

# Fanwood Tradition Preserved by Musicians At 'Sunday Bandstand'

By DEBORAH MADISON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**FANWOOD**—The Fanwood Cultural Arts Committee hosted "Sunday at the Bandstand," a variety of musical performances by several artists and groups on Sunday, August 5, at the Patricia M. Kuran Cultural Arts Center in Fanwood.

Cultural Arts Committee Director, Adele Kenny estimated that more than 125 patrons attended various portions of the event. This is the third year that the musical variety show has been presented. It is free of charge and open to the public.

Funded by a combination of municipal dollars from the Mayor's Committee, the festivities were also supported by many local merchants.

Fanwood Mayor Louis C. Jung told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains and Fanwood* that he enjoys attending the many wonderful cultural events sponsored by the committee every year. The mayor and his wife stayed for the entire performance from 4 until 7:30 p.m.

The Cultural Arts Committee sponsors a variety of different events, including poetry readings and art shows.

Several of Sunday's artists performed at previous Cultural Arts events and a few were making their Fanwoodian debut.

The Irish Folk Music of the Bantry Boys started off the afternoon's musical presentation. They have been playing together for many years, having toured Ireland and performing on cruise ships.

"The Bantry Boys are just so wonderful and many patrons requested their return to hear them again," said Ms. Kenny.

Poets and singers, Deborah

LaVeglia and Joe Weil, who are also teachers in Cranford, sang several original torch songs and popular standards. They were followed by Adam Fitzgerald, a graduate of Middlesex County Arts High School, who is a burgeoning singer and guitarist. Mr. Fitzgerald played and sang several classical rock tunes.

The Woodland Quintet, a group of classical musicians played a medley of classical and show tunes. The afternoon was topped off by Scotch Plains' singer/songwriter Alvin Madison, who played guitar, harmonica and sang traditional blues and folk, with enthusiastic audience participation.

The performances took place, outside on the Kuran Center's new patio. Hot sandwiches and homemade ices were furnished by Phil's Grille, owned by Fanwood's Florida Fruit Shoppe. Free soda and bottled water was provided by the Arts Committee.

The entire performance will be aired on Channel 35 in about a week, after the videotape has been edited by camera man George Weiss.



Alvin Madison

## Man on Street

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means anything," he said. "It's not like it's a massage parlor." Mr. Losole did take issue, however, with Victoria's "risque" posters, saying, "I don't think they should have those posters in any store."

So, what about the posters and the scantily clad window mannequins?

Banker and father John Capperella called the shop "inappropriate." He said, "It compromises the morals of an otherwise family-oriented town."

Cynthia LaPera, a personal trainer and mother of one, pointed out, "Victoria's Secret is a very classy store. It's not tacky."

A mother of two, who preferred to remain anonymous said, "I really have no problem with it being here, as long as it remains tasteful."

So here is the word on the street: Victoria's Secret does not need an elaborate window display to draw customers, because customers already know what Victoria's Secret sells.

In fact, a racy window display might only serve to infuriate those who are uncomfortable with the store to begin with. Coming to town may bring Victoria's Secret business, but making an honest effort to fit in with the family-oriented stores which surround it will bring the store respect, and ensure its longevity in Westfield.

## Editorial

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Let's see folks, between Ray and Kelsey, they've seen enough recognition to last a lifetime. The rumor mill has churned out a tidbit of doubt as to whether or not "Frasier" is getting as stale as that rye bread sitting on your counter. Lithgow's nom is, what I consider, a "pity vote" since the show has been cancelled. Snubbing Cavanaugh was a foolish decision on the part of the board, but if I had to stick up for one nominee, it would be McCormack. He is positively hysterical.

Pulling one of those contractual ultimatums like the "Friends" entourage, cast members from "The West Wing" have upped the ante for producers, especially now that some of them have been nominated for Emmy awards. "West Wing," along with its rival "The Sopranos," has been nominated for similar categories, such as casting, directing of two separate episodes, their riveting, patriotic dramatic underscore, and, of course, the rocket-speed writing. For my picks on the actual actors grumbling over their \*meager\* salaries, see the list below.

All of the excruciating excitement will hit your television screens at 8 p.m. on Sunday, September 16, on CBS.

- Guest Actor in a Dramatic Series: Oliver Platt as Oliver Babish on "The West Wing."

- Lead Actress in a Dramatic Series: Allison Janney as C.J. Cregg on "The West Wing."

- Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series: David Hyde Pierce as Niles Crane on "Frasier."

- Supporting Actor in a Drama Series: Bradley Whitford as Josh Lyman on "The West Wing."

- Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series: Kim Cattrall as Samantha Jones on "Sex in the City."

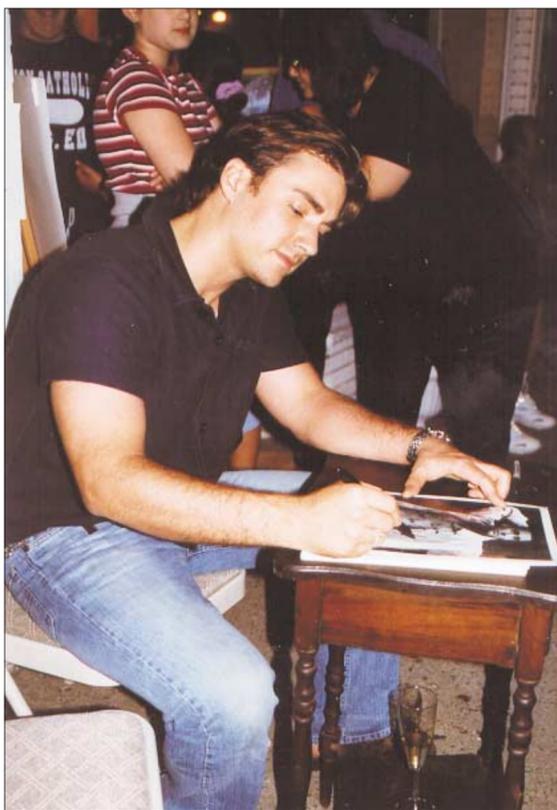
- Lead Actress in a Dramatic Series: Sela Ward as Lily Manning in "Once And Again."

- Lead Actress in a Comedy Series: Patricia Heaton as Debra Barone in "Everybody Loves Raymond."

- Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series: Robert Downey, Jr. as Larry Paul in "Ally McBeal."

- Comedy Series: "Will & Grace."

- Drama Series: "The West Wing."



STAR APPEARANCE...Don Jeffcoat, formerly Joey Buchanan on ABC's soap opera, "One Life to Live," appeared at the grand opening of a shoe store in Westfield. Mr. Jeffcoat graciously signed autographs and posed for several photographs with his adoring fans.

## POPCORN™

### Planet of The Apes Remake See, Remake Do

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

2 popcorns  
By MICHAEL GOLDBERGER

What? You say you just haven't been able to sleep? It's been gnawing at you all these years? Knowing that there have been only four sequels, a TV series and a cartoon show spin-off of the original *Planet of The Apes* (1968) has simply made life seem incomplete?

Well, that's perfectly understandable, pilgrim. But your hearty deserved rest is at hand. Yep, just when you thought it was safe to go time-traveling without once again finding out that the Earth has been taken over by monkeys, or some such cataclysmic permutation thereof, Hollywood gifts us with *Planet of The Apes*, the 2001 version.

Granted, we have no national health plan. But still, it's comforting to know that there's not a country in the world can beat us in the mass production of ape-related movies.

Neither officially a remake nor a sequel, this new *Planet of The Apes* is being sold as a "re-telling," if you will, of writer Pierre Boulle's 1963 novel. Directed by Tim Burton (*Edward Scissorhands*), it stars Helena Bonham Carter, Tim Roth and Michael Clarke Duncan inside the new and improved monkey suits. And featured in the role that Charlton Heston made famous is Mark Wahlberg as the human astronaut in for a big surprise. This time he's named Leo Davidson, and of course things go awry, as they have a habit of doing whenever your spaceship hits a time warp. What a pain. You never quite know what year it is when that happens. And worse yet, you can't tell if your species is coming or going.

As a result of all this confusion, the circa 2029 Earthling touches down in a "far off" (get it, get it?) land where the apes are calling the shots.

Again, it is a world turned upside down, and the humans, a pathetic lot of virtually enslaved creatures, are considered, well, sub-ape.

Kris Kristofferson as Karubi, helpless father of Estella Warren's pulchritudinous house slave Daena, is reduced to a sniveling mess when confronted with the power and cruelty of his oppressors. His fellow human beings are similarly convinced of their hopeless inferiority. That is, until Wahlberg's human *deus ex machina* lands and begins going about the business of fomenting revolution, though that isn't his goal at first.

Quite the contrary, Wahlberg is credible as the self-determined Yank, whose initial impetus is merely to escape the opprobrious thumbs of his disagreeable hosts. It isn't until his legend grows and the multitudes gather behind him that Leo Davidson reluctantly dons the Braveheart mantle and challenges those simian powers that be.

By this point, the astronaut has been aided and abetted by Bonham Carter's Ari, undoubtedly the most attractive of the apes. Heretofore, despite her far-left views, she's been aggressively courted by ambitious General Thade (Tim Roth), the ape kingdom's answer to the Sheriff of Nottingham and a

human-hating ape supremacist if ever there were one.

A humanitarian (though apertanarian would probably be more correct) and wealthy daughter of an influential but liberal senator (David Warner), Ari's a chimp off the old block, to coin a phrase. In our world she'd probably be a bigwig in the ACLU. But in her reactionary culture, she's a troublemaker. Oops, there is a parallel there, isn't there?

In all fairness to Burton, whose forte is not so much philosophy as it is mood and atmosphere, the film does continue some of the social issue tradition the ape series embarked on in the late 1960s. There are a few bits of clever satire. However, cerebral matters certainly do take a back seat to an inordinate number of gritty if not entirely gruesome battle scenes. And while the establishment of the ape domain as a bleak and dreary result of fascism does make a pessimistic point, we suspect it is more an artistic statement than a political one that Burton has at heart.

Hence, the film fails for the same reason that so many other movies come up short these days. All show and no substance, *Planet of The Apes* places an undue reliance on special effects while paying little more than lip service to dialogue and plot impetus. There's no real muckraking here. Lost is the Orwellian reflections on totalitarianism that marked the first episode.

Missing is the E.B. White-like enchantment with personification and role reversal. Here it's all perfunctory and without wonder.

Still, working from a screenplay adaptation by William Broyles, Jr., filmmaker Burton makes a feeble attempt to parcel out some moral lessons, not necessarily out of altruism but to please fans of the series who remember the glib parables and metaphors with fondness. Yet the director doesn't bother to make the script's various and sundry thoughts on racism and prejudice applicable to the current events of the day. Not one well-aimed barb is tossed at the political correctness that stifles our democracy while perpetuating bigotry.

Instead, he trots out an off-the-shelf array of wrongs that need righting, suitable to any time and age. To his credit, at least no one is wearing bell bottoms.

While borrowing a little from each issue of the ape saga and paying some respect to the original novel when convenient, this latest telling is incontrovertibly stuck at and infatuated with the end of the first movie. You remember, when Charlton Heston's George Taylor makes that terrible discovery.

Call it creational vanity. Puts Darwin right on his ear. And thus what it all boils down to is an obsession not unlike the chicken and the egg question: Which came first, the human or the ape? And almost as important, which species will ultimately inherit the Earth?

Of course it's a trick question, about as unanswerable as the secret of life itself. Having nothing new to say, *Planet of The Apes* has made that speculation its raison d'être. Your job is to not let it make a monkey out of you.

*Planet of The Apes*, rated PG-13, is a 20th Century Fox release directed by Tim Burton and stars Mark Wahlberg, Helena Bonham Carter and Tim Roth. Running time: 100 minutes.

## Model Team

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and poker straight, male muscle tone is still alluring, and a little glitter or shimmer on the skin is better than a matte finish for women's make-up. The look is still pure and cosmetics are minimal. In other words, ladies, less is still more, unless you are going for that evening look.

The modeling industry is sure to welcome Garron and Schmidt into its fold with open arms. And, the uncharted territory will become familiar, only if these models care to call the catwalk their home.



## Artist of the Week



### Fred Rogers (1928- )

By FRED ROSSI

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

It seems there are two schools of thought about Mister Rogers. One mocks him, his PBS program, his sweater, his singing, his hand puppets, and the overall simplicity of the entire neighborhood he has inhabited for several decades.

The other, views Fred Rogers as one of the great people produced by this country — someone whose calm, cheery and loving demeanor should be emulated by parents.

The school of thought that mocks Rogers is dominated by those who have yet to have children of their own. Those who look up to him are probably likely to be imperfect parents seeking not only a role model, but an oasis of calm for their children.

Rogers, born in 1928 in Latrobe, Pa., recently announced that he would no longer be recording new editions of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," which debuted on PBS in 1969, thus making it the network's longest-running program.

As one who vaguely remembers disinterestedly tuning into the program back in the late 1960s and then rediscovering it in recent years with my 4-year old son, it seems a safe bet that not much has changed on the program in the intervening three decades.

The trolley taking kids into the Land of Make Believe is still running; the hand puppets are the same and their mouths don't move when they speak; and Rogers still begins each show by changing into his sweater and sneakers and extolling, in song, the "beautiful day in the neighborhood" and ends the program by telling viewers to remember that they remain special "just by being you."

Songs are a big part of the "Neighborhood" (Rogers has written some 200 songs), and it's no surprise. A pianist since age 9, Rogers majored in music composition at Rollins College in Florida.

After graduation, intrigued by the new medium of television, Rogers went to New York City, where he worked as a floor manager for such NBC shows as "Your Hit Parade" and "The Kate Smith Hour." He soon married his college sweetheart and moved back to Pittsburgh, where he began to explore the possibilities of educational television.

In 1954, WQED in Pittsburgh, the country's first public television station, debuted "The Children's Hour," a forerunner to the "Neighborhood." In 1963, a 15-minute version of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" was created for Canadian television; a year later, WQED launched the program as a 30-minute show. Five years later, PBS began airing the program nationally.

Rogers was recently profiled on ABC's "Nightline" and last year he graced the cover of *Esquire* magazine.

Listening to him and reading about him, one can only conclude that he is who he is. There is no phony about him, no haughtiness or bluster about what he has achieved. He is the same person off the air as he is when the camera is on: soft-spoken, concerned foremost about children, not preachy but yet firm in his beliefs about what is good for kids and what isn't.

The ABC program showed footage of Rogers walking down the street in Washington, D.C. and being recognized by adults in their 30s and 40s. Many of them greeted him and thanked him for his program, with several telling him that the Neighborhood had been a shelter of sorts for them during what, for some, had been a difficult childhood.

Comedians like Eddie Murphy have poked fun at Mister Rogers through the years; his overly gentle manner makes him an almost irresistible target. Yet, those who have smirked at him and laughed at the satirical portrayals of him and his program — myself included — are very likely to see Rogers in an entirely new and more positive light once they find themselves juggling the varied and complex responsibilities of parenthood.

He is not only a calming influence on children, but is someone to be emulated by parents as well. Every time my son has acted up or been disagreeable, I recall hearing something Rogers said to parents: "Remember, you were once a child, too."

## A&E Goes Cyber:

Beginning in September, the A&E section will have its own Web page accessible at [www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com). The site, which will be updated monthly, will spotlight all of the features and flavor of A&E plus lots of extras for your reading pleasure!

## CHILDREN'S BOOK NOOK

With Marylou Morano

### Books in Series Format Builds Love of Reading

By MARYLOU MORANO

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Books written in a series format can help a child build a love of reading. The premise is simple; when a child finds a subject or author he enjoys, he will want to read more about the subject or by the author.

Children's book publishers, especially educational publishers, have recently released a shelf-full of new nonfiction and fiction in series format. There's something for every reading level.

#### For Beginning Readers

Benchmark Books, an imprint of Marshall Cavendish Publishers offers their new career exploration series for grade levels K-3 entitled "If You Were A..." Very young readers can get a glimpse of a day in the life of a firefighter, farmer, doctor, police officer and veterinarian, to name a few professions.

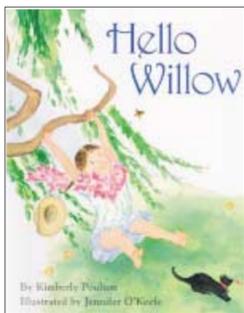
The text is informative and the full color photo illustrations give visual descriptions of each career in action.

Also for the very young reader, Children's Press, an imprint of Grolier, Incorporated has released Good Foods books in its "Welcome to Reading" series. Each book takes a single food item and explains how it is made and why it's enjoyed.

The full color pictures of real children add to the easy to read text. Some of the titles in the series are: "I Like Bagels," "I Like Pasta," and "I Like Ice Cream."

Bridgestone Books offers the "Explore Space Series" for the same reading level. Read about rockets, space robots, space shuttles and space stations in books written by a NASA Aerospace Educator. Lots of descriptive photos and easy text explain a tough to understand, yet fascinating subject, on a kid's level.

Rosen Publishing Group's Power Kids Press continues to release titles in its "American Legend" series for grades 2-4. The lives of legends such as Johnny Appleseed, Daniel Boone, Jim Bowie and others are chronicled in this series.



#### Historical Fiction Series for Older Readers

This fall, Winslow House Books will be adding two new titles to its "Dear Mr. President" series for readers ages 9-12. These books take the reader back in history to a pressing issue impacting a presidency. The new titles will focus on the terms of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and John Quincy Adams.

This past spring, Scholastic, Incorporated added two new books to its Dear America series. "Seeds of Hope: The Gold Rush Diary of Susanna Fairchild, California Territory, 1849" is written by a 14-year-old whose family plans to settle in Oregon are drastically changed by tragedy.

"Valley of the Moon: The Diary of Maria Rosalia De Milagros, Sonoma Valley, Alta California, 1846" is the heartwarming story of a 13-year-old orphan working on a California ranch during the same time period.

#### New Picture Book

When you have a willow tree in your yard, there's no limit to your imagination. "Hello Willow" (Moon Mountain Publishing, 2000) written by Kimberly Poulton and illustrated by Jennifer O'Keefe is a delightful picture book full of possibilities. The charming illustrations complement the simple, yet imaginative text.

Expect to read this book over and over again; this is the stuff of which picture book classics are made. Skip the library and head straight for the book store for this book.

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