

ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

Watercolors Surface As Strongest Medium for Members of WAA

By MICHELLE H. LE POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - While oil, photography, sculpture, pastel and other mediums are being represented at the Westfield Art Association's (WAA) 78th Annual Members' exhibition, clearly the most well-represented medium is watercolor.

"Wash Day in Italy" by John Curch was awarded an Honorable Mention, but undeniably deserved higher accolades. By his imitation of the folds in the laundry hung out to dry and the intricate Italian architecture, the artist demonstrated mastery of light, texture and perspective.

Vicki Bloye Gainsburg's "Pastorale," a depiction of a field of poppies, also earned Honorable Mention - an oversight - for, her piece surpassed most of the watercolors receiving higher ranking. Brilliance in color, well-placed subject matter, and attention to detail should have given Gainsburg a higher prize.

Other watercolor works which clearly proved the members' understanding of the medium included Fran Maurer's "Peonies" and Diana

seized the eye from across the room, popped out from the frame and deserved moments of quiet appreciation.

Although many oils and acrylics garnered awards, the mediums were not portrayed with quite the clarity in technique and measure of creativity I would have expected.

On Saturday, May 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the WAA members will take to downtown Westfield to present their artwork in the annual "Art in Westfield," Sidewalk Art Show & Sale. This is an excellent time to stroll through the town and appreciate the artistic efforts of WAA members.



John Curch, "Wash Day in Italy," watercolor, not for sale.



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Leader/The Times
Vicki Gainsburg, "Pastorale," watercolor, not for sale.

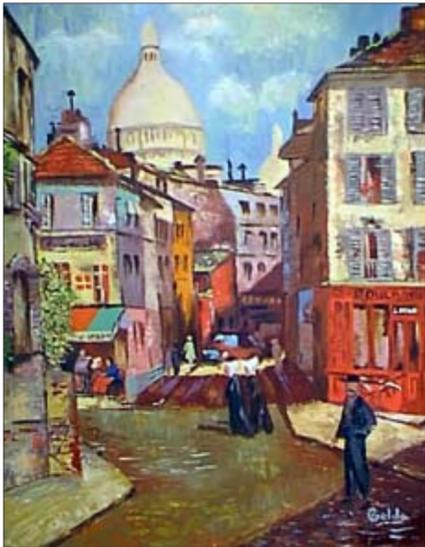
Wilcoc Patton's "Tomato Ties."

Accolades must also go to Barbara

Zietchick, who offered a tri-color relief print in blue, aqua and purple, entitled, "The Pose" and mixed media collage master Joseph Hulsen for his untitled piece, which married hues from a horizon with forest greens and eye-popping composition.

The photograph of Margie DeAngelo and Sheila Lenga deserved applause. Lenga's Georgia O'Keefe-style in "Erotica" captured the inner beauty and vibrancy of a violet flower, DeAngelo's subject matter in "Reflections: Denver Airport" was equally striking.

The photographic centerpiece of the entire show came from Anthony Riccio's "Jennifer's Flowers." A gathering of yellow, red and orange hues



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Leader/The Times
Jeannette Golda, "Paris in Spring," oil, \$375.

April 27, and Sunday, April 28, from noon to 4 p.m. in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building on East Broad Street. Admission is free.

Gerus, Melchior and Gibbons Steal Annual SP-F Art Association Show

By MICHELLE H. LE POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SCOTCH PLAINS - Thirty-nine pieces of art, spanning the worlds of watercolor, pencil, pastel, mixed media, oil, acrylic, and photography, are currently suspended upon the walls of the Scotch Plains Public Library, representing the creative imaginations of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Art Association members.

Working in watercolor, pencil and pastel, Marie Gerus took command of all three mediums, especially in "Plant Life" (not for sale), where the fish practically swam out from the frame. Evidently, the artist enjoyed playing with color, as almost all hues were employed without perplexing the eye.

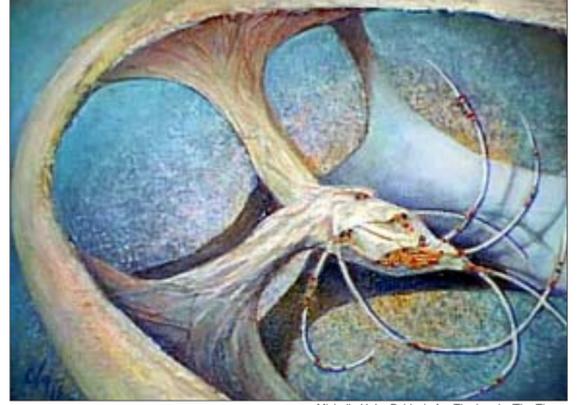
Ann Gibbons, who brought home first place for her 2002 watercolor, "Harrets Porch" (not for sale) left no detail of the landscape unanalyzed. Every porch step, inch of foliage, and shadow was given careful attention in this piece. Gibbons, who also crafted another commendable watercolor, "Old Red Mill" (Clinton - also not for sale), should be truly proud of her talent in mastering a difficult medium.

In "Water Falls" (not for sale), a watercolor, Mary Hovanec's approach to depicting the flowing water is a bit more static, but this perspective prevents the piece's subject matter from becoming mundane.

Continuing their reign as masters from last year's show were Jocelyn Wong and Arlene Melchior. Wong's

watercolor, "Summer Retreat in Pennsylvania, 2000" (\$250) received third place, while Melchior's oil

gular forms to express herself. Honorable mention should go to *Continued on Page 19*



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Leader/The Times
Mary Claire Hahn, "The Challenge of Choice," mixed media, not for sale.



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Leader/The Times
Bob Hahn, "Mother and Child," photography, \$50.



THE MUSIC CORNER

With David Palladino

Concertgoers Pack Church For St. Peter by Sea Concert

By DAVID PALLADINO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - A most entertaining concert was presented this past Saturday night at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield by Maestro Reverend Alphonse Stephenson and his Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea, which is based in Bay Head.

Announced selections of the program included many well-known pops tunes, as well as a great pair of vocal artists, Anthony and Donna Buonauro.

The first half began with the *Overture to Candide*, by Leonard Bernstein. The work, which began with energy and zest, set the stage for the excitement that was to come. Father Alphonse has an aggressive conducting style, which focuses on over-all theme development and presentation.

Several musical felicities, especially in the French horn section were noticeable, however, overall impression was excellent, tempi were good and the orchestra sounded full in the great acoustical sanctuary.

Further works included a beautifully arranged *Phantom of the Opera* selection, highlighting the wonderfully lyrical and strong operatic tenor voice of Anthony Buonauro. While Mrs. Buonauro's voice fell somewhat short of her husband's, somewhat swoopy, but most especially in pitch, she managed better in her solo segments.

This *Phantom* arrangement was exciting and fresh and included segments from the musical as well as tenor opera standards *Ridi Pagliacci* and *Nessun Dorma*.

The second half began with a fun arrangement of "Copacabana," leading into "New York, New York" and "42nd Street." Mrs. Buonauro's pitches were again somewhat flat in the beautiful musical duo with her husband "If I Loved You" from Roger and Hammerstein's *Carousel*.

Many of the beautiful and engaging orchestrations were in fact, done by Ralph Carbone of Lyndhurst, who was acknowledged personally during the concert. Especially poignant was his arrangement of "God Bless America," which should have concluded the concert. Father Alphonse dedicated this final patriotic segment to the "memory of the victims of 9-11."

After a fantastic, patriotic Reagan-era anthem, "Proud to Be an American," sung so well by her husband, Mrs. Buonauro began the special arrangement of "God Bless America" in almost a cappella fashion, with minimal instrumental voicing but climaxing, after at least three modulations, with a luscious and glorious orchestra in full throes, which after that returned to the almost the hush-like manner in which the piece began.

This work truly highlighted the best of her voice and she sang most beautifully and convincingly.

Had the concert ended there, a grand statement would have been made - the audience was quite visibly moved. Despite being the orchestras "signature tune," the moment was ended quite abruptly however, when they hauled out the old "Stars and Stripes Forever" Sousa march, which in a parade, or some military or July 4 concert, would have been appropriate, but most defi-

nite did not fit the moment. It took a few lines of music, but the audience slowly began to respond with the standard hand clapping.

Still, Father Alphonse possesses a golden personality, a very good collection of musicians and a loyal following - The Presbyterian Church was almost packed to the rafters with many of his loyal concertgoers as well as some new folk.

Furthermore, Father Alphonse is a most capable and serious conductor whose charming personality and aura, when matched up against Maestro Puglio and his larger and perhaps for the moment, better known New Jersey Pops Orchestra, offers clear and

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painting, "Violinist" (not for sale), which garnered "Best in Show" accolades, was pure genius. Melchior should be giving oil painting lessons for local artists.

Christine Scott, watercolor artist, also presented spectacular pieces, including "Courtyard" (not for sale) with obvious knowledge of perspective and composition. Unfortunately, the judge did not reward Scott for her efforts.

Paying tribute to the attacks on 9-11 was watercolor artist Lydia Brunelli through the abstract composition of "Ground Zero" (\$600). Choosing the contrasting colors of aqua, blue, orange and green for her palette, the artist worked with trian-



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Leader/The Times
Ann Gibbons, "Harrets Porch," watercolor, (a portion of the piece), not for sale.

Top-Selling Scribes Inspire Attendees During League's Literary Luncheon

By MARYLOU MORANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

BERKELEY HEIGHTS - It is every aspiring writer's dream to meet a best-selling author and to learn how he or she got started writing. To have five well-known authors in one room, at one time, talking about what it takes to get to the top - well, it just doesn't get much better than that.

The five authors, suspense writer Mary Higgins Clark, her daughter Carol Higgins Clark, nonfiction writer and novelist Anita Diamant, children's author and illustrator Emily Arnold McCully and Gothic novelist J.P. Morrissey were featured speakers on April 19, at a Literary Luncheon sponsored by the Junior League of Elizabeth - Plainfield, held at the Berkeley Plaza in Berkeley Heights.

Carol Higgins Clark was the event's Mistress of Ceremonies. A mystery writer in her own right, she has also collaborated with her mother

trator of over 100 children's books, McCully spoke of her childhood and the role of imagination in creating art as well as words for children. She credits

credit, she was an inspiration to everyone in the room, readers and writers alike.

The Junior League of Elizabeth-



Courtesy of Marylou Morano for The Leader/The Times
STAR POWER...Marylou Morano, left, Book Reviewer and Features Correspondent for The Westfield Leader and The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood takes a second from her reporting duties to pose with top-selling author Carol Higgins Clark, daughter of Mary Higgins Clark and Mistress of Ceremonies for the luncheon.

her mother's influence for her success.

New Jersey author, Morrissey, has just published his first novel, "A Weekend in Blenheim." He spoke of weaving history, mystery and love of architecture against the backdrop of the famous British palace.

Finally, it was time to hear from America's "Queen of Suspense," Mary Higgins Clark.

Carol introduced her mother as "Scary Mary" and told of how, as a widow with a family, the only time her mother could write was between 5 and 7 a.m.

"While I was upstairs in my bed sleeping, people were being murdered at our kitchen table," she quipped.

Mary Higgins Clark was an engaging speaker who intertwined other aspects of her life - family, friends and travel, as well as her early days of writing into her presentation. She spoke of her ability to write as a God-given talent.

With more than 25 books to her

Plainfield (JLEP) is an organization of over 300 women who serve greater Union County through volunteer and service projects.

Working independently as well as with other non-profit agencies, they strive to better the community by identifying needs and developing ways to address them. This year JLEP's focus is "Families in Crisis: Prevention and Intervention."

Proceeds from the luncheon will help fund the JLEP's many community projects, including Mobile Meals of Westfield, Cranford Family Care, the Jumble Store and others. For more information about the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield, please call (908) 709-1177.

Marylou Morano is the Book Reviewer and Features Correspondent for The Westfield Leader and The Times. She may be contacted at mmorano@goleader.com.



Clubhouse

ANTIQUES & FURNISHINGS

Mountainside, NJ

You are cordially invited to explore our six rooms of fine antiques, classic reproductions, one-of-a-kind chandeliers and unique gift items. We are purveyors of Crabtree & Evelyn Bath & Body Products and maintain a vast selection of top quality candles. Clubhouse Antiques & Furnishings is your destination for fine products and exceptional values.

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