



Mid-Day Musicales Concert Scheduled

WESTFIELD — The First Congregational Church of Westfield, 125 Elmer Street, will present coloratura soprano Sarah Arneson and pianist George Kern in a free, half-hour program at noon on Wednesday, February 23, as part of this season's Mid-Day Musicales series for Lent.

A \$5 soup and sandwich luncheon will be available in the church social hall following the concert.

Sarah Arneson debuted as Olympia at the Vienna State Opera, where she sang leading coloratura roles, including the Queen of the Night.

A regular soloist in the opera houses of Berlin, Cologne, Dresden, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Munich, and Stuttgart; roles included Gilda, Konstanza, Marie, Musetta, Olympia, Queen of the Night, Rosina, Titania, Violetta, and Zerbinetta.

She has made solo appearances with orchestra (including the Brooklyn Philharmonic and Chicago Grant Park Symphony), and on television and radio (including PBS, WNYC, and ORF).

She and her husband, George Kern, have collaborated frequently in recitals, lectures, and master classes, including Cyprus and China, under the auspices of the USIS and the American Liszt Society, as well as the Toho Music School in Japan.

Dr. Arneson has degrees from the University of Nebraska, Western Michigan University, and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. She is currently an Associate Professor of Voice at Boston University.

Her husband is a Professor of Piano at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst, "Mozarteum," in Salzburg, Austria. A native of New Jersey, he has bachelors and master's degrees from the Juilliard School.

Funding for these concerts has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Afternoon at Opera Planned at Arts Ctr.

WATCHUNG — On Sunday, March 20, at 4 p.m., internationally renowned performers Karen Notare, soprano, and Eva Young, pianist, will present the works of Verdi, Puccini, Giordano, Mascagni and Wagner during "An Afternoon at the Opera" at the Watchung Arts Center.

Performed in a gallery of walls filled with exciting contemporary art, the art center will provide an exciting venue to hear the amazing vocal abilities of Notare, whose resplendent lirico-spinto voice has been heard on stages in Europe, the US, Canada, South Africa, the Far East and New Zealand.

She has performed with a number of orchestras, including the Beethovenale Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Cincinnati Symphony and the Royal Danish Symphony.

For the WAC performance, she will be accompanied by none other than Eva Young, who will offer her own solo piece, Franz Liszt's transcription of Handel's "Almira."

Ms. Young has performed frequently at the Bach Aria Festival, Music Academy of the West, Interlochen Center of the Arts as vocal coach and accompanist.

She was invited to premiere composer Lu Yen's piano concerto with the Taipei Contemporary Chamber Orchestra at Taiwan's National Concert Hall.

She performed works of Steve Reich with the New World Symphony in Florida and Arnon Jay Kernis at the Pacific Music Festival in Japan.

Tickets are \$15 per adult, \$12 for WAC members, \$10 for students. The center is located at 18 Stirling Road in Watchung.

This Is Westfield
May 5, 2005

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Arts & Entertainment

Paul DeRoo of Westfield: Self-Taught Artist, Chemistry Professor at Drexel

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

WESTFIELD — Although most of the time his life is consumed with academia, Westfield resident, Dr. Paul DeRoo still manages to dabble now and again in his art.

"Art is a sideline to everything else I have done," he said.

Dr. DeRoo is a self-taught amateur artist who started with oil paints 36 years ago, and has subsequently used many of the other artistic media available, including watercolors, pastels, and acrylics.

"I enjoy the learning experience associated with experimenting with new media," said the artist, who added that he also enjoys creating two- and three-dimensional computer graphics.

Originally from Southern Ontario, Canada, Dr. DeRoo received his doctoral degree in biochemistry from the University of Ottawa. His background includes various applications of chemistry, from medical biochemistry and environmental chemistry, to chemical process applications in the aerospace industry.

It is easy to understand why Dr.

DeRoo's artwork can be just a hobby at this point. He currently serves as an Adjunct Professor of Chemistry at Drexel



"Driftwood," Paul DeRoo, a study as an 10 x 8 inkjet print on paper of a computer image generated from a three-dimensional computer model.

University in Philadelphia, where he teaches engineering chemistry to fresh-

man students in the College of Engineering. He teaches in both the traditional classroom, as well as online.

In total, Dr. DeRoo has about 800 students per term.

"When I do get a free hour, I try to put my students first," Dr. DeRoo explained.

An 18-year resident of Westfield, Dr. DeRoo has been a member of the Westfield Art Association (WAA) for the last several years. He is currently a member-at-large of the WAA Board of Directors, and a member of the Life Drawing Group, the Landscape Group, and the Contemporary Art Group. He was also the Coordinator for the WAA Sidewalk Show and Sale in the Fall of 2004.

As involved in academia he currently is, Dr. DeRoo looks forward to the future and more time to pursue his art.

"I am looking forward to full retirement in a couple of years; then art can occupy a much larger part of my daily activities," he said.



Life study drawing, Paul DeRoo, graphite or conte crayon on paper with watercolor.



Life study drawing, Paul DeRoo, graphite or conte crayon on paper with watercolor.

TAKE THE STAGE No Math Skills Needed To Solve CDC's Proof

By SUSAN M. DOUGHERTY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD — It is a given that the "what if's" of life can drive us crazy. Cranford Dramatic Club's (CDC) latest production, the Pulitzer Prize winning drama *Proof* by David Auburn, is riddled with enigmatic questions of life that can't be resolved no matter how much logic is applied.

Proof masquerades as a simple story of four characters: Robert, a genius father who has just died, a well-meaning older daughter Claire, the younger sibling Catherine who is an unrecognized math genius herself and Hal, a potential boyfriend of Catherine. Darker aspects of life dress this skeletal plot.

Catherine (Danielle Shepard) is the 25-year-old daughter of a once brilliant Chicago mathematician, Robert, who suffered a debilitating mental

breakdown in his early 20s after making three monumental discoveries in math. A promising math student herself, Catherine sacrifices her own college schooling to live at home with Robert nursing him through delusions and mania. While he is in this mental state of confusion, he fills volumes of black and white composition notebooks with his disjointed thoughts.

She begins to exhibit some of the manic-depressive signs that plagued her father in his mid-20s. The realization of this repetitive pattern weighs heavily on her already overloaded shoulders.

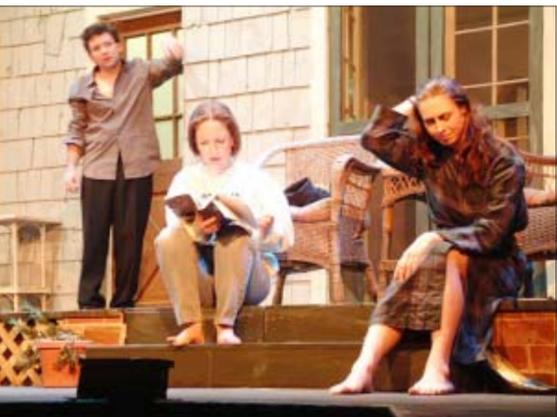
Universal questions beleaguer Catherine — should she put her father in a mental institution? Should she give up college and put her own life on hold to care for an ailing parent? What does a child owe a parent? She deals with guilt and resentment that build a house of cards which await the inevitable catastrophic breeze.

Harold Dibbs (Hal) enters as a math student who revered the work of mathematical genius Robert. After Robert's death, Hal sorts through the scores of notebooks that Robert filled in his later years of dementia. In the process of sifting through the material, Hal engages in a soul touching and sexual relationship with Catherine.

Their moments of awkwardness before and after their sexual experience are wonderfully real. Both actors show their character's vulnerability and fragility in moments that ring true to life.

Older sister Claire (Tracey Tandinnelli) lives the fast paced life in New York City in her own world of numbers as an actuary. She returns home for her father's funeral sporting a French twist, pearls and wearing the obligatory black. Ever efficient, she even has bought a black dress for her sister.

Stiff and Yuppie-like in dress, life style and mannerisms, Claire is the opposite



ADD IT UP...In Cranford Dramatic Club's *Proof*, older sister Claire (Tracey Tandinnelli) reads what she believes to be her late father's mathematical proof that could be the most significant thing written in decades. Hal (Rich Sibello), a devotee of the father and younger daughter, Catherine, wrestle with the possible truth of the notebook's origin.

of her genius little sister Catherine who is comfortable in weathered jeans and a sweatshirt. Claire has it all planned out: Catherine should move to the Big Apple where she can keep an eye on her and her perceived frail mental health.

When Catherine recognizes her sister's judgment of her, the two erupt into a shouting match that revisits the hurt, guilt, resentment and sibling rivalry that, once it starts, gushes like Niagara's mighty waterfall.

Mary Louise Parker and Gwyneth Paltrow played the role of Catherine at different times on Broadway in the 1970s when this show opened. Ms. Shepard as Catherine has the enormous task of playing the dark role of a woman depressed and on the brink of her own possible breakdown. She handles it well with intensity and maturity.

John Correll as the father, Robert, weaves

a tapestry of emotions complete with all the unique colors of being unbalanced. In freezing December he sits outside dressed in a tee shirt and slacks. He presents a scary figure because he is so rational as to why he doesn't need a jacket.

Just as the glassy eyed mad storyteller in "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," Mr. Correll holds us captive when his words explain he is burning up with creativity. We, like Catherine, want to believe that he is lucid and "normal" once again. Mr. Correll's performance in this scene is riveting.

Although Tracey Tandinnelli's Claire does an admirable job of bringing her stereotyped character to life, she plays the quiet lines so quietly that the audience strains to hear her words. The scene where she finally tells Catherine she is leaving is her best because the emotions resonate a familiar chord.

Richard Sibello is well cast in the role of Hal who struggles with self-doubts and feels he's washed up at age 28. When Hal describes himself as the geeky, outcast math nerd, we believe him and empathize with him. Mr. Sibello makes us like Hal with his quirks and idiosyncrasies.

A soulful cello solo plays between scenes to help maintain a somber mood. Expect to be nudged into deep reflection by CDC's show directed by Peter Clark and produced by Art Kusiv.

The line between thoughtful reflection and slow execution of lines, however, is very thin. A slow-paced first act the night this reviewer saw it caused the audience to fidget.

Ultimately, then, this is a play about trust, vulnerability and believing the ones we love against all odds. Mathematical concepts don't dominate the play, but father/daughter interaction, sibling conflicts, budding romance and basic handling of the guilt of "what if's" is what holds this piece together.



STARSTRUCK...Alex Zepka, a seventh grader at Roosevelt Intermediate School in Westfield, met and was presented with flowers by singing sensation Josh Groban at the New York Times Art and Leisure Weekend on January 8.

Camp Fatima Magic Benefit Will Feature Moonglowers

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Moonglowers of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) will perform during cocktail hour at the Camp Fatima Magic fundraiser on Friday, February 25, at 7 p.m. at Bridgewater Manor in Bridgewater.

This annual event serves as one of the largest benefits sponsored by the camp, which features one-to-one assistance for physically challenged youngsters. Last year, over \$35,000 was raised in one night, between record ticket sales and ad purchases.

"This is a great cause," said SPFHS Music Director Vincent Turturiello. "I talked to the Moonglowers about how nice it is that we are doing something good for people."

Mr. Turturiello added, "Music is not about trophies. They understood and will become better people for it."

Featured musicians at the benefit will be tenor saxophonist Steven Voelker, alto saxophonist Casey Hoynes-O'Connor, trombonists Brian Plagge and Justin Rowinski and percussionist Michael Sheffield. Nick Mond and Lauren Perrotta will be spotlighted vocalists.

The oldest jazz band in New Jersey, the Moonglowers were established in 1936 and, for many years, used to play for the high school proms and during lunch in the cafeteria.

The ensemble, which practices every morning from 6:45 to 7:30 a.m., has placed in the top five bands in the state for the past 20 years. They were named Best Band in New Jersey in 2001 and, over the past 25 years, have been designated as the top high school jazz band in Union County.

The Moonglowers have also been named Outstanding Jazz Band at the national festivals of music 13 times, and were selected as the Best Band in the Tri-State Area in the McDonalds High School Jazz Band Competition in 1990-1991. Numerous band members have gone on to be professional

musicians. To purchase tickets, which cost \$100 per person, please call Natalie Ferreira at (908) 470-1544 or e-mail nferreira@erols.com.



Get Outta The House

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

The Garwood Knights of Columbus will host a **Comedy Nite**, featuring impressionist/comedian Rob Magnotti on Saturday, February 26, at 8 p.m. Tickets, which they recommend you purchase in advance, are \$15 each, and include open bar from 7:30 p.m. until the end of the show. For information, please call (908) 789-9809 after 4 p.m. The council hall is located at 37 South Avenue, opposite Garwood's Pathmark.

Next week, there will be several interesting programs at Union County College's (UCC) Roy Smith Theater. It's all part of the **Overcoming Hatred/Creating Community Program**. On Tuesday, February 22, learn about Japanese Internment Camps, followed by a tea ceremony in the Commons. The next day, there will be a dramatic reading of *Foreign Exchange* by Peter Hayes — a love story set during the Japanese internment. On Thursday, February 24, another dramatic reading of the holocaust play *Address Unknown* will be presented by UCC's Theater Project. All programs will start at 7:15 p.m. and are free. There are other events at the Elizabeth and Plainfield campuses. Log onto <http://www.uccfoundation.org/calendar.htm> for more information.

New Jersey Concert Opera's performance of Verdi's *Rigoletto* will be held in Plainfield's Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church on Sunday, February 20, at 3 p.m. One of the great operatic masterpieces, it is the story of a court jester's daughter who falls in love with a heartless womanizer, with the usual tragic results. Tickets are \$10 to \$20, and are available at the door. The church is at the junction of Crescent and Watchung Avenue.

Nashville-based singer/songwriter Tom Kimmel will perform in the **Coffee With Conscience Concert Series** on Saturday, February 19, at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield, 1 East Broad Street. Mr. Kimmel's songs have been recorded by The Byrds' Roger McGuinn and Chris Hillman and The Band's Levon Helm, and covered by artists including Linda Ronstadt, Johnny Cash, Joe Cocker, Shawn Colvin, Waylon Jennings, The Stray Cats, Randy Travis and The Spinners. Check him out at www.tomkimmel.com. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and the concert begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$14. Reservations are strongly encouraged, and can be made by calling (908) 522-1501, or by e-mailing concerts4causes@aol.com. Just leave a first and last name, the number of seats, and a phone number.

There will be a lecture for adults on Friday, February 18, from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the Trailside Nature & Science Center in Mountainside. William Gillette, Professor of History at Rutgers University, will present *The Role of New Jersey in the Civil War*, immediately followed by refreshments and singer/guitarist Heather Maloney's *Songs From the Civil War Era*. It's free, but pre-registration is required. To see if there's room for you, please call (908) 789-3670.

Winston Edges Closer to Winning American Title Competition

WESTFIELD — In a few weeks, author Lois Winston of Westfield will discover if her novel, "Resurrecting Gertie" has won Dorchester Publishing's American Title competition.

Ms. Winston, who began as one of 10 finalists in October, is now one of two remaining finalists for the top prize — a book contract from the New York-based publishing company.

"Resurrecting Gertie" involves a 26-year-old woman who conjures up her imaginary childhood friend to help her cope with life, love and a menopausal mother, according to Ms. Winston.

The contest is now under the direction of *Romantic Times BOOKClub* magazine. The public will determine the winner when the final vote for "Best Romantic Scene" is tallied in March. Votes will be taken from Monday, February 21, to Sunday, March 6, at www.romantictimes.com.

"Given the category for this final round, voter turnout should be even higher than the early rounds," said Ms.

Winston.

The winner of the publishing contract will be announced on Thursday, April 28, at the Romantic Times Booklovers Convention in St. Louis.

A New Jersey native, Ms. Winston grew up in Newark, Hillside and Union, and she has lived in Westfield for nearly seven years. She has already won a number of prominent writing competitions.

Last year, Ms. Winston was a finalist in the Malice Domestic competition sponsored by St. Martin's Press. In addition, two of her works were selected as finalists in the 2004 Golden Heart competition, sponsored by Romance Writers of America.

"Public response to this contest has been so favorable," said Ms. Winston, "that Dorchester and *Romantic Times* have decided to hold another competition next year. But, being named the first American Title author would be an experience like no other."

For more information about Ms. Winston and the contest, please visit www.loiswinston.com.

Three Spring Musicals Set By Westfield Public Schools

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Public Schools Fine Arts Department has announced that Roosevelt Intermediate School (RIS) will present *Little Shop of Horrors*. Edison Intermediate School (EIS) will stage "A Silver Anniversary Broadway Celebration" and Westfield High School (WHS) will offer *Plain and Fancy* for their spring musicals.

In *Little Shop of Horrors*, which will be staged on Friday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 6, at 2 p.m., Amanda Garfinkel will play Mrs. Mushnick, Amanda Chang will portray Audrey, Daniel Morse will play Orin the Dentist, and Brian Hart will provide the voice of Audrey II (the plant).

The production will include a cast and crew of 100 RIS sixth, seventh and eighth graders.

For more information, please call Taryn Glist at (908) 317-6730, exten-

sion no. 4.

"A Silver Anniversary Broadway Celebration," will consist of musical numbers, scenes and dances from Broadway musicals presented during the past 25 years at EIS, will be presented on Thursday, March 17, at 4 p.m., Friday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets will go on sale on Tuesday, March 8, at 3 p.m. in the EIS auditorium lobby for \$8. Tickets will also be available for all performances at the door for \$10.

WHS' Golden Anniversary revival of *Plain and Fancy*, which will feature Allison Siko, Steve Margolis and Nick Williams, will be staged on Thursday, March 10, at 7 p.m., Friday, March 11, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 12, at 8 p.m.

For more information, please call Joe Nierle at (908) 789-4549, extension no. 2.