

# Beatles cover band benefits others

By Ralph Hohman  
Record-Journal staff

**SOUTHINGTON** — So what if Number Nine takes eight people to do what the Beatles did with four. The music John, Paul, George and Ringo left to the world is lush enough for symphonies. Number Nine plays it for love, and (so far) charity.

On Friday, the band plans to play about 40 Beatles tunes at First Congregational Church, 37 Main St., in Southington, in a show that starts at 7:30 p.m. and lasts until who knows when. Admission is free, but donations to the church will be accepted.

"This is the Beatles unplugged," says guitarist Geo Filippides, "with various surprises and elements" — including Ted Andrzejczuk's accordion on "I Am the Walrus" and Filippides playing bouzouki (a thin-necked, Greek string instrument) on the trippy "Within You, Without You."

It works, even if that's not the way the Beatles did it. Filippides says he and Andrzejczuk have a long history of playing in bands and on studio recordings. The other band members are experienced musicians, and most of them also perform in a contemporary band at the church. Friday's show has a multimedia element, too, with video planned for a big screen in back of the stage.

The musicians are all from Southington except for Filippides, who lives in Meriden. At 39, he's also the youngest, with the rest of the band made up of 40- and 50-somethings. Friday's performance will be their third show — each a benefit.

"We're constantly evolving and changing songs," says Filippides, who by day is an account executive at Risk Assessment Strategies, an underwriting firm in South Windsor, and does side work as a freelance graphic designer.



"We've pulled it together in a hurry."

Number Nine began with guitarist Bob Glick and singer Ken Sullivan, who

got together for a little musical jam one night about a year ago after playing softball together. Glick already knew Filip-

Photos by Chris French / Record-Journal

**Left:** Geo Filippides, Ralph Bushnell and Chip Hulten rehearse with their band, Number Nine.

**Below:** Filippides, Ted Andrzejczuk, Hulten, Ken Sullivan, Bushnell, Bob Glick and Rich McCarty.

pides, and soon the three later added Andrzejczuk and guitarist/singer Rich McCarty.

"It's been progressing since then," Sullivan says, "and finally we decided to use our talents."

They first performed an "unplugged" set on May 5 at the Augusta Curtis Cultural Center in Meriden. Filippides had taken a Parent Teacher Leadership Training Institute course, and the benefit concert (for Benjamin Franklin Elementary School's music programs) was his class project. Since then, the band added Chip Hulten on bass, Ralph Bushnell on drums and Tony Falco, who doubles as the band's soundman and fills that "Fifth Beatle" role on keyboards.

"We were sounding so good, we just had to come out of the basement," says Filippides. His electric guitar, a sort of custom-made Stratocaster with a black and white yin-yang paint job, became the inspiration for the band's logo. It's a stylized "#9," incorporating half the yin-yang symbol.

When it came to naming the band, Number Nine went to the Beatles' White Album.

"The thing is, 'Revolution Number 9' is the Beatles trying out all kinds of new things," McCarty says. "We can't be them, so let's try to do things a little differently — and not take money."

*rhohman@record-journal.com*  
(203) 317-2212

## Connecticut celebrates the Fourth