

Arts, Entertainment and Education



LIVE AID...Through the First Baptist Church of Westfield, local kids visited Africa to give humanitarian aid. Donnie Turlington of Westfield plays frisbee to local village children while Jesse Hinman of Mountainside (whose twin brother Lee joined him on the experience) looks on.

Brothers Return from World Vision Study Tour of Africa

By LINDA CONDRILLO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MOUNTAINSIDE -- There's nothing more satisfying than actually seeing firsthand, the impact and success of mammoth fund-raising, especially when the project is to help end world hunger. As reported in the July 14, 2005 *Westfield Leader*, through an organization called World Vision, four local youth from the First Baptist Church of Westfield, along with the Reverend Jeremy Montgomery, Minister of Local Outreach, successfully qualified to visit Africa to study humanitarian aid.

Recently returning home, the *Leader/Times* caught up with Jesse and Lee Hinman, 15-year-old twins from Mountainside, part of the group fortunate enough to participate in and experience the difference money raised here in the United States, is making on people living in poverty in the remote villages of Kenya.

Joined by Gillian Clark of Scotch Plains and Donnie Turlington of Westfield, the twin boys embarked on an adventure lasting nearly two weeks in Kenya helping with the distribution of food, visiting schools, and spending time with farmers tending their crops.

Enduring rocky terrain, soaring temperatures, and cramped conditions were to be expected on some of

the rides throughout the desert. But what the twins didn't expect was the warmest of welcomes from the villagers, especially the children, who had little more than the clothes on their backs. "In one village, we were greeted by a dance" Lee said, his brother added that it was "something we didn't expect at all."

"Initially, we were shy, and were surprised when they just started coming up to us, touching our skin," the twins said. But the twins, along with the other teenagers, soon found themselves playing Frisbee and other games with the children, talking through a translator, amazed at how happy the children seemed to be, having so little, even at school.

Jesse told the *Leader/Times* "The schools aren't what they are here, it's more like a cement building with one teacher and about 100 kids." Lee noted that the children attend a government-sponsored school first, and then only a handful go on to a secondary school, as it has to be paid for by the family, and most are too poor to go on.

Another excursion took them to a village and the chance to see the crops of maize and sorghum being grown and protected by the locals from animals and other villagers. They were also taken to the top of a mountain, where they could actually see progress.

"On one end you'd see practically nothing, but looking over to the next end, you could see irrigation facilities, schools, and a place to get medical attention." "It was incredible," the twins remarked.

Even more incredible was the attitude of the children in the village. "Even though they had food that was supposed to last them a month, and it was gone in a week or two, they told us how they were still thankful, and they thought nothing of sharing what they did have, with us" said the twins, almost in unison.

After eating "a lot of rice," Jesse and Lee are happy to be back home, with a new appreciation, no doubt, of what they have to be thankful for. To learn more about World Vision, and how you can make a difference to end world hunger, please log on to their website at www.worldvision.org or call them toll free at 1-888-511-6458.

WF's Liz Scott Pens 'The Sober Kitchen'

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

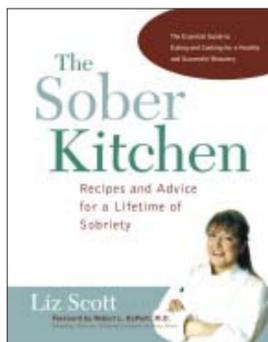
Westfield resident and personal chef Liz Scott, has taken her passion for food and transformed it into a healthy eating approach for those in recovery from alcoholism and other drug addictions. For her efforts on behalf of those in recovery, she will be honored next month.

The award-winning author of "The Sober Kitchen: Recipes and Advice for a Lifetime of Sobriety" along with seven other professionals, has been recog-

ing at New York's French Culinary Institute, and Villa Schifanoia in Florence, Italy.

She has lived and worked in Italy and England, and has been a private chef and consultant to celebrities, restaurants, and the print media.

As one who is personally in recovery, Chef Scott is very aware of the role nutrition and diet play in recovery. She is also familiar with the emphasis of wines and other alcohol in the preparation of food.



nized by the Johnson Institute as a 2005 Recovery Pioneer for their innovative contributions to overcoming alcohol and other drug addictions and their support of recovery.

The Johnson Institute has been a pioneer in intervention, treatment and recovery for more than 40 years. The organization's "America Honors Recovery Luncheon" recognizes innovators who see the power and the possibility of recovery from addiction diseases, according to a press release issued by the Johnson Institute.

Chef Scott, and the others, will be acknowledged on Thursday, September 22 at the National Press Club Ballroom in Washington, D.C. This is the second annual America Honors Recovery Luncheon sponsored by the Johnson Institute. The luncheon is held in September, because the month has been designated National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

"I am humbled and overwhelmed by the award," Chef Scott said in a recent interview with the *Westfield Leader/Times*. "It's a great honor."

Chef Scott, who moved to Westfield when she was five years old and still lives in the same house she grew up in, attended Westfield Public Schools. She is a graduate of New York University and received her Chef's train-

"The Sober Kitchen" contains three hundred recipes that have not one drop of alcohol as an ingredient. "Bourbonless Chicken" and "Chicken with Mock Marsala Sauce" are but two of the recipes adapted for recovery found in the book.

At first Chef Scott had a difficult time getting publishers to agree to her idea of a cookbook targeted especially to

people in recovery.

"I was a Chef and in recovery, but I didn't have a television show and my name wasn't recognizable," she explained, adding that a stigma still surrounds alcoholism, drug addiction and recovery.

However, after "The Sober Kitchen" was published in 2003, it received many awards, including the 2004 Journalism Award from the Research Society on Alcoholism and the 2004 Merit Award from the National Health Information Awards Program in the Patient Education and Information Book category.

Chef Scott also lectures on the importance of good nutrition during recovery.

"The Sober Kitchen: Recipes and Advice for a Lifetime of Sobriety" is available wherever books are sold. For more information, log on to www.thesoberkitchen.com.

The Party Dolls Sing Tribute To Women In Rock In Finale

MOUNTAINSIDE-- The season finale of Union County's free Summer Arts Festival will feature a concert with The Party Dolls on Wednesday, August 31. The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders invites the public to attend this free outdoor concert, which is sponsored by the ConocoPhillips Bayway Refinery, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Echo Lake Park, on the border of Mountainside and Westfield.

"The Party Dolls will close this year's Summer Arts Festival concert series at Echo Lake Park with a tribute to women performers in popular music from the '60s to the present," said Freeholder Chairman Rick Proctor. "With their beehive hairdos and retro dance routines and costumes, the Party Dolls bring to life the hits of the Ronettes, the Supremes, the Go-Go's and decades of other female rock and roll artists."

Before the music begins, representatives from the Union County

Office of Citizen Services and the Office of Volunteer Services will be on hand with information about consumer protection laws, programs for veterans, and opportunities to become a community volunteer.

The Party Dolls concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Springfield Avenue end of Echo Lake Park in Mountainside. Lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets are encouraged. A refreshment stand will be available at approximately 6:30 p.m.

In case of rain, the Party Dolls concert will move to Cranford High School, on West End Place off of Springfield Avenue in Cranford. For up-to-date concert and rain information call the Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities hotline at (908) 352-8410 after 3:00 p.m. on the day of the concert.

For other concert information, or to find out about recreational activities, call the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities at (908) 527-4900.



GUYS AND DOLLS...Patsy Palma (Benny) and Alex Diaz (Nicely-Nicely) sing the title song from WYACT's summer production of "Guys and Dolls" at NJPAC and Algonquin Arts Theatre.

Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre Performing Arts Classes to Begin

WESTFIELD -- Cynthia Meryl, Artistic Director of the Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre (WYACT), is proud to announce WYACT's fifteenth season of professional classes in the performing arts. Registration for acting, musical theatre, and dance classes will take place at Hillcrest Academy South (formerly Lincoln School), 728 Westfield Avenue in Westfield, on Wednesday and Thursday, September 7 and 8, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

WYACT's Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced Acting classes concentrate on improvisation, character development, and scene study. Three levels of Musical Theatre class focus on song selection and interpretation, ensemble work, voice, and musical theatre movement. Ms. Meryl, a professional actress in the New York and national theatre arena for thirty-three years, oversees all classes and teaches Advanced Acting, all Musical Theatre classes, and private voice.

A new addition to WYACT's classes is Yoga, taught by NESTA-certified Yoga and Pilates instructor, Lisa Fidanza.

Also an aerobics instructor and fitness trainer, Ms. Fidanza is a BFA graduate of Montclair State University. As a "theatre person" Ms. Fidanza is an advocate of implementing yoga into the hectic, stressful, yet rewarding life of the performing artist.

Michael Raine, WYACT's tap instructor, has been teaching at NYU's School of the Arts in the CAP program since 2001, having graduated from the program in 1996. As a performer, Mr. Raine toured the United States and Europe in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" (*Lefou*) and "West Side Story" (*Baby John*). His choreographic credits include "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" and "The Prince of Grand Street" in NYC, "Pajama Game" and "Gypsy."

Kathryn Cuca returns for her second year as an acting instructor. Holding a B.A. from Boston University, she currently teaches theatre workshops and participates in independent theatre projects and films, in the tradition of her mentor, Cynthia Meryl. Returning to WYACT's Musical Theatre classes is Musical Director, Joanna Gibson. Dartmouth College graduate with Honors in Music and Associate Director of Arts Training and Coordinator of NJPAC's "Jazz for Teens" program, Ms. Gibson's musical direction credits include: "Godspell," "Pippin," "A Chorus Line" and "FAME."

Kimani Fowlin, professional dancer and choreographer, returns to teach Hip-Hop, Jazz and African dance for WYACT's dance program at Hillcrest Academy. Currently, Ms. Fowlin dances with the modern

dance company, Soulworks and teaches African dance at Rutgers University. Heather Bialy, BFA graduate from Mason Gross School of the Arts, and choreographer for Bridgewater/Raritan High School returns to teach WYACT's Ballet and Jazz classes.

Ms. Meryl stage-directed and, with Ted Agrest, WYACT Executive Director and Broadway veteran, produced all twenty-eight of WYACT's past productions including last summer's "Guys and Dolls" at NJPAC in Newark and the Algonquin Arts Theatre in Manasquan, and WYACT's highly-acclaimed 2003 production of "West Side Story," winner of the Music Theatre International Award of Excellence. Also, WYACT recently was honored to receive a \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts.

WYACT classes are designed to prepare young performer for auditions and the professional stage. Ms. Meryl would like to see young performers develop the commitment and discipline to learn an art form well, whether it be in music, dance, or drama; and in so doing, build the confidence the students need not only for a career in theatre, but to face any challenge in life. For information on WYACT, see www.wyact.org, call (908) 233-3200 or email wyactnj@comcast.net.



Get Outta' The House

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

On Tuesday, August 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Fanwood teens will celebrate the end of another summer with a **Junk Food Fest**. Activities will include the "Name That Candy Bar," and the "Bubblegum Blowing" contest, a "Chocolate Chip Cookie" tasting, and a brand new event called "Is it Healthy?" It will take place at the Fanwood Library. For information call (908) 322-6400.

At 7 p.m. this evening, there will be a cooking demonstration at Frelinghuysen Arboretum. **Totally Tomatoes!** will be led by Cynthia Tronolone, former owner of Madison's Rose City Bakery. The fee is \$45. See if there still is room for you by calling the Haggerty Education Center at (973) 326-7603.

The Evergreens, also known as the Shultz House Museum in Montclair, is a "splendidly restored" home dating from 1896. One-and-a-half hour guided tours are offered at 3 p.m. on the first and third Sunday of each month. Admission is \$4-\$8. Admission must be paid at the Museum Shop at 110 Orange Road the day of the tour by 2:45 p.m., and you must register in advance. For information call (973) 744-1796, or visit on the web at: <http://www.montclairhistorical.org/programs/may.html>.

On Wednesday, August 31, the Planetarium at Raritan Valley Community College has a star show at 7:30 p.m., called **Summer Skies**, followed by an 8:30 p.m. laser show, **Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon**, which you can watch with 3-D glasses. Other shows are available, and admission to all shows is \$5. Call them at (908) 231-8805 for reservations, or log onto: <http://www.raritanval.edu/rvcc/frameset/visitors.html> for more information. The campus is located in North Branch, at Route 28 and Lamington Road.

The Garden State Wine Growers Association's Rockin' Oldies Wine Festival at Waterloo Village will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 3 and 4 from noon to 5 p.m. in Stanhope. A variety of wineries will offer wines to sample and purchase. There will be music from Carnaby Street and Jersey Gold bands, craft vendors, classic and antique car displays, gourmet food, a "Kids Zone" and, of course, the restored village. The festival is held in a beautiful area with plenty of shade. Admission for adults is \$18. Check out <http://www.newjerseywines.com/rockin.html> for directions and information.

Sweet Sounds Downtown Concludes

WESTFIELD--The "Sweet Sounds Downtown" Jazz Festival, sponsored by the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC), will conclude its ninth annual season in downtown Westfield on Tuesday, August 30. A rain date will be held the following Wednesday evening at the same time.

The Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival schedule for Tuesday, August 30 will include performances by Full Count Big Band, Sandy Mack Band, Marlene VerPlank, and Jeanne Lozier Band.

For more information about Westfield and other downtown events taking place, call the DWC at (908) 789-9444 for free a Destination Westfield brochure including a shopping, dining and service directory as well as a 2005 events calendar and Jazz Brochure or visit their web site at www.WestfieldToday.com for further details.

WF Resident Photo Displayed at Museum

WESTFIELD - One of 50 finalists selected from more than 30,000 submissions from 92 countries in the Smithsonian's Annual Photo Contest, Susan Cook of Westfield has her photo on display on the third floor of the Smithsonian's Natural Museum of American History. The photo was submitted by the Westfield resident in December of 2004 and selected in April of this year. The exhibit of the 50 finalists entitled "Through Our Readers Eyes" will be on display until September 5, 2005. In Mrs. Cook's photo 5-year-old Emmanuelle Nadeau of Westfield is seen in her little ballerina costume gazing at a life-sized photo of male ballet dancers in a display at Kean College. Further details may be found at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/exhibition.cfm?key=38&exkey=500>

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