

Arts & Entertainment



Jennifer Pinto for The Westfield Leader/The Times
WOMEN CONQUER FASHION......An illustration depicting social and fashion changes after World War I. (Artist unknown, illustration was pictured in Ernestine Carter's *20th Century Fashion*.)



Jennifer Pinto for The Westfield Leader/The Times
FASHIONABLE ON ICE......Vintage ready-to-wear skating costume by fashion designer Max Meyer.

Evolution of American Fashion: How We Created Our Own Style

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

The creation of American Fashion dates back over 100 years ago. However, many argue about when American fashion officially took off. Who were the nation's first fashion designers, and were they even documented? But most importantly, when did our nation's fashion come into its own?

Unfortunately, that is a question that cannot truly be answered due to the difficult and unclear break from Parisian influence.

In the late 1800s through the 1900s, women were set in their ways when it came to fashion. They knew that Parisian style supplied all women and that fine suits from London supplied the men.

It was all about haute couture, a custom-ordered, handmade piece that is fitted to the customer, and all American women wanted that handmade dress by a French designer.

If you were wealthy or famous, you would travel to Paris to get your handmade garments. Nevertheless, as wonderful as a voyage to Paris sounds, the majority of American women could not afford to travel and pay hundreds of dollars for handmade outfits. In many cases they would settle for the second best thing, a knock-off of a French design made by an unknown American dressmaker.

Most of these dressmakers were knocking off French apparel seen in spreads from early fashion magazines such as *Post Civil War Daily*, *The Lady's Friend*, *Godey's Lady Book* and the very recognized *Vogue*.

No one in the late 1800s dared to dispute with French designers. After all, Paris is the birthplace of fashion and to this day American designers display their haute couture fashion lines every season on the runways of Paris for mass approval. Haute couture remains a symbol of wealth pur-

chased by likes of celebrities and royalty and it will forever hold its status.

What made the fashion revolution so difficult were the overpowering ideals from abroad. All of Europe praised haute couture and separating from that ideal was not an easy task. Everything in America was dominated by European influence, be it through art, architecture or, in this case, fashion.

Social changes after World War I (1914-1918) started changing the perceptions of women. As women began to enter the workplace and involve themselves in recreational and sport-related activities they felt a need to wear freer and less restricted clothing. They felt a sense of liberation, thus turning to American fashion.

Women wanted practical yet stylish clothing and unknowingly they finally began to slowly accept American designers.

Many business entrepreneurs and designers saw this whole new market of accepting women and decided to put this market to work.

Fashion designers Jessie Franklin Turner and Hattie Carnegie decided to put their ideas to work.

Turner followed French fashions to a certain degree, but not entirely. Much of his inspiration came from travel and from his visits to museums. He reincarnated romanticism, a theme seen in most of his fashion designs. His most famous work is his famous "tea gown," a huge trend seen in the 1920s and 1930s.

Carnegie, born Henrietta Kanengeiser in Vienna, changed her name when she arrived to New York City. She felt that Carnegie would be a good name because it stood for money and power, two things that she was looking for. The talented



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Pen & Ink

With Michelle H. Le Poidevin

Pond Antics: Pranksters Leave Raft Behind, Post 'Dirty Lake' Banner

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

Much deserved praise has been attributed to the attractive landscaping and flowers blooming around the newly installed overlook at Mindowaskin Park. Craig Stock, who is a member of Westfield's Architectural Review Board, spent many days in the scorching heat and teeming rain planting some of the most original flowers I've ever seen and plotting out landscaping schemes with great detail.

We've got a gorgeous park to take pride in. However, we've all kept mum about the purple raft à la KayBee Toys that was floating in the pond since the Westfield P.B.A.'s Annual Fishing Derby on May 5, which gravitated from the bridge to the overlook, and was finally removed last Thursday. I was beginning to wonder if tours of the pond were being offered from the overlook. In all honesty, it shouldn't have taken that long to notice that it didn't belong there.

Whether or not it was some kind of high school prank that usually takes place after graduation festivities, one of the islands in the pond resembled something out of the CBS "Survivor" series. Shortly after Westfield High School's graduation, (in fact, I think it was the day after - June 25), a giant white banner was hoisted between two trees reading,



Lauren S. Pass for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SURVIVOR WESTFIELD......Whether it was the Gumbertwaskin or the Tamaquaroos Tribe, no survivor has been declared yet for what a giant white banner calls "Dirty Lake Island." The banner, which has been posted since June 25, sits on one of the islands in the middle of the pond. The Tribal Council meets across the way on Tuesday nights.

"Dirty Lake Island." The deed, which couldn't have been done without wading or paddling out to the tiny island, was proudly attributed to by the banner's makers: Scott C., Andrew C., and someone with the last initial of Z. We ask the following questions: since this was done, directly across from the Westfield Police Department, why didn't anyone notice? Also, unless we take great pride in calling it "Dirty Lake Island," why hasn't this sign been removed? Yes, the pond is scheduled for a dredging once the drought has officially ended, but is that any reason to not enjoy its serenity?

For example, while out taking a couple of photographs on Thursday afternoon, Lauren S. Pass noticed a fluorescent orange object in the pond by the footbridge. Our cameras followed the unidentified swimming object, as it swam under the bridge, discovering that it was a 20-inch fish, sharing its home with the bevy of comical geese perched nearby.



Lauren S. Pass for The Leader/The Times

FISH OR FLYING OBJECT?......What you're seeing isn't a mysterious UFO floating through the galaxy, it's a 20-inch fluorescent orange goldfish making its way under the footbridge at Mindowaskin Pond.



Lauren S. Pass for The Leader/The Times

BIRD REAL ESTATE......Far from the newly-installed overlook, a beige and green birdhouse has been suspended from a park tree.

We don't believe that a couple of pranksters, let alone some sloppy remnants left in the middle of a pond, should spoil the beauty of one of our town's most notable landmarks. Let's keep it tidied away and not allow all of the tireless efforts of the Friends of Mindowaskin and its workers go unnoticed by calling it "dirty."



Lauren S. Pass for The Westfield Leader and The Times

COME ON AND TAKE A FREE RIDE......Since May 5, when the Westfield PBA held its Annual Fishing Derby, this purple raft made its way from one end of the pond to the overlook. Perhaps free pond tours were available to overlookers?

Visions of Splendid Summer Art Spring to Life During Reeves-Reed Arboretum Exhibition

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

SUMMIT — Summer in all its splendor has come to Summit's Reeves-Reed Arboretum in the form of the Drew Art Association's exhibit, "Summer Visions."

Works created in pastels, paints and photography in styles ranging from representational to surrealist to abstract will be on exhibit in Wisner House until Saturday, August 31.

Dr. Lee Hall, then-Chair of Drew's Art Department, formed the Drew Art Association in 1972. Its founders were members of the Drew University faculty and artists residing in the surrounding areas.

While no longer formally affiliated with Drew University, the Associa-

tion has maintained its ties with the university and exhibits regularly at Drew's Korn Gallery, as well as other venues in the area. There are presently over 60 members in the group.

Themes are hallmarks of Drew Art Association Shows. The "Summer Visions" theme challenged members to observe, experience and convey summer in all its dimensions.

Hanna Keselman's inviting oil, "Woodstock Porch" begs all that see it to sit a spell and enjoy the season's slower pace. Nature's magnificence is personified in all of the art pieces in this exhibit, but several, such as Mary E. Bobeck's watercolor, "Pink Dunes," Carmel Bourneuf's oil, "Daisy, Daisy," and Satoko Kojima's oil,



Marylou Morano for The Westfield Leader and The Times
 Carmel Bourneuf, "From the Garden," oil.

"Poppie" invite the reviewer to embrace the season and celebrate its brilliance.

"Summer Visions" venue almost matches the exhibit itself in conveying the spirit of summer. The wonderfully open and airy Wisner House where the exhibit hangs in the parlor and library, as well as the lovely gardens sprinkled liberally around Reeves Reed's 12.5 acres, add to the essence of the exhibit.

"Summer Visions" may be seen at "Tea on the Terrace" on Thursdays, July 11 and 25, and Thursdays, August 8 and 22.

"Tea on the Terrace" is a free community event, offering iced tea and cookies from 1 to 3 p.m. Registration is requested by calling (908) 273-8787.

Members of Drew Art Association work or have worked in full-time art-related careers, ranging from fine art to art direction, illustration and art education.

Many "Summer Vision" exhibitors have won awards and have had "one-person" shows devoted exclusively to their work.

Reeves Reed Arboretum is a suburban conservancy located just off Route



Marylou Morano for The Leader/The Times
 Bertha Barmakian, "Sun Flowers," oil.

24 in Summit, at 160 Hobart Avenue. The grounds are open from dawn to dusk every day and visitors are invited to enjoy the summer flowers, including the Susie Graham Reeves Rose Garden, the daylilies, the herb garden and the perennial border. There is no charge for admission.



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Fourth of July to Be Feted By WF Community Band

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Community Band will join the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and Daughters of the American Revolution in celebration of the nation's birth on Thursday, July 11, after rain forced the cancellation of an earlier celebration.

Sam McCaulley will reenact the role of the Town Crier. Members of the SAR and town government are expected to address the crowd during the intermission.

"The Hagerstown Fifers" will feature the flute and piccolo section in music relying on Colonial themes. "Westfield Bicentennial" highlights the country's patriotic favorites in a composition especially arranged for

the Community Band. *Rondo for Clarinet* by Mozart will be a featured during the evening. Concertmaster George Toenes will celebrate his 40th year participating in the band with a special musical interlude. A longtime Westfielder, he has studied with the first clarinetists with four major U.S. orchestras and was a substitute clarinetist for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

An additional featured performer will be Sam Cello, offering a saxophone solo on Ashoken Farewell. Additional favorites include "In the Miller Mood," "Second American Folk Rhapsody" and "On the Mall."

Attendees should bring lawn chairs or blankets to this free concert.