

ARTS ENTERTAINMENT



DELICIOUS EXPERIENCE...*Leader/Times* publisher Horace Corbin, far left, gets ready to enjoy an elegant gourmet meal at Northside Trattoria on Prospect Street in Westfield. Pictured, with Mr. Corbin, are: Northside Trattoria owners Timothy Boyle, Trattoria waitress Chantelle, Christopher Boyle and *Leader/Times* Advertising Manager Fred Lecomte.

Under the Sea Is Where Sailer's Art Can Be Found In Tomasulo Exhibition

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

CRANFORD—A fascination with the octopus is the basis for artist Kit Sailer's Tomasulo Gallery exhibit, "Animal, Vegetable, Mineral."

Octopi are the focal point of the multi-media presentation, with their flowing tentacles portrayed in vivid sea colors in water color and gouache, print, oil and acrylic. The corals, shells, starfish and jellyfish that compliment the octopi are at the same time full of motion and systematically geometric.

The various renditions of underwater life are dominated by the title piece, "Animal, Vegetable, Mineral," which is an acrylic painting on a

sheet of muslin measuring 108" x 103." The work has a layering effect that conveys a feeling of multiple dimensions.

Perhaps true to underwater life is a better way to describe the effects these works have on the viewer. The artist's background in mural painting shines through her underwater scenes, stopping them in time, yet imparting the fluidity of continuation.

According to Sailer, it can not be assumed that something underwater is the same type of life form as something with a similar appearance to it on the land. To be sure she gets it right, Sailer became a certified Scuba diver. Her work is based upon a number of Caribbean underwater diving trips.

The artist explains that she paints in layers, and as the layers develop, they suggest creatures and settings to her. She pulls the objects in her work from the background.

"The creatures emerge from their surroundings in a way that reminds me that we are products of our environment ... and as powerful as we imagine ourselves to be, we are just another part of the group," she said.

Sailer holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Syracuse University. She has been the recipient



QUIGGLY... "Gothic Octopus," oil on linen by Kit Sailer, now showing at Tomasulo Gallery in Union County College in Cranford.

of a New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship and she has been a panel speaker at Syracuse University, and the New York Museum of Modern Art. She is currently teaching at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit and the Newark Museum.

In addition to traveling exhibits, Sailer has exhibited at the Newark Museum, the New Jersey State Museum and several out-of-state galleries.

"Animal, Vegetable, Mineral" will be on display at the Tomasulo Gallery, located on the first floor of the MacKay Library on the campus of Union County College, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford through June 27.

Gallery hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays and on Saturdays. Evening hours are from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays through Thursdays.

For more information, please call the Tomasulo Gallery at (908) 709-7155.

ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR YEAR Wonders of Water Demonstrated By Westfield Art Association

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

WESTFIELD—Three members of the Westfield Art Association (WAA) depicted water in various ways by using different media in "Water, Water Everywhere," a multi-artist demonstration held during the association's annual meeting in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building on May 19.

Robert Loder, a self-taught professional painter from Bay Head, represented rushing ocean water in acrylics. Jean McCullough, former president of WAA exhibited still

Officers elected for a two-year term beginning on June 1 are: President, Barbara Schwinn, Vice President for Programs, Tobia Meyers, Vice President for Membership, Linda Blauvelt, Treasurer, Brooke Gardiner, Assistant Treasurer, Bruce Long, Recording Secretary, Burt Longenbach and Corresponding Secretary, Barbara Zietchick.

The WAA is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing artists and the community with an opportunity for learning about art. Artists share their styles and expertise in a variety of media such as oil, pastel,

collage, sculpture, photography and more.

Currently, there are 300 members. Any member of the general public who is seriously interested in art is invited to attend. Dues are \$20 for one individual or \$30 for a couple or family. All meetings, which are open to the public, are held from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Westfield Municipal Building's Community Room, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield.

For more information about the WAA, please contact President Schwinn at (908) 232-7058.



STAGING A DEMONSTRATION...Westfield Art Association (WAA) artists and members Audrey Wreszin, former President Jean McCullough, and Robert Loder demonstrated specific techniques using water. Mr. Loder, left, showed acrylic painting, Ms. McCullough, right, demonstrated watercolors, and Ms. Wreszin, below, exhibited oil painting skills. Onlookers took notes and learned volumes from the experts.

water in a clear glass container using watercolors and Audrey Wreszin used oil paint to demonstrate still lake water.

WAA members were encouraged to gather around the artists as they worked so as to get a close up look at their techniques and ask questions.

Prior to the individual demonstrations, each presenting artist gave a synopsis of technique, including materials and paint colors being used in their works-in progress.

The WAA has been in existence for more than 75 years, according to Corresponding Secretary, Barbara Zietchick of Westfield, a printmaker and lithographer who has been a member for over 15 years.

"We interact with the community in dynamic ways," she said, adding that both the community as well as the WAA benefits from the interaction.

One such example is the WAA's outreach program to Westfield Senior Housing where members bring art to the residents.

"Small groups of artists meet on a regular basis to study various artistic techniques," said WAA President, Barbara Schwinn, who will begin her second term on June 1.

Presently, the WAA has a landscape-painting group and a sketching group and the association is trying to put together a photography group.

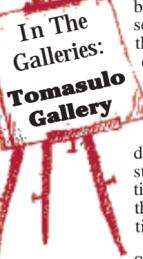
WAA has an online gallery on their website: www.westfieldnj.com/waa.

On June 9, the WAA will host Jomo Kenyatta a Caribbean travel photographer who will speak on the "Photocentric Traveler."

Election of WAA officers was also conducted at the May 19 meeting.



Marylou Morano for The Westfield Leader, The Times FISHY... "Peachy Octopus," watercolor and gouache by Kit Sailer.



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Pen & Ink

By Michelle H. Le Poidevin

Feathered Friends Wreak Something Foul; Is Park's Beauty Going to Birds?

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

Every year, it begins with the blossoming magnolia tree by the gazebo, the tiny pink petals dotting the paths, the cool stream running below the sturdy bridge. The beauty of Mindowaskin Park in Westfield is timeless, and often beyond mere adjectives. Yet, every spring ushers in a plague for the park – not of locusts, snakes

or leprosy – but an attack of Canadian geese and their, shall we say, leftovers.

The State of New Jersey has been grappling with an effort to eradicate the eggs of these geese in order to thin the herd. Just recently, a 40-something male from Florham Park was attacked by a goose while hiking at the Great Swamp, fell and sustained multiple leg fractures. While Westfield's most picturesque

park has not been overrun by hordes of geese likely to attack residents, the excrement overrunning the park remains a stinky issue.

While we certainly can't expect the waterfowl to use port johns or give them pooper-scoopers to clean up after themselves, the town has gone to great lengths to promote events in and maintain the splendor and sanitary conditions in Mindowaskin Park. Still, our nature-loving experience becomes altered because we must tread the park paths like soldiers wary of landmines, hoping our sneakers haven't become smeared with the goose goosh. Somewhere, along the way, while we're being cautious, the beauty of the trees, the songs of the birds and the sparkle of the sun upon the pond have escaped us.

Two weeks ago, on a rainy morning, I walked out of the park, finding a father goose barking at me, warning me to keep away from a mother and her young. Shelter under the mother's wing, she spanned the length of five fuzzy yellow babies, protecting them

Continued on Page 19