

'Friends For Friends' Raises \$14,000 for Cancer Research

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

SCOTCH PLAINS - A group of friends who are also artists came together on Saturday, May 12, to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) to help further research on blood-related cancers.

Edison-based Tekmark Global Solutions, an information technology and consulting services provider, sponsored the "Friends for Friends with Cancer Art Show and Sale."

Steve Needle, custom builder and president of Needlepoint Homes in Westfield, donated the use of a recently constructed Highlander Drive home as a venue.

Sculptures, oil paintings, watercolors, photography and mixed media were among the art forms represented at the event. A part of the proceeds of each sale was donated to the LLS.

Linda Laird of Westfield, whose teenaged son is a lymphoma survivor, organized "Friends for Friends."

Joining Ms. Laird, who is a sculptor, were fellow sculptors Alfredo Cardenas, Andrea Krull, Jarrett Goldberg, Miriam Rosenblum, and Delores Stewart; watercolorists Lisa Brown and Fran Henig; potter Bob Goldberg; abstract expressionists Medy Quiroz and Peggy Masse, who works in acrylics; oil painter Susan Haskins; photographer Sandy Anton; and Bart Goldberg, who creates furniture and wooden objects.

In addition, Barbara Lockley, a friend and coworker of Ms. Laird, helped with the setup of "Friends for Friends," as did Dave Tolleth, Tricia Deering, and Pat Parisano, a vice president of Tekmark.

"All of these artists here are professionals, and we don't see enough of

their work," said Ms. Laird.

"We all believe in research. We want to raise money for the LLS because we believe in what it does."

The art show and sale continued throughout the day and into the evening, when a silent auction and a chocolate tasting were held.

The proceeds of the entire event netted approximately \$14,000.

Local businesses such as Trader Joe's, Mojave Grill, The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times, The Running Store, Cusi, Rockn' Joe's, Panera Bread, Whole Foods, Shop Rite Wines and Spirits, Brummers and the New Jersey Work-

shop for the Arts also donated food and other services to "Friends for Friends."

Left Stage, State Theater and George Street Playhouse, all located in New Brunswick; Hotel Fauchere in Milford, Pa.; Porches on the Twp-path in New Hope, Pa. and Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey donated gifts for the silent auction.

Ms. Laird has helped raise money for LLS in other ways.

She is currently a member of "Team in Training," which is the largest endurance-training program in the country. This organization also raises money for LLS.

She was among the 13 athletes to successfully complete the St. Anthony's Triathlon in St. Petersburg, Fla. in April.

Currently, Ms. Laird is training for the 1/2 Ironman Triathlon (also called Eagleman) to be held on June 10 in Cambridge, Md.

To donate to Ms. Laird's efforts to raise money for the LLS, visit active.com/donate/tntnonj/tntnonjLaird2.



Kyle Cook for The Westfield Leader and The Times
BEST OF FRIENDS...Money from the sale of artwork aided the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.



ADVENTURESOME...At a recent book signing in Tennessee, Sandy Donnell, left, author of children's book "Adventures with Myrtle the Turtle," sits with illustrator Julie Benson, right, and are surrounded by local children and nationally known writer Will Campbell.

'Myrtle the Turtle' Instills Love Of Reading

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

SCOTCH PLAINS - A former Scotch Plains resident has written a children's book, the proceeds of which will help foster a love of reading in children from almost the moment they are born.

Sandra DiBella Donnell, a graduate of the Scotch Plains public school system, released "The Adventures of Myrtle the Turtle: Myrtle Goes to the Grand Ole Opry."

Mrs. Donnell now resides in a suburb of Nashville, Tenn. but remains connected to the Scotch Plains area through many relatives, including her mother, Camille DiBella.

Mrs. Donnell recently visited the Scotch Plains Public Library for a reading of "The Adventures of Myrtle the Turtle" and book signing.

Her book tells the story of Myrtle's attempts to make it as a country music star at the legendary opera house.

The book's story originated as a way to pass the time in the car while driving with her two grandchildren, Keaton James Rodriguez, now 10, and Francesca Isabella Rodriguez, now 6.

"When I picked them up from school each day, we would do rhymes and make up stories about a very special turtle that then evolved into Myrtle," said Mrs. Donnell.

According to the author, after the story was completed, she showed it to an editor friend who told her, "I think

you have something here."

Soon "Myrtle" will be developed into a series.

"We are working on three upcoming books: 'Myrtle Travels to Hollywood - A Star Is Born,' 'Myrtle In the Big Apple' and 'Myrtle in Italy - Cooking with Mama Mia,' said the author.

Writing is not new to Mrs. Donnell, who said that she "has been writing all my life."

In addition to articles and poetry, she has worked as a newspaper feature writer.

All proceeds from the sale of "The Adventures of Myrtle the Turtle" will go to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, an organization that runs "Books from Birth," a free program in the state of Tennessee that provides children one free book a month until they reach the age of 5.

"I was working on ["Myrtle"] while my husband was quite ill," she said. "It was, in a sense, a catharsis for me, and I wanted to do something to give back to the community and to the children. What better way than to try to help fund this most important project?" Mrs. Donnell said.

Currently, "The Adventures of Myrtle the Turtle: Myrtle Goes to the Grand Ole Opry" is only available by mail through "Wilson Books from Birth," 460 Vanderbilt Road, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122. The book is \$5, plus \$2 for shipping and handling. Checks should be made out to "Wilson Books from Birth."

Canadian Artist Hedrick 'Lights' up Dunn Gallery

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

WESTFIELD - Canadian artist Ron Hedrick recently visited Evalyn Dunn's Gallery in Westfield, where proprietor Jacie Civins has represented his work since 1999.

Mr. Hedrick's visit coincided with the gallery's debut of "The Essence of Light," new work created by the landscape and seascape artist.

The new exhibit consists of sun-drenched oil paintings depicting women and children juxtaposed against land and water. Much of his work is painted from real life.

There is no shortage of inspiration for Mr. Hedrick, who sees "a beautiful world" all around him.

"Ideas keep coming to me," he said at a reception in his honor held at Evalyn Dunn's Gallery in April.

"Everything I look at, I see as a potential painting."

Although nine galleries in Canada represent Mr. Hedrick, Evalyn Dunn's Gallery is his only gallery in the United States.

The artist fondly remembers first becoming associated with the gallery. After Mrs. Civins met him in Vancouver, she asked to represent his work.

"I'll send her a few paintings and see what happens," he remembers thinking at the time.

Now, more than seven years later, Mr. Hedrick's work enjoys a loyal following of collectors in the

Westfield area.

Working out of a studio in his property, Mr. Hedrick completes, on average, four paintings of various sizes a week.

He also gives private lessons two days a week.

"I am always working," he said, with a smile on his face that indicated he truly loves what he does.

Mr. Hedrick is not the only Hedrick family artist that is currently being represented by Evalyn Dunn's Gallery.

Mrs. Civins has recently taken on the work of his daughter, Impressionist painter Jessica Hedrick.

The master Canadian portrait painter Paul Chizik and the renowned American Impressionist Carolyn Anderson have mentored Ms. Hedrick.

Like her father, Ms. Hedrick likes to paint from life.

In true Impressionist style, she uses light and color to create art that is honest and pure in its treatment of subject matter.

"Jessica Hedrick's work is refreshing and shows great perspective. It also demonstrates depth," said Mrs. Civins, who added that her work is nearly a sell-out.

Evalyn Dunn's Gallery is located at 549 South Avenue West in Westfield. For more information about Mr. or Ms. Hedrick's work, contact Mrs. Civins at (908) 232-0412 or e-mail her at info@EvalynDunnGallery.com.



Ron Hedrick's figurative, seascape and landscape work

WESTFIELD FOOD 4 THOUGHT

Refreshing Summertime Dishes

By JAYNE SALOMON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Summer is here and the living is easy. Here are some easy recipes to welcome in summer. Whether at a backyard barbecue or by the pool or at family gatherings at a vacation house, these recipes will help make any hot summer day even more enjoyable.

One of the nicest things about summer is the smell wafting through the air from thick steaks cooking on the barbecue grill. Many Westfielders have relocated from the city, where the ability to barbecue was just not a possibility.

As a city dweller myself, I couldn't wait to buy a grill when I moved to suburbia. Besides enjoying grilling hamburgers and hot dogs, I began developing marinades for steaks and chicken. Here is one of my favorites, which can be used for either steak or chicken along with a few cool summer salads, and a light spiked punch to complete a delicious meal.

MARINATED RIB STEAKS

INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ginger powder
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon ground mustard
- 1 tablespoon cider vinegar
- Dash of cinnamon
- 1 bay leaf



Marinated Rib Steaks

PROCEDURE

Combine all ingredients in a shallow bowl. Add steaks and let marinate for 30 to 60 minutes. Grill steaks to desired heat and serve hot. This blend of ingredients comes together to create a delicious bone-licking summertime favorite.

Yield: 2 steaks

ASIAN COLE SLAW

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup slivered almonds
- 2 tablespoons + 1/3 cup canola oil or any vegetable oil
- 1 three-ounce package ramen noodles (broken up) discard flavor packet
- 2 tablespoons sesame seeds
- 1 bag (16 ounces) shredded cabbage
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 3 scallions, chopped

PROCEDURE

In a skillet, stir fry the almonds in the 2 tablespoons of oil for 1 to 2 min-

utes. Add the crumbled ramen noodles and continue stir-frying. Add the sesame seeds and cook until slightly browned. Let cool for 5 minutes. Put the shredded cabbage in a large



Asian Cole Slaw

bowl. In a separate bowl or large measuring cup, combine the sugar, 1/3 cup of oil, wine vinegar and soy sauce. Pour this mixture over the cabbage and add the ramen mixture and toss. Garnish with scallions. Toss right before serving to assure crispness.

BOW TIE PASTA WITH CILANTRO

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound bow tie pasta
- 1 small box (approximately 3.5 oz) sliced shitake mushrooms (or any type of mushroom)
- 6 garlic cloves
- 3 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons shredded Parmesan cheese
- 5 sprigs fresh cilantro (chopped) or 2 teaspoons dried cilantro

PROCEDURE

In a mediumsize pot, boil the pasta with the garlic for 7 to 10 minutes or according to package directions. Add the mushrooms during the last 2 or 3 minutes. Drain and remove garlic cloves.

In a small bowl, combine the mayonnaise with the garlic, mashing the cloves until fine. Chill for at least 30 minutes and then add to the bow ties and mushrooms and toss to coat. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Garnish with cilantro.



Summer Punch

SUMMER PUNCH

- 1 bottle (750 ml) chardonnay
- 3 cups (24 ounces) lime flavored club soda
- 4 shots triple sec
- 3 shots lime juice
- 2 limes (sliced for garnish)

Pour ingredients into a two-quart pitcher and stir. Serve chilled or over ice and enjoy. This is a light and cool refreshing summer drink with a bit of a punch.



BEARABLE...Trailside park naturalist Becky Novorro and "Maggi-Bear" hosted a teddy bear picnic at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside during a Toddler Time workshop for adults with children ages three and younger. Pictured, from left to right, are Iryna and Melanie Kramarchuk, Karen and Sean Woodruff, Becky Novorro of Scotch Plains, Maggi-Bear, Anna and Pearson Rice and Andrea Klein and Jacqueline Stultz of Mountainside, Mary Schardien and Richard Harrington and Kelly and Ryan Werder of Westfield. Adults and youngsters enjoyed learning about bears during this interactive educational workshop.

NJWA Music Studio Store Expands Services

WESTFIELD - Through the expansion of its services, the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA) Music Studio is offering the public an opportunity to purchase or rent new band and orchestra instruments.

Instruments are available for beginning, elementary and intermediate students. All instruments, checked for quality by professionals, are reasonably priced. They are fully guaranteed for one year with new instrument replacements.

The string instruments available include violin, viola, cello and string bass. The price includes a bow, rosin and a case. Woodwinds include piccolo, flute, alto flute, bass flute, oboe, bass clarinet, soprano sax, alto sax, tenor sax, bar sax and bassoon.

These come with a mouthpiece, ligature, cap, reed, cork, grease and case. Among the brass instruments are trumpet, flugel horn, pocket trumpet, tenor trombone, tenor trombone with F attachment, single and double French horn, baritone, euphonium and tuba. Included with these are the mouthpiece, valve oil, slide grease and case.

Instruments can be seen at the NJWA studios at 150-157 East Broad Street in Westfield. Once ordered, they will

be delivered within three days.

For information on instrument rental or purchase, call the NJWA at (908) 789-9696 or visit its studios at 150-152 East Broad Street in Westfield. Additional information on other NJWA programs is available on the web at njworkshopforthearts.com.

Cranford Theater Holds Auditions

GARWOOD - The Cranford Repertory Theater, Inc., is holding auditions for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* on Sunday, June 10, and Tuesday, June 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. Callbacks are Thursday evening, June 14, at the Cindy Smith Dance Studio, located at 98 North Avenue in Garwood.

Auditions are for male and female actors ages 18 and older. The cast calls for 12 male and four female actors. Those attending should bring a headshot and resume. A prepared monologue is preferred, or those auditioning should be prepared for a cold reading.

For those who prefer behind-the-scenes work, stop by during the night of auditions or call (908) 276-5053. Production dates are October 26 and 27.



MY NAME IS...Family, faculty/staff and guests at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison enjoyed a program of music on the evening of Thursday, May 10, during the Lower School spring concert. Vocal music teacher Melanie Whitney and band director Jane organized the concert. Pictured, above, Judi Minium of Scotch Plains, a Pre-Kindergarten to grade 4 student, announces her name during the song, "Look Who's Here!"

See it all on the web in color...
www.goleader.com

POPCORN

Bug: Crawling with Suspense

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

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER
2 and 1/2 popcorns

Thinking about *Bug*, William Friedkin's latest sacrifice to the perpetual pyre of horror flicks, it is hard to stifle a self-deprecating smirk. You can't quite discount the possibility that, whether intentional or not, you've been had...tossed up in the air like a baby, uncertain whether to laugh or fret.

Maybe the insanity-filled thrill Mr. Friedkin purveys by way of Tracy Letts's Off Broadway play-turned-screenplay is really just another chase after the emperor's new clothes. Still, it's hard to believe that such a resplendently sordid panoply of abnormal psychology could be so grippingly dramatized.

Certainly it defies easy categorization. Then again, that's part of the fun. The film's purpose remains as elusive as its debatable genre.

Yet there is a human trait that makes all the madness so intriguing. Whether a function of superstition, spiritual conviction or scientific conceit, there are those who believe everything has a rationale or meaning. That even this nutty, often harrowing drama about a lonely gal who lives in a seedy motel and pairs up with a spooky stranger has a message.

Ashley Judd, who really shows us her thespic stuff this time out, is Agnes White. A full-time barmaid experimenting with cocaine, booze and part-time lesbianism, if she moved up the social ladder she'd be renting a trailer. Madame brings beaucoup baggage to the scenario.

This includes her history with Jerry Goss, an ex portrayed with loose cannon menace by Harry Connick, Jr., and allusions to a little boy who was there in the supermarket one second and gone the next. The former, a convicted murderer and court-restrained batterer, has just recently been released from prison.

Among the movie's few clichés, Connick's character works as an effective sleight of hand. So of course, he's on his way to pay Agnes a visit. Maybe that's been him on the other end of the line all along, saying nothing.

So what's a co-worker/pal to do? That's easy. If you're R.C. (Lynn Collins), Agnes's concerned friend and lover, simply pick the oddest transient to float into the bar, take him for sensitive and perceptive, and bring him over to the motel. Heck, there's a party in progress.

Thus, we meet Peter Evans, etched with terrific mystery by Michael Shannon. Hanging in the shadows while his host and assorted celebrants puff, imbibe, and generally do whatever it takes to pass out, his non-participatory, almost gauzy demeanor eventually captures Agnes's imagination.

He's the self-described son of a minister with no church or parishioners, a guru of the drifter set who speaks in metaphors and cautions. Maybe he's also a holy man. Or, maybe just a psychopathic killer.

In any case, having no place to stay, he's invited to sleep over...on the couch. Call it a fringe-deranged version of the wall of Jericho scene from *It Happened One Night* (1934). Only the tension isn't just sexual. What is this guy into?

Well, for one thing, bugs...millions of them. They're in his blood. Just

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