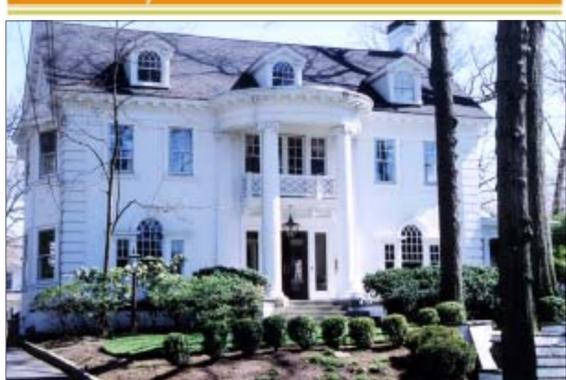


Arts & Entertainment



GRAND ESTATE...This Tremont home will be spotlighted during the Westfield Symphony Orchestra Friends' 21st Annual Tour of Notable Homes on Saturday, May 14.

Revival Home Expected To Please WSO Tour Guests

**WESTFIELD** — The 21st Annual Tour of Notable Homes to be presented by the Friends of Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) will offer the public an opportunity to view a three-story Gothic Revival Westfield residence on Saturday, May 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The classic architecture of the home that sits on an elevated lot make it a "show-stopper" according to the tour's chairwomen, Lee Corcoran and Lisel Perseley.

"This house is truly fabulous," said Mrs. Perseley. "Visitors will be immediately drawn to the magnificent palladium windows, a dramatic center hall with double stairway, fabulous chandeliers and flawless appointments that are not to be missed."

Regarding the kitchen and powder room renovations, Mrs. Corcoran said, "The kitchen ceiling is 10 feet high and framed by eight-inch crown moldings. The home has many features that are 'one-of-a-kind' including damask wall coverings in the dining room and there's a marvelous collection of ink wells in the living room."

Five distinctly different homes located in the town's most prestigious neighborhoods are included on the tour.

All proceeds will be used to fund the WSO's programs of education and outreach according to WSO Music Director David Wroe.

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

Tickets for the tour purchased in advance are \$25 and increase to \$30 on tour day. They are available in Westfield at Baron's Drugs, Burgdorff Realtors, Coldwell Banker Realtors, Weichert Realtors, Lancaster, Ltd., Poppyfield, and The Town Bank of Westfield. In Cranford, tickets may be purchased at Martin Jewelers, and at Irma's Hallmark in Fanwood and Mary's Hallmark in Clark.

Addresses of tour locations are printed on the tickets and maps are included in the 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).

Chapman to Stage First Play

**WESTFIELD** — Jay Dent, to various publishing houses. When *The Leader/Times* asked Ms. Chapman where she finds the wherewithal and support for all of her projects, she beamed at first and exclaimed, "I pray and I ask for guidance. I'm just here to serve. Everybody has a purpose and I'm basically on my way to finding mine."

"Without the support of my family and friends, and without surrounding myself with positive people," she added, "none of this would be possible."

Tickets for *Ancestors Inc.*, which will be available at Kean's Little Theatre Box Office, are \$10 for attendees ages 13 or older, and \$5 for persons 12 and under. All proceeds will benefit the Urban League of Union County Guild.

She is working to schedule an additional appearance by Ms. Chapman this month because the WHS graduate "has such a genuine interest in helping the students, using her own experiences, expertise and exposure."

Ms. Chapman has been invited by the Black Women Contracting Association to speak at the organization's "We Mean Business In the Boardroom Seminar" on Wednesday, June 15, in Detroit, where she will motivate youngsters through her networking game and conduct a book signing.

"Why Think, I Know I Can," a motivational children's book, is also in the works, reported Ms. Chapman. She said her book is "loosely based on a young girl who has infinite possibilities and believes that with God, you can do everything."

Ms. Chapman will be shopping the book, which will be illustrated by Derek

**Into the WOODS**

by Stephen Sondheim

Friday May 6, 13, 20  
Saturday May 7, 14, 21  
8:00 pm

Tickets \$20.00  
Reserve Now 908.276.7611

**NJCVA**

**CDC THEATRE**

Cranford Dramatic Club  
78 Winans Avenue • Cranford, NJ  
[www.cdctheatre.org](http://www.cdctheatre.org)

CDC Theatre Will Present Sondheim's *Into the Woods*

**CRANFORD** — Stephen Sondheim's musical *Into the Woods* will be staged by the Cranford Dramatic Club (CDC) beginning Friday, May 6, at the CDC theater, located at 76 Winans Avenue in Cranford.

In celebration of Sondheim's 75th birthday, the troupe is presenting the first and last musicals of the so-called "Sondheim Era," starting with *Company*, which was staged in October, and now, *Into the Woods*.

According to Roger Hayden of the CDC, this play is "a wonderful show for folks of all ages... the lively and melodic retelling of several fairytales by blending them with an original tale."

"In Act One, a childless baker and his wife, who yearn to have children, must first remove the curse that stands in their way. Once that is accomplished they can all live happily ever after... or can they?" explained Mr. Hayden.

"In Act Two, we see that happy endings are rather elusive. The characters must deal with the consequences of the actions they took to get their wish in Act One," he noted, adding that other fairytale characters include The Witch, Jack in the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood, The Wolf, Rapunzel and Cinderella and their Princes.

Nevil Schwartz of Cranford will direct the production, with Elizabeth Howard producing. Ann Weeks will serve as musical director and Michelle Massa will be the choreographer.

*Into the Woods* will be presented on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. from May 6 through Saturday, May 21.

Tickets are \$20 on a reserved seat basis, and can be obtained by calling (908) 276-7611 or through the theater's website at [www.cdctheatre.org](http://www.cdctheatre.org).



FINAL WEEKEND...In Edward Albee's unique Pulitzer Prize winning play, *Three Tall Women*, Noreen Farley, left, recalls for Barbara Guidi and Angela Della Ventura, right, some of her most interesting life memories which include the ghostly figure of her son, Rick Delaney. The play will have its final weekend run this Saturday, May 7, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, May 8, at 3 p.m. For tickets, please call (908) 659-5189.

**POPCORN™**

**A Lot Like Love: Almost the Real Thing**

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

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER  
3 POPCORN

Ah, love stories. They're like car accidents. No two witnesses see the same thing. And this is particularly true of *A Lot Like Love*, director Nigel Cole's recent contribution to the romantic comedy genre.

Starring Amanda Peet and Ashton Kutcher as Emily Friehel and Oliver Martin, respectively, they are cupid's latest pair of victims. And as such, the love struck duo are ritually trifled with, made sport of, and generally bandied about by the little archer until, at long last... well, can't give that away.

But in any case, the treatment they receive, all in the name of l'amour, pales in comparison to some of the slings and arrows *A Lot Like Love* has received from about half of those who have thus far sampled it. Admittedly, they feel Cole's movie just doesn't satisfactorily represent the process... you know, the one our grandparents commonly referred to as making whoopee.

In fact, so great is their antagonism that some have even ventured upon personal invective. One critic took Kutcher to task for dating Demi Moore. Said he was an opportunist. Is that what they call it? Then another detractor took the time to launch a big diatribe concerning Peet's nose job.

Please be aware, my production notes neither negate nor verify that the actress did indeed partake of said cosmetic surgery. All the same, this fellow feels the style of schnoz she chose is passé. Now, of course that's a completely different thing from me thinking that Laurence Olivier would have been much better in *Wuthering Heights* (1939) if he had just selected another pair of cuff links. But Peet's nose? It looks okay to me.

But then you see, that's just it. The movie draws out those emotions. And as we used to say back in the shtetl, there's them that's fer it and them that's agin it. As illogical as the topic itself, subjectivity reigns supreme.

Hence, per the oath I took at my investiture as a movie reviewer just shortly after graduation from Olde Ivy Film Criticism, before proceeding I am sworn to divulge which side of the aisle I fall on. And by gum, I'm fer it!

There! Now I can tell you without compunction that Kutcher is entirely durable as Oliver. He's the easygoing dude, albeit with a plan, who finds the surprise of his life when, 28,000 feet in the air, fellow passenger Emily introduces herself, so to speak. Furthermore, Peet is delightfully superb as the less hinged, more spontaneous half of the relationship that then evolves. She is very impressive.

Their story is romantic proof that the adage, "Things that start fast, end fast," is not necessarily true, though it appears that way at first. It's part of the film's charm. We're never quite sure if Emily and Oliver are ever going to hook-up. For after a quick, bittersweet tour of New York following their rather abrupt introduction, each goes their separate way.

Naturally, good sense and our innate desire to see love prevail suggest that that can't simply be that. We'd want our money back. Even if it ultimately doesn't work out (à la *The Way We Were* — 1973), we want to experience the trials and tribulations, the joys as well as the sorrows of love. So what if it takes a while. It's all the more confirmation that love never dies, right?

Cole's delightful film, written by Colin Patrick Lynch, is thus happy to oblige as it proceeds to wend its way through the next seven years in Emily and Oliver's lives. Via the wistful magic of the romantic interlude, sporadic meetings between the two foster hope. While their chances seem terribly slim at times, somewhere along the line we get to really care. Suspense takes hold.

Those folks who can't stand the torture of love, commonly known as confirmed singles or divorcees, may protest. But to the film's credit, the intermittent encounters possess a winning balance of both the winsome air of chance as well as the striking ring of credibility. And unless you've been either awfully unlucky or live where they still arrange marriages, you're bound to see some of your own romantic travails in their



ON WITH THE SHOW...The Little Opera Company (LOC) of New Jersey will present two performances of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore* at Union County College on Saturday, May 14. Pictured, above, are LOC cast members from a previous performance of this opera.

Little Opera Company to Stage Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*

**WESTFIELD** — Performances of Gaetano Donizetti's comic opera *L'Elisir d'Amore* (*The Elixir of Love*) will be presented by the Little Opera Company (LOC) of New Jersey on Saturday, May 14. The 2 p.m. matinee and 8 p.m. presentation will be held at the Roy Smith Theater at Union County College (UCC), 1033 Springfield Avenue in Cranford.

This is the first time that the LOC, a division of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA), is using the theater at the college.

*L'Elisir d'Amore* is set in a small village in Italy in 1830. It relates the story of Nemorino, a poor, young villager who drinks a magic love potion to make Adina, a wealthy, popular girl fall in love with him.

The role of Adina will be sung by Nadine Robinson at the matinee and LOC President and Co-Founder Valerie Pineda at the evening performance. Alan Smulen will portray Dr. Dulcamara. Nemorino will be portrayed by Vice President and LOC Co-Founder Juan Pineda at the matinee, and Luis Cabrera at the evening performance. Charles Schneider will portray Sergeant Belcore and Maureen Monroe will

sing the role of Gianetta. The orchestra of *L'Elisir d'Amore* will be conducted by Robert Butts.

Several teenagers will be featured roles in this production, including Westfielders Catalina Gaglioti, Daniella Regencia, Kelly Dohm, Hillary Nicoll, Stephanie Christiano, Daniella Ciampa, Jessica Ciampa, Frankie Cerpil, Julie Daurio, Jennifer Dilzell, Kristen Dilzell, Felicia Erlich, Augustine Glazov, John Hawkins, Rachel Hawkins, Pamela Marks, Natalie Narotzky, Shelly Narotzky, Jackie Nicoll, Olivia Pomann, Anna Pullucino, Maria Pullucino, Sarah Queller, Willa Schaefer, and Emily Sheehan.

Scotch Plains cast members include Katie Lauricella, Michael Mielicki, Brianna Redmount, Andrea Redmount, Andrea Rosko, and William Shore.

Tickets for *L'Elisir d'Amore* are \$30 for adults, \$25 for senior citizens, and \$15 for those under 18 years of age. Special group discounts are also available.

For more information on the LOC, please visit the NJWA office at 150-152 East Broad Street in Westfield, or call (908) 789-9696.

LOCAL STARS  
'American Girl' Fashion Show Models Hail from Town, Boro.

**NEWARK** — Residents from Westfield and Fanwood participated as models in five fashion shows in The Newark Museum's "An American Girl Weekend"



on April 16 and 17.

Westfield residents included Madison Albin, Carly Levine, Julia Levine and Ashley Abbott. Zie Zie Ohamadike, Ramona Dunning and Josie Dunning of Fanwood also participated.

The program showcased historical and contemporary "American Girl" fashions modeled by 132 young volunteers, ages 6 to 10, representing 46 New Jersey urban and suburban municipalities. Ten high school students served as commentators.

The young models were selected late last year and have been in rehearsal for the event.

Photos Courtesy of Herbert George Associates

**LIVING DOLLS...**Sisters Josie Dunning and Ramona Dunning of Fanwood joined Westfield resident Madison Albin in modeling during "An American Girl Weekend" at The Newark Museum on April 16 and 17. Pictured, clockwise, are: Madison, Ramona and Josie.

Dannielle Mick Will Present Acrylic Demonstration May 18

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — The Scotch Plains & Fanwood Arts Association will offer a still life demonstration in acrylics by Dannielle Mick following their 7:30 p.m. business meeting at the Fanwood Community House on North Avenue on Wednesday, May 18.

Ms. Mick has studied in California and New York, exhibiting at galleries throughout New Jersey, and in New York, the National Audubon Society, the Salmagundi Club and the Catherine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club.

Having garnered several awards, honors and memberships, Ms. Mick has also been published in *The New York Times*, *New Jersey Countryside*, *Pastel Journal*, and *The Star-Ledger*.

She teaches at her studio and the New Jersey Center for the Visual Arts in Summit and the Somerset Art Association in Bedminster.

Ms. Mick works in all media, and is inspired by the natural world of sea, sky and landscapes, often starting with a plein air sketch and finishing in her studio.

The artist stated that simplicity and balance, learning to see with depth and sensitivity, and appreciating the subtleties of color, light and change have all had a profound impact on her work.

"Knowing what is observed will never be exactly the same twice is one of the most exhilarating experiences one can have," noted Ms. Mick, who seeks to capture this element in her work.

The public is invited to join the meeting and demonstration.

For further information, please call Thomas Yeager at (908) 322-5438.

Get Outta...  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24  
Crossings."

**The Franklin Elementary School** on Prospect Street in Westfield will hold its annual **Mother's Day Plant Sale** on Friday, May 6, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., rain or shine, in front of the school. An assortment of flowers and herbs, supplied by Terrill Road Country Market and Garden Center, will be available in pots, flats, hanging baskets, and special Mother's Day planters. Shop for your garden, as well as for your mom. Volunteers will be available to help shoppers with their purchases.

**"Desert Dreams,"** the solo exhibit of award-winning photographer Ben Venezio, can be seen now through Thursday, May 19, at the Pearl Street Gallery at the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl Street in Elizabeth. The color prints are of the American Southwest. See them from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.