

## Union County Art Exhibit Seeks Artists 60 and Older

UNION COUNTY — Residents of Union County who are 60 years of age or older are invited to participate and exhibit an original work of art — completed within the last three years — in the annual Union County Senior Citizens Art Exhibit. Sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, the exhibit is open to entrants who are either amateur/non-professional or professional in status.

"While the exhibit itself begins in June, this invitation to participate gives artists time to prepare their artwork to be included in the exhibit," said Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board. "The artwork will be displayed in the Atrium of the Elizabethtown Gas Company, Liberty Hall Center, 1085 Morris Avenue, Union, from June 1 to July 14, with an artists' reception scheduled for Wednesday, June 12."

Any person who meets at least two of the following criteria is considered professional: sold the type of art entered in the exhibition through commercial channels; exhibited in a professional gallery or held professional membership in a guild or association.

Following are the 11 categories of eligible work: oil, acrylic, watercolor (includes gouache), pastel (including chalk, charcoal and oil pastel), print (such as etching, engraving, lithograph, woodcut, monoprint, monotype, silkscreen), drawing (including pencil, pen, ink, graphite, and markers), mixed media (combines two or more media, not one of which clearly predominates; includes collage and assemblage), sculpture (designed in three dimensions, carved or constructed in any medium, abstract or figurative, painted or unpainted), craft (one-of-a-kind creations only, no craft kits or molds), computer imagery (artwork created by computer only, using a pixel-based painting or graphics program, such as Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator or Corel Painter), and photography. Please note: photos taken with a digital camera, digitally-altered photos, and images made using a scanner must be entered in the Photography category.

Three professional artists will judge the entries. Awards will go to first, second, third place and honorable

mention winners in each category. First place winners in all categories go on to compete in September at the New Jersey State Senior Citizens Art Show, which will take place at the Meadow Lakes retirement community (www.meadowlakesonline.org) in East Windsor.

Guidelines require that hanging artwork, crafts and photos must be no more than 36 inches and no less than 11 inches in height and width, including matting, from outer edges of the frame. Standing sculptures or 3-D crafts may not exceed 18 inches in height, width or depth, including the base.

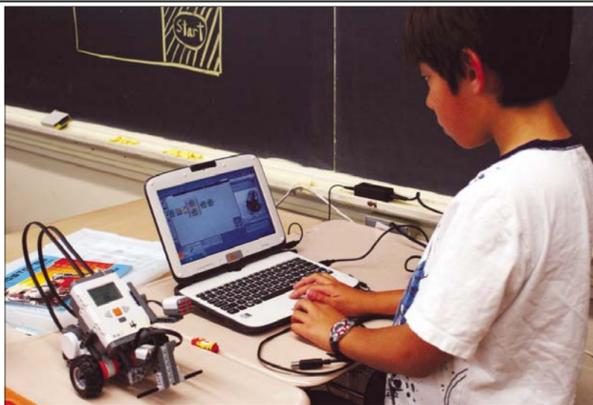
All works must be properly labeled and delivered "show-ready" with screw eyes and wiring ready for hanging. Where necessary, pictures must be protected with glass, Plexiglas, Mylar or other clear material. Plexiglas is strongly recommended on pieces over 24 inches.

To obtain an application, call Teya David, Senior Art Coordinator, at the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, (908) 558-2550, or email culturalinfo@ucnj.org. Relay users dial 711. Mail completed applications to the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, N.J. 07202; or fax your application to (908) 352-3513 on or before Wednesday, May 22, to be eligible for the exhibit.

### Faith Player to Present Down the Rabbit Hole

SCOTCH PLAINS - After a seven-year hiatus Faith Players come back with a bang! Or a fall...Down a Rabbit Hole that is. Faith Players will present the original play *Down the Rabbit Hole*. This play is based on the famous Lewis Carroll classic "Alice in Wonderland," and was written by Tori Clemens with original musical soundtrack by Scotch Plains resident Neal Acito.

Performances will be held Friday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 27, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Performance will be held at the First United Methodist Church in Scotch Plains located at 1171 Terrill Road. Tickets are \$8 and will be sold at the door. For more information or to reserve tickets, email Tori314@aol.com.



SUMMER WORKSHOP... Various classes in Robotics will be offered at the 2013 New Jersey Workshop for the Arts Summer Workshop.

## Science and LEGOs Perfect Fit at NJWA Workshop

WESTFIELD — The NJWA Summer Workshop, in partnership with LEGO Education, will offer a series of LEGO programs in its 2013 curriculum this summer. These classes promote the goals of higher-order thinking skills, increase the capacity for creativity and promote teamwork and cooperative learning.

The First Grade Workshop will offer a pre-engineering program called LEGO Education: Simple Machines. In addition, they will also be exploring language arts through the LEGO Education Story Starters program.

Second and third graders can choose Engineering: Simple and Motorized Mechanisms, and Robotics. Those in the fourth and fifth grades may also select Engineering: Simple and Motorized Mechanisms and Robotics: Renewable Energy, where they will investigate energy supply, transfer, accumulation, conversion and consumption. In Robotics: Mayan Adventure, students will use an engaging Mayan Adventure story-line to set up exciting challenges, work out plausible solutions and see them realized in construction.

Students in the sixth through eighth grades can enroll in Engineering: Pneumatics, where they will explore power systems and components, sequencing and control, pressure, prototyping and kinetic and potential energy. Robotics: Green City Chal-

lenge takes robotics to a higher and greener level as participants build challenge models such as power plants, wind turbines and dams.

In addition, to the LEGO Education courses, other science classes enhance the curriculum. These include age-appropriate classes in the pre-k through first grade, Archaeology for grades 2 through 5, Catapults for grades 4 and 5, Rocket Science and Structural Engineering for those in grades 6 through 8.

The NJWA Summer Workshop will be held from Monday, July 1, through Friday, August 2, at Edison Intermediate School on Rahway Avenue in Westfield, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. An optional early morning drop-off is available, as well as a full day of programming in conjunction with the Westfield YMCA.

To view, download or print the 2013 NJWA Summer Workshop brochure and application, visit www.njwa.summerworkshop.com. Completed applications should be mailed or delivered to the address indicated on the form.

The NJWA Summer Workshop is a division of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. For additional information about the summer program, call (908) 518-1551, e-mail njwasummerworkshop@gmail.com or visit the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts studios at 150-152 East Broad Street, Westfield.

## NJWA Anniversary Celebration to Feature Watson

WESTFIELD — The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA) will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a concert on Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m. at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 229 Cowperthwaite Place in Westfield.

The event will present "Watson... A Dog and His Band," directed by "Cadillac" Phil Rinaldi. The band, steeped in the tradition of the great Maynard Ferguson, is known for its jazz, rock and funk style. Among the popular tunes for this concert will be "Day in, Day Out," "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You," "I've Got the World on a String," "Rocky Theme," "When You're Smiling," "In the Mood," "Georgia on My Mind" and "Maria" from *West Side Story*.

The NJWA was founded in 1972 by Dr. Ted Schlosberg, a music teacher in the Westfield Public Schools, as a response to parent and student interest in offering children an opportunity to pursue their musical talents during the summer months. The five-week program, originally called the Westfield Band-Orchestra-Chorus Summer Workshop, soon grew to encompass musical theater, dance, drama and fine arts and crafts. Succeeding years saw the addition of creative classes in language, writing, special interests and pre-school classes.

Designated a non-profit 501 (c) 3 corporation in 1977, Dr. Schlosberg continued to develop additional year-round programs, specifically in music. In 1989, he founded the Music Studio, which began in an office building in Fanwood. Soon, the growth of the Music Studio necessitated a move to larger quarters and, in September of 1993, the studio moved to its present location on East Broad Street in Westfield. The



WATSON... "Cadillac" Phil Rinaldi will direct the band Watson for the 40th Anniversary Concert for the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts.

Westfield Fencing Club also became part of the offerings of the organization.

Throughout the years, the NJWA has remained committed to its mission statement of enriching lives "by providing opportunities to develop creative talents and encourage a greater appreciation of the arts through both instruction and performance."

Tickets for the anniversary concert, priced at \$10, are available at the NJWA studios at 150-152 East Broad Street, Westfield, or at the door prior to the concert. For additional information about the NJWA, call (908) 789-9696 or log on to www.njworkshopforthearts.com. More information about the band Watson can be found at www.DrWatsonPhD.com.

## Optimist Club of Westfield Sponsors Oratorical Contest

WESTFIELD - The Optimist Club of Westfield is encouraging Westfield seventh grade students enrolled in Public Speaking to "speak their mind" as part of the 2013 Westfield Optimist Oratorical Contest.

The topics are: "How my optimism helps me overcome obstacles," "Cybercommunications, progress or problem?," "Does the violence in electronic media (video games, movies, TV, etc.) cause violent behavior in teens?," and "Why my voice is important."

Faculty and administration will judge the initial rounds of speeches based on content and presentation and select five finalists from each intermediate school. The finals will be held in the Westfield High School Student Center at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 25. Each of the finalists will receive recognition of their ac-

complishment with the top three winners awarded a medal and a cash award.

This is the eighth year the Optimist Club has sponsored the Oratorical Contest. The Club has been active since 1989 with community programs and service projects including holiday food baskets, sponsorship and mentoring of the Junior Optimists at Westfield High School, and the annual Project Graduation BASH.

The Club also recognizes special achievements in the community with the annual Youth Volunteer Award and the Intermediate School Teachers of the Year Award.

Questions about the Oratorical Contest should be directed to Irv Brand at (908) 654-3197. To request additional information about the Optimist Club contact membership chair Mike Walsh at (908) 317-9813.

## WF Community Band Begins Season with Spring Concert

WESTFIELD — As the premiere event of its 101th anniversary season, the Westfield Community Band will perform its annual Spring Concert on Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m. at the Edison Intermediate School auditorium, 800 Rahway Avenue, Westfield. Under the direction of conductor Dr. Thomas Connors, the band will be performing selections by master American composers, George Gershwin and Aaron Copland.

"An American in Paris" was written by Gershwin four years after making his first trip to Paris for the premiere of "Rhapsody in Blue" in 1924. Gershwin was interested in composing an orchestral work describing his impressions of Paris, including the authentic Parisian taxi horns. The piece was first performed in 1928 by the New York Philharmonic.

Copland's "An Outdoor Overture" was written in 1938 for the High School of Music and Art in New York City. While it is recognized as an "invigorating open air piece," "An Outdoor Overture" was actually first performed at the indoor auditorium of the High School of Music and Art. While written for a high school orchestra, the composition maintains a near-professional level of difficulty and features the signature Copland syncopation and melodic technique.

The band will also perform the Robert Russell Bennett arrangement of Richard Rogers' "Overture" from *South Pacific*, featuring all of the familiar songs from Broadway show of the same name. Other selections in the program include "Mountain Song" by contemporary composer Philip Sparke, "Symphonic Songs for Band" by Robert Russell Bennett, and Michael Glinka's "Overture" from *Ruslan and Ludmila*.

The band will also be performing a special outdoor Memorial Eve Concert on Sunday, May 26, at the Fanwood Train Station Park and will appear in the Westfield and Scotch Plains Memorial Day parades. On Thursdays, June 27, July 4, 11 and 18, the band will perform outdoor concerts in Mindowaskin



Dr. Thomas Connors

Park for its annual Summer Concert Series. The band will conclude its 2013 performance calendar with the 23rd Annual Holiday Concert at Edison Intermediate School in December.

The band rehearses each Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Community Room in the Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street. The band's membership includes musicians from age 16 to age 86, including many active and retired music educators. Under the music direction of Dr. Thomas Connors, director of Instrumental Music Studies and an assistant professor of music education at Kean University, the band continues to perform a wide variety of concert band literature, including many contemporary compositions. Experienced area musicians who are interested in a position with the band should contact band president Barry Rosenberg at (908) 337-9073 or info@westfieldcommunityband.com. The band is sponsored in part by the Westfield Recreation Department and other local and corporate supporters.

See it all on the Web!  
www.goleader.com



SWIRL...Galeria West Art and Framing will present "Swirl," by Irena Pejovic of Cranford. "Swirl" is a solar plate etching monoprint, created in Macedonia, during a printmaking workshop in 2011, and it was the first time solar plate photo etching was introduced and taught in the country by the artist herself. The print will be on display until Saturday, April 20 at Galeria West located at 111 Quimby Street, Westfield.

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*Nora*  
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## POPCORN G.I. Joe: Retaliation Revenge is oh so Sour

1 popcorn

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

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER  
Film Critic

Call it a testament to the strength of our culture. The incredible thing about director Jon M. Chu's *G.I. Joe: Retaliation*, an old-fashioned shoot-'em-up dressed in brave new world clothing, is that for all its nihilistic, cacophonous violence, there seems to be a need to include some sort of storyline. Alas, all is not lost. And that's about it for the rosy side.

Probably the sorriest aspect of this adventure about the elite defenders of freedom known as the G.I. Joes is that its sensibilities consist of the same old war stories we humans have been rehashing since time immemorial, but with an aberrant mirror on the contemporary scene. Shouldn't we have developed something a little bit better by now? Just sayin'.

Adding insult to injury, for those not hip to this franchise that has evolved from either a doll or an action figure depending on your socialization, there's tons of lore to learn. Tossed into the theater like a shanghaied sailor, frazzled by the lack of a glossary, I was Alice in Hell, and wished for a second I had chosen podiatry instead of movie reviewing.

But, reminded of Dr. Halberstodder's tolerant cautionary in Lousy Movies 101 back at Olde Ivy Film Criticism College, I recalled my mission and oath. I was here as an explorer, a Lewis and/or Clark, or maybe even an Alexis de Tocqueville, dedicated to finding out and informing. Good assignment or bad, there's no crying in film criticism.

Besides, I'd probably have to pass organic to be a podiatrist. So, armed with trusty box of Goobers™ and other gustatory appurtenances of the trade, my scales of justice reset, I sallied forth. Sadly, while it is generally held that having an open mind might render a film less tedious, *G.I. Joe: Retaliation* may be the exception that proves the rule.

While Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson as the main Joe is granted that certain likeability and leniency we afford our strongmen who emigrate to movies in search of continued bucks and stardom after they're done with the heavy lifting, he doesn't quite make it. Weissmuller was so bad he was good; Arnold is Arnold; and Dwayne, well, is just there.

As he is supported by allies and enemies who don't even earn that distinction, what's left is the usual action template, gussied up the way Hollywood assumes the younger third of the Great Unwashed want the amusement portion of their bread and circus served. In other words, X

amount of carnage per linear foot of celluloid, and lots of explosions.

So take heed, Tyler and Brittney, if you're still in a quandary as what to be when you grow up. Whereas Benjamin in *The Graduate* (1967) was advised to go into plastics, beckoning now on the economic horizon is f/x, with a concentration in explosions. Yep, whole bunches. This film can't seem to ignite enough of 'em. But it's worse than that.

Though legitimate action movies may ungratuitously focus on the wounds of combat to emphasize the sheer horror of it all, *G.I. Joe: Retaliation* cuts away at just the right moment, sneakily sanitizing the awfulness. It's the same sort of sugarcoating perpetrated on this generation by liquor distillers when they market booze-laced juice drinks.

Thus, if films are any barometer, The Age of Special Privilege is now being replaced by the Era of Euphemism and Detachment. And, whether too lazy to pen their own stories or cannily stealing the old stuff to camouflage the obvious dearth of ideas, this example uses the same old good guy renegade ploy...the hero abandoned by an unthankful nation.

But, just in case that's not hackneyed enough, the President (Jonathan Pryce) who has announced that Dwayne Johnson's Roadblock and his G.I. Joes are officially persona non grata isn't really the President. Nope, he's really archenemy Zartan. Of course this is why he informs that henceforth Cobra (read evildoers) will be America's main security force.

Naturally, these bad guys have nothing less than world domination in mind, and because they're malevolent but not very creative, they heist an old 007 movie stratagem to hold the globe hostage. Project Zeus, capable of orbital nuclear bombardment, or some such nasty stuff, will snuff out any country that doesn't grovel before the Cobra Commander.

Filling the interstices, because even junky cinema cannot live by mass extermination alone, is the sort of feeble macho banter that makes you want to rejoice when the detonations resume. All of which leaves me to conclude that in trying to be objective and fair whilst assaying *G.I. Joe: Retaliation*, it is true that no good deed goes unpunished.

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*G.I. Joe: Retaliation*, rated PG-13, is a Paramount Pictures release directed by Jon M. Chu and stars Dwayne Johnson, Adrienne Palicki and Bruce Willis. Running time: 110 minutes