



**YOUNGSTERS GET A JUMP START ON HOLIDAY SHOPPING...** The Parents' Association at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School held its annual Holiday Boutique for Lower School students in the Oakwood Room on December 1 and 2. Members of the Parents' Association members and class parents helped the youngsters examine their shopping lists as they selected from an array of novelty and sports items, costume jewelry and other goods. The Oakwood Room was adorned with snowmen, snowflakes, twinkle lights and other delightful decorations, as well as refreshments to enjoy. Pictured above, Renee Payami of Scotch Plains helps her daughter, Kapriana Payami choose a holiday gift.

## Les Malamut Gallery Hosts Work of Artist Deutsch

UNION – The Les Malamut Art Gallery will host a solo exhibit of encaustic work by artist Jonathan Deutsch. The show will run from January 4 through February 25, 2011. A reception to meet the artist will be held on Saturday, January 8, from 1 to 4 p.m. The show and reception are free and open to the public.

Mr. Deutsch has been painting in oil and acrylic for a number of years. Recently, he was introduced to encaustics, which utilizes beeswax. This form of painting has been in use for thousands of years. The medium, which consists of wax, damar resin and pigments, allows for a variety of techniques to be employed.

Brushes and sculpting tools are used to apply and then work the wax into the desired form. The paint is applied to a panel after it has been heated. Heating allows the paint to move from a solid to a liquid state. After each layer is brushed on, it is reheated and fused to the layer below.

Mr. Deutsch considers the medium he uses to be a form with which he can continuously and without limitation express himself. There are no boundaries or language barriers to overcome for either the artist or the viewer with his paintings.

Anyone of any age, time, culture or place can look upon the artwork and see for themselves what has been done and the impact that has been made. The response and interpretation are unique to the observer.

For Mr. Deutsch, painting is much like a state of meditation. The mind relaxes, and then a flood of thoughts and inspiration race in during the process. Painting allows the painter to investigate and ultimately to document the creative act. The viewer can choose to be drawn in and participate in the painting; sharing in the contemplation.

Mr. Deutsch has attended New Jersey Center For the Visual Arts as well as Columbia University and University of Rochester. He is a member of several professional organizations, including The Alliance of Professional Artists, Riverdale Art Center, Contemporary Art Group and Millburn-Short Hills Art Center.

His work is included in many private collections and he has exhibited in numerous galleries. Among them

are The Artist Framer of Cranford and the Paper Mill Juried Exhibition in Millburn. He maintains a website at jonathan-deutsch.com

The Les Malamut Art Gallery is located on the lower level of the Union Public Library at 1980 Morris Avenue. It is open during regular library hours and is handicapped accessible. All work in the gallery is for sale.

For further information, visit [lesmalamutartgallery.web.officelive.com](http://lesmalamutartgallery.web.officelive.com) or contact Barbara Wirkus, curator, at (908) 276-6656.



Deutsch's Bartlett Pear

## Choral Art Society To Perform Bach's Oratorio

WESTFIELD – The Choral Art Society of New Jersey, Inc. will perform Johann Sebastian Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, Cantatas One, Two and Three on Saturday, January 22, at 8 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, located at Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street.

James Little, musical director of the society, will conduct the evening's performance.

Soloists include Ellen Goff Entriiken, soprano; Jeffrey Mandelbaum, alto; Stephen Sands, tenor, and Mark Watson, bass. The Choral Art Society Orchestra will accompany the chorus.

Admission is \$20, \$15 for seniors and students, at the door. For information, call (908) 654-5737 or visit [thechoralartsocietyofnj.org](http://thechoralartsocietyofnj.org).

## Paper Mill Appoints Director of Development

MILLBURN – Paper Mill Playhouse announced the appointment of Sue-Ellen M. Wright as its director of Development.

"Paper Mill Playhouse is thrilled to add Sue-Ellen Wright to our senior management team," said Todd Schmidt, Paper Mill Playhouse managing director. "Sue-Ellen has extensive knowledge in all aspects of fundraising for the arts, and her skills will allow Paper Mill Playhouse to expand its contributed support."

The director of Development is responsible for planning and executing the organization's strategic and operational development in achieving a \$5-million annual campaign and implementation of planned-giving efforts.

Ms. Wright will work closely with the board of trustees, local, regional and national foundations, corporate, government and individual funders to identify and grow the resources to support Paper Mill Playhouse's artistic vision, arts education programs and strategic organizational development.

"After a thorough search for a new director of Development, we are very pleased to have found Sue-Ellen," said Paper Mill Playhouse Producing Artistic Director Mark Hoebee. "Not-for-profit arts organizations cannot maintain quality programming on ticket sales alone. I believe that the combination of Sue-Ellen's experience and enthusiasm are a perfect match for the many challenges of maintaining and garnering additional support for Paper Mill Playhouse."

For the past three years, Ms. Wright

has worked as an independent fundraiser, consulting on a variety of projects, including the New York City Ballet, Friends of the High Line, Lydia Johnson Dance Company and Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University.

She served as assistant Vice President of Corporate Development and Sponsorship Marketing for seven years at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC) in Newark.

At NJ PAC, she grew corporate fundraising and sponsorship programs with a combined annual goal of \$3.4 million of an \$11-million annual operating budget. She was strategically involved in all fundraising activities and a \$180-million unified campaign for endowment, reserve and annual operations. Prior to her time at NJ PAC, she served as director of Development for the Arizona Theatre Company in Tucson and Phoenix, Ariz.

She is a graduate of Montclair State University, earned a masters degree in Public Administration from Seton Hall University and was honored by the Women's Fund of New Jersey for non-profit management leadership.

"It is truly exciting to take on this important role to sustain and grow a vibrant cultural arts community," said Ms. Wright. "I am especially looking forward to working with the administration and the board of trustees to achieve the vision for Paper Mill Playhouse in the 21st Century. It is an honor to become part of an outstanding professional team which is dedicated to the performing arts and arts education across New Jersey."

## Youth Poetry and Short Story Contest

The Woman's Club of Westfield invites all aspiring student poets and authors from first grade through high school to enter The New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs' (NJFWC) Youth Poetry and Short Story 2011 Contest. Poetry entries may be any style with a minimum length of eight lines and a maximum of 30 lines. Short stories are limited to 2,000 words. Entries must be typewritten, double spaced, with a minimum of one inch margins, on one side of 8 1/2" x 11" paper. A student may enter one short story and/or poem for the local club contest.

The author's name, address, telephone number, title of poem or short story, the category entered and name of sponsoring club must be in the top right hand corner of each page. All entries are judged on content, organization and form. Decision of the judges is final.

Material is to be submitted in duplicate to the Woman's Club of Westfield, 314 Orenda Circle, Westfield, NJ 07090, postmarked before January 20, 2011 and must be the original unpublished work of the author, written during the contest year.

Authors must be amateurs with earnings from writing not to exceed \$500 annually. Writers are asked to

keep a copy of their work as entries cannot be returned.

The categories in both Poetry and Short Story are: Category One (Grades 1,2,3); Category Two (Grades 4,5,6); Category Three (Grades 7,8,9); Category Four (Grades 10,11,12).

First place winners in our local contest will be sent on for judging at the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs level. First place NJFWC winners will then go on to be judged by the General Federation of Women's Clubs which is the national level.

## County Coffee Class Offered Jan. 26

UNION COUNTY – Coffee lovers can find out everything they ever wanted to know about their favorite beverage, including benefits to savor and pitfalls to avoid, by attending a free class offered by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County called "Coffee – Should It Be Your Mug of Choice?" The class will be held on Wednesday, January 26, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Extension offices in Westfield. There is no fee but registration in advance is required by contacting Digna Torres at (908) 654-9854 or [dtorres@ucnj.org](mailto:dtorres@ucnj.org).



**TIME WITH THE TROOPS...**Members of the 102nd Cavalry Squadron Army National Guard recently took third grade Bear Scouts from Tamaques School and their siblings for an informative and interactive tour of the Westfield Armory. Participants included (front row, from left to right) Joe Gamba, Caden Strauss, Dylan Strauss; (middle row) Maggie McCauley, Colin Murphy, Michael Magnotti, Nicholas Schoen, Will Gamba, Grayson Strauss; (back row) CPT Joe McNamara, Declan McCauley, Joseph Schoen and 1SG John Rowe.



**PJS FOR A WORTHY CAUSE...**The Scholastic Book Clubs and the nonprofit Pajama Program joined forces to provide children in need with brand-new pajamas and books. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District's Preschool and Kindergarten classes at both Coles and Evergreen schools donated 62 pajamas to this worthy cause. Scholastic matched this donation and provided 62 books to these needy children. Pictured are Laura Kelk's preschool students, left to right, Carolyn Joe, Dylan Weiner and Tommy Weiner.

## Alliance Theatre Presents Still Life at Rahway UCPAC

RAHWAY – Alliance Repertory Theatre's next production will be *Still Life* by Alexander Dinelaris. It will run from January 14 to 29 in the Studio Theater of the Union County Performing Arts Center (UCPAC) in Rahway on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m., with one Sunday matinee on January 16 at 2 p.m.

*Still Life* concerns Carrie Ann Daley, a recognized photographer, who, at the pinnacle of her career, inexplicably shuts down. Lost and afraid to even pick up a camera, her descent is interrupted by a whirlwind romance with Jeff, a trend analyst who becomes determined to help her move on, even while facing his own uncertain future.

Elissa Strell as Carrie Ann and Matt McCarthy as Jeff head the cast, which includes Kelly Maizenaski, Cody Dalton, Mike Babb, Howard Fischer, Chess Lankford and Katie Hayes. Michael Driscoll directs. Tom Rowe designs lights and Lilli Marques costumes. The stage manager is Bill

## Stony Hill Announces Latest Audition Dates

SUMMIT – Stony Hill Players' auditions for *Isn't It Romantic*, by Wendy Wasserstein, will be held on Monday and Tuesday, January 17 and 18, at 7 p.m. in the Oakes Center, located at 120 Morris Avenue in Summit.

Performances are May 13 to 15 and May 20 to 22. Casting is for four women and four men with the age span of 20 to 60. For information, call (973) 376-1216.

**POPCORN™**

**The Fighter:**

**Exhibits Championship Form**



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

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER  
*4 popcorns*

Director David O. Russell's *The Fighter*, an absorbing, powerfully realistic account of light welterweight "Irish" Micky Ward's trials and tribulations in and out of the ring, is both metaphor and anthropological critic. Pulling no punches, it identifies the vestigial emotions that make this genre such a searing microcosm of the human condition.

Give filmmaker Russell and a gaggle of writers credit for making intense, philosophical sense of a very messy sociology. Welcome to Lowell, Mass., a town that went down for the count after the mills fled. Struggling to lift itself off the canvas ever since, the profound psychological effect is sternly worn on its denizens' sleeves.

Nowhere does hope spring more desperately than in the home of Alice Ward (Melissa Leo), the hard-drinking, chain-smoking mother of nine and self-appointed boxing manager. As in every family, the Ward culture is built on an amalgam of legend and myth. In their case, it's eldest son Dicky Eklund's could-have-been glory.

Magnificently portrayed with Oscar-worthy verve and sensitivity by Christian Bale, he was a decent fighter with good potential before succumbing to drug addiction. In recent years, he has become a tarnished, charitably acknowledged local hero, dining out on the story of how he once knocked down the great Sugar Ray Leonard. Some say he slipped.

In any case, as we take up the tale the torch has now apparently passed to little brother Micky Ward, superbly detailed by Mark Wahlberg. A road-paver by day, he's won several fights. But of late, he has stagnated and taken numerous beatings, ostensibly due to the subjective and imprudent judgment of domineering Alice and the fallen Dicky.

A real manager offers him a chance to quit the road gang and train full time in Las Vegas. He yearns for the opportunity. But the family has its hooks in him. And thus we identify the syndrome that plagues the very best and worst of families: the tyranny of the DNA. Do as we say or flaunt your repudiation of family, your selfish betrayal.

Fortunately, history shows there's long been a fairly successful antidote to the pathology. It's an ally, forming in its healthiest application a tie stronger than blood, and commonly known as a lover. Enters stage right, Amy Adams in a great turn as Charlene Fleming, a spunky barmaid who's had a flirtation with college. She seats herself in Micky's camp.

And what a crew she has to deal with if she hopes to wrest her knight in shining armor from the shackles

Van Sant.

Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$17 for seniors and students. They can be purchased either online at [ucpac.org](http://ucpac.org) or by phone at (732) 499-8226. There will also be a wine and cheese talkback on Friday, January 21. UCPAC is located at 1601 Irving St in Rahway.

## Community Players to Present 'Now Change'

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Community Players continues its 2010-2011 season with the popular musical, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. The show opens on Saturday, January 8, and runs week-ends through January 22. The theater is located at 1000 North Avenue in Westfield. Tickets cost \$25 and can be reserved by calling the 24-hour tape at (908) 232-1221.

The musical, which had a successful run in New York, is a celebration of the mating game, taking on the truths and myths behind the contemporary conundrum known as "the relationship." Books and lyrics are by Joe DiPietro; music, by Jimmy Roberts.

Directed by Sherrie Ahlin, she is assisted by producer Kay Macrae of Westfield. The cast includes Jennifer Hanselman, Chris Mortenson, Paul Salvatoriello and Janet Swaim. Musical direction is by Seth Saltzman and choreography by Meridith Johnson.

Continuing the opening-night tradition, audience members are invited to a reception with cast and crew after the curtain rings down.

that deter the shared dream destiny they now envision. Ensconced on Alice's couch, serving as a chorus to her egocentric reveries, several witchlike daughters provide telling comedy relief, echoing mom's pontifications to insure their own survival.

We pause to speculate: What is it about the lower classes that so intrigue? Of late, almost a whole show-biz franchise has formed, dedicated to spotlighting the mores and folkways of those who either refuse, or have been unable, to carve out a piece of America's middle-class pie. Witness the bevy of daytime TV shows that delight in making sport of them.

Sadly, that's slumming, rubber-necking at socioeconomic tragedy. I'd like to think our interest here is primarily sympathetic. Representing the Dickensian aspiration for a finer life, Wahlberg's Micky Ward is the tale's Cinderella. He knows there's something better than the insular barbarism that surrounds him, not just monetarily, but spiritually as well.

Thus, it is essentially a deadly holy war that widens the rift between him and the long held rituals and ethos that have subjugated his clan. Alice preaches the mantra, holding up the besotted, poor, poor Dicky as the martyred symbol of all their beliefs. Hanging from that false cross, Christian Bale performs a thespic miracle to behold.

Commanding yet unselfish, he suffuses the atmosphere with the entire crux of the opus, a symbol of the bones of contention gnawing at the personae's content, and screaming their discontent. Knocking heads with him, literally and figuratively, Mr. Wahlberg bobs and weaves, allowing him an intermittent limelight without losing his character's importance.

But perhaps more phenomenal in this movie of multifariously sought redemptions is the tolerance Bale ultimately engenders in his audience. The idea of heroes and villains soon spins into an enlightening gray area that speaks volumes about the human comedy. Along the way, a good old-fashioned look at brotherly love complements the perspective.

The most prestigious, albeit hackneyed, accolade that can be laid on a boxing film is that it isn't just a ring saga per se, that the dramatic substance supersedes its pugilistic content. In this corner, the combination is symbiotically profound. Throwing a glow to the senses and a shot to the gut, *The Fighter* floors us with its winning one-two punch.

*The Fighter*, rated R, is a Paramount Pictures release directed by David O. Russell and stars Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale and Amy Adams. Running time: 115 minutes.

## Pearl Street Displays Paintings of SP's Derrett

ELIZABETH – The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will present an exhibit of artwork by Marion Derrett in the gallery space at the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, located at 633 Pearl Street in Elizabeth.

A selection of Ms. Derrett's pastel paintings, entitled "Salad Days," is on display at the Pearl Street Gallery from now until January 28. The gallery is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Born in England, Ms. Derrett earned her art degree from Froebel Institute of Education in London and taught art in England for many years.

She has traveled the world and studied Chinese painting while living in China and Singapore.

After moving to Scotch Plains in 2002, she pursued her studies at Artspace Studio in Morristown with Julie Friedman at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey in Summit and the duCret School of Art in Plainfield.

Ms. Derrett works from her Scotch Plains studio in pastels, oils and acrylics on commissioned portraits and landscape paintings. She also writes and illustrates children's books. Her work can be seen at [marionderrett.com](http://marionderrett.com).

Ms. Derrett has exhibited extensively and won many awards, including the Scotch Plains and Fanwood

Arts Association 2010, First Place, the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Arts Association 2009, Best of Show and the Pastel Society of New Jersey 4th Annual Member's Exhibition 2009, Award of Merit. She has shown her paintings in exhibitions throughout Connecticut, New Jersey and New York.

In the eight years that she has lived in Scotch Plains, she has pursued her art career with passion. She enjoys involvement in many professional organizations such as Juried Member of the American Artists Professional League, Juried Associate Member of the Pastel Society of America, Portrait Society of America; Contemporary Art Group, Westfield; Westfield Arts Association, Pastel Society of New Jersey; Scotch Plains and Fanwood Arts Association, Millburn-Short Hills Art Center and the Watchung Arts Center.

Union County artists (whose works can be hung on a wall) interested in exhibiting in the gallery space are welcome to apply. For more information about the Pearl Street Gallery or to learn about other programs and services, contact the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, located at 633 Pearl Street in Elizabeth, by phone at (908) 558-2550. NJ Relay users should dial 711 or may e-mail [culturalinfo@ucnj.org](mailto:culturalinfo@ucnj.org).



Looking Out to Sea