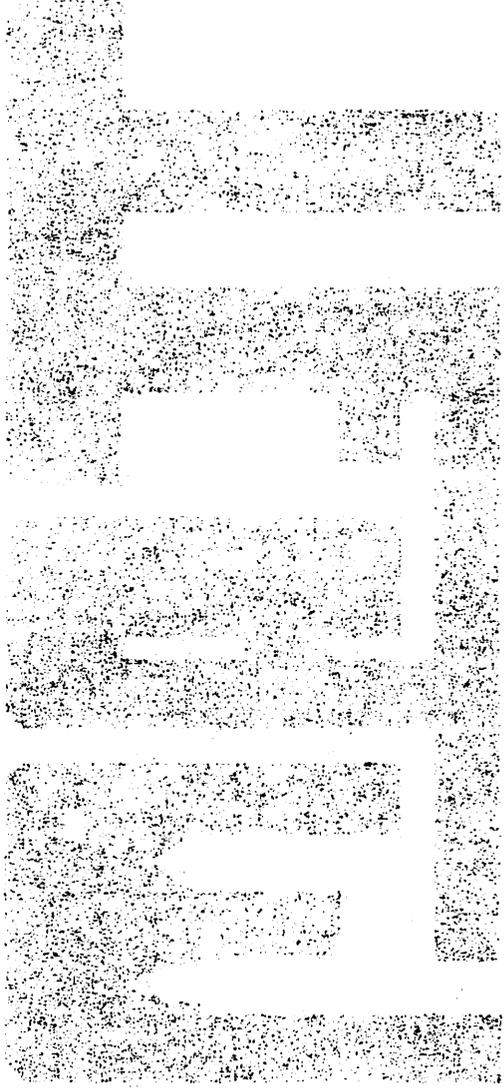




TEAM is a homegrown arts, music and cultural non-profit initiative dedicated to the production, promotion and organization of original programming, projects and events in the Exeter area. TEAM works directly with businesses and civic groups, providing education on how to better allocate cultural support and funding that directly benefits artists, musicians, and entertainers with direct ties to the community. Particular focus is on revitalizing and changing perception of the downtown area, cultivating a vibrant arts scene, and attracting new visitors.

[www.TeamExeter.com](http://www.TeamExeter.com)



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SEEN ON SCENE:

## Downtown Exeter a beehive of activity on 'First Friday'

EXETER — TEAM (Town, Exeter, Arts, Music) again presented "First Fridays: Extown Walks" this past Friday. The event featured open art galleries, live music, cultural activities, wine and beer tastings, kids activities, and shopping.

Exeter Arts Committee hosted the opening reception of its Seacoast Open Studio Art Exhibit as well as sponsoring live music on the bandstand with TVP Records and Groove Lounge.

The American Independence Museum hosted a number of activities at the Folsom Tavern, including live music, historical tours, colonial games for the kids, and beer from Redhook Brewery and Pub of Portsmouth.

The Seacoast Artist Association hosted a gallery reception for its monthly "theme show challenges." Guests enjoyed light refreshments and were able to cast of votes for their favorite pieces.

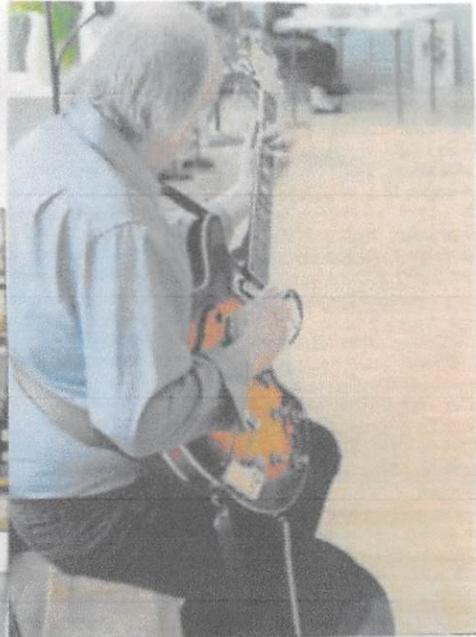
Stairway to Heaven Comics hosted an art class called "Cartooning With Katie" for children ages 6-13. Meanwhile Trends Gift Gallery & Invitation Studio celebrated its recent expansion with a First Friday reception.

There were pop-up art shows and open houses at vacant store-fronts in downtown Exeter sponsored by Ruffner Real Estate LLC. Alternative arts organization Wrong Brain took over the former Cornucopia space, and Jones Art Studio and East Colony Fine Art were at 163 Water Street.

There were also offerings from Exeter Fine Crafts,



There was browsing at Trends, which celebrated a recent expansion.



Music helped set the mood for the Seacoast Art Association show at the old Exeter Town Hall.



Budding artists were found hard at work outside the old Town Hall. PHOTOS BY BUZZ DIETTERLE/SEACOASTONLINE

Willowby Wood's Antiques, etc., Water Street Bookstore, igneouslic.com, A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words, Inn By The Bandstand, Station 10, Pimentos Restaurant, and The Green Bean

with an afterparty Pimentos!

For details about the next First Friday, contact TEAM through facebook, or email Scott Ruffner at scotruffner@mac.com

### Online

For more photo coverage of First Friday activities in downtown Exeter, visit the News-Letter at seacoastonline.com

# Exeter News-Letter.

COMMUNITY

## Pop-up mural a TEAM effort

Fence-painting  
project adds color  
to downtown

EXETER — Armed with a few gallons of paint donated by Arjay Ace Hardware, the nonprofit initiative TEAM (Town.Exeter.Arts.Music) continued its mission of making the downtown area a more vibrant place.

A small group of volunteers assembled recently at the fence in front of the vacant lot located next to 11 Water St., with permission from the property owner. "We chose yellow and purple to coincide with the colors used in the marketing of our First Friday: Extown Walks initiative, and because they are the funkier colors you usually see used in downtown historical districts," said Scott Ruffner, director of TEAM.

Beyond the two-color restriction, the fence-painting project was meant to promote spontaneous creativity and interaction between a wide range of people in the community.

Based on the turnout, the mission was definitely accomplished. Most of the contributors were random people passing by, including PEA summer school students from China, Saudi Arabia, Chicago and Memphis, tourists visiting from Italy, and locals strolling by with their children.

"The end result ended up looking more like a random work of graffiti, but that was the intended spirit of the exercise. All we hear about in downtown Exeter is the lack of vibrancy and creative outlets for younger people," Ruffner said. He also mentioned that he got a call first thing in the morning from the Exeter police because someone had reported the fence as "potential vandalism."

The officer reportedly was very nice about the situation and it was quickly cleared up. Now that the project is stirring up a little small-town banter and criticism, TEAM is looking to help with ideas to turn the fence into a more permanent art mural.



THE ARTS

## Experience TEAM's efforts at UFO Fest, First Friday

Goal is to cultivate a more vibrant cultural scene

EXETER — In time for this weekend's UFO Festival and First Fridays events, TEAM (Town.Exeter.Arts.Music) has joined forces with Ruffner Real Estate to temporarily convert some available commercial properties in downtown Exeter into pop-up art galleries.

The sixth annual Exeter UFO Festival runs Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 4-6 with events in downtown Exeter.

First Fridays are held each month by TEAM, an initiative of the new Arts Industry Alliance. The non-profit organization's goal is to spearhead a movement to help educate local businesses, governments and civic groups on how to better allocate their support of "the arts" so that it positively affects artists and musicians residing in their communities.

TEAM is focusing specifically on cultivating a more vibrant cultural scene in Exeter, and hoping to change the perception of the downtown area. Scott Ruffner is the executive director of both AIA and TEAM, and had the idea of combining a traditional real estate "open house" with pop-up art shows featuring homegrown artists and musicians.

"The spaces were empty, and having art displayed still allowed us to continue with scheduled showings while also encouraging walk-in foot traffic similar to an open house. Through the generosity of the property owners, we were able to offer the artists use of storefronts that they would normally not be



Exeter artist Bruce Jones discusses some of his work with gallery visitors.



Currently empty spaces in downtown Exeter are being used as pop-up art galleries. COURTESY PHOTOS/LORENZO VIGIL

able to afford," said Ruffner.

According to Ruffner, Kristine Meier of Meier Design was instantly receptive to the idea and donated use of her 167 Water Street property for an extended gallery showcase organized by Exeter-based painter Bruce Jones of Jones Art Studio. The space has three separate levels, in addition to two storefront display windows, and proved to be a perfect location for this type of concept. The property is still listed for sale with Ruffner Real Estate.

Elliott Berkowitz and Nancy Phillips of the Pairpoint Group also offered use of 143 Water Street for a weekend pop-up show by Seacoast artist collective Wrong Brain to coincide

with TEAM's "First Fridays: Extown Walks". That space has since been leased to a new public paint studio, The Offbeat Owl, which offers classes, paint nights, and private parties. Perhaps a new trend is brewing in downtown Exeter.

This month's First Fridays event on Friday, Sept. 4, runs 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. with open art galleries, live music, cultural activities, wine and beer tastings, kids activities and more. Details at [townexeterartsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:townexeterartsmusic@gmail.com) and [www.TeamExeter.com](http://www.TeamExeter.com).

For more about the UFO Festival, visit <http://exeterufofestival.org/>. For further information about TEAM and First Fridays, contact Ruffner at 512-8396.

WINTER KIDS FEST

# Kids rock with Disney star

Genevieve Goings shares positive messages

By Suzanne Laurent  
news@seacoastonline.com

**EXETER** — Star-struck kids and their snow-weary parents enjoyed an afternoon of music and interactive art projects at Town Hall Saturday.

Town.Exeter.Arts.Music, or TEAM, held its first Winter Kids Fest fundraiser featuring television and radio personality Genevieve Goings, star of Disney Junior's "Choo Choo Soul with Genevieve" and host of Radio Disney Junior. Teaching children through music, "Choo Choo Soul" delivers soulful and current renditions of the ABCs, 1-2-3s, and

SEE KIDS, A4



Genevieve Goings, star of Disney Junior's "Choo Choo Soul with Genevieve," has kids from the audience participate in a number during TEAM's Winter Kids Fest Saturday at the Exeter Town Hall. PHOTO BY SUZANNE LAURENT/SEACOASTONLINE

EXETER

## Disney star to highlight Winter Kids Fest

EXETER — Town Exeter Arts Music (TEAM) is launching its first Winter Kids Fest fund-raiser with an event on Valentine's Day featuring television and radio personality Genevieve Goings, the star of Disney Junior's "Choo Choo Soul with Genevieve" and host of Radio Disney Junior.

On Saturday, Feb. 14, at 2 p.m., she will be performing songs from her brand-new CD "Do You Know", as well as talking with the kids about her positive message of succeeding in the entertainment industry by creating your own path and not waiting to be "discovered".

Teaching children through music, Choo-Choo Soul delivers soulful and current renditions of the ABCs, 1-2-3s, and learning how to be polite. It's the high-energy stage version of the Junior Disney television show, peppered with rich, upbeat vocals and dazzling dancing.

This Saturday's event takes place at the Exeter Town Hall located at 9 Front St., across from the bandstand in downtown Exeter. There will also be caricature artists, hoop dancing, and interactive art projects for the kids. Tickets are \$20 each, and there will be no additional charges for



Genevieve Goings, the star of Disney Junior's "Choo Choo Soul with Genevieve" is coming to Exeter on Saturday, Feb. 14, at 2 p.m. COURTESY PHOTO

activities inside the event, including meeting and having a picture taken with Genevieve.

### FAMILY

#### Cabin fever cure

High-profile television personality Genevieve Goings, the star of Disney Junior's "Choo Choo Soul with Genevieve" and Radio Disney Junior host, may be reason enough to take the kids to Exeter this weekend for the Winter Kids Fest. She'll perform songs from her brand new CD, "Do You Know." There also will be caricature art, hooping dancing, and interactive art projects for the kids.

**What:** Winter Kids Fest

**When:** 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13

**Where:** Exeter Town Hall, 7 Front St., Exeter

**Cost:** \$20

**Info:** Tickets and copies of "Do You Know" can be found at these area businesses: Water Street Bookstore, Whirligigs Toy Shop, Ruffner Real Estate, MusicalArts Academy of Music & Dance, Thrive for Women, and Puddle-jumpers Children's Shop. Search Facebook for "Town Exeter Arts Music."





The featured musical act at the Exeter Arts Committee's Bandstand Live series on May 1 will be Qwill, a critically acclaimed recording artist from Salem, Mass., with strong ties to Exeter. He regularly performs live at the TEAM Thursday Night Live music series at Pimentos and also records and collaborates with Exeter-based production company TVP Records. COURTESY PHOTO/RACHEAL HADIASHAR

# the sound

free & independent news for the Seacoast

## More arts for Exeter

According to Scott Ruffner, founder of Town. Exeter. Arts. Music., Exeter needs to get beyond its "Ioka-itous" and on with its art.

"We're still talking about the Ioka ... like we can't do anything with the arts till the Ioka is saved," he says. "For now, let it remain sunk and let's build a new ship and give someone a reason to want to save the Ioka. Right now there's not much art and culture in town, let's cultivate it and if someone wants to save it, great."

TEAM produced a handful of events over the past year with the help of area businesses and The Exeter Arts Committee and Independence Museum, and is gearing up more.

Exeter has a lot to offer beside the Ioka. Ruffner makes note of the beautiful downtown and centrally located bandstand "very underused for its primary purpose."

EXETER

# Harvest Fest to celebrate all things local

Downtown to be filled with music, food, fun and more

EXETER — TEAM (Town. Exeter. Arts. Music) is once again joining forces with artists, musicians and businesses in the community to present an afternoon showcasing local music, local food, and local art on Saturday, Oct. 24, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

There will be featured performances from some of the area's top musical artists, with the soothing soulful sounds of Qwill appropriately kicking off the festivities at 11 a.m. in downtown Exeter.

Qwill is an award winner in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, and his single "Ghost" was named one of the "Top 10 Local Songs

of 2014" by the Sound Of Boston. Rockspring follows up with a set of high energy roots music combining elements of bluegrass, rock and a touch of soul, a combination that has made them one of the top regional live acts in their genre. Cold Engines hits the stage at 2 p.m., led by former front man of The Brew, David Drouin. The Engines has been gaining steam throughout the touring circuit as well as being recognized with several New England Music Award nominations for their last release. Closing out the day of music will be the always funky sounds of Groove Lounge, combining DJ beats with live instrumentation, vocals, and some of the area's finest guitar chops.

Homegrown food will also be a major attraction at



3 Brothers Marketplace will also be sponsoring a beer tasting featuring local breweries, as well as Trends Gift Gallery presenting a wine tasting to celebrate its recent expansion and addition of wine sales in the shop.

the festival, with 3 Brothers Marketplace, Laney & Lu Cafe, Blue Moon Evolution, D Squared Java and Good Karma all contributing selections featuring locally-sourced

ingredients. Carter Plimpton of 3 Brothers helped spearhead the "Local Food Court" that will be set up at the event, and likes the direct connection made to homegrown

music at the event. "We're glad to be part of the growing local food movement here in Exeter, and we love what TEAM is doing to unite that world with musicians that are right here in the community."

3 Brothers Marketplace will also be sponsoring a beer tasting featuring local breweries, as well as Trends Gift Gallery presenting a wine tasting to celebrate its recent expansion and addition of wine sales in the shop. TEAM Harvest Fest will be kid-friendly with pumpkin painting with The Offbeat Owl, as well as face painting, a caricature artist, and other kids' activities. The Exeter Arts Committee will be sponsoring a small art vendor section at the event.

This is a fundraising event for Town. Exeter. Arts. Music, and a portion of all

sales will be donated back to the non-profit initiative of the Arts Industry Alliance. AIA is a new organization, based in Exeter, devoted to keeping arts funding in the community and working with homegrown artists and musicians to cultivate a more vibrant and sustainable seacoast arts scene. TEAM Harvest Fest is happening at the pop-up grove at 9 Franklin Street, located directly behind Blue Moon Evolution in downtown Exeter. The space was generously donated by The Bungalow Club, who is a support of the TEAM arts initiative in Exeter. A \$10 minimum donation is suggested at the door per person.

For further information contact Scott Ruffner at 512-8396 or [ScottRuffner@mac.com](mailto:ScottRuffner@mac.com).

EXETER

## Garden party fundraiser focuses on the arts

TEAM looks to promote greater awareness

By Erik Hawkins  
ehawkins@seacoastonline.com

EXETER - Seeking to "bridge the gap" between Exeter and its small but thriving arts community, Scott Ruffner hosted a garden party fundraiser on July 16 at Epoch for Town Exeter Arts Music (TEAM).

Oil painters Cheryl Vratsenes and Aline Lotter were on-hand creating new works while people wine and dine around them and the music played, with a portion of the bar proceeds going to TEAM.

Ruffner said that TEAM's various activities are efforts to get arts-oriented events happening in the community, including their First Friday Extown Walks and Groove Lounge in the Park. "We're working towards some bigger fundraisers," he said.

"I think we showed that there is a need and a market for these types of things," said Ruffner. "There are resources around the town that remain untapped while everyone complains about the loka. We have plenty of talent and resources here ... let's open up the floodgates!"

According to its website, "TEAM is a homegrown arts, music and cultural non-profit initiative dedicated to the production, promotion and organization of original programming, projects and events in the Exeter area community. Particular focus is on revitalizing and changing perception of the downtown area, cultivating a vibrant arts scene, and attracting new visitors."

Proceeds from the event tallied just over \$150.

More information about upcoming TEAM events can be found on their website, at [www.teamexeter.com](http://www.teamexeter.com)



Audrey Bean, Jeanette Lackey, Florence Ruffner and Susan Drinker enjoy themselves at TEAM's garden party fundraiser at Epoch on July 16. PHOTO BY ERIK HAWKINS/SEACOASTONLINE



Artist Cheryl Vratsenes paints with oils at the July 16 TEAM garden party fundraiser at Epoch. PHOTO BY ERIK HAWKINS/SEACOASTONLINE



Scott Ruffner, executive director of TEAM, right, spins tunes at the July 16 TEAM garden party. PHOTO BY ERIK HAWKINS/SEACOASTONLINE

# Looking at 'Art in 3D'

By Wendy Duffy

As the New Year begins, the Exeter Arts Committee begins the New Year with a new show, one that they have not hosted before: "Art in 3D."

The show will be held in the Exeter Town Hall Gallery, which is on the second floor of Town Hall. This beautiful space boasts large windows with plenty of natural light during the day and plenty of space for large groups and receptions. The receptions are known for their nice spreads of food, sometimes donated by local restaurants. An additional highlight of these art opening receptions is that they often are accompanied by music.

"Art in 3D" promises to attract a new group of artists to this Exeter Arts Committee show, as well as new viewers. The show is exciting because there are limited opportunities for

three-dimensional artists when it comes to shows that highlight their work.

What is meant by 3D? Well, of course, an immediate thought is sculpture. This is the most traditional example of 3D work. Sculpture today can be classic, stone carving, plaster cast, bronze and metal work, but with the invention of new materials it can also be plastic, foam, fiber etc.

There is also the growing area of "found object art" or "repurposed art," which are discarded items made into something new. Sometimes these items become more sculpture-like, such as pieces of car metal welded together to look like a tin soldier; others may be added to a two-dimensional surface, making it a 3D "mixed media" (different types of art medium used together) piece. Three dimensional art has form: height, width and depth.

"This is the first time we are doing this," says Francesca Foy of the show. "The Exeter

## If you go

**What:** Opening reception for 'Art in 3D'

**When:** 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6

**Where:** Exeter Town Hall Gallery, 9 Front St., Exeter

**Cost:** Free

**Info:** [www.exeterarts.org](http://www.exeterarts.org) or [www.facebook.com/TownExeterArtsMusic](http://www.facebook.com/TownExeterArtsMusic)

Art Committee wanted to try to be broader and more inclusive. We have never said our past shows should be only 2D but somehow that is the message people got. Calling this show only 3D makes it clear, we are welcoming artists who create in a different way.

Since the committee has not hosted this show before, it is not sure how many artists will participate.

"I have contacted Seabreeze Quilters and I know some of them will participate," Foy says. "We will have some assemblage and I expect we will have some jewellers, and of course the potters will

## Exeter Arts Committee invites range of work for new exhibit

come. I hope that we will get some wearable art, I hope the artists will wear it to the reception!"

A new addition to the Exeter Arts Committee is member Scott Ruffner. Ruffner, who grew up in Exeter, was unaware of the Exeter Arts Committee and began raising awareness of local musicians and their music through a group he organized called TEAM. TEAM stands for "Town. Exeter. Arts. Music." He is now working with the Exeter Arts Committee to bring more music to the Exeter area as well as provide venues for local musicians.

"In the fall we played at an EAC reception," he says. "We did DJ beats, live keyboard, guitar, vocals, some songs we have written, some freestyle, it gave the place a jazzy atmosphere and people could enjoy the music and still walk around and talk."

The "we" Ruffner is referring to is he and Dave

Drouin, guitar and vocals, of the band "The Brew," and now a member of "Cold Engines," both well-known in New England.

For the "Art in 3D" show, Ruffner and Drouin will be back providing the music for the show's reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6. In addition to Ruffner and Drouin, Groove Lounge and vocalist Marisa Kang will be joining in with her acoustic guitar. She not only does classic Billie Holiday tunes, but she is a visual artist as well.

For those who would like to take in more live music in Exeter, members of TEAM perform on Thursday nights, downstairs, at Pimentos Restaurant downtown.

So, whether you are a music lover, a regular art show attendee or someone who has never stepped foot in the Exeter Town Hall Gallery, the "Art in 3D" show promises to be something new for the New Year. Hope to see you there.