



Art Stimulates, Grants Solace to Gallery Visitors Trying To Heal from Terrorist Attacks of September 11

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

WESTFIELD-- While many businesses in the metro New York area have been negatively impacted by the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, the local art community appears to be an exception.

Many area galleries have reported little or no decrease in attendance, and several are reporting an increase in the number of visitors.

Jackie Civins, co-owner of Evalyn Dunn Gallery in Westfield saw a quiet last two weeks of September, followed by a quick rebound.

"A lot of people have decided not to travel and are re-furnishing their homes instead. People are looking to art to pick themselves up instead of being overwhelmed by tragedy," she said, adding that art can be very soothing to look at.

Ms. Givens has also noted an increase in the number of clients who have stopped by the gallery just to talk.

"There has been an emotional impact on the business, many of our clients have stopped by just to be with other people," she said.

Most of Westfield's Galleria West clients come from the Wall Street area, reported Proprietor Gerardo Verdugo. Consequently, he has seen a decrease in business -- a setback he expects should correct itself as his clients begin to relocate and re-decorate their new offices.

"The best thing people can do is carry on like normal," Mr. Verdugo said.

The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts had opened a new exhibit entitled "Unmarked Lives: Tapestries,

'Twin Towers'

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were bombed by terrorists, killing thousands on 9-11, companies took out full-page ads expressing their sympathy and determination to rebuild.

While removing many cubic yards of fill to construct the towers, several relics were uncovered, making the site a kind of sacred burial ground upon which another sacred burial ground would be left decades later.

Big steel companies, such as Bethlehem Steel and U.S. Steel were turned down for the job by the Port Authority because their bids came in too high. Instead, smaller steel companies from all over the country contributed to the project in a piecemeal fashion, because it was cheaper that way.

Shunned by architecture critics, opponents and New Yorkers in the 70s for its bland style, the towers have actually been the symbol most commonly associated with the metropolis. Gillespie cited, "Over the years, there have been persistent reports and rumors of immigration officials who find people, with no official papers, clinging to a postcard of the World Trade Center as a symbol for their hopes for a better world."

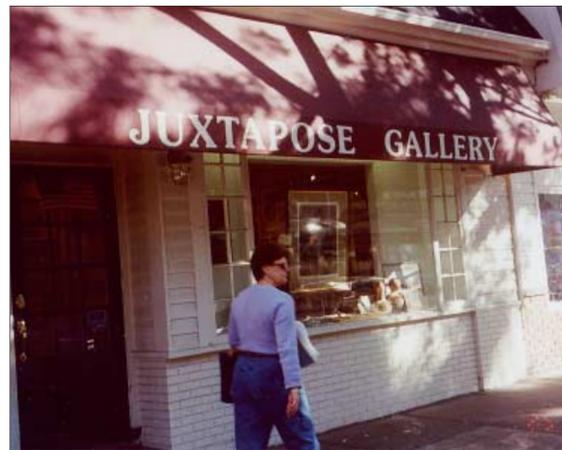
Far removed from the actual 9-11 tragedy, "Twin Towers" is a victim in its own way -- for the reader looks to Gillespie to find some kind of solution or ending that will fix the unfixable. Because Gillespie cannot provide this solution is not his fault or his original purpose in writing "Twin Towers," but the dissatisfying, anti-climactic ending shatters the reader's hopes.



Michelle H. LePoidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
IS BUSINESS BOOMING?...Galleria West and Juxtapose Gallery, both in Westfield, discussed how business has been impacted by the events of September 11 with Leader/Times reporter Marylou Morano.

differently. "The feelings of the viewer are taking on new meanings", she said, adding that what at one time was an interior, could now be seen as a pile of rubber and twisted metal.

In March, the Tomasulo Gallery will be exhibiting a series inspired by the attacks on the World Trade Center. The works are abstract expressionist paintings by Matthew Duwel.



Michelle H. LePoidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Textiles and Paperworks" by Scottish artist Joanne Soroka two days before the terrorist attacks.

"As it turns out, this was the most appropriate exhibit to have at a time like this," commented Executive Director, Joan Duffy Good. "Fabric plays an important part of everyone's life from birth to burial."

Ms. Good, an artist who has exhibited at the World Trade Center, added, "The people who came to the exhibit were profoundly affected. The Visual Arts Center has been a wonderful place to come for comfort."

The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, an educational institution, has had its largest classroom enrollment ever this semester.

Two of the artists from Westfield's Juxtapose Gallery specifically created pieces around September 11 themes. Helen Frank's watercolor "Firefighters at Ground Zero" has been included in the New York Historical Society's "History of the Day" exhibit currently being shown at the Society's building in New York City.

Johanna Wezyk's oil painting "Remembrance" sold immediately after being displayed in Juxtapose's window. The work is of an American flag with a pot of Sunflowers in front of it.

"Art is something people want to be around at this time", explained owner Gerri Gildea. Although the general public is invited to the Braunsdorf Gallery in Westfield its

Theater Impact

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might like to see professional theater without having to travel into New York.

Smaller, amateur companies such as CDC and WCP might not see a marked difference in attendance this year because attendees are more inclined to feel safe staying within a few mile radius of their homes. That, and the fact that friends and family members are pouring their blood, sweat and tears into these shows for the sheer love of performing.

Local art is just as important as professional art. The fact that our community theaters are thriving despite a changing economy is wonderful. Keeping busy and smiling in the face of danger is crucial.

Attending theater can often be an extraordinary and educational experience, and, at a time like this, supporting our local professional and amateur companies is the right thing to do.

clients are mainly interior decorators, reported Jim Fitzpatrick, owner of the company.

This year, in place of a holiday party for staff and clients, Couch Braunsdorf Title Insurance Company (of the Braunsdorf Gallery) will be making a donation to the September 11 Fund.

Union County College's Tomasulo Gallery has seen neither an increase nor a decrease in attendance as a result of the World Trade Center disaster.

"We've seen a little less press coverage," said Valerie Larko, Director, "because the papers are covering other events." Ms. Larko added that viewers are looking at art, especially art that is open to interpretation.

Dining Impact

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New York cooking at Nino's on Canal Street, feeding the workers at Ground Zero.

"I don't want this to become yesterday's headline," explained Boyle. "I hope people continue to donate and volunteer, which is what we plan to do."

Crafters Sought for Trailside's Holiday Nature Craft Show

MOUNTAINSIDE -- The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced that Trailside Na-

ture & Science Center is looking for artisans and crafters to vend quality crafts and gifts at its 18th Annual Holiday Nature Craft Show on Sunday, December 2, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Paul Simon

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Woody Allen's classic *Annie Hall*. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, Simon joined celebrities in a New York City-based fundraising concert for the victims. "Bridge Over Troubled Water" was Simon's song of choice. Suddenly, the words and the melody we had heard played over and over on our radios and CD players weren't so hackneyed. It was like hearing them for the first time, but this time, with a soulful meaning.

The ex-husband of Peggy Harper (married in 1969) and actress Carrie Fisher (wed in 1983) and the current husband of musician Edie Brickell, Simon fathered a son named Harper with Peggy and another son, Adrian with Edie.

Items to be sold must be handmade from natural materials or be based on a natural history theme. Crafts being sought include hand-woven basketry, stencil work, unique children's toys, stained glass, original nature stationery, or photography and arrangements of live evergreens or dried plant material.

Decorative and gift items with wild-life, gardening or nature themes are also appropriate for the craft show. Admission is free and door prize tickets afford the opportunity to win crafted items.

Registration for artisans and crafters ranges from \$15 to \$25 a space on a first-come, first-served basis.

Interested crafters should call Susan Day at (908) 789-3670 or send color photographs of craft items with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, 07092.



Get Outta the House

By CAROL F. DAVIS

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

You still have some time to catch *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* at the George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick. Tickets will run you anywhere between \$26 and \$45, depending on performance time, date, and seat location. Suzanne Douglass portrays Billie Holiday in what has been called a virtuoso performance. The play takes place in 1959, just before Holiday's tragic death, and chronicles the struggles of this legendary jazz singer in her rise to fame. You will love the variety of songs, including "Tain't Nobody's Business" and "God Bless the Child." If you don't frequent the theaters of New Brunswick, it may just be time to start.

On Friday, November 9, there will be a *Psychic & Holistic Fair* at Union County College in Cranford. From 7 to 11 p.m., the Cranford Commons will turn into the Crystal Ball Room, with readers, demonstrations, and vendors of products and approaches to health and wellness. They will also sell celestial snacks and witches' brew. It's only \$3 to get in, and it could be a terrific adventure. The college is located at 1033 Springfield Avenue. For more information, please call (908) 709-7505.

A benefit comedy show, *Standup for Hope 3*, hosted by radio star "Goumba Johnny" will be held at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway on Saturday, November 3, at 8 p.m. The show will feature comedians Joe Vega, Jason Andors and headliner George Wallace. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Center For Hope Hospice. The remainder of the net proceeds will be donated by the Elizabeth P.B.A. Assistance Fund to the New York Police & Fire Departments and the Port Authority Police Department. Singer Jazmine Janell will perform the national anthem and there will be a special tribute to all our fallen heroes of the WTC Tragedy. Tickets are \$25 and \$35.

November 10 is Veteran's Day, and the Watchung Arts Center will present one of America's best-loved folk singers, Oscar Brand, with an opening performance by local singer-songwriter Ginny Johnston. You may be familiar with Brand's music through his long association with National Public Radio - "Folksong Festival" on WNYC - or one of his 90-something recordings. The admission is \$12, which includes desserts and coffee. The Center is located on the Circle in Watchung. Call them for more information at (908) 753-0190.

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GLEEFUL ADDITIONS...The Westfield Glee Club "sang-in" new members Misha Dutka of Scotch Plains, left, and Mary Ann Sesnowich of Colonia at a recent rehearsal. The club is in rehearsal for Winter Concerts to be performed on Saturday, December 8, at 8 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church, Cranford; and on Sunday, December 9, at 4 p.m. at St Paul's Episcopal Church, Westfield. For additional information, please call Dale Juntilla (908) 232-0673.

Magnificent Art Show

18th Westfield Artists Market

Westfield, NJ Armory
500 Rahway Avenue

Nov 2 • 3 • 4

Weekend Pass \$6

Fri 5 pm - 9 pm
Sat 10 am - 6 pm
Sun 10 am - 5 pm
Kids under 10 Free
Gourmet Food
Free Parking

140 Juried Artists

Info 800-834-9437

Directions: Gdn St Pky exit 135 (Clark•Westfield) on Central Ave Westfield. Left at 4th light onto Grove St, right at Edison School onto Rahway Ave. Armory is 1/4 mi on left.

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Hear No Evil
Speak No Evil



Wooden Puzzle Box by Richard Rothbard, Boxology