

# ARTS ENTERTAINMENT



**A GALLERY OF TALENT...**Ninth graders Gilad Edleman, Olena Borkowsky and Jackie Weidman admire the array of paintings displayed at the recent Westfield Public Schools Art Show. The three-day show, which was held at Westfield High School, attracted over 1,000 visitors.

## Tony Awards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

the 60s. Its star, Sutton Foster, won for best actress, and the musical also took in several other awards, including best featured actress and best choreography.

*Urinetown* still did very well, receiving awards for best book and best direction.

A very close race was observed in the revival category with both *Into the Woods* and *Oklahoma* receiving several awards. Movie and television favorite John Lithgow won best actor in a musical for his work in *The Sweet Smell of Success*, and screen favorites Frank Langella and Alan Bates also walked home with a Tony Award in their pockets for their work in the play *Fortune's Fool*.

It seemed odd that box-office smash *Mamma Mia* (based on the music of the charming 70s pop band ABBA) received no acclaim, and Broadway legend Elaine Stritch was visibly mad when her acceptance speech was cut short for the sake of time.

I have to admit, that made me angry. Stritch is a goddess. She's also in her 70s. Let the dame talk. That was rude.

The Tonys have long been an authentic barometer of what is happening in the entertainment world today.

Hosted by Broadway favorites Bernadette Peters (due next year to star in yet another revival of *Gypsy*... as *Mama Rose!*...Yahoo!) and Gregory Hines, this year's Tonys were fun, brief, and cultivated. (With the exception of cutting off grand dame Stritch. Heresy.)

There is nothing like live theater. Especially good live theater. After 9/11, when so many shows had to close due to lack of attendance, the future of the Great White Way certainly looked very bleak.

But if there is anything that we can do to support our country and to support the arts... it is to attend a show on Broadway. Go ahead, spend the 70 bucks, it's worth it. Close your eyes and revel in the magic of live storytelling.

After the show, meet your friends at Joe Allen on 46th Street for a cocktail...and tell Osama bin Laden and his pathetic brigade to kiss your theater-loving American behind.

## County's Teen Exhibit To Feature Area Artists

**COUNTY** - Westfield, Mountainside Scotch Plains, and Berkeley Heights teenagers will spotlight their artwork in a special touring exhibition slated for Monday, June 10, at 7 p.m. at the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Avenue in Springfield.

Among the 49 pieces of artwork selected from 513 visual art entries, Westfielders Shanay Twine of Beadlton High School and Ronald Wichowski of Centennial High School will show their pieces.

Mountainside resident Becky Kutner of Deerfield Middle School will exhibit, along with Scotch Plains residents Brian Halpin of Park Middle School and Lynette Olmeda of Hillcrest Academy.

Katie Ruiz and Megan Naokami, both of Columbia Middle School, and Laura Kruglinsky and Sarah Egbert of Governor Livingston High School, all Berkeley Heights residents, will also display their masterpieces.

The annual event, which will be held through Thursday, June 27, is sponsored by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Department of Economic Development.

The event is open to the public. For more information, please call the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at (908) 558-2550, or visit 633 Pearl Street in Elizabeth. Relay service users should call 7-1-1.

## Book Nook

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

especially for this day and age — the timeless message of not being able to judge people simply by looking at them.

An author's note about kanga cloth and a recipe for making East African chai (tea) is included in the book.

You'll never look at your garden in the same way after reading Moon Mountain's "Blossom Tales: Flower Stories of Many Folk" by Patricia Hruby Powell. The book is a collection of 14 authentic folk tales about flowers. Learn the stories behind the Crocus, Morning Glory, Rose, Tulip and many more in this inspiring book. The publisher has targeted it for ages five to years as well as gardeners of all ages.

It's difficult to say what I like best about Moon Mountain books — the texts or the pictures, so I recommend you purchase both books and savor the process of deciding for yourself.

### Post 9/11 Young Adults

Dr. Donna K. Wells and Bruce C. Morris have written a book for young adults that explores life in our post 9/11 world. "Live Aware, Not In Fear: The 411 after 9-11: A Book for Teens" is published by Health Communications, (2002) The book is comprehensive in its examination of many of the issues the terrorist attacks have thrown into the forefront of all our lives — terrorism, economics, and national security, to name a few.

The book is unique in that it is geared towards a young person emotional level. It can be used as a quasi-diary as it offers room to record one's personal thoughts. It's reassuring to see a book targeted towards this age group and their reactions to the national tragedy.



## Get Outta The House

By CAROL F. DAVIS

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

On Thursday, June 13, the 90th season of the *Westfield Community Swing Band* will kick-off at the Gazebo in Mindowaskin Park at East Broad Street at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free, and you will hear a variety of swing and big band favorites. Look for them throughout the summer, same time, same place.

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Some consider her a legend. Susan Lucci, Emmy-winner and Broadway star, will open TheatreFest 2002 at Montclair State University with "On My Own" from Friday, June 7 to Sunday, June 9. She will perform in concert accompanied by a dynamic 14-piece orchestra, but without the cast of ABC's "All My Children." There will be a special fundraiser on Saturday, June 8, and all proceeds will benefit the programming of TheatreFest for Kids, which includes educational and other experiences for children-at-risk. For information on the diva's appearance, please call (973) 655-7651. If you're a fan, you already know about her website: <http://www.susanlucci.com/newsite/>.

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The second of three *Westfield Street Fairs*, sponsored by the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Sunday, June 9, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Park in the South Avenue Train Lot, and stroll the streets which will be closed to traffic as the vendors move in. There will be a variety of art, crafts, food, music, games, rides, and other merchants. They claim to draw up to 30,000 people.

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If street fairs are not your thing, perhaps *Carnival* is. Through Sunday, June 30, you can see this musical adaptation of *Lili* (yes, Lili the innocent, homeless, and beautiful) at the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival in Madison. The "Grand Imperial Cirque de Paris" takes center stage in this classic American musical. Call for times and ticket prices: (973) 408-5600.

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The *Pastymes Renaissance Faire* will take place at Alba Vineyards in Finesville on Saturday, June 22, and Sunday, June 23, from noon to 5 p.m. Featured attractions will include armored knights, fencing rogues, wandering minstrels and dance troupes, jesters, jugglers, culinary treats, arts and science demos, a fashion show, and a variety of merchants. Admission is anywhere from \$3 to \$8, and it's less if you can actually squeeze into one of those costumes. By law, only Alba Vineyard's wines can be consumed on the property. They offer mostly whites, a few reds, and some desert wines as well. Don't bring the dog, even if he is a lover of Vidal Blanc. For information or directions, telephone them at (908) 537-7495.

## Trattoria

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

vegetables with yellow plum tomato marinara and the surprise of the evening, macaroni and cheese. This amazing dish is comprised of maple-cured smoked bacon and combined with Vermont white cheddar, smoked gouda and roasted garlic laid over imported macaroni and finished with a buttery, crispy crust laced with fresh herbs.

Although we were very busy enjoying numerous gourmet dishes, we had an opportunity to meet Mr. and Mrs. Lutz of Branchburg, who dine at the Trattoria whenever they are in the area. So, after exchanging friendly greetings, we could not help but ask to comment on their dining experience.

"We have been coming here for many years now," said Mr. Lutz. "The service is just great, the food outstanding and the prices are just great."

We asked the Lutz' what they dined on this evening.

"I had the Linguini with Roasted Garlic Sauce. It's a must-taste dish!" Mrs. Lutz interjected, "I had my all time favorite, Lobster Ravioli served in vodka sauce. Oh, and the soup, you must try the soup."

Desserts arrived and our attention immediately diverted back to food. We tasted such delicacies as Pistachio Gelato, Chocolate Mudcake and Tiramisu accompanied by espresso and cappuccino. This was an evening of extreme fine dining without the pretense or high price tag.

This restaurant is a gem set in the heart of Westfield. The outdoor dining lacks the distracting hustle and bustle. Diners can come here for a quick bite or opt for a more leisurely meal. Ample seating and reservations are accepted for eight or more. We highly recommend dining at Northside Trattoria. You'll be glad you did!

Open for lunch Tuesday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dinner is served Tuesday thru Thursday from 5 to 9:30 p.m., until 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Sunday hours are 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Closed on Monday.

## Visiting Celebrities: Dee-Jays from Z-100



Cheri Rogovsky for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**GIFT-GIVING...**Bright and early on May 30 at Starbucks in Westfield, Greg T. The Frat Boy, and Scotty B of Z-100 radio doled out keychains, postcards, T-shirts and water bottles to all those who came to see them for an early cup of joe.



## POPCORN™

## Insomnia: To Sleep, To Sleep, Perchance to Ham It Up

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

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER  
3 popcorns

In director Christopher Nolan's *Insomnia*, bleary-eyed from exhaustion while trying to hunt down a child killer in the wilds of Alaska, Al Pacino's detective Will Dormer painfully searches for inner-strength. There is a complication. He has been compromised.

The murderer has something on our celebrated shamus from Los Angeles. It happened in the foggy woods, shortly after his arrival. But it was an accident, wasn't it? And now, after not sleeping for five days in this land of the mid-night sun, perhaps the gumshoe is close to toppling.

Yet like a proud animal ravaged by the combat of nature, he stands firm and surveys the battleground. When, for just a fraction of a second, his crime-weary gaze meets ours, he lets us in on something. This will be the case of his career...his crucible. Not necessarily because it is the most difficult. But, because it will measure him in his entirety, morally as well as professionally.

A remake of a 1997 Norwegian film by the same name, this American re-vamping by the wunderkind who re-galed us with *Memento* (2001) features screenwriter Hillary Seitz's re-writing of director Erik Skjoldbjærg and co-writer Nikolai Frobenius's original script.

While chockfull of more cop movie clichés than any modern example of the film noir genre might dare venture, there is a magical synergism created by filmmaker Nolan and his star actor. It is that rare serendipitous occurrence, when the artistic product is greater than the sum of its parts.

Now granted, Nolan handsomely prepares the stage for Pacino. Coming off the success of his very enterprising *Memento*, the director indubitably proves he can steer a traditional film. But that someone might think that 33-year-old Nolan had something to do with shaping the legend's performance has to bring a chuckle.

For the emotional war that Will Dormer is fighting on two fronts is just not the sort of thing that can be directed. At least not the way Pacino embodies it. His construction of the heroically haggard detective is 40 percent thespian, 50 percent movie star and 10 percent ham, delivered as only he can.

Although the deadly cat and mouse game that evolves is fraught with all the requisite clues, deductions, reversals and sleuthing story perils, it is our investment in the protagonist that really holds our interest. Because, despite how famous detective Dormer is, he is soon made accessible.

As the subtext thickens, he suggests to a colleague that some of his past sins have come home to roost. Suffice it to note, it has to do with the end justifying the means. Police Internal Affairs in L.A. has even launched an investigation, albeit politically inspired.

Thus when he airs his worries, he divulges a glint of vulnerability. We can relate to that. Who of us has not cut a corner for the sake of expediency?

Yet being a true cinematic enigma, there's also the other side of the coin. Dormer's cocky swagger also makes him attractive. And he wears his celebrity well, attempting modesty, but

hardly convincing us that he sees himself as a mere mortal.

So when he arrives in Alaska with his world-renowned reputation in tow, he is given a hero's welcome despite the negative baggage that has also trailed him from Los Angeles.

Most pleased among the informal welcoming committee is detective Ellie Burr, portrayed by a convincingly admiring Hilary Swank. She poured over the oft-quoted criminologist's case studies while in college and now excitedly rattles them off, citing final outcome and emanating detective aphorism in each instance.

Flattered by the prospect of tutoring such an adoring protégé, detective Dormer gladly takes up the mantle of mentor. He is at that stage of the game when imparting knowledge acquired over the course of a career is more important than ever, both to justify a life's work as well as to insure his place in the annals of crime fighting.

In accepting the position of guru, the storied cop is tacitly also agreeing to be ethical guide to the young police officer. And considering the pragmatic necessities of his job, imposing such a responsibility on himself may be biting off a little more of than he can chew... a vanity he can't afford.

In fact, the murderer, keen predator indeed, is counting on it. So he tries to blackmail Dormer: "You don't catch me, I don't tell what I saw you do. Your legacy remains intact."

Add the usual derring-do to the proceedings, replete with gunplay, chased up blind alleys, dashed attempts at capture whilst running across floating logs, and lots of fireworks at the Hollywood finale.

Rest assured Pacino's stunt double keeps busy while the real thing stays behind for close-ups, great close-ups, and almost every one dramatically effective. Oh, and there is cop talk, with practically as much conversation about "dusting" the sundry potential clues as there is about the maddening effect of an incessant sun.

Get the symbolism? In short, things stay pretty intense. That is, there is no rest for the weary. Or, to put it another way, a troubled soul cannot slip away into the night for relief. Groan here if you must.

Although Swank puts in a solid performance as the predictable but likable, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed ingenue, Pacino's real true co-star is the great unspoiled vastness, beautifully photographed by Wally Pfister.

It works as an eye-filling counterpoint to the dastardly crime at the heart of the film in much the same way that the barren plains did in *Fargo* (1996). In other words, man's dark side is a blotch on pristine nature. Oops, more symbolism. Sorry. But no, wait. Come to think of it, maybe Pacino's character represents man after the fall. Swank's unsullied novice could be the hope of the future. You think?

Ah, no sense losing any sleep over it. See *Insomnia* and dream up your own interpretation.

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*Insomnia*, rated R, is a Warner Bros. release directed by Christopher Nolan and stars Al Pacino, Hilary Swank and Robin Williams. Running time: 118 minutes.

## Community Band Marks 90th Year of Serenades

**WESTFIELD** - The Westfield Community Band celebrates 90 years of providing musical programs to local residents, since its inception in 1892 as a military-style marching band. In 1912, the ensemble evolved into a small concert band.

Under the direction of Elias Zareva for the past 23 years, the group consists of 70 members with ages ranging from 18 to 80.

The band marked its anniversary with a gala event at The Westwood in Garwood on May 1. During the evening, ensembles including jazz, flute, brass and The Dixie All-Stars performed.

Bevlyne Musgrave of Bridgewater was honored with the band's Service Award for her dedication to the group over the past 18 years. She is a section leader for the flutes and has served for several years as Special Events Chairperson.

Attendees were treated to a turn of the century serenade by musicians in period costume, playing antique brass and percussion instruments. Band President Barry Rosenberg led the band in playing home serenades, as was done 90 years ago at the request of individual citizens to mark family events.

The band, which boasts many veterans of the Armed Forces, perused pho-

tographs of band members, past and present and portraits of members in their military uniforms.

The ensemble rehearses, performs concerts and appears at local events year-round, notably at annual holiday concerts, Christmas tree lighting, and the Memorial Day Parade.



Ingrid McKinley for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**SUMMER SOUNDS...**The Westfield Community Band has contributed to the melodious sounds of summer by providing a unique concert series throughout the warm months at Mindowaskin Park.

Every summer, the band performs in the Mindowaskin Park bandstand gazebo, where it first performed in 1918 when the gazebo was built. Concerts are scheduled for Thursdays, June 20 and 27, as well as July 11, 18 and 25 at 7:30 p.m.



**IRISH DANCERS...**This July, students from the Kelly School of Irish Dancing will travel to Boston to compete at the national level. Over 3,000 dancers from all over the world will compete and all of the students from the Kelly School have had to qualify regionally to get this chance to dance. The pupils range from 9-19 years old and most started at 5 years old. Owner and Instructor Bernadette Kelly-Liptack began her career in dance at 4 and is a lifelong resident of Union County, residing in Westfield for the past 10 years. She and her students have traveled throughout the world, competing in various regional, national and world Irish dance competitions. For more information, please call (908) 301-0277 or e-mail [Kellyschool01@aol.com](mailto:Kellyschool01@aol.com). A summer program is being offered for beginners. Fall registration is also being held after school and on Saturdays.

## The 'Battle of Bands' Keeps Township Rocking, Rolling

**SCOTCH PLAINS** - The Scotch Plains Recreation Commission has revived rock and roll by recently hosting two "Battle of the Bands" competitions.

The first event was held at the Village Green in October of 2001, with the second contest drawing crowds on April 27 at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

The eight bands that played in April ranged from rock to punk to rap music.

"Crystal Noose," which took first place, includes founding members Phil Saraceno and Steve Dickey, who met in Park Middle School's Eighth Grade Jazz Band. Chris LoBrace joined them the following year, with Tim Sanders on drums.

"Ether Red" and "94 Percent" were the other two winning bands. Other groups which performed included "Radio Symmetry," "DIY," "Ibex," "Absent Minded" and "Outspoken."

Several members of the community pooled their organizational skills to make these competitions available in the township. Allison Halperin and Ray Poerio of the Recreation Commission orchestrated the events, along with Cathy Cvetovoch of the MAC.

DECA students provided emcees and judges for both events, which were taped and aired by Channel 34. The Scotch Plains Music Center provided prizes for the three winners.

The Commission has arranged for each of the three winning bands to appear for an hour-long show during the Summer Concert Series, which are held on the Village Green. "Crystal Noose" will appear on Thursday, July 18.



# Kelly School of Irish Dancing

100 Elmer Street, Westfield

## REGISTER FOR SUMMER & FALL CLASSES TODAY!

# 908-301-0277

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