

Pen & Ink

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than a balloon artist and a man on stilts playing the kazoo rather poorly. Last Friday's girls' night out proved to be a shopping experience which taught me how dollar-obsessed we, as a society, have become and how socially unconscious we remain. And, considering that lesson, I'm all the richer for it.

Craft Market

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focused on landscapes and nature themes, primarily. From Simonelli's European doors to Glass' eye-popping orchids and daisies in bloom, they mastered their medium.

Honorable mentions go to Janet Jaffe for her handcrafted necklaces, filled with sparkling Austrian crystal and Cottage Clayworks for the daintily painted flowers upon sets of glazed pottery.

Exit 13

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sponse their writing gets," said Plante. A special feature of this issue of *Exit 13* issue is a 1977 interview with the late Gregory Corso, the "Beat Era" protégé of Allen Ginsburg, Jack Kerouac and William S. Burroughs. *Exit 13* Magazine No. 10 is available for \$7 at select local stores, or from *Exit 13* Publications, P.O. Box 423, Fanwood, 07023.

ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

The Book Nook
with Marylou Morano
Authors Let the Ink Flow Freely in Batch of 9-11 Books

By MARYLOU MORANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
The Twin Towers rose a majestic 1360 and 1368 feet into the sky, and for two brief months, they were the tallest buildings in the world. The North Tower's 360-foot mast was taller than the Statue of Liberty. They cost \$1.8 billion to build and comprised 10 percent of all Manhattan office space. Now, seven months after 9-11, there is no shortage of books about the World Trade Center, the disaster and the nation's response to the tragedy.

Last summer, architectural photographer Carol Highsmith set out to photograph the Twin Towers. The result is one of the last photographic remembrances of the New York City skyline, as we knew it. Her book, "World Trade Center: Tribute and Remembrance" is a slim, smaller version of a coffee-table book. I look upon my copy as my very own photograph album of the Twin Towers. It also contains some interesting historical pictures of the Twin Towers' construction. Crescent Books publish it.

Another photo-driven book with somewhat more text is Life Magazine's "One Nation: America Remembers" September 11, 2001. This is a nice blend of stunning pictures and words to accompany them, with an introduction by former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

One chapter, called "Faces at Ground Zero," presents some of those who actually worked in some way during the disaster. While this book doesn't spend much time on any one aspect of the disaster, it does provide a well-done overview of the infamous day and the time thereafter. It is published by Little Brown and Company.

A good, quick reading book that gives a very broad overview of all of the day's events can be found in "September 11: 2001: A Time for Heroes" by Lance Wubbels, published by Treasure House. The book is filled with black and white pictures, and quotes from past patriots who have made their mark in history, and whose words are so eerily applicable to 9-11.

The book I have most enjoyed is "America, September 11, the Courage to Give." This book is subtitled the Triumph of the Human Spirit. This paperback dwells not on the devastation the tragedy wrought, but on the way Americans from coast to coast pulled together to help out at Ground Zero. It is edited by Jackie Waldman and is published by Conari Press.

Those of us who live so close to the site of the World Trade Center sometimes forget that our nation's capitol was also attacked on 9-11. Authors and publishers seem to have forgotten also, as the majority of books written about the tragedy have been focused on the New York attacks.

One book however, "Twilight Sky: Air Disaster at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon" by Tim Vaquez does discuss the Washington, D.C. building. The author has spent 20 years chronicling the history and operations of commercial aviation.

A small book of just 63 pages, it is crammed with charts and diagrams and black and white illustrations. It is filled with technical details of the flights and it presents theories of how they could have been hijacked. This is a "meaty" book, which is great for those who are more into the technical aspects of the disaster, and unlike many other books out there, it gives the Pentagon its due.

In the wake of 9-11, a rash of emotionally driven books that emphasized the American spirit quickly appeared. Many of these books are nothing more than hastily put together souvenirs, a portion of the purchase going to various 9-11 charities.

The technicalities of the rescue and recovery were out-shone by heroism and patriotism. Yet, they are still worth reading and buying and holding on to hand down to the generations that will come after us and who will have only their history books from which to read about 9-11.

The Soldier's Tale to Be Told
By Suzanne Douglas
WESTFIELD - On Sunday, April 21, the Arbor Chamber Music Society will present Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* with Suzanne Douglas in the role of narrator, at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield.
Ted Sod will serve as director, and the Arbor Chamber Players will be conducted by Raymond Wojcik.
Tickets are \$18 for general admission, \$15 for senior citizens, and may be obtained by calling (908) 232-1116.
The Presbyterian Church is handicapped accessible.

POPCORN™
High Crimes: Makes For Low Expectations
One Popcorn, Poor • Two Popcorns, Fair • Three Popcorns, Good • Four Popcorns, Excellent

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER
2 popcorns
If films had names like perfumes, *High Crimes* might justifiably be called "Eau de Various Court Martial Movies." Because although director Carl Franklin's moderately engaging saga about a soldier being court-martialed for a 1988 massacre in El Salvador, which he did or did not commit, has just recently been released, it sure seems like we've seen this one before.

That's because over the years we have, albeit in several variations and permutations, distributed in bits and fragments in an uncountable number of like-minded films.

The familiar old theme has by now achieved the status of bona fide cliché, and as such can only be elevated by great writing, inventive direction or especially inspired acting performances. Fail on all three counts and, oops, your platitudes are showing.

You know the drill by now, soldier. The Marine Corps is intent on hanging this guy. The word is it's a cover-up for yet even more government meddling, bungling and murder. And of course the links of guilt go pretty high.

Maybe even as high as Brigadier General William Marks (Bruce Davison). Thus the title, *High Crimes*. Get it? Get it? Bred on Perry Mason and the such, we're used to defense attorneys pulling all sorts of legal rabbits out of the judicial hat and working their way to an acquittal via a symphony of perfectly sonorous objections. All along the sleepy judge has pounded his gavel, alternately declaring "overruled" or "sustained." Then in the 11th hour, the defense jets the star witness in from left field and that's the ballgame.

That's strictly civilian stuff, see? Wake up and smell the chipped beef on toast, we're told. This is the military. They're playing by different rules now. Especially the judge in this case, who excludes as inadmissible practically anything the defense tenders. Wonder whose pocket he's in?

Fighting them seems impossible. And it is all neatly summarized by Morgan Freeman in a superbly illustrative quote which highlights the trailer for *High Crimes*. As Charlie Grimes, a down-and-out but formerly top-notch Marine attorney who's had a bout with the bottle, he informs lawyer Claire Kubik (Ashley Judd), wife of the accused, thusly: "Military justice is to justice what military music is to music." Sousa fans may beg to differ, but it's a great line all the same. Now, you'd think the challenge of a military trial for Tony Frisco defense counselor Claire Kubik would be enough plot baggage

for one movie. If screenwriter Yuri Zeltser's adaptation of Joseph Finder's novel packed any sort of creative punch, you'd be correct. But it does not.

Thus, to coin a phrase, since the filmmakers cannot dazzle us with brilliance, they attempt to baffle us with, well, let's call it obfuscation. The big cloud here is the actual identity of the defendant.

When Claire married him, he said he was Tom Kubik. But the Marines say he's Sergeant Ron Chapman. Played by James Caviezel, he contends he changed his name when he took it on the lam to evade the military frame job. We kind of believe him. Yet when he offers to take a polygraph test, we don't try to stop him, either. It would be nice to put our doubts to rest.

Surprisingly, even Claire thinks so. Afterwards, however, Major Hernandez (Juan Carlos Hernandez), Tom/Ron's archenemy and supposedly the real killer who's behind the set-up, puts a little bee in our helmet. He informs that Special Forces types like Claire's husband have been trained to "beat the machine." In other words, outwit the lie detector.

As a result, not only aren't we sure if he's innocent. We also aren't too certain who he is. As the script never does figure how to make us both supportive and suspect of the accused, Caviezel's character is ultimately rendered a bit too besides the point.

Don't let that spoil things. What the heck. We have a very winning character — this successful attorney portrayed by Judd — Miss Role Model 2002. Just oozing Donna Karan, she's tres Yuppie shark — a sort of younger version of Michelle Pfeiffer's high-priced mouthpiece in *I Am Sam* (2002). The confidence is seductive.

While he's been in finer fettle, Freeman as her rumpaled and avuncular counterbalance, just the reinforcement you need if you're going to take on the Marines, still satisfies the age-old movie bromide that recovering alcoholics make the best lawyers, especially when it comes to truly impossible causes (i.e. — Paul Newman in *The Verdict* — 1982).

While saving *High Crimes* from its filmic offenses may be just a little too impossible, the thespic synergy Judd and Freeman realize certainly heightens this courtroom drama's chances for appeal.

High Crimes, rated PG-13, is a 20th Century Fox release directed by Carl Franklin and stars Ashley Judd, Morgan Freeman and James Caviezel. Running time: 105 minutes.

'Feather Your Nest' Show Slated By Scotch Plains Arts Committee

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains Cultural Arts Committee, under the auspices of the township's Recreation Department, invites residents to

"Feather Your Nest," at the Home and Personal Care Extravaganza, to be held at the Scotch Hills Country Club, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 20.

The show will feature exhibits and sales of products for the home, including cookware, stained glass, housewares, fine cosmetics, candles, custom painted furniture, artwork, jewelry and giftware.

Products will be available from nationally recognized vendors, including Tupperware, Mary Kay, Longaberger Baskets, Pampered Chef, Avon, Expressive Toys, Creative Memories, and Party Lite Candles.

"Feather Your Nest" is open to the public and there is no admission charge.

Proceeds of the show will benefit the summer concert series that provides free family entertainment on the Village Green in Scotch Plains on Thursday evenings in July and August. The series offers a variety of musical and children's entertainment, beginning at 6:45 p.m.

For more information about the Scotch Plains Cultural Arts Committee, the "Feather Your Nest" Home and Personal Care Extravaganza, or the summer concert series, please call Allison Halperin at (908) 322-6700, extension no. 222.

Members Salon 2002 Exhibition On Tap

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Art Association (WAA), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing artists and the community with an opportunity to learn about the aspects of fine art, announced that it will host its 78th Annual Members Salon 2002 Exhibition from Saturday, April 20, to Sunday, April 28, in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building.

Exhibition hours are 12 to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and 21; noon to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28; noon to 2 p.m., Monday to Friday, April 22 to 26.

An awards reception will be held on April 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

The exhibit, which will include paintings, sculpture, graphics and photography, will be judged by Ferdinand Petrie, a New Jersey artist and graduate of Parsons School of Design in New York City.

For more information, please call Jane Annis, Membership Chairperson, at (908) 232-3881.



THE CONCERT IS COMING... Youth and Family Counseling Service (YFCS) Board President Jim Slabe, YFCS Executive Director Milt Faith and Westfield United Fund Executive Director Linda Maggio look forward to the concert by the Reverend Alphonse Stephenson and the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea on Saturday, April 20, at The Presbyterian Church of Westfield, to aid YFCS. Tickets are available at Lancaster, Ltd. and the agency at 233 Prospect Street. For more information, please call (908) 233-2042.

MY TAKE ON IT
WITH KERRIANNE SPELLMAN CORT
Spreading Sunshine Instead Of Rudeness Breeds Character

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

FANWOOD - On AOL (America Online) this morning, there was a special section entitled "Is Rudeness an Epidemic?" I had to laugh and clicked on the icon to see what they had to say. There was a little quiz that you could take to see if you were one of the many Americans who are deserving of a rudeness award.

Though the quiz was for men only, (I found that odd) I took it anyway and was pleased to discover that I would not be classified as rude. Big sigh of relief. Because, of course, more than half the population ranked in the upper rudeness echelon.

Overly aggressive drivers, cell phone chatty Kathy's, people who seem to enjoy insulting waiters and various other workers just trying to make a living... all of these lovely folk fell into the category of a rude American.

So, knock it off, people. It's spring. The sun is shining, the birds are singing in the trees, and, hopefully, our world is slowly becoming a safer, better place. So, why so crabby?

I have actually noticed this rudeness trend quite a bit lately, particularly when jogging in the park.

Now, in everyone's defense, I will admit that one doesn't always know what kind of day a fellow jogger, walker or biker might be having, but, isn't it just so irksome when you smile at someone and they look at you as if you have 15 heads? It's a smile, for crying out loud. I didn't run up and embrace you and ask you to lunch, I smiled and said hello.

Are the muscles in your face not working anymore, or are you just a rude ignoramus? Never mind.

Speaking of the park, people, please watch where you are going. Children play there. Dogs run free there. Not to mention squirrels and various other wild creatures

making their homes there.

Last week, I witnessed an oh-so-cool biker run over a baby squirrel. The poor thing couldn't have been more than three inches long. And you know what? The guy kept going. He didn't stop to see if there was anything that he could do, which, unfortunately, there wasn't. The sweet little thing died several minutes later. The guy just kept tooling along, completely unwilling to break his stride.

Note to the Kamikaze biker — if you can take the time to make sure your bike shorts match your helmet, then you can take the time to slow down.

Today, as I walked my dogs, a teenager walking home from school with her friends laughed moronically and said, "Man, that stinks," as I dutifully cleaned up after my dog. I replied, "Well, at least I'm one of the people who picks up after my dog." But she just sneered and repeated, "Man, that's stinky." I didn't bother to inquire what her bathroom might possibly smell like in the morning. Roses, I'm sure. Perfume.

Here's another nincompoop who is quickly approaching platinum rude status... the person who crams into you in the street, and then acts as if you aren't even there, or worse, shoots you a look as if it was your fault.

When this happens to me, I often yell, "Am I invisible?" I don't always get a response, but at least I know I made the other person think.

The past several months have indeed been stressful and frightening, to say the least. Every American has suffered. So rather than be cranky and hostile about it, why not try to move forward with a little joy?

Yes, there are all types of people and personalities in the world, and I have learned that patience goes a long way. But you know what? So does a smile.

Local Students to Share Spotlight At Little Opera Company Concert

WESTFIELD - Westfield residents Elizabeth Cullin, Rachel Hawkins, Valerie Hoffman, Emily Sheehan, Anna Lena-Schmidt, Hillary Nicole, Rebecca DiFazio and Sarah Szollar, who has a featured solo, along with Scotch Plains students William Shore, Jennifer Cua, Francine Nieva, and Melissa Pantojan, will perform during The Little Opera Company of New Jersey's double bill concert on Saturday, April 20, at 8 p.m. at Westfield High School (WHS).

The concert will include Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*.

Celine Mogielnicki, 15, a student at WHS and the winner of the 2002 Young Vocal Artists Awards Competition, will be featured during the concert. She will perform as the daughter in *I Pagliacci*. Darren Levy, 16, of Westfield, will play the narrator during the performance.

The fully-staged and costumed operas are directed by Norman Kauahi and will be conducted by Robert W. Butts. They

will be performed in Italian, with musically accompanied narration in English, forwarding the story.

For tickets and information, please call (800) 831-6215. Tickets are priced at \$25 for adults, \$18 for senior citizens and students. Tickets will be available at the door.

Westfield Authors, Callahan, Wood to Speak And Autograph Books at Library in Plainfield

PLAINFIELD - On Saturday, April 20, from 2 to 4 p.m., the Friends of the Plainfield Public Library will celebrate National Library Week by having Westfield authors discuss and read excerpts from their recently published books.

Billy Callahan of Westfield, the author of "Muckraker," a true story of high school drug activity, will participate. Gertrude Wood, the author of "Sincerely

WINNING VOCALIST...Celine A. Mogielnicki

of Westfield has won first place in a Classical Vocal Competition, which was sponsored by the Associated Music Teachers League, Inc. 75th Anniversary Year in New York City. Celine, 16, received the Dr. Florence Hong Wong Scholarship Award and was invited to perform the selection, *Ouvre Ton Coeur*, by George Bizet at Steinway Hall in New York on April 4. The participants, who were all sponsored by their voice teachers, were required to sing three classical selections in French, Italian and English. Celine was recently accepted into the Boston University Tanglewood Institute 2002 Season of the Young Artist Vocal Program. She will spend six weeks this summer, studying in Lenox, Mass. A Westfield High School sophomore, she is a student of Professor Mariana Pannova of New York City. She is enrolled in the Preparatory Division of the Manhattan School of Music in New York. Celine studied for two consecutive years at the Westminster Choir College Conservatory in the Young Artist Performance Program of Princeton, before beginning her studies in Manhattan. She intends to pursue a career in operatic performance.



Gardening Information & Directory

THE MASTER GARDENER SHOW
www.LandscaperDirectory.TV
www.TheMasterGardenerShow.com
www.FindALandscaper.TV

Coming Next Week
• The members' exhibitions of the Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood Art Associations will be critiqued by A&E Editor Michelle Le Poidevin.
• Bestselling author Mary Higgins Clark will be interviewed by Marylou Morano.