



## Get Outta The House

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

Now through Friday, May 13, **The Arts Guild of Rahway** is showing **The Assembled Image: Recent Digital Collage**, bringing together five talented local artists: Kristen Faughnan, Elizabeth Jacobs, Leslie Nobler-Farber, Joohyun Pyune and Jay Seldin, who are all currently working with digital collage. The opening reception will be held tomorrow, Friday, April 22, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Admission is free. Call (732) 381-7511 or visit [www.rahwayartsguild.org](http://www.rahwayartsguild.org) for more information.

The political season is officially starting with **Late Night With Jon Corzine**, a special event to help the senator become elected as the 53rd Governor of New Jersey, at Liberty Science Center at Liberty State Park in Jersey City on Wednesday, April 27. Doors open at 8 p.m. and the program begins at 9 p.m. There will be drinks and dancing at Studio 53, and special guest Max Weinberg of "The Conan O'Brien Show," and the E-Street Band. Admission is — you guessed it — \$53. To purchase tickets, visit <http://tinyurl.com/5g5qb> or [www.corzineforgovernor.com](http://www.corzineforgovernor.com), or e-mail [studio53@votecorzine.org](mailto:studio53@votecorzine.org). Stick around for late night disco after the celebration.

Also at Liberty State Park, remember the importance of nature and Earth preservation on Saturday, April 23, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Interpretive Center on Freedom Way. The festival will offer a diversity of presentations, demonstrations and activities, including magic, musical entertainment, arts and crafts, a volunteer clean up in the park, theatrical performances and a live falconry demonstration for adults and children of all ages. Admission is free. Take the New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 14B, and follow signs to the center.

**The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Arts Association's Annual Member Show** will take place from Monday, April 25, through Saturday, April 30, at the Scotch Plains Public Library. Up to 50 member artists are expected to participate. There will be a reception on the 30th at 11 a.m., and awards will be given out at noon. This year's judge is Joe Hulsen, who exhibits at Les Malamut Art Gallery in Union.

Send Arts-Related News To [ae@goleader.com](mailto:ae@goleader.com)!!!

# THREE TALL WOMEN

By Edward Albee  
April 21—May 8

THE THEATER PROJECT  
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Wendy Hahn for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**MUSIC MENTOR.** Karen Yula, a music teacher at Jefferson Elementary School in Westfield, poses while playing piano inside one of the classrooms.

## Karen Yula: Decades Of Music Education In Westfield Schools

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

**WESTFIELD** — Karen Yula, a resident of Somerset, has been teaching music in the Westfield public school system for decades.

Many local schools, including Wilson and Washington Elementary Schools have had the pleasure of Ms. Yula's tutelage. She currently instructs grades 2 through 5 at Jefferson School, where she has worked for 10 years.

She received her bachelor's degree from Kean University in Union and continued her advanced education at Trenton State.

Raised in Rahway during the racial riots, which occurred roughly between 1968 and 1969, Ms. Yula attended high school in Westfield.

She told *The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that she feels honored to have taught for so many years in the exceptional Westfield school system. She credits many people for her success, particularly Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley and Supervisor of Fine Arts Dr. Linda King.

Along with countless other teachers and students, Ms. Yula recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of Jefferson School. Portions of the festivities were filmed for local television station, Channel 33, including a musical concert, directed by Ms. Yula, which included past and present students of Jefferson.

On Wednesday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m. at Jefferson School, she will proudly

present an evening of "cowboy-themed songs," featuring her fifth grade students.

In addition to her full-time teaching duties at Jefferson School, Ms. Yula helms the outstanding Artists Performing and Entertainment Program (APE) during the summer months. Approximately 50 to 60 students in grades 3 through 5 participate in the fast paced four-week program.

Nine vigorous rehearsals culminate with a final performance at Roosevelt Intermediate School. This year's production, *The Best Little Theater in Town* will be presented on Wednesday, July 13.

Ms. Yula is passionate about music and the positive effect that musical instruction has on its students. She ensures that all of her pupils are featured in the productions and "every kid on that stage" is encouraged to participate and explore their creativity.

"It's amazing when you see that they really understand, they really get it," she told *The Leader/Times*.

Aside from music, Ms. Yula has also found a rewarding second career. She currently teaches Yoga for Stress Management to her fellow teachers at Jefferson School every Thursday, and also teaches at Michelle's in Garwood.

Yoga has been a wonderful addition to Ms. Yula's life. As a music teacher, focus and breathing are already an inherent part of her life, and yoga positively reinforces those basic principles.

"I feel so blessed," she said.

To reach Ms. Yula, please e-mail [Kyula@westfieldnj.com](mailto:Kyula@westfieldnj.com).



**WELCOMING SPRING WITH GLEE...** On Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30, the Westfield Glee Club will sing in spring with a special concert program.

## Westfield Glee Club to Sing Spring Concerts Apr. 29, 30

**WESTFIELD** — The Westfield Glee Club, under the direction of Thomas Booth, will perform 80th year Spring Concerts on Friday, April 29, at 8 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Roselle, and on Saturday, April 30, at 8 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church in Cranford.

Accompanist George Lachenauer will be joined by Howard Dreizler on some selections.

The first section of the Glee program includes classic men's songs with tunes like the "Whiffenpoof Song" and "How Can I Keep From Singing?" The next section of religious songs features "Swing Low, Swing Down" and "I Will Call Upon the Lord."

### Masterwork Concert Will Include Residents

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — Scotch Plains residents David Barker, Anastasia Carumpalos and Ann DeCamp, members of the Masterwork Chorus, will celebrate the ensemble's 50th anniversary with a concert/lecture/complimentary reception on Saturday, May 7, at 7 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church of Madison.

The lecture will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a complimentary reception. For tickets, please call the church at (973) 377-1600 or visit [www.presbyterian-madison.org](http://www.presbyterian-madison.org).

### Breznitsky Publishes Poem and Screenplay

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — Erin Breznitsky of Scotch Plains will have a poem, "My Uncle's Laugh," and a screenplay, *Welcome to Serena*, published by *RiverCraft*, a campus literary magazine at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa.

The poem and screenplay were selected through academic competition for publication this spring.

Erin is a junior majoring in writing at Susquehanna. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Breznitsky of Scotch Plains, she is a 2002 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

# Arts & Entertainment

## Ms. Browne Publishes 'Aspen Heir'

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

**WESTFIELD** — Westfield attorney-turned-author, Marlene Browne has recently released her latest book, "Aspen Heir," a story of "love, heartbreak and redemption," which she co-wrote with political writer, Robert Tourville.

A book of polarities on many levels, including setting and characterization, "Aspen Heir" takes the reader back to the glamour of the 80s and 90s and offers a glimpse of the lives of two baby boomers who meet on the ski slopes of Vermont.

Ms. Browne is a graduate of Boston College and Emory University School of Law. Licensed in New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Colorado, she has practiced family law since 1986.

"I have always written, and a lawyer does a lot of writing of certifications, affidavits and briefs," she told *The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, when asked how her career progressed from law to writing.

Ms. Browne's first book, "The Divorce Process" was released 12 days before September 11, 2001, and was overshadowed by the ensuing media coverage of the tragedy. Her second book, a novel entitled "To Prepare a Face," was released in 2003. It was followed by "The Boomers Guide to Divorce (and a New Life)" and "Aspen Heir."

"To Prepare a Face" and "Aspen Heir" are both works of fiction.



**Marlene Browne**  
"The Boomers Guide to Divorce" is not an intimidating book," said Ms. Browne, who is herself a divorced, and remarried boomer.

"It is useful and humorous," she noted.

An only child, Ms. Browne credits her parents for encouraging her to be self-reliant. Her mother, Dr. Marie Browne, has had a private psychology practice in Westfield for 34 years. Her father, Francis Browne, now a substitute teacher at Westfield High School, was for many years Vice President of Operations of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, working on the 103rd floor of the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Ms. Browne also credits her mentor, fellow Westfield attorney Jim Yudes, for the successful career she now enjoys.

"I was lucky enough to have him give me his time and attention from the time I was age 24 to 28," said Ms. Browne. "He's a very well respected family law attorney, known throughout the country."

She was also the first female partner in the Westfield law firm of Lindabury, McCormick & Estabrook, P.C.

Currently, in place of a busy law practice, Ms. Browne consults and lectures on family law. She has appeared nationally on radio and television, including Court TV's "Catherine Crier Live," FOX 5's "Good Day, New York," and CBS's "The Early Show."

She is also at work on a new book for women about how to protect marriage from the outside forces that cause divorce.

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Michelle Helen Le Poidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**SHAPING LIVES...** Westfield High School Ceramics and Graphic Design teacher Barbara Flynn poses in Room 237 with two treasured ceramic pieces. She has served the Westfield public school district for approximately 19 years.

## Point, Click, Fire, and Glaze: Flynn Unites Diverse Disciplines

By MICHELLE HELEN Le POIDEVIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**WESTFIELD** — Westfield High School (WHS) Ceramics and Graphic Design teacher Barbara Flynn merges two diverse disciplines for students — one more hands-on and the other more technical — in order to help them flourish creatively.

Mrs. Flynn served Hillside Public Schools for 12 years prior to coming to Westfield, where she has been teaching for 19 years.

She received a Bachelor of Arts Education degree from Montclair State University in Upper Montclair and, very recently, she obtained a Masters of Art degree in Education Technology from New Jersey City University in Jersey City.

When she began serving the Westfield public school district as a part-time art teacher, Mrs. Flynn had to divide her attention and her budget to accommodate four different disciplines and courses — Art I, Art II, Crafts and Ceramics.

Today, she focuses on two disciplines (four Ceramics classes and one Graphic Arts), with 90 to 100 students per day, and is able to funnel funds into ceramics supplies like clays, glazes, slides and posters, instead of materials needed for graphic design courses, except for "nice papers to print out on" because equipment such as computers, scanners and software have been supplied through the public school district.

During an interview on April 11 inside Room 237 at WHS, Mrs. Flynn told *The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that an increasing demand for graphic arts/design coursework has caused the district to add one more class in the fall of 2005.

"Nineteen years ago, there was one fulltime teacher in the arts department," explained Mrs. Flynn. She described other changes and shifts, which have occurred over the years, especially in the area of industrial arts. For example, five teachers were in WHS' business department, while only one remains because techniques such as keyboarding have now been integrated into another curriculum.

Currently, Mrs. Flynn noted, there are five fulltime instructors (Roy Chambers, Annora Happe-Conway, Leah Jarvis, Timothy Stumbers, Ms. Flynn) and one part-time teacher (Lauren Schwartzberg) in the arts department.

Echoing previous accolades by Ms. Jarvis regarding the support of the arts by the Westfield community and public school district, Mrs. Flynn pointed to the encouragement students receive from facilities outside of the schools, such as the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA), playground programs, NJWA's Westfield Summer Workshop, and activities at the Westfield Y.

"There are always opportunities for enrichment," said Mrs. Flynn.

In a world where most students only have to point and click on an icon and computer screen to create, it can make students anxious when they are going



Photo by Dan Chabanov  
**TAKING SHAPE...** Students in Barbara Flynn's Ceramics class enjoy a hands-on experience at the pottery wheels.

through a more time-consuming process like those used in ceramics, she explained.

"For some (students), it is harder to stay focused because they want things done instantly and they are anxious about the process," she said.

Mrs. Flynn joked that, for example, when clay is wet and must go through many steps to become a work of art, it can't just be placed in a microwave to harden. The kiln, and processes such as firing and glazing must still take place.

When asked about a particular student whose professionalism stands out above the rest, Mrs. Flynn cited Courtney Franko, who also honed her skills outside of the WHS classroom and loved the craft enough to purchase her own pottery wheel. Currently, Courtney does independent study with Mrs. Flynn.

When it comes to her instruction of graphic design techniques, Mrs. Flynn said she must continue to "raise the bar" for students who are more experienced with applications such as Adobe

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## 'Take 3' Westfilm 2005 To Return on May 2, 9

**WESTFIELD** — "Take 3" Westfilm 2005, the Westfield Independent Film Festival at the Rialto Theatre in Westfield, will return to town on Mondays, May 2 and 9. On both evenings, festivities will begin at 7 p.m.

A brief question and answer session with the filmmakers will be held after each screening. The festival's screening schedule is currently being organized.

This year's festival will be run in cooperation with the Scotch Plains and Fanwood libraries' "Movies In May" Film Festival on Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7.

For more information on "Movies In May," please visit [www.fanwoodlibrary.org/filmfest](http://www.fanwoodlibrary.org/filmfest). During Westfilm, features, shorts and student films will be presented. To view a complete listing of films screening at the festival, please visit [www.westfilmfestival.com](http://www.westfilmfestival.com) and check back for further developments.

The cost for entry to each festival is \$7. Tickets will be available at the Rialto Theater Box Office, located at 250 East Broad Street, each night of the festival.

Past festival features included *Just Add Pepper*, *Catching Fire*, *Rave.n*, *Reality & Stuff* and *Bel Air*. DVDs of the film *Just Add Pepper*, distributed by Alpha Video, will be available during the festival for \$6 each.

For more information on Westfilm, please call Peter Paul Basler at the Tomorrow Project at (732) 396-4419 or (973) 769-3661 or e-mail [tomorrowproject@comcast.net](mailto:tomorrowproject@comcast.net).



**HONORED ARTISTS...** Six Union County students had their artwork selected to represent their county at the Statehouse in Trenton. The pieces were displayed for Youth Art Month in March, which is sponsored by the Art Educators of New Jersey. Pictured, left to right, are: top row, Union County Youth Art Month Chairperson and art educator in Roselle Park, Carrie Davey; and Westfield art educator Marylee Massenzio; bottom row, artists Coral Cooper of Westfield and Lilliana Leonardis of Cranford. Not pictured are: artists Joseph Appello of Roselle Park, Nicole Spera of Westfield, Zachary Robbin of Union and Jennifer Isaza of Union.