



Get Outta The House

By CAROL F. DAVIS

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

If you love all things Scandinavian, mark Saturday, November 17, on your calendar. Lodge Linne's 23rd Annual *Scandinavian Import & Gift Sale* will take place between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Salt Brook School, 40 Maple Street in New Providence. In addition to a varied collection of goods, like sweaters, jewelry, specialty foods, linens, crystal, and holiday and household items from Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, you can get a light lunch from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., and see a performance by the Scandinavian Children's Dance Club at 2 p.m. Admission is free.

Also on Saturday, *Jan Clare Viehman, a local quilter from Scotch Plains*, will give a four-hour demonstration of machine piecing and quilting at the Randolph Library, 28 Calais Road in Randolph, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ms. Viehman has been selected as the library's Artist-in-Residence for November, and her quilts will be on display all month. The featured work is her festive "Twelve Poinsettias of Christmas." She has exhibited her works in Newark's City Without Walls Gallery, the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, and the Watchung Arts Center.

On Monday, November 19, the public is invited to attend Hadassah of Westfield's presentation of Dr. Mildred Goodwin, lecturer of the Jewish Historical Society of Central New Jersey, who will discuss "Through the Stage Door: The Impact of Jewish Performers on the Broadway Theater." The talk is a reflection of Dr. Goodwin's deep interest in the theater arts. It will take place at Temple Emanu-El in Westfield at 12:30 p.m. Maybe you could catch it on your lunch hour.

Kenny Rogers will be performing at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway for two shows, on Friday, November 16, at 6:30 and 9 p.m. From among his 59 recorded albums, there is surely a song that you love: *The Gambler? She Believes in Me?* There's gotta be something to a guy whose career spans nearly five decades, and who has sold over 100 million albums. Tickets range from \$45 to \$75, and there just may be some seats available. If not, log onto www.menwholooklikekennyrogers.com. No kidding.

Model railroad and toy collectors, don't miss this one. New Jersey Convention and Expo Center in Edison presents *Greenberg's Train Show* November 17 and 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center will be filled with thousands of models, displays, parts, accessories, books, videos, calendars, and more for the HO-lover in your family. There will be Meet the Master Clinics and hobby shopping is competitive. It's just \$6 for adults, and scouts in uniform, guess what? Admission is free! Ya can't beat that.



PIANO MAN...Matt Sklar, a Broadway conductor and 1991 graduate of Westfield High School, shows seventh graders at Roosevelt Intermediate School in Westfield how to make beautiful music with the piano.

Broadway Conductor, WHS Graduate Matt Sklar Teaches Students How to Tickle the Ivories

WESTFIELD — Matt Sklar, a 1991 graduate of Westfield High School, recently shared his love of piano and music with seventh graders at Roosevelt Intermediate School

in Westfield.

Mr. Sklar, who began playing the piano at 2 years old, was the musical conductor for *Titanic* on Broadway and also conducted *Les Miserables*

at the age of 20.

Recently, he has penned a musical he hopes will find success on Broadway.

In the meantime, he is providing benefit performances for families affected by the September 11 attacks. He is also in demand by Disney, writing the music for shows on their cruise liners.

Kim Meusel, counselor at Roosevelt School, arranged for Mr. Sklar's visit with the help of the Sharing Talents and Skills Program in the district.

Seventh graders at Roosevelt attend presentations by a variety of professionals in the school's "Career Talk Soup" program, held approximately twice per month during the lunch period.

POPCORN™ Monsters, Inc.: Scares Up A Lot of Fun

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

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER

3 popcorns

While youngsters under seven who see *Monsters, Inc.* will be humorously reassured that it's actually quite common to have a monster lurking in your closet, adults will be nostalgically reminded of those first innocent fears.

But, while looking back with rose-colored glasses may produce what now seems like warm and fuzzy memories, a good part of the reminiscent joy is knowing that you survived those demons of your early youth.

The sweatshirt left on a chair that morphed into a tiger when the lights went out doesn't seem that frightening now. But it sure was back then. As written by Dan Gerson and Andrew Stanton, this animated Disney-Pixar delve into our initial bout with phantasmopossesses a universal charm that's bound to please audiences of all ages and on several levels.

It reminded me of the scariest thing in my early childhood: The Nozzle. Fear of The Nozzle worked where other, more enlightened methods of child discipline inevitably failed. Just say that you were going to summon The Nozzle and this bona fide infant terrible became your docile servant. Of course there was a bit of magic to it.

For one, only my big sister Ann could invoke the grotesque beast. A desperate but foolhardy baby-sitter once tried and was never the same. She deserved it. How dare she think she could materialize our family monster.

Come to think of it, though, Ann never did let The Nozzle get me. As the years pass, I've come to suspect that perhaps there never was a Nozzle, but only a rather creative fiction for reining-in a rambunctious and bratty little brother. Either that or there really is a Nozzle and my big sister has been doing a great and selfless job all these years of keeping it from doing whatever it is Nozzles do if they manage to get you, Heaven forbid.

You say The Nozzle doesn't frighten you? Not to worry. There's a monster for everyone in this thoroughly creative effort co-directed by Peter Docter and David Silverman. Whatever ogre it is takes top billing in your nightmares, chances are you'll find something resembling it hard at work at Monsters, Inc., the mega-corporation that has made children's screams its most important product.

The high concept idea, lampooning the single-mindedness of energy cartels and big business in general, is fetchingly ingenious. And while children may not quite grasp the more acerbic nuances of the social drubbing, they're bound to get the gist.

Here's how it works: In the land where monsters live, it has long been known that children's screams are a source of energy. So at Monsters, Inc., where energy is generated from the shrill shrieks of human youth, only the scariest monsters are in attendance. Like athletes, aided and abetted by their managers, they are in competition for the largest screeches.

It matters not that this method of collecting energy causes pain. The greater the cry, the bigger the profit. And thus when each child's closet door through which the monster will charge like a banshee comes into position, it's game time. And no one is better at it than James P. "Sulley" Sullivan (voiced by John Goodman). At least not anyone who scares fairly and doesn't have nefarious designs of cornering the energy market, like jealous and evil Randall Boggs (Steve Buscemi), the perennial no. 2 scare getter.

Sort of on the order of Wallace

Beery, Sulley is actually a great big teddy bear of a brute. But the gentle soul only scares for a living. It is sheer, bad-guy-in-a-James Bond-movie villainy that motivates Randall.

Add to this scenario the accidental infiltration into the monster world of a little girl named Boo (Mary Gibbs), bearing in mind that monsters think human children are toxic, and you are pretty much apprised of the plot.

There's just one other thing to complicate matters. Among the film's many gargoyle-punctuated lessons in tolerance, it falls on Sulley to display his innate goodness by risking all and offering verboten refuge to the little moppet.

Hence there are several touching moments. But the predominant emotion aroused by *Monsters, Inc.* is laughter. The script is intelligent and witty.

The animation is eye-enthralling. And thus a comfy and convivial stage is set for the comedy-filled voicings of John Goodman, Billy Crystal and company.

In fact, if there were an Oscar awarded for best voice of a cartoon character, Crystal would be a shoe-in for his comic stylings here. He's Mike Wazowski, the diminutive, one-eyed monster who manages Sulley. More of a reluctant hero than the quietly noble James P. Sullivan, Crystal's wise-cracking Wazowski spikes up the screenplay with the effervescent energy of a Borscht Belt tomliner who warms up the room by doing shtick from table to table.

Now the question is, who to see this treat with if you're an adult too embarrassed to take in a kiddie flick without children in tow? Parents of toddlers have a ready-made alibi. So do grandparents. And here's a great opportunity for the not so good uncle or aunt looking to painlessly redeem themselves.

But, no matter who accompanies you to the Bijou, an investment in *Monsters, Inc.* is guaranteed to put you in some very funny company.

Monsters, Inc., rated G, is a Disney and Pixar release directed by Peter Docter and David Silverman and stars the voices of Billy Crystal, John Goodman and Steve Buscemi. Running time: 120 minutes.

Pen & Ink

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such things is an abomination to the Lord."

The book I am quoting from has been a bestseller for centuries. It never needed any media hype or Katie Couric interviews. It was never made into a movie by Warner Bros. But, it holds the truths for this holiday season. Truths we need to become enchanted by now more than ever.

The Diners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

going. Too bad, also, because I would have enjoyed the black bean soup.

The clincher to this meal that I will never, ever repeat was that the charge for my entree was \$19.95! I thought it surely must have been a mistake, but I kept my mouth shut for once. I just wanted to go home for a tasty snack.

Kathy Bambos

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Union County in the next few weeks. It is currently in the lobby of the Rahway senior citizen building. The Rahway Senior Citizen Building is located at 1306 Esterbrook Road. Hours for the exhibit are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

After the exhibit is presented at the Rahway Senior Citizens Building, the exhibit will travel to Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Arts & Entertainment News? Complaints? Suggestions? We Want to Know. Please e-mail michelle@goleader.com!

Keep the Home Fires Burning Anxiety Persists Two Months Following Day of Terrorism

By CAROL F. DAVIS

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

PLAINFIELD — It's very hard to believe that two months have gone by since the horrifying events of September 11.

Last month, while driving into Chicago, I shuddered at the image of the Sears Tower. It was an eerie feeling, but I tried not to think of it as a foreboding sense of doom.

I didn't think twice, however, at visiting the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland — at least not in reference to a terrorist attack. Perhaps that was foolish, or just a moment of rest for my over-active psyche.

It doesn't matter, because what I had was a window of two or three hours with no anxiety. The sound of a jet flying over-

I shudder when he tells me about the days he has spent at the Staten Island site, identifying parts that came from the jets that crashed into the Twin Towers.

The saddest moment for me was the day he came home and told me that the children of the victims made some drawings, as a gift to those still hard at work sifting through the rubble.

The caption on one of the pictures read: "Thank you for looking for my daddy." How can anyone avoid an emotional meltdown with that information?

Then there are the forgotten victims — the traumatized pets of the people lost in the attack. I have been working with several rescue groups to help find homes for these animals. They are now

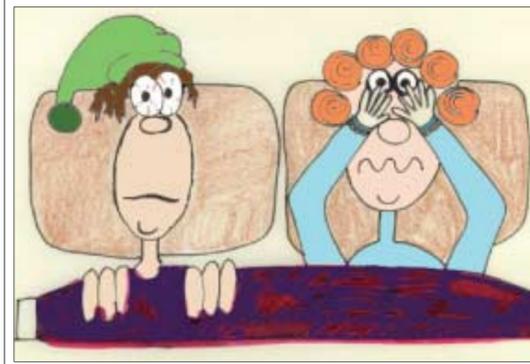


Illustration by Michelle Helen Dominique LePoidevin

WILL THE ANXIETY EVER END?...Carol F. Davis expresses what is on a lot of minds these days...when will the anxiety since the attacks of September 11 subside?

head still makes me shudder. I continue to avoid air travel, bridges and tunnels, and events like the World Series.

In fact, the closest I have come to Manhattan has been a vantage point from Liberty State Park.

I fall asleep each night to the reports of the BBC or other news on WNYC, and I awake to the same. I wonder how soon each new threat will occur. Is it any wonder that I continue to have frightening dreams and restless nights?

Am I alone? I don't think so.

Meanwhile, I watch as my husband responds in his practical, male fashion, and gathers survival equipment. I am uncomfortable when he must fly, and I tell his boss, "I am certain that you would not authorize an assignment that involved undue risk, and that your policies will evolve to reflect the proper response to the current situation."

starting to emerge, and to show up at the shelters, and they are in bad shape.

When people tell me that they will only take a four-week old female gray tabby with white paws, I try to maintain my composure.

The topic of September 11 continues to come up in almost every conversation lasting more than a few minutes, even those with strangers. It is gratifying to learn that many are doing what they can to help.

Some are donating money at the checkout of their local supermarkets, some are purchasing or selling through eBay's Auction for America (I picked up a nice item, and shipping was included), others are helping with the displaced animals.

Thanks to all of you who are contributing, in some way, to the healing of our nation.

'Lights Out' Band Performs At Patriotic Rally in Jersey City

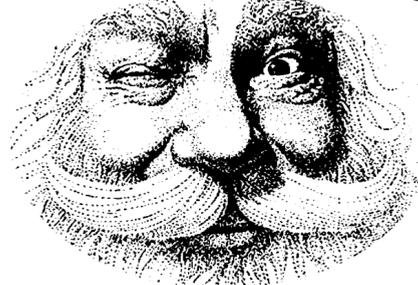
SCOTCH PLAINS — The pop vocal group "Lights Out," featuring Daniel Goscicki of Scotch Plains, Chris Wiseman of Morris Plains, Rob Fleishman of Richboro, Pa., and Chad Moroz of Newark, Del. recently performed at a patriotic rally in Liberty State Park.

The national rally, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their Ladies Auxiliary, was entitled "United for

Liberty." The purpose of the rally, which was held on October 27, was to show the nation's support for the military serving at home and abroad in the current campaign against terrorism.

Other performers included country music stars Toby Keith and Barbara Fairchild and Roy Morris, Miss USA, Miss New Jersey, Miss New York, and the USO Troupe of Metropolitan New York, among others.

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