

Arts & Entertainment

Diversity Dwells in Earthen Vessels at Potters' Guild of NJ

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

MOUNTAINVIEW – This past Saturday and Sunday, April 21 and 22, the doors to the Community Presbyterian Church were wide open to guests shopping and admiring some of the most diverse and eclectic pottery pieces crafted by the Potters' Guild of New Jersey.

Approximately 21 guild members displayed their wares, which ranged from functional to decorative pottery in forms of porcelain, stoneware and redware. The selection offered in this spring show (the organization hosts shows in fall and spring) was unarguably the best ever presented by the guild.

Mountainside resident Judy Musicant, a potter for 30 years, a guild member for more than 10 years and the organization's reigning president, remarked that she was pleased with the show's successful turnout. She also noted that this spring's display boasted a wide range of unique talents – none like any other.

Ms. Musicant, who runs "Mountainview Pottery" in Mountainside, impressed guests with her gorgeous teapots in serene hues of greens and blues, as well as rich burgundy and beige.

Nancy Zarbock of "Art and Antiques," who is also a longtime



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
GILDED...Longtime Potters' Guild of New Jersey member Judi Musicant of Mountainside poses beside an eye-catching display of her pottery.

member and serves as the group's marketing director, grabbed the attention of visitors the second they entered the door with her collections of square sushi plates in deep earth tones with complimenting chopsticks tied with cream-colored raffia.

She invited guests to pick up and appreciate her giant earthenware bowls, some swirled with metallics and others adorned with flowers and filigree.

Ms. Zarbock told The Westfield

Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times, "Pottery is part science and art, and oftentimes there is failure. But, you just find your muse and go with it."

This reporter found it nearly impossible to pass the display of functional pots, wheel-thrown and altered stoneware and porcelain pieces presented by Norma Messing of Short Hills. A guild member for six to eight years, Ms. Messing's multi-glazed and multi-textured pieces had a lot of fans drawn to her table.

The artist pointed out different techniques, such as using a cheese-cutter to crimp edges of her plates that make her pieces stand out from the others. This reporter and her guest were proud to purchase two of Ms. Messing's pieces.

The oxblood glazes used by Montvale resident Susan Bogen-

POTTERS' GUILD

Cranford Dramatic Club Stages The Secret Garden

CRANFORD – The Secret Garden, an award-winning Broadway musical based on the children's classic novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, will come to Cranford for three weeks beginning Friday, May 4.

Winner of the Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book, the show delighted audiences in its run of more than 700 performances on Broadway.

The show is highly regarded for its emotional and inspirational music by composer Lucy Simon. The music is melded with the moving book and lyrics of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Marsha Norman in her first venture into musical theater.

The result is a show that realizes the tale of friendship and redemptive love that is the centerpiece of the novel and that is equally appealing to children and adults, to devotees of the novel and to Secret Garden newcomers as well.

The story revolves around 10-year-old orphan Mary Lennox, who strives to build a relationship with her reclusive and lonely uncle-guardian as she searches for an understanding of the past in his locked garden.

Mary is sent to live with her uncle Archibald in Yorkshire after being

orphaned by a cholera epidemic in India. Archibald, still grieving over the loss of his beloved wife Lily, who died 10 years earlier during childbirth, and distraught over the condition of his bedridden son Colin, casts a dark shadow over the manor until Mary discovers the secret garden that had once belonged to Lily.

By nursing this garden back to life, Mary somehow restores life to her grieving uncle and his sick son.

Maurice Moran, a long-time CDC member, will direct the production. Judi Chandler produces, with Sue Chandler serving as musical director and Danielle Aldrich as choreographer.

There will be a special complimentary reception on opening night with the cast available to chat with patrons. The Secret Garden will be presented on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. from May 4 to 19, as well as on Sunday, May 13, at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 on a reserved-seat basis and can be obtained by calling the box office at (908) 276-7611 or through cdctheatre.org. The CDC Community Theatre is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford, off of Centennial Avenue near exit 136 off the Garden State Parkway.

MS Art Event Raises Money For Leukemia And Lymphoma

By MARYLOU MORANO
Specially Written for The Leader/Times

MOUNTAINVIEW – More than 712,000 Americans presently live with blood-cancer diseases, and two area women are determined to change this alarming statistic.

Jill Naughton and Karen Fishman, both of Westfield, will participate in "Hike for Discovery," an endurance hiking program sponsored by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS).

The women are currently finishing up 15 weeks of physical training to prepare them to complete a seven-mile hike in the Grand Canyon on May 19.

In addition to testing their physical limits, Mrs. Naughton and Mrs. Fishman have set another goal for themselves – they hope to raise \$10,000 to help find a cure for lymphoma, leukemia and other blood cancers.

Mrs. Naughton and Mrs. Fishman recently brought their fight against blood cancers to the Mountainside area, when on April 14, they co-hosted "Art for a Cause," a special fundraiser that included art, music and food.

The event took place at 17 Mountainview Drive in a charming house provided by Ralph Rapuano of Elegant Homes through the assistance of Coldwell Banker's Jayne Bernstein.

"It was a beautiful evening and for a good cause, and enhanced by the generosity of Ralph Rapuano's lending us the Mountainview Drive house," Ms. Bernstein said.

Approximately 50 pieces of art provided by the Evelyn Dunn and Juxtapose Galleries, both of Westfield, were displayed throughout the home. Additionally, Mrs. Fishman's father, Dr. Richard Steinfeld of Watchung, an ophthalmologist and freelance photographer, offered his work for sale.

The proceeds from a minimal admission charge, as well as 10 percent of the evening's art sales, were donated to LLS. The event raised more than \$4,000.

"Art for a Cause" had personal meaning for Mrs. Naughton, an 18-year survivor of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"I feel very lucky to have survived the disease," she said. "I started doing this to give something back."

Pete Hogan and Friends of Scotch Plains, a jazz trio, performed live music. Rock'n Joe, Robert Treat Deli, The Chocolate Bar, Cusi Restaurant, Shop Rite Wines and Spirits and John Devin of Empire Merchants donated food and beverages.

Both the Evelyn Dunn and Juxtapose galleries will continue to donate 10 percent of "Cause-related" sales

to the LLS through May 14.

Jacie Civins of Evelyn Dunn's Gallery said, "When Jill and Karen came into the gallery asking for my support, I was very happy to help."

The money raised by Mrs. Naughton and Mrs. Fishman will be donated to the LLS to fund cancer research, patient support and educational programs.

To make a donation, log on to active.com/donate/hfdnjonj/jnaughtongifters. For information on Hike for Discovery or The LLS mission, visit lls.org or call Melissa Broxmeier at (908) 654-9445.



CAUSE AND EFFECT...To combat lymphoma, leukemia and blood-cancer diseases, Westfield's Jill Naughton and Karen Fishman co-hosted "Art for a Cause," a fundraiser that included food, music and art. During the event, which took place on Mountainview Drive in Mountainside, Joanne Penn, left, and Hairong Crigler take a moment to chat.

SP Resident Sun Young Park Will Attend Julliard

SCOTCH PLAINS – Learning that she was accepted into The Julliard School was more than music to the ears of Scotch Plains resident and Wardlaw-Hartridge senior Sun Young Park, or, as her friends call her, "Sunny"; it represented the realization of a lifelong dream.

According to Wardlaw-Hartridge Instrumental Music teacher Jane Brown, only 300 auditions were held at Julliard for masters and undergraduate slots and only three students were accepted into the program. After submitting scores, a CD of her work and the traditional application, Sunny received the call to visit Julliard to present her works to a professor and to complete an interview on music theory.

Next, Sunny joined only 40 applicants who are chosen for a personal interview.

"It was the hardest audition I ever had. I was very nervous," said Sunny, who is known to bring audiences to their feet during Wardlaw-Hartridge concerts and recitals.

Coincidentally, she juggles other responsibilities as a member of the school's coed varsity track and field team, a conductor and accompanist at a local church and the secretary of the W-H French Club.

Sunny is also vice-president of the school's Club Unity, which promotes cross-cultural communications between all cultures, including the American culture, and promotes awareness of cultural diversity in the world and at W-H.

When the news came that Sunny received the coveted spot at Julliard, the Wardlaw-Hartridge hallways were filled with screams and cries of joy. Immediately, faculty and staff poured out of their offices to congratulate her.

"I was really surprised by all of the support," she said, adding that when she walked into the school's senior lounge and uttered the word "Julliard" with tears in her eyes, her friends

rushed to her with concern that she hadn't been accepted. But their worries turned into embraces and cheers of pride for their friend.

"I am thrilled beyond belief for her," said Mrs. Brown, who also serves as co-chairperson of the Arts department. "She is so gifted."

Sunny shared, "I came as a ninth grader from Korea so that I could have the chance to attend Julliard and now I've reached my goal."

Sunny has studied composition, music theory, violin and piano with some of the most renowned professors in the field. She began piano lessons at the age of 5 and violin at 7.

She studied voice for six years from the age of 10. She has served as accompanist of the Wardlaw-Hartridge Choir and Choral Society. She was a teaching assistant at the Korean Culture School of the Praise Presbyterian Church in Somerset, where she instructed music theory and the Korean language.

She is a violin soloist and piano accompanist for Praise Presbyterian, and, from 2000 to 2003, she was a violinist in Yewon Orchestra in Korea.

Her arrangements, compositions and music performances as a violinist/pianist/singer are countless. Aside from the spotlighted performances at local churches and Wardlaw-Hartridge, she was invited to play with the Seoul Symphony Orchestra at the Talented Young Artist Concert in Seoul, Korea.

She was also invited to play for Organist Eunsung Kim's doctoral chamber recital at the University of Washington in Seattle.

The daughter of Mrs. Nam-Soon of Scotch Plains and Jung Sun Park, a professor of composition in Korea, Sunny was also accepted with scholarships to Mannes School of Music, The Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University and the New England Conservatory, among others.



MUSICAL MILESTONE...Shortly after Sunny Park learned that she was accepted to Julliard, her friends congratulated her at one of the school's Morning Meetings and presented her with a balloon bouquet. Pictured, from left to right, are Samantha Menor, Laura Hayat, Camille Boxhill, Supriya Prasad, Nishma Chhabra and Sunny.

VACNJ Exhibits Worldwide Artists at 21st Juried Show

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

SUMMIT – The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey (VACNJ) recently held its 21st International Juried Show.

More than 100 artists participated, bringing together a contemporary exhibit that ranged from the usual oil, photo and collage offerings to the surprising use of flour and sugar, embroidery and ripped paper as media.

But that's the essence of contemporary art. The viewer must be open to the possibility of surprise.

One of the most poignant offerings of the 21st International Show was the Honorable Mention winner, "Flood Lines," by John Lawson, a collage of family photographs damaged by Hurricane Katrina placed in juxtaposition with Mardi Gras beads.

Darice Polo's graphite drawing, "Theresa (1948)," a photographic likeness of her mother standing on a train platform, won "Best in Show." The drawing captures the optimism and hope felt by many during the post-war era.

Larry Estes received a Merit Award for his "Pen and Rips on Paper." His unique work will challenge those who see art as a process of coloring neatly within the lines. Mr. Estes' work reminds us that it's all a matter of who is doing the coloring and who is drawing the lines.

Artists throughout the world are invited to submit slides of artwork for consideration in VACNJ's International Juried Show.

This year, curator Laura Hoptman, who is also the senior curator at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York, reviewed more than 1,800 slides.

Submissions came from the United

States and 14 additional countries.

"Regardless of medium, many artists today are interested in telling stories that range from the highly personal...to the topical," said Ms. Hoptman.

Other Honorable Mention winners were: Elaine Becker, for her oil pastel on paper, "Fragility of Imagined Voices"; Isabel Brito Farre, for her thread and pencil on paper, "Things Go Slow Here"; Sally Edelstein for her collage, "Ambassador of Peace: We Are Friends"; Greg Larson for his watercolor, "Markings in the Sky"; Russell Mehlman, for his oil on canvas, "Cigar Bar"; Leah Oates for her C-print, "Transitory Space - Signal Hill"; Orly Aviv for his digital photograph printed on paper, "Tokyo 27-1"; Beverly Spitzer for her crayons on canvas, "Harbor Fog"; Ian Whitmore for his archival inkjet print, "Troy"; and Katherine Yvinskas for her monoprint, "Turtle Shell."

Lauren Vallese won the Jurgen Thieck Memorial Award for Photography for her color print, "Untitled"; Linda Marston - Reid won the Painting Award for her encaustic on wood panel, "Gold Lotto Tree." Karen Ludlam won a Merit Award for her C print, "Effigy - Part of Asbury Park Series," and Susan Murrell won a Merit Award for her mixed media, "Archive."

VACNJ is presently showing "Steve Joester: Rock Icons," an exhibition featuring new mixed-media works by British photographer Steve Joester. This exhibit runs until May 1.

For more information about this and other upcoming exhibits, call VACNJ at (908) 273-9121 or visit at artcenternj.org.

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