

## June is National Candy Month

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

AREA - Most of us cannot resist candy of some sort, whether it's a gourmet jellybean, licorice, cotton candy or fudge. Whatever your preference, most candy starts out the same - a mixture of sugar and water. The difference lies in the temperature, with the hotter solutions resulting in hard candies, while the cooler ones become the softer varieties.

Throughout history, every culture seemed to have a name for candy. The Arabs called it "qandi," from qand, a lump of sugar cane. In Italy it was "zucchero candi." France called it "sucre candi," and in Middle English it was "sugre candi." It wasn't until the 1800's that Americans called it "sugar candy." Eventually, it was shortened to just plain "candy."

Our country really began to embrace candy when we were able to begin production en masse. As the 20th century ushered in the era of automation, the Racine Confectionary Machine Company in Wisconsin started pumping out lollipops, whose history has been traced back to cave-men. It seemed, however, 57,000 lollipops per day were not enough to satisfy the cravings of the population, and more companies started to spring up, producing up to three million per day.

Candy stores, sweet shoppes or confectioners, once abundant, have become a rarity. Fortunately, there are still establishments, such as Brummer's Chocolates, 125 East Broad Street in Westfield, where you can delight in a wide variety of homemade treats.

George Brummer, owner, has been in Westfield for the past 18 years, and his family has been in the candy business since 1904, when they opened the original store in Jersey City. Homemade chocolates are their specialty, and most are made on premises. They also carry a variety of retro penny candies (70-80 pieces), fudge, sugar-free candies, and giftware.

According to Mr. Brummer, "Our most popular item is the almond butter crunch, made right here." He continues, "Our candy line is augmented

at holiday time with specialties like candy corn or candy canes. If it's not manufactured here, we find the best vendor we possibly can." Brummer's is open every day except Sunday.

Lisa Mohn, owner of Apple Blossom Candy and Flower Shop on 381 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains, also offers a variety of old-fashioned and contemporary candy varieties. "I have a lot of kids who come in here to get snacks," says Ms. Mohn. "Our best sellers are the gummy candies."

For more about candy, visit any of these websites: www.candymagazine.com; www.candyusa.org; www.candyfavorites.com. Be careful browsing - you may suddenly develop a sweet tooth.

### A Brief History of some of our favorites...

**1854:** The first packaged box of Whitman's chocolate debuts.

**1920:** The Baby Ruth candy bar is introduced and is named for President Grover Cleveland's daughter (not the baseball player).

**1923:** The Milky Way Candy Bar, designed to taste like malted milk, is introduced by the Mars family.

**1927:** Pez (from the German word for peppermint) is invented by Austrian Eduard Haas, an anti-smoking advocate. Pez was first sold as a cigarette substitute.

**1931:** Tootsie Roll Pops are introduced and are considered by some to be the first novelty candy because they combined two candies in one.

**1939:** Hershey's Miniatures chocolate bars debut.

**1952:** Pez candy comes to the U.S., where initial sales were low. Haas reintroduces the candy with a new packaging that doubled as a child's toy. Pez dispensers had cartoon heads and were filled with new fruit flavors.



TURTLE POWER...Union County Freeholder Vice Chair Bette Jane Kowalski listens as Cathy Eser of the Staten Island Zoo speaks about turtles found at the Ash Brook Reservation in Scotch Plains during Bio-Blitz 2006 on June 24.

## Bio Blitz 2006 Catalogs All Animals, Plants at Ash Brook

By CASSIE LO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

AREA - For 24 hours, local scientists raced to identify as many species as they could at the second annual Bio Blitz, held at Ash Brook Reservation on June 23, beginning at 5 p.m. and ending the following day at 5 p.m.

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation and the Rahway River Association sponsored Bio Blitz. Co-Coordinator Betty Ann Kelly of the UC Parks and Recreation and Dennis Miranda of the Rahway River Association worked on this project with several other members of the local community.

According to Ms. Kelly, she and Mr. Miranda approached the county about the idea because, "we wanted to raise awareness of biodiversity." Last year's event was very successful, hosting approximately 135 scientists and spectators at Lenape Park in Cranford and Kenilworth. The 2005 Bio Blitz identified 660 different species in the park.

Scientists and area residents showed up with cameras and binoculars to register for various Bio Blitz events at the Union County Vocational Technical Schools in Scotch Plains. "Frog slogging" kicked off the extravaganza at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, and other events included Bio Blitz Bingo, Tracking Turtles and Following Frogs and a Tracking and Nature Awareness Adventure. Some events were offered for children ages five and up, to promote biological education at all ages.

Historical events about the Ash Brook Reservation during the Revolutionary War and the park's origin

were also included.

Team leaders that specialized in plants, birds, insects, reptiles and amphibians, aquatic invertebrates, mammals, fungi or fish led the events.

"We are very excited because this park is a relatively unexplored park. It is a passive-use reservation with not many formal trails," said Ms. Kelly.

"We're hopeful we can find some different species," said Union County resident Jimmy Lynch, who added that traces of otter were possibly found on the reservation earlier this month. "We had a lot more participation than last year," said Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski.

Ms. Kelly said that, despite the inclement weather, Bio Blitz was able to find approximately 441 total species, including over 100 plants and insects, 50 fungi and mushrooms, 14 fish, approximately 11 reptiles, 9 mammals and about 57 birds.

## Dr. DeFelice

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lion. "If I raise that 1.3 million, I know it's going to work. I know we can improve mental and physical function. I'm also worried about the potential adverse affects."

Embedded in the whole argument of life and death is the doctor's seemingly blasé attitude about his own demise. He maintains that while his work surrounds slowing down the aging process, he's not afraid of dying. "I don't want to get old simply because I love life. I have no fear except one. My fear is if there's a hell," he laughs.

The DeFelice Age Reversal Theory can be found on his website, [finddefelice.org](http://finddefelice.org).

## Premiere Stages Presents Dark Part of the Forest

UNION - Premiere Stages at Kean University continues its 2006 season with the world premiere of *Dark Part of the Forest*, a work by Tammy Ryan.

Set in a forest west of Pittsburgh, this psychological thriller chronicles the story of a protective mother whose mind and memory is haunted by a serial killer. The production will be presented in Kean University's Wilkins Theatre, which has been converted into a forest for the run of the play, resembling something extracted from a Grimm's fairytale.

The professional production is directed by Premiere Stages' Producing Artistic Director John Wooten and features an Actors' Equity Association cast and a top-notch design team.

"The play effectively weaves a thought-provoking and topical story with vivid and frighteningly theatrical fairytales," said Mr. Wooten. "Tammy has created a work that is deeply moving and will profoundly affect anyone who sees it."

The play runs from Thursday, July 13, through Sunday, July 30, in Kean University's Wilkins Theatre. Tickets range from \$15 to \$25. An opening night party will be held on July 13, featuring a champagne reception with the cast and playwright. Call (908) 737-4092 for more details. To order tickets, get on our mailing list, and/or to request a season brochure, call the Wilkins Theatre Box Office at (908) 737-SHOW.

## Reggae Band Verdict Will Perform at Echo Lake Park

WESTFIELD - The Union County Summer Arts Festival concert series continues on Wednesday, July 5, with a performance by the popular reggae band, Verdict. The free concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in Echo Lake Park.

Verdict is a band specializing in a large selection of international soca and reggae music. The group has performed at Echo Lake Park for several years.

Families attending are urged to pack a picnic basket, bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on, and enjoy an evening in Echo Lake Park. The Union County Information Van also will be at the concert site, with representatives from the offices of Consumer Affairs, Veterans Affairs, and Volunteer Services on hand to answer questions and offer information about services available to Union County residents.

The other free concerts in the Summer Arts Festival series include:

July 12 - The Sensational Soul Cruisers, sponsored by the Union County Education Association;  
July 19 - The Fabulous Greaseband

## Former Librarian Now Has Her Book On the Shelf

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

WESTFIELD - The children's book industry is one of the most competitive in the publishing field, and children's books editors are always on the look out for a new idea, an innovative approach or a novel way of capturing the attention of young readers.

Westfield resident, Gale Sypher Jacob's new book, "Pajama Light," seems to fit the bill. Recently released by Dutton Children's Books, "Pajama Light" is a bedtime story set to soothing rhymes surrounded by beautiful illustrations.

"Pajama Light" takes its young reader far beyond the bedroom and into woods and fields.

The book follows the adventures of a young girl and her dad as they take their evening walk to a lighthouse.



Gale Jacob

One of the most endearing qualities of "Pajama Light" is that the story is about a father and daughter. "The father-daughter relationship is found less often (in children's books)," she said when asked why the book isn't about a father and son, or a mother and daughter.

"What is truly important is that the book is about a one-on-one relationship," she continued.

"Pajama Light" was inspired by Mrs. Jacob's favorite seacoast on Bailey Island in Maine. She was a frequent visitor to Maine as a child, and continues to visit to this day.

A native of Massachusetts, Mrs. Jacob has lived in Westfield for 18 years. She is a graduate of Drew University.

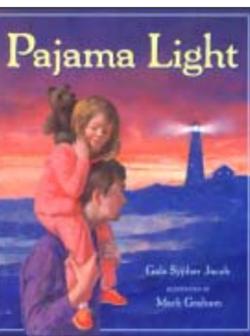
The author is "always working on something" and presently has a non-fiction picture book about Abraham Lincoln, for which she is searching for a publisher.

Mrs. Jacob has received several awards for her fiction, nonfiction and poetry, and her writing has been published in the popular children's magazines, *Boys' Quest*, *Faces*, *Highlights*, *Hopscotch*, *Spider* and *Turtle*.

When not at the computer, Mrs. Jacob gardens, and works at a soup kitchen in Plainfield.

"Pajama Light" is recommended for children ages three and up and is available at Town Bookstore and wherever books are sold.

To contact Mrs. Jacob directly, e-mail her at [galejacob@hotmail.com](mailto:galejacob@hotmail.com).



They sit on the shore and wait for the light in the lighthouse to shine a good night message. Then she and her dad retrace their steps and return home.

This is the first book for Mrs. Jacob, who worked as a media specialist at Coles School in Scotch Plains for 20 years.

"Retired early so that I could devote myself full time to writing," she said.

## Soul Cruisers Perform Free Concert at Echo Lake Park

WESTFIELD - The Union County Summer Arts Festival concert series continues on Wednesday, July 12, with a performance by the Sensational Soul Cruisers. The public is invited to attend this free concert, which begins at 7:30 p.m. in Echo Lake Park.

The 11-piece band plays a combination of Motown classics, four-part harmonies, horns and a soulful rhythm section. They are a complete rhythm & blues, rock and soul ensemble.

Those attending are urged to bring the entire family, pack a picnic basket and bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. The Union County Information Van also will be at the concert site, with representatives from Rannels Specialized Hospital of Union County on hand to answer questions and offer information about important health services available to Union County residents.

The other free concerts in the Summer Arts Festival series include:  
July 19 - The Fabulous Greaseband (oldies);

## Westfield Community Band Plays Concerts in the Park

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Community Band, under the direction of Dr. Thomas Connors continues their 94th season of summer concerts in Mindowaskin Park on Thursday, July 6, at 7:30 p.m.

A highlight for the evening will be "Concertino" by Cecile Chaminade featuring Helen Bartolick as flute soloist. Helen is a recent graduate of Kean University, receiving a BA in Music. She has been a member of the band for the past 15 years and is looking to begin a teaching career in music education. A member of the National Flute Association, New York Flute Club and New Jersey Music Educator's Association, Helen resides in Garwood with her husband and three children.

A second feature for the evening is "Variants on an English Hymn Tune" by Philip Sparks with Euphonium soloist Joel Fleck. Joel has been actively involved in music for more than 45 years; Joel has performed throughout the years with a wide variety of ensembles including orchestras, community bands, competing championships bands and collegiate symphonic and marching bands. A member of the Westfield Community Band for more than 20 years, he also

July 26 - Amethyst ('80s pop/rock);  
August 2 - Yasgur's Farm (Woodstock rock) plus JoBonanno & the Godsons of Soul;

August 9 - Mustang Sally (country);

August 16 - The Nerds (Jersey Shore party band);

August 23 - Ed Palermo Big Band with Rob Pappozzi, sponsored by Schering-Plough Corp.;

August 30 - The Party Dolls, sponsored by ConocoPhillips-Bayway Refinery.

In case of rain, concerts will be held at the air-conditioned auditorium at Cranford High School, on West End Place off Springfield Avenue in Cranford at 7:30 p.m. For up-to-date concert/rain information call the Parks and Recreation hot line at (908) 352-8410 after 3 p.m. on the day of the concert.

For more information, call the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities at (908) 527-4900.

leads the low brass tuba/euphonium choir. Employed by Hewlett-Packard as Chief Architect for Communications Management Strategy and Standards, Joel resides in Westfield with his wife and three daughters.

Other selections for the evening include "Selections from 'Wicked'" the hit Broadway musical by Stephen Schwartz, "The Phantom of the Opera" by Andrew Lloyd Weber and "The Cowboys" by John Williams.

The band will continue their concert season on July 13th and 20th, followed by the Westfield Community Swing Band on July 28th.

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 is sponsored by the Westfield Recreation Department, Bruce Kaufmann, Director. For further information, please contact (908) 789-4080 or go to the band's website at [westfieldcommunityband.com](http://westfieldcommunityband.com).



STRIKE UP THE BAND...Dr. Thomas Connors and The Westfield Community Band will continue their 94th season of summer concerts in Mindowaskin Park on Thursday, July 6, at 7:30 p.m.



### POPCORN™

## The Lake House: Unreal Estate

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER  
1 & 1/2 popcorns

Back in the day, no self-respecting director would attempt a tale of two lovers separated in time without including a harebrained old scientist to explain the phenomenon. But not so for filmmaker Alejandro Agresti, who obviously feels *The Lake House* can sway the jury of audience opinion solely by the way it strums the heartstrings.

Well, he's right. And, he's wrong. All of which is a contrived way of saying that the post Bijou battle lines are sure to be drawn: fer and agin. But it's nothing compared to the leap of faith screenwriter David Auburn's redo of *Siwore* (2000) asks the romantically venturesome to take.

Look at the so-called facts. Dr. Kate Forster (Sandra Bullock) is involved in a humdrum relationship with a boy next door-type (Dylan Walsh), leaves the lake house in favor of a hi-rise along Chicago's Loop.

But before departing the title architecture, a see-through metaphor of nouveau something-or-other, she leaves a good luck note for the next tenant. Shortly thereafter, she receives a thank you from Alex Wyler, portrayed by Keanu Reeves. A correspondence is born.

Here's the rub. Somewhere between the transition from flirtatious communiqués to full-blown love letters, it dawns on Kate. Perhaps she likes her guys a bit old-fashioned, but hey, this one's living in the past, literally. Two years to the date.

Now in all fairness, just as there are red states and blue states separating our disparate political views, there exist examples of art, cinema and literature that delineate and divide our definers of love. And few movies since *Message in a Bottle* (1999) can widen the aisle between opinions like this one.

Don't get me wrong. It has little to

do with the sap content. Lovers of every stripe like a taste of the treacle now and then. Rather, it's the mode of proof that wins our heart. Some are moved by wit, others by reason, etc. However, in the case of Kate and Alex's farfetched liaison, the only thing we can figure is that penmanship is the attraction.

Surely there's nothing in what they write that would impress either poet or muse. Yet, by that same token, it's the sheer, wistful illogicality of it all that will infatuate some. As for the critic who just can't suspend that much disbelief, it's poppycock.

If you're going to be fantastical, at least be consistent. For example, dog lovers may cite it as just one more proof that man's best friend does indeed have extraordinary powers. But it's nonetheless confounding that the go-between pooch Kate and Alex share has no difficulty hurdling the time barrier. Unfortunately, it's one trick the chess-playing pup can't teach her dual masters.

Thus, for all the long-distance billing and cooing they do, their passions appear stuck in time. And so it is for us to guess whether or not love can once again conquer all. Which in this instance would entail rewriting Einstein's theory of relativity, not to mention Occam's Razor. And that's probably real hard.

Of course none of this physics stuff would matter if the chemistry between Bullock and Reeves were scintillating and their love, no matter how impossible, rang true. The objection here is not with the hopelessly romantic, but with the hopelessly constructed *Lake House*.

*The Lake House*, rated PG, is a Warner Bros. release directed by Alejandro Agresti and stars Sandra Bullock, Keanu Reeves and Christopher Plummer. Running time: 105 minutes

## Kean's Premiere Stages Presents New Comedy

AREA - Premiere Stages at Kean University is set to embark on its 2006 summer season, featuring a series of world and New Jersey premieres, a musical-theatre series for children and camp for high-school students.

The season kicks off with an interactive staged reading of *Where the Sun Never Sets*, a new play by New Jersey's own Bob Clyman, from Friday, June 23 to Sunday, June 25.

Selected through the Premiere Stages Play Festival, this dark comedy of ideas tells the tale of a couple who find themselves trapped in a perfect world. Each reading is followed by discussions with the author, during which time the audience is invited to listen and contribute. The event features an Actors' Equity Association (AEA) cast and will take place in the Murphy-Dunn Theatre, located in Vaughn-Eames Hall on the

main campus. Tickets are \$10.

Premiere Stage's special developmental process will help prepare the play for a World Premiere at Playwrights Theatre in 2007. "It will allow Bob (Clyman) to fully explore and flesh out the work prior to its debut," said John Wooten, producing artistic director of Premiere Stages. In 2005, the program relied on a similar process to help cultivate Michael Hollinger's *Opus* prior to productions at the Arden Theatre and the City Theatre in Pittsburgh.

Located on the campus of Kean University, Premiere Stages boasts air-conditioned facilities and free parking in close proximity to the theaters. To order tickets, get on our mailing list, and/or to request a season brochure, call (908) 737-4092, or visit Premiere Stages online at [www.kean.edu/premierestages](http://www.kean.edu/premierestages). Photos are available upon request.