



Queen of Arts

Craft Projects, Books, and Patterns
For All the Year 'Round

All Spooks Aside, Halloween Has More Treats Than Tricks

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

Recently, I dragged my mother into a Watchung store stuffed with Halloween costumes and decorations, designed to scare the living daylight out of the bravest souls. Even the proprietor was terrifying, looming over the products like Lurch. Suspended from the ceiling, a plastic, blood-drench man, who had met his fate, forced my mother to head toward the exit sign.

I almost purchased a halo to wear



Photography by Richard Jung
Curried Pumpkin Soup

book, balancing some clever and cute craft projects for kids and some tantalizing beverages with which adults can stay cozy by the fireplace.

For example, Stained Glass Spooks, which is both a craft and a dessert, can be made and devoured with a lick and a promise, or simply hung near a sunny window as holiday decorations. A project with safety in mind, the Flashlight Lanterns can be swiftly crafted with simple materials like paper, a flashlight, and some clever embellishments — sure to be the prettiest flashlight on Halloween night.

Parents and children can haunt the kitchen at night to work on the delicious recipe for Cocoa Cobweb Cupcakes, which classmates will love to sink their teeth into at a school Halloween party.

Finally, adults can take a much-deserved break from all the festivities, and prepare an autumn evening feast of Roasted Pork Loin with Quinces and Lady Apples, finished off with Pumpkin Crackle Custard — all the while sipping some of the tangy Devil's Breath concoction featured in Maggipinto's book.

"Halloween Treats," which is published by Chronicle Books, is a Halloween lovers treasure from front to back cover. The volume contains projects that aren't mysteriously difficult to prepare, but bedeviling and bedazzling beyond compare. Don't leave your cauldron without a copy.



Photography by Richard Jung
Cocoa Cobweb Cupcakes

to work, since I'm always telling my coworkers I was born with one. But, the price tag and the store's gory goods gave me pause.

There's more to Halloween than gore, guts and grapes peeled to feel like eyeballs, as Donata Maggipinto points out in the super-colorful "Halloween Treats: Recipes and Crafts for the Whole Family."

If the photography by Richard Jung (no relation to Fanwood Mayor Louis Jung) doesn't lure readers into a web of Halloween revelry, the recipes for Baked Sweet Potato Chips, Curried Pumpkin Soup, and Pumpkin Pie Cream certainly will.

Warming up from outside activities like raking leaves or trick-or-treating becomes a more flavorful experience when marshmallows cut into ghost shapes float over cupfuls of rich, comforting chocolate in the Hot Cocoa with Marshmallow Spooks recipe.

Along the way, Maggipinto offers helpful safety tips, reminding young ones not to run with knives or scissors, and to take extra-special care when carving that prize-winning jack-o-lantern.

The author pays equal attention to parents and children in this 96-page



Get Outta The House

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

If you love piano music, the *Fourth Annual Andrew De Grado Piano Competition, Open Solo and Accompanying Piano Competition*, will be held on Sundays, October 12 and 19, from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Little Theatre, located in the University Center building of Kean University, 1000 Morris Avenue in Union. The general public is invited to hear students, ages 11 through 18, compete in a variety of categories. Visit www.andrewdegrado.org for more information.

It's only \$12 for a Saturday night event, or \$24 if you bring a special date, to see a live acoustical *Coffee With A Conscience* concert featuring David Roth. According to the hosts, Roth "blends a dash of Dan Fogelberg, a pinch of David Letterman, a whoosh of Will Rogers, and a touch of James Taylor-meets Jerry Seinfeld in his highly original, sometimes hilarious and always thought-provoking award-winning music." It starts at 8 p.m. at the Summit Unitarian Church, 4 Waldron Avenue (corner of Springfield Avenue), in Summit. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and refreshments will be served.

The Garden State Winegrowers' Association *South Jersey Harvest Fest* will be held at the Bellview Winery in Landisville on October 11 and 12 from noon to 5 p.m. both days. Thirteen New Jersey wineries will set up a tent and bring out their wines for you to try (and take home, if you like). With live music by Danny Eyer, good food, and plenty of crafters, the whole family will be happy. Admission is \$14 per adult, and includes a wine glass to keep and more than 100 wines to be sampled. Kids are admitted free, but sorry, they can't drink. For directions, call them at (856) 697-7172, or copy this link into your web browser: <http://www.bellviewwinery.com/directions.html>. Don't forget your designated driver.

Successful Symphony Opening

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piano solo or Ravel's orchestra-only version. There seemed instead to be a lack of continuity. There was a significant amount of doubling, where piano and orchestra were essentially playing the same parts. This type of orchestration can lead to pitfalls in synchronizing piano and orchestra, especially in more rapid passages.

Despite these inherent challenges, Wroe and Neiman were in total accord throughout the piece in all respects, and presented the piece in its best possible light.

Orchestration in which the piano and orchestra parts were more distinguishable were much more successful. In particular, passages in which string tremolos substituted for their original piano equivalents came across marvelously. The piano is ill suited for tremolos, and the violin is tailor made for them. This type of separation produced a highly effective layering of sound.

Neiman's dynamic performance was met with a rousing ovation that resulted in a solo encore of Chopin's Etude in A flat, Op. 25, No. 1. He played brilliantly, handling the harp-like study with such seeming ease as if to erase any semblance of technical difficulty. The audience listened intently, enraptured by the pianist's singing tone and lyrical phrasing.

Louis Scarmolin's Three Preludes, arranged for orchestra by John Sichel, began the second half of the program. The first piece, "Night at Sea," used harp glissandi, surging brass, and undulating strings to effectively portray its subject.

"Snowdrift" included bird-like woodwind passages, pizzicato strings (perhaps dripping icicles), and more harp glissandi, perhaps evoking blowing snow this time. "White Meadows," which began with oboe and clarinet, was melodically and harmonically the most interesting of the three.

Sichel's orchestration was so fit-

ting that it was difficult to imagine the piece in its original piano solo form without the colors and textures of an orchestra.

Strauss' Death and Transfiguration fully exploits the resources of a large symphony orchestra. Tackling this piece with an ensemble the size of the WSO was daring. The orchestra acquitted itself admirably, yielding a sound output that belied its limited numbers.

The piece has many solo entrances in various instruments, and all were played superbly. Wroe brought out the intertwining lines in this densely orchestrated piece with remarkable clarity and precision. The orchestra played with a wide dynamic range, from the whisper like opening to the ultimate climax in the "transfiguration" with all forces in the orchestra at full throttle.

Strauss interrupts some of the more tortuous passages of the "death" section with foreshadowings of the "transfiguration," and Wroe slowed the orchestra's momentum wonderfully. I would have preferred more forward motion in the succeeding sections after which tempo was restored, as these passages would have achieved greater urgency. There was no feeling of drag in the "transfiguration" section, which flowed in a heavenly blissful fashion.

The audience, which included a delegation visiting from China, appreciated the fine performances of the evening. To my surprise, the hall was not filled. Those who chose to attend were thankful for a night of splendid music, in a very convenient locale.

Woman's Club to Hold Theater Party Benefit

WESTFIELD — The College Women's Club of Westfield will hold its annual theater party at the Westfield Community Players (WCP) Theater, 1000 North Avenue, West, on Friday, October 24, at 7 p.m. to see *Murder Among Friends*.

College Club members will provide a wine and cheese reception at 7 p.m. before the play, which begins at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased by writing to Mary Ellen O'Boyle, 678 Shadowlawn Drive, Westfield, 07090 or on the evening of the performance.

The proceeds will benefit the college scholarships distributed by the club to young women. Last year, the organization awarded a total of \$25,000 to the applicants in the form of grants and two-year and four-year scholarships.

Arts & Entertainment



TREASURE S...Members of the Friends of the Westfield Symphony Orchestra's Luncheon Committee display the antique treasures well worthy of appraisal. Pictured, left to right, are: seated, Christine Bailey, Lee Corcoran, and standing, Deirdre Malacrea, Jennifer Jaruzelski, Carol Leone, and Mary McEnerney.

WSO Luncheon Will Include Antiques Expert, Appraisals

WESTFIELD — The Friends of the Westfield Symphony (WSO) invite the public to "An Afternoon to Treasure" at

Echo Lake Country Club on Friday, October 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for an opportunity to dine and receive exclusive tips and individualized appraisals from keynote speaker and antiques expert Carolyn Remmey.

Pen & Ink

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something God say? Are viewers to believe He's just "up there" playing tiddlywinks, unaware of our needs?

As a little girl at a park decides to play God through a chain-link fence, the angst-filled teenager whines about miracles. The girl tells her, "People ask me to do things. I can't break the rules. Miracles happen within the rules. You're an instrument of thought, limited by time and space." Joan responds, "I'd like to slap you." Is that how you'd talk to God?

Unfortunately, this extremely talented band of actors, (which also includes Jason Ritter, the son of the late John Ritter, and Mary Steenburgen) are enraptured by a plot-free script, paid to recite philosophically fluffy lines which gloss over the core of Christianity, instead of making a true connect with its believers and those who need inspiration. The show is fraught with Bible-named characters like Adam, a pothead, and Grace, an androgynous drifter, whose religious associations are meant to slip in one ear and out the other. Even worse, when Joan asks her Vice Principal if he believes in God, he suggests she has a problem with psychosis.

A goofy mime, the last to appear as the highest power, tells Joan about some New Age baloney sandwich philosophy called "reality strands." It's like the Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon, where a multitude of people can eventually be traced to the famous actor. By her encounters with others in need, the mime tells her, that she eventually finds the answers to her own problems. What ever happened to praying about it?

"I remain silent," he tells her, "and I get criticized for that too. Trust in me, Joan, that's all I ask." This is the only modicum of truth that comes from "Joan of Arcadia." The rest is rubbish and a pure misrepresentation of who God really is and the relationship we are called to have with Him. He doesn't laugh at our expense, correct our grammar, or encourage us to slap him across the face.

Despite the many guises fabricated by "Joan's" writers and producers, God cannot be found in this show, as the television hour is better spent seeking Him in the places where He's always been.

Nomahegan

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West Creek stole the show with some of the most exquisite handiwork. Each piece was reasonably priced, and their booths were so popular, jockeying for a position was a welcome challenge.

At the end of the day, most of those political brochures flooded the garbage cans on Union County College's campus, but visitors to the craft extravaganza surely found rarities more intriguing than previous shows.

Children enjoyed petting the horse ridden by a Union County police officer and senior citizens stuffed bags with free pencils and maps splattered with the county's logo. Oldies boomed from a stage commanded by a vocalist who strutted and swayed like Joe Cocker.

Co-sponsored by the county's Freeholder Board and Division of Parks and Recreation, the 17th annual show accomplished what it always sets out to do — satisfy each of the senses with crafty treats for the eyes, ears and palates during a crisp, fall weekend.

'Art in Westfield' Sidewalk Show Planned Saturday

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Art Association (WAA), Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Westfield Corporation will sponsor "Art in Westfield" Sidewalk Art Show and Sale of Original Art this Saturday, October 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The rain date is Saturday, October 18.

Over 70 artists will exhibit their original artwork for display and sale. Artists will present photography, painting, sculptures and graphics. Landscapes, natural life, still life, figures, portraiture and abstract art will be among the framed and unframed selections.

Throughout the show, artists will demonstrate their artistic media. Visitors are welcome to observe their creative efforts and discuss their work with them. Musical entertainment will be provided and the show will be judged by Christina Saj, a Montclair artist, who will award over \$1,500 in prizes.

Prize winners and select artwork will be displayed at Westfield Interiors following the show.

Free Staged Reading Set at Theater Project

CRANFORD — The Theater Project at Union County College (UCC) will present a staged reading of *My Sister Underground* by playwright Jewel Seehaus-Fisher on Sunday, October 12, at 3 p.m. in the Cranford Commons at UCC. Admission is free and open to the public. For more details, please call (908) 659-5189.

Fiber Artists

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Her contribution to the Brodsky Gallery exhibition includes "Motherboard Meltdown Versions 2.5-2.8: Four Patch," which has drawn esteem from children, who enjoy the pieces' vivid colors, quilters, who admire her originality, and computer "techie" who get "wired" over Veshlage's approach to the subject matter.

A computer network engineer for over a decade, the artist uses traditional sewing/quilting needles to infuse the multi-colored wire inside of flat ribbon cable, sashing patches together. These patches have been embellished with recycled computer components, such as floppy disks and chips.

With titles such as, "System Overload," and "Terminal Eyestrain", Veshlage has struck a chord with an eclectic audience, which commissions her work and includes the pieces in exhibitions throughout New Zealand, France, and Mexico.

Admirers and fiber art enthusiasts may meet Dreyer and Veshlage during a Meet the Artists reception on Saturday, October 25, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the gallery, which is located in the Chauncey Conference Center, Rosedale Road in Princeton. For more information, please call the gallery at (609) 921-9000.

Peter Basler

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filmed a documentary on Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (F.O.P.) and how the disease has impacted a young Westfielder, was one of the Directors of Photography. Rob Eckman and Ted Thode were assistant cameramen, while Doug Shineman contributed to special effects and Kevin Johnson was the key gaffer.

Several television students signed a mailing list that allowed them to participate as an extra for the film.

In previous films, Basler incorporated the music of several New Jersey musicians. However, Jay McMeekeem is composing the original music for *As Cool As Jennifer*.



MAYHEM...Some of the characters were caught raising a bit of mayhem during a rehearsal for the Cranford Dramatic Club's production of *You Can't Take It With You*, which will run from October 17 to November 1. Pictured, left to right, are: Vikki Massulli, Bill Chamis, Anthony Marotta, Bernie Weinstein, Ed Wittel, Maurice Moran, Ed Spiegel, Doug Thornton, Peg Harvey, and Mary Quinn. For ticket information, please call (908) 276-7611.

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