

## WSO Friends' Home Tour To Feature Transition House

**WESTFIELD** — Anyone who has ever thought about transforming their circa 1960s split-level house to a larger, more traditional home will be interested in seeing the results of such a project at the Tamaques Park-area beauty featured on The Friends of Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) Tour of Notable Homes on Saturday, May 14, according to Tour Chairwomen Lee Corcoran and Lisel Perseley.

"In their renovations, for example, the homeowners demolished a porch and enlarged the dining room to make more space for entertaining," explained Mrs. Perseley. "The special use of lighting fixtures is very interesting and the design

Jeff's Landscape Design & Construction Company located in Cranford will be held on the grounds of this home.

Four other notable homes are included on the tour, all proceeds from which are used to fund the WSO's programs of education and outreach.

The tour also provides participants the opportunity to sample complimentary refreshments, door prizes and opportunities to purchase chances to win an extensive array of luxury merchandise donated by local merchants, cultural organizations and restaurants.

Tickets, which may be purchased in advance are \$25 and increase to \$30 on tour day, are available in town at Burgdorff



**GLORIOUS ESTATE...**This New England Drive home will be spotlighted during the Westfield Symphony Orchestra Friends' 21st Annual Tour of Notable Homes on Saturday, May 14.

elements selected with the assistance of the local acclaimed designer Pat Pfaffenbach such as wall coverings, window treatments, granite countertops make for a very special environment.

For 21 years, The Friends group has produced this much-anticipated look inside prestigious Westfield homes held between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The home featured here, according to Mrs. Corcoran, will also host musical interludes performed by the versatile cabaret-style pianist Joe Regan.

A sale of hearty plants underwritten by

Realtors, Coldwell Banker Realtors, Weichert Realtors, Lancaster, Poppyfield's, Baron's Drug Store, and The Town Bank of Westfield. In Cranford tickets are available at Martin Jewelers, and at Irma's Hallmark in Fanwood and Mary's Hallmark in Clark.

The addresses of tour locations are printed on the tickets. The map of the locations is printed on the tour program.

For further information or to obtain a schedule of upcoming concerts, please call the WSO at (908) 232-9400 or visit [www.westfieldsymphony.com](http://www.westfieldsymphony.com).

## Applications Now Available For County Senior Art Show

**COUNTY** — Applications are now available for the annual Union County Senior Art Show. Artists who are 60 years of age and over, currently residing within Union County, are invited to exhibit an original work which they have done within the last three years. Entrants may either be amateurs or professionals in status and must be pre-registered.

The deadline for registration is Monday, June 6, and the exhibit will be displayed from Thursday, June 23, through Friday, July 29, at the Elizabethtown Gas Company atrium in Union.

Professionals are those who have sold the type of art entered in the exhibition through commercial channels, exhibited in a professional gallery, and held a professional membership in a guild or association.

The following are categories of eligible work:

Acrylic; craft (one-of-a-kind original creations only, no craft kits, molds or wearable fiber art); digital imagery (artwork generated or altered using computer graphics software, including digitally-altered original photographs with outcome not obtainable in a traditional darkroom setting); drawing (including pencil, pen, and ink); and mixed media (combines two or more media, no one of which clearly predominates; includes collage and assemblage).

Other eligible work will include oil, pastel; photography (includes color, black and white, or tinted photographs taken with a film-based or digital camera); print (includes etching, dry point and intaglio); sculpture (designed in three-dimensions, carved or constructed in any medium, abstract or figurative, painted or unpainted) and watercolor.

Hanging artwork, craft and photos must be no more than 38 inches and no less than 11 inches in height and width, including matting and framing. Sculptures or three-dimensional crafts may not exceed 18 inches in height, width or depth, including its base.

Where necessary, pictures must be protected with glass, Plexiglas, mylar or other clear material, and with screws in the back ready for hanging. However, on pieces over 24 inches, Plexiglas is strongly recommended.

Judged by three professional artists, awards go to first, second, third place and honorable mention winners in each category. First place winners in all categories go on further to compete at the State Senior Art Show in Flemington later in the year.

The Union County Senior Art Show is supported in part by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and through a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endow-

## Art Show

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with snow, contained amazing shadows cast by a small pack of dogs nearing a peaceful stream. One could almost sense the silence and feel the serenity washing over them.

This year's exhibition will be open to viewers through Saturday, April 30, during library hours. A special reception, during which visitors can meet the artists, will also be held on April 30 at 11 a.m. An awards presentation will be held at noon.

For visiting hours and more details, please call the library, located at 1927 Bartle Avenue, at (908) 322-5007.

For more information about the Scotch Plains & Fanwood Arts Association, please call Tom Yeager at (908) 322-5438.

ment for the Arts.

For an application, please call the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at (908) 558-2550 or [email.culturalinfo@ucnj.org](mailto:email.culturalinfo@ucnj.org). Applications must be received by Monday, June 6.



## Get Outta The House

By CAROL F. DAVIS

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Summit's New Jersey Center for Visual Arts (NJCVVA) periodically introduces the work of promising but under-recognized artists working in a variety of media. Showcased in this exhibit are Jackie Hernandez, Roger Tucker and Lorraine Regan, who each use photography to create works that are compelling in both mastery of medium and subject composition.

**First Look 2005: Emerging Artist Series** will be on exhibit through Friday, June 10. Admission is free. The NJCVVA is located at 34-36 Maple Street. Please call (908) 273-9121 or visit <http://www.njcvva.org>.

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Two prize-winning singers from the New York cabaret scene will present **Old Friends in the Spirit**, an afternoon of American popular song, at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 1, at The Unitarian Church in Summit, 4 Waldron Avenue. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors. Students attend free. A reception will be held following the presentation in the church's Fellowship Hall. For further information, please call the church office at (908) 273-3245.

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**Benvvenuti in Toscana II**, an exhibit by professional photographer Jude Benvvenuti, who has a studio and home in Mendham, will open with a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 1, in Old Main at Delbarton School in Morristown. Ms. Benvvenuti has an extensive body of published work—in this visual celebration, she profoundly connects one to the land and its vigorous people. The show, which will run until Thursday, May 12, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., is free. Delbarton School is located at 230 Mendham Road, three miles west of the Morristown Green. For information, please call (973) 538-3231, or visit <http://www.delbarton.org>.

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On Saturday, April 30, visit Rutgers University for the Cook College **Ag Field Day & Master Gardeners Plant Sale**. Among the plants offered will be dozens of varieties of tomatoes, including "Rutgers" and other heirloom varieties; rare herbs, "Ortani" and other bell peppers, plus new and exotic hot pepper varieties, just perfect for your summer salsa. It will take place from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., but get there early for the best selection. Please call (732) 398-2585. The sale will be held near the Marine Science Building.

## Arts & Entertainment

TAKE THE STAGE



### Women Present Clear Sense Of Sex, Life and Death

By SUSAN M. DOUGHERTY  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**CRANFORD** — When Absurdist Theater is mentioned, many theatergoers shuffle their feet and get a glazed look in the eye.

So it was an ambitious undertaking for The Theater Project to present the little produced memory play, *Three Tall Women* by Edward Albee who is most known for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

The Theater Project is used to taking chances with unfamiliar or little-known plays and this choice does not disappoint. It presents life's absurdities as the stuff of everyday life.

In this 1994 Pulitzer Prize-winning play, an elderly woman only referred to as "A" can't get it straight as to whether or not she is 90 or 91. Her paid companion, "B", and an outsider, "C" are cooped up with her, listening to her tales and complaints. "C" is there from the office of "A's" attorney to try to untangle her financial situation which has been relegated to the "to get to" pile in the woman's top drawer of the

50s for her a comfort zone.

"There's so much you don't have to go through," she claims of that age.

She compares it to climbing a mountain and getting to the top to see the 360-degree view of her life as it was and what it may become. Ms. Ventura is clearly basking in a glorious time period of her own life because her lines resonate with authenticity.

Ms. Farley, as the "old" woman, enjoys thinking of herself in the third person without feeling crazy. She states that it's the happiest moment of all: "coming to the end when all the waves subside." When Farley dramatically delivers these lines, a hush blankets the audience as it recognizes universal truth delivered by a professional.

Rick Delaney, in his non-speaking role of the errand son, shouts volumes with his body language and facial anguish. His relationship with his mother is revealed only through her monologue. If it were told through his filtering, would it be a Biff/Willy Lowman situation overflowing with disappointment and betrayal on both sides?



**JUST TRUST ME ON THIS ONE...**Angela Della Ventura, center, who plays the paid companion to an elderly lady, Noreen Farley, tries to get lawyer Barbara Guidi to show patience, understanding and compassion for the 90-year-old woman in *The Theater Project's* latest production of *Three Tall Women* by Edward Albee. As usual, director Mark Spina has made marvelous choices in selecting the play, casting, and executing a stellar show that leaves room for deep discussion.

nightstand.

The heart of Act I is the presentation of two diametrically opposed views about the old woman and diverse approaches to dealing with life as well. The young blonde, "C", in a black no nonsense business suit, wants everything to be efficient and systematic while "B" is the nurturer who approaches life with humor and gentility.

In a diatribe on relationships in "A's" monologue, she bemoans, "You put in your time on a friendship... you count on people and they change, they die; they move away." She, like many of us, can't deal with the mutability of the world.

Her wistful mantra, "I used to be tall" is a metaphor for her lost power, her strength, and her position in life. "I've shrunk," she laments, echoing the all too familiar cry of the elderly.

She reminisces of sexual awakenings, experiences with her husband, with the stable groom and others. She hypnotizes us with her memoirs; we listen and are mesmerized with not just the story, but also the way in which it is delivered. "As" deep, raspy voice engages us with nuances and flavors of sound that wafers through the small theater like the alluring smell of chocolate chip cookies cooling on a kitchen counter.

At the end of Act I when the old woman has a stroke and is virtually comatose, we wonder where Act II can go.

Enter the absurdist aspect of life. The abstract is now under the microscope to be dissected with these three same women as slices of three time periods of the old woman's life.

Twenty-six-year-old blonde (Barbara Guidi), who plays "C" in Act I, represents the idealistic youthful beauty in the old woman. Ms. Guidi's depth of talent serves her well in both acts.

Angela Della Ventura plays the 52-year-old glamorous representation of the woman's middle, vibrant life. Quite a visual and character change from the Act I nurturing character "B", she now is dressed to kill, self-assured and regal.

Character "A", Noreen Farley, plays the oldest part of the woman's life with humor, passion and skill. As the core of "A's" life is revealed, we understand and accept her.

Half-truths and lies of life are explored and deciphered in this play.

"Parents, teachers, all the others — you don't tell us that things change," cries the idealistic Ms. Guidi, played with a cool intellectual side that is needed as well as a touch of emotional naivete.

Ms. Ventura is much more understanding of the world, the aging process and willing to see things for what they are and what they may become.

### Clarification

The April 21 article regarding Karen Yula should have noted that she teaches yoga at Nicole's in Garwood, not Michelle's. We regret the error.



**CELEBRATING MUSIC...**Westfield Mayor Greg McDermott signed a resolution proclaiming May 2 to 9 to be National Music Week. Pictured, left to right, are: Olive Lynch, Mayor McDermott, Valerie Pineda and Mary Ann Dolling.

## Nat'l Music Week Proclaimed; Musical Club Sets Concert

**WESTFIELD** — In celebration of National Music Week, Westfield Greg McDermott has proclaimed the week of May 2 to 9 to be National Music Week.

In observance of this annual event, the Musical Club of Westfield will present two local opera companies in a concert performance on Wednesday, May 11, at 8 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, located at 170 Elm Street in Westfield.

Members of the New Jersey Concert Opera will perform excerpts from *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss in English. The patter song, "When I was a Lad" from Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* will also be on the program.

Featured performers include Charles Schneider, Patricia Vigil, Jason Morgan, Olive Lynch, Parker Burton and Don Kalbach.

The Little Opera Company of New

Jersey will present highlights from the past five years of performances, including excerpts from Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*, Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Don Giovanni*, Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*, Puccini's *Tosca* and *Turandot* and Verdi's *Rigoletto* and *Un Ballo in Maschera*.

Featured performers will include Luis Cabrera, Mr. Schneider, Stephanie Christiano (a Little Opera Company featured young artist), Juan Pineda, Dauri Shippey, Don Sheasley, Nadine Robinson and Valerie Pineda, as well as members of the Little Opera Company Chorus.

National Music Week was founded by Westfield resident Charles Tremaine and has been celebrated since 1924.

For information on becoming a member of the Musical Club of Westfield, please call (908) 232-2173.

## Choral Art Society Concert Will Include New Jersey Youth Chorus

**WESTFIELD** — The Choral Art Society of New Jersey, Inc. will perform Luigi Cherubini's *Requiem in C Minor* and George Frederic Handel's *Coronation Anthem No. 1, Zadok the Priest* on Saturday, May 14, at 8 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

The evening's program will also feature the Advanced Chorus of The New Jersey Youth Chorus, directed by Patricia Joyce.

James Little, Musical Director of the Society, will conduct the evening's performance. The Choral Art Society Orchestra will accompany the chorus.

Cherubini was commissioned to write a requiem commemorating the anniversary of Louis XVI's execution and it was first performed on January 21, 1817. The *Requiem in C Minor* is scored for a conventional orchestra and chorus — no soloists.

The New Jersey Youth Chorus will perform *Dome Epais* by Leo Delibes, *Alleluia, Amen* by Randal Thompson, *Niska Banja*, a Serbian gypsy dance arranged by Nick Page, *My Lagan Love*, a traditional Irish song arranged by Michael Neaum, *Ain't That News*, arranged by Stephen Hatfield, *Prayer of the Children* by Kurt Bestor, *Give Us Hope* by Jim Papoulis, and *Praise His Holy Name* by Keith Hampton.

Phillip Steffani will accompany the New Jersey Youth Chorus.

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$15, general admission, or \$10 for senior citizens and students.

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

## Francesca Azzara's Encaustics

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perhaps some of Mrs. Azzara's best and most inspired work. The former clothing designer not only demonstrated a sincere knowledge of the human form, but played with fonts, textures and thought-provoking text to produce masterpieces worth pondering.

The first in that series, "Prepared to Flee" (\$400), was inspired, according to Mrs. Azzara, by an old Buck Rogers novel for children which she discovered. The piece, which quotes, "They Must Have Escaped... I Slipped on My Motobelt and Prepared to Flee," contains such an infectious sense of energy and flight. The artist integrated a cartoon from the novel, coated with metallics, into the painting, which states, "They Were Gaining on Us."

"Unravel It" (\$400), the second in that series, spotlights a woman enrobed in a gown of black, some red and bristly slashes of metallic gold, placed at the left of the canvas — her arms extended and her face blurred. Near her face are tiny red splashes of paint. The text reads, "I Will See What That Dress Is Made Of... I'll Unravel it Just for Fun."

The third in the series displayed at NJWA, "White Dresses" (\$400), continues the dress/clothing theme with the depiction of four white ensembles, one of which (in the right-hand corner) contains the most texture. The words, "We All Put Our White Dresses On... These Dresses Made Us Heavy" jump off the canvas.

The final piece in the series, "When It's Cold" (\$400), which is perhaps the most intriguing besides the second piece, contains two red hearts (one is gloriously adorned with a red thread-like mesh texture) and a figure in a lime green dress. The text reads, "I Wear My Heart Only When It's Cold."

Having received two HEART Grants from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Mrs. Azzara is especially proud of the two-week residency she served at Rahway High School (RHS), where she taught encaustics.

She helped the pupils recreate artist Jasper Johns' "Flag" painting (created by Johns circa 1954-1955) shortly before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The recreation, which became the centerpiece for an exhibition at the Arts Guild of Rahway, is still hanging at RHS.

"It was a rewarding experience working with them," she said, noting that the students' re-creation of Johns' "Flag" was especially "chilling and ironic" considering the climate of the post 9/11 world.

Mrs. Azzara has extensively studied the techniques and history related to encaustic painting, which predates oil painting, and she presents lectures, lessons and other exhibitions throughout the Metropolitan area. Her artwork is born out of her Rahway studio.

Mrs. Azzara reported that a special reception will be held in the Westfield Art Gallery on Sunday, May 15, from 4 to 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Her exhibition will be open to visitors through Saturday, May 28.

For hours and more information, please call the NJWA at (908) 789-9696.

In June, Mrs. Azzara will participate in an exhibition at the Ocean County Artists Guild, located at the corner of Ocean and Chestnut Avenues in Island Heights, from approximately Sunday, June 5, to Tuesday, June 28. The facility will be open six days per week, closed on Mondays, from 1 to 4 p.m.

For more information, please call the guild at (732) 270-3111.

## Kehler

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Angeles, Calif. office could not confirm the showtimes for *House of Das* as of press time. However, the film, due to be released locally tomorrow, Friday, April 29, is scheduled to be screened in selected theaters as a limited release.



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## Donnelly

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paint," she told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

Ms. Donnelly's advice to aspiring artists is simple: "Prepare yourself for very hard work. Your results will only reflect the work that you put in."

For a commissioned work or to inquire about the note cards, please e-mail Ms. Donnelly at [kbeautifulblooms@aol.com](mailto:kbeautifulblooms@aol.com).