



## Vic's Picks

### Spread 'Popaganda': Head Automatica Rocks

By VICTORIA McCABE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Head Automatica's sophomore release, *Popaganda*, doesn't have illusions of grandeur. It doesn't try to be anything other than a solid pop-rock album.

It blows its goal away. Fronted by Daryl Palumbo, formerly of Glassjaw, the band charges out of the gate with a back-to-back-to-back-to-back onslaught of four wildly catchy tracks that rock effortlessly, each one kicking the energy up a notch.

The third of those cuts, "Lying Through Your Teeth," just may be the perfect pop song. Infectious from the first power-chord crunches, its stripped-down, raw rock achieves just the right balance - any more flourishes and it would be overbearing, any less and it wouldn't pack such charged excitement. If this song gets any radio airplay, it's going to be huge.

The band drops "Graduation Day" just in time for high-schoolers and college kids to find an anthem for their summer. Sure, the whole graduation-lyric thing is a bit tired, but Head Automatica invokes the word with much less cheesiness than, say, Vitamin C. Despite the title, the song steers way clear of any of those cliché parting-of-the-ways messages - "I ain't going to school" is about the only reference to education, and who wants to argue that one?

The opening lines of "Laughing at

You" sound, inexplicably, like bridge material straight out of *Rent* (not that that's a bad thing - it's just that rock-to-Broadway-musical comparisons are few and far between, even if the Broadway musical in question does deal in rock music). The punchy beginning works, and by the time the band reaches the first chorus, the narrative sound gives way to a full-out pop-rock jam.

The album loses some steam after the halfway mark, but the band is able

to ride its killer pop sound through some less-than-stellar songwriting in the back half of the set - the occasional lyrical shortcomings are generally forgivable.

Fans of bands like The Killers and Hot Hot Heat will be blown away by Head Automatica's tight, amped retro-pop sound.

There's no pretension here; the goal is just to remind people how much fun good pop-rock can be, and Head Automatica does it with flair.

## Paper Moon Theater Performs at First United

WESTFIELD - On June 23, the Friday Evening Concert series will present Paper Moon Puppet Theater's large stage production of "Hansel and Gretel" performed at the Westfield First United Methodist Church. The concert series will take on a different format, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, by presenting a theatrical and professional marionette production of Grimm's fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel" by the well-known Paper Moon Puppet Theatre from Atlantic Highlands.

Paper Moon Puppet Theatre is produced and directed by Jim Racioppi, some of his other accomplishments include: his work with Dreamstuff Corp. and puppet design for the Central Park Marionette Theatre, to name

a few. Donations at the door will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and students. These donations and continuing audience participation will help support the Friday Evening Concerts which bring to the community, during the spring, summer and fall months, an array of family events and musical productions.

For further information, call the church office daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free parking can be found on nearby streets and lots, and in the church lot adjacent to Ferris Place off Prospect Street.

## Starlite Chorale Performs Concert

CLARK - The Starlite Chorale will be performing "When You're Smiling," their spring concert on Friday, June 23 at 8 p.m. and Sunday June 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the Osceola Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall (lower level), 1689 Raritan Road in Clark. It is near the Garden State Parkway Exit 136.

Under the direction of Dr. Tony Godleski and accompanied by Dr. Laura Bell, the Starlite Chorals will perform popular American classics such as "This Land Is Your Land," by Woody Guthrie, a medley of songs by Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin's "Always" and "Seasons of Love" by Jonathan Larson. Lively spirituals "Ain-a That Good News" and "Ezekiel Saw de Wheel" by William Dawson will have the audience tapping their feet, as will "Let's Swing It," a medley of swing tunes.

Tickets are: \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and children are free. Your can reserve your seat by calling (973) 667-5878.



TURNING OVER NEW LEAF...Westfield artist Maxwell Sang's "Single Lily" painting is just one of her many oil paintings that are on display in her solo exhibit "Petals" at Swain Galleries in Plainfield. The exhibit runs from now until June 30.

## County Employee Artists Show Work at Gallery

AREA - The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders announced that the prize-winning art work of Union County employees or their relatives is on display through July 24 in the Freeholders Gallery, located on the sixth floor of the Union County Administration Building, Elizabethtown Plaza at Rahway Avenue, located in downtown Elizabeth. The gallery is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

The art display presents selected work from the recent fifth annual "National Arts Program Exhibit and Contest for Union County Employees and Their Relatives." The exhibit and contest is a result of a partnership with the National Arts Program, which provides prize money and support to display the work.

Employee artists (or their relatives) and the awards they won at the original exhibit include: Mountainside: Michael Pires (First Place, Youth 12-18); Scotch Plains: Kathleen Yan (Third Place, Youth 12-18); and Westfield: Mary Paynter (Second Place, Professional).

For more information about this exhibit and other programs and ser-

vices related to the arts and Union County history, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at (908) 558-2550 or send an e-mail to culturalinfo@ucnj.org. NJ Relay users dial 711.

## The Town Book Store Hosts Marshall Karp

WESTFIELD - The Town Book Store of Westfield is hosting its final spring Meet & Greet book signing this weekend. On Saturday, June 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., author Marshall Karp will be in the store to promote his new novel, "The Rabbit Factory."

Rambunctious Rabbit - Rambo to his fans - is an American icon and a theme park's biggest draw. When the actor inside the Rambo costume and two other theme park employees are murdered, LAPD detectives must catch the madman before he brings the family entertainment giant to its knees.

If unable to attend this event, call The Town Book Store at (908) 233-3535 and reserve an autographed copy.

## Summer: A Time to Become Part of the Music

WESTFIELD - Children are not the only ones who have an opportunity to enjoy the benefits of musical performances during the summer. Musicians of all ages are invited to enroll in "Hot Summer Days and Nights," a series of music courses being offered by the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts.

Beginning on Monday, June 27 and continuing until Friday, July 28, the intergenerational music program spans six separate areas of interest. The Summer Strings, conducted by Janet Lyman, will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 6 until 7 p.m., at Temple Emanu-El in Westfield. The cost is \$100 for Music Studio students and \$125 for non-students. Musicians must know the first position on all strings.

Also conducted by Ms. Lyman, the Summer Symphony Orchestra will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Temple, from 7:15 until 9 p.m. There is a \$100 fee for Music Studio students and a \$125 fee for non-students. One year of ensemble experience is required.

A Rock 'n' Roll Workshop, taught by E. J. Gaub, will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. at the NJWA studios at 150-152 East Broad Street, Westfield. Intermediate level players on guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, as well as vocalists, may enroll at a fee of \$200 for Music Studio students and \$225 for non-students.

A Jazz Band, directed by Dr. Ted Schlosberg, will meet on Wednesdays, from 6 until 7:30 p.m., at the NJWA studios. Participants must have some jazz ensemble experience. The cost is \$100 for Music Studio students and \$125 for non-students.

Bryan Murray will conduct a Jazz Improvisation class at NJWA on Wednesdays, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. This course, for both beginners and those who have some group experience, will be \$100.

One of the "Hot Summer Days and Nights" courses is specifically geared toward second and third grade students. Taught by Reena Esmail, Summer Group Piano class will be held on Mondays at 4 to 4:45 p.m. and 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. at the NJWA studios. This group lesson is designed for beginners or those who have some group experience. The fee for this course is \$100.

These special summer programs give youngsters a jump-start on music lessons for the fall. They also allow adults an opportunity to remain involved in a positive and enjoyable musical experience.

For more information, call the NJWA at (908) 789-9696 or visit the office located at 150-152 East Broad Street, Westfield. Log on to www.njworkshopforthearts.com for information on all NJWA programs.



COMMUNITY GATHERING...The Westfield Community Band begins their 94th summer of concerts performing on the gazebo in Mindowaskin Park on Thursday, June 22 at 7:30 p.m.

## EXIT 13 Issue #13 Features Poetry from Near and Far

FANWOOD - The new issue of *EXIT 13 Magazine*, an annual publication, is now available by mail order and at local libraries.

*EXIT 13 Magazine* is a showcase for poets of all ages and degrees of experience. Widely published poets take their place in its pages alongside newcomers to the field. *EXIT 13* focuses on where and how people live; it's a travelogue in poetry and a reflection of the world. The emphasis is on geography, travel, adventure and imagination.

The 13th issue of this journal of contemporary poetry includes work by 50 poets, including 15 New Jersey writers. Local poets in the new issue of *EXIT 13* include: Adele Kenny of Fanwood, Joe Weil of Cranford, Penny Harter of Summit, William Keenan Jr. of Cranford, Linda Radice of North Plainfield, Paul Sohar of Warren, Kathie Palka of Flemington, Alissa Pecora of Keyport, Maxine Susman of Highland Park and editor/publisher Tom Plante of Fanwood.

Poets from as far away as New Zealand, Chile and Hungary reached this new issue of *EXIT 13*, along with nine poets from California, four from Virginia and individuals from a dozen other states. The postmarks include St. Augustine, Lincoln, Berkeley, Citrus Heights, Las Vegas, Salem, Miami, Woodstock, Bowling Green and San Francisco.

A special feature of this issue is Mr. Sohar's translations of three contemporary Hungarian poets, and Megan Merchant's translations of Chilean poet Luis Andres Figueroa.

Mr. Plante named the magazine after the Elizabeth exit off the New Jersey Turnpike. He has assembled *EXIT 13 Magazine* in Fanwood since 1988, the year that he and his wife moved out of the Elmora section of Elizabeth. The poetry journal has fea-

## Arts & Entertainment

## Area Workers Volunteer at Irvington Home 'Makeover'

By CASSIE LO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

AREA - Several members of the local community lent helping hands to a family in need earlier this year.

"Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," ABC's critically acclaimed reality series, is designed to make positive changes in people's lives. It came to Irvington to help Beverly Turner and her adopted special needs children.

According to the event's official website, www.extremehome-nj.com, Ms. Turner was in an accident at age 16 that resulted in her not being able to have children. Over the years, Ms. Turner has mothered 18 special needs children, and she currently lives with nine of them. Ms. Turner asked the show for help after her Irvington home was destroyed in a fire last year, leaving her family homeless.

Local volunteers include Ron Frank of Westfield and Kim Lambertson of Fanwood. Both men work for Kitchen Expo, based out of Edison. Mr. Frank and Mr. Lambertson, along with 15 other employees from Kitchen Expo and its affiliates, provided all of the labor for the cabinet installation throughout the house.

Cabinets were installed in the kitchen, study room, four bathrooms, a laundry room and a loft. The Kitchen Expo crew additionally installed wainscoting and cabinets in the great room.

KraftMaid provided the cabinets. Kitchen Expo is the largest KraftMaid dealer in New Jersey, and they immediately jumped at the chance to help the Turner family when asked. "It wasn't about the photo-op, it was simply an opportunity to help this woman," said Mr. Lambertson.

According to Mr. Lambertson, the Kitchen Expo employees entered the Extreme Home Makeover site on the Thursday of the weeklong construction. They worked from 10 p.m. on Thursday until early afternoon the following day, and they were not alone while pulling an all-nighter. "At any given time, there were between 200 and 300 people working in the house," said Mr. Lambertson.

"There was a very high energy in

the house," said Mr. Frank. "People were feeding off of each other's energy."

The experience was just as it seems on television: hundreds of people swarmed the house so there would be a finished product on the day of the reveal. Mr. Frank said it was difficult, at times, to work because of the limited space. Ty Pennington and the rest of the Extreme Home crew occasionally stopped in to the house, but they were not present for the entire week.

Mr. Frank attributes the week's success to the contractors, Century

21 Construction and Edgewood Properties. Presidents Joe Marino and Jack Morris of Century 21 and Edgewood, respectively, remained in the home virtually all week.

"What was really nice was that the sponsors had top people in the house, the supervisors were in with the workers. You could tell the sponsors had major interest in this project," said Mr. Frank.

For more information about the Extreme Makeover house in Irvington, visit www.extremehome-nj.com.



EXTREME MAKEOVER...Friends Brian Zuk, left, and Kitchen Expo's Ron Frank, right, both of Westfield, and Kim Lambertson of Fanwood (not shown) helped install the kitchen that went into the new home of Beverly Turner and her 18 special needs adopted children.

## NJSO to Open County Concert Series, June 28

WESTFIELD - The Union County Summer Arts Festival concert series will begin Wednesday, June 28, with a performance by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. The public is invited to attend this free concert, which begins at 7:30 p.m. in Echo Lake Park.

The performance by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra of patriotic tunes and American favorites will include music by Irving Berlin and Stephen Foster, an Armed Forces Salute and a tribute to Louis Armstrong.

This June 28 show is part of the orchestra's annual outdoor Summer Parks Tour. Those attending are urged to bring the entire family, pack a picnic basket, bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on and enjoy an evening in Echo Lake Park.

The other free concerts in the Summer Arts Festival series include:

July 5 - Verdict (reggae);  
July 12 - The Sensational Soul Cruisers;

July 19 - The Fabulous Greaseband (oldies);

July 26 - Amethyst ('80s pop/rock);  
August 2 - Yasgur's Farm (Woodstock rock) plus JoBonanno & the Godsons of Soul;

August 9 - Mustang Sally (country);

August 16 - The Nerds (Jersey Shore party band);

August 23 - Ed Palermo Big Band with Rob Paparozzi;

August 30 - The Party Dolls

In case of rain, concerts will be held at the air-conditioned auditorium at Cranford High School, on West End Place off Springfield Av-

## Fanwood Street Fair Scheduled for Sunday

FANWOOD - The Fanwood Business Professional Association will hold its fifth annual Fanwood Street Fair from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 25. Downtown Fanwood along South Avenue and Martine Avenue will be closed all day to traffic and feature craft vendors, festival foods and all-day musical entertainment.

The Fanwood Street Fair begins at 11 a.m. and features downtown merchants, crafters, food vendors and children's activities. Area Crafters from the tri-state area will be featured. Live entertainment will feature the return of the "Uncle Floyd Show" live on stage and music all day.

Children's activities will include a portable jungle gym, face painting, pony rides and a petting zoo.

Admission and parking are free. For more information contact event promoter, Advertising Alliance, Inc., at (908) 996-3866 or advertisingalliance.net.



SUMMER CONCERT...The Union County Summer Arts Festival concert series will begin Wednesday, June 28, with a performance by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. in Echo Lake Park.

## Get Outta' The House

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

There will be a guided *Nature Walk* on Sunday, June 25, from 2 - 3 p.m. at the Fairview Cemetery & Arboretum in Cranford. Professor Tom Umbrello will conduct the free event, and it will be held, rain or shine. Start at 1100 East Broad Street in Westfield. Call during the week to reserve your spot: (908) 232-0781.

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The classic film, *Yankee Doodle Dandy* (1942, 126 minutes) will be shown at the Cranford Public Library on Tuesday, June 27, at 7 p.m. The film is complete with all the ingredients that go into a James Cagney Oscar-winner, including song, dance, pathos, pageantry, and uproarious comedy. And, it's free.

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Now through June 30, see the amazing digital/photo works of Cuban-born Chatham artist *Yolanda Fundora* at the Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit. Ms. Fundora has an extensive list of shows, and is also working on a children's book. Admission is free from Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call (908) 273-8787.

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*The Union County Summer Arts Festival* kicks off on Wednesday, June 28, with a free performance by The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside/Westfield. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, and your own refreshments (or purchase them there). For weather-related information on the day of the concert, call: (908) 352-8410 after 3 p.m.

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On Saturday, June 23, *The Saucy Sisters*, authors of "The Saucy Sisters' Guide to Wine: What Every Girl Should Know Before She Uncorks and The Everything Wine Book," will sign their books at the Wine Library, 586 Morris Avenue in Springfield. At this free event, they will even share their secrets for, among other things, how to judge a man by the wine he drinks. It will take place from 1-3 p.m. For information, call: (888) 980-WINE (9463).