

FREE WAX OFFER
FOR FIRST TIME GUEST
*Ask For Details
CALL NOW TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION!
908.789.1515

EUROPEAN WAX CENTER
THE ULTIMATE WAX EXPERIENCE
European Wax Center • Garwood
520 North Avenue Garwood, NJ 07027
(Across From Shop Rite)
www.waxcenter.com

Arts & Entertainment

Continuo Arts Tour Revealed There's No Place Like 'Home for the Holidays'

By CHRISTIE STORMS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Four Westfield residences, dressed in holiday style, opened their wretched doors for touring last Saturday during the Continuo Arts Foundation's "Home for the Holidays" fundraiser. Each property showcased its own distinct features in architecture and interior design as well as holiday décor.

The lavish exterior of the historic center hall colonial on Boulevard offered a glimpse of what was to come with wreaths on each window of its three stories, fresh garlands and bows along the wrought iron fence and Christmas tree topiaries flanking the entrance.

In the front hall, guests mingled beneath a stunning crystal chandelier from the Hotel Prague and admired lighted evergreens along the majestic central staircase and layers of intricate crown moldings.

Traditional decorations of poinsettias and holiday greenery accentuated the impeccable décor of opulent fabrics, lush window treatments and multiple chandeliers throughout the nine-bedroom home.

The kitchen featured four sinks in separate workspaces, and the library was comprised of a leather ceiling and built-ins originally brought over from an English manor in Europe.

On Wychwood Road, the Continuo Arts Young Artist Debut Winner and Conducting Fellow, Tom Colao,

played holiday songs on the grand piano to welcome guests into the well-appointed living room.

Home stager Donna Rosen of More Staging shared holiday decorating tips with guests in the striking colonial. She placed interwoven glimmers of golden ribbons and ornaments throughout the Christmas trees, wreaths and fireplace mantel swag in perfect harmony with the warm golds found in the sumptuous upholstery.

The holiday spirit was carried throughout each room with unique displays from the homeowner's miniature holiday village and Christmas stemware atop the family room's wet bar to an adorable "Santa's mailbox" centerpiece on the desk in the study.

Ms. Rosen bedecked the breakfast area with a peppermint candy theme, evident in the festive red and white table chargers and tiny candy canes interspersed along the evergreen chandelier boughs.

The inviting place settings in the lustrous dining room featured pinecones, gilded fruit and cinnamon sticks tucked into damask napkins.

Tour chairperson, Sherrie Natko of Coldwell Banker, greeted visitors at the Arts and Crafts home on Woodland Avenue. She kept the holiday trimmings to a minimum to avoid detracting from the home's tiger oak woodwork and the homeowner's many collections.

The living room included a unique display of weathervanes while the

dining room housed early American oil paintings and a rare collection of "children's china."

The intricate pressed tin ceiling in the kitchen and antique signage were another highlight along with a built-in area in the basement that was believed to serve as a speakeasy during the Prohibition Era.

It was no surprise that the lovingly restored Victorian on South Euclid Avenue received a Harry Devlin Historic Preservation Award in 2005. The home exuded the perfect combination of old-fashioned charm coupled with an open floor plan and today's amenities.

Homeowner Jen Schilidge did most of the decorating herself and spoke to visitors about all aspects from the newer kitchen and family room addition to the antiques and cherished heirlooms on display.

Suzi Minken of Best In Showing and Coldwell Banker worked with Ms. Schilidge to create themed holiday décor for each room on the main floor.

The living room sparkled with gold accents on the Christmas tree and ornament-adorned swag over the sizeable front window, while silver stars and snowflakes glistened against the soft blue palette in the neighboring dining room.

The inviting family room housed a complete wall of custom built-ins with dental molding and custom

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



HOME SWEET HOME...During the Home for the Holidays house tour held Saturday in Westfield, tour-goers got a glimpse inside this Wychwood Road home featuring interwoven glimmers of golden ribbons and ornaments, which adorned the Christmas trees, wreaths and the fireplace mantel swag, keeping in perfect harmony with the home's gold color scheme.

Musical Club Of Westfield Thanks Community; Hosts Holiday Program

WESTFIELD - On November 22, audience members at the Musical Club of Westfield's biennial scholarship concert at the First Baptist Church in Westfield were swept away on a trip "Around the World in 80 Minutes."

Featured on the concert were Russian pianist Yuly Verbitsky performing piano music of Northern Europe; French organist Marie-Danièle Mercier performing an organ sonata by Alexandre Guilmant; the Monmouth Winds woodwind quintet performing tangos by Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla; soprano Ellen Entriken performing songs by American composers Robert Lowry, Stephen Foster, and Douglas Moore; bass-baritone Glen Crane performing songs by Australian-born composers Percy Grainger and Malcolm Williamson; the Carnatic Musicians Family of New Jersey performing music from the classical tradition of Southern India; and the Chinese American Music Ensemble and ZhiYin Chorus, conducted by Shuang Guo, performing music of Taiwan and China.

The well-attended concert was held to raise funds for the club's Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to promising young musicians pursuing undergraduate music degrees at some of the finest music schools in the country. Currently the club supports seven such students, who are studying at The Juilliard School of

Music, Princeton University, the University of Delaware, Carnegie-Mellon University, the University of Michigan, and Montclair State University.

The December performance of the Musical Club of Westfield will be held on Wednesday, December 14, at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street, Westfield. Featured on the program will be music for flute, clarinet and piano, solo piano, and piano four hands.

Clarinetist George Toenes, a long-time club favorite, will perform the "Adagio" in D-flat Major by Heinrich Baermann, accompanied by pianist Beverly Thomson Shea. They will be joined by flutist Helen Bartolick for an arrangement of Sound the Trumpet by Henry Purcell. Mr. Toenes and Ms. Bartolick are both members of the Westfield Community Band and perform together frequently. Turning to the lighter side, Toenes will entertain the audience with Basin Street Blues by Spencer Williams; The Darktown Strutters' Ball by Shelton Brooks (featured in the film "The Dolly Sisters" and recorded by Benny Goodman and his orchestra), concluding with When the Saints Go Marching In, the traditional Dixieland refrain.

Three young pianists from Cranford High School, Jacob Gelber, Jonathon Surer, Anna Zhao, will perform solo piano pieces. In addition to performing



MUSICAL ADVENTURE...The December performance of the Musical Club of Westfield will be held on Wednesday, December 14, at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street, Westfield. Pictured, left to right, are: Scholarship Concert chairperson Kay Macrae with Shuang Guo, conductor of the Chinese American Music Ensemble and ZhiYin Chorus.

as soloists, Mr. Gelber and Mr. Surer both also serve as accompanists for the choral groups at Cranford High School.

Piano duo Carolle-Ann Mochernuk and Paul Kueter will round out the program with holiday favorites, including five movements from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, and the ever-popular Christmas Pastiche, an arrangement of carols and songs by Mr. Kueter.

The performance is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the program, to give those in attendance the opportunity to meet the performers. The Musical Club of Westfield, now in its 96th season, offers scholarships to promising young musicians who are pursuing a musical education. Membership in the club is open to anyone who is interested in music. Those wishing information about membership in the Musical Club of Westfield as a performer or an associate member may call the membership chairman at (908) 232-2173, or visit the club's web site at westfieldnj.com/mcw/.

Laura Alexander's Work On Display At Tomasulo Gallery

CRANFORD — From now through January 14, 2012, a solo exhibition by Hoboken artist Laura Alexander will be on display in the Tomasulo Gallery at Union County College's Cranford campus. The exhibition, entitled "Laura Alexander" consists of oil on canvas paintings of different people in everyday situations. Her works are a petition against "sameness."

She uses color to display emotion in her pieces. In her artist statement she discusses that as a society we have a need for conformity. However, Alexander questions "why?" and "whose set of standards are we compelled to copy?"

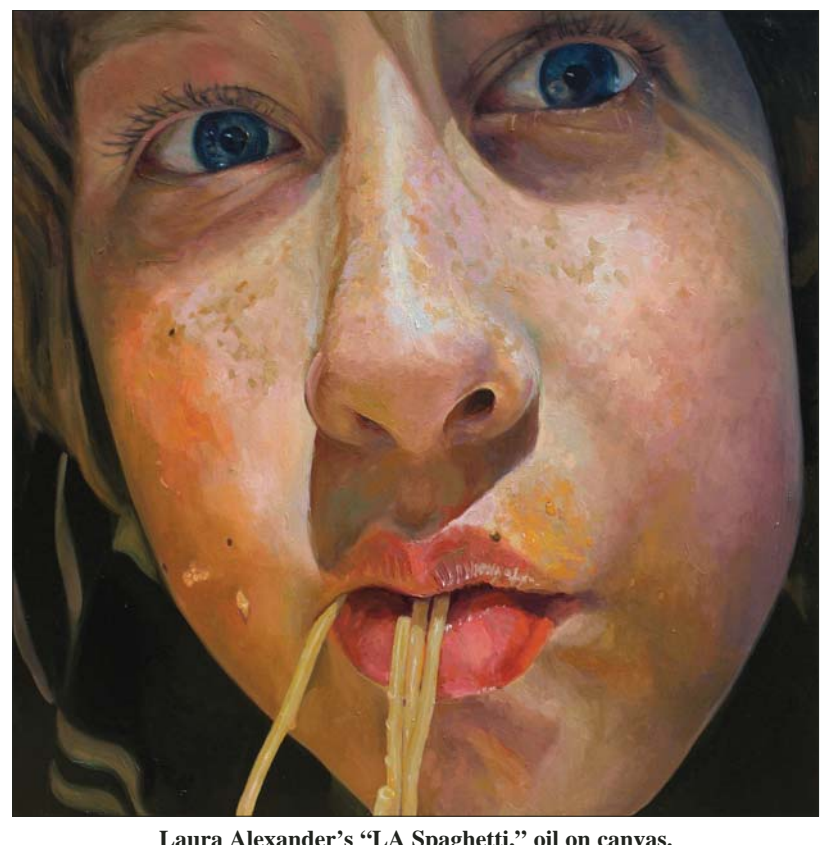
She has stated, "Can the search for homogeneity ever teach us tolerance? Howard Johnson's was the first franchised business to open in America. With its core value being 'sameness,' this concept of franchising has permeated every aspect of our society, most destructively throughout the educational system. Most disturbing is the practice within this standardized environment of labeling individuals who are different from the selected standard as somehow psychologically 'lacking.' Are they lacking or in actuality, 'in full possession of?'"

She holds a degree from the Main College of Art in Portland, Me., and has studied at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vermont and the Arts Students League of New York. She was the 2006 recipient of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship in painting.

Gallery hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and

from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Evening hours are from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday through Thursday. Please note that the gallery will be closed from Thursday, December 22, through Sunday, January 1, 2012, and will re-open on Monday, January 2, 2012.

For more information, please call (908) 709-7155 or visit the College's website at www.ucc.edu/go/TomArt.



Laura Alexander's "LA Spaghetti," oil on canvas.

Experience The Cherrybrook Difference From the Moment You Enter Our Store.



- Garwood Store Events:**
- Saturday, 12/10 (11am-3pm)** - Animal Communicator Lorraine B. Moore. *Reservations Required*
 - Sunday, 12/11 (12pm-4pm)** - Ask the Groomer with Lesley A. Nagle *Reservations Required*
 - Sunday, 12/11 (11:30am-2pm)** - New Life Boxer Rescue Meet & Greet and Gift Wrapping
 - Saturday, 12/17 (11am-2pm)** - New Life Boxer Rescue Meet & Greet and Gift Wrapping
 - Sunday, 12/18 (12pm-4pm)** - Susan L. Wilson Reiki Master *Reservations Required*
 - Sunday, 12/18 (12pm-4pm)** - Jersey Cats Cat & Kitten Adoptions & Gift Wrapping
 - Friday, 12/23 (3pm-7pm)** - Nail Trimming & Ear Cleaning provided by Heavenly Paws Mobile Grooming. \$10 fee. *Reservations Required*
- Open until 5pm on Christmas Eve**
- *For a complete list of our store events, please visit www.cherrybrook.com or find us on Facebook*

The finest in natural pet foods, pet care products, customer service and value.

Cherrybrook
PREMIUM PET SUPPLIES

704 North Avenue
Garwood, NJ 07027
908.232.0006

Open: Monday-Friday 9am-7pm • Saturday 9am-5pm • Sunday 10am-5pm

Everyone at Cherrybrook wishes you & your pets a joyous holiday season.