



**RAISE YOUR VOICES...**Matthew Forman of Scotch Plains, a junior at the Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison, led the W-H Choral Arts Society in "Can You Hear?" by Papoulis and "Gondoliers" by Gilbert and Sullivan during the Upper School Spring Concert on the evening of May 25.

## Choral Arts Ends Season With Old, New Selections

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

WESTFIELD – The Westfield based Choral Art Society of New Jersey (CAS) closed its 44th season on Saturday evening, May 20, with a performance of Johannes Brahms's *Nanie*, John Rutter's *Mass of the Children* and a composition especially commissioned for CAS by Cranford composer Mario Lombardo entitled *Three Psalms of David*.

CAS is under the direction of James S. Little. Mary Beth McFall accompanied. The concert took place at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

Mr. Lombardo's composition, *Three Psalms of David*, was performed in three parts. The first was the jubilantly sung "Make a Joyful Noise," based on Psalm 100. It was followed by the familiar Psalm 23, "The Lord is My Shepherd," which was a more solemn presentation. The last of the three parts, "Sing Unto the Lord a New Song," based on Psalm 98, returned the audience to harmonies that were at once joyful and praise-filled.

Mr. Lombardo, who was in the audience, was recognized with a standing ovation.

CAS performed *Three Psalms of David* for the first time in celebration of its 30th anniversary year, which was during its 1993-1994 season.

Like *Three Psalms of David*, Brahms's *Nanie* was also performed in three sections, all in German.

The Mount St. Mary Academy Chorale, under the Direction of Sister Mary Gomolka, joined CAS in singing John Rutter's *Mass of the Children*.

Ellen Goff Entriken sang the solo soprano part of the *Mass of the Children* while Jeremiah Goldovitz performed the baritone sections.

The mass was sung in both Latin and English and opened and closed with Mount St. Mary's Choir singing hymns written by Bishop Thomas Ken, chaplain to British royalty during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Accompanying the vocal performances was the Choral Art Society Orchestra.

CAS began in 1962 with a membership of 25 singers. Today, approximately 60 singers are a part of the

group. According to the organization, CAS has presented most of the major oratorios, cantatas and masses of the master composers during its 43 seasons of performances.

CAS concerts are broadcast on Comcast Access Network, Channel 26. On Wednesday, June 21, at 8:30 p.m., the first part of CAS's January concert, *Magnificat* by Johann Sebastian Bach will be aired.

On Sunday, June 18, at 3 p.m., CAS will join with The Oratorio Singers of Westfield for "Song and Spirit of WWII," a concert to benefit the Westfield WWII Memorial Fund. The program, which is presented by the Arts Coalition of New Jersey, will be held in the sanctuary of Temple Emanu-El, 756 East Broad Street, Westfield. Donations towards the Memorial will be accepted at the door.

More information about Chorale Art Society of New Jersey can be found on its website: [www.choraleartsociety.com](http://www.choraleartsociety.com).

## Open Mic Coffee House Takes Place in Summit

SUMMIT – Second Saturdays' "Open Mic" Coffee House will take place on Saturday, June 10, in the Fellowship Hall of the Summit Unitarian Church at 4 Waldron Avenue (corner of Springfield Avenue) in Summit. Performer sign-up is at 7:30 p.m. and the show will start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$5 but free if performing.

Treats and refreshments will be provided, including coffee donated by Ahre's Coffee Roastery in Westfield and desserts from Trader Joe's, also in Westfield.

Musicians, poets, comedians, magicians and performance artists of all kinds are invited to display their talents. Performers are asked to arrive at 7:30 to sign up for a time slot. Slots are given away on a first-come-first-served basis. There is a two-song limit per musician/group, a five-minute limit on poetry and a 10-minute limit on skits.

This series takes place on the second Saturday of every month, September through June. For directions, or further information, e-mail [info@secondaturdays.org](mailto:info@secondaturdays.org).

## Groove Cats to Appear at Methodist Church Friday

WESTFIELD – The Friday Night Concerts 2006 season at Westfield's First United Methodist Church, 1 East

Broad St., will be in full swing at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 9, with the appearance of the Solid Jackson Groove Cats, under the direction of James L. Dean.

Led by bandleader James Dean, and augmented by Philip Jones on vocals, this band brings music from the big band era, '40s swing, dance music, bebop and rock and roll standards. The band will pay homage to the music of Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, and tributes to musicians Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman and Stan Kenton, as well as contemporary jazz favorites.



James L. Dean

Bandleader James Dean has led big band orchestras for decades, having performed with Billy Eckstine, Neil Sedaka, Melba Moore, Frankie Avalon, Eddie Fisher, Nipsey Russell and Connie Francis, along with many others.

A suggested donation at the door of \$10 per person, or \$5 for students and children, is requested. The church and sanctuary are handicap accessible and the sanctuary is air-conditioned. Parking can be found in the church lot

on Ferris Place, on nearby streets and in local nearby lots. For further information, call the church office at (908) 233-4211 daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## Cardenas to Demonstrate Figure Sculpting for WAA

WESTFIELD – On Saturday, June 10, Alfredo Cardenas will give a figure sculpting demonstration in clay at the Westfield Art Association meeting, which will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library at 66 Mountain Avenue, located in Springfield.

Alfredo Cardenas studied at the School of Visual Arts, Brooklyn Museum, Art Students' League and also with Master Sculptor Jose DeCreeff. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Pratt Institute and a Master of Fine Arts degree in sculpture from Brooklyn College.

His professional experience encompasses stone carving, bronze casting, mold making, fiberglass and metal

fabrication, plastics and wax works. He has taught at the Sculpture Center, Five Towns Music and Art Foundation, the Education Alliance and Brooklyn College. He is currently on the faculty at the Visual Art Center of New Jersey, JCC Long Beach and Westchester Community College.

The public is welcome to join the demonstration on Saturday, June 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Springfield Public Library. For directions, call the library at (973) 376-4930. For any other questions, call Tobia Meyers at (908) 687-2945. There is free parking along both sides of Mountain Avenue. The municipal lot in front of the Motor Vehicle Agency is a pay station lot. Parking is not free in the municipal lots on Saturday.

## Davis Sings, Reminisces In Westfield Coffeehouse

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

WESTFIELD – Contemporary singer-songwriter Rachael Davis appeared at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield on Saturday, May 20, as part of the Coffee with Conscience series.

Ms. Davis, whose voice can be described as a three-way combination of jazz, blues and folk, captivated the audience not only with her singing, but also with her childhood reminiscences.

Born to musician parents, Ms. Davis was performing onstage before she was two years old. During the Coffee with Conscience Concert, she spoke lovingly of her "awesome" father, whom she described as the best banjo player she knows.

She told the audience of how her father supported her wish to learn to play the banjo, even trading instruments with her and giving her his own so that she could have the better instrument.

One of the songs Ms. Davis performed for the Coffee with Conscience audience was the hauntingly melodious "Dancing Shoes" from her first CD, "Minor League Deities," which was released in 2001.

Ms. Davis sang many songs from "Minor League Deities," preceding each with a short history of its origin and how it came to be written.

A native of Lansing, Mich., Ms. Davis now lives in Boston. In 2002, she was honored with a Boston Music Award for Best New Singer-Songwriter.

Ms. Davis's song, "Lonely When You're Gone," is featured on a CD entitled Respond II. The CD contains the music of other Boston-based female singer-songwriters, and proceeds from its sale go to help agencies

end domestic violence.

Ms. Davis has also released "Live in Bremen, Germany," a collection of songs sung while on tour during the spring of 2004.

Accompanying Ms. Davis on stage was her collaborative partner, Brett Hartenbach, a guitarist, vocalist and songwriter who has been a long-time friend.

"Rachael Davis is a very talented and skilled young singer-songwriter. She's very self-confident, positive and upbeat, which makes her great fun to watch and a darling to work with," said Coffee with Conscience promoter, Ahre Maros.

Songwriter and musician; Kevin So opened both of Ms. Davis's sets with a mixture of R&B, hip-hop, and folk music. He will be the featured artist at a concert to be held on June 3 at the Watching Arts Center in the Watching Circle.

Begun in 2000, the Coffee with Conscience Concert Series presents ten concerts per year, featuring professional and touring singer-songwriters. The concerts raise money for worthy causes in New Jersey. Proceeds raised from Ms. Davis's concert were donated to the Eric Johnson House in Morristown, an agency that provides housing and other services to homeless people with HIV/AIDS.

Coffee with Conscience concerts are broadcasted on local cable in Westfield, and are aired monthly following the concert on Fridays at 10 a.m. and 10 p.m., and Sundays at 7 p.m.

The next Coffee with Conscience concert will feature tenor guitarist-banjoist Billy Jonas. The concert is on June 17 at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield. Concert time is 8 p.m. For more information, log onto [www.coffeewithconscience.com](http://www.coffeewithconscience.com).



## POPCORN™

### X-Men: The Last Stand: Isn't the X-ception

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

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER  
2 & 1/2 popcorns

Too bad *X-Men: The Last Stand* isn't the exception that proves the rule. You see, the vast majority of comic-book-inspired movies have come to be blurringly familiar. The good news is, they are colorful, rousing, idealistic and, for all their secret handshake language and lore, ultimately simple and accessible at the core.

That's what makes their pulp-based source so attractive to young readers in the first place. The bad news is, the latest generation of computer-assisted transfers from comic panel to screen is reaching the tail end of its validity.

Co-scribes Simon Kinberg and Zak Penn won't win a Pulitzer. But they do thrash out some refreshingly important thoughts. Both a treatise on minority politics as well as a satire on how racism can be tooled up for the purposes of domination, the metaphors are aplenty.

Ghost of Bigotry Present, the plot this go-round centers on a cure being touted by the good folks at Worthington Corporation. The insidious assumption is that being a mutant is an illness. One shot of this stuff and the X-person loses all his or her extraordinary powers. Voila, the longstanding enmity between humans possessing no special ability and those threateningly gifted with all manner of super facility will come to an end.

Thus the line in the sand is drawn. On the Gandhi end of things is Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart), founder of the Xavier Institute of Higher Learning. The good old soul has his similarly inclined adherents.

Much less wait-and-see about it is his ex-partner and now arch enemy, Eric Magnus Lesherr (Ian McKellen), more popularly known as the super villain Magneto. Representing the radical view, the survivor of the Nazi death camps now heads the Brotherhood of Mutants.

It's Magneto's contention that only supremacy will lead to peace. But to gain the pre-eminence necessary to that goal, the right-winger must win the backing of those mutants who would otherwise prefer either assimilation or the more Zen-like stratagems espoused by Xavier's peace-love coalition.



**IRON CHEFS...**Students enjoy dabbling in the culinary arts in the cooking-related classes at the Westfield Summer Workshop.



**HOUSE OF CARDS...**Edison's Wardlaw-Hartridge School hosted a casino night on May 20 to benefit Temple Shalom of Fanwood. For four years, the temple has used the Fanwood Presbyterian Church.

## Congregation's Wagers A Sure Bet For Temple

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

FANWOOD – The dice rolled, the chips wagered and the roulette wheels spun.

The setting could have easily been any large hotel in Atlantic City. It was, instead, Edison's Wardlaw-Hartridge School, which was transformed into a casino on May 20 for the benefit of Temple Shalom of Fanwood.

The proceeds from Casino Night 2006, which was tri-chaired by Robin Lyons, Sandra Nussenfeld and Gale Miller, will go towards meeting Temple Shalom's operating expenses.

The temple has been using space in the Fanwood Presbyterian Church for about four years, and is actively seeking property of its own.

According to Ms. Miller, nearly two thirds of Temple Shalom's congregation participated in the Casino Night in some way, either by purchasing tickets and attending, donating prizes or sponsoring a table.

"Gambling is very important to this congregation," joked Susan Sedvin, Temple Shalom president.

"Casino Night is a great way to spend an evening with friends while at the same time helping the Temple," said Karen Schack of Scotch Plains, who has been a member of Temple Shalom for four years.

"It is a fun way to raise money," said Sally Isaacs of Piscataway, a member of the congregation, and a recent member of the adult B'nei Mitzvah class.

Baskets overflowing with artwork, games, movies, sports tickets, garden accessories and many other "themes" were among the Casino Night prizes.



**THANK YOU...**Dr. Linda King thanks WHS drama teacher Joe Nierle for his years of service to the high school.

## Kaleidoscope Department Offers Array of Courses

WESTFIELD – The Kaleidoscope Department of the Westfield Summer Workshop (WSW) offers an interesting display of courses for the summer of 2006.

Children in grades three through eight can enroll in one of the several levels of chess classes available this summer. Absolute beginners will learn the basics by playing very simple chess forms, while more advanced students can add to their knowledge and skills on an intermediate level. Those with even more experience will learn exciting tactics that lead to a quick checkmate in the upper level classes.

For the very young students in grades one and two, a separate course entitled Chess and Checkers will introduce them to various strategies involved with successfully playing these two board games.

Two culinary courses are offered this summer. Cooking Magic, for students in grades two and three, explores easy cooking techniques and preparation for simple recipes. Those in grades four through six can experiment with snack and meal recipes, while learning measurements and food preparation, in Kitchen Chemistry.

Several science-related classes include Discover Science for children in grade one. Here they learn to perform and record many experiments. They explore the five senses, colors, magnets and more, and bring home a book of these experiments. Grades two and three experience the joy of discovery with simple experiments in Exploring Science, while students in grades four to six investigate the "whys" through simple biology, ecology, chemistry, physics and geology projects.

There was also a "Goods and Services" auction, which included prizes ranging from handyman services, membership in the Jewish Community Center of Central New Jersey in Scotch Plains and soccer training, to custom-decorated party cakes and more. All of these prizes were donated and auctioned off at the end of the evening.

Temple Shalom, a reform congregation started in 1913, had for many years been located on West 7th Street in Plainfield.

Since 1999, Rabbi Joel Abraham has served the congregation. For more information about Temple Shalom, visit [www.sholomnj.org](http://www.sholomnj.org).

## Awards Night

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Linda Blauvelt, vice president of the Westfield Art Association, presented her organization's award to Annie Peyton, while Susan Checchio gave the Jeanette McCullough Art Award to Patrick Daurio.

WHS P.T.S.O. President Lisa Quackenbush presented P.T.S.O. awards to the following students: Isabele Encarnacion (crafts), Jessie Cohn (fine arts), Matthew Leong (orchestra), Danielle Partenope (band), Timothy Mathews (vocal) and Zal Spialter (drama).

The final presentations of the night were the Westfield Coalition for the Arts Scholarships, presented by Coalition President Carol Snyder. The recipients were: Diana Spiridigliosi, Stephen Markowski, Jessica Minsky, Danny Schwartz, Jonathan Maimon and Annie Peyton.