

TAKE THE STAGE

Boys Shine In Westfield Show



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

WESTFIELD – After the rainiest October on record, the sun finally decided to shine in the form of a Neil Simon comedy produced by Temple Emanu-el Actors Theater in Westfield.

Their latest show, *The Sunshine Boys*, a two-act comedy that ran the first weekend in November, requires three talented leads to carry it. This version has that talent and then some.

For Simon, *The Sunshine Boys*, dealing with old age and its inevitable crisis, might not be the most popular subject for an average audience, "but for me," he wrote in 1977, "it was the best work I had done to date."

He said he had grown up with these men. "If they spoke in one-liners and punch lines instead of conversation, it's because it was the only language they knew."

And the one-liners sure feel authentic.

What was good about this particular show? The two leads, Stan Nathanson as Willie Clark and Chuck Azen as Al Lewis, have great synergy. They are two famous, retired vaudeville comedians who have been estranged for years after working to-

gether in the business for over 40 years.

They are back together again for a history of comedy TV program. They constantly gripe and moan about each other, but have longed for the other's company.

In the TV skit, the old vaudevillian jokes are based on a girl's ample bust line or a short skirt. Good natured Cantor Martha Novick as the nurse takes the sexual silliness in stride as she plays the role to the hilt.

All she has to do is wiggle while wearing a micro-mini skirt and tight fitting blouse and the audience howls its delight. It's vintage Sid Caesar, Imogene Coca and the "Texaco Hour" with Uncle Miltie all rolled into one.

Ben Silverman, playing Willie's nephew Jonathan Fishman, is stellar in the role of the exasperated caregiver who doubles as the old man's agent. He and Willie have great on-stage chemistry with the cantankerous, contentious old geezer not wanting to take the younger man's advice.

Lauren Shub as the registered nurse must be noted for her lilting Irish brogue. With a no nonsense attitude, she's just the ticket to stand up to crotchety old Willie, who wants to

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Arts & Entertainment

Pottery Guild of New Jersey Hosts Successful Weekend Show

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

MOUNTAINSIDE – This weekend, at the Community Presbyterian Church in Mountainside, endless rows of tables were filled with gorgeous pieces of pottery, ceramics and sculpture created by members of The Potters' Guild of New Jersey.

Judith Lerner Taylor, a four-year member of the guild and the current president, told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times* she was especially impressed by how the members help each other grow as artists and sell their wares. There is no competition, only creativity.

Norma Messing of Short Hills, owner of PotLuck, specializes in functional pottery. She presented a lovely array of pieces in blues and greens, some in burgundy with beige. Batter bowls, crustless quiche pans, mini dishes, apple pie pans and salad dressing and gravy dishes were not only affordable but also some of the best pieces in the show.

A three-year member of the Potters' Guild, Jane Warsaw of Crystal Cave Pottery offered a wondrous assortment of pitchers and platters, some featuring crackled texture.

She explained that a certain glaze is used to achieve the special texture. "Most of the glazes you want to fit a clay body so it is smooth, but this is meant to crack," she said, pointing to one of the pitchers with the crackled look, priced at \$115.

Susanna Barbetti-Norton, a graduate of The National School of Ceramics in Buenos Aires, Argentina and a Potters' Guild member, presented ceramic pins in butterfly and flower shapes, as well as flower-shaped votive holders. The owner of Terra Originals, she also crafts portraits and paintings using the same medium.

Highland Park resident Bryan Weitz, a ceramic artist and Potters' Guild member for approximately six years, shared, "My work focuses more on non-functional pottery and decorative vessels. I have been working with clay since 1991."

Clever pottery pockets to nestle flowers and fragrant garden clippings were created by Wendy Lee Pottery of potterypeace.com. The artist also incorporates glittery metallic textures in some of her other pieces.

Terrill Hiel of ClayMonkey Studio



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
GILDED TREASURE...President of The Potters' Guild of New Jersey Judith Lerner Taylor, and a four-year member, poses before her creations at the guild's show on November 13 and 14 at the Community Presbyterian Church in Mountainside.

in Clifton was undeniably the hit of the show. The artist vended softly hued porcelain garden picks stamped with the names of herbs and coated with delicious luster for only \$3. Small bowls were only \$6 and shoppers enjoyed picking their favorites out of baskets brimming with the little beauties.

However, no one could boast enough about Ms. Hiel's funky Salvador Dali-like clock houses for only \$65 each. What a fantastic and fun holiday gift, elegantly and cleverly designed to delight and bring a few chuckles of laughter.

Olivia A. Gabriel, a clay artist and Potters' Guild member from New Brunswick, vended decorative raku ceramics. She explained how she achieved an eye-catching crosshatch texture on one of her pieces.

Other potters included Emmonda Collins Heavener of Franklin, the owner of Hands in Clay; Illene S. Olanoff of Rippling Brook Pottery; longtime Potters' Guild member Judy Muscant of Mountainside and owner of Mountain View Pottery; Waltraud Bolan of VB Studio in Bridgewater; and Harold A. Sarvetnick of Mountainside.

For more information on The Potters' Guild of New Jersey, please visit www.pottersguildnj.com.

Guitarist Adds History To Holiday Favorites

WESTFIELD – Classical guitarist Phillip Lester will perform holiday favorites and discuss the history behind traditional carols and popular holiday songs on December 1 at 7 p.m. at the Westfield Memorial Library.

Mr. Lester, a performer, recording artist and composer, uses both nylon string classical and steel string acoustic guitars to bring to life the music of several centuries. His performance will include holiday classics such as "Joy to the World," "O Hanukah, O Hanukah," "We Three Kings," and the "Carol of the Bells."

After several years as a lead guitarist in rock bands, Mr. Lester began to study solo classical guitar. His musical influences include Alex DeGrassi, Earl Klugh, and the late Chet Atkins. Mr. Lester's recordings include "Dreamsong," "Carols of the Nativity," "American Treasures" and "Gourmet Guitar."

For more information or to register for free adult programs, call (908) 789-4090, visit the library's website at www.wmlnj.org or stop by the library for a copy of the quarterly newsletter.



Get Outta' The House

By CAROL F. DAVIS

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The 27th Annual Scandinavian Import & Gift Sale will take place on Saturday and Sunday, November 19 and 20, at the Old Bridge Township Municipal Center at 1 Old Bridge Plaza. Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day, shop for a variety of imported merchandise, including sweaters, jewelry, krumkaker irons, (for making those delicious tart-like cookies), imported foods, and rosemead items. The bakery department will offer mouth-watering pastries and breads. For information call: (732) 721-5600.

On Saturday, November 19 at 8 p.m., Jersey Shore legends Gary U.S. Bonds, Joe Grushecky and the Houserockers & Bill Chinnock will be at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway for an evening of Rock N' Roll Jersey Shore Style. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased by calling (732) 499-8226, online by visiting the website at www.UCAC.org, or at the box office at 1601 Irving Street and Central Avenue in Rahway. A free shuttle is available to the new parking garage.

Also in Rahway, on Friday, November 18, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., taste gourmet food and desserts, try wine and beer and aperitif selections, and enjoy live entertainment at *Rahway Taste of the Towns*. You can also preview the upcoming *Festival of Trees* event. All will take place at the Rahway Recreation Center, E. Milton Avenue and City Hall Plaza. For information, call (732) 396-3545.

The Westfield Historical Society will present a picture and lecture program on the history of trolleys by Earl Frawley on Friday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m., in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad Street. Everything you want to know about trolleys will be presented free of charge, and refreshments will be served at the end of the program. Call (908) 233-6360.

The Charlie Daniels Band, along with the Marshall Tucker Band, will perform at the Ritz Theatre in Elizabeth on Saturday, November 19, at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$35 to \$45. Visit or call the box office at (908) 351-7575, or www.ticketmaster.com.

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