

**Adults on Horseback
To Explore Nature**

MOUNTAINSIDE—The Trailside Nature and Science Center and the Watchung Stable will offer a nature trail ride for adults ages 18 and older on Tuesday, September 12, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Watchung Stable in Mountainside.

As dusk approaches, riders will mount up and prepare to have fun. They'll meander through the woods and fields on horseback and visit Lake Surprise. A park naturalist from Trailside will interpret sights and sounds of nature and identify trees, plants and wildlife along the way.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Early registration is urged as this program fills quickly. The fee is \$35 per person for Union County residents and \$45 per person for out-of-county riders. Each participant will receive a booklet with natural history information and tips on horseback riding.

No riding experience is necessary. Participants are requested to wear long pants and sturdy shoes with a heel. In the event of inclement weather, the trail ride will be rescheduled for the following Tuesday, September 19. Call Trailside or the Watchung Stable on the program date to find out if the program has been postponed.

For additional information call Trailside at (908) 789-3670 or visit ucnj.org/trailside.

See it all on the Web!
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Arts & Entertainment

**WF's Dr. Schrager Pens Memoir
About Life As a Woman Doctor**

By MARYLOU MORANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD—Westfield resident and well-known area pediatrician, Dr. Gloria Schrager, has written a memoir detailing her experiences as a woman doctor working at a career that has spanned more than 50 years.

Her book, "Medicine, Matzoh Balls and Motherhood," is a fascinating retrospective of the difficulties faced by a woman who wished to become a doctor in mid-20th century America.

The only daughter of Russian-Jewish immigrants born in Brooklyn in 1924, Dr. Schrager had originally decided to major in history at Brooklyn College when she was persuaded by a science professor to apply to medical school.

This was in 1942, a time when, according to Dr. Schrager, women were encouraged to become nurses and not doctors.

Dr. Schrager's decision to attend medical school was initially met with resistance from her mother. "The men in my life encouraged me, the women did not," she wrote. Nevertheless, she completed her prerequisites and applied to Women's Medical College in



THE GOOD DOCTOR...Drs. Gloria Schrager and Al Schrager moved to Westfield in the 1950s. An area pediatrician, Dr. Schrager, has written a memoir detailing her experiences as a woman doctor working at a career that has spanned more than half a century.

Philadelphia, where she would not have to compete with men for admission.

Displaying the tenacity that was to serve her well throughout her career, Dr. Schrager earned her medical degree, then completed both internship and residency at Metropolitan Hospital in New York. Accounts of sexual harassment and discrimination that she experienced are documented in the book.

In the early 1950s, Dr. Schrager, and her husband, Dr. Al Schrager, an internist, whom she met on their first day as interns, moved to Westfield and established their medical practices. In "Medicine, Matzoh Balls and Motherhood," Dr. Schrager fondly recalls her first visit to the town, which would become her home. She writes that she found Westfield to be a "picturesque little town with a small lake in the center [and] a beautiful white church [which] stood by the lake."

The Schragers eventually built a home with an attached office in Westfield. The couple had two sons, Lewis and Ralph, who attended Westfield public schools. Both followed in the footsteps of their parents and became physicians.

Another of Dr. Schrager's remarkable accomplishments narrated in the book includes her appointment as the first director of pediatrics at Overlook Hospital, a position she accepted after having been in private practice for almost 20 years. At the time, the hospital was seeking medical school affiliation, and Dr. Schrager was instrumental in forging an association with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University.

The idea to write "Medicine, Matzoh Balls and Motherhood" came from Dr. Schrager's daughter-in-law, Frances. "She suggested it as a way for my grandchildren to learn about the struggles women of my generation had," explained Dr. Schrager.

"I thought it was a particularly important story for my granddaughter, Elana, who is approaching adolescence, to hear," she continued.

All who read this book will come away with a sense of awe at all Dr. Schrager was able to accomplish in her life, as well as a deepened respect for women doctors as a whole.

Dr. Schrager wrote "Medicine, Matzoh Balls and Motherhood" under the tutelage of Dr. Rita Charon, the director of the program in narrative medicine at Columbia, and a colleague of Dr. Schrager's. Dr. Charon wrote the introduction to the book.

It took Dr. Schrager about five years to complete her memoir, which she began in 2001. "The book grew to be a more detailed project than I had considered," she reflected.

Each of the book's chapters is punctuated with black-and-white photos of Dr. Schrager with family members or colleagues.

Dr. Schrager retired as director of pediatrics at Overlook Hospital in 1989, and Dr. Al Schrager died in 1995. These days, Dr. Schrager keeps busy teaching at The Morgan-Stanley Children's Hospital. She also travels, gardens and bakes.

"Medicine, Matzoh Balls and Motherhood" is published by Xlibris Corporation and is available for purchase on their website, www.xlibris.com. The book is also available at Barnes and Noble, Amazon and The Town Book Store. It can also be purchased online at medicinematzohballsandmotherhood.com.

**Peter Dee's Oils Bring
Ireland To Westfield**

By MARYLOU MORANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD—The work of Irish artist Peter Dee has joined that of other artists from around the world presently gracing the walls at Evalyn Dunn's Gallery in Westfield.

Born and raised near Kerry, Ireland, Mr. Dee didn't start painting seriously until after he turned 40. He has completed a remarkable body of work in the ensuing 17 years.

Themes surrounding his homeland are predominant in his work, which to a large extent consists of still-lives, landscapes and seascapes.

His oil "A View Towards the Four Courts," a cityscape of Dublin, Ireland, demonstrates the interplay of color between the sepia-toned buildings and the vibrant blues of both sky and water.

Although there is no sunlight evident in the painting, the viewer can't mistake the presence of light and wonder if this represents the minutes directly before sunrise, or those immediately after a storm.

In either case, the painting fills one with a sense of hopefulness and promise.

Mr. Dee uses the Ireland seashore as a backdrop for "A Helping Hand at Dollymount Ireland." Sunlight spills over the gentle scene of a woman and a young boy filling pails with sand.

Similarly, the artist's "Beach Racing at Laytown, Ireland" also takes place on sand with sea in the background.

Somewhat of a contradiction in

themes, in this work, Mr. Dee has placed his young subject—with sand pail nearby—in close proximity to two racers on horseback.

While this idea of horseracing on the beach might seem like an oddity to Americans, it is customary in Laytown.

Realistic oil still-lives of food are also part of Mr. Dee's artistic repertoire. His many paintings of fruit, cheese, wine bottles and glasses of wine are convincing, portrayed in fine detail.

Jacie Civins, the owner of Evalyn Dunn's Gallery, has framed "A View Towards the Four Courts" and Mr. Dee's other

works in attractive wood frames that complement the tones of the paintings.

"Peter Dee's work will appeal to anyone with Irish heritage or those who have visited Ireland and have seen the subjects of his paintings first hand," commented Mrs. Civins.

"[His landscape paintings] are very reminiscent of Irish landscapes," she continued, adding that Mr. Dee's figurative pieces are indicative of a style of painting that she has seen used by other Irish artists.

Widely exhibited in galleries throughout Ireland, the appearance of Mr. Dee's work at Evalyn Dunn's Gallery marks the artist's American exhibit debut.

For more information on Peter Dee and his paintings, contact Evalyn Dunn's Gallery at 908-232-0412.



Peter Dee's "Wine and Cheese"

**Visual Arts Center Presents
Chinese Art in Exhibition**

SUMMIT—The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, located in Summit, will present "Travelers Between Cultures," an exhibition opening Friday, September 8, in the center's main gallery.

The exhibition showcases contemporary art works by artists as travelers between Chinese and American cultures. The show will include paintings, photographs, installations, videos and performance pieces, all completed within the last three years by artists Zhang Hongtu, Xu Bing, Lin Yilin, Lin Yan and Wenda Gu. Artist Xu Bing will be creating a special work and designing a banner just for the exhibit, which is curated by Zhijian Qian.

An opening reception is scheduled for September 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. and will include remarks by the curator; the exhibition continues through November 26. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Travelers Between Cultures" presents the work of these five artists, many of who have enjoyed success on the international art stage. According to curator Zhijian Qian, "The exhibition examines how these artists deal with such cross-cultural issues as re-interpreting the Chinese art tradition in a Western and contemporary art world...and the desire to explore the possibilities of trans-cultural communication." For the past two decades, New York has been the ultimate destination for many of the Chinese artists who have developed their artistic careers while displaced in a different culture.

From Beijing to Brooklyn, a companion show to *Travelers Between Cultures*, will be hung concurrently in the Visual Arts Center's second floor gallery. Works by artist Eric

Jiaju Lee, an artist-in-residence at the Newark Museum and adjunct professor of fine arts at two area community colleges, will be on display through Sunday, November 26. A frequent traveler to China in recent years, Mr. Lee is establishing a studio in Beijing to further develop his bio-cultural aesthetic.

For additional information about the exhibits, contact Mari D'Alessandro at (908) 273-9121, extension 46, e-mail mari@artcenternj.org or visit www.artcenternj.org.

**Y Squares Offer Fun
Dancing Opportunities**

CLARK—Y Squares, a square-dancing club located in Clark, invites the public to a free introductory dance starting at 8 p.m. on Friday, September 8 at the Frank H. Hehny School at 590 Raritan Road, Clark. Following the introductory dance, the club will sponsor dance lessons on Tuesday evenings beginning on September 12, also at the Hehny School.

Square dancing is a social outlet that provides mental and physical activity. No prior knowledge or training is necessary to learn to square dance.

Square dancing is an excellent aerobic activity and is done with a partner. Adults of all ages are welcome, and partners are provided for single participants.

The Y Squares Club holds lessons weekly and dances at the Club level twice a month during the school year, usually at the Hehny School and occasionally at other local facilities.

To learn more about taking lessons or attending square dances, call Paul or Jan at (908) 233-2414 or George at (908) 298-1851.

**NJWA Adds Children's
Drama Course for Fall**

WESTFIELD—The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA) will offer a new drama workshop for children entering grades three, four and five, entitled Creative Drama and Performance Workshop.

Taught by former Westfield public school staff member Donna Stein, this performance class will be held from 3:30 until 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, beginning September 12, at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street in Westfield. The 10-session course consists of exercises and activities intended to develop the child's ability in characterization. Early classes will focus on move-

ment, concentration, pantomime, improvisation, dialogue, character and story development. The children will learn to see, feel and think the character from the inside.

During the second half of the workshop, the attention will shift to the production as the children develop acting techniques. Participants will become aware of the importance of character consistency, dynamics between characters, dialogue interpretation, staging and physical pictures as they develop poise and confidence on the stage. The class will culminate in a performance for friends and family on Tuesday, November 21 at 7 p.m.

Ms. Stein, who holds a bachelor of science degree from Southern Connecticut State University and a master's degree from Seton Hall University, has taught various grade levels in the Westfield Public School System and has been a staff member in the creative writing and drama departments at the Westfield Summer Workshop. For the past four years, she judged New Jersey high-school productions as an evaluator for the Paper Mill Playhouse's Rising Star Awards Program.

Registration is currently in progress for the Creative Drama and Performance Workshop. Applications forms are available at the NJWA studios at 150-152 East Broad Street or by calling (908) 789-9696. Visit the NJWA on the web at www.njworkshopforthearts.com.



SWING FOR THE FENCES...The David Aaron Band, a swing-style jazz band, played to a large crowd at Tamaques Park last month. The threatening skies didn't keep the fans of this 40's-style music from enjoying the sweet sounds of this local New Jersey sextet.

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