

to take your bird cages outside and give them a good cleaning.

Nothing cleans a cage better than being blasted with a hard stream of water from a garden hose. Just take the cage apart and put it in your driveway and scrub the bars, perches and bottom grill with a mixture of one part bleach and nine parts water.

Then give it a good rinsing and repeat the process. When you are done, your cage will be as clean as a new one, and you can spot-clean it through the winter until spring comes and you can do it all over again.

**Q: My Yorkie is now 11 months old and she no longer likes her food. It is the same brand the breeder gave her and she had been eating it just fine up until now. I feed her twice a day and she may eat only a few mouthfuls and then walk away or sometimes she will just lick it and then ignore it no matter how much I cajole her to eat. If I have time, I will hold the food in my hand and she will eat it out of there a bit, but even then she acts like she has something better to do. The vet says she is a fine weight and that I should not worry, but I seem to be fixated on this. I cannot understand why she could be turned off to the same food she has always eaten.**

**A:** Some dogs live to eat and some dogs eat to live. Yours is the latter variety.

You have to understand that the stomach of a Yorkie is small and can hold only so much food, plus she is now 11 months old and as big as she will be. Since she is not growing much bigger, she does not need to eat as much as she did when she was younger. She is not herding sheep or pulling sleds, so her caloric needs are much smaller than those of the average dog.

She is eating only as much as her body is telling her to. Since the vet has examined her and found her fit, I would not worry about this at all.

Many small dogs are wrongly labeled as picky eaters because they do not eat as much as we would like them to. Feeding dogs gives most pet owners great pleasure, and when their dog does not eat, it is not as much fun for them anymore.

If you continue to push her to eat more than her body says she needs, you will end up with an overweight dog.

ANIMAL TO 6D

**BH** More advice?

Learn more on how to care for your furry friends at [Bradenton.com/pets](http://Bradenton.com/pets).



CLIFF ROLES/Special to the Herald  
The Ariel String Quartet perform a free public performance Oct. 16 at Church of the Palms. From left, Gershon Gerchikov, violin; Alexandra Kazovsky, violin; Amit Even-Tov, cello; and Jan Grtning, viola.

## Ariel String Quartet brings classical music experience to area school students

By ANGELINE TAYLOR  
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**SARASOTA** — Not many performers can say their venues have included Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center or Paris' Musée du Louvre.

The four acclaimed performers who make up the Ariel String Quartet have performed in those venues and many others worldwide before reaching 30-years-old.

But for the past few weeks,

the young musicians have been seen throughout Manatee and Sarasota counties. They've visited local schools and performed at different sites as part of The Perlman Music Program and Suncoast's Education Outreach Program. Cellist Amit Even-Tov, 27, explained that it's her seventh time visiting the area.

She said it's her hope to give what she's been given all her life — the gift of music. The group goes from

school to school to demonstrate what music can do in the lives of youngsters.

"I grew up in a musical family," Even-Tov said. "We love to perform. We love to travel. We love to play for kids. A lot of those kids will not have this influence in their lives — this window to the world of music. Hopefully, the school can provide them with the continuation of the development."

The quartet in which she

performs includes Alexandra Kazovsky and Gershon Gerchikov on violin and Jan Grtning on viola.

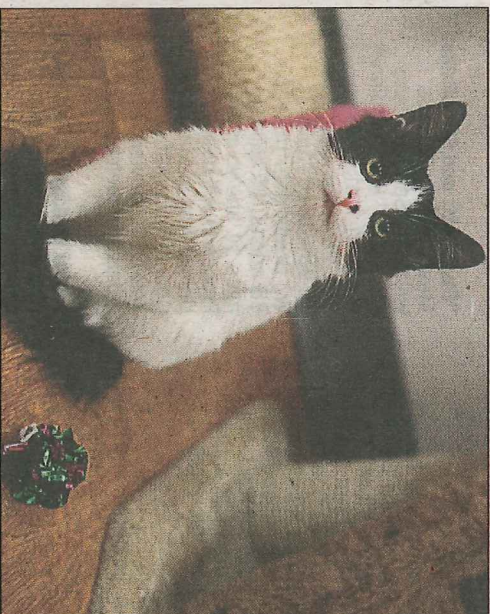
They have offered hands-on training for music students and their teachers in October. They plan to return in January for about a week. Then, they will come back in May.

It's their plan to visit 16 elementary, middle and high schools reaching about

ARIEL TO 6D

**BH** MORE ONLINE | Read about more local folks at [Bradenton.com/community](http://Bradenton.com/community).

### PETS OF THE WEEK



George, a 2-year-old black Labrador retriever, is available for adoption at the Animal Services downtown adoption center in Bradenton for \$40, which includes microchip and up-to-date vaccinations. George seems to be a friendly, good-natured pup. Maggie, a 4-month-old black-and-white domestic short hair cat, is available for adoption for \$60. The satellite adoption center is at 1002B Manatee Ave. W., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Information: 742-5824.

Photos by TIFFANY TOMPKINS-CONDIE/[tompkins@bradenton.com](mailto:tompkins@bradenton.com)

## Cool-season landscape begins with pansies and their pals

By NORMAN WINTER  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service



McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

Citrona Yellow erysimum makes a striking and fragrant partner for orange pansies and white alyssum in a cold-weather container.

**W**ith the current pansy-planting frenzy going on you may find yourself like many others, wondering what companions you could use to create a dazzling cool-season display. Believe it or not there are more outstanding choices than you ever imagined, whether you are planting in the landscape or those artsy designer-like containers.

The first pansy partner should be a no-brainer, and that is the dianthus.

Our grandparents called them pinks but today they have become workhorses in the cool season garden right along with pansies. My first choice would probably be to select one of the Bouquet series. Bouquet Purple and Bouquet Rose Magic have stood up in trials everywhere garnering awards and showing versatility over a wide range of seasons.

They offer that needed height to allow you to use them at the back of the border or as the center plant in mixed containers. Obviously all shades

GARDEN TO 6D

the son of Lisa and William Vitaili of Bradenton. He graduated from Lakewood Ranch High School in 2007.

### Thompson

U.S. Army Spc. Garrett Thompson of Cortez graduated Oct. 6 from U.S. Army Basic training at Fort Sill, Okla.

Spc. Thompson graduated from Bayshore High School in 2006. He attended State College of Florida, where he graduated with a music major with emphasis on jazz guitar. Garrett was hired by the U.S. Army as a musician, guitar player.

He is now attending the U.S. Army School of Music in Norfolk, Va.

He is the son of Tom and Katie Thompson of Cortez.

### Giesler

Army Reserve Spec. Adam K. Giesler is returning to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., after being deployed to Afghanistan serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Giesler is the son of Patricia A. Ross of Boulder Junction, Wis., and Ken A. Giesler of Longboat Key.

He is a combat engineer with the 428th Engineer Company, Wausau, Wis.

### Semrinec

Army Pvt. Brian M. Semrinec has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

Semrinec is the son of Marsha and Rob Semrinec of Myvaka City. He is a 2011 graduate of Lakewood Ranch High School.

### Gonzalez

Air Force Airman Joseph M. Gonzalez graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio.

He is the son of Rosario Hernandez of Puerto Rico and Jose Gonzalez of Parrish.

### USF SARASOTA-MANATEE CROWNS COUNTESS



PHOTO PROVIDED

Samantha Ramon, a senior criminology major at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee, was crowned the 2011 Homecoming Countess. Born and raised in Bradenton, Samantha serves in the U.S. Navy, is a legal assistant at the State Attorney's Office and is planning to start law school next fall. She is the mom of two kids, and is the founding president of the Multiculture Club on campus, a group dedicated to volunteering and giving back to the community. "Running for countess was important to me because I believe that no matter your background, your race, your age or your gender, anything is possible," she said. Samantha will represent USF Sarasota-Manatee tonight at USF Tampa's Homecoming Parade.