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Tidbits & Tales

wdvr 89.7 FM

Penn-Jersey Educational Radio Corporation

WDVR-FM Newsletter | Volume 14 Number 2 | October 2011

THIS AUTUMN

The 17th Annual Covered Bridge Artisans

Holiday Studio Tour will be held November 25 - 27, Friday and Saturday 10 am - 5 PM and Sunday 10 am - 4 PM. Visit six open studios in the Lambertville, Stockton and Sergeantsville and ten additional artists in the Virginia Napurano Cultural Arts Center on Rt 604 in Sergeantsville.

This new location offers a larger, central location that enhances the tour with the open studios in the area. The tour is free and self-guided. For more information and a map visit www.coveredbridgeartisans.com or call 609-397-1535.

October is Fund Raising Month

Support this great diversified radio station that brings you Country, Bluegrass, Big Band, Celtic, Latin, Folk, Cabaret and much more. Listen to your favorite shows and be part of our family of supporters. We are funded by listeners and local businesses who underwrite.

Walt Allegar Celebrates His 20th Yr at WDVR - On Country Round Up

WDVR FUND RAISING CONCERTS

Live Music At The Virginia Napurano Cultural Arts Center

Sunday, Oct. 2, 4 to 6 PM
A Celtic Celebration of Autumn

WDVR presents a Celtic celebration of autumn, featuring Castlebay, the premier Celtic folk duo from Maine, with special guest Patrick Clifford.

The concert takes place Sunday, Oct. 2, 4 to 6 PM, at The Virginia Napurano Cultural Arts Center, an historic country church located at 522 Rosemont-Ringoes Road (Rt. 604) Sergeantsville, NJ.

Castlebay weaves together the heritage of New England and the Celtic lands, treating the audience to a musical journey through time and across the Atlantic. Opening the show, Hunterdon County's own Irish-American troubadour, Patrick Clifford and his band Patrick with perform Irish traditional standards and original songs.

Tickets are $15.00. Reservations may be made by using PayPal at WDVRFM.org or calling 609-397-1620, ext. 0. Refreshments will be served.

Sunday, Oct. 23 - 5 to 7 PM
A Big Rockabilly Show With Bill Turner & Wes Combs

Bill Turner & Blue Smoke

Guitarist Bill Turner with Blue Smoke & Wes Combs with his Pine Valley Rhythm Jumpers' hillbilly boogie sound come to Sergeantsville in a benefit for WDVR.

Dinner will be available before the show for $10.00
Concert Tickets $20 - Doors open @ 3:30pm

The Virginia Napurano Cultural Arts Center
522 Rosemont-Ringoes Road (Rt. 604), Sergeantsville, NJ 08557

A Message From Our President

By Frank "Napp" Napurano, President

THE POWER OF LIVE & LOCAL RADIO

In this, the age of conglomerate radio station ownership, a large portion of the broadcast radio landscape has been homogenized into, one size-fits-all. Large group ownership is like factory farming which is killing the family farmer and the big-box discount stores that are shuttering "Main Street", USA. In too many cases the small mom & pop station had gone dark, and become a top-forty appendage of the very monster that slew it. The small-town local radio station can no longer compete with the big boys for advertising revenue.

But the situation is more insidious than is obvious to the casual listener. A lot more than good music and understandable lyrics are lost in the process. Even with the web, e-mail and our instantaneous, two way, Dick Tracy wireless gizmos, unbelievably, there is an un-served segment of society — us, the local listener. Small town USA has become radio's "Fly over Country". That's where stations like WDVR shine, because we are a community radio station, live and local, right here on good old "Main Street".

Ms. Karen Palmer is one of WDVR's very discerning listeners who remembers what real radio was and should be. With the permission of The Express Times of Easton, I am pleased to reprint her letter to the editor of September 1, 2011 - *see inset to the right*.

By its very nature, WDVR has gathered thousands of local listeners like Karen who love and value real radio, the way it used to be and should be. We at WDVR are your friends and neighbors — we shop where you shop and live through the same floods and weather conditions along with you. We personally answer the phone, play your request and share your memories with our other listeners. We are not in Chicago, Dallas or California. We are not voice-tracked or pre-recorded with just gaps left for the insertion of local time checks, commercials and weather. We're not beamed down from hardware in a 22,000 mile synchronous, Earth orbit. We're live, right here on "Main Street". And our door is always open.

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New Jersey radio station covered the earthquake… *reprinted with permission from The Express Times*

In answer to Scott Gingold's Aug. 26 letter regarding the lack of coverage of information about the Aug. 24 earthquake on local TV or radio stations, I wanted to inform him and your readers that they could have tuned in to 89.7 FM, where the independent radio station WDVR was on top of the issue from the moment the on-air DJ felt the quake in the studio, located in an old blacksmith shop in Sergeantsville, NJ.

As you searched our local stations, where canned music and Spanish continued with their previously scheduled programming, WDVR's program "Mid-day Matinee" became the kind of show we used to hear on Easton's WEST prior to March 2007. Calls came into the station about what was happening and the DJ relayed the information to grateful listeners, who are extended family to this nonprofit, commercial-free, listener-supported station, which has been broadcasting for more than 20 years.

The on-air personalities are all volunteers who remember what a radio station with a mission to serve the public should be doing. WDVR streams live 24/7 at www.wdvrfm.org.

Karen F. Palmer, Easton

What's New at WDVR?

Is WDVR Going to the Dogs?

The two legged and four footed are thrilled about our newest show, "*Dogs Rule*" every Wednesday from 3:00-5:00pm with Michele Armstrong. Ms. Armstrong will present expert information on canine health and wellness, veterinary care, behavior training, and those making a difference in the lives of man's best friend. Listeners will be encouraged to participate by submitting questions for the experts and show ideas for upcoming programs.

Michele has grown up with dogs and took her passion for dog advocacy and public education of issues facing homeless dogs and founded Lulu's Rescue. Lulu's is a 501c3 all volunteer organization committed to the rescuing of healthy, adoptable dogs that are on death row and finding these dogs forever homes while enacting dynamic spay/neuter community outreach initiatives which provide results to ending our communities' pet over-population crisis.

Sign up for our monthly e-Newsletter at host@wdvrfm.org

Midweek Midday Matinee's Bob Wallace on Commercial Radio vs. WDVR

First of all, let me state for the record, it's a BLAST (pretty much from the past) working on air at WDVR. Years of employment at commercial radio stations in Philadelphia, in the Lehigh Valley, and in New Jersey, have taught me to "cherish" (is the word) my "association" with a radio station that encourages professionalism and personality. Unfortunately, the large corporate owners of the bulk of today's commercial radio stations have eliminated most of the personality and most of the local content in favor of homogenized play lists (the same 300 songs over and over) and national syndications that fill most of their broadcast hours.

What can you and I do about the big corporate short sighted approach with their micromanaged radio formats??? Support with your talents and/or resources radio stations that sincerely care about serving their audiences… radio stations like WDVR… truly diversified, community oriented radio at its best!

Thank you for your continued support of WDVR, and I look forward to talking with you every Wednesday 12 noon until 3:00 pm on the Midweek Midday Matinee.

WDVR Remote Broadcast From The Somerset County 4H Fair

On Thursday, August 11, WDVR's Ted & Roger hosted a remote broadcast show for the second year from the Somerset County 4H Fair in Bridgewater, New Jersey. DJ Diane Jordan donated her regular Thursday afternoon show for the remote broadcast. Jim Jordan & Kyle Miholics provided technical support at the fairgrounds while Tim Bush ran the board back at the WDVR studio. Kim Miholics and Betty Sommerville were, once again, the 4H Entertainment Committee Chairpersons who worked with WDVR to make the remote broadcast a success.

The weather was perfect with sun, moderate temperature and low humidity. 4H programs have roots going back to the turn of the last century. The Somerset 4H program is over 50 years old. In addition to specific programs, 4H helps encourages responsibility, community awareness and character development.

The show closed with the Chinese Culture Club providing live music featuring violin and a Chinese stringed instrument called the Erhu.

A great day for Somerset 4H and WDVR FM.

Ted & Roger at the Fair

"BATTLE of the GROUPS": DJ FOR AN HOUR

by Joe Bud

Hi Gang! I hope everyone had a great summer and had the good fortune to listen to the "Battle of the Groups" show that aired on July 26, 2011. Mary "B" from Lawrenceville N.J. was the DJ for an hour and did a great job. Approximately one year ago, Mary was attempting to tune her radio and find a station that played the music she loved the most. I was spotlighting *The Barrons* on the "Battle of the Groups" segment and was playing "I know I was wrong" on Imperial records from 1955 when the studio phone light went on and this excited listener stated that "I used to dance to that song back in high school." I was totally impressed with her knowledge of the R&B/ R&R vocal groups of the early era. That day began a relationship with the most upbeat and positive person I have ever met.

She wanted to know if she could donate to the station. I then explained that for a $100 pledge she can be DJ for an hour on the "Battle of the Groups." She also likes Country & Western as well as Blue Grass. Is WDVR right up her alley! The seventy one year old retiree was born in St. Mary's County, MD. and is the fourth of six children. Her parents loved music and there was always music being played around the house. As a graduate of Banneker HS in South MD. of the Class of '57, she enjoyed the Friday sock hops. Her favorite groups were from the MD. area. The Orioles and Clovers are her favorite. She also likes the Drifters, Spaniels, 5 Royales, Billy Ward & the Dominoes and Little Anthony & the Imperials, as well as many others. In 1959, she moved to New York City and attended business school. She then furthered her education by attending S. Eastern University in Washington D.C. She's the mother of three and is proud to have a son that served in the US Army and fought in Iraq during Desert Storm.

Mary uses a walker and cane to get about. I asked her "how do you keep so up-beat and positive?" She said "music, I love to listen to music. It keeps me going with a positive attitude." She got a chance to meet Frank

continued to the right

LULU'S RESCUE
www.lulusrescue.com
Help for Homeless Dogs

Napp and Diane Jordan and some of the other staff while at the station. Needless to say she was a big hit with the staff and with our listeners who called the studio to praise her. I have had several DJ's for an hour this past year. JC from Jersey City was outstanding, reminiscing about the days listening to the radio. Sam the Man and his wife Linda danced in the studio to many of the group sounds. Paul Ressler, who was a DJ in the past, brought some terrific group sounds. All these DJ's had a blast and will be invited on my show again.

The WDVR Fall Fund raising starts in October. Of all the great premiums that will be offered, none is more rewarding than DJ for an hour. So call the station and pledge your $100 and you too can be Alan Freed, Cousin Brucie, Peter Tripp, Jocko, Murray the K, Mary "B", Sam the Man, JC from Jersey City, Paul "R" or Joe Bud. We'll be waiting for your call. Luv ya Judy!!!!!!!!!

Our Own Night Owl

Hi Folks, I'm Buckeye Mel the WDVR night owl DJ. I am on Thursday from 3am to 6am and do a "Hank & Friends" show. That's all Hank Williams, Sr. and it is the only station in the nation where you can hear three hours of Hank every week.

Also, I do an "All Night "Diner show the second and fourth Saturday of the month from 1am to 6am. It's all classic country with an occasional special program thrown in. Most of my music is between thirty to seventy five years old. For a change of night plans, I invite you to listen in and enjoy. Thanks, Buckeye, Mel

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Become a DJ For An Hour on WDVR with a $100 Donation. Go to www.wdvrfm.org/donations.htm & use PayPal

Nighthawks Orchestra

by Barb Zentner

On Sunday afternoons from 1-4 PM, you can hear tunes from the 1900s through the 50s on Tin Pan Alley. Recently, I asked our listeners to help choose a new theme song for Tin Pan Alley by voting for either Duke Ellington's "Doing The Voom Voom" or The Nighthawks "High Fever." I want to thank those who called in and emailed with your vote and you overwhelmingly decided on The Nighthawks for my theme. Here's a little history of The Coon Sanders Original Nighthawk Orchestra.

Carleton Coon and Joe Sanders co-led one of the hottest orchestras of the 1920s. They began as the Coon-Sanders Novelty Orchestra in Kansas City. Joe Sanders played piano, wrote dynamic arrangements and many songs, and handled the finances. Carleton Coon "Coonie" played drums and handled public relations. Although extremely popular in Kansas City as a territory band it was radio that made them a nationwide sensation. In 1924, the band moved to Chicago and played at the posh Blackhawk Restaurant. Their radio timeslot was midnight until 2 AM and the boys wondered if anyone would be awake to listen to "a bunch of night hawks". They then changed the group's name to the Coon Sanders Original Nighthawk Orchestra and asked their listeners to write them, which would prove people were listening. Well, they liked what they heard. Coon-Sanders Nighthawks Clubs were formed all around the country. Joe and Coonie would acknowledge their listeners over the air who had sent them letters and telegrams.

In the Summer the orchestra toured cities in the Midwest. Before returning to the Blackhawk Restaurant for the winter the group always played The Dells, Al Capone's super club just outside of Chicago. While in the Windy City the Coon-Sanders men enjoyed meeting and jamming with some other well respected jazzmen including Benny Goodman, Jimmy McPartland, Muggsy Spanier, Jimmie Noone, Bud Freeman, and Louis Armstrong. They also jammed with Jack Teagarden, Bix Beiderbecke, Jimmy Dorsey, Bing Crosby, and Harry Barris when they visited Chicago.

The Nighthawks briefly moved to New York where they got a coast to coast radio show in 1931. However, they missed Chicago and decided to book themselves at the Hotel Sherman where Coonie died. As band member Rex Downing recalled, "Just before his death, we were riding high, one of the hottest properties in the entertainment business, and then almost overnight the band began to fall to pieces."

Joe Sanders tried to keep the group together but had to disband in 1933. Joe led bands on and off through 1959 and died in 1965. Like flappers, sheiks, dance marathons, and bathtub gin, the Coon-Sanders Nighthawks Orchestra is synonymous with the roaring 20s.

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9/11 Parable of a Leaf:

Ten Years On…

By Hilary Du Haime Murray

Having just returned from the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Garden of Reflection in Yardley, PA, I found myself reflecting upon the messages of some of the speakers. The ceremony was profoundly dignified and the remembrances poignant and heartfelt. It was a somber and fitting tribute to honor all of our fallen brothers and sisters who were killed that day ten years ago.

One presentation though, had me struggling to understand the scope of the message until I began discussing it with my husband. It was a parable offered by **Rabbi Yudy Shemtov.** In brief, the story is about a green leaf, found fully intact on the grassy lawn, on a summer day…. and how strange that may seem given that leaves usually do not fall until autumn, and thus the parable begins…

The leaf asks the tree why it has shaken it from its limb, to which the tree refers the matter to the wind, and why it has blown so hard as to shake the leaf from the tree, to which the wind refers the matter to God, who tells the wind, tree and leaf, that the reason is because that one leaf, now sheltered a colony of ants from the harsh summer sun, allowing them to grow and prosper. The obvious moral being that we cannot know God's will, or reasons for things; in this case the tragedy of 9/11.

And so it is here that I try to make sense as to how this evil deed by terrorists can be woven into the parable of the leaf. As we were re-

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WDVR-FM Program Schedule

89.7 Delaware Township, NJ - 91.9 Lawrenceville, NJ - www.wdvrfm.org

Penn-Jersey Educational Radio Corporation

MONDAY	**6 AM - 9 AM** **Monday Morning Magic** *David McDaid* **Morning Mix of Big Band & More**	**9 AM - Noon** **Swing Time** *Art & Deb* **Big Band, Swing, and Vocals**	**Noon - 3 PM** **Echoes From the Hills** *Richard Evans* **Bluegrass**	**3 PM - 5 PM** **Out & About With** *Sande Neske* **Interviews, Music and Chat**	**5 PM - 6 PM** **Faces of Life** *Kay McGraith* *Weeks 1 & 3* **Gage on the Market** *Bruce Gage* *Weeks 2 & 4* **Talk & Information**	**6 PM - 7 PM** **The Lowdown** *Victoria & Rosalind Davis* **Gossip & News**	**7 PM - 10 PM** **Monday Night Soiree** *Tommy J* **A Mix of Musical Favorites**	**10 PM - Mid** **Bluegrass Horizon** *Mike Wuerstle* **Today's Bluegrass**
TUESDAY	**6 AM - 9 AM** **Hotel California** *Bill Kahlke* **California Folk & Rock**	**9 AM - Noon** **Country Roundup** *Walt Allegar & Frank Knight* **Traditional Country**	**Noon - 3 PM** **Memories & More** *Tim Bush & Marga McKay* **50's thru 60's**	**3 PM - 5 PM** **Battle of the Groups** *Joe Bud* **Vocal Group Harmony**	**5 PM - 6 PM** **Stepping Stones** *Hilary Murray* **Social Issues**	**6 PM - 6:30 PM** **The Children's Shelf** *Dee Smith & Kids* **6:30 PM - 7:00 PM** **Technology Today** *Richard Kazimir* **Computer Info**	**7 PM - 10 PM** **The Sound Alternative** *Carla Van Dyk* **New Age, World, Acoustic Guitar**	**10 PM - Mid** **Left Bank of the Seine** *Tom Bleck* **Jazz & More Alternate Weeks**
WEDNESDAY	**6 AM - 9 AM** **Bluegrass Breakfast** *Susan Rose* **Blue Grass, Country**	**9 AM - Noon** **Wednesday with Walt** *Walt Haake* **Walt's Favorite Tracks**	**Noon - 3 PM** **Midweek Midday Matinee** *Bob Wallace* **Popular Hits**	**3 PM - 5 PM** **Dogs Rule** *Michele Armstrong* **All About Dogs & Music**	**5 PM - 6 PM** **Arriba** *Carla Maria* **Latin Rhythms**	**6 PM - 7 PM** **The Lowdown** *Victoria & Rosalind Davis* **Gossip & News**	**7 PM - 10 PM** **Heart of the Country** *Mark Wesson* **Country**	**10 PM - Mid** **The Caravan** *Debbie S.* **Folk Rock** **3 AM - 6 AM** **Hank & Friends** *Buckeye Mel* **Country**
THURSDAY	**6 AM - 9 AM** **Honky Tonk Roadhouse** *Ted Lyons* **Folk & Rock**	**9 AM - Noon** **Curtain Up** *Don Collester* **Theater & Cabaret**	**Noon - 2 PM** **High Noon Country** *Bob Jackson* **Country**	**2 PM - 5 PM** **Thursday Afteroon Cruisin'** *Diane Jordan* **50's & 60's Classic R&B**	**5 PM - 7 PM** **Tempus** *John Cole* **News & Interviews with a Little Music Thrown In**		**7 PM - 10 PM** **freewheelin'** *Jethro Kin* **Folk, Plus Lots of Dylan**	**10 PM - 1 AM** **Currents & Traditions** *Eileen Fisher* **Folk/Celtic**
FRIDAY	**6 AM - 9 AM** **Hot Wax** *Studebaker Hawk* **50's & 60's Rock**	**9 AM - Noon** **TGIF** *Ted & Roger* **The 60's Experience**	**Noon - 3 PM** **Bleecker Street Cafe** *Chris Poh & Ed Petersen* **Conversation & Folk Music**	**3 PM - 4 PM** **Anything Goes** *Gene M.* **4 PM - 5 PM** **The World of Work** *Shep Cohen* **Interviews**	**5 PM - 7 PM** **Country Store** *Frank Napp* **Traditional Country**	**7 PM - 10 PM** **Country Routes** *Len Werner* **Country & Yodeling**	**10 PM - 1 AM** **A Musical Mix**	**1 AM - 6 AM** **All Night Diner** *Tim Bush, Mel Kays, Susan Rose* **Country All Night**
SATURDAY	**6 AM - 9 AM** **Under Western Skies** *George Gamble* **Cowboy Western**	**9 AM - Noon** **Radio Ranch** *Charlie Harrison* **Country**	**Noon - 1 PM** **Classic Country Gold** *Richard Evans* **1 PM - 4 PM** **Bluegrass** *Richard Evans*	**4 PM - 6 PM** **The Road Less Travelled** *Melba Toast* **Eclectic Mix, Folk, Country & More**	**6 PM - 8 PM** **Heartland Hayride** **Country Music Live - 2nd & 4th weeks** **Virginia Napurano Cultural Arts Center** *Sergeantsville, NJ* **Hidden Tracks - 1st, 3rd & 5th weeks** *Rob Pergola* **Country & Rock**		**8 PM - 11 PM** **Jukebox Saturday Night** *Frank Napp & Co.* **40's thru 50's Music & Games**	**11 PM - 2 AM** **Put Another Nickel In** *Mark Wesson* **4 AM - 6 AM** **Christian Spirituals** *Len Werner*
SUNDAY	**Church Services** *Moody Church - 6 AM* *Milford Presbyterian - 7 AM* *Amwell Church of the Brethren - 7:30* *Cornerstone Christian - 8 AM* *Family Life Center - 8:30 AM* *South Branch Bible - 9:00 AM* *River of Life - 10:00 AM* *Walk of Faith - 10:30*		**11 AM - 1 PM** **Celtic Sunday Brunch** *Walt Haake, Carla Van Dyk, Eileen Fisher* **Celtic**	**1 PM - 4 PM** **Tin Pan Alley** *Barbara Zentner* **Vaudeville, 20's to 40's With British Tea Time**	**4 PM - 8 PM** **Katy's Cafe** *Katy Stone* **Rock**	**8 PM - MID** **My 70's, My 80's, My Music** *Chris Burden* **Pop Hits**	*All you night owls tune in. We play music you'll love all night long.*	

WDVR-FM - PO Box 191 - Sergeantsville, NJ 08557

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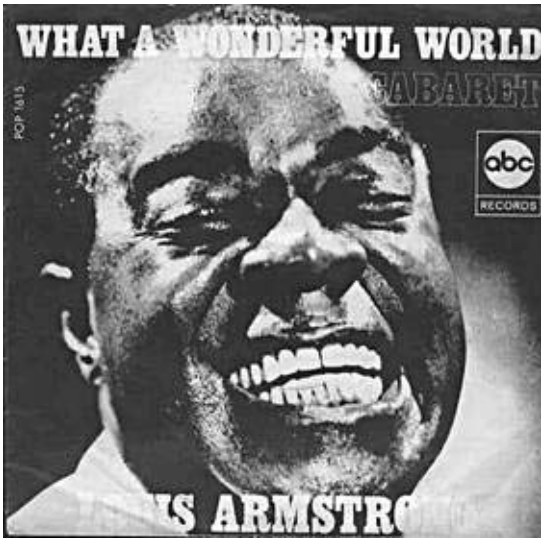

The Song and the Story...

"What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong

by Walt Haake

Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World" is one of those marvelous records that opens the door to our better selves. Released in the politically and racially charged climate of 1968, "Pops" seemed to whisper magic words that reminded us of why we are here.

I was learning to drive the first time I heard the record, and it felt to me like this legendary man with his great, beaming smile had come over to me, put his hand on my shoulder and showed me the incredible beauty of the trees, skies and children that I hadn't *really* noticed before.

But, I was one of the relatively few people in the U.S. who had heard the song on the radio at that time. While "What a Wonderful World" soared to the top of the British charts and became the UK's biggest selling single of 1968, the record flopped in the U.S., "bubbling under" at #116. How could this be? Why would we Americans have to wait twenty years for this great recording to become a hit (following its memorable use in the film "Good Morning Vietnam")? That's the story of one powerful man, which I'll get to in a minute. But first, let me introduce you to George David Weiss, a man who lived right here in WDVR country—Tewksbury Township, NJ, to be exact.

George Weiss, you see, wrote "What a Wonderful World" with his friend, producer Bob Theile. Weiss was a well-established songwriter, known for hits like "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," "Can't Help Falling in Love with You," "Lullaby of Birdland," and "That Sunday, That Summer," among others. He was asked to come up with something like "Hello Dolly," which had been a huge hit for Louis Armstrong in 1964. But Weiss had something different in mind. "I wanted to write a song that I believed in," Weiss recalled years later, "So I decided, well, I'm going to write a song that used what Mr. Armstrong seemed to use—*color*—to bring people together. I thought and thought, and finally I came up with it."

I see trees of green, red roses too
I see them bloom for me and you
And I think to myself what a wonderful world.
I see skies of blue and clouds of white
The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night
And I think to myself what a wonderful world.
The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces of people going by
I see friends shaking hands, saying how do you do
They're really saying I love you.
I hear babies crying, I watch them grow
They'll learn much more than I'll never know
And I think to myself what a wonderful world
Yes I think to myself what a wonderful world.

The song, the arrangement and the performance resulted in 2½ minutes

continued on next page

Parable of Leaf from previous page...

turning from the ceremony, a short piece on the car radio gave me a possible answer. It was discussing the "Arab Spring" in which the citizens of many oppressive nations have risen up in protest to demand their rights as individuals. Although the commentator said the verdict was still out as to whether these nations would reap the harvest of freedom, I cannot help but wonder if our actions in Afghanistan and particularly Iraq, now a fledgling democracy, somehow contributed to this groundswell of courage. Was it as President Bush said that by providing an example in the Middle East of a free Arab State we might encourage others to be free? Was our catastrophe, or rather our response to it, the "leaf" for millions of people who wished to be masters of their own destiny?

As we looked to our left and right at the remembrance ceremony, there were many with tears for lost loved ones and family members. Their sadness is shared by all of us, but to think that this terrible event may someday prove to have been a catalyst in freeing millions brings even greater honor to their passing.

Louis Armstrong from previous page...

of magic. But the head of ABC Paramount, Armstrong's record label at the time, didn't think so. He refused to promote the record, condemning it to a sales of fewer than 1000 copies in the U.S., even as the HMV label in the UK was enjoying record breaking success with the song.

Armstrong's recording was eventually inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame, and there have been many fine interpretations of "What a Wonderful World" over the years, including recordings by Willie Nelson, Tony Bennett & K.D. Lang, Eva Cassidy, Anne Murray, and Israel Kamakawiwo'ole ("Brudda Iz").

For me, though, I'll never forget that day in 1968 when it was as if the great smiling "Satchmo" put one hand on my shoulder, pointed to the sky with other and helped me see this wonderful world through brighter eyes.

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong. And thank you, Mr. Weiss.

Walt Haake hosts WDVR's "Wednesdays with Walt" and is one of the hosts of "Celtic Sunday Brunch."

Jethro's Time: freewheelin' on WDVR FM

By John Cole

Asked to write a story about WDVR's Jethro, I figured there was no time like the present, and jotted a few notes onto my yellow pad. It became a snapshot on how early Thursday evenings play out for the enigmatic, but caring host.

On this warm summer afternoon, a late day rain was softly falling; just enough to let all know, it was more than just humid out. The silver pick-up pulls up to the curb just outside the WDVR. The driver's side door opens and the lean, weathered, pony-tailed, blond haired man quiety, but purposefully goes about his Thursday evening routine. Jethro, the guy behind the success of "Free Wheelin" knows he has about an hour before show-time – a three-hour, Thursday block that begins at 7 p.m.

The light summer rain was a welcome relief. Jethro and his work partner, Vito, had just spent the blisteringly hot day repairing a roof in one of their multi-varied assignments. Jethro reflects a quiet satisfaction as he moves one satchel after another of CDs and records from his pickup into the studio. Once the move is complete and the door closes, he takes on an appearance of comfort, like someone who comes home to a place he knows he is welcome. Once that On-The Air light goes on in Studio A, it will be his court. Jethro has been a WDVR staple since his arrival at the station some eight years ago.

"Free Wheelin" begins with the long, repetitive, but alluring Bob Dylan piece "All the Tired Horses." The listener will then hear the soft, nonplused entry of Jethro's reassuring baritone voice, as he sets up a story or two from the past week. The tales are invitingly painted – brushed with just the right amount of familiarity so that we, his listeners, can readily understand the predicament, the surprise, the situation, but appreciate its Jetroesque uniqueness. It might be a time to laugh, maybe weep a bit, but it will be a time to share our common humanity. Listeners can remember classic, memorable tales, such as the trip to Allentown, Pennsylvania for art supplies for his friend, Denise, or the time the fuel truck was skidding on the ice.

From the portraits of a day in his life - the program shifts gears and takes off with tasteful music of all types – but, certainly with a good dose of folk and well crafted rock, interspersed with Jethro's comments. Just enough talk to let the listener know, this "Free Wheelin" is about more than the music. Bob Dylan's song about serving somebody finds Jethro looking to serve the interests of his loyal listeners. Listeners, some regulars - some new, call in with thoughts and requests. Those song requests almost magically appear – at the right place in the program. Jethro found the right satchel and the right CD. Some shows feature live entertainment. The musicians play across from the watchful listen of Jethro, as he "works the board", giving them and his listeners the best sound he can. Jethro respects the craft of his guests. He appreciates some of the hoops they have gone through, as he himself is a musician. He learned the art from his best friend, and sometimes guest, Mike Knox, who is a fluent guitar player.

At the end of the three hours, after bottles of spring water, and maybe after some dumplings and a jelly donut or two; a talk or message to and from

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another best friend, artist Denise Egielski, the time has come to pack-up, move on, and start thinking of the show for next week. If there is a quiet, a mystery in the past three hours, it is that listeners may not really understand that the person who they let into their space told them just enough. Listeners know of Jethro's family, his own challenges, where he likes to eat, what he likes to eat, and interests in life. Listeners may not know, though, that Jethro is an independent soul whose talents let him take well care of himself and others who are important in his life.

The silver pickup leaves into the night as assuredly as it arrived. Jethro is off to another venture, or two, which will be good fodder, for a good story, for a good night on the radio. Weather, like "Free Wheelin" is not always predictable. Yes, you'll hear captivating stories and great music, but you can't be guaranteed what they'll be about – except, of course - the Bob Dylan songs. No tired horse is he. Tune in Thursday nights to **freewheelin'** 7-10pm.

Dear Friends and Neighbors

One of the great joys for us at WDVR begins when the studio phone light starts blinking. Taking off the headphones to answer the telephone is one of the ways we find out just how well we are doing. As unpaid volunteers at WDVR, we're here for the sheer joy of sharing music, information and conversation with you in hopes of helping you to have a safer and better day. So when a call comes in and a listener says, "I just want you to know I love WDVR and I really enjoy your program," that is the music to our ears. That's when we think, "I just got my pay check."

While the pay checks for our volunteers come in the form of the wonderful comments we receive about our programs, the bills we pay to keep WDVR on the air require a different kind of currency. Those local business underwriters that you hear us thank every half hour, supply approximately 50% of our yearly financial needs, but there's no way we can survive without the support from you our faithful listeners.

Our autumn fund drive begins October 1. It's one of only two times a year that we ask you to be there for us. Please take a moment to reflect on the role WDVR plays in your life. If we've helped put a smile on your face or brought back a great memory, if we've helped you discover something new or useful, won't you please return the favor by supporting WDVR during our fund drive? As you know, every nickel we receive is used frugally to make sure we can continue to be there for you every time you turn on your radio. And your donation is 100% tax deductable.

Our recent stormy days and nights have also confirmed our ongoing policy and belief that WDVR must be completely independent of outside service. And that includes not relying on the commercial power company or any other municipal service, no matter how severe or lengthy the emergency becomes. And to that end we have already contracted with a company to replace our present back-up systems by installing a new and more powerful standby electrical generations system. This new system will insure uninterrupted continuous service to you our listener. This is just one of the very important and very expensive projects we have planned, for the coming months. That's why, now more than ever, we hope you'll make a point of supporting WDVR during our October fund drive. We can't do it without you!

Thank You, The Staff and Management

WDVR Small Business Connection

WDVR Small Business Connection members receive a 15 second on air announcement that airs once a day. For more information call 609-397-1620 or email host@wdvrfm.org

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WDVR underwriters receive a 45 second on-air spot airing 3x a day. For information call 609-397-1620 or email host@wdvrfm.org

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