

Arts and Entertainment

The VooDUDES to Perform On Aug. 19 on Village Green

SCOTCH PLAINS - The VooDUDES will take the stage tonight from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on the Village Green in Scotch Plains.

The Scotch Plains Cultural Arts Committee will sponsor the free concert. Spectators are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs.

The VooDUDES are known to play Creole, southern folk and island music.

Free birch beer will be provided at the concert compliments of the Scotch Plains Junior Women's Club. The committee will also hold its

final art auction of the season. Renoir's "Woman with Lilacs," a framed lithograph, will be raffled off for \$5 a ticket or 3 tickets for \$10. The winning ticket will be pulled prior to the final song performed by the VooDUDES.

In the event of rain, the concert will be moved indoors to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School auditorium. For more information, please call the Recreation Office at (908) 322-6700.



GROOVY TUNES, DUDE... Carnaby Street took the stage on August 5 on the Village Green in Scotch Plains, keeping the crowds cool with melodies from the 60s. Pictured, left to right, are: Guitarist and Vocalist Chris Roselle, Drummer Tommy Russo and Guitarist and Vocalist John Grazianno.

The Dining Table



JACK BAKER'S LOBSTER SHANTY

81-83 Channel Drive, Point Pleasant Beach, (732) 899-6700

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

A crock of the creamiest New England Clam Chowder, brimming full of clumps of clam and perfect spices awaits you at Jack Bakers Lobster Shanty & Wharfside in Point Pleasant Beach. The rest of the fare...well, it has its moments.

If I were to rate Jack Bakers over the handful of times I've been there, I would have given it at least 3 chef hats. But, based on the service and quality of this past dining experience, I would have to take a closer look.

The restaurant, which opened circa 30 years ago, gives diners a generous room with a view. Doves of screeching seagulls and boats full of waving and frolicking sailors are entertaining. It's a pretty good conversation starter and it adds to the atmosphere. If you're a regular patron of the restaurant, it's just part of the wallpaper.

Our waitress, Katie, seemed quite dazed and confused as she missed adding an extra place setting, as well as several other comfort factors during the meal. She took so long to get our bread basket, we thought she went to the grocery store to get it. Or maybe she was baking it?

The bread basket consists of toasted rounds of buttered garlic bread sprinkled with parmesan cheese. But, who cares about that when you can enjoy the sweet and addictive zeppoles sprinkled with confectioners sugar. At least 10 of the little marvels are ready for the devouring.

The Early Bird Dinner Selection, which ranges from \$9.99 to \$13.99 complete with choice of chowder or salad, potato or rice, beverage and dessert, was apparently seasonal. When we asked another waiter about the unavailability of the meals, he told us that the selection was for earlier in the summer and had to be curtailed due to the wait staff. I still don't understand that reasoning.

So...we looked over to the pricier menu which ranges from \$10.99 to \$30. Dessert not included.

For an appetizer, we selected a 1/2 pound portion of Steamers for \$6.99. Katie slammed a wooden bowl for our discarded shells down on our table. "Here you go!" she announced as the bowl of clams followed with one cup of drawn butter and another of clam broth.

Now, I've had this appetizer be-

fore at Jack Bakers. For some reason, I remember the portion was bigger and the clams were certainly fresher. It is rare that I have to discard some of the clams because of poor quality. I discarded two or three that afternoon.

But, there was still a couple rays of hope to follow! The chowder would soon be on its way. A little later than sooner, it was placed upon the table in a (shall we say) calmer fashion than the appetizer. The chowder met all of our expectations and I have yet to find a better stock in another restaurant.

The presentation of my entree, Stuffed Flounder, (\$15.99) was excellent. The filets were amply filled with lumps of delicious crabmeat, ideally spiced. Julienne of carrot and green squash were draped and criss-crossed upon the plate with a generous lemon wedge. The baked potato which accompanied my meal was also large, but it was not piping hot.

The absence of tarter and cocktail sauces was disappointing. You shouldn't have to ask for these things. They should be a staple at any table in a seafood restaurant. I know they can spare it because I've seen it on my table before. However, upon requesting the additional condiments, Katie seemed at ease with going out of her way.

The flounder was not as fork tender as I would have liked. In fact, it had a kind of rubbery quality that was not easy to ignore. The edges of the filets were crisp and not easy to cut away with the edge of a fork. I've had better. That was a doggie-bag wrap. I'll use it for evidence. Exhibit A.

I will have to base my opinion of the desserts at Jack Bakers based on previous experiences. I can boast of the Homemade Rice Pudding which is unbelievably priced at \$1.50 and the Cheesecake (\$2.99).

There was only one occasion when the rice in the pudding seemed to be undercooked and quite crunchy. That was when Jack Baker's owned a restaurant in Belmar which no longer exists.

However, there are additional restaurants in Hightstown on Route 33 and Toms River on Robbins Parkway. The dining experience might be very different in these establishments. Give it a try. As for my most recent experience in Point Pleasant Beach, it wasn't a day at the beach.



STATE OF THE ART

Music

Rob Paparozzi and the **Hudson River Rats** will play blues music in Echo Lake Park on Wednesday, August 25, at 7:30 p.m.: **The VooDUDES** will perform Mardi Gras tunes this evening, August 19, at 7:30 p.m. on the Village Green in Scotch Plains; Swing, dance and music will be played by **New Power Soul** on Thursday, August 26, at 7:30 p.m. on the Village Green; **The Party Dolls** will take the stage on August 26 at 7 p.m. in Rahway on West Main and Irving Streets.

THE CROSSROADS IN GARWOOD will welcome **Friday's Child** on August 19; **Billy Hector** on Friday, August 20; **The Billy Populus Band** and **Brother Chameleon** on Saturday, August 21 and **Splodge** on August 26. **Jazz Jam** will be held on Monday evenings at 8:30 p.m. and **Open Blues Jam** will be held on Wednesdays.

WATERLOO VILLAGE in

Stanhope will host **Afternoon Folk Music** on Sunday, August 22, from 1 to 5 p.m. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, please call (973) 347-0900.

Literature

BARNES & NOBLE IN CLARK will host **Celebration of Three Children's Classics** with "Harold and the Purple Crayon," "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and "The Little Engine That Could" on Tuesday, August 24, at 7 p.m. For more information, please call (732) 574-1818.

Art

WATERLOO VILLAGE will also host **Beehives to Beeswax** on Saturday, August 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Demonstration on wax and candle production will be featured. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call (973) 347-0900.

Katie Downey is Awarded Marc Hardy Scholarship

WESTFIELD - The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA) recently awarded the Marc Hardy Scholarship to Katie Downey of Scotch Plains.

Awarded to a talented student in

man on his way to college and a bright theatrical career," remarked NJWA spokeswoman Kitty Schlosberg. "The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts established this scholarship to honor its former stu-



RIISING STAR... Jan Elby, a member of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts Board of Trustees, left, presents the Marc Hardy Scholarship to Katie Downey of Scotch Plains. The scholarship, awarded in memory of a Westfield Summer Workshop student, honors talented thespians in Summer Workshop productions. Katie's resumé includes appearances in *Snow White* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

a production of the Westfield Summer Workshop, the scholarship honors the late Marc W. Hardy, who was a student in the Summer Workshop.

Marc was a senior at Westfield High School when he was killed in a 1990 car accident. A member of the National Honor Society, he also participated in various theater productions and was a soloist for several Westfield choirs.

"He was a very talented young

man on his way to college and a bright theatrical career," remarked NJWA spokeswoman Kitty Schlosberg. "The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts established this scholarship to honor its former stu-

dent and recognize and encourage other individuals with the same kind of talent and potential."

Katie, who portrayed a formidable witch in this year's production of *Snow White* and Dorothy in the 1997 production of *The Wizard of Oz*, is a ninth grader at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

"I took my first drama class at the Westfield Summer Workshop," said Katie. "I always want acting to be part of my life."

Echo Lake Park Concert To Feature Blues Tunes

MOUNTAINSIDE - Union County music lovers are invited to an evening of blues music with Rob Paparozzi and the Hudson River Rats on Wednesday, August 25, at 7:30 p.m. in Echo Lake Park.

This free concert, which is sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, is the ninth concert in the Summer Arts Festival Concert Series.

"Rob Paparozzi and the Hudson River Rats are accomplished musicians and they're sure to present a fabulous show here on the Union County stage," said Freeholder Chairman Nicholas P. Scutari. "We are pleased to offer such quality entertainment free of charge."

Rob Paparozzi has been performing throughout the Metropolitan area since 1967 as lead singer and harmonica player for various bands, including the *Psychotic Blues Band*, *Blues Farm*, *Goofer Dust*, *Mario's R&B All Stars* and currently for the *Hudson River Rats*.

His bands have appeared in concert with B.B. King, Bruce Springsteen, Sly and the Family Stone and Deodato, as well as having backed-up Phoebe Snow and Etta James.

The Hudson River Rats' credits include playing back-up for musicians including Carole King, Willie DeVille, Cyndi Lauper, Roberta Flack, Boy George and Culture Club and Bobby McFerrin.

Lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets are encouraged. A refreshment stand will be available at approximately 6:30 p.m. In the event of rain, the concert will be held at Cranford High School. For rain information, please call (908) 527-4900 after 3 p.m. on the day of the concert.

The final concert of the Summer Arts Festival will be on Wednesday, September 1, when The Party Dolls return to Echo Lake Park for another outdoor celebration of the girl-groups of the 1960s.

Shakespeare Festival Slates Presentations

MADISON - The New Jersey Shakespeare Festival will offer theatrical productions of the Shakespeare classic *Measure for Measure* until Sunday, August 22, and Hungarian playwright Ferenc Molnar's *Enter the Guardsman* from Tuesday, September 7, to Sunday, October 3. Both plays will be held at the F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre in Madison.

Enter the Guardsman is based on the classic early 20th century boulevard comedy by Molnar.

For more information, the times of the performances or to purchase tickets, please call the Festival Box Office at (973) 408-5600.



New Power Soul to Conclude Village Green Concert Series

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Village Green Summer Series, which is sponsored by the Scotch Plains Cultural Arts Committee, will come to

Antique Weekend Prepared This Weekend in Somerset

SOMERSET - Two hundred antique dealers will feature their wares at Antiques Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, August 21 and 22, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset.

Silver, glass, pottery, porcelain and French, Asian, formal, Victorian, and country furniture will be featured. Quilts, textiles, lamps, fine art, prints, timepieces, jewelry, books and collectibles will also be available.

The antique event will also include free seminars and appraisals.

Admission is \$6. This fee includes seminars. For more information, please call (212) 255-0020 or visit www.stellashows.com.

All A&E Press Releases Must Be Sent to: michelle@goleader.com By 4 p.m. on Fridays For Consideration

New York City Ballet Dancer To Join Westfield School of Dance

WESTFIELD - Bette Prinsen of Ilya Gaf Dance Theatre, Atlanta Ballet, and Of Dance, Inc. has joined the staff at Westfield School of Dance for the 1999-2000 season.

Ms. Prinsen has danced professionally throughout New York City, Atlanta and Washington, D.C. Primarily, she holds a background in Russian Ballet. She has studied under Marguerite Deanguera at Ballet Russe and Alexander Natodchy at Vaganova School.



Bette Prinsen

Educated at Vassar College and Columbia University, Ms. Prinsen received her Master of Arts Degree in Dance and Dance Education. She also has a background and understanding of Russian Ballet methodology, Martha Graham, Cunningham, Horton and Hawkins techniques.

She has also studied and taught Zena Rommnett floor-barre and Body Alignment and Remedial Movement. She has taught children's ballet and Open Movement Classes in New York City.

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