

ARTS
ENTERTAINMENT

Leaving No Medium Unexplored, Students in SP-F School District Put Their Best Pieces Forward

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

SCOTCH PLAINS - Vast techniques and studies are etched into the curricula of art teachers with the hope that the students will be stimulated by

one of them enough to create something that moves them.

In the Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SP-F) school district, the pupils seem to have appreciated everything they've been taught, while developing a profi-

ciency in portraiture. Last Tuesday evening, students had the opportunity to display their artwork during a show held in the Old Gymnasium at SP-F High School.

Jeffrey Gutterman, a young art

teacher at the school, meticulously hung and labeled all of the pieces, which filled three rooms-plus in the gym, from Katherine Howell's life-size painting, "Little Black Sambo," at the entrance, to the Day-Glo hot air balloons crafted by School One Elementary students near the end of the exhibit.

Maggie Pepe, who, according to Mr. Gutterman, will be attending the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, captured the despondency in the eyes of her subject in one particularly profound black and white painting. A knowledge of portraiture far beyond college instruction was demonstrated by Pepe.

Building with painted blocks of color and utilizing other techniques, Alex Greco designed four top-notch portraits of Auntie Mame for the Scotch Plains Repertory Theatre's production of *Mame*.

Amber Temchus filled ¾ of a gymnasium wall with captivating portraits in almost every medium. The majority of the pieces used black and white tones, conveying a dark, brooding mural of changing faces. The other works boldly added color, proving Temchus' versatility as an artist.

"Together: A Celebration of Our Global Community," a special program held on March 11, included a blue and light blue construction paper quilt created by Evergreen Elementary School students. Words like "care," "compassion," "talk," "listen," and "together" were interspersed through the quilt, while students added colored, cut-out drawings of people representing various nations.

A common study of portrait drawing, which asks students to draw the other side of a face found in a magazine, was well-achieved by Park Middle School students, who selected famous people like actress Julia Stiles and Backstreet Boy Brian Littrell for their subjects.

Simpler in scale, yet awfully impressive for a kindergartner, Laura McGovern, a student in Lynn Sanders' class at Evergreen School, designed an adorable drawing of everyone's favorite doll, Raggedy Andy.

Some students were challenged by

their teachers to construct 25 different self-portraits, while others, according to Mr. Gutterman, vied to be part of the popular airbrush course, which is taught by SP-FHS art teacher Ronnie Siegel.

In every classroom, by every art teacher, students in the school district were obviously challenged to discover their creative skills and encouraged to do their best.

Special Mentions:

SPFHS:
•Mac Calello's pencil drawings;
•"Thinking Cap" by sophomore Eric Kogan;

•Kenji Hasegawa's haunting abstract painting and portraits;

•To J. O'Brien for demonstrating a thorough knowledge of how to create texture;

•Angela Sanford's delicious-looking margarita candle, complete with salt, lime and lipstick mark;

•Kevin Louison and Deana Mustachio's elegant mirror etchings;

•Mart Razzal's pastel of droplets in rainbow hues;

•Danielle Turner's foil painted flamingos with purple roses;

Middle Schools:
•Courtney Berger's pencil still-life;

•Brad Stenek's contemporary painting of still-life painting;

•The watercolor entitled, "Tropical Waters" by Sherman Fritz, age 14;

•Eighth graders' abstract fluorescent sculptures constructed from Foamcore-like material.

Elementary Schools:
•Kelly O'Leary, McGinn School, Grade 1, for the happiest and brightest butterfly I've ever seen;

•The patriotic multimedia collages by Evergreen School second graders, Luke Vuono, Ryan Kiel and Carly Grossman of Betty Gasirowski's class;

•"Starry Nights" printmaking pieces by fourth graders from Evergreen;

•School One students Jenny Malinak and Rachel Dolan crafted some dazzling snow scenes with silver glitter and blends of blue and white paint;

•Rachel Pincus' very serious pencil drawing of a kindergartner, William Taft. (School One).

Many thanks to Mr. Gutterman for his time and patience in explaining the pieces and in organizing the event with love and care. Special kudos to the district's art teachers, who continue to nurture the artist in all of us.



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
A FINE DISPLAY...Students from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district proudly exhibited their works in the Old Gymnasium of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) last Tuesday. Pictured, left to right, are: top row, a painted portrait by SPFHS student Amber Temchus; a multimedia piece by fourth grader Shannon Reimers; a study in portraiture drawing from a Park Middle School pupil; a black and white portrait painting by SPFHS student Maggie Pepe; a pencil and crayon piece of Raggedy Andy by kindergartner Laura McGovern; a portrait for the Repertory Theatre group's production of *Mame* by SPFHS student Alex Greco; and one drawing, which was part of a construction paper quilt crafted for "Together: A Celebration of Our Global Community."

Clubhouse Antiques in Mountainside: Where Sophistication and Quality Are the Passwords

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

MOUNTAINSIDE - A 300-year-old tapestry from Italy, a 200-year-old church pew and a 150-year-old hall tree, both from Holland, can be found in the enchanting shop, Clubhouse Antiques & Furnishings, which has met with enormous success since its opening in December.

Nestled between Don Maxwell Furniture Repair and Refinishing and Fleet Bank on Mountain Avenue in Mountainside, the eclectic emporium is owned by George Gatesy and Lisa Alicandri, both Warren residents.

Admitting that he's always been around antiques and collectibles, George, who lived in Westfield for 21 years, explained that a sizeable amount of money was invested in opening Clubhouse and it has been well worth the hard work.

According to Lisa and George, customers have been attracted to Clubhouse, eager to admire and purchase delicate, sparkling chandeliers, which have hovered throughout the store's winding



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW...Clubhouse Antiques & Furnishings at 865 Mountain Avenue in Mountainside has been beckoning customers with gorgeous chandeliers, aromatic candles, and unique pieces from the present and the past.

rooms. The one-of-a-kind pieces reflect the 1920s and 1930s and are very Victorian in style, noted Lisa.

"Over one weekend, we've sold about two or three," said George. Since the store opened, he said, 18 have been purchased by contented customers.

"We keep refining what we're bringing in," contributed Lisa, who reported that the aforementioned pew was used by church elders and monsignors, with "a beautiful look for a Victorian home."

With representatives seeking out

one-of-a-kind products throughout Europe to contribute to the Clubhouse collection, George and Lisa added that these agents continuously have "eyes and ears" tuned into one-of-a-kind items at estate sales, barn sales and homes.

Currently, George and Lisa are considering the inclusion of estate jewelry into their items in stock.

"We're eclectic," said Lisa. "We have a lot of fun gift items." Among those items are approximately 5,000 decorative candles by A.I. Root of Ohio, as well as scented lotions and

luxury products from Crabtree & Evelyn.

"And, we work very hard on the prices," she said, when commenting on the affordability of many Clubhouse pieces.

"There are few places where you can find a stuffed raccoon on the wall next to an antique oil painting from Spain," chimed in George.

In fact, in just one room, the eye can take in an arrangement of col-



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
A COLLECTION OF COLLECTIBLES...At Clubhouse, every nook and cranny is filled with collections of fine pieces. Every week, 36 new pieces are added and every room is rearranged to add an interesting perspective and new adventure for the customer.

lectible toys and clocks, while a delicate birdcage is perched near a room luring the customer with candle

Continued on Page 21



Pen & Ink

By Michelle H. Le Poidevin

You've Heard About Her Before... Now Mom Says A Few Words

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

At St. Elizabeth's Hospital, with one eye closed, I was born to a young Ellen Le Poidevin, whose labor nurse told her that if she yelled, "Oh, my God," during labor one more time, she would lose her mind. I was one week late and mom still has the umbilical cord tucked away in a photo album, stocked with congratulatory cards and my first lock of hair.

Many lullabies and long nights of heart-to-hearts later, my mother has gone from the blushing bride with the beehive hairdo to the sage friend with a salt and pepper colored coif. Thirty years of being my best friend.

Mom and I have weathered emotional tornados in the funnel shapes of family disagreements, hapless hurricanes in the form of hopes that have been dashed, and heartbreaks which could have crashed The Richter scale. We've survived it all - as mother and daughter and life-long friends.

HERE ARE A FEW WORDS FROM MY MOTHER...

Hi! I suppose it's about time we formally met. You've been hearing bits and pieces about me from the editor but have yet to hear from the subject herself - the mother! Of course, there are some out there who would rather not - but, in any case and in the spirit of fun, here goes!

Let's take it back to April 4, 1972 - the day I actually became "a mother". Rightfully, we should take it back nine months before that date, when all the anticipation, excitement and trepidation set in as to whether I would meet up to the challenge of being "a mother". Would I bring as much joy into the life of my little one as she or he would bring into mine and her father's?

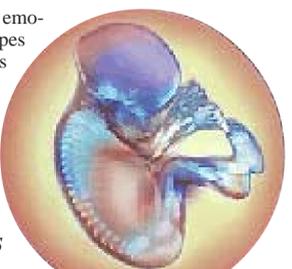
Would we be able to offer her all that was necessary to meet her emotional, physical and spiritual needs to give her the footing she would need to face this world and all that would be thrown at her (literally!)? No one ever gave me a course on how to be this "mother" I was supposed to become overnight! So...to make a long story short, I/we simply put all of this into God's hands and would take each day, hour and minute at a time!

Chuck and I thought June 7, 1969 was the most important day of our lives, the most beautiful - the day we were united in the sacrament of Matrimony during our Mass/ceremony at St. John the Apostle Church in Clark/Linden! To think, after all the years of searching and praying, we were gifted by God with this beautiful love between us!

How could we know that this day would be topped in importance and beauty? How could we know that on Tuesday, April 4, 1972 at 4:10 p.m. we would be gifted with the most precious gift possible - the birth of our daughter Michelle? The joy and wonder she has brought into our lives knows no measure! No amount of sleepless nights, scraped knees, questions to answer, decisions to make, bruised feelings to heal, directions to give or just offer, past experiences and hurts to call forth to offer as our "educated" advice when things came up we didn't have a clue about can equal the love, awe and wonder Michelle has brought into our lives these 30 years!

As far as whether I have met the mark of being a "good" mother (what with this "annual" celebration of Mother's Day), only Michelle can evaluate. I only know that to my mind, heart and soul I have given all

Continued on Page 21



BEFORE AND AFTER...Inside the womb, I never knew how precious life was or how precious my mother would be in it.

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.

865 MOUNTAIN AVE. • MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092
(Between Maxwell's & Fleet Bank)
Telephone 908 789-7600 • Fax 908 789-3322
email clubhousefurnish@aol.com

LIME
PRESENTS
CHEF WILLIAM DE MARS

At LIME we're striving for consistency. All of our dishes feature natural ingredients, letting the flavors speak for themselves.
Sample our new menu. Dine with us between the hours of 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., and take 10% off your bill.
LIME, 35 Elm Street, Westfield: (908) 232-3131.