

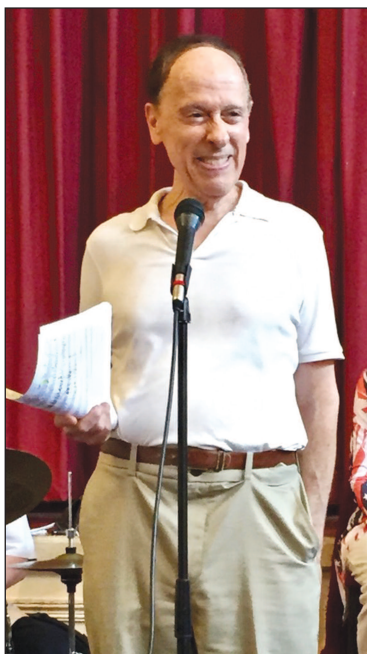
A musical celebration of life in today's America

BY SUSAN MCTIGUE
CORRESPONDENT
CLOSTER

Closter Hall of Fame member and nationally renowned jazz pianist Joel Zelnik brought his quartet and his love of country to the air-conditioned Tenakill Auditorium on Sunday, July 1, to kick off the Fourth of July celebrations in the midst of a heat wave.

"This Is My Country" honored America through three centuries of music that highlight American ideals and values.

Along with vocalist Francine Evans, double bass player Brian Glassman, also of Closter, and drummer Ronnie Zito of Oradell, the audience was showered with familiar tunes that were both touching and inspiring. Well-known songs by Irving Berlin, Woodie Guthrie, Elton John, rag-



Joel Zelnik spoke of the extensive patriotic music throughout America's history.

time by Scott Joplin, Broadway musical classics from "Oklahoma," and Armed Forces themes had everyone singing along.

Zelnik explained some of the history behind the songs and brought the crowd to its feet for "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful."

Gerry Oliver said, "The music was inspirational and a great way



Vocalist Francine Evans' rendition of "The House I Live In" brought some people to tears.

to start the July 4th holiday."

Charlie McGill added that he was "going to re-enlist tomorrow" after being roused by the patriotic tunes.

When Francine Evans sang "The House I Live In," made

famous by Frank Sinatra, the lyrics were especially meaningful: "The children in the playground, the faces that I see, all races and religions, that's America to me."

Photos by Susan McTigue



Jazz pianist Joel Zelnik was accompanied by double bass player Brian Glassman of Closter.



As the program concluded, the audience stood and sang "America the Beautiful."

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NORTHVALE

A jazzy conclusion to concerts

The Borough of Northvale will host its final Summer Concert in the Park with a performance on Aug. 24 by TAJQ (Jazz Quartet). The concert is at Hogan Park Gazebo from 7-8 p.m. Bring a lawn chair and listen to some great music. Questions? Call (201) 767-3330, ext. 223.