

NJWA Summer Workshops Offer Youth Opportunities

WESTFIELD - Young artists will have the opportunity to participate in a diverse curriculum that develops and nurtures a proclivity towards learning and new experiences at the 2012 NJWA Summer Workshop.

A new schedule for the pre-school this year gives parents the option of enrolling their children in a two, three or five day program. Preschoolers must be 4 years old by October 31.

The exciting array of activities offered in the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes includes arts and crafts, science, foreign language, violin, yoga, cooking and chick hatching.

During the concluding week of the workshop, the children will present a showcase for family and friends to highlight their accomplishments during the five weeks.

First graders who attend the 2012 summer camp will be engaged in a variety of stimulating artistic experiences. Among these various activities will be classes in sculpture, violin, science, cooking, and musical theater. The diversity of this first grade program allows the children to sample the course offerings that they can explore in depth in their future years at the workshop.

This season's NJWA Summer Workshop (formerly the Westfield Summer Workshop) will be held at Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark Street, Westfield, from June 27 to July 31, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. A 7:30 a.m. drop-off is available as well as Afternoon Adventures through the Westfield YMCA. A registered nurse is on duty during the regular morning hours.

The 2012 Summer Workshop also offers programs for students in grades 2 through 9, including a new Fine Arts Program for those in grades 7 through 9, and our Summer Stage Theater production of *Willy Wonka*, for performers in grades 6 through 9.

Visit www.njwasummerworkshop.com to view, download or print the 2012 NJWA Summer Workshop brochure and application. Completed applications should be mailed or delivered to New Jersey Workshop for the Arts at the address indicated on the form.

For additional information, please call (908) 518-1551, e-mail njwa.summerworkshop@gmail.com or visit the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts studios at 150-152 E. Broad Street, Westfield.



I'M FLYING!... Peter (Madeline Hudelson) takes flight to the amazement of John (Jack Ritter), Michael (Eve Crandall), and Wendy Darling (Jessica Zimmermann) during the Roosevelt Intermediate School production of *Peter Pan*. The action-packed musical features over 50 performers, including Indians, pirates and a real dog as Nana. Show times are Friday, March 23, and Saturday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 25, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door.

Liberty Hall Museum to Host Easter Egg Hunt

UNION - Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University welcomes the spring with special events at the renowned historical facility. An Easter Egg Hunt and two thematic teas offer families an opportunity to enjoy the museum, participate in some outdoor fun and dine on tasty treats. On Saturday, April 7, Liberty Hall's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 10 a.m. and at 12 p.m.

Children will explore the grounds of Liberty Hall searching for plastic eggs hidden through the landscape, filled with holiday treats. A surprise visit from the Easter Bunny caps off the events. The program fee is \$8 for a child and adult; all additional children are \$5, all additional adults are \$4. Reservations are required.

On Wednesday, April 11, the Celebration of Spring Afternoon Tea will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. "Our afternoon tea is the perfect place to sip tea, lunch on finger sandwiches and desserts while gazing at the formal English garden from the comfort of our glass-enclosed porch," said Bill Schroh, Liberty Hall's Director of Museum Operations. A guided tour of Liberty Hall will follow afternoon tea. Reservations are required for this event, and the cost is \$40 per person.

The Girls of Liberty Hall - A Children's Afternoon Tea and Fashion Show takes place on Saturday, April 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. Guests will be treated to a luncheon of scones, breads, finger sandwiches, sweet treats, lemonade, iced tea and sherbet punch. They'll enjoy the repast on real china while watching a fashion show of reproduction historical children's clothing from colonial times through early 20th century. A dress up and play tent, offering costumes, games and prizes add a special interaction activity to the day. Recommended for children 7 to 12 years of age, admission is \$25 per person and reservations are required.

Liberty Hall Museum is an entertainment destination for history aficionados, families, seniors and student groups. The ongoing exhibit during 2012 is *The Weary and the Wounded: 72 Hours in the Life of a Civil War Nurse*. This show commemorates Christine Kean Griffin's service, and the service of all Civil War nurses. Admission to this exhibit is free; a fee applies for a tour of Liberty Hall.

Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University was the one-time home



HIP HOP!... On Saturday, April 7, Liberty Hall's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 10 a.m. and at 12 p.m. in Union.

of New Jersey's first elected governor, William Livingston. Chronicling more than 200 years of American history, the museum and its grounds are a treasure trove of significant 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 property boasts manicured gardens and fruitful orchards and vegetable fields. The Firehouse is the latest addition to the Museums complex housing antique fire engines and a collection of fire memorabilia.

General admission to the museum for regular visits is \$10 for adults, \$8 for Kean University alumni, \$6 for students (ages 3 - 17) and free to children under three, Liberty Hall Museum members and Kean University students, faculty and staff. Liberty Hall is located at 1003 Morris Avenue in Union, New Jersey. It is open to the public Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For further information, e-mail libertyhall@kean.edu or visit www.kean.edu/libertyhall.

SP-F Business Association Save The Date

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD - On Thursday, April 19, the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association and the Fanwood Business and Professional Association will hold the 17th Annual Spring Fling Scholarship Dinner Dance at The Westwood.

In recognition of their service to our communities, Steve Goldberg will be honored for his many contributions to Scotch Plains as well as John Crisifulli for his work and dedication in Fanwood.

Oratorio Singers Present an Afternoon of Fine Choral Singing and Music Making

By BARBARA THOMSON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - Westfield's Oratorio Singers presented a lively program of various styles on March 18, at the First United Methodist Church. It featured music from both the past and the present, accompanied by orchestra and soloists.

The program opened with a spirited performance of the ever-popular *Gloria* by Italian Baroque composer Antonio Vivaldi. Right from the outset the chorus sang with good energy, rhythm, and diction, cleanly negotiating the sometimes tricky runs and dotted rhythmic patterns. The orchestra, too, acquitted itself well, playing crisply, with good style and energy.

The only problems were with the two female soloists, soprano Hope Hudson and mezzo-soprano Denise Woods, whose voices were simply not up to the task. Ms. Hudson had some intonation problems and lacked point to her sound, and both she and Ms. Woods were simply not loud enough. Ms. Woods was practically inaudible on the lower notes, which should be the real meat of a mezzo's voice.

Oboist William Meredith played with nice line on his obbligato in the *Domine Deus* duet with the soprano, and the chorus closed with a rousing performance of the double fugue in the *Cum Sancto Spiritu*.

The next work on the program - conductor Trent Johnson's *Cantus Avium Solamen Est (Birdsong Brings Relief)* - was the most interesting and innovative of the day. Written for, and in consultation with, clarinetist Andrew Lamy, (whose passion is ornithology) the three-movement work featured both rhapsodic bird-like passages on the clarinet (and sometimes the flute and oboe) and actual birdcalls played on both the bird whistles hung around Mr. Lamy's neck and a dozen or so bird-whistlers seated at various places in the audience. The orchestral and choral parts are mostly impressionistic, mildly dissonant and very atmospheric.

The first and third movements - *Birdsong* (Rumi) and *I Live My Life in Growing Orbits* (Rilke) - have clear bird references in their poetry. The second movement - *Eletelephony* (Richards) - is a cute child's poem about an elephant who gets tangled up in the phone cord. No bird references there, but Mr. Johnson explains that these are the first three movements of what will eventually be a longer work, based on various animals, not just birds.

Both the choral and orchestral writing is effective and engaging, but it is the bird-like clarinet and the bird calls themselves which capture the attention. The work ended with all the bird-whistlers in the audience playing their distinctive calls along with Mr. Lamy, in a moment that sounded like twilight in the forest. Gorgeous.

The program closed with British composer John Rutter's *Magnificat*. This ancient Latin text, the Biblical words of Mary at the time of the Annunciation, has been set hundreds of times over the centuries. Rutter adds to it a setting of a lovely 15th-century English poem, "Of a Rose, a Lovely Rose" as well as a Gregorian chant melody for the "Sanctus" and the interpolated prayer "Sancta Maria". It is a modern work with clear references to the past.

Rutter's music is unmistakably populist - some might even say too much so. He could certainly make a

An Evening of French Poetry Set for March 27

CRANFORD - On Tuesday, March 27, the Tea Spot in Cranford will host a Soiree de Poesie Francaise, an Evening of French Poetry, at 7 p.m.

Read a passage in French, or recite from memory and you will be entered to win a gift certificate. Or just listen while you sip tea in a welcoming atmosphere. This month's featured poet is Paul Verlaine.

If you are interested in attending, RSVP to carriehudak@gmail.com. Merci!

living writing Broadway or Hollywood scores if he chose, but he uses his undeniable gifts almost exclusively in the service of church music. His music is characterized by lovely flowing melodies and rich harmonies, with oft-changing meters and rhythmic patterns that can give amateur choristers headaches. It doesn't sound hard, but in actuality it is. The Oratorio Singers did a good job with the complex score, and negotiated the tricky rhythmic spots well. If there were any complaints, they stemmed mostly from the "Of a Rose" movement, where the orchestral accompaniment is very slight and small mistakes have nowhere to hide. It is a wordy text, and the men, in particular, needed to sing with more line, not letting the words get in the way of the music. The women had one small miscue, but in the larger scheme of things it wasn't important. They all sang with great gusto in the lively movements and with nice line in the quieter ones. The sopranos, especially, had a clean, cohesive sound with good presence in all the movements.

Once again, the soprano soloist, Hope Hudson, was not the voice for the work. The *Magnificat* solos call for either a soprano with a strong low-to-middle register or a mezzo with good high notes. Ms. Hudson's high notes were fine, but she could not cut through the orchestra in the other parts of her range, and the beautiful effect of a voice soaring over the other parts was lost.

The orchestra played well, but was a bit short on lower string sound. Either the room does not carry the bass well, or they just need to hire more cellos and basses, but the orchestral sound was sometimes lacking the foundation of a solid underpinning. When the organ joined in the balance was better, as the organ's full bass sound provided what was missing.

But all in all, it was an afternoon of fine choral singing and music making, and both the performers and the audience had a good time.

Meet Author Gelbwasser at The Town Book Store

WESTFIELD - The Town Book Store will host Margie Gelbwasser, author of the teen novel, *Pieces of Us*, on Saturday, March 24, from 2 to 4 p.m.

"Pieces of Us" is told in four points of view and hones in on the growing issue of cyber bullying, as well as, abuse, family relationships, and how one's actions can affect the lives of others.

Each summer, hidden away in the lakeside community in upstate New York, four teens leave behind their old identities and escape from their everyday lives. Yet, back in Philadelphia during the school year, Alex cannot suppress his anger at his father (who killed himself), his mother (whom he blames for it), and the girls who give it up too easily. His younger brother, Kyle, is angry too - at his abusive brother, and at their mother who does not seem to care. Meanwhile, in suburban New Jersey, Katie plays the role of "Miss Perfect" while trying to forget the nightmare that changed her life. But Julie, her younger sister, sees Katie only as everything she's not - and their mother will never let Julie forget it. Up at the lake, they can be anything, anyone. Free. But then Katie's secret gets out, forcing each of them to face reality - before it tears them to pieces.

Margie Gelbwasser is also the author of "Inconvenient," which is a 2011 Sydney Taylor Notable Book for teens. She is a freelance writer who has written for *Self, Ladies' Home Journal*, and *Girl's Life*.

Meet Margie Gelbwasser at The Town Book Store located at 270 East Broad Street in Westfield (corner of East Broad and Elmer Streets). If you are unable to attend this event, feel free to call The Town Book Store at (908) 233-3535 to reserve an autographed copy.



FUN FOR ALL... A myriad of exciting artistic experiences await participants of the 2012 New Jersey Workshop for the Arts Summer Workshop.

Urban Art on Display at LightSoundspace in Rahway

'Jersey Burns' exhibit opens Thursday, April 5

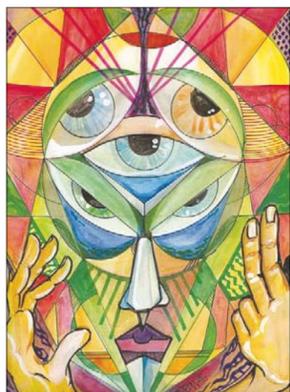
RAHWAY - In partnership with non-profit Rahway Arts District, Inc., Fly Dragon Studio and the Vicious Styles crew present "Jersey Burns," an exhibition of paintings, drawings, and photography by five contemporary urban artists at LightSoundSpace, 1591 Irving Street in Rahway. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, April 5, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public.

The featured artists, all from New Jersey, include Demerock, Snow, Rain, Will Kasso, and Gentrified.

Graffiti writing is a non-traditional medium that has begun receiving attention as a legitimate art form in recent years. A growing number of artists world-wide have been prompted to take their art from the streets to the gallery walls. One well-known example is an exhibit of street artists, organized by Banksy, at London's Tate Modern in 2008.

Urban-inspired fine art typically draws on the stylistic lettering of graffiti, and other forms of street art, for inspiration. Beside that, urban art often responds to the artists' everyday lives. "My art is a fusion of life and imagination," says Leon Rainbow (a.k.a. Rain). "I take graffiti and morph it with fine art, combin(ing) it with an underlying message."

Beyond the exhibition, the involved artists plan to work with Rahway Arts District, Inc. to create a community-based arts project, in addition to teaching a workshop for kids on graffiti-style lettering. The workshop will teach basic lettering skills that kids can develop and personalize over time. An emphasis will be placed on finding a positive outlet for creativity and dis-



"Visionary" by Leon Rainbow

couraging vandalism. A nominal fee will be charged for each workshop participant.

The date of the workshop is still to be determined, but interested individuals can email rahwayartsdistrict@gmail.com or call (732) 540-1075 for more information.

"Jersey Burns" will be on view from Thursday, April 5 through Saturday, April 21. After the initial opening, gallery hours are held on Thursdays, 1 to 4 p.m. and during other scheduled events. Call (732) 540-1075 for more information.

Westfield Community Band Seeks Alumni

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Community Band, conducted by Dr. Thomas Connors, is celebrating their 100th Anniversary season. As part of those celebrations, the band is seeking alumni to join in this summer's festivities. In addition to tracing its roots, the band is inviting conductor's and former members of the band to join in the anniversary celebration, which will include an alumni performance and alumni dinner.

The band's upcoming season includes a spring concert, debuting a newly commissioned work by New Jersey composer Bruce Yurko, on Sunday, April 29, at 3 p.m. at Westfield High School and a series of summer concerts in Mindowaskin Park beginning Thursday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m.

The band is hoping area residents will help track down past members and conductors by spreading the word and encouraging them to join the celebration.

If you or a member of your family have been part of the Westfield Community Band's 100 year history of performing music in Westfield, please contact the band at info@westfieldcommunityband.com.



GETTING THE BAND BACK TOGETHER... The Westfield Community Band is celebrating its 100th anniversary season. As part of those celebrations, the band is seeking alumni to join in this summer's festivities. If you, or a member of your family have been part of the Westfield Community Band's 100 year history of performing music in Westfield, please contact the band at info@westfieldcommunityband.com.

WANT A FUN WAY TO SPEND YOUR FRIDAY NIGHT? HOW ABOUT TRYING OUT FOR A GAME SHOW?

Come to an OPEN CASTING CALL!!!

**Friday, March 30th, 2012, 4-10pm
The Station Bar & Grill
99 Center Street (at South Ave.), Garwood, NJ**

A NY-based production company is casting 25-50 year-olds to participate in a local game show. Looking for outgoing & adventurous personalities to engage in fun, funny games. (Don't worry - nothing dangerous, overly physical or R-rated!)

Small monetary stipend if selected... and possibly more!

Please stop by March 30th - can't wait to meet you!

Email: MindGamesCasting@gmail.com with any questions.