

Cheri Rogowsky for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
PEEK-A-BOO PUMPKIN...Katie McQuaid and her father, Peter McQuaid, of Fanwood play a game of hide and seek with the props and pumpkins at Williams Nursery in Westfield.

# Goose Bumps, Gourds and Hayrides To Delight Residents This Autumn

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

**WESTFIELD** - Williams Nursery in Westfield and Parker Greenhouses in Scotch Plains will again lead the area in providing the most festive and spooky Halloween activities, guaranteeing goose bumps and exhilaration. Parker Greenhouses Proprietor Randall Miller said, "We almost have as much fun planning these activities as the people who come to them."

When asked about why families should visit Williams' for fall festivities, Owner Dave Williams said, "It's a good family place to stop at, and it's also close enough that with all of the other activities going on in the family, they can still fit in our activities within a small timeframe because we're conveniently located."

This weekend, every child who comes to Williams will receive a free pumpkin, which they can paint, carve or display. The generous offer is part of Pumpkin Weekend, October 12 and 13. Scarecrows will begin arriving at the nursery on October 5 and visitors may vote for their favorite scarecrow via ballots available at the facility.

Through Sunday, October 27, Williams will offer hayrides, a haunted house and a hay maze that will keep your head spinning. These events will be scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, and on Monday, October 14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mr. Williams reported that assemblage of the hayride begins in July. He said that this year's scenery will include "a faux cemetery, pilgrim village, and Sponge Bob and Harry Potter are in there too."

The haunted house, which is intended for children under 12, is "slightly spooky," according to Williams. The walk-through should take three to five minutes long, he said.

And, just before Halloween kicks off, children of all ages can don their

eriest and most creative costumes, which will be judged at William's annual Costume Contest at 2 p.m. on October 26. Prizes are promised to the winners.

If children would prefer to use their artistic skills differently in a competition, Williams said they could pick up a coloring page at the nursery for a contest that is currently underway. Prizes are also in store.

Williams was proud to reveal that, during the last weekend of September, 800 cans of food for the needy were given by patrons in exchange for free hayrides.

Speckled with orange and amber pumpkins of all shapes and sizes, Parker Greenhouses will be transformed into a Halloween wonderland. For folks who crave a little spooking this fall season, Parker will host a Scary Hayride on October 19, 20, 26, and 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. "It's a thrilling hayride throughout the property with 12 to 15 displays, most of which have actors playing witches and werewolves, popping up out of graveyards, and executioners smashing pumpkins' heads," enthused Miller.

# Arts & Entertainment



## The Music Corner

With David Palladino

### WSO Opens 20th Season With Blockbuster Concert

By DAVID PALLADINO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**WESTFIELD** - Maestro David Wroe and the Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) opened their 20th musical season with a powerhouse concert, including Anthony Louis Scarmolin's *Nights*, followed by two Russian heavies; the *Piano Concerto No. 1* by Peter Illich Tchaikovsky, featuring soloist Dickran Atamian and formidable *Symphony No. 2* by Sergei Rachmaninov.

Not wanting to "saturate the audience" with too much heavy romanticism, the first piece of the evening was of the lighter impressionistic style.

*Nights* attempts to describe night, "in all its glorious and fantastic beauty. Moonlight, shimmering stars,

caressing breezes, whispering trees. A bugle call is heard in the distance, a lullaby is sung by the cellos..."

Most notable was the first cell phone, which went off in the second bar of music. The perturbed audience,

conductor and orchestra however, quickly settled into the work, which introduced the full, warm sound that would be the hallmark of the orchestra for the rest of the evening.

A beautiful work on its own, *Nights* served as a fine appetizer for what

was to follow. Soloist Atamian took his place in front of the orchestra for the second piece: Tchaikovsky's great *Piano Concerto No. 1*. After working through a tight and somewhat colorless opener, pianist and orchestra settled somewhat more into sync with each other - but there was uneasiness scattered throughout the whole work.

While technical mistakes from the pianist were many to be heard, the passion level was high - Atamian, at times, lunging out of his seat. Fine and memorable orchestral solo sections included Principal flutist Sato Moughalian in the second movement.

Most impressive, was Atamian's command of dynamics. He could coax a powerful forte from the instrument as well as the most subtle piano nuances. Tempi throughout were a bit up, especially in the final climax, which came through a bit choked.

Atamian's finest moment came actually in his encore performance of a Rachmaninov prelude - which exhibited all of the finest elements of his performance; rhythmic and dynamic control and nuance, without the technical infelicities.

While playing with finesse, the orchestra was deliberately keeping their strength in reserve, most notably in the upper strings and horns, for the upcoming heavy - Rachmaninov's *Symphony No. 2*.

This symphony must be the finest piece of music ever produced. Today, perhaps a debateable statement, but most certainly not last Saturday night at the Union County Arts Cen-

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"Conductor and orchestra summoned all of their powers to produce one of the finest products that the astounded and grateful audience had seldom heard from any ensemble."  
-David Palladino



## Pen & Ink:

With Michelle H. Le Poidevin

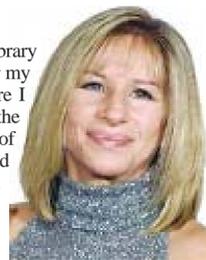
### Barbra Streisand: Me Thinks The Diva Politicized Too Much

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

Walking home from the Linden Public Library with my forbidden Judy Blume books under my arm, I turned the corner to my house, where I could smell the Pledge dust cleaner and hear the vacuum cleaner humming. Over the racket of spring-cleaning, my mother's vocal chords piped the lyrics to Barbra Streisand songs. I would set my books down, so we could sing together, choosing songs like "The Way We Were," which she used as a lullaby when I was little.

Twenty years later, I wish Diva Streisand would just put a sock in it.

For, when it comes to the murky, muddied waters of politics, some celebrities don't know when it's time to swim to shore instead of diving in headfirst. Shallow as they are, they'll often risk their popularity and credibility in order to make a radical political statement. Streisand recently crawled out from under her rock of mock retirement to give a



Barbra Streisand

concert to support Democrats, adding her lack of sense and 2¢ in a letter she penned to Dick Gephardt, pleading for an end to Bush's pursuit of a war with Iraq. Despite the media's claim of misspellings and misquotes in the letter, "Nice Guys Finish Last or Where Do We Go From Here: A Case for the Democrats," many have looked to Streisand's opinions as courageous. I call them simply un-American.

During the voting debacle between Bush and Gore, wasn't La Streisand one of the stars that vowed to leave

the country if Bush was elected? Instead, she disappointed a nation by staying. In a time of war, how important is it that Americans, whether they be blue collared or sequin-trimmed, remain loyal to the President and his decisions to defend our nation? For that answer, we turn to Jane Fonda.

Still known to many as Hanoi Jane, is a big, fat lesson in the textbook advising stars to keep their views and their talent separate. Streisand would be wise to heed the hard-learned consequences felt by Fonda. Years later, despite her apology to veterans, Fonda remains unforgiven and her profile has been eternally blemished by her past foray into the political arena.

Freedom of speech may be what makes our country durable and democratic, but assassinating the character of the nation's leader in a time of global conflict is deplorable. It's almost as unacceptable as charging Babs enthusiasts \$500 + to belt out a slanted, altered version of "The Way We Were" that slams the Republican occupation of the White House and over-glamorizes the reign of Bill and Hill.

Streisand alleges that Bush cannot be trusted, but she forgets that Clinton, who vowed to the nation that he wasn't committing adultery, was found out to be lying to us after all. She has called Republicans "ruthless," declaring that Bush is "poisoning our political system." Couldn't the same be said for Clinton, who nearly nothing to keep our defenses strong against those who brought us to our knees on 9/11?

Actress Susan Sarandon recently joined a brood of protesters whining against the possibility of going to war with Iraq. "Call your friends

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## Get Outta The House

By CAROL F. DAVIS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

If you missed it last year, here's another opportunity to participate in a family-friendly activity. **Bats! Bats! Bats!** will return at the Liberty State Park Interpretive Center on Saturday, October 12, from 10 a.m. to noon. This free program includes bat facts by expert Joe D'Angeli, followed by construction of your own recycled bat to take home. You must pre-register by calling (201) 915-3409.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Closer to home on that same day, the Westfield Art Association's **Art in Westfield** will be held downtown. This sidewalk art show and sale of original fine art may be just that opportunity to pick up a few originals for your home or office. It's going on all day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and includes demonstrations and music. The rain date is Saturday, October 19. For more information, call (908) 789-9444 or (908) 232-7058. Of course, it's a free event.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Reeves Reed Arboretum is hosting its own **Harvest Festival**, also on Saturday, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a variety of activities, including games, crafts, live bluegrass music, a hay bale maze, and a pumpkin patch. It's \$5 a person. Last year, this popular event attracted 3,000 people, so they must be doing something right. Here is another opportunity to spend the day with the family. Call (908) 273-8787.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Maybe you missed last weekend's free walking tour sponsored by the New Jersey Historical Society. Maybe you attended, and loved it so much that you would like another tour. Well, Saturday's your day. **Grand Years: Newark in the Early 1900s** will take you back to the glories of Newark's past with architectural beauties like the National Newark Building and the former Bamberger's, and historic photos will add even more perspective. The Society is located at 52 Park Place, and they can be reached at (973) 596-8500.

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If you have time to take a drive, the **Juried American Indian Arts Festival** will take place this weekend at the Rankokus Indian Reservation on Rancocas Road in Westhampton. You will gain some knowledge and appreciation about the culture and heritage of our country's indigenous people, with over 150 American Indian artists, entertainers, wisdomkeepers, and oral historians. There will also be traditional foods. Call (609) 261-4747 or visit www.powhatan.org. It's \$10 for adults, and \$5 for kids and seniors.

## Hiscano's Jersey Landscape Photos Sprout Up at Summit Arboretum

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

**SUMMIT** - Photographs of natural landscapes by photographer and internationally published author Dwight Hiscano, are currently on display at Wisner House at the Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit.

Hiscano is the author of "New Jersey: The Natural State," a full-color coffee table style book published by Rutgers University Press, which features over 100 of his photographs. The book portrays New Jersey's parks and preserves while focusing attention on the urgent need to preserve what remains of our state's landscapes for future generations.

Hiscano has been creating images of the natural landscapes for 20 years.



GET SPOOKED...Youngsters might opt instead to take the ride of their lives on the hayride, like the McGinn Elementary School students from Scotch Plains, pictured, above.



"Pine," by Dwight Hiscano, photography

Born and raised in Essex County, the photographer's appreciation of the New Jersey landscape was formed when he spent summers on a lake in Sussex County as a child. His love for the outdoors has led to a

passionate effort to capture the North American wilderness on film, while bringing new perspectives to the art of landscape photography.

"Having access to a wild, natural place gave me a real appreciation for the outdoors, and a reverence for the planet as a whole," Hiscano said.

"Sadly, natural places are disappearing at an astonishing rate. Perhaps art can serve as an avenue through which to appeal to the decision makers, whether they be politicians or consumers, to treat the New Jersey landscape more wisely," he said.

The photographer studied art and photography at Ohio Wesleyan University. He claims the photography of Ansel Adams and Elliott Porter to have influenced his work, as did the great

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**Westfield Art Association**

**Art in Westfield**

**SIDEWALK SHOW & SALE**

**Saturday, Oct. 12**  
**10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
(Raindate October 19)

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**13th CRANFORD AUTUMN FESTIVAL**

**SUNDAY**  
**OCT. 13**

GSP EXIT 137 INFO: 908-995-2246 11-5 pm

**DOWNTOWN**

TASTY FOOD - CRAFTS - PONY RIDES  
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FAMILY FUN! MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

"UNCLE FLOYD VIVINO" AT NOON AND 2 PM!  
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**Cartoon Corner** with Matt Robinson

**THREE FACES OF BACK TO SCHOOL SHOPPING**