

Arts & Entertainment

New Date Set For Free Latin Music Concert

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Public Library has rescheduled its launch of the community's Big Read program, postponed due to Superstorm Sandy, for Thursday, January 10, at 7 p.m. at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

The library and its Big Read partners have planned a kickoff program of Latin American music performed by Tropyband Orquesta because the book chosen for this Big Read, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, by Julia Alvarez, is set in the Dominican Republic. Scotch Plains Public Library's Big Read partners include Scotch Plains-Fanwood Schools, Literacy Volunteers of Union County, Inc., New Jersey City University, and the Friends of Scotch Plains Public Library. Interested people in all communities are encouraged to take part in the many activities this Big Read will offer.

Tropyband Orquesta is a 14-piece Latin music ensemble, complete with vocalists. The band, comprised of professional musicians and students from New Jersey City University, will entertain the audience with merengue, salsa and more music of the Caribbean and Latin America. A dance space will be provided for audience

members who wish to move with the music

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School is located at 667 Westfield Road in Scotch Plains. No registration is required for this free concert. Please call Scotch Plains Public Library for driving directions and further information.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The Big Read is managed by Arts Midwest. Scotch Plains is one of 78 communities nationwide participating in the current Big Read. From January through mid-June, Big Read participants will celebrate *In the Time of the Butterflies*, by reading this book and participating in a full calendar of events including book discussions, guest speakers, poster and essay contests, video chats with Julia Alvarez, and a Festival of Latin American Culture.

The Big Read partners welcome all participants to the many events planned from January to June. More information may be found on the web sites of Scotch Plains Public Library (www.scotplib.org) and The Big Read (neabigread.org).



WINTER CONCERT...Middle School students at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School entertained parents, faculty and staff members and friends at the annual Winter Concert on December 13. Various bands and choirs performed beautifully under the direction of Sharon Byrne, vocal music teacher, and Rick Fontaine, instrumental music teacher. Pictured, Samantha Anastasiou of Scotch Plains, center, plays flute during the concert.



IRISH PIONEER...While visiting his daughter Kerry, who was studying abroad for a semester at the National University of Ireland, Tom Plante of Fanwood recently stopped at the Galway City Museum. Among the fine exhibits is this statue of Padraic O'Conaire (1881-1928), a pioneer in the Irish Literary Revival of the early 20th century, one of Galway's most cherished writers.



The Tropyband Orquesta

WAA Hosts Art Show, Sale to Benefit WF Rescue Squad

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

WESTFIELD — For over 90 years, the Westfield Art Association (WAA) has been giving back to the community by promoting the arts with its shows, demonstrations and sales.

During the weekend of December 14-16, however, WAA took giving back to the community to a new level when member artists joined established Westfield galleries to host a three-day Westfield Art Galleries Show and Sale to benefit the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad (WVRS).

The event was held in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building.

Close to fifty artists participated, representing the complete spectrum of artistic expression.

Four Westfield Art Galleries — Evelyn Dunn's Gallery, Galleria West, Juxtapose Gallery and River Mill Gallery — participated in the event by exhibiting the work of featured artists alongside that of WAA members.

"The Show and Sale is a great way to promote the WAA and the galleries of Westfield," commented Paul Deroo, president of WAA. "It is also a nice way to show the community's appreciation for the WVRS, especially in light of the recent hurricane and its aftermath," he continued.

One hundred percent of the WAA's net proceeds from the show was donated to the WVRS.

Jaclyn Civins, the proprietor of Evalyn Dunn Gallery, was happy to see the galleries have an opportunity to work with WAA members. "The show was very well received by the public, and all the art was displayed well. Paul Deroo and his committee did an excellent job promoting and executing this event," she said.

One of Evalyn Dunn Gallery's featured artists was Ricardo Roig, a Westfield High School graduate and a Westfield art teacher whose series of screen prints depicting Westfield scenes were on display at the Show and Sale.

"Ricardo is an emerging artist who has become very successful in a short amount of time," said Ms. Civins, adding that she expects to see great things from him in the years to come.

The Town of Westfield was also the theme of Michael Chan's giclee

on canvas, "Mindowaskin Park," a combination of six photographic views of the park digitally stitched together and printed on canvas. Mr. Chan and his wife, Yi Yin, are the owners of the River Mill Gallery. Ms. Yin had several oil paintings on display, including an iconic portrait of Ronald Regan holding his pet dog, Rex.

Galleria West featured four artists: Magno Laracuente, Veronique Hahn, Jeanine Baum and Diana Cammack.

Juxtapose Gallery featured the hand-colored etching of Helen Frank, an original oil painting by Patrick Antonelle and landscapes by Trish Hurley and Ingrid Hunt.

"The show was a great way to get all the gallery owners in town together," said Gerri Gildea, the proprietor of Juxtapose Gallery.

The concern of new WAA member, Leslie Delgyer of North Plainfield, for endangered species was evident in an original pastel painting of a white tiger entitled "The Vanishing Act."

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Marylou Morano for The Leader and The Times 3-D ART...One of two sculptures in Westfield Art Association (WAA) member and Scotch Plains sculptor Toan Pham's "Form" series was displayed at WAA and Westfield Galleries Show and Sale the weekend of December 14-16. This piece is created from Indiana limestone.



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