

ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

WAA Painting Demonstration To Feature Three Member Artists

WESTFIELD — Another multi-artists painting demonstration will be held at the Westfield Art Association's (WAA) Sunday, May 19, meeting in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building at 425 East Broad Street from 2 to 4 p.m.

The theme for the day is "Water, Water Everywhere" and it will be depicted in Acrylics by Robert Loder, in Oil Paints by Audrey Wreszin, and in Watercolor by Jean McCullough.

Each artist will portray water in a

different situation, that is, lake or stream water, rushing ocean water, and still water in a clear glass container. All three artists are members of the WAA.

Attendees will be encouraged to walk around for a close-up look at what's being created, and they will be able to question the artists while they are painting.

The meeting is free and open to the public. The Community Room is handicapped accessible. For more information, please call Tobia Meyers at (908) 687-2945.

County Photo Show to Include Artists from Westfield, Fanwood

COUNTY — Anthony Riccio, Jr. of Westfield and Judith Neff of Fanwood will be two of eight photographers from Union County to have their work displayed until Friday, May 31, in the First Annual Union County Photo Show.

The exhibit of 23 photographs will be on display from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Freeholders Gallery at the Union

County Administration Building, Elizabethtown Plaza, Rahway Avenue in Elizabeth.

Riccio is a member of the Westfield Art Association and the Cranford/Millburn Camera Club.

Also a member of the Cranford/Millburn Camera Club, Neff is a member of the New Jersey Outdoor Women's League.

Get Outta The House

By CAROL F. DAVIS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

A pre-concert lecture, followed by a performance of *The Choral Arts Society of New Jersey, Inc.*, will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield. The program will feature two pieces spanning more than a century of composition: Poulenc's *Gloria* and Beethoven's *Mass in C Major*. Tickets, available at the door, are \$15 for general admission, and \$10 for seniors and students. If you cannot make the lecture (by Dr. John Sichel, Composer in Residence of the New Philharmonic of New Jersey), the music starts at 8 p.m.

Through May 26, treat yourself to a bagel and a show. An art show, that is. Local artist Ellen Angelastro is showing her oils and pastels at Fanwood Bagels, 32 South Martine Avenue. "*Faces: Real and Imagined*," features 17 works in Angelastro's own conceptual style called "Mind Art." It is based on the unconscious interaction of thought, memory, personality, and dreams. Finally, like some forms of analysis, this style considers the interpretation of the viewer to be just as valid as the actual piece. There will be a reception on Sunday, May 19, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Do you want cream cheese or butter with that?

Another area artist will be featured tonight, May 15, at 8 p.m. in the Fanwood Community Center in the railway station at the corner of North and Martine. *Moroccan-born Salomon Kadoche*, will conduct a free demonstration on how to create still life paintings using oils. His own works span a wide range of subject matters, including portraits, still lifes, and landscapes, using both oils and pastels. He authored two books on the subject, and has a fine collection of awards and distinctions. Too bad the bagel shop is closed at that hour.

If you can make it all the way to North Plainfield, their own Fleetwood Museum is hosting an evening with *Gail Buckland, noted educator, author and speaker*. This Westfield resident, past curator of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain, and author of nine books, will illustrate her photographic and literary talk with slides. It will take place on Thursday, May 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Vermeule Mansion, Greenbrook Road and Clinton Avenue. Admission is free. If you can't make the lecture, her latest book, "*Shots in the Dark*," about taking photos at crime scenes, makes great, late-night reading.

Blossoms, Battles and Belles is the latest production of the Madrigal Singers. The performance will take place on Saturday evening, May 18, at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield, at 8 p.m. Under the direction of Elaine Fiorino, selections from Shakespeare and other English poets will introduce each group of songs, sung a cappella or with accompaniment on flute and recorder. Admission for this program of motets and madrigals is by donation at the door. Look it up if you don't know what that is — you'll learn more that way.

WAA Art Show

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22
Banjo player and Vocalist Cynthia Sayer was accompanied by trio members Dan Levinson on clarinet and Mike Weatherly on bass, while a variety of musicians from the Westfield Community Band and the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts entertained throughout the day.

"It's a great show," said Brooke Gardner of Mountainside. "I am impressed."

"It couldn't be better. The day was absolutely perfect with the artists displaying their work, and shoppers enjoying the ambiance of the art show, along with their regular Mother's Day shopping. It was a win-win situation for the artists, merchants and the customers," said Debbie Schmidt, WACC Executive Director.

Helping to distribute the awards, Diane Barabas, WACC Chairwoman and proprietor of Diane B. said, "It was a great day for everybody. Along with the weather, the exhibitors were exceptional. The art show attracted a tremendous amount of shoppers to the Westfield downtown area."

Strolling the town was Joyce Goldstein with her granddaughter Miriam Helene

Rising From Ash, Freedom Manages to Ring At New National Landmark of Ground Zero

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

NEW YORK — Our nation's Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Plymouth Rock. The Old Bridge in Concord, Mass., where, from our fledgling nation, the first shots for freedom rang out and were heard around the world.

Over the years, some of America's

most historic and revered sites have been the destinations for our family vacations. This year, during the school's spring break, we visited our country's newest landmark — Ground Zero.



We took a train out of Edison's Metropark Station, which brought us directly into New York's Penn Station. Purchasing Metro Cards for \$4 each gave us unlimited use of subways and buses for one day.

We took the No. 1 subway downtown and got off at the Fulton Street exit. Turning east, we walked a few short blocks to the South Street Seaport, where we stood in line for 45 minutes to be issued tickets for the viewing platform. It was a little after 11 a.m. Our tickets were for 1 p.m.

We window-shopped our way back up Fulton Street. I stopped a friendly-looking policewoman who told me that the exact place where we were standing had been covered with six inches of dust and ash on 9-11.

"That dust cloud swept right down this street and didn't stop until it hit the East River," she told me. I closed my eyes and tried to envision what it must have been like to be standing in that spot on the very day the towers fell.

We had lunch at a little Italian restaurant that had been closed for weeks after the tragedy. We succumbed to the street vendors hawking, for \$10, plastic photo albums of color-copied pictures featuring some of the most searing images of 9-11.

We crossed over Broadway before taking our place in line for the viewing platform, we walked around the block. Broadway to Vessey Street, a left onto Church Street, then another left onto Liberty Street. All of these places, famous in their own right for their location in the Wall Street area, made headlines last September because they fell into the "Red Zone."

All of what we saw and did on our trip to Ground Zero was emotional and moving. As we walked the area, I was astounded by the volume of tributes to those lost which were displayed on the black wrought iron fence of St. Paul's Chapel.

Thousands of T-shirts, hats, pictures and mementos of those lost. Banners that came from every part of the country and several corners of the world offered condolences and promised unity. Cards made by school children near and far thanked those who participated in the rescue effort.

We took our place in line and walked up the ramp to the viewing stand. To my right was St. Paul's Chapel, where rescue workers found sanctuary from their labors in the early days after the collapse.

I recalled seeing a post-9-11 picture of the church's cemetery in the newspaper. Its headstones were ash-covered, the graves were veiled with papers. Today, it looks like a regular cemetery again. You'd never know it was across the street from Ground Zero.

To my left, as we walked up the ramp, was a wooden wall, where hundreds of thousands of messages of condolence are written. We added our own.

We took our place on the platform. The excavation work was underground the day we visited Ground Zero. We saw many orange-vested men wearing hardhats, walking the site. The familiar whine of heavy equipment told us that work was in progress. The iron cross found in the rubble stood in bold tribute to the almost 3,000 innocent victims who gave their lives for their country on 9-11.

Only those with a practiced eye or vivid imagination can look skyward from the site and see the World Trade Center as it used to be. Everyone who has the opportunity to should visit Ground Zero, but not to lament a place where two tall buildings used to stand.

The most important reason for visiting Ground Zero is to honor what happened there and to hold its significance forever in our hearts. And isn't that the real reason we visit any historical landmark?

We welcome your comments
ae@goleader.com



AFTERMATH OF DESTRUCTION...Marylou Morano, Book Reviewer and Features Correspondent, visited Ground Zero and found it to be the latest tourist attraction for spring breakers.

My Take on It

With Kerriane Spellman Cort
Comfort Is Found As Everything Old Becomes New Again on TV

By KERRIANNE SPELLMAN CORT
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

FANWOOD — Several months ago, I had written an article about the increasing popularity of networks such as Nick at Nite, The Game Show Channel and American Movie Classics.

With the plethora of viewing options we have today, it seemed odd, but somewhat heartwarming, that folks would rather tune in to old "Brady Bunch" reruns than watch Buffy slay another hapless vampire or to witness yet another unsolved murder mystery.

Personally, I am a huge fan of several current network hits. I rarely miss an episode of "The West Wing," "Law and Order" or "Just Shoot Me." and I also praise the genius of HBO's several noteworthy offerings, particularly "Sex and the City" and "Six Feet Under." These are all terrific programs that are blessed with exceptional writing and stellar casts.

It is interesting to see that despite the success of some of these primetime programs, producers are suddenly starting to take a few steps back into the past. Lately, it appears to be all the rage to pair cast members from shows that are long gone with their newer counterparts.

Recently, the cast of the long defunct, but always extraordinary, "Hill Street Blues" made an appearance on NBC's "Third Watch," and the lovable medical team of the venerable "St. Elsewhere" appeared on an episode of "Scrubs." This past Sunday, a two-hour movie based on "L.A. Law" aired, and a recent Carol Burnett special received ratings that would make any network drool. Do we see a pattern here?

In the past several years, it appears that our world has spun out of control. Viewers are fickle. Children can't sit still for more than a few moments and that is only if the latest interactive video game is blaring incessantly in the background. Since we no longer have to leave the comfort of our sofas to change a channel, remote control manipulation has practically become an art form.

So, why the journey into the past? I think it is because we are finally starting to realize that the answers

to life do not lie in a Tony Hawk video game. Yes, old TV programs may seem obsolete at times, but they are simultaneously comforting and safe.



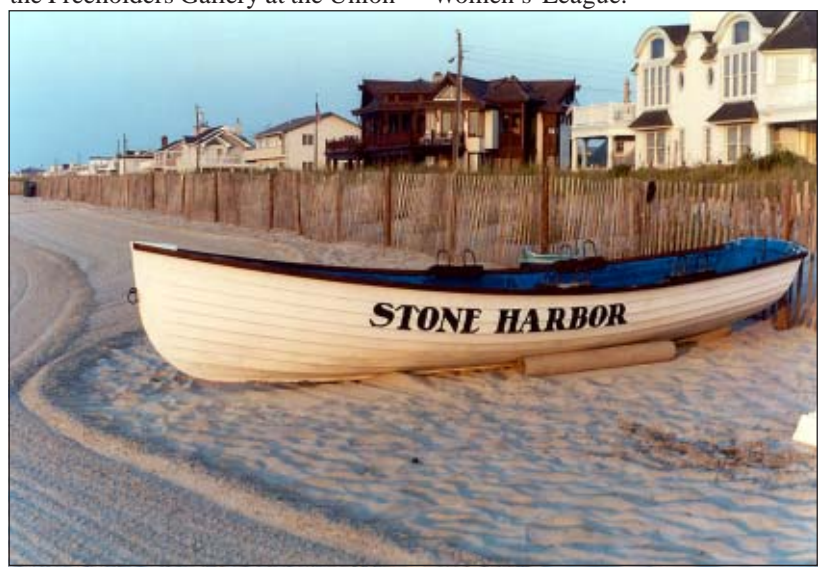
The cast of NBC's oldie but goodie drama "St. Elsewhere," above, has exchanged "Code Blues" with NBC comedy, "Scrubs," pictured below, as part of the vintage television phenomenon.



True, the problems we face today far outweigh any high school shenanigan in which Peter Brady might find himself engaged, but the genuine simplicity of some of these older programs still speaks to us.

I love the recent trend of bringing older shows into new ones. It bridges a gap. It reconnects us with our parents. It challenges us, somewhat, to slow down a bit. Pass the popcorn. Turn off the answering machine and watch some TV with your folks. Ignore the computer until morning.

Because, check it out...Keith Partridge is actually married to Marcia Brady and their kid is really Finch from "Just Shoot Me!" Buffy won't admit it, but you know that her mom is really Samantha from "Bewitched," and stayed tuned folks, because you know...you just know that one of these days, Jack and Will are going to run into Batman and Robin in Key West.



WESTFIELD PHOTOGRAPHER...Anthony Riccio, Jr. of Westfield will display his photography during the exhibition sponsored by the Freeholders Gallery of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders in Elizabeth through May 31.

POPCORN™ Spiderman: Superhero Fights Teen Angst

One Popcorn, Poor • Two Popcorns, Fair • Three Popcorns, Good • Four Popcorns, Excellent

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER
3 & 1/2 popcorns

Dear Diary:
"Man, it's not easy being a teenager. But then, geez, it's not easy being a superhero, either. I know, because I just saw the movie *Spider-Man*."

Tobey Maguire plays him and I mean like he's this awesome guy in a dynamite red outfit who's always saving the world and stuff. He's got these great powers, like being able to swing from building to building all over the city with this web goo he can shoot out of his wrists whenever he wants, which he can also use to tie up bad guys.

It's like having your own built-in shrink-wrap machine. Actually, he's just Peter Parker, this teen dude only a little older than me, and he has pimples. Even though he gets his powers after a radioactive spider bites him during a school trip, he really only decides to become a superhero because he feels bad that he couldn't save his uncle's life. His uncle, a nice old guy played by Cliff Robertson, raised him and everything.

Boy, talk about guilt. So now, he has to help take care of his sick Aunt May and stuff. Almost as bad as that, he's so shy he can't even tell Mary Jane Watson, played by Kirsten Dunst (a definite hottie), that he loves her.

Still, I wouldn't mind being him, at least for a while. I mean, he doesn't even need a car. And he could probably figure out how to get one if he really wanted one.

But, y'know what really would stink? Not being able to tell your buddies who you really are. Because he can't even tell his very best friend, Harry Osborn, this rich kid acted by James Franco, and they even room together in this dynamite loft apartment after they graduate high school.

That's when Peter gets a job as a newspaper photographer, because, check this out...he's the only one who can get good pictures of Spider-Man. No kidding! I wonder why?

Anyway, the weirdest thing, or at least I think it's the weirdest thing, is who Harry's father really is. Harry doesn't even know. He's this super-villain, the Green Goblin. He is so evil, especially the way he is acted by this old guy, Willem Dafoe. Well, he's not that old. He's like our parents' age. But if you think your father is weird, you should see this dude. He's the same guy who played Max Schreck in *Shadow of The Vampire*.

Now, that was scary. He was supposedly a real vampire playing a vampire in the silent version of *Dracula*. I don't think it was really true. It was R-rated, but my friend Barry's parents rented it and we watched it when they weren't around.

When Mr. Osborn is normal, he's just the owner of a company that sells weapons to the army. And you think he's an okay guy because he always asks Peter if he needs money, since after all he's his son's best friend.

He also asks if he'd like to come to work for him someday. At first you think, who wouldn't want to work for him? After all, he's so rich. But you'd only do it if you absolutely didn't know that behind the scenes he was really Green Goblin, this horrible bad guy who flies around on his jet-propelled surfboard thing that shoots rockets.

He kills a lot of people...mostly folks who work for him but that don't want to

keep it a secret that this new invention he wants to sell to the army really isn't perfected yet. So actually it's a good thing you don't work for him.

That's basically the problem Spider-Man faces. The Green Goblin wants Spider-Man to join up with him, because together they could dominate the world. Up until now he and Green Goblin have been fighting it out all over, and so far it's an even match.

You actually get worried that Green Goblin could kill Spider-Man, even though you know he's the hero and he probably won't die. Anyway, don't worry that much about it. Because if he did get killed, they couldn't have *Spider-Man II*, which I heard they're already working on. They're not going to purposely lose millions of dollars. So just enjoy the action.

The fight scenes are great combinations of actual actors and computerized animation. It's definitely awesome. I can't wait to learn how to do that in computer class. This director, Sam Raimi, is good. I don't know if he does it, or if it's the special effects guy. It's so cool how they do it. You can hardly tell when it switches from computer to real.

Even though some of the scenes look like they could be in a comic book, it's not corny. I mean, you know how when grown-ups feel they have to make a joke out of everything? Well, it's not like that. But there are a couple of regular funny parts. Even though they keep the story and stuff a lot like it is in the original Marvel comic by Stan Lee and Mike Ditko, it's more like a regular movie and not just a copy of a comic book.

Don't expect to get away without listening to the moral lesson. Hollywood always puts one in because they know that some poor dorky kids will only be seeing *Spider-Man* with their parents. If there isn't a moral lesson, they won't take them to the movies anymore. Smart, huh? It's not so bad. It doesn't ruin anything and at least they don't keep saying it over and over.

Basically, it's what Peter's Uncle Ben says to him: "With great power comes great responsibility." In other words, if you get a new Corvette, you just can't floor it every single second. That's probably good advice, because otherwise you good blow your engine, even if it does have 348 horses of brute power and can go 0 to 60 in 5.5 seconds.

Anyway, by the end of the movie, after messing up a lot...well, not a lot, but enough...Peter is 100 percent Spider-Man. Now he does everything smoothly and knows how to use all his super powers. There's a part of him you feel sorry for, because he really didn't want to be Spider-Man in the first place. He just wanted to go to college, work at the newspaper and marry Mary Jane.

Then, in a way, Dear Diary, he's kind of lucky. Since he's already Spider-Man, he doesn't have to decide what he wants to be when he grows up. His Aunt May has a heart condition, so she's really not going to bother him about it. Which reminds me of my own situation. I wonder what you have to do to be a film critic?"

Spider-Man, rated PG-13, is a Sony Pictures release directed by Sam Raimi and stars Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and Willem Dafoe. Running time: 120 minutes.

Valeri Larko

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

tion, she selected the bridges of Brielle, Jersey City, West Trenton and the Delaware Water Gap. She photographed the bridges and, incorporating photographs of vintage trains, she created a small study of each mural to submit for consideration.

Once awarded the commission in 2000, Larko rented a Summit studio large enough to create the four murals, which were her largest works to date.

"This is a completely different way of painting for me," she explained. "I usually paint out doors on site, and all of the mural work had to be done in a studio."

Larko has been the recipient of a number of awards including an Artist in Residence Fellowship from the Newark Museum and a New Jersey State Council on the Arts Grant.

She has had numerous exhibitions of her urban and industrial landscapes throughout the New York Metropolitan area. In January 2001, she had her first international exhibit at the Bruton Street Gallery in London.

In addition to her position as Director of the Tomasulo Gallery, she is also an instructor at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit.

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