

Arts & Entertainment

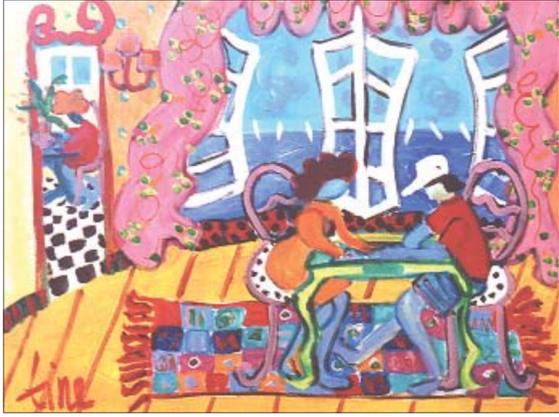
Ms. Graham, Fido and Fluffy Are Ready For Their Close-Ups at Evalyn Dunn Gallery

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

WESTFIELD – For most people, 15 minutes can fly by without an ounce to show for it. But, for Morristown resident Tine Kirkland Graham, it's all the time she needs to dip into her palette and bring man's best friend to the canvas.

On Saturday, November 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Evalyn Dunn's Gallery, located at 549 South Avenue in Westfield, will supply Graham with one long table to set up her paints and, at 15-minute intervals, the artist will paint the pet of your choice from a photograph.

Before organizing Graham's demonstration and exhibition entitled, "Color My Dog Yellow," Jacie Civins of Evalyn Dunn's asked the artist to transfer the image of her dog, Desi, to canvas. She was thoroughly im-



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
GAME TIME...In Tine Kirkland Graham's portrayal of two figures playing backgammon, the backdrop is fluid, lively and spicy in color.

pressed with the results. For Desi's backdrop of dancing colors, Graham selected hues like canary yellow, robin's egg blue, grass green and goldfish orange, which, according to Civins, were not chosen by specific direction, but Graham's own imagination. As for Desi, he was so adorably interpreted, he could have barked his way off the canvas.

When visiting Amelia Island in Florida, Civins first became familiar with Graham's work and her hus-

band, seeing that the artist was from New Jersey, suggested Civins' get in touch with her.

According to Civins, Graham began painting 10 years ago, mostly specializing in children's portraiture done in pastels. After she took a life

drawing class at the Summit Art Center, Graham's tighter drawing style loosened up considerably.



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
LANDSCAPES ALIVE!...No boring tiny trees and overdone sunsets here...Graham's landscapes do the rumba with color.

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The result? A more playful, abstract translation of interiors and landscapes, some of which ring true to

Matisse's style.

Whether she is commissioned to paint pooches or verandas speckled with umbrellas, Graham's flair for color brings a smile to the lips. Nothing is static, everything flows and the beholder wants to tag along during the artist's journey

through both spicy color and dramatic line drawing.

Civins reported that, when given photographs of houses, Graham transferred the image to canvas – in her own style, of course. The homes, which were detailed with Graham's signature palette, became almost caricatures. The shutters folded out in a cartoon-like manner and the chimney danced in the turquoise sky.

One of Graham's

most alluring interior paintings is a smorgasbord of ingredients. Using teal glitter at the top of the canvas, the artist assembled small pieces of fabric and attached them to pieces of furniture in the room. The multimedia approach is successful for this artist, while it has failed for others we have critiqued.

We recommend that if Fido and Fluffy tug at your heartstrings and are as much a part of your family as Uncle Bob or Aunt Bea, a Graham portrait would be a treasure. Watching Graham compose the piece in only 15 minutes will probably be just as rewarding because this artist turns out quite an impressive piece in such a short window of time.

For more information, please call Evalyn Dunn's Gallery at (908) 232-0412 or e-mail framer397@aol.com.



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
DESI STRIKES A POSE...The prize pooch, Desi, that belongs to Jacie Civins of Evalyn Dunn's Gallery in Westfield was adapted from a photograph, pictured at the bottom left of the painting, and translated to canvas by Tine Kirkland Graham.

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The Music Corner

With David Palladino

WSO Musicians, Maestro Exhibited Star Qualities At 'Hollywood' Concert

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

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro David Wroe, offered a musical spectacular dubbed "Destination Hollywood" this past weekend at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

Repertoire included Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, the *Violin Concerto Opus 3* by popular film score composer of the 1930s and 40s Erich Korngold, highlighting violin soloist Vadim Gluzman, and the formidable *Symphony No. 9 "New World"* by Antonin Dvorak. Maestro Wroe began the program with the Gershwin.

Old style car horns, great dynamic control and driving tempos all worked to set the stage for the bustling Paris of the early 20th century.

Highlights included versatile and fun saxophone solos, not often heard in the classical repertoire. Noticeable, was the extraordinary sound of the returned trumpet principal Donald Batchelder. French horns set the stage with a refinement of tone which would typify that section for the rest of the evening.

Musical acoustics have improved in the sacred venue with the installation of risers for the orchestra. While the musicians still play in a limited space, sound diffusion from the orchestra was fairly well-blended.

Only the string basses were slightly muffled due to their placement deep under the overhanging balcony. One, or more, placed in the open may improve low-end volume and resonance.

Soloist Vadim Gluzman then took his place on stage with the orchestra. Gluzman immediately proved to be in touch with Maestro Wroe and the orchestra. For example, soloist and conductor weaved through the beautiful orchestrations and tempo pitfalls with ease.

Favoring a more aggressive style, Gluzman highlighted fine pitch on his 1690 Stradivarius. This instrument excels in its beautifully crisp and clear upper register — working especially well in the many technically-oriented segments of the third movement.

The acoustic of this particular venue for the orchestral soloist, specifically due to where they are placed, may tend to dampen solo players sound. Gluzman had to play harder to fill the hall.

The major highlight of the evening came, however, with Wroe's sublime understanding of Antonin Dvorak's great "New World" symphony — the excitement and force of a Solti performance combined with the passion of Bernstein.

Dvorak incorporated various American folk themes into his new symphony which was the result of a recent visit to America — "The germs for the best of music lie hidden among all the races that are commingled in this great country."

Romantic elements of contrast are highlighted in this work. Wroe worked adeptly to bring these ideas forward. For example, the opening movement, with its thunderous timpani writing was pounded out aggressively and purposefully.

The orchestra worked furiously; belting out the supreme dynamic range required of them by the conductor — including the piercing trumpet triplets which permeate the end of the dramatic first movement.

One of Wroe's strongest points is his overriding demand for detail — holding out phrases to perfection and allowing the music to "breathe," as he allowed the orchestra to do in the well-known pauses in the adagio. These transitions were the real gems of the movement, which left the musically savvy hanging in anticipation.

Due to the exposed nature of this writing, intonation problems were also highlighted — some within the viola section but especially with the second flute.

The complicated syncopation of the third movement, highlighting a driving 6/8 folk-like tempo, was exhilarating.

The *Jaws* theme, which opens the last movement, set the tone for the maniacal tone which would carry the audience to the end. Every solo entry was cued in perfectly, including the steel toned solos of principal clarinet, William Shadel, and French horn solo by Sharon Moe as well as the syncopated off-beats, performed so well by French horn section.

Summit Chorale to Hold Auditions for New Season

SUMMIT — The Summit Chorale, a 60-voice SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) chorus, will host auditions in all voice parts for the remainder of the 2002-2003 season, including two major concerts.

Rehearsals will be held on Tuesday evenings, January 7 and 14, from 7:45 to 10:15 p.m. on the campus of Drew University, Madison Avenue in Madison. Garyth Nair is Music Director.

For more information and an audition appointment, please call the Chorale's Personnel Manager at (732) 698-1433 or visit www.summitchorale.org.

S. Plains Writer Rallies For Society's Inclusion Of Special Needs Children

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

SCOTCH PLAINS — Parents of children with special needs have a new resource in "Special Needs, Successful Inclusion: A Guide to Planning Community Activities for Children with Special Needs," written by Scotch Plains resident, Cynthia Newman.

As more families embrace the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), more and more children with special needs are being included in mainstream community activities.

"We have seen a turnaround in the way society relates to children with special needs," explained Newman, who has worked with children for over 25 years. "At one time these children were institutionalized. Now they play on soccer teams and be-



FOR THE CHILDREN...Scotch Plains resident Cynthia Newman wants parents and society to know more about including children with special needs, instead of excluding them.

long to the local 'Y'."

However, according to Newman, community programs do not always have the resources to include a child with special needs, and she stresses that acceptance of a child with special needs into a program does not always equal inclusion.

To illustrate her point, Newman related the story of a disabled child who had been included in a community program, but because of her disability was not able to participate in the activities.

"Some means should have been made to allow the child to actively participate instead of passively observe," she commented.

"Special Needs, Successful Inclusion: A Guide to Planning Community Activities for Children with Special Needs" was written to show both parents and organizations how to successfully accomplish both acceptance as well as inclusion.

"The book will help the community welcome the child and the child's family in a supportive environment," said Newman, adding that the publication will be helpful to families with children who have a host of special needs, from medical issues such as asthma, to Down's Syndrome, to emotional disabilities. It addresses services on a state, county, regional and national level.

Newman, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with an Master's in Social Work Degree from Rutgers, is Regional Director of Early Intervention Services in New Jersey, overseeing distribution of services in six counties for approximately 2400 children with special needs aged 0-3 years, and their families.

In addition, she is a consultant to the childcare community, a child/family advocate and has been an adjunct professor at Rutgers Graduate School of Social Work. She maintained a consulting and family therapy practice in Union County.

"Special Needs, Successful Inclusion: A Guide to Planning Community Activities for Children with Special Needs" has been recently selected by the Educational Resources Information Center Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education to be distributed nationally and available on their national database.

To obtain a copy, please call (732) 699-0944, extension no. 25.

Pen & Ink:

Love Him or Hate Him: Eminem Has True Staying Power

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



Freshman year in college was the era of the yellow-haired, smug Caucasian rapper Vanilla Ice and his one-hit wonder, "Ice Ice Baby" from the album, "To The Extreme." I was dragged into becoming one of his disciples by a guy I was dating, Skippy, who idolized his rapping style, and unfortunately, his tasteless taste in clothes. Less than a year later, Ice faded into obscurity — a white rapper in a sea of successful Black singers like M.C. Hammer, who ruled the technique — and he would only resurface in VH1 "Behind the Music" specials.

Less than 10 years later, Eminem emerged with his simple white T-shirts, baggy denim jeans, and a crew cut of blond hair ... and we thought we were going to see Ice all over again ... another white rapper trying to be Black, fooling himself that he had enough grit to "represent." We gave him 15 minutes, if he was lucky, but we were fooling ourselves.

Not only does Eminem have a quick-witted, sharp-tongued rapping style that surpasses any of the forefathers of Old School like Run-DMC, L.L. Cool J., or Grandmaster Flash, he has held the attention of mothers, GLAAD (The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), NOW (National Organization for Women), rebellious teenagers, stable teenagers, 40-year-olds, and senior citizens on hot, controversial topics. Whether you agree with



HERE TO STAY...Eminem isn't leaving, so get used to him.

Local Celebrity News

Westfield Youngster Sweeps Local Piano Competitions

WESTFIELD — Gil Scott Chapman, 12, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gil Chapman of Westfield, won the Fourth Annual Andrew De Grado Piano Competition in October, after his performance of "Butterfly" by Edward Grieg.

In addition, Gil Scott has previously won a Music Educators Association competition for his piano solo performance in March, and a Parent Teacher Student Association competition for his piano composition in April of 2000.

In his spare time, Gil Scott, a seventh grader at Roosevelt Intermediate School in Westfield, plays the saxophone in the church band, composes and plays his digital piano, reads, writes, plays basketball on the

seventh grade Westfield team, attends concerts, plays video games and enjoys outdoor activities with his friends.

At Roosevelt School, Gil Scott plays the alto saxophone in the band and plays piano in the jazz band. He has received piano instruction from Dr. Loretta Jankowski of Mountainside since the age of six.

Gil Scott is currently a member of the New York Youth Symphony Chamber Music Program and the New York Youth Symphony "Making Score" program.

He aspires to become a concert pianist/composer, a jazz musician, a writer and a professional basketball player.



Gil Scott Chapman

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