

**Inside This Edition:**

- Westfield High School's production of 42nd Street gets reviewed by Kerrianne Spellman Cort.
- David Palladino reviews the latest Westfield Symphony Orchestra concert.
- Andy Goldenberg gives some new DVDs a look.
- The Mexican gets 1 popcorn from Michael Goldberger.

**Artist of the Week**



**James Joyce (1882- )**

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

Aside from shamrocks, corned beef and cabbage, soda bread and leprechauns, Dublin-born novelist and poet James Augustine Aloysius Joyce equals Ireland.

The literary technique of sprinkling psychological thought into the basic formula of fiction writing is Joyce's claim to fame.

After studying at Jesuit schools, including the University College in Dublin, Joyce broke his Roman Catholic roots and severed his Dublin ties when he ran off with his future wife, chambermaid Nora Barnacle. "Chamber Music," a collection of love poems, was the first volume written by Joyce. He was only 25. A set of 15 stories, "Dubliners," was penned seven years later. The young author brought psychological insight into the tales of childhood, family and public life in his native land.

Joyce seemed to assume the persona of his title character Stephen Dedalus in "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man." Primarily autobiographical, Joyce took his technique of introspective writing and adopted a stream-of-consciousness flavor. This was not the most enjoyable read for an Advanced Placement English scholar in high school. Believe me. The style was, for many, an acquired taste. Still, it was an innovative approach that he carried through in his later works, "Ulysses," and "Finnegans Wake."

While, he might have taken residence in Italy, Paris and Zürich, Joyce is still the pride of Dubliners. He is considered an Irish treasure as much as the Blarney Stone.

**Alice**

**Intricacies of Ireland Etched by Brentano**

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

WESTFIELD - Ethereal illustrations by Patricia Brentano of Westfield in a petite volume hallowing the traditions and Irish wedding customs are as breathtaking as the interweaving of antique Irish lace.

"Irish Wedding Traditions: Using Your Irish Heritage to Create the Perfect Wedding" by Summit native Shannon McMahon Lichte includes approximately 20 such illustrations by Brentano.

According to Brentano, Lichte learned of her artwork from Patricia's sister.

"It was word of mouth," said the artist, adding that when Lichte said, "I need an artist," Patricia's sister

as they unfolded, Brentano followed a life study process. She drew from objects purchased by Lichte and photographs of other objects sent to her by the author.

"I already had the rings," said



The Tara Brooch

Brentano of the Claddagh Ring and Celtic Wedding Ring, among others depicted in Chapter One, "Wooing to Proposal - Irish Customs for Courtship."

Working from life forms courses comfortably through Brentano's veins. But, she pointed out that her illustrations in the book did not require using value or color as paintings do.

The drawings, which were converted into dark green and tan upon the textured pages of the book, depict images rich in Irish tradition,



The Celtic Cross

immediately responded, "Call my sister."

"I was just lucky," said Brentano, the mother of two teenagers and wife of Westfield Republican Committee Chairman Jon Bramnick.

While Brentano is mostly known for her vibrant paintings, line drawing is certainly not foreign to her.

"I'm always doing line drawings," she told The Westfield Leader and The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood. When asked if she was comfortable with the different art form, she responded, "I was very comfortable. I do a lot of small notes and drawings on sketch pads."

"They wanted me to specifically do line drawings," said Brentano, who once constructed 8 foot life-size drawings of movie stars like Clark Gable and Audrey Hepburn for an event catered by her sister. When envisioning the illustrations



The Claddagh Ring

such as The Strawboy, May bush, Celtic Cross, Celtic Loving Cup, and Bells of Ireland.

Although the nature of the illustrations was precisely prescribed by the author, Brentano did sense some inspiration from her own Irish heritage which stems from her mother's family.



The May Bush

Brentano's aunt, Sister Mary Ruth Murphy of Tucson, Ariz., also received a cameo in "Irish Wedding Traditions" through a special prayer she provided for the volume entitled, "Blessing for a New Home."

"It was really fun," said Brentano while reflecting upon her contribution to "Irish Wedding Traditions." "The illustrations came out beautifully."

Will Brentano bring any more of her artwork to the world of literature?

For two years, Brentano has completed a bountiful series of drawings and paintings she would like to blend with her sister's words for a book about aging and dying.

As a caretaker for aging parents, Brentano finds herself in a unique position. She would like to depict the "visual experience of how the body ages" in a book that would not fall under the literary genre of "self-help."

Continued on Page 19

**Irish Faces**

By Thomas Kemps of Westfield

Soft night as gentle winds blow through the heather I sit on a bench in the center of this small town.

Many places I have been but none better

Than this small Irish village I have found.

Smiling faces with red hair and green eyes

And pints to toast your cares away.

Here you'll be accepted, no call for any disguise

A comfortable environment that begs you to stay.

What magic does Ireland possess to make it such a treat

To wander through a countryside with every shade of green.

This spell I am under, no wizard could ever repeat

To feel so at peace with life's simplest things I have seen.

Maybe the pots of gold we strive for aren't the riches in life to be embraced.

Take it from the Irish - Those treasures you look for all come with a face.



**Pen & Ink**

**Is NBC's Peacock Losing Feathers To Competitors ABC and CBS?**

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

Has anyone ever proven that it's good to be king? Because, I've heard more times than not that when you're on the top, there's no place to go but down. The masterminds at NBC have had their lion's share of successful shows. Since the days of "Bonanza," "Texaco Star Theatre," "Cheers," "Seinfeld" and "ER," we could always depend on the proud peacock network to crank out the best in "Must See TV."

During those periods of ratings bliss, CBS and ABC execs were grappling with ways to compete. CBS gave viewers clean cut programs like "Touched By An Angel" and "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman." ABC tried to get edgy with a marketing scheme flashing black and yellow across our screens. NBC scoffed at the idea that they could be dethroned. And, just as the peacock confidently flaunted its feathers in the faces of the competitors, the underdogs broke from their leashes and prepared to attack.

The ABC arsenal is a real one-two punch that doesn't look like it's going to disappear for a while. With his monochrome fashion statement sprung upon contestants, Regis Philbin began the "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" phenomenon. We don't get one dose of the show, but often four times a week. Like we need the stress of trying to send the right answer telepathically to total strangers stupidly using up their lifelines.

"Who was the first President of the United States?" asks Regis. The four options at the bottom of the screen: a) Humpty Dumpty, b) Greg McDermott, c) George Washington, d) Ricky Martin.

"I don't know, Reg. I'm pretty sure the answer is c, but I think I'm going to use a lifeline on this one. I'd like to channel my Aunt Fay who died six years ago..."

If the Cosbys, Jerry, Elaine and Newman, or Sam and Diane were still rockin' the airwaves, do you think we'd be spending four nights a week trying to help these people win a cool million? Don't think so.

On CBS, the big guns were pulled out when "Survivor" came to our living rooms. Not even the peacock's "Friends" can last

Continued on Page 19

**Take the Stage**

WITH KERRIANNE SPELLMAN CORT



**42nd Street Is Testament to Excellence We've Come to Expect at Westfield High**

By KERRIANNE SPELLMAN CORT  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - Come and meet those dancing feet!

Westfield High School (WHS) staged the classic song and dance musical, 42nd Street, on March 8, 9, and 10. The beloved musical is a staple of the American Musical Theater, a true "feel good" piece, filled with non-stop dancing and songs that warm our hearts.

In fact, 42nd Street is currently making another stop on Broadway. A revival of this tap-dancing classic will soon be making yet another appearance on the Great White Way.

Previews for the revival will begin on Wednesday, April 4, at the Ford Center in New York.

I am so impressed with the level of professionalism that WHS presents. Last year's musical comedy, Big, was one of the best productions I have seen, anywhere. I re-

gret that I missed this past fall's offering, God's Country, because I hear it was terrific.

The production of 42nd Street at WHS was every bit as charming as I thought it would be, and, again, the professionalism and expertise that this school achieves is truly remarkable.

This is obviously due to the fact that drama teacher, Joe Nierle (who directed the production) and Bill Mathews, (musical director) truly care about their students and treat these productions seriously. One could never say anything negative about a high school production, as students take part in these shows for the sheer love of the stage.

However, WHS unquestionably has that extra something special. Their productions are classy and expertly presented.

Mr. Nierle and Mr. Mathews were joined by Lorinda Haver, who ingeniously choreographed the production. This powerhouse trio surely put in countless hours of work and made their students shine.

The entire cast was terrific. These talented, young performers are so spirited and proficient, it is quite easy to forget that you are watching high school students at work. It would be unfair to single out any particular artist, as everyone on that stage was an integral part of the production.

Every leading lady, every lady-killing heartthrob, every dancer, every lovable goofball - all were phenomenal and should be extremely proud.

I, too, got my feet wet performing in high school productions. The experience of being onstage with your peers is something to cherish. The professional world of theater is not always so supportive.

What excites me so much about the students at WHS is how brave they are. These kids wear their hearts on their sleeves and just go for it. There is so little trepidation on that stage and it is truly inspiring. A lot of these students definitely have a professional career ahead of them if they want it.

Congratulations to Mr. Nierle, Mr. Mathews and Ms. Haver, and bravo to all of the students who were involved in this amazing production. I am sure that we will all soon say, "We knew them when."

**Kaleidoscope Program Teaches Appreciation Of Art to Youngsters**

By MARYLOU MORANO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SUMMIT - New Jersey Center for Visual Arts (NJCVa) in Summit is offering an interactive program to enhance art appreciation of children ages kindergarten and up.

Now into its fourth year, the Kaleidoscope Program also allows children to try their own hands at artistic expression.

Administered by the docents of the NJCVa, the Kaleidoscope Program offers a multi-faceted approach to teaching young people about art. The underlying theory to this approach is taken from Dr. Howard Gardner, the co-director of Harvard University's Project Zero.

"In the 1960's, 'zero' was known of the cognitive nature of creating and understanding art, hence the project's name," stated Alice Dillon of Westfield, the Kaleidoscope Project's coordinator.

Two weeks prior to their visit to the NJCVa, participating children are sent a Family Gallery Guide - a color printed intro-

duction to the art currently on exhibit at the Center's Fred L. Palmer Gallery.

Photographs of several works of art are reproduced in the brochure so the children can prepare for the program.

During the actual tour, the children view the selected works, which become the focal points for discussion on color, texture, pattern and technique. Creative dramatics and writing are also part of the 1 1/2 - 2 hour experience.

"We all learn in unique ways", explained Mrs. Dillon. "The Kaleidoscope Program celebrates these differences. We hope the children take what they learn from our program and bring it to other places to enjoy art," she continued.

"There's more to art than just looking at it," Mrs. Dillon recently overheard one young Kaleidoscope Program participant comment.

The Kaleidoscope Program is experienced in small groups and

Continued on Page 19

**Whiskey**

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION**

SATURDAY MARCH 17th 7 PM

JOIN US FOR SOME IRISH FUN, COUNTRY MUSIC & DANCING WITH AFTER THE REIGN. IRISH BUFFET, IRISH BEERS AND WHISKEYS, MAGICAL LEPRECHAUN AND CHILI TASTING BUFFET. BRING THE LUCK OF THE IRISH FOR A CHANCE TO WIN WEBER GRILLS AND COOLERS. SEATS ARE LIMITED. PLEASE CALL FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS. DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM.

Country Night Club and Restaurant  
1050 Wall Street West  
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071  
Tel 201-939-4889  
www.whiskeycafe.ppg.com

Fairchild • Hatfield • Shvaiko • Gaveau • Boulanger • Benfield

4 weeks only  
February 28 - March 28, 2001

**Evalyn Dunn's Gallery Anniversary Sale**

All framed art 20% off

Cash or checks only - all sales final  
No other discounts apply

549 South Avenue, West, Westfield NJ 07090  
908-232-0412

Alvar • Fazzino

**Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library**  
All Donations are Tax Deductible and Benefit The Westfield Memorial Library  
550 East Broad Street

**ANNUAL BOOK SALE**

March 30th (Fri) Donation Days: NOON - 5 PM  
March 31st (Sat) 9 AM - 5 PM  
April 2nd (Mon) Sale Days: 9 AM - NOON  
April 3rd (Tue) MEMBERS ONLY 9 AM - NOON

APRIL 3RD (TUE) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 2 PM - 9 PM  
April 4th (Wed) 9 AM - 9 PM  
April 5th (Thur) 9 AM - 9 PM  
April 6th (Fri) (Half Price Day) 9 AM - 9 PM  
April 7th (Sat) (Bag Day) 9 AM - 5 PM