



## Gather Ye Garden Freshness While Ye May

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

**WESTFIELD**—Chances are, that stock boy named "Skip" in the produce department of your favorite food store won't be able to tell you the proper sunlight for storing basil or the reason tomatoes and cherries should be kept separate. But, under the 90-degree August sun, Jersey's farmers are willing to help you pick a firm zucchini, give you hints on how to cook it and, tell you what part of your refrigerator will keep your legume the coolest. Plus you'll never smell the aroma of cilantro and basil so clearly at the supermarket, where dodging carts

and sincere hospitality. Last year seemed to include a wider variety of farmers. Shoppers bounced between Sunhaven Farms in Hillsborough and Maxwell's Farms, while last year, they were



Warm Blueberry Crêpes, "The Cool Mountain Cookbook," written by Gwen Ashley Walters. Photograph by Jeffrey S. Walters.

in a crowded aisle has become a contact sport. Another season of farmer's marketing is underway at the South Avenue Train Station in Westfield, where attendance has been high, yielding shoppers who promise to return next week for more fresh fruit

joined by at least four other produce stands. Baker's Bounty of Linden offered a cornucopia of oven-fresh goods like Spinach Cheese Bread.

While bargains and rare wares like purple bell peppers for a mere

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### Warm Blueberry Crêpes

Blueberry Filling (2½ cups)  
2 cups fresh blueberries  
½ cup orange juice  
1 tsp. cornstarch  
1 tsp. cold water

Crêpes (approximately 30)  
¾ cup flour  
¾ cup whole-wheat flour  
3 tsp. sugar  
2 tsp. baking powder  
6 egg whites (slightly whipped-foamy)  
2 cups 2% milk  
3 tsp. vegetable oil  
1 tsp. vanilla extract

• Stir flours, sugar and baking powder and set aside  
• Whisk together egg whites, milk, oil and vanilla. Pour the milk mixture over the flour mixture over the flour mixture and whisk until smooth. Set aside for 20-30 minutes.  
• Heat non-stick 8-inch skillet over medium heat. Spray with nonstick spray and pour in 1/8 cup of batter, quickly lifting and swirling the pan to coat the bottom with a thin layer. Return pan to heat and cook until edges brown for about 1½ minutes.  
• Spoon 2 tsp. of warm blueberry filling into center of crepe before rolling.

Published in "The Cool Mountain Cookbook" by Gwen Ashley Walters



PICTURE PERFECT...On July 6, former Westfield resident Tonia Fleming received a first place award for her black and white photograph, "Stairs," and an honorable mention for her black and white photograph, "Tree of Life." The prizes were awarded at "Through the Lens," the annual Open Judged Photography Competition sponsored by the Miller Art Center in Springfield, Vt. Tonia, the daughter of Charles and Maryanne Garbowski of Westfield, is a marketing director of Dufresne-Henry, Inc. and lives in Chester, Vt. with her husband and two children.

# Arts & Entertainment

## Despite State's Budget Cut for 2003, Arts Groups Insist the Show Will Surely Go On

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

**WESTFIELD**—Before Governor James McGreevey and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts announced its budget for the Fiscal Year 2002-2003, arts organizations braced themselves for the worst.

And, while groups like the Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) and Union County's Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs in Elizabeth are now scrambling with what turned out to be smaller cuts than expected, they are encouraged by McGreevey's vow to establish a special panel of arts representatives to draw up a three-year plan to ensure better funding for the following fiscal term.

The WSO, which serves as Union County's Residence Orchestra and has been titled a "Distinguished Arts Organization" by

the State Council on the Arts, received \$40,500 from the state last year, but will now be allotted \$39,237—a difference of \$1,263.

WSO Executive Director Nicole DeNigro told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* that the cut "doesn't really affect us at all."

"It was a relatively small cut," said DeNigro. "We're not worried about making that up." She added that the WSO was aware of the state's budget crisis and was prepared ahead of time as to what cuts might be coming down the line.

Led by Music Director and Conductor David Wroe, the ensemble is responsible for up to five productions, a "Caravan" program, linking its musicians to students, and master classes.

A deeper cut was felt by the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. The state offered the department \$175,778 last year under the title, "Local Arts Program," whereas this year's allotment tallies a \$12,000 difference of \$163,778 for 2003.

Under the category of "Local Arts Staffing," the budget was also cut for the county from \$33,780 to \$22,520,

a difference of \$11,260.

"Some of the counties were harder hit than others," said Susan Coen of the Division of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, "and, we were one of them." Middlesex, Bergen, Cumberland, and Hudson counties also received sharp cuts by the council.

"The cuts impact not only what the Division does in general, but the 46 organizations to whom that money would be granted," explained Coen. "We (the department) will try to absorb as much of the hit as we can to avoid affecting the organizations that we serve," she said, adding that the Division's advisory board will meet later this month to determine where the cuts will fall.

Each year, the department takes great care in allocating monies for programs which will help residents of all ages appreciate the historical flavor of the county, while helping artistically inclined residents realize their projects through special grant funding.

A decrease of only \$624 was felt by Summit-based New Jersey Center for Visual Arts (NJCA). Last year, the organization received a flat

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### State Council on Arts Gives Grant, Awards To WYACT Troupe

**WESTFIELD**—Cynthia Meryl, Founder and Director of the Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre, Inc. (WYACT) announced on July 23 that the troupe received a financial grant and two additional awards from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

According to Meryl, WYACT received a Citation of Excellence, stating that "the project exhibited the highest standards of excellence in its artistry, operations, governance, public benefit and fulfillment of areas of special council interest."

WYACT was also selected by the council to receive funds from the National Endowment of the Arts' "Challenge America" program "whose purpose is to strengthen families, communities, and our nation through the arts," Meryl said.

Currently, WYACT is moving its highly-acclaimed production of *South Pacific* from the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC) in Newark to the Algonquin Theater in Manasquan. WYACT will also steal the stage with *Dames at Sea*.

For ticket information, please call WYACT at (908) 233-3221.

## If You're An Accessory to Fashion: Costume Jewelry Will Set You Free

By JENNIFER PINTO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

What is costume jewelry anyway? Is it the inexpensive faux jewelry we love to pick up from store counters, or has it become more than that? It seems that as far as costume jewelry is concerned, the options are endless.

From funky, oversized plastic rings to your one-of-a-kind art pieces, costume jewelry has no limits and this



year anything goes. Many costume pieces contain semi-precious stones, silver, and other distinct metals. Nevertheless, much of the latest costume jewelry is a far cry from its traditional meaning.

Costume jewelry is typically made out of inexpensive materials meant to be worn with current fashions. Even though that idea still remains very true, it seems that costume jewelry has taken a whole new direction. It now varies from inexpensive to very pricey pieces. Whether you are running to the grocery store or walking down the aisle, just remember that there is a perfect piece of costume jewelry for any given event.

Jewelers of the art nouveau movement overlooked historic styles and really begin to focus on nature as a main resource for inspiration. Designs were simply more affordable and in many cases more unique. Jewelers used glass, enamel, semiprecious stones as well as cheaper metals, which strayed away from likes of 18-carat gold.

After World War I, the revolution of fashion not only gave birth to American style and ready-to-wear, but it also induced costume jewelry. During this period, designers focused on lighter metals and new casting methods, leading to more sculptural designs.

There was a whole new understanding of wearability, and that became a primary basis for modern jewelry. Thus implementing practical metals like copper, silver and even utilizing plastic for its durability. All of these ideas can be found in today's highly trendy costume jewelry.

According to Vivian Livingston, animated ingénue of [www.vivianlives.com](http://www.vivianlives.com) and author of "The Autobiography of Vivian," which is published by Ballantine Books, "Costume Jewelry is so the way to go! Beautiful designs and jazzy colorations that you can fall in and out of love with in a season's notice. My favorite costume pieces are always big bold and bright rings and every now and again, that great necklace. Affordable, fashionable and fun — my longstanding definition for costume jewelry!"

Vivian's website will direct you to all the right resources for all of your fashion and lifestyle needs, it's a brilliant website with a daily dosage of humor ... I promise that you will love it. Look to her sight for ideas on great costume jewelry that suits you.

If you are looking for fun and inexpensive costume jewelry you can

also try visiting stores like *Urban Outfitters*, *Anthropologie*, *H&M* and *Delias*.

These fun boutiques will have the look you need at affordable prices. These fun and everyday pieces can be directly ordered from the company's individual website.

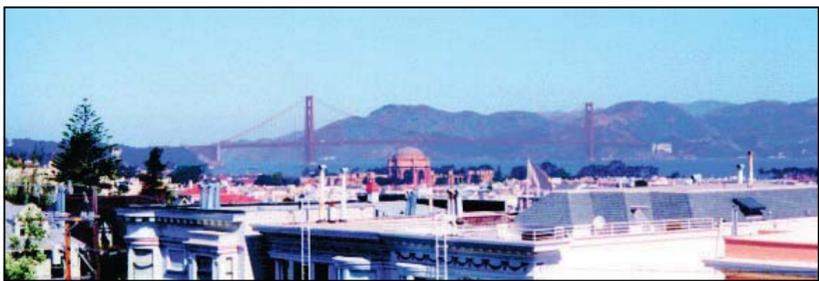
However, if you're looking for extravagant costume pieces you don't have to stray too far. Check out the magnificent designs and purely phenomenal pieces at the *Juxtapose Gallery* in Westfield.

Gerri Gildea, Owner/Proprietor, kindly showed me her unique selection of costume jewelry. The pieces that caught my eye were the designs by *Due Sorelle*



Jennifer Pinto for The Leader/The Times  
URBAN ORNAMENT...This fun Russian, Birchwood, carved pendant held by a suede strand can be found at Urban Outfitters for a bargain price of \$28.

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Also this weekend is Chester's *Peach Festival & Country Auction*, at the Community Presbyterian Church at 220 Main Street. This benefit will feature a huge white elephant sale, a variety of crafts, homemade peach pie and ice cream, and, of course, a country auction. For more information, call them at (908) 879-5091. If you happen to be there on Sunday, take advantage of *Black River Park Day* at Cooper Mill, 66 Route 24, also in Chester, where you can discover the diverse natural and cultural history of the Black River.

Model railroad enthusiasts and toy collectors take note. Once again the *Greenberg Train Show* is coming to Edison's New Jersey Convention & Expo Center this summer, on August 10 and 11. Admission is \$7, and is good for both days, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Attend a Meet-The-Masters or a How-To Clinic, shop for an incredible variety at the super hobby market, visit the special children's attractions, enter to win contests and door prizes, and check out the great displays. Scouts, you already know that if you put on your uniform, your admission is free.