



## Queen of Arts

Craft Projects, Books, and Patterns  
For All the Year 'Round

### Funky Projects for Knitters, Bead Workers, Plus New Seasonal Products

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

These days, knitting isn't just for grandmothers making sweaters for their grandchildren.

According to Shannon Okey, author of "Knitrrl: Learn to Knit with 15 Fun and Funky Patterns" (Watson-Guptill Publications, 2005, \$9.95), young ladies should check out the aisles of their craft stores overflowing with an eclectic mix of yarns used to create très chic fashions.

Rocker-girl wristlets, boombox bags, a music-player cozy and downtown messenger bag are just a couple of Okey's inventive projects. Using fun, young fonts, a hip layout and cool chapter titles, the author draws in teenagers, even supplying a "Yarn Girl Quiz."

"It's a very satisfying feeling," explains Okey. "You're always in style when you create your own style."

Be not afraid if you are not as experienced as grandma, because the book details how to choose yarn colors, knitting tools, how to understand abbreviations, and hold those pesky needles.

You'll be a knitting fashionista in no time at all.

After Halloween comes, you'll have dozens of ideas about how to use your favorite photographs of your little ghost or goblin. In the world of scrap booking, using perfectly-matching seasonal papers, stickers or embellishments are key to making the most of those photos.

Pebbles Inc (www.pebblesinc.com) has manufactured 12-inch x 12-inch papers with a modern Halloween flair featuring stripes, stars and Halloween words like "spider," "boo" and "scary," as well as shaded pumpkin forms. Mix and match these papers, which coordinate perfectly with Halloween typewriter-look stickers and the "Halloween Sampler" stickers with more frightful words.

However, don't miss out on Pebbles' Halloween "Market Tags" which look like those twist tags from the grocery store. But, these spotlight Halloween words and graphics. Treat yourself to a pack of these tags. They will make your scrapbook pages jump!

Scrapbookers will also be delighted to take a bite into Sei's juicy "Fruit Stand" selection of puffy alphabet letters, cardstock stickers and papers printed with apple slices, pears, berries and "freshly-squeezed" motifs. These products are ideal for those pictures from summer picnics and some of your sweetest memories. Visit www.shopsei.com for more information.

The folks at Karen Foster Design (www.karenfosterdesign.com) sent some of their most vibrant scrapbook products for Halloween and Christmas. Nuggets of candy corn and playful plaids coordinate with new Halloween Gel stickers. Their vintage-look Christmas papers and stickers will serve as the ideal backdrops for your holiday photographs. Karen Foster is also known for its coordinating selection of brads and mini charms, and (my favorite) license plates with adhesive backs.

Finally, scrapbookers will also be pleased with delicious 12-inch x 12-inch "Quotes and Letters" stickers by Memories Complete (www.memoriescomplete.com). Quality cardstock weight stickers contain clever quote styles, and are all repositionable - a scrapbooker's dream! Don't forget to pick up a pack of their "3-D Vellum

Alphabet Sets" which feature monochromatic colors and modern lettering atop sturdy vellum. This manufacturer is always on the cutting-edge.

Bead workers beware! "The Joy of Beading" by Anna Borrelli (Watson-Guptill, 2004, \$19.95) contains so many innovative and intricate projects, you will find yourself entranced by the 50 projects for jewelry, flowers, décor and accessories.

From Borrelli's instructions for "Crocheted Earrings," simply elegant "Drop Earrings," "Satellite Choker" and "Crystal Crosses," the reader is further fascinated by the bouquet of beaded flowers that the author demonstrates with ease and without intimidation. You will be inspired and sure to flock to your local craft shop for beads of all shapes and sizes to complete these delightful projects.

All of the scrapbooking products spotlighted in this edition of "Queen of Arts" may be found at stores like A.C. Moore and The Rag Shop. Also, visit the manufacturers' websites for ordering details. "The Joy of Beading" and "Knitrrl" are both available at www.bn.com or www.amazon.com.



# Arts & Entertainment

## Longtime Mountainside Resident McNamara Pens History Book

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

MOUNTAINSIDE - Longtime borough resident Connie McNamara is rewriting history - the last 50 years of Mountainside's history, that is.

This will be the second book to chronicle the borough's past. Its predecessor, "Mountainside - 1895-1945" by Jean Heskeh Hershey, is a compact book filled with historical facts and photos.

Mrs. McNamara is reaching out to the community for assistance in writing this next edition. The former high-school English teacher recently sat down on the porch of Mountainside's historic Hetfield House with *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* and noted, "I'm still in the research stages and looking to interview people who can share details and lend photographs for reproduction into the new book. I'm looking for trends."

No stranger to research (she also worked for *Newsweek*), after retirement from academia, Mrs. McNamara wrote for *Savvy Living* magazine, making her a natural for the assignment. She told the *Leader/Times* that she would like to incorporate into the new book "personal experiences from local residents," which she believes "would make for enjoyable reading...I'd like it to be a nice blend of photographs and corresponding stories."

The Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee is funding the project through the sale of bricks inscribed with personal messages or family names and placed in the walkway leading to the Hetfield House.

Sergio Lourenco, also known as



BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS...Connie McNamara of Mountainside is pictured on the porch of the historic Hetfield House. Bricks inscribed with names of residents, which are placed in the walkway to the entrance, are helping to fund the book writing project.

"The Portuguese Mason," has donated his time and talent to the continued evolution of the walkway.

The Andrew Deacon Hetfield House, built circa 1760, was entered onto both the New Jersey Register and the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. It made local history in 1985 when it closed Route 22 and attracted hundreds of onlookers as it was moved from an island along its busy highway to its present location on Constitution Plaza.

Its original owner, Andrew Hetfield, who fought in the Revolutionary War, also served as a deacon of the Presbyterian Church in Westfield. He is buried in the church cemetery.

Now both a museum and a meeting place for use by the people of Mountainside, the Hetfield House will be open for tours and events.

Bricks to help raise funds for the project are still available for purchase. Interested individuals are asked to call the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee at (908) 232-2400, extension no. 590.

Anyone with interesting stories or photographs to lend for publication in the new history book may contact Mrs. McNamara directly at (908) 233-9679 or e-mail her at conniemcnamara@comcast.net.

## Light Bulb Players Perform The Apple Tree

WESTFIELD - The Light Bulb Players, a theater division of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, will be performing Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick's *The Apple Tree* at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 22 and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 23 in Westminster Hall at The Presbyterian Church of Westfield.

The musical comedy consists of three one-act plays. The first, "The Diary of Adam and Eve," is a tale of the world's first couple, adapted from Mark Twain's "Extracts From Adam's Diary." The second, "The Lady Or The Tiger?" explores relationships in a rock-and-roll fable set in a mythical barbarian kingdom. Finally, "Passionella" is based on Jules Feiffer's offbeat Cinderella story about a chimney sweep whose dreams of being a "glamorous movie star" nearly sabotage her one chance for true love.

The show is co-produced and co-directed by Michael Mietlicki of Scotch Plains, a junior at Wardlaw Hartridge School in Edison, and Natalie Narotzky, a junior at Westfield High School. Both Michael and Natalie founded The Light Bulb Players; a student-run theater company that debuted in the beginning of 2005 with *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*.

Cast members include Zhenia Bemko, a junior at Cranford High School, who is cast as Nadjira and the producer. Max Lazar, a sophomore at Westfield High School who last appeared as Uncle Ernie in *Tommy* at French Woods Festival, is playing the roles of the snake, the balladeer and the narrator. Billy Geltzeiler, a sophomore at Westfield High School, was last seen as Milky White and the steward in Showcase Theater's production of *Into the Woods*. He will be playing the roles of Adam, Sanjar, and Flip.

Amanda Chang, a freshman at Westfield High School who performed the role of Audrey in Roosevelt Intermediate School's production of *Little*

*Shop of Horrors*, is cast as Eve, the guard and Ms. Fallible. Catalina Gaglioti, a 7th grader at Edison Intermediate School in Westfield who appeared as Maria in *The Sound of Music* in her school's revue, will sing the roles of hand maiden and Passionella. Andrea Roberts, a freshman at J.P. Stevens High School in Edison and a member of the Little Opera Company Young Artist Program, will play the role of Princess Barbara.

Fortickets and information, call (908) 789-9696. The Presbyterian Church is located at 140 Mountain Avenue at the corner of East Broad Street, Westminster Hall is the white building in front of the church. Tickets, available at the door, are \$12 for adults and \$7 for students. Additional information on all NJWA programs is available on the web at www.njworkshopforthearts.com.

## 'Art in the Gardens' Gives Performances

ELIZABETH - Jersey Gardens outlet mall continues to host "Art in the Gardens," a month-long celebration of the arts. The following performances are scheduled for the weekend of October 23 and 24 in the mall's center court:

Saturday, October 22: noon to 1 p.m. - Regina Brennan-Furlan of Springfield, soloist; 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Samahan Cultural Heritage of Carteret offering traditional Philippine music.

Sunday, October 23: 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. - Shubanjali School of Performing Arts, Inc. of Scotch Plains offering traditional Indian music and dance; 3 to 4 p.m. - Suburban Community Music Center of New Providence.

Jersey Gardens is located on Kapkowski Road at Exit 13A off the New Jersey Turnpike. For more information, contact the division at (908) 558-2550. New Jersey Relay Users should dial 711 or send e-mail to: culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

## Book Nook Fall Into A Good Book, "Autumn Is For Apples"

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

With all of the rain we have been having, it's felt more like April than October, all the more reason to savor the autumn season with a book. Apple picking is a favorite fall activity.

Read all about one family's adventures in "Autumn is for Apples" by Michelle Knudsen. This rhyming book is perfect for ages four through eight. It is published by Random House Books for Young Readers (2001).

Last year, Albert Whitman and Co. published "When Autumn Falls" by Kelly Nidey. Also geared to four- through eight-year-olds, the book details everything autumn, from chilly temperatures to pumpkin picking. The book's focus on autumn is presented in the larger context of the cyclical nature of the seasons, which makes it a good choice for teaching about all the seasons of the year. A scientific slant to the autumn season comes from "Why Do Leaves Change Color" by Betsy Maestro. This "Let's Read and Find Out Science" book is targeted toward the ages of five through nine.

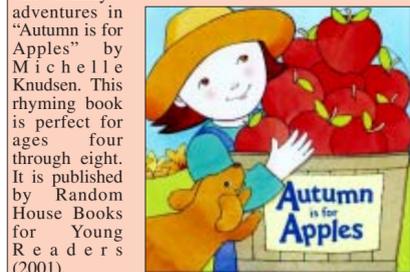
In easy-to-understand language, the book details the scientific process behind autumnal foliage. Drawings of many different types of leaves are included, as are things you can make with leaves. Although consid-

ered by some a classic because of its 1994 publishing date, its information is timeless and of course, still relevant. Published by Harper Trophy. Autumn is the setting for "Coyote Autumn" by Bill Wallace.

This middle-grade fiction book will appeal to any child who wants a pet dog. Twelve-year-old Brad has just moved to a new state and he's feeling pretty low. While he waits for his parents to get him a dog, he adopts a coyote. This book is a nice autumnal read for those hard-to-satisfy middle-school readers, who see reading as being competitive with other activities. Aladdin published "Coyote Autumn" in 2002.

We know what happens to leaves in the fall, but what about all the other seasons? "Leaves. Leaves. Leaves." is a book about...well, leaves. It is written and illustrated by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace and published by Marshall Cavendish (2003). This book is a blend of nonfiction and fiction and includes leaf activities and a mini ecology/biology lesson in the end of the book.

The pictures are great, too. It wouldn't be autumn without pumpkins. To learn all about this fruit (it's not a vegetable), read Gail Gibbons' "The Pumpkin Book." The book treats the theme of pumpkins in an exciting way and is a nice complement to other books about the season. Published by Holiday House (2000). This autumn, find a good book to fall into.





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### Student Parmar Presents Solo Concert

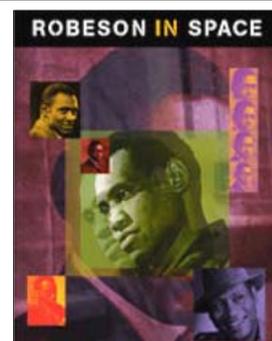
SCOTCH PLAINS - Madhu Parmar, a sixth grader from Terrill Middle School, will present a solo classical vocal concert in Princeton this Saturday, October 22 to support her school's effort in raising funds for the "Habitat for Humanities International," a non-profit organization rehabilitating victims of natural disasters.

Madhu has won numerous first place awards in Hindustani, Carnatic and Western classical music. She has been selected twice to represent the American National Honor Choir, and will be presenting at the Carnegie Hall in New York in February 2006. She will be accompanied on the violin by Palghat Rajaram and on the Mridangam (Indian Drum) by Prakash Rao.

Anyone who wishes to help the organization in its efforts may send donations payable to Habitat for Humanities International, 7 Jena Court, Scotch Plains, 07076. For more details on the event, call (908) 490-0732.



DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE... The Light Bulb Players will present two performances of *The Apple Tree* on October 22 and 23. Pictured are cast members (top row, left to right): Max Lazar, Mike Mietlicki, Natalie Narotzky, Billy Geltzeiler and Amanda Chang; (foreground, left to right) are Catalina Gaglioti and Andrea Roberts. Missing from the photo is Zhenia Bemko.



## Get Outta' The House

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

The New Jersey Concert Opera will perform Georges Bizet's *Carmen* on Sunday, October 23 at 3 p.m. General admission is \$25 for the production at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Avenue, in Plainfield. Robert Butts will conduct.

Also in Plainfield, at the public library there will be a new series, "Travel the World," a free program covering different travel destinations, including Egypt, the Caribbean, South America, Sub-Saharan Africa and more. It begins on Thursday, October 27, at 6:30 p.m. For information, call the library at: (908) 757-1111 ext. 112.

The Luna Stage Company's production of *Robeson in Space* opens the new season, and will run through October 23. This "speculative fantasia" uses video, music and a blues-jazz-hip-hop-inflected performance style to explore the actor's life after a 1961 suicide attempt landed him in a psychiatric hospital in London. Tickets are \$20 - \$25. Call (973) 744-3309 or visit: <http://www.lunastage.org/> for information.

The Madison String Quartet will be at The Arts Guild of Rahway on Sunday, October 30, at 2 p.m. as part of their Classical Music Series. The program will include pieces by Brahms, Revueltas and Schickele. Admission is \$12. Reservations are recommended, so call (732) 381-7511.

There will be a *Fall Bird Walk* on Saturday, October 22, from 10 a.m. to noon at Liberty State Park in Jersey City. The guided walk is free, but you must pre-register by calling (201) 915-3409. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. You'll learn which birds are staying and which are heading south.

## Pulitzer Winner to Speak at Wardlaw

EDISON - Jeffrey Marx, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "Season of Life," will speak at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School, 1295 Inman Avenue in Edison, on Wednesday, October 26, at 7:30 p.m. Parents of children of all ages are invited to attend and are encouraged to bring their middle- or high-school-aged youngsters.

Mr. Marx will discuss how to teach adolescents to become people of substance and impact by focusing on relationships and a cause beyond themselves. His message - that empathy, integrity and a life of service to others is more important than points on a score board - is designed to transcend gender and resonate with athletes, coaches, parents and anyone seeking to lead a more meaningful life.

This free program, open to the public, will be held in the Edison independent school's Upper Snowdon Library. For directions and further details, please visit the Wardlaw-Hartridge School's website at [www.whschool.org](http://www.whschool.org) on their when index page or call the school at (908) 754-1882 during school hours.



## Diversity Art Gallery Opening: "Just Pastels"

CLARK - Diversity Art Gallery will hold its 15th exhibition in Clark with the focus on pastels. Each of our displays includes various themes, styles and types of art, which are on display for the enjoyment and education of the public. The gallery especially encourages artists and populations in the surrounding Union, Middlesex and Essex County areas to be a part of the visual-arts program. The public is invited to attend an artist's reception on Sunday, November 6 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The featured award-winning artist is Nancy Ori of Berkeley Heights. Other pastel artists include Sigal Lenz and Jeanne Smith of Fanwood, Adrian Giuliani of Scotch Plains and Dolores Brink of Roselle Park. The public is invited to enjoy these displays of original pastels and photographs with pastels. The welcome reception is planned for meeting the artists, with refreshments from 1 to 4 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (732) 574-1479 or visit <http://www.diversityart.com>.