



Fred T. Rossi for The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
VIEW FROM ABOVE...Look closely and you can spot a 200-year-old aqueduct as you land in the Portuguese capital of Lisbon.

On An Airplane, Head For The Window Seat

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specially Written for the Summer Travel Series

In a perfect world, the best seat on an airplane is, of course, in first-class, with the hot towels and complimentary cocktails and more room and the privilege of being first to board and first to get off. Back in the real world, for those of us not willing to shell out the extra bucks, we pay for what we get: seats behind that thin curtain separating the first-class hoi polloi from of us commoners back in coach.

So where are the best seats to be found when a first-class upgrade is not in the cards? I do my best to avoid the last row or two, near the lavatories, as well as seats located in emergency exit rows. I will freely admit that my fellow passengers don't want me acting as amateur safety director in the event of any type of airplane emergency. I also do my best to avoid getting stuck in a middle seat—often between an arm-rest hog and a sleeping passenger whose head invariably falls onto my shoulder. Aisle seats aren't bad; I find, however, that the beverage cart often knocks into my outstretched legs while I sleep or I have to continually get up to let my seatmates out.

For me, the best place to sit on a plane is the window seat—despite the hassles involved when you have to use the rest room. It's through the little window that I can watch as the departing plane gains speed and then lifts off into the sky, affording me wonderful bird's eye views of familiar local spots like the New Jersey Turnpike and other highways, the oil tank farms in Linden and Carteret, the courthouse building in Elizabeth, the Manhattan skyline, Staten Island, the Verrazano Bridge and Sandy Hook.

It's because of those window seats that I've been able to see some beautiful and interesting sights over the years. It's fun when landing at Newark Airport during the day to try to pick out towns and other landmarks, especially along the Jersey Shore. Coming into Newark at night, and approaching from the north, you can look out and see the lights of the Bronx and Manhattan, starting with the George Washington Bridge and then heading down into Harlem and Central Park. After that, as the plane continues south towards Newark, it's possible to gaze down the length of each of Gotham's cross streets clear through to the East River: 57th Street, then 56th, then 55th, 54th, and so on all the way to about 14th Street, after which the streets cease being laid out in straight east-west lines.

Other U.S. cities offer window seat-worthy views as well, including Los Angeles where, on approach to LAX, you can pick out the Staples Center and downtown L.A. and, in the distance, the Hollywood sign, the white dome of the Griffith Park Observatory and the Santa Monica Mountains—along with the traffic-clogged highways. Landing at Reagan National Airport across

from Washington, D.C., involves flying right along the Potomac River, giving you the chance to pick out landmarks such as the Watergate, the Kennedy Center, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the Washington Monument and, in the distance, the U.S. Capitol. Out the other side, you can easily spot Arlington Cemetery with its seemingly endless rows of white headstones as well as the Pentagon.

As I was landing in Denver for the first time recently, I looked out my window and all I could see was endless miles of the Great Plains to the east. Then the plane turned and headed south towards the airport and—in one of those truly "Wow" moments in life—I was almost face to face with the Rocky Mountains and their snow-capped peaks, rugged terrain and sheer size. Without a doubt, one of the most breathtaking sights I have seen. I wonder what the first explorers heading west, the Lewis and Clarks of 200 years ago, must have thought to themselves when they first spotted the massive and seemingly impenetrable mountain range and wondered how in the world they were ever going to traverse it.

To get an idea of how much untouched land still exists in this country, fly over the southwestern U.S., especially New Mexico, Arizona and southeastern California, where you won't see much in the way of civilization for hundreds of miles in any direction, except for a lone highway winding its way through the mountains and across the desert floor. Occasionally, you'll see a car or a truck or perhaps a house or two that must be at least an hour's drive from the nearest sign of civilization. A few years ago, while flying home from San Diego, I was peering out the window from 35,000 feet up and spotted, in the middle of an otherwise barren desert, a mysterious rocket launch pad.

Peeking out the airplane window can yield other interesting sights: the tight twists and turns of the Mighty Mississippi River, whether near New Orleans or up by the Illinois-Iowa border; the lower portion of Lake Michigan, with Chicago along its southwestern shore and, at its bottom, Gary, Ind.; the stunning beauty of the Grand Canyon; and the picturesque network of waterways in southeastern Virginia at the bottom of the vast Chesapeake Bay near Hampton Roads. As you land at the airport in St. Maarten in the Caribbean, with the end of its short runway just a few yards from the beach, you'll be so close to the ground that you can almost read the labels on the bathing suits of sun worshippers who themselves can almost jump up and touch your plane's underbelly. Arriving in Lisbon a few years ago, my plane banked over the city's southern coast and afforded me a perfect view of the 200-foot tall archways of the old Aguas Livres Aqueduct that slices through the neighborhood treetops.

So now that we're off the airplane and out of the airport and, let's check out some interesting travel destinations, starting next week with one right in our own backyard.

Fanwood Series to Feature Westfield Poetry Group

FANWOOD—The Carriage House Poetry Series invites the public to hear readings by five local poets on Tuesday, June 16, at 8 p.m. in the Patricia Kuran Arts Center on Watson Road, off North Martine Avenue, adjacent to Fanwood Borough Hall (GPS use 75 N. Martine Avenue). Each of the featured readers is a member of the writers workshop known as the Westfield Poetry Group.

The Westfield Poetry Group was established in 2005 under the direction of poet Joe Weil and has been led since late 2005 by Fanwood's Poet Laureate, Adele Kenny. This highly motivated and long-running workshop meets monthly and its members have been widely published in books, journals and anthologies throughout the United States.

Charter members Wendy Rosenberg of Westfield, Linda

Radice of North Plainfield, and Bob Rosenbloom of Bound Brook will be joined by newer members Nancy Lubarsky of Cranford and Basil Rouskas of Long Valley in a celebration of the group's tenth anniversary. Books by the readers will be available for sale.

The Carriage House Poetry Series is currently in its seventeenth year at the Kuran Arts Center, an historic Gothic Revival structure that was once a 19th century carriage house, hence the name of the series. The June 16th reading is free and open to the public and will begin at 8 p.m. Time permitting, there will be an open mic after the featured readings.

For more information call (908) 889-7223 or (908) 889-5298. For online directions and information, visit www.carriagehousepoetryseries.blogspot.com.



O FORTUNA...The New Jersey Festival Orchestra's season finale featured the Pro Arte Chorale, Newark Arts High School Choir and alumni, Ridge High School Honors Choir as well as guest soloists baritone Christian Bowers, soprano Ashley Kerr and tenor Kyle Knappin a monumental collaborative performance last Saturday. Led by conductor and music director David Wroe the over 200 singers and musicians performed Orff's beloved "Carmina Burana" to audience thrills, cheers and standing ovation.

Top NJ Show Choirs Complete Statewide Tour

MILLBURN—Paper Mill Playhouse, one of the country's premier not-for-profit theaters, the place where American musical theater is celebrated, cherished, and pushed in exciting new directions, is thrilled to announce a one-night-only, Vocal Ovation Show Choir Extravaganza concert at Paper Mill Playhouse on Sunday, June 28, 2015 at 7 p.m. The evening will feature performances by the Paper Mill Playhouse Broadway Show Choir, The Harmony Show Choir and the RockNRoll Chorus. Vocal Ovation tickets are \$23 per person and may be purchased by calling (973) 376-4343, at the Paper Mill Playhouse Box Office at 22 Brookside Drive in Millburn, or online at www.papermill.org/shows-tickets/special-presentations.html

With hit TV shows such as "Glee" and "The Sing-Off", along with the excitement created by the two *Pitch Perfect* motion pictures, Show Choir performances have taken hold as an American music genre. Vocal Ovation, combines all of the current types of performance in one show. Featuring the best show choirs currently in the State of New Jersey, Vocal Ovation captures the magic of Broadway and pop with the Paper Mill Playhouse Broadway Show Choir. Pop, Motown, and swing fill the air with the Harmony Show Choir. The show is rounded out by the all a cappella Rock-n-Roll Chorus, just off their national tour. Vocal Ovation promises to be an exciting evening of music and fun for all ages.

"Touring the state with the Harmony Show Choir and the RockNRoll Chorus was a wonderful opportunity for students to perform at impressive venues and share their talents with thousands of New Jersey residents," commented Shayne Austin Miller, Paper Mill Playhouse Show Choir Director. "We are thrilled that this amazing collaboration will play its final stop at Paper Mill Playhouse."

The award-winning Paper Mill Playhouse Broadway Show Choir consists of nearly 50 young performing artists ages 16 to 22. Over the past three years the show choir has delighted more than 250,000 people across the region with their rousing renditions of Broadway, pop & classics. This season, the choir performed at Lincoln Center and other large events. The Paper Mill Playhouse Broadway Show Choir is an audition based, exhibition Show Choir that stems from Paper Mill Playhouse's Arts Education and Outreach programs. The Paper Mill Playhouse Broadway Show Choir act as ambassadors to Paper Mill Playhouse with an array of performance opportunities throughout the community and beyond. For more information about the Paper Mill Playhouse Broadway Show Choir visit www.papermill.org The Paper

Mill Playhouse Broadway Show Choir is presented by Overlook Medical Center, Atlantic Healthcare.

The Harmony Show Choir is an auditioned only group of 52 high school age performers from the Southern New Jersey area. They are professionally staged and choreographed in a high energy, family oriented musical revue. Their show contains a great mix of styles including: Broadway and newer Broadway tunes, oldies, Disney, The Great American Songbook, gospel, swing, pop, and country. Some of the selections are: The Lion King, Smokey Joe's Cafe, The Blues Brothers, Gershwin Rhapsody, Jersey Boys, Soul, Jump, Jive and Wail, and Sing, Sing, Sing, among others.

The RockNRoll Chorus launched its first tour and full length album in 2007. Since that time the chorus has been blessed with amazingly talented singers and performers over more than 15 casts! Casts have performed with, and opened for, Bruce Springsteen, Darlene Love, Jacquie Lee, Judy Collins, Gavin DeGraw, Sara Bareilles, Jefferson Airplane, Foreigner, Kelly Loggins, The Chieftains, Classic Albums Live: Pink Floyd, The Wall, Willie Nile, Jay Leno, Danu, Jill Tirrell and many studio records as a guest choir! The RockNRoll Chorus has also been on the Grammy ballot several times for tracks on their albums in the categories of "Best Performance, Pop Vocal Group or Duo," "Engineer of the Year," "Album of the Year," "Best Rock Record," "Producer of the Year," and others.

Lunatic Fringe Improv Offers a Summer's Worth of Laughs

MONTCLAIR—Audiences can enjoy "one for the road"—a laugh that is—before heading off to the Shore and points beyond for their summer vacations as Lunatic Fringe, New Jersey's premier improv troupe, will perform at the Glen Ridge Train Station on Saturday, June 13 at 8 p.m.

New Jersey's oldest continuously performing improv comedy troupe, Lunatic Fringe has been creating comedy without a script and without a net since 1997. The comedians combine music, audience suggestions and wit—without-a-wire to create a one-of-a-kind comic experience.

Lunatic Fringe performers in the show include: Maclean, Paul Murphy, Harvey Chipkin and David Groveman. Eric Heilner improvises on the piano and Jan Kamil runs the lights.

Tickets to the June 13 Lunatic Fringe performance at Glen Ridge train station (228 Ridgewood Avenue, near the corner of Bloomfield Avenue) are \$12 at the door, but with a reservation, admission is only \$10. For reservations, call (973) 429-1527.



YOUNG PATRIOTS...Fifth-graders from Westfield's McKinley Elementary School, led by music teacher Christina Toullos, sing the National Anthem at the recent Somerset Patriots game against the York Revolution. Over 325 members of the McKinley community attended the game as part of a school-wide family outing.

Babes in Arms Presented By Stage Craft Studio

SCOTCH PLAINS—Stage Craft Studio presents Rodgers and Hart's classic musical *Babes in Arms* on Friday, June 26 and Saturday, June 27 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, June 28 at 3 p.m. at Union Catholic High School, 1600 Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains.

Produced by Stage Craft Studio and directed by Maggie Graham, Rodgers and Hart's *Babes in Arms* is the quintessential "Hey, kids, let's put on a show!" musical, boasting one of the greatest scores ever written including such greats as: "Where Or When," "I Wish I Were In Love Again," "Johnny One-Note," "Way Out West," "My Funny Valentine," and "The Lady Is a Tramp." A group of teenagers are left without adult supervision when their folks hit the vaudeville summer circuit, and the local sheriff is determined to send the loafers to a work farm. The old-fashioned virtues of a 30's musical comedy are peppered with socio-political issues which have remained resonant for more than six decades, and which later became the hallmark of Rodgers' collaboration with Hammerstein. But it's the sophisticated jocularities that make his musicals

with Hart utterly unique, propelling these talented teens in their onward march toward self-discovery.

The talented 44 member cast features Bob Wischusen, the radio voice for the New York Jets; Eric Calvo, Lina Zikas, Nicole Cusmano, Christopher Elliott, Samantha Bordman, Ethan Graham, Daniel Dawson, Elizabeth Casserly, Philip Tice, Amelia Graham, Nicholas Cheney and many more.

Stage Craft Studio, a performing arts educational studio in downtown Scotch Plains, opened its doors on February 1 at 1735 E. Second Street. Stage Craft Studio owners, Julie Wischusen, of Cranford and Maggie Graham, of Fanwood, have long envisioned a space where children of all ages as well as adults can gather to hone their theatrical skills in a supportive and creative environment. *Babes in Arms* is the company's first full scale musical production.

Tickets are \$15 Adults and \$12 Students and Seniors. Tickets are available at showtix4u.com or by calling (866) 967-8167.

For more information, visit www.stagecraftstudio.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD

Public Notice is hereby given that an ordinance of which the following is a copy was introduced, read and passed on first reading by the Council of the Town of Westfield at a meeting held June 9, 2015 and that the said Council will further consider the same for final passage on the 23rd day of June, 2015, at 8:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as said matter can be reached, in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey, at which time and place any person who may be interested therein will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

Claire J. Gray
Town Clerk

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2049

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2025 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD CHAPTER 2, "ADMINISTRATION," ARTICLE II, "TOWN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, DIVISION 3, PERSONNEL POSITIONS AND SALARY SCHEDULE," SEC. 2-12.28, "SCHEDULE."

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of Westfield in the County of Union as follows:

SECTION I. That the Code of the Town of Westfield be and is hereby amended by revising Section 2-12.28, "Schedule," in Chapter 2, "Administration" Article II, "Town Officers and Employees," Division 3, "Personnel Positions and Salary Schedule," so that the same shall read as follows:

JOB TITLE	SALARY RANGE
Municipal Defender	\$13,938 - \$16,028
Municipal Prosecutor	\$29,957 - \$34,450
Library Assistant I	\$31,312 - \$38,674
Custodian	\$36,590 - \$42,079
Senior Custodian	\$38,530 - \$44,310
Library Assistant II	\$41,345 - \$47,547
Office Manager	\$44,954 - \$51,697
Municipal Magistrate	\$52,613 - \$60,504
Payroll Benefits Manager	\$53,013 - \$71,129
Parking Services Director	\$53,364 - \$73,456
Administrative Secretary	\$55,985 - \$64,382
Field Engineer	\$65,123 - \$74,891
Assistant Director of Recreation	\$65,340 - \$75,141
Librarian	\$66,922 - \$76,960
Assistant Library Director	\$67,970 - \$78,166
Executive Assistant	\$68,315 - \$78,562
Zoning Officer	\$69,369 - \$79,774
Municipal Court Administrator	\$69,571 - \$80,007
Supervisor Public Works	\$73,800 - \$84,870
Town Surveyor	\$79,907 - \$91,893
Tax Collector	\$80,126 - \$92,145
Tax Assessor	\$81,187 - \$93,480
Assistant Director of Public Works	\$83,514 - \$96,041
Recreation Director	\$85,253 - \$98,040
Town Clerk	\$85,521 - \$98,349
Assistant Town Engineer	\$86,901 - \$99,936
Library Director	\$92,012 - \$105,814
Town Planner	\$94,231 - \$108,367
Construction Official	\$94,972 - \$109,217
Director of Public Works	\$95,748 - \$110,110
Deputy Fire Chief	\$117,415 - \$135,027
Town Engineer	\$118,515 - \$136,292
Chief Financial Officer	\$112,600 - \$139,946
Fire Chief	\$134,930 - \$155,169
Police Chief	\$141,543 - \$162,774
Town Administrator	\$154,113 - \$177,230

SECTION II. The Personnel and Position Salary Schedule set forth in Sec. 2-12.28 as hereby amended shall take place as of January 1, 2015.

SECTION III. Any or all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict, or inconsistent, with any part of the terms of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent that they are in such conflict or inconsistent.

SECTION IV. In the event that any section, part or provision of this ordinance shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid by any court, such holdings shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole, or any part thereof, other than the part so held unconstitutional or invalid.

SECTION V. This ordinance shall take effect after passage and publication as soon as, and in the manner provided by law. 1 T - 6/11/15, The Leader Fee: \$126.48

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



CABARET PERFORMERS... The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison held its sixth annual Cookin' Cabaret, which featured the usual array of talent in the performing arts from the Upper School students. Parents, students and friends enjoyed a barbecue in the AP Room and several wonderful performances, including Steven Bessette and CJ Stueck of Scotch Plains, who performed Billy Joel's Piano Man, and Akash Dalal of Scotch Plains, who combined vocals and guitar to Ed Sheeran's Thinking Out Loud.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS
AT THE 20th Annual
SPRING RECITALS

Now registering for both the
SUMMER & FALL SESSIONS,
for all age groups.

Paul Nazzaro Music Studio
Piano Lessons and Music Technology

Call **908-232-3310**
or visit us online at

www.NazzaroMusic.com

Listen to our recitals online at
NazzaroMusic.com and
YouTube/nazzaromusic