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431 North Avenue West  
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By CHRISTIE STORMS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Hundreds of visitors stepped through the doors of seven remarkable residences last Saturday for the Hearth & Home Kitchen Tour, a fundraiser benefiting Holy Trinity Interparochial School.

The tour not only featured a feast for the eyes, as guests viewed designer rooms and kitchens, but also provided delectable cuisine to please their palates from local chefs and bakers.

Classic elegance highlighted the Stoneleigh Park center hall colonial featuring traditional rooms dressed in warm reds and golds and crowned with crystal chandeliers.

From the mahogany kitchen island, Carole Heffernan of Party Flavors Catering served guests lemon chicken and dilled hot house cucumbers rounds comprised of her "Super Secret Garlic Herb Cream Cheese Base."

Rob Dietze of BKC Kitchen Design spoke with *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* about the cabinets' multiple custom colors and layers of crown moldings he installed. He also demonstrated how BKC designer Julie Farrell worked the busy family's needs for storage into the built-in desk design.

"Every kitchen has a junk spot, but we can hide it," Mr. Dietze said. "You're able to just shut the doors, and it looks great."

Outside, a raffle was held on the meticulously landscaped grounds, featuring prizes like an outdoor-movie night set up in your own backyard or the professional painting of a room in your home.

On Canterbury Lane, a 2006 Tudor-style colonial blended seamlessly with its traditional Wychwood streetscape. Soaring 10-foot ceilings added a ma-

# Arts & Entertainment

## Hearth & Home Tour Features Tasteful Homes and Tasty Treats

gestic feel to the eclectic mix of furnishings antique and new.

Feast Catering offered crêpes and other appetizers on the 12-foot granite island surrounded by dark-cherry-paneled cabinets that also conceal the appliances, including pocket doors for the microwave.

Ollie Hertua of New Jersey Hardwoods said the spacious kitchen design was built with entertaining in mind.

The oldest home on the tour was a charming turn-of-the-century Elm Street colonial owned by Westfield builder Tom Colicchio. Mr. Colicchio said he worked carefully with Kingsley Belcher Knauss of KBK Interior Design and Dave Presuto of Beauty Craft Kitchen & Baths to keep the home's architectural integrity intact during an extensive 2009 renovation.

Ms. Knauss added that at the same time, it was important that "the spaces are current to the way we live today."

Mr. Presuto said it took an eight-step process to create the hand-rubbed "Old Towne Yellow" finish on the cherry cabinets and multiple layers of moldings.

Christina Bass of Sugar Mamas served confectionery samplings near the stained-glass windows and intricate glass-tiled backsplash that sur-

rounded the six-burner Viking stove.

On Wyandotte Trail, designer Rachel Kapner of Creative Wallcoverings & Interiors said the brand-new home's owners sought "elegant-but-comfortable" spaces that "use every inch" wisely.

The home imbued a mix of textural details from the natural straw-woven wood shades to a hammered copper sink and tumbled-travertine backsplash.

Jeffrey Rust, chef and owner of Jeffrey's of Westfield, helped guests warm up on the crisp autumn afternoon with cups of his savory Roasted Fall Vegetable Stew.

Visitors also received complimentary gift bags brimming with items like restaurant gift certificates, decorating magazines and spatulas.

The Prospect Street home paid tribute to its family's Greek heritage with original artwork the homeowners acquired from trips. It featured the largest dining room on the tour, with a 16-foot mahogany table that seats 22 guests.

Designer Elizabeth Florio of Elizabeth Florio Designs said she took small Greek elements, such as lions and columns, and integrated them to work in a "more everyday-type environment."

The Colosseum Diner from Linden served up traditional Greek food for

guests.

On Forest Avenue, two separate renovations in 2000 and 2009 by Schoss Construction along with BKC Kitchen Design yielded family-friendly open spaces surrounding a mammoth granite island where The Sugar House provided sweet treats.

Handmade bronze tiles highlighted the cooking area, and a built-in banquette added additional seating. The charming front porch featured furnishings and lamps that truly created a unique outdoor living space.

One look at the sprawling Lenape Trail colonial made it hard for visitors to believe it was once a circa-1974 ranch. Guests were mesmerized by the intricate panels that comprised the cathedral ceiling over the grand center hall.

Mary LaVecchia of Creative Wallcovering & Interiors said an artist hand-painted each panel with gold leafing first, and then they were raised up for ceiling installation. A glimmering chandelier with smooth crystal teardrops was selected to illuminate without competing with them.

"Light is a key element in any design," Ms. LaVecchia said.

The dining room featured an ample round table followed by a butler's pantry with handmade tile backsplash that led to the outstanding kitchen with every imaginable amenity. Jennifer Thul



Christie Storms for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
SPOONFULS OF SUGAR...Christina Bass of Sugar Mamas of Westfield offered guests a sampling of her delicious confections in the elegantly appointed kitchen of an Elm Street colonial. The residence was one of seven featured in the Hearth & Home Kitchen Tour benefiting Holy Trinity Interparochial School last Saturday.

of Giovanna's Restaurant created delicious pasta from the two-tiered island "workstation."

Attention to visual detail was evident at every angle, while functionality was also obviously considered, such as a one-of-a-kind family room ottoman that featured a tufted easy-care microsuede edge for relaxing, yet also had a two-tray hardwood center to set down refreshments.

It was no surprise to see the New Jersey Builders Association had presented its Best Extreme Makeover and

Best Kitchen Remodeling/Renovation Project Awards to Woodbridge Builders for this home.

Marlene Perez-Santalla, tour committee chairperson, said it was "wonderful" to see hundreds of people attend.

"We had a diverse group of homes on the tour this year with an assortment of flavorful dishes sure to please," Ms. Perez-Santalla said. "Holy Trinity Interparochial School is very thankful for the attendance and positive feedback!"

## Alliance Theatre Sounds

### Off New Season with 'boom'

By SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY  
Specially written for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

EDISON — Alliance Repertory Theatre Company's location may have changed from Union County Performing Arts Center to Edison Valley Playhouse for the month of October, but the company's dedication to delivering high-quality drama has not wavered.

Their season opener, which concludes Saturday, October 23, is the strange comedy *boom*, by Peter Sinn Nachtrieb, which takes place in a single room. This play has the look and feel of an old "Twilight Zone" episode because the audience is not sure who's who or what's real.

Jules (Gus Ibryani), a marine biologist, and Jo (Lilli Marques), a journalism student, are in a small underground laboratory/apartment on a university campus. Jo has answered his Craig's List ad for a night that promised "sex to change the course of the world" because she has been working on a class journalism project that presents "random sex as the last glimmer of hope in a decaying society."

She finds out, only too soon, that Jules is speaking literally, not metaphorically, of that business about changing the course of the world. It seems that Jules has just completed a study on a remote tropical island, where he discovers a species of fish that knows when danger is inevitable and has learned how to adapt to survive.

In the center of his apartment/lab is a fish tank with "Dorothy" and her surviving fish friends. He takes his newfound knowledge and deduces that he and a chosen girl could survive the end of the world when a comet strikes the earth.

In preparation for that impending apocalypse, he has turned his tiny apartment/lab into a place to wait out the disaster — anywhere from two to

four years — and begin humanity anew. The fact that Jo is an unwilling partner is a problem. The fact that Jules is gay proves to be a problem. The fact that Jo doesn't want to have babies because she hates them is another problem.

How will humanity survive after a catastrophic end of the world? Would anyone want to survive with the rest of the world gone? Barbara, our guide/narrator for what appears to be this sort of Jurassic theme park/museum exhibit, speculates on civilization's end years ago.

She is able to stop and start Jules' and Jo's bodies by pulling levers during dramatic moments. Her staccato percussive accompaniment from her booth on stage right gives the characters (and the surprised audience members) a jolt every time she bangs a drum, cymbal or gong.

Playwright Nachtrieb gives Jo and Jules great back-stories. Every member of Jules' immediate family has died through weird calamities. Jo, not so very normal herself, falls unconscious when danger threatens — much like the fish in the tank, who physically protect themselves from danger.

In this strange tale, both Ms. Marques and Mr. Ibryani run a dramatic marathon since they are on stage for entire play. Barbara (Beth Painter), as the museum's guide, every so often interrupts the story of Jules and Jo to discuss her own speculation on how the world once ended and began anew.

Ms. Painter delivers an uproariously funny account of her own conception complete with outlandish facial expressions. The show is hers. Fine acting by all three actors and smart direction delivered by Michael J. Driscoll left the audience with a speculation on their own reflection on the world's beginning and end.

### Swiss Organist Opens Season at St. Stephen's

MILLBURN — Swiss organist Douglas Bruce will open the 41st season of Beckerath Organ Recitals at St. Stephen's Church, located at 119 Main Street in Millburn, on the afternoon of Halloween, October 31, at 3 p.m., an hour earlier than usual.



Douglas Bruce

Mr. Bruce's program provides a touch of Halloween flavor with the Toccata and Fugue in d minor, attributed to Bach and often heard at haunted houses or adding to the drama of silent films.

A selection of short, lively pieces, including Haydn's "Musical Clock," precedes the "Halloween" Toccata and Fugue, making the first part of the recital especially appealing to younger audience members, who are invited to come in costume if they wish and enjoy a musical prelude to their rounds of trick or treating.

Admission is by donation at the door (\$10 suggested). Children are welcome and always free. A reception for the artist follows the recital. For further information, the church can be reached at (973) 376-0688, or consult [ststephensmillburn.org](http://ststephensmillburn.org).

### Stony Hill Auditions For Bizet's Carmen

SUMMIT — Stony Hill Players of Summit will have auditions for a February performance of Georges Bizet's opera *Carmen* on Friday, November 5, from 7 to 10 p.m., Saturday, November 6, from 1 to 4 p.m., and Sunday, November 7, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Auditions will be at the Oakes Center, located at 120 Morris Avenue in Summit. An accompanist will be provided. Chorus members and leads are welcome. No appointment is required. To learn more, see [StonyHillPlayers.org](http://StonyHillPlayers.org).



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BOOM TIMES...Jules (Gus Ibryani), a marine biologist, and Jo (Lilli Marques), a journalism student, seek to "change the course of the world" in *boom*. In preparation for what he sees as an impending apocalypse, Jules has turned his tiny apartment/lab into a place to wait out the disaster — anywhere from two to four years — and begin humanity anew.



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Mon, Oct 25: Mischievous Monday - Rosie's Choice  
Tues, Oct 26: Pumpkin Beer Sampler Special  
Wed, Oct 27: Wine & Chocolate Pairing - RSVP Required - Call For More Info  
Thurs, Oct 28: Masquerade Party - Live Music - Countless Killer Concoctions to Consume  
Fri, Oct 29 & Sat, Oct 30: Come in Costume for a FREE Drink from our Holiday Inspired Beverage List  
Sun, Oct 31: Happy Halloween. Candy Crazy? Tired of Trick-or-Treating? Visit Us for Alternative Energy Options. Treats Available Upon Request



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