

# CITY SUBURBAN NEWS

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FIND YOUR  
COMMUNITY  
NEWS HERE!



Dining &  
Entertainment  
Pages 6 & 7



Celebrating  
Jewish Culture &  
Community  
Pages 9 & 12



Education News  
Page 10

Holiday Shopping  
& Entertainment  
Pages 7 & 8

Healthy Living  
Page 11

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## Join Cherish the Ladies in a Celtic Christmas Celebration



Photo/Alessandro Tosto

Cherish the Ladies will perform at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, December 16 at 7 p.m.

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts continues the holiday season with a performance from Grammy-nominated Irish band Cherish the Ladies. This all-female Irish-American ensemble places their signature mark on classic holiday tunes in this one-night-only concert. This performance will take place on Sunday, **December 16** at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20-\$55 (prices are subject to change). For tickets or for infor-

mation, visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](http://AnnenbergCenter.org) or call 215-898-3900. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Annenberg Center Box Office.

This long-time Annenberg Center favorite will ring in the holidays with a performance that combines instrumental talent, stunning vocals and traditional Irish step dancing. Praised by *The New York Times* as a "joyful symposium on Irish Music," Cherish the Ladies uses their unique Irish flair to put a refresh-

See *Cherish the Ladies to Perform* on page 8

## Gold Medal in Natural History Art Goes to Exceptional Fish Artist

Public is Invited to Attend Free Talk on December 5

A leading artist, naturalist and conservationist with a unique ability to paint fish so lifelike they seem to jump off the paper will receive the Gold Medal in Natural History Art from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, it was announced recently.

James Prosek, dubbed "the Audubon of the fishing world" by *The New York Times*, was 20 when he completed his first book, *Trout: An Illustrated History*, featuring 70 of his watercolor paintings of North American trout. Since then, the Connecticut artist has published a dozen books about fish and displayed his paintings in galleries and museums across the country and the world. He co-founded a conservation initiative called World Trout in 2004, which raises money for coldwater habitat conservation through the sale of T-shirts featuring trout paintings.

Prosek will receive his award and speak about his life's passion in a free public event on Wednesday, **December 5**, at the Academy. The program starts at 6:30 p.m., and Prosek

See *Meet Artist James Prosek* on page 5



Artist James Prosek, here at work in his studio, is the recipient of the Academy's Gold Medal in Natural History Art.

## CAMPAIGN IN PROGRESS FOR FUNDING STAGED READING OF LOCAL THEATER COMPOSER'S NEW MUSICAL *FRESH!*

For Wynnewood musical theater composer Michael Bihovsky, "the old college try" meant writing a full-length pop-rock musical about his freshman year at NYU. The result was *Fresh!*, a show with Broadway ambitions that is prepping for its first staged reading in New York City.

To help fund the production, Bihovsky has launched a Kickstarter campaign. Kickstarter - a pioneer in so-called "crowdfunding" - allows artists to attract financial backers by offering gift incentives at a variety of giving levels. To appeal to donors, Bihovsky has created a short video

featuring songs and video footage from the show. The video highlights the musical's diverse content by transitioning between comedic numbers (such as "I'm afraid of Virginia Woolf") and more somber, reflective material.

For Bihovsky, *Fresh!* isn't just about entertaining; it's about advocacy for a number of social issues, including what he terms "invisible illnesses" -



chronic physical or emotional conditions that are not immediately apparent to an outside observer. Bihovsky himself has Ehlers-Danlos

Opening number of "*Fresh!*" as performed off-Broadway in the "*Scene It! New York*" competition. Show creator Michael Bihovsky is second from right.

Syndrome, a connective tissue disorder that primarily affects his joints, ligaments, and tendons.

"When I got to college, I was just starting to experience all of these strange symptoms,"

says Bihovsky. "It was really hard, and I found myself drawn to people who were also going through monumental life struggles. With their help, I learned that it's the most challenging struggles in life that define us, and that teach us invaluable lessons. For me, those lessons became this show.

See *Help Fund Michael Bihovsky's Musical* on page 5