

# Put Your Game Face On: Westfieldopoly Is Coming To Town

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN  
*Specialty Writer for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

**WESTFIELD**—Board game mavericks Parker Brothers will be teaming up with the Westfield Jaycees to produce the ideal souvenir for any Westfielder—Westfieldopoly. This special version of the classic Monopoly game, which will immortalize the landmarks and merchants in the town, will also serve as a fundraiser for the Jaycees programs and projects, while entertaining the avid board game enthusiast.

Jonathan Radick, Vice President of Individual Development and Committee Chairman, told *The*

Westfield Leader that interest would be generated in enough time to sell the games at Spring Fling in downtown Westfield on Sunday, April 29.

Mr. Radick revealed that while Parker Brothers will not allow street names to be printed on the game board, several landmarks related to Westfield will be prominently featured.

These landmarks include, but are not limited to, picturesque Mindowaskin Park, the historic Miller-Cory House Museum, the War Memorial, and the schools, churches and temples which have become synonymous with the town's flavor.

Community development projects, charity activities, school sports teams and scholarships will be on the receiving end of the profits raised by Westfieldopoly, Mr. Radick said.

"They can play the game," he said, "while owning something that makes them proud to be living in Westfield. It's a collectible."

To contact Mr. Radick and have a space of your own immortalized on the Westfieldopoly board, please call (908) 232-5123.



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Jonathan Radick  
Westfield Jaycees

*Westfield Leader and The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* since the Jaycees mailed 140+ query letters of interest to town merchants in mid-March, approximately 15 responses have been received.

Mr. Radick explained the Jaycees need 40 interested parties in order to complete the spaces on the board game. The rates for spaces range from \$200, \$350 and \$450.

"There's definitely a lot of interest," reported Mr. Radick. While a deadline was not posted for merchants to "get in on the game," he hopes that store owners may gather as early as the end of April or the first week in May to discuss the board game.

The Jaycees, which will hold a benefit concert with singer and songwriter Steve Forbert on Saturday, April 21, will sell Westfieldopoly for \$25-\$30. Mr.

## Century of Songwriters Will Span Decades At Fanwood Library

**FANWOOD**—New Jersey native and Roselle Park resident Kenny Sack will perform 20th century popular music spanning the decades from Tin Pan Alley to the era of the modern singer/songwriter including original selections on Tuesday, April 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the Fanwood Memorial Library.

The library is located at North Avenue and Tillotson Road in Fanwood. Admission is free and the show is appropriate for all ages.

Performing on piano and guitar, Mr. Sack sings songs ranging from pop to rock. His style has been compared to Billy Joel and Jackson Browne. His original music has received an honorable mention in the Unisong International Song Contest.

Mr. Sack started "A Century of Songwriters" in October of 2000 at the Roselle Park Veterans Memorial Library and has since entertained with this evolving music program for Union County residents.

"A Century of Songwriters" is made possible in part by a HEART Grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.



**KITCHEN FIT FOR A KING...**The kitchen of this stately English Tudor home, built in the 1920s, will be part of the 2001 Cook's Tour of Kitchens, a fundraiser sponsored by the Overlook Hospital Auxiliary. The event, which will spotlight eight homes in Short Hills and Summit, will be held on Thursday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Neuroscience Institute at Overlook Hospital. Tickets will include a gourmet buffet luncheon at the Beacon Hill Club and a guided tour of the architectural masterpieces. Tickets are going quickly. For more information, please call (908) 522-2004.

# ARTIST



David Palladino's

## Music Corner

### Guest Conductor Shines With New Jersey Symphony

By DAVID PALLADINO  
*Specialty Writer for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

**NEWARK**—The music of China was featured recently in a fascinating concert offered by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) under the guest baton of Maestro Samuel Wong at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC).

The NJSO performed Stravinsky's *The Song of the Nightingale*, Bun-Ching Lam's *Song of Pipa* for Pipa and Orchestra, Bright Sheng's *Prelude and Fanfare* from *China Dreams*, and the Ferruccio Busoni rendition of *Turandot*.

Guest pipa virtuosa Wu Man brought her classical style to the stage in a special piece commissioned for the NJSO.

The concert was interesting on several levels. Firstly, the music of China has been for the most part, fairly inaccessible to Western audiences. The compositions of

Stravinsky and Busoni are thoroughly Westernized versions, even though some Chinese folk themes can be heard in Western European harmonies. This concert offered some original Chinese compositions in addition to Western interpretations.

The pipa, for example, is an ancient Chinese instrument which was highlighted in one of the pieces. To place it musically, it sounds similar to a lute and has four silk strings. The instrument was brought to China from Persia along the silk road.

Lam's *Song of Pipa*, commissioned by the NJSO takes its spirit from Chinese texts from the ninth century AD. The pipa is first heard off stage, then during an orchestral interlude, pipa player Wu Man slowly walked on stage in beautiful and elegant azure and white traditional Chinese attire. The native Chinese musician and conductor were able to bring a life to the traditionally conceived piece in a way that others might not have been able. The nuances of the piece were fascinating.

They NJSO performed incredibly well under the baton of Maestro Wong and in fact, have not sounded better. An absolute stellar performance both in ensemble playing and solo performance.

Much of the music of the evening had a wispy, transparent feel. Principal flutist Bart Feller was flawless in tone and phrasing during his many technically difficult solo sections of the Stravinsky. Such magnificent color was brought forth from the orchestra: solo trumpet sections by Principal Garth Greenup and Concertmaster Eric Wyrick also featured highlights of musical color and intonation. Maestro Lam, keenly aware of orchestral dynamics, kept the orchestra at bay and allowed the soloists to clearly soar above the orchestra.

Maestro Wong is an excellent, well prepared conductor. He made his NY Philharmonic debut in 1990, stepping in for the late Leonard Bernstein. Maestro Wong is the current Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Honolulu Symphony and the Mannes Orchestra in New York City.

He has guest conducted many major orchestras including Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, *Continued on Page 21*

# Take the Stage

WITH KERRIANNE SPELLMAN CORT



## Fame the Musical Lacks Luster Of Oscar Original, Despite Effort

By KERRIANNE SPELLMAN CORT  
*Specialty Writer for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

**NEWARK**—It is difficult to look back into the early 1980s and not remember the Oscar-winning film, *Fame*. The Alan Parker directed film was created by David DeSilva and followed the lives, heartaches and personal discovery of a group of talented high school students hoping to become stars in the Big Apple.

The movie became a legend in

theatre circles. Anyone who had a desire to become a professional performer was riveted by the tale of these struggling young artists. Who can forget the sexy "Hot Lunch" number in the cafeteria or the title song, "Fame," which had the entire student body dancing on cars on 46th Street? Irene Cara belting "Out Here on My Own" still had the same effect today as it did in 1980 and the movie has certainly gone down in history as being one of the quintessential "theatre" films of all time.

The subsequent television series was not as remarkable as the film, but still had a reputable run on the little screen, premiering in 1982 and running in syndication through 1987. Creator David DeSilva, sensing a need to expand on the tale of struggling young artists, teamed with composer Steve Margoshes and writers Jose Fernandez and Jacques Levy to create a new staged version of the original concept.

This live version, entitled *Fame-The Musical*, has been produced in 16 countries with over 4,000 performances to date. Apparently, it is an enormous success abroad and has been performed in many different languages to sold-out audiences.

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark recently was host to *Fame-The Musical* at their incredible Prudential Hall facility. The energetic musical piece ran from Tuesday, April 10, through Sunday, April 15.

This version of *Fame* certainly has its heart in the right place. The cast is phenomenal and they all sing and dance their talented heads off. The music is somewhat effective in areas and the staging is energetic and entertaining. The production itself is technically very good and the audience seemed to embrace it.

What is lacking here is the original passion of the film that was most certainly intended for the staged version. The description of this version listed in programs and press releases does not indicate that you will be seeing a "new" *Fame*, but simply, *Fame-The Musical*.

While there is nothing inherently wrong with this version, it is not a re-creation of the movie, but rather something loosely based upon it.

Audiences who expected to hear "I Sing the Body Electric" or "Out Here on My Own" were surely slightly disappointed with this production, as virtually no songs from the original were included. This may be due to a legal matter with copyrights to songs tied up in red tape. However, the excitement of the music from the original is missed. While there was a very *Continued on Page 21*



## Artist of the Week

David E. Kelley (1956- )

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN  
*Specialty Writer for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

**Many men consider film and television writer and producer David E. Kelley the luckiest man in the world. His gorgeous wife and actress Michelle Pfeiffer is always on his arm, looking at him adoringly. In addition, he is responsible for the success of "Ally McBeal," "The Practice," "L.A. Law," "Picket Fences," and "Chicago Hope" - making him a dominating presence on almost every major television network.**

**Kelley is a native of Maine, just like one of our former Artists of the Week, Stephen King. He graduated in 1979 from Princeton University after majoring in politics and earned his law degree four years later at Boston University Law School before tipping the scales of justice at a Boston law firm.**

**Four years later, NBC was taken by storm when Kelley presented the script for "L.A. Law." The success of the program caused him to quit his job as a lawyer. But, the risky move *Continued on Page 21***

# Pen & Ink

## When Your Muses Take A Vacation, How Do You Cure A Creative Block?

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN  
*Specialty Writer for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Flourishing creativity is an eye-opening miracle when it unfolds—a tiny seed germinating in the imagination, eventually taking flight from each of the senses. When it flows from us, it is a gift. But, when we are unable to tap that source or muse in order to create, therein lies the frustration known as "The Block."

My best friend, Jennifer, is a modest painter living in Boston. She tells me about the spurts of utter joy she experiences when a painting becomes all she envisioned. However, recently, she related with great frustration, an inability to paint. She just couldn't get herself to do it, she explained. Nothing moved her. The colors in her paintings were too dark, she felt. That germinating seed was producing nothing.

There is no specific cure for The Block. Pills can't solve it and neither can the best therapist money can buy. For Jennifer, the answer was found while taking a giant step back to look at the "big picture." Within a week and a few days, she's got it figured out. Maybe it was a walk with her boyfriend, some soul-searching in the Esplanade, or hearing from an old friend ☺.

What gets your creative juices jumping? What fires up the pen, paintbrush, violin or frying pan?

I can only speak for myself. When I see that gargantuan granite wall staring me down and stunting my expressive growth, I force myself to go back to what propelled my interest. After I covered MSNBC's "Lessons of Littleton," I accumulated a fat notebook stuffed with scrawled quotes and facts. It seemed insurmountable. I wrote it days after the actual forum and was staring down a deadline.

I went back to the excitement of that evening. The adrenaline pumping through the hallways of Westfield High School and the emotional reactions of the students. It all came back to me. I had a story to tell and I would be \*darned\* if I was going to succumb to The Block.

A lot of research has been done on this Surmountable Stumper. "Getting to the other side" of The Block can be achieved for any artist, writer, or musician willing to beat the odds.



Oh No, It's The Block!

**Change Your Scenery**—While I can't very well move my computer to Mindowaskin Park on the sunniest of summer days, creating words and stories in a different place is often a solution to The Block. I've jotted down story ideas and sentences at my grandmother's house after a heated discussion or in front of the television during an awards show. Later, transferring the enthusiasm I captured to my computer on Elm Street.

**Free Associate**—For writers, scrawling wee phrases and emotions expressed during an event can make for the juiciest, most personal stories. For an artist, this process is developed through thumbnail drawings or small sketches that help you sample bits of your imagination and vision for the end product. Your scrawlings and thumbnails are not written in stone, however, so use them as if they are warm-up exercises *Continued on Page 21*

## Park and Terrill Middle School Students Prove Vocal Excellence During Recent Concerts

**SCOTCH PLAINS**—Several students from Park and Terrill Middle Schools in Scotch Plains have been singled out and spotlighted for excellence in vocal performance in competitions recently held.

Four students of vocal music teacher Jennifer Sellman at Park School were recently accepted for the Central Jersey Intermediate Re-

gion II Chorus based on auditions which were held earlier this year.

The Regional music group is comprised of outstanding student musicians from Mercer, Union, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset, and Hunterdon counties.

The select Park School singers who performed in concert with the Region II Chorus include sixth grader Yeershati Ahati (soprano I), seventh grader Liza Katz (soprano II), seventh grader Emily Everson (soprano II), and eighth grader Renee Jennings (alto).

Five chorus students of Mary Lu Farrell, vocal music teacher at Terrill School, have been recognized in the area and nation based on recent competitive auditions.

Terrill eighth grader Abraham Hiatt was selected for the American Choral Directors Association National Junior High/Middle School Honors choir. He was one of only 300 students from about 1,600 entries chosen from the United States, Canada, and Argentina to perform in concert in March in San Antonio, Tex.

Eighth grader Jennifer Calvo and seventh grader Michele Calvo were chosen to appear in the New Jersey State Opera's recent production of *Macbeth*. They sang the apparition solo in Act III and appeared as refugees in Act IV. Michele was also selected for the New Jersey Junior High Honors choir and will appear in concert with the group in May in Maplewood.

Sixth graders Helen Han and Diana



**TERRILL TAKES IT.** Pictured, left to right, are: back row, Abraham Hiatt, Helen Han, and Diana Chaves, and front row, Jennifer Calvo and Michele Calvo.

Chaves, were selected for the New Jersey Elementary Honors Choir and will also perform with their select group at the Maplewood concert.

Six band members from Park School in Scotch Plains were recently accepted for the Central Jersey Intermediate Region II Band and Orchestra based on auditions which were held earlier this year.

The Regional music group is made up of outstanding student musicians from Mercer, Union, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset and Hunterdon counties. Seventy-nine middle schools participated in this year's select band and orchestra program.

The selected Park School students included Justin Rowinsky (orchestra and first principal trumpet), Karina DeMair (trombone and orchestra), and Briana Falco (clarinet/band), Byard Bridge (orchestra first trumpet), David DeMair (first chair baritone horn in the band for the third consecutive year), and Daniel Kaiserman (tuba/band).

The students performed in concert with their regional groups in late March at the Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School.



**PARK PRIDE.** The selected Park School students who are shown in the photo with their instrumental music teacher and band director, Joe Bencivenga, rear, are: front, left to right, Justin Rowinsky, Karina DeMair, and Briana Falco. Pictured in second row, are: Byard Bridge, David DeMair, and Daniel Kaiserman.



**PARK PERFECTION...** The select Park School singers who performed in concert with the Region II Chorus include, left to right, sixth grader Yeershati Ahati, seventh grader Liza Katz, seventh grader Emily Everson, and eighth grader Renee Jennings.