have on people's everyday lives in his article, "The Real Matrix: The Pentagon Invades Your Life" published on the Web site Tom Dispatch.

Rick's Sony alarm clock, his wife's

Danskin fitness gear, New Balance sneakers, and Hanes underwear and True Fitness treadmill are all made by Department of Defense contractors.

"Rick drags himself to the bathroom (fixtures by Pentagon contractor Kohler, purchased at defense contractor Home Depot). There, he squeezes the Charmin, brushes with Crest toothpaste, washes his face with Noxzema; then, hopping into the shower, he lathers up with Zest and chooses Donna's Herbal Essences over Head & Shoulders — 'What the hell,' he mutters, 'I deserve an organic experience.' (The manufacturer of each of these products, Procter & Gamble, is among the top 100 defense contractors and raked in a cool \$362,461,808 from the Pentagon in 2006,)" Turse tells readers.

If "Rick" lived in Centre County, he could finish his week with a ride on the mechanical bull at the Grange Fair (provided by a local defense contractor) and then catch the Penn State (\$179 million in defense contracts in 2008) football game.

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