



TWO LORDS AND A LADY...Hope Weinstein, as Aunt Betty, center, along with Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks and former Fanwood Mayor Lou Jung in uniform as Lords Howe and Cornwallis pose at the Frazee House.

Rotary Club Screens Film For Historic Restoration

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

SCOTCH PLAINS – Aunt Betty Frazee was a woman who wasn't afraid to speak her mind. Legend has it that she didn't speak too kindly to General Lord Charles Cornwallis and General William Howe when they stopped by her house during the Battle of Short Hills to request some of her freshly baked bread.

Now, nearly 230 years after that momentous visit, efforts are underway to restore the Scotch Plains heroine's farmhouse, which sits on six acres of land where Raritan Avenue meets Terrill Road. The farmhouse will be turned into a museum and community meeting center.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club, in recognition of its centennial year, has undertaken the restoration. To publicize the project, on February 3 and February 4, the Rotary Club presented a film entitled *Two Lords and a Lady: The Aunt Betty Frazee House Story* at the Fanwood Memorial Library and the Scotch Plains Library, respectively.

The movie provides historical background about Scotch Plains and its citizens around the time of the Revolutionary War. The highlight of the film is the recreation of Generals Cornwallis and Howe requesting the bread from Aunt Betty.

Hope Weinstein of Springfield plays Aunt Betty Frazier. Former Fanwood Mayor Lou Jung portrays General Howe and Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks plays General Cornwallis.

Ms. Weinstein was selected to play the part of Aunt Betty over four other candidates, all of whom took part in a "Search for Aunt Betty Contest" in March 2005.

John Fazio of Pennsylvania directs

Two Lords and a Lady. Volunteers performed all aspects of production. Some scenes were filmed at the Miller-Cory House in Westfield, while others were filmed at the Watchung Reservation.

A third showing of the documentary is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, at 7 p.m. at the Westfield Community Theatre, located at 1000 North Avenue West in Westfield.

Admission to the event is free, but the Rotary Club will gladly accept donations to help restore the Frazee House. Checks may be made payable to the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Frazee House Committee, P. O. Box 426, Fanwood.

For more information about the restoration of the historic Frazee house or the upcoming presentation of *Two Lords and a Lady*, contact Frazeehouse@hotmail.com or Pat Plante at 908-233-2162.

Symphony Presents Pianist Johnson

PLAINFIELD – The Plainfield Symphony and Sabin Pautza, music director, present artist-in-residence pianist Christopher Johnson in recital on Sunday, March 5 at 4 p.m. at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church on corner of 7th and Watchung Avenues in Plainfield.

This performance is the rescheduled date following the snowstorm that cancelled the original Sunday, February 12 recital.

The concert will feature works by Liszt, Mozart, Chopin and Brahms. Tickets are available at the door for between \$25 and \$45. Seniors and student tickets are \$15.

For more information, call (732) 561-5140 or visit www.plainfieldsymphony.org.

Arts & Entertainment

Andrew Bellisari Demonstrates How To Succeed In Dramatics

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

WESTFIELD – There's nothing nicer than seeing talent blossom over the years, and this is the fourth year audiences have witnessed a talented young Scotch Plains resident named Andrew Bellisari perform in his high school productions at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School, an independent school in Edison, where he is in his senior year.

He's starring in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* at the Inman Avenue campus on March 2, 3 and 4.

In it he plays J. Pierpont Finch, a young upstart who maneuvers his way to the top of the World Wide Wicket Company from a lowly window washer to the top of the company by following the directions in a paperback manual that reveal key points to assured business acumen.

Four years ago, as a gawky, skinny freshman with a mouthful of braces, Andrew was a standout in the school's musical, *The Fantasticks*, playing Henry, a desiccated Shakespearean actor. Dressed in baggy-kneed long johns, Andrew's body language, voice, mannerisms and entire being took on the character of an octogenarian.

"I have two grandfathers who were the models for me in how I play older characters," said the "lifer," the name given to students who have spent their entire academic career at the small, independent school.

Although he seems to be a natural at comedy, he has definite ideas about playing comedy or straight drama. "Oh, I think it is much more difficult to do drama," he explained. "Sure, it's a thrill to have the audience erupt in laughter when you are doing comedy—I enjoy it—but if you can pull off an everyday person, that's what measures a good actor."

This "good actor" has had his turn at playing both comedy and dramatic roles at the school. He played Axel McGee, the bumbling son of an American Ambassador in Woody Allen's *Don't Drink the Water*, Paul Barringer, an insensitive English teacher in *Up the Down Staircase*, Joe, a retired American worker in last year's musical *Working*, a lead in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* presented in



Susan M. Dougherty for The Westfield Leader and The Times
WINDOW WASHER MAKES GOOD...Scotch Plains resident Andrew Bellisari, in the role of J. Pierpont Finch, gets comfortable in his new office at the World Wide Wicket Company. As the lead in the musical, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, this will be the senior's final show at Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison to be presented on March 2-4 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door.

the fall and now the lead role in the upcoming musical.

As far as his musical abilities, Andrew doesn't feel that's his forte. "I only had voice training in a class in my freshman year," he said.

"When I auditioned for *Succeed*, he continued, "I really wasn't prepared to sing anything great. In fact, I went in and sang the French National Anthem."

"So when I saw my name listed for Monty," he said, "I only had one question: why?" He talked to one of

the three music teachers who auditioned him and was told that his singing voice was strong enough and he was so comfortable and confident on stage, they could see him easily playing the role.

He'll get a chance to exhibit that confidence in this weekend's performances where he will sing in five songs, one particularly famous one, "I Believe in You," originally done by Robert Morse in the 1967 show.

After you see him in action, you'll believe in him, too.

WF High School Presents Jesus Christ Superstar

WESTFIELD – The Westfield High School's Fine Arts Department will present as its spring musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*, the award-winning "rock opera" by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber. The production will be presented today, March 2, at 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4, at 8 p.m. in the Westfield High School auditorium, 550 Dorian Road.

Through the eyes of a troubled, angry and confused Judas Iscariot, *Jesus Christ Superstar* follows the last days in the life of Christ, from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, showing the unrest caused by his popularity and preaching, to his betrayal by Judas, the trial before Pontius Pilate and his crucifixion. Included in the production numbers are some familiar songs such as the title theme "Superstar," "I Don't Know How to Love Him," and "Could We Start Again Please?"

The 40-student member cast includes: Steve Markowski as Judas Iscariot; Nick Williams as Jesus Christ; Chloe Zeitounian as Mary Magdalene; Mike Noblett as the third priest; Connor Davis as Caiaphas, the High Priest; Max Laszar as Annas; Zal Spialter as Simon Zealotes; Maurice Blackmon as Pontius Pilate; Jen Kujawski as the Maid by the Fire; Tim Mathews as Peter; Aaron Eisenberg as King Herod and Mike Burns and Josh Gribbon as soldiers.

The Apostle Ensemble includes:

Greg Boyle, Kelly Braun, Nick Brennan, Ian Devaney, Mat Leonard, Greg Nelson, Bobby O'Rourke, Harrison Roberts and Mike Tannenbaum.

Completing the ensemble cast are: Kristin Aguero, Mallory Boesch, Patrina Caruana, Chris Chin, Christina Collucci, Arielle Dance, Kristen Ditzell, Jana Goldfarb, Andrea Gordon, Georgia Mierswa, Mia Pafumi, Lindsay Ryan, Ellen Scariati, Laura Schwab, Arielle Smelkinson, Kathleen Solan, Diana Spiridigliozzi and Ann-Marie Valentine.

WHS is a participant in the Papermill Playhouse "Rising Star Award" program recognizing outstanding achievements by students and educators. *Jesus Christ Superstar* is directed by WHS arts teacher Joe Nierle. Bill Mathews is the musical director and Megan Rodd, a 2001 WHS graduate, is the choreographer.

Charlie Tripp assists stage manager Jonathan Chananie. Set designer Roy Chambers is also the construction coordinator. Costume mistress is Lauren Miceli with Julia Korn in charge of props.

Advanced sale of the reserved seats is encouraged and can be purchased from cast members and stage crew. Tickets are \$8 for the Thursday evening show and \$10 for the Friday and Saturday performances. For ticket reservations or more information, call (908) 789-4549, ext. 2.

Get Outta' The House

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

Ninth Annual Family Week at the Theatre will take place between Saturday, March 4 and Sunday, March 12. The program is designed to encourage families to enjoy theatrical productions by offering discounted admission, and, in many cases, kids get in for free. Union County College will have a variety of events, on the Cranford, Elizabeth and Plainfield campuses. For a complete listing, log onto: <http://www.familyweek.com>.

On Sunday, March 5 at 11 a.m., there will be a classical music concert at the JCC of Central New Jersey in Scotch Plains. The performance by the *Stirling Duo*, comprised of strings and piano, is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. Admission includes a light brunch. Interested people must pre-register. Call (908) 889-8800 x207 to see if there are still tickets by calling. The JCC is located at 1391 Martine Avenue.

The following week, on Thursday, March 9, at 7 p.m., the same JCC will host a *Kosher Chinese Cooking Class and Recipe Tasting*. Chef Don Siegel will be there with copies of his cookbook, "From Lokshen to LoMein." If you don't know what those are, this class is for you. Fees are \$12 to \$18. Reserve a spot by calling (908) 889-8800, ext. 124.

If you would like to attend the *Philadelphia Flower Show* on Sunday, March 5, the Kenilworth Historical Society is sponsoring a bus trip for \$62. It will include admission to the flower show, and a visit to Reading Terminal Mill with Amish crafts and baked goods, eclectic eateries and shops. You'll be gone from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m., and the bus leaves from St. Theresa's parking lot. Call (908) 276-0546 for details.

Summit's Kent Place Gallery is showing the works of Mary Edith Alexander through Friday, March 10. *Painting Specimens from a Disappearing Past* is a show of paintings and works on paper, which investigate architecture and spaces in and around the artist's hometown of Charlotte, N.C. A reception will be held on Thursday, March 9 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. The gallery is located on the campus of Kent Place School, and is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by appointment. Call (908) 273-0900.

First Congressional Continues Musicales

WESTFIELD – The First Congregational Church of Westfield, 125 Elmer Street, continues its acclaimed series of concerts, the Mid-Day Musicales, at noon on Wednesday, March 8, with an eclectic mix – two members of the Chinese music ensemble Bamboo Breeze in collaboration with American country banjo player Matt Morelock.

This program is a celebration of folk music from two cultures. Xiannian Xiao, a virtuoso of the Chinese dulcimer, graduated from Shenyang Conservatory and was designated a "first-class performer" by the Chinese Ministry of Culture. Since arriving in the United States, he has performed in venues across the country and enjoys the fusion of Chinese and American folk traditions, especially as both countries make use of music for the hammered dulcimer.

Matt Morelock, host of the Tennessee World Music Program on radio WDVX, is a lute, guitar, and banjo player and an expert in American mountain music. These two will be joined by Singaporean-Chinese-American Julie Tay, a cultural anthropologist specializing in Chinese music and arts.

These free, half-hour programs are held in the church sanctuary and are followed by a soup and sandwich luncheon available in the church social hall for \$5.

For further information, contact the church office at (908) 233-2494.



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