

# Arts & Entertainment

## Kean University Premieres Tammy Ryan's *Dark Part of The Forest*

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

UNION — First prize of the Premiere Stages Play Festival gives the playwright \$2,000 and, more importantly, the opportunity of having one's play produced at Premiere Stages at Kean University.

Selected from nearly 350 authors' and agents' submissions of plays, Tammy Ryan's prizewinning *Dark Part of the Forest* opens today at Wilkins Theater, featuring a cast of Actors' Equity professionals.

The promotional information on the piece sets a somber tone: "A forest west of Pittsburgh is the setting for this contemporary drama, in which a serial killer haunts the mind and memory of a protective mother."

John Wooten, Producing Artistic Director of Premiere Stages, is enthusiastic about the upcoming show, which he directs. "This is an amazing story of the power of the human spirit. It's timely, it's moving and it's important," he said.

He continued, "Tammy (Ryan) weaves her real time story and fairy tales in an incredible setting of a forest."

The two lead characters of the play build a house in the country in an attempt to save their flagging marriage and keep their 13-year-old daughter safe in an ever-changing world.

Director Wooten, a noted playwright himself and teacher of a playwright workshop class at Kean University, has been assisting Ms. Ryan with the tweaking of her award-winning play. He was pleased with her receptive nature.

"She is open to suggestion and readily took the comments by the panel of judges who critiqued her work last April for the Festival," he noted.

Prior to this, Ms. Ryan, a Carnegie Mellon graduate with a Masters of Fine Arts, has had her work produced in Pittsburgh's City Theatre.

In its second successful year in operation, Premiere Stages is a recipient of donations from the Geraldine Dodge Foundation, New Jersey State Council on the Arts, New Jersey Theatre Alli-

ance and Kean University, as well as a myriad of individual patrons.

Director Wooten said of the play's July World Premiere, "This is a show every parent must see. It's the kind of story that the people will walk away from it and think about it for quite a while."

He concluded by saying, "It's like stepping into a Grimm's fairy tale."

For those unfamiliar with Premiere Stages, Wilkins Theater on the Kean University campus in Union features air conditioning, comfortable seating and easy access, as well as free parking.

The show runs Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Wednesday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Affordably priced, a standard ticket is \$25, while discount prices for senior citizens and students are \$20 and \$15.

## Just Bead Yourself Offers Jewelry-Making Classes

WESTFIELD — Since July 1, jewelry designer Robyn Rosen has taught classes to larger groups, 12 and older, at Just Bead Yourself, located next to the Rialto Theatre at 254 East Broad Street in Westfield. They can be reached at (908) BEAD-411.

She has been crafting jewelry and wearable art for more than a decade. Her work with metal, beads and wo-

ven maille (metal rings linked to form patterns for jewelry and apparel) has been showcased in fashion shows, online galleries, craft shows and New York City boutiques since the late 1990s.

Ms. Rosen will teach individuals or small groups of aspiring jewelry artists proper techniques to open and close small metal jump rings, linking several rings together to form a variety of intricate patterns. These patterns can be modified to create completely different looks by using different sizes of jump rings, offering styles to suit everyone.

To reserve class space, contact Ms. Rosen, at (908) 590-1582 or e-mail classes@robynrosen.com.

## HOME & GARDEN TRENDS



### The Wonderful World Of Wallpaper

By CHRISTIE STORMS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

There's nothing quite like losing yourself in a good book. And while I always keep a novel handy, I recently found myself lost in another type of book. I whittled away oodles of time leafing through page after giant page of wallpaper samples for my dining room. Beyond your grandmother's predictable florals and stripes, the variety of patterns now available is infinite.

As a matter of fact, the word "pattern" almost doesn't apply to some of today's wallpapers. Subtle grass cloth, string and fabric textures are available in single shades similar to paint.

And speaking of paint, Beth, an owner of Westfield's Blindworks, which sells an extensive collection of wallpaper, spoke about paper that can actually be painted with ordinary latex interior paint.

"It's a paintable white with a raised pattern, so you can get texture in the exact color you want," she said.

You can exercise even more creative control by forgoing the typical roller and applying color with a sponge or rag as well as layering additional colors for highlights and other special effects.

Beth reported that current trends in wallpaper include crisp and clean patterns in brighter colors, while classic damasks and Toiles remain popular.

And if pattern or texture doesn't add the impact you're looking for, consider a wallpaper mural. Besides typical land or seascapes, try breaking up a long wall with the mural of

## Community Band Entertains In Independence Day Prelude

By BRAD TINFOW  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Community Concert Band (WCCB) has scheduled a series of free concerts every Thursday evening at 7:30 in Mindowaskin Park, beginning June 22 and ending on July 20. I attended the June 29 concert, which celebrated the then upcoming Independence Day holiday with a program of American music.

The Sons of the American Revolution, clad in colonial garb, acted as color guard during the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star-Spangled Banner.

I had not heard this group of dedicated amateurs since before their current director, Dr. Thomas N. Connors, assumed his post. Dr. Connors is Director of Instrumental Music Studies and an Assistant Professor of Music Education at Kean University.

Judging by the level of music making that I heard on June 29, I would venture to say Dr. Connors' influence has been profound. This band is a substantially better ensemble than the one I had heard several years ago. While the performances were not as perfect as a professional band would have been, the idea of attaining that level did not seem to be a concept that was out of reach.

Most noticeable was Dr. Connors' ability to control all aspects of the performance. With clear musical intentions, keen perception, and skillful conducting, he adjusted balances and maintained rhythmic coherence between the sections, seemingly at will. This was no easy task, as several of the pieces employed irregular time signatures and cross rhythms.

At the microphone, Dr. Connors was amiable and relaxed. It was clear to everyone in the audience that the band members liked and respected him.

The program featured ten pieces. "Prairie Dawn," by David Holsinger, evoked sounds and images of the

American West in the last quarter of the 19th century. Robert W. Smith's "American Landscape," which had been commissioned by Lake Township, Ohio in 2002, had sections of various moods framed by a recurring fanfare.

"Benny Goodman: The King of Swing" was a medley of the clarinetist and bandleader's compositions arranged by Paul Murtha. George Toenes, a music educator and 40-year veteran of the WCCB, was the clarinet soloist. The performance was flawed somewhat by an unfortunate microphone placement, which exaggerated Mr. Toenes' dynamics at both ends of the decibel scale. But he cap-

tured the spirit of the music and the big band era.

"Sun Dance," composed by Frank Ticheli, a professor of music at USC, featured a recurring melody that passed seamlessly between instrumental sections, with an exposed texture.

The final piece of the first half of the program was the novelty piece "Tuba Tiger Rag," with tuba soloists Ted Vincett and Ralph Ciotta. A microphone accentuated the more flutulent characteristics of the instruments, making the piece even more amusing than probably was intended.

During the intermission, Sam

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SUMMER SERIES...The Westfield Community Band, under the direction of Dr. Thomas Connors, concludes their 94th year of summer concerts in Mindowaskin Park continue on Thursday, July 20 at 7:30 p.m.

## Community Band to Hold Conclusion of 94th Season

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Community Band, under the direction of Dr. Thomas Connors, continues its 94th year of summer concerts in Mindowaskin Park on Thursday, July 20th at 7:30 p.m.

A featured selection for the evening is "Tuba Tiger Rag" by Harry DeCosta, showcasing the tuba's versatility and featuring Ralph Ciotti and Ted Vincett from the band's tuba section.

Mr. Ciotti began his musical career more than 24 years ago and is proficient on the baritone horn, bass trombone and tuba. He has performed on the tuba for the last 17 years with various groups in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, including the Montclair and Westfield Community. Mr. Ciotti is a laboratory manager for a small analytical company and is a resident of Bedminster.

Ted has performed on the tuba for the past eight years and the electric bass four years. A rising senior at Westfield High School, he is a member of the Westfield High School (WHS) Wind Ensemble and WHS Marching Band.

The band will also perform the score of the 1972 film *The Cowboys*, one of John Williams' first film scores. Other featured selections for the evening include "Festival Overture" by Dudley Buck, "Selections from *Wicked*" by Steven Schwartz and "Highlights from *Mame*" by Jerry Herman.

The Westfield Community Swing Band, "Nostalgia" will perform on Thursday, July 28 at 7:30 p.m. in Mindowaskin Park.

Mindowaskin Park is located next to the Westfield Municipal Building at 425 East Broad St. in Westfield. The event is free to the public; audience members are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the Assembly Hall of the Presbyterian Church on the corner of East Broad St. and Mountain Avenue.

The Westfield Community Band and this concert series are sponsored by the Westfield Recreation Department, of which Bruce Kaufmann is the director. For further information, call (908) 789-4080 or go to the band's website at westfieldcommunityband.com.

## Local Author Tina Leshner Writes About WF Women

WESTFIELD — Westfield Memorial Library will host an author's talk and book signing on July 19 at 7 p.m. to kick off the sale of a book that centers on the lives of 12 Westfield women.

Tina Leshner, a journalism professor at William Patterson University and the author of the book "Club '43," will provide insight into her decision to write about the dozen women, all of whom were born in 1943.

The book focuses on members of a Westfield organization, Club '43, formed in 1983, when members marked their 40th birthdays together. Ten years later, they held a number of events to mark their 50th birthdays.

For their 60th birthdays in 2003, Club '43 sponsored a fundraising walk at Mindowaskin Park in Westfield to raise money for breast cancer research; four of the club members are breast cancer survivors.

Ms. Leshner said she penned the work because she was fascinated by the lives of these women and felt the book would do more than just describe the subjects' lives.

"Through these profiles, I think that readers will learn about history in the past six decades," said Ms. Leshner, one of the 12 members profiled in the book.

The women include successful professionals, as well as two former nuns. Each chapter features one of the Club '43 members, followed by photos from their lives. Artist and Club '43 member Linnea Rhodes painted the cover.

The other members of Club '43 are Susan Carovillano, Charlotte Clevenger, Penny Dinger, Mary McEnerney, Diana McGonigle, Lesley Robins, Dr. Cathy Rock, Dr. Madeleine Sullivan, Judi Thompson and Loretta Wilson.

Registration for this free reading and book signing is at the circulation (front) desk of the Westfield Memorial Library and is open to the general public.

"Club '43" will be sold at the Town Book Store, which will handle the book signing at the library.

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



CLUB '43 IN 2006...The 12 members of Club '43 pose for a photo. A book signing and talk about Tina Leshner's "Club '43" will take place on July 19 at the Westfield Memorial Library. From left to right are: Tina Leshner, Penny Dinger, Loretta Wilson and Madeleine Sullivan, back row; Susan Carovillano, Mar McEnerney, Linnea Rhodes and Judi Thompson, middle row; and Charlotte Clevenger, Lesley Robins, Cathy Rock and Diana McGonigle, front row.



PREMIERE TALENT...Toby Poser and Gregory Northrop perform a scene from *Dark Part of the Forest* at Premiere Stages.

## Showcase Theater Presents *Carousel* at Edison School

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Summer Workshop's Showcase Theater will present four performances of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Carousel*.

The productions include high school students from throughout New Jersey who were selected through an audition process that started in February.

Starring as Billy Bigelow is Tony Mowatt, a sophomore from Union. Katie Coffey from Cranford and Pami Marks from Westfield are double cast as Julie Jordan, and Michael Mietlicki from Scotch Plains and Billy Geltzieler of Westfield are double cast as Jigger.

Holly Curran of Colonia and Katy Cockrell of Scotch Plains are sharing the role of Carrie Pipperidge, and Christie Nelson of Kenilworth is performing the role of Nettie.

Other cast includes Brian Hart of Westfield as Enoch Snow, Dan Burman from Westfield as Bascombe and Kyle Aslin of Cranford as Enoch Junior. Gabriella Napoli from Fanwood is performing the role of Louise. Andrea Redmount of Scotch Plains and Toni Antonucci of Roselle Park are sharing the role of Mrs. Mullins. Sarah Szollar and Maddie DeJohn of Westfield are performing the roles of the Heavenly Friends, and Andrea Roberts of Edison is cast as the Starkeeper.

Other cast members include Mallory Boesch, Caroline Raba, Kristen Caruana, Dara Silverman, Michael Rosin, Leo Powell and Caroline Ortiz-Wood of Westfield, Megan Larkin of Cranford and Kelly Merrick and Kaitlyn Mills of Scotch Plains.

The show is co-directed by Juan Pineda and Fausto Pineda, both professional performers and directors.

Performances will be held at Edison Intermediate School at 800 Rahway Avenue, Westfield. Show times are 1 and 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 20, and Friday, July 21. Ticket prices are \$8 for adults and \$6 for seniors, students and children. For tickets and information, call (908) 518-1551.



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This production is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

## Summit Music Festival Presents *Carmina Burana*

SUMMIT — The Summit Music Festival will celebrate its Fifth Anniversary Season with two performances of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, a universally acclaimed choral work, at Summit's Central Presbyterian Church (70 Maple Street) on July 28 and 29 at 8 p.m.

The program will also feature a new work commissioned by the festival by renowned composer Robert Maggio, entitled *The Voice of the Rain*, set to a poem by Walt Whitman.

Led by Artistic Director Jason Tramm, The Summit Music Festival will join forces for this performance with the New Jersey Youth Chorus, New Jersey Percussion Ensemble, pianists Holly Chatham and Thomas Cuffari and guest soloists Lorraine Ernest, soprano; Matthew Garrett, tenor; and Anton Belov, baritone.

Since its premiere in 1937, Carl Orff's setting of secular poetry, based on a collection of 13<sup>th</sup> century Bavarian poems and songs, has established itself as one of the most popular choral works of all time. The famous opening chorus, "O Fortuna," is featured in countless film scores, including *Excalibur*, *The Doors* and *Natural Born Killers*.

The Summit Music Festival is committed to providing the residents of the Summit area and beyond with

high quality artistic and educational experiences, including concerts and lectures. Founded in 2002, the festival choir presents choral/orchestral masterworks to standing room only crowds and receives outstanding critical reception. The choir is selected through competitive audition every summer and rehearses in July.

In conjunction with the Summit Public Library, the Summit Music Festival will also be holding a two-part lecture series. Paul Somers, editor of the Classical New Jersey Society, will discuss the role of *Carmina Burana* in popular culture from its roots until the present day at 7:30 p.m. on July 13. Dr. Jason Tramm and Noel Werner, Minister of Music at the Central Presbyterian Church (Summit), will examine the texts and musical materials used to create *Carmina Burana* at 7:30 p.m. on July 20. Both talks are free and open to the general public.

To reserve seats for the 2006 Festival performances featuring Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, please call 908-273-3190 or email info@summitmusicfestivalnj.com. Suggested concert donation: \$15 Adults/\$10 Students and Seniors. For more information and directions, visit www.summitmusicfestivalnj.com.