



Everything Jersey

Haiti benefit concert planned in Hackettstown

By Warren Reporter

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HACKETTSTOWN – A concert in Hackettstown later this month featuring some of the top talent from Northern New Jersey will benefit the people of Haiti.

“Concert For Haiti” is scheduled for Friday night, Feb. 19 at the Skylands Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1811 Route 57, Hackettstown.

Area favorites Kate & Paul, Jody Price, Mef & Angela and Nadine & Brian will be performing during the night. Doors open 7:30 p.m. The show goes from 8-10 p.m. Suggested donation for the show is \$12.



Kate & Paul

The benefit concert is especially close to the heart of Nadine LaFond, who along with her husband Brian Herkert is in the band Swampadelica. While LaFond was born in the United States, most of her family was born in Haiti and she remains close to Haiti’s people.

“I was the only member of my family born in the states,” said LaFond, who was born in Brooklyn. “When I turned around 2 or 3 years old, I traveled to Haiti with my parents to meet my siblings for the first time. They were living with our maternal grandmother at the time while our parents got things ready for all of us in the states. Once I turned 5 years old, we all left Haiti together and I’ve lived in New Jersey ever since.

“I only just visited Haiti, after all this time, in August 2009, and was in the middle of a Haiti relief benefit /exhibit when the earthquake hit,” she continued. “Artists and musicians are now gathering together all over the place, which is so beautiful and it’s just the beginning as we have so much work ahead of us.”

LaFond and her husband currently live in Montville. Kate & Paul, Mef & Angela, and Price all live in the Hackettstown-Washington Township (Morris) area.

LaFond added, “It means a great deal to me personally to witness the human solidarity around Haiti right now. The world is only now starting to understand our heritage and history and how much the arts mean to Haiti as a whole; it’s in the blood. This benefit, which shares its love through music, is a natural path to connecting and supporting the people of Haiti. What I’m feeling most these days is gratitude, not only for all of the help that is being sent over but for the realization of interdependence that is so deeply awakening us all. It’s a blessing.”

Tickets can be purchased at the door. For more information, call 908-852-0873.

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