

## Kent Place Ethics Institute Presents Free Lecture

SUMMIT — The Ethics Institute at Kent Place School will present best-selling author and renowned speaker Chris Lowney on Wednesday, February 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Room of the new Academic Center on the Kent Place campus.

His talk, "Heroic Living: Discover Your Purpose and Change the World," is free and open to the public.

"Chris will challenge our assumptions about leadership, and invite us to embrace our leadership role and potential regardless of our position and walk of life. He will highlight the imperative for principled leadership in a complex, fast-changing 21st century," said Karen Rezac, director of the Ethics Institute at Kent Place, as well as director of the middle school.

Mr. Lowney is a one-time Jesuit seminarian who later served as a managing director for JP Morgan and Company on three continents. His first book, "Heroic Leadership: Best Practices from a 450-Year-Old Company that Changed the World," was the number-one-ranked bestseller of the CBPA (Catholic Book Publishers Association) and was named a finalist for a 2003 Book of the Year Award from *ForeWord magazine*.

The recently published "Heroic Living: Discover Your Purpose and

Change the World" is a life strategy that marries age-old spiritual wisdom to the best modern management ideas.

In 2006, Mr. Lowney undertook a 250-mile walking pilgrimage along medieval routes toward Santiago de Compostela to raise money for "Pilgrimage for Our Children's Future," a nonprofit organization (pocf.org), which has enabled education opportunities for heroic young children such as AIDS orphans in Nairobi slums and children raised in the shadow of the Philippines' largest garbage dump.

The first-of-its-kind at the elementary and secondary school levels, the Ethics Institute at Kent Place's mission is to provide opportunities for ethical education to not only students, but also to educators, parents and the greater community.

The institute envisions a world in which people can call upon their values to make ethically sound decisions, to understand the value system that informs their decisions and to realize that in a global world, one may have to live with the tension of not coming to the same decisions on issues that help shape our world.

For further information, visit [kentplace.org/ethics\\_institute](http://kentplace.org/ethics_institute). Kent Place is located at 42 Norwood Avenue in Summit.

## Percussionists Perform February 6 at SPFHS

SCOTCH PLAINS — World-renowned percussionists will take center stage performing and teaching their various techniques for the community and music students from New Jersey at the annual Day of Percussion this Saturday, February 6, at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

High school and college percussion ensembles from Randolph, Metuchen, Rahway, North Brunswick and Scotch Plains-Fanwood will perform from 10 a.m. until noon. Professional clinics begin at noon with Rolando Morales-Matos, an acclaimed world percussionist for Broadway's *Lion King*. Tommy Igoe, described by *Modern Drummer Magazine* as "a new drumming power,

breath-taking, inventive and disarmingly strong," plays at 1:30 p.m.

Greg Giannascoli, a concert percussionist and coordinator of percussion at Jersey City University, takes the stage at 3:30 p.m., followed at 4:30 p.m. by Thom Hannum, a Drum Corp. International Hall of Fame honoree and renowned percussion educator and arranger.

Prizes, giveaways, raffles, vendor merchandise and refreshments will be available throughout the day. The event starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 6 p.m. Admission is \$3 for children under 12 and \$5 for everyone aged 12 and older. Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School is located at 667 Westfield Road in Scotch Plains.

## SPFHS Grad Pens Book About Battle of Saratoga

SCOTCH PLAINS — Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) graduate Dan Lynch's newest book,

"The Thunder of Captains," has been released by Three Lakes Publishing and is now available through book stores, amazon.com and [forpeoplewhothink.com](http://forpeoplewhothink.com).

The book, Mr. Lynch's 11th, tells the true, untold story of the Battle of Saratoga, the most momentous clash of the American Revolution and, in the view of many historians, "the military clash of the millennium."

In the aftermath of Saratoga, the first major victory by rebel forces, the French king agreed to finance the colonial rebellion. Mr. Lynch's book reveals that the outcome of the battle was shaped by a determined, compelling woman whose illicit love affair with the commanding English general, John Burgoyne, set in motion a bizarre sequence of events that resulted in the birth of a great nation.

The "Thunder of Captains" is a

story of courage, conviction, foolhardiness and doomed love set against a backdrop of personal and military

conflict, dark intrigue and international politics.

With a compelling case of characters — including the dashing General John Burgoyne, Benedict Arnold and Benjamin Franklin — "The Thunder of Captains" tells a captivating story known to far too few Americans.

Mr. Lynch, who graduated from SPFHS in 1964 and graduated from Temple University, is an

award-winning print and broadcast journalist whose long-time Albany *Times Union* column was distributed nationally by the *New York Times* News Service and whose daily drive-time talk radio program now airs on Albany's WGDJ-AM Talk 1300 in Albany.

Mr. Lynch also has written and co-produced three documentary films, which are also available on [forpeoplewhothink.com](http://forpeoplewhothink.com).



Dan Lynch



Mary Olive Smith's "A Walk to Beautiful," which reveals the medical condition obstetric fistula afflicting women in Ethiopia, will be shown next week at Fanwood Memorial Library.

## M.O. Smith's 'Walk' Sheds Light On Women's Plight in Ethiopia

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

FANWOOD — "A Walk to Beautiful," the Emmy-award winning documentary that details how five Ethiopian women deal with the condition of obstetric fistula, will be shown at the Fanwood Memorial Library (FML) on Wednesday, February 10, at 7 p.m.

The film was produced and directed by Mary Olive Smith, the wife of FML director Dan Weiss.

Ms. Smith was also the documentary's cinematographer.

Obstetric fistula is a medical condition in which a hole forms between a woman's reproductive organs and the digestive and urinary tracts.

The condition results from prolonged labor or other complications of childbirth and often causes a woman to lose control of her bodily functions.

Afflicted women are often shunned by their families and marginalized by society. The film tells the story of five such women and their search for the only available treatment: surgery.

Ms. Smith, who traveled to Ethiopia several times during the filming, was touched by the women's plight. "[S]itting on the ground sharing the women's most intimate stories reminded me of how similar we all are at a very human level," she explained.

"I have always felt lucky to be born in a wealthy society, but now I remind myself every day that even the book on my coffee table is a luxury that I should be grateful for," she said.

"A Walk to Beautiful" marks Ms. Smith's debut as a feature length director.

She has produced and directed other documentaries that have aired on Discovery Channel, National Geographic, PBS and the History Channel.

In addition to an Emmy for "Outstanding Informational Programming," "A Walk to Beautiful" has received the Best Documentary of the Year award from the International Documentary Association, as well as other recognitions.

The accolades and awards drive home the message that Ms. Smith would like others to receive from the movie.

"No woman should die or be left with a traumatic injury while giving life. It is preventable with low-tech solutions and enough international political will," she said.

Ms. Smith was on location in Haiti working on the documentary, "Saving

Haiti's Mothers," for the Bureau for International Reporting when the recent earthquake hit Port-au-Prince.

At the time of the earthquake, Ms. Smith was in Jeremie, about 100 miles from the earthquake's epicenter.

"I was standing in a lovely inn after a day shooting... In the middle of our conversation, the building began to shake violently. I looked up and saw the walls and dishes swaying side to side.

"Someone yelled, 'earthquake! Run!' And we headed for the door. The shaking continued for another 20 seconds or so.

"A wall fell at the house next door, and I remember thinking that any minute the ground would open up.

"If the quake was that strong where I was, and no one was killed, I can't imagine what it felt like in Port-au-Prince," she said.

Calling the aftermath of the earthquake a "major humanitarian crisis," Ms. Smith likens it to being in New York City after 9/11.

"Everyone [in Haiti] was weighted down with grief and desperation, not knowing who was alive and who wasn't," she said. Fortunately, Ms. Smith made it home unscathed, and because of the timeliness of the story, PBS moved the airing of "Saving Haiti's Mothers" ahead to Friday, January 29.

The film aired on the newsmagazine series "Now on PBS."

The documentary is also available online at [pbs.org/shows/605/index.html](http://pbs.org/shows/605/index.html)

Currently, Ms. Smith is shooting an independent documentary about a cheerleading squad in Lyndhurst called the "Sparks."

"All the girls on the squad have mental disabilities. Their determination and joy are inspiring," she said.

Ms. Smith also recently worked with Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside on an autism-awareness video.

Shot at the Rialto Theater in Westfield, the video encourages businesses to be more accommodating to autistic people.

Ms. Smith finds working in the documentary genre fulfilling.

"To document, I go inside of people's lives," she said.

"It gives me an entrée into the human experience."

For more information on the February 10 screening of "A Walk to Beautiful," contact the FML at (908) 322-6400.

Additional information on Mary Olive Smith can be found at [maryolivesmith.com](http://maryolivesmith.com).

## POPCORN™

### Crazy Heart: On the Road Again



One Popcorn, Poor • Two Popcorns, Fair • Three Popcorns, Good • Four Popcorns, Excellent

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER  
3 popcorns

In first-time director Scott Cooper's *Crazy Heart*, a tenuous, down-home lament about an aging country western singer on the skids, Jeff Bridges etches his latest Oscar-worthy depiction. But, when he finally snatches the statuette this go-round for breathing new life into an old cliché, tacitly it'll be for an entire career of such subtly informed portrayals.

Bad Blake's devil-may-care lifestyle has relegated him to a dizzying circuit of one-night stands in gin mills throughout the Southwest. He has been cruising for a bruising longer than he can remember. Along the way he has lost favor with four wives and never once seen his son. Add a few stanzas and he is the personification of a country western song.

But of course he's a bit more complicated than that. Thus a catalyst is interjected to peel the layers of rationalization and showbiz bravado from our tarnished star. She is Maggie Gyllenhaal's Jeanne Craddock, a young reporter seeking an interview for her small newspaper. Come hither, says the spider. We fear for the fly. The interaction surprises.

We are skeptical of love's chances, and wonder if Bad Blake is even capable of a conventional relationship. Down and out or not, drunk or sober, he is wrapped in an aura of celebrity that has evinced itself at every major musical venue. What's more, fans who show up to hear him at the abysmal honkytonks he now plays are happy to enable him.

There's almost always someone who wants to be able to say they bought a drink for Bad Blake. And there's a limitless supply of damaged prom queens who, unable to lasso the icon in his salad days, are now willing to settle for the older model. All of which makes Jeanne so appealing. Seeing himself in her eyes, he fantasizes promise if not redemption.

In other words, Bad, who won't tell us his real first name, seeks the magically romantic way to temporal salvation...the way it happens on the jukebox. Never mind that he stubbornly passes up a particular business opportunity and refuses to get sober. Then there's his puzzling relationship with current megastar Tommy Sweet (Colin Farrell).

At the initial interview with Jeanne, a brilliantly uncomfortable, understated scene in his shabby motel room, Bad says there are two things he won't discuss: his son, and Tommy Sweet. All we know at the outset is that he taught Tommy every-

thing he knows. The who, what, where, when and why that led to their fallout remains a mystery of interest.

In fact, much of the film has us surmising. Expect no big action. It's about mood, character and motivation. Possessing the temper of a French film by way of lonesome tumbleweeds and an awful achin' heart, simple dialogue speaks volumes with nary a drum roll divulgence. Mr. Bridges's heretofore unsung singing talent provides fluidity.

I don't know how Lloyd Bridge's taller son would do on "American Idol," but he's convincing enough here. Standing on a jerry-rigged bandstand, usually backed by a pickup band of local hopefuls, he suddenly enlivens the room with the distinctive real thing. Often in his cups yet managing to keep from toppling, he melodically spews the ballad of his survival.

There, under the smudged lights, he is simultaneously what once was, what apparently is, and, in plaintive tones, what will hopefully be on some fine, faraway day. It is what he's come to expect and pretty much accept...fair comeuppance for the hard drinking existence he has led. It means no regrets. But alas, there is a loophole.

Yes sirree, cowboy. Just as there's always room for Jell-O, no dance to perdition with the Devil can't be turned into a joyful Virginia reel. That is, if love hangs in the balance. It is a traditional plot dispensation, a pass we humans allow ourselves, authorized under the larger umbrella statue. Love Conquers All. *Crazy Heart* invokes it rather well.

Miss Gyllenhaal's Jeanne, who rushes to the rescue with her little boy in tow, does the angelic stereotype with unique freshness. Also of note, in a stint only a bit larger than a cameo, is the always-wonderful Robert Duvall as Wayne, Bad's best friend/favorite bartender. And Colin Farrell is credible as Tommy, Bad's younger generation prodigy.

But the main reason to relinquish the comfort of your couch is Jeff Bridges. His presence fully fills the screen, establishing a warming ambience that truly makes us care about this fellow human being, foibles and all. He is a likable metaphor for the life experience. For while few of us are country singers, we all know what it is to have a *Crazy Heart*.

*Crazy Heart*, rated R, is a Fox Searchlight Pictures release directed by Scott Cooper and stars Jeff Bridges, Maggie Gyllenhaal and Colin Farrell. Running time: 112 minutes.

## Student Zhang to Perform In Carnegie Hall Recital

WESTFIELD — Amanda Zhang, student at the Paul Nazzaro Music Studio, has been invited to perform at a recital at Carnegie Hall in February.

Amanda studies under Galina Zisk and was recently selected as the recipient of the National Music Certificate Program's New Jersey Certificate of Excellence for Preparatory B Piano. Amanda scored one of the highest grades for her level in New Jersey.

Amanda has been invited to perform at a winners' recital at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, New York City, on February 28. At that time, she will be presented with a State Certificate of Excellence.

Amanda is in fourth grade at Wilson Elementary School in Westfield; she has been a student at the Paul Nazzaro Music Studio and has studied piano with Ms. Zisk for two years.

"I feel excited and nervous because it is such an honor to play at Carnegie Hall. I've never played in front of so many people before, but I am looking forward to it. I hope I play well at this very special concert," Amanda said.

For the examination, Amanda was tested on performance of repertoire, etudes, technique and level-appro-

prate sight-reading and ear-training skills, as well as music theory, analysis, music history and standard repertoire from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic and 20th-century style periods.

The National Music Certificate Program awards State Achievement Certificates each academic year to the candidates in Preparatory A, Preparatory B and Grades 1 to 10 who have obtained the highest marks in each grade in their respective state.

To qualify for these awards, candidates must have obtained at least 80 percent in the practical examination and have completed the co-requisite theory examinations for their respective grades, where required.

Hert teacher, Ms. Zisk, is no stranger to Carnegie Hall herself. She has performed at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, the Juilliard School and Steinway Hall, as well as throughout North America and Europe as a concerto soloist, chamber musician and in solo recital.

Amanda has recorded her first CD at the Nazzaro Music Studio this past spring, and many of her pieces can be heard at [nazzaromusic.com](http://nazzaromusic.com). For more information about the National Music Certificate Program, visit [nationalmusiccertificate.org](http://nationalmusiccertificate.org).



Westfield's Amanda Zhang, right, is joined above by instructor Galina Zisk.

## Musical Program Features Bernstein, von Weber, Etc.

WESTFIELD — The Musical Club of Westfield will present a program of vocal and instrumental music of Bernstein, Vaughan Williams, von Weber and others on Wednesday, February 10, at 1 p.m. in the First Baptist Church, located at 170 Elm Street in Westfield.

Suzanne Beeny-Jones, soprano, will perform songs of Leonard Bernstein, including selections from "Mass," "Kid Songs for Soprano," "Chichester Psalms" and "West Side Story." Pianist Mary Beth McFall will accompany her. These selections demonstrate Bernstein's versatility in a range of styles, including sacred, popular and Broadway.

Clarinetist George Toenes, accompanied by Beverly Thomson Shea, will perform the *Concertino, Op. 26*, by Carl Maria von Weber, and "Variations Sur Un Air du Pays D'Oc," arranged by Louis Cahuzac, a French clarinetist and composer. Cahuzac was one of the few clarinetists who made a career as a soloist in the first part of the 20th century.

Glen Crane, bass baritone, will perform selections from "Songs of Travel" by Ralph Vaughan Williams, based on texts by Robert Louis Stevenson. Ms. McFall will also be Mr. Crane's accompanist. Vaughan Williams is considered a quintessential British composer because of his extensive use of English folk songs in his works.

A piano-organ duet — comprised of Marie-Danièle Mercier, piano, and Rives Cassel, organ — will perform "Serenade" and "Marche Nuptiale" by French organist and composer Charles-Marie Widor. Widor, who succeeded Cesar Franck as professor of organ at the Paris Conservatory, is best known for his organ symphonies.

The program is free and open to the public. A reception featuring light refreshments will follow the performance. All are welcome to stay and meet the performers.

The Musical Club of Westfield, in

its 94th season, is comprised of performing and associate (non-performing) members who share a common interest in music. The club provides scholarships for promising young musicians to pursue their musical education. New members are welcome. For membership information, call (908) 232-2173 or visit [westfieldnj.com/mcw](http://westfieldnj.com/mcw).

## CDC COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENTS The Light in the Piazza



February 5-20, 2010

Fridays, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19 - 8p  
Saturdays, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20 - 8p  
Sunday Matinee, 2/14 - 2p

For tickets call: 908.276.7611

CDC Community Theatre  
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Cranford, NJ 07016  
[www.cdctheatre.org](http://www.cdctheatre.org)

## LASERSHOW

Fri-Sun, 2/26-28  
Family and Rock Shows!  
see website for details

## Liberty Hall Museum at Kean Hosts Events in February

UNION — Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University will host several activities for children and visitors of all ages throughout February.

A new traveling exhibit, *Oh Freedom!* will be on display in the Carnegie House at Liberty Hall from now through March 31. *Oh Freedom!* includes documents from the New Jersey State Library and Archives, as well as other sources, and takes a look into the reasons African-Americans fought, their contributions to each side and what happened to them in the war's aftermath. The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular museum hours.

The "Will You Be Mine?" Hearts and Crafts Workshop will be held on Saturday, February 6, from 10 a.m. to noon. Children will create an old-fashioned Valentine craft to give to a special someone. Admission is \$10 per child with one adult free and includes all workshop materials. Reservations are required. An adult must accompany children.

A Valentine's Day "Afternoon Tea" is scheduled for Sunday, February 14, from noon to 2 p.m. Participants are invited to bring a special someone and enjoy a special Valentine's menu, while learning about the history and traditions of Valentine's Day. Cost is \$50 per couple. Reservations are re-

quired.

The "Sweetheart-Valentine's Afternoon Tea" is served every Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in February. Set in the glass-enclosed porch, guests enjoy a selection of sandwiches, pastries, scones and clotted cream, jams and choice of two teas. Cost is \$33 per person and includes a house tour. Reservations are required.

Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University chronicles more than 200 years of American history. Built in 1772, by William Livingston, New Jersey's first elected governor, the Victorian style mansion is a treasure trove of historic riches. Along with forgotten letters from Thomas Jefferson, Liberty Hall also houses extensive collections of antique furniture, ceramics, textiles, toys and tools owned by seven generations of the Livingston and Kean families. The Firehouse is the latest addition to the museum's complex, which houses two antique fire engines and a collection of fire memorabilia.

Liberty Hall is located at 1003 Morris Avenue in Union. It is open to the public Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information or to make reservations, call (908) 527-0400, e-mail [libertyhall@kean.edu](mailto:libertyhall@kean.edu) or visit [kean.edu/libertyhall](http://kean.edu/libertyhall).

## Please Join us for Silhouette Day

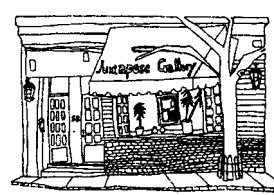
### JUXTAPOSE GALLERY

Saturday, February 27, 2010

10 am to 5 pm



Master Silhouettist Ms. Ruth Grabner will be at Juxtapose Gallery to create a silhouette of your child



For Appointment:  
908-232-3278

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