

New Members Inducted Into SPFHS Hall Of Fame

SCOTCH PLAINS –Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) celebrated the induction of six new members into its Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame at a brief ceremony before a regular meeting of the school's Alumni Association on Tuesday, November 21.

The SPFHS Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame was established in 2005 to recognize outstanding graduates of the school who have excelled in the fields of art, business, education, literature, medicine, military, athletics, law and science, or who have contributed to the betterment of the community or society.

Nominations to the Hall of Fame were sought from faculty, students, staff, and a special review committee made members of the community and final selections.

This year's Hall of Fame honorees include graduates Patricia Jean Falkenhain Geiringer (posthumously, Class of 1944); Marie DiFrancisco-Leppert (1944); Steve Schnur (1983); James Shreve (1945); Dorothy Blyth McDowell (1950); and William Allen Ryback (1968).

Ms. Geiringer was a classical repertory actress who won critical acclaim for her many roles in on and off-Broadway productions over many decades.

Ms. DiFrancisco-Leppert was one of the founders of the SPFHS Alumni

Association and has served as its president for several years. At one time she was also a teacher in the SP-F and Plainfield Public Schools.

Mr. Schnur has been profiled by the *New York Times*, *London Financial Times*, and *CNN*, and was selected as one of the most creative people in entertainment by *Entertainment Weekly*. *Music Business* named him as one of the most powerful people in the music industry. Mr. Schnur makes contributions to the music and video game industry.

Mr. Shreve graduated from Syracuse University in January 1951 and was immediately appointed head football coach at Moravian College where he was a candidate for the national Football Coach of the Year in 1954.

Ms. McDowell was appointed by the Governor of New Jersey to serve as a commissioner for New Jersey Parks and Recreation. She also serves as a member of the Ocean County Transportation Advisory Committee. She is the founder of the New Jersey Coalition on Women and Disabilities.

Mr. Ryback spent 35 years in the U.S. government where he held various positions at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and was a Senior Associate Director at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.



AWARD CEREMONY...Pictured, from left to right, are Sister Percylee Hart, principal, Grand Knight Paul Vikan, Robert Magella, John O'Brien and Grace Hammeke, after Robert received The Eldon M. Hammeke Scholarship.

Tenth Annual Kwanzaa Festival Returns to NJPAC

AREA – The 10th Annual Kwanzaa Festival and Marketplace, produced by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), and one of the only endowed Kwanzaa celebrations in the United States, begins Thursday, December 14 and continues through Sunday, December 17.

Gospel singer, songwriter and producer Donald Lawrence kicks off this year's celebration in A Joyous Gospel Holiday with a diverse program of inspirational songs and other gospel holiday classics.

The performance will take place on Thursday, December 14, at 7 p.m. in Prudential Hall. Tickets are between \$15 and \$37 for adults; \$15 for children (under 14). Tickets for all Kwanzaa Festival events may be purchased by telephone (1-888-GO-

NJPAC), at the NJPAC Box Office at One Center Street in downtown Newark or on the NJPAC Web site at njpac.org.

Kwanzaa is a seven-day, non-religious, cultural celebration observed annually from December 26 to January 1. It is based on seven principles called the Nguzo Saba, which may serve as a guide for daily living: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia, (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity) and Imani (Faith).

Wardlaw to Host Admission Information

EDISON – The Wardlaw-Hartridge School, located at 1295 Inman Avenue in Edison, will host its next admission information session on Wednesday, December 13, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Director of Admission Charlotte N. L. Davis said, "Families will have the opportunity to meet and speak with the Lower, Middle and Upper School Division Heads, as well as tour the classrooms while classes are in session to get a feel for the children's academic experience."

Ms. Davis will join Associate Director of Admission Joyce Kopidakis in "guiding prospective families and students through the admission process with great care, consistent support and with the best interest of their child in mind."

For more information, call (908) 754-1882, extension 110 or e-mail Ms. Davis at cdavis@whschool.org.

WF's Nozari Volunteers Through Conn. College

WESTFIELD – Yasmin Nozari, a junior at Connecticut College and a 2004 graduate of Westfield High School, is a volunteer tutor at New London High School. Yasmin volunteers through the Office of Volunteers for Community Service (OVCS) at Connecticut College.

Placed at New London High School, Connecticut College students work as one-on-one tutors, teach small groups, assist with projects and help teach in classrooms. Students also have the opportunity to work with department heads assisting with curriculum development.

Yasmin is the daughter of Tourie and Ardavan Nozari of Westfield.

THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

Has Westfield High School's Spirit Departed?

By Vince FitzPatrick
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Spirit can be a hard thing to define. Sometimes it takes a couple tubes of body paint to finally understand.

In Westfield, spirit can also be hard to find. Attendance to sporting events is low. Many school-sponsored events struggle to attract a few dozen students. Varsity jackets go unworn. It even came up in the Westfield High School (WHS) student council elections, in which some candidates publicly gave up on spirit altogether. Spirit, it's said, is dead.

Naturally, many people have asked why spirit has gone missing. Some blame it on busy schedules, which prevent involvement in school activities. Others claim it is due to poor sports performances (especially the football team, despite a much more successful 2006 season). However, these are more questions of attendance than spirit. It is hard to judge someone's spirit if they never show up to the game.

Others claim that in a school so big, connections between students do not exist to allow for support. Still, with school newspaper articles and morning announcements dropping names, it is hard to avoid picking up names. A blossoming online community on networking sites like facebook.com and myspace.com also link Westfield students who might normally pass each other by.

The real culprit in the spirit disappearance is the basic attitude of this generation. We are calm, collected and sarcastic. We toy with authority figures and reject the rigid structure of 1950s and 1960s America.

At the same time, we scoff at the reckless free-spirited philosophy of the 70s and laugh at the unbridled cheesiness of the 80s. Now, children of the 90s and the 2000s, we find ourselves too nonchalant to go nuts at a football game like our grandparents did, or cut loose at the Halloween dance our parents might have loved. In essence, we think we are too cool.

A different kind of cool went through my mind last Wednesday during the annual Powderpuff game. The 40-degree weather didn't stop the masses of WHS from attending the school's most popular event, in which senior and junior girls face off in a game of football.

Held on homecoming day, crowds of current and former students, as well as faculty and family, show up to watch the spectacle. This is where we

chose to hatch our plan.

Using white and blue body paint, seven friends and I painted "JUNIORS!" across our chests and ran out into the frigid air. We received just the response we wanted: people stared, juniors cheered, seniors booed and everyone got excited. This was WHS spirit if I have ever seen it.

But where did this spirit come from? The answer, of course, is rivalry. It is human nature to take a side and fight to be heard over a roaring crowd. In this case, juniors and seniors found spirit in their rivalry with one another, but they could just as easily unite (with the underclassmen) in other ways. In a town where anything from PSAT scores to gym volleyball games are turned into competitions, this is not hard to imagine.

Our Scotch Plains-Fanwood rivalry often serves up big crowds for football games, so why can't this be applied to other sports and other towns? Even the student council acknowledges that its most popular events are tournaments like Indian pin, and they are working to expand this list. Hopefully, these trends will continue. If our school wants to see more spirit, all we need is more reasons to shout about.

Vince is a junior at WHS.

Wardlaw Announces Quarter Honor Roll

AREA – Rhona Eserner, Upper School Head at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison, has announced the Honor Roll for the First Quarter of the 2006-2007 School Year.

Be aware that some students may be added as incomplete work is finished and grades are re-calculated. (Note: the * indicates High Honor Roll):

Class of 2007

Matt Forman * – Scotch Plains
Michael Mielicki – Scotch Plains
Alyssa Torpey – Scotch Plains

Class of 2008

Jordan Neuhauser – Scotch Plains
Alice Ren – Westfield
Cari Rosoff * – Scotch Plains

Class of 2009

Sahil Zubair – Scotch Plains



JUST FOR LAUGHS...Chase Levitt of Scotch Plains, a fifth grader at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison, entertained Lower School students with side-splitting jokes on Tuesday, November 7, during Lower School Cabaret. Pictured, above, Chase gets some comical feedback from second-grader Jake Payami of Scotch Plains.

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Entertainment During the Holidays

The Yuletide Carolers, Saturdays, 105 Elm Street Park, 1 pm to 2 pm
The Watson Highlanders Bagpipe Band, Saturdays, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Escape Women's Barbershop Quartet, Thursdays, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
NJ Workshop for the Arts Alphorns, Thursdays, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Free Historic Tour Trolley Rides

Park and depart from the South Avenue Parking Lot*
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*Donations of canned food encouraged for the Knights of Columbus year-round food drive

Look for the Welcome Home to Westfield brochure of over 100 holiday events at your favorite Westfield business or online at www.WestfieldToday.com!

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TOWN OF WESTFIELD 2007 CURBSIDE COLLECTION SCHEDULE BY GREAT NORTHERN RECYCLING

	WARD 1 (Mondays)	WARD 2 (Tuesdays)	WARD 3 (Wednesdays)	WARD 4 (Thursdays)
January	1*,15,29	2,16,30	3,17,31	4,18
February	12,26	13,27	14,28	1,15
March	12,26	13,27	14,28	1,15,29
April	9,23	10,24	11,25	12,26
May	7,21	8,22	9,23	10,24
June	4,18	5,19	6,20	7,21
July	2,16,30	3,17,31	4*,18	5,19
August	13,27	14,28	1,15,29	2,16,30
September	10,24	11,25	12,26	13,27
October	8,22	9,23	10,24	11,25
November	5,19	6,20	7,21	8,22*
December	3,17,31	4,18	5,19	6,20
January 2008		1*	2	3

* January 1st is a holiday. The pickup for Ward 1 will be on Wednesday, January 3rd.
* July 4th is a holiday. The pickup for Ward 3 will be on Friday, July 6th.
* November 22nd is a holiday. The pickup for Ward 4 will be on Friday, November 23rd.
* January 1, 2008 is a holiday. The pickup for Ward 2 will be on Wednesday, January 2, 2008.