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# Arts & Entertainment

## St. John Offers A Laid-Back And Affordable Caribbean Paradise

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

If you are looking for some place to beat the heat in New Jersey, the summer months may not be the optimal time to head down to St. John in the United States Virgin Islands. But, really, now is the best time to go — and, besides, look on the bright side: You will be vacationing in a true paradise, paying cheaper rates and relaxing in an environment about as far removed from the traffic and rush-rush and smog and crowds and stress of home as is possible.

St. John is a unique piece of American property. A big chunk of the 20-square-mile island is under the aegis of the National Park Service and, therefore, off limits to development. There is no airport so the only way to get there is by boat or via ferry, either from St. Thomas two miles away or from one of the nearby British Virgin

Islands. And, oddly, people drive on the left side in St. John, often sharing some roads with chickens and donkeys.

There are plenty of exquisite beaches to be found throughout the Caribbean, but the ones in St. John are second to none. The waves rarely rise above two or three inches—and the beaches themselves are generally uncrowded, quiet and very conducive to lowering your blood pressure, heart rate and overall stress levels.

Some repeat visitors to St. John have their own personal favorite beach—but I will cop out and refrain from picking just one. Some are a bit wider than others but not by much; it is easier to park at some than others; and some beaches require a three-minute walk from the car vs. a three-second walk. But no matter which ones you go to—be it Maho Bay



Fred T. Rossi for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**HEAVEN ON EARTH...The beaches on St. John are among the prettiest — and picturesque — in the world.**



Fred T. Rossi for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**SHELL SCULPTURES...Drunk Bay is known for rough surf, high winds and lots of coral washed up on its rocky shore.**

or Cinnamon Bay or Peter Bay or Trunk Bay or Hawksnest or Hansen Bay—you will find them all to be better and prettier and more peaceful than any beach you have probably been to.

There are no boardwalks or food stands or badges or airplanes with banners advertising happy hours. Instead, it is just you and endlessly placid turquoise waters gently lapping at the shoreline, with sailboats or small yachts anchored a few hundred yards offshore.

Be sure to bring some snorkeling gear so you can experience the feeling of swimming inside an endless aquarium filled with fish of all colors and sizes, sea turtles, stingrays, starfish, the occasional barracuda and benign shark and lush and varied plant life, some of it quite unusual, on the ocean floor.

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## Paper Mill to Host Future Stars in ‘New Voices of 2012’

MILLBURN – The Paper Mill Playhouse will host more than 110 of the region’s most talented young performing artists from Paper Mill Playhouse’s Summer Musical Theatre Conservatory in a fully produced, original concert on the Paper Mill mainstage titled “New Voices of 2012: It’s Our Time” on Friday, August 3, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, August 4, at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Members of the competitive Conservatory who earned coveted spots in the Senior, Junior Plus, and Junior Companies (ages 10-18) are directed and choreographed by Paper Mill Playhouse’s professional artistic staff in this concert, which is the culmination of the five-week program. Also appearing are numerous winners and nominees of the 2012 Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards who won scholarships to attend the Conservatory.

Included in the performance will be students Mae Rose Adubato, Olivia Cupo, Garret Forrestal, Jake Forrestal, Michael Nigro all of Cranford; Sally Beriont of Garwood; Paris Mercurio and Caroline Scobee both of Scotch Plains. Duncan Cook, Steven Del Col, Madeline Hudelson, Geoffrey

Ko, Matt Lynn, Emmanuelle Nadeau, and Rebecca Skowron all of Westfield.

Single tickets range in price from \$25 to \$45. Tickets may be purchased by calling (973) 376-4343, online at www.papermill.org, or visit the Paper Mill Playhouse Box Office at 22 Brookside Drive in Millburn. Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express are accepted.

This year’s New Voices theme is a musical celebration of growing up and changing the world. “The show contains many solos and duets, but my favorites are the full company numbers,” explains Paper Mill’s Education Program Manager, Carrie Rubino. “It’s such strong ensemble work; to hear a company of over 100 kids sing in perfect harmony is breathtaking. It really gives you a feel for what the future of Broadway holds, and anyone who’s a fan of musical theater should come and see the show.”

The Paper Mill Playhouse Summer Musical Theatre Conservatory is a program of rigorous study allowing students to enhance their individual performance potential while developing a broad base of theater experience and knowledge. Students participate in intensive classes including musical theater performance, acting, dance, and improvisation, while also attending guest workshops led by professional actors, directors, and casting agents. The final weeks are devoted to rehearsals for the New Voices Concert, performed annually on the Paper Mill stage. The Conservatory offers the unique opportunity for gifted and talented young performers to work at their own level and challenge themselves to achieve new goals and learn new skills. Key to the curriculum is the development of self discipline, respect, and a commitment to excellence that will serve these young artists throughout their lives.



**WF Farmers’ Market**  
**Open Saturdays**  
**Through October**

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Farmers Market will operate every Saturday at the South Avenue Train Station parking lot from 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. through October 27. There is easy access and plenty of parking. Bring the family and enjoy strolling the market.

Donaldson Farms has returned to the market, as well as Peaceful Valley and Skeba Farms. They will be carrying Jersey Fresh corn on the cob, beans, potatoes, and multiple varieties of lettuce, blueberries, and squashes. As the summer moves along, they will also have local tomatoes and peaches followed by pumpkins and apples in the fall. In other words, whatever you need, you will find it here.

High Mountain Foods has brought back their assortment of pastas, gourmet ravioli, crab cakes and more, including fresh mozzarella.

Back this year is the Lithuanian Bakery. They offer outstanding European-style breads and treats, including Jewish rye bread, multi-grain breads, a variety of babkas and wonderful deep-dish fruitpies.

Current vendors include: Alan’s Orchard, Bright Current, Donaldson Farms, Down To The Bone Bar BQ, Gourmet Nuts and Dried Foods, High Mountain Foods, Lithuanian Bakery, Paolo’s Kitchen, Peaceful Valley, Skeba Farms, Tina’s TLC Handmade Soap, PIZZA Vita (Wood Fired Neapolitan Pizza).  
Come out and enjoy the market.



**Oktoberfest**

### Deutscher Club to Host Oktoberfest

CLARK – The of Deutscher Club of Clark, located at 787 Featherbed Lane, will host Oktoberfest on August 11-12. The event is open to the public.

On Saturday, August 11, from 6 to 10 p.m., Bernies Orchestra will provide musical entertainment. On Sunday, August 12, from 1 to 6 p.m., music will be provided by The Adlers.

A donation of \$5 per person will be collected each day of the event. Children under the age of 12 are free. The event is outdoors and will be held rain or shine. Parking and picnic tables will be available.

Oktoberfest will also include children’s activities and an ice cream parade. German and American food and beverages will be available.

No outside food or beverages permitted. No bicycles, skates, skateboards, scooters, or glass containers will be permitted. No pets allowed at any time on premises.

For information, call (732) 574-8600 or visit www.deutscherclub.us.

## Les Malamut to Host Exhibit Of Dance Photographs

UNION – “Dancing in the Key of Life,” an exhibit by Mansa K. Mussa, a dance photographer and artist, will be shown on Thursday, August 2, through Wednesday, September 26, at the Les Malamut Gallery, Union Public Library. An opening reception is scheduled for Thursday, August 9, 6–8 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

The one-man exhibit will include a collection of color digital photographs produced in the past five years, col-

lages, and shadow boxes that represent the artist’s 35 years of documenting dance photography. His collection includes photographs of over 100 dance companies from around the world. “Dancing in the Key of Life” celebrates the spirit of dance, captured on film and digital, and transformed into graphics and collages.

Included in the exhibit is Evidence of Evolution, a series of nine by nine inch shadow boxes which contain photographs, objects of art, fabric, and found objects. As a visual artist Mr. Mussa had become intrigued by the prospect of removing photographs from the flat, one dimensional surface of the photographic paper by creating frozen tableaux with dancers in challenging and unlikely environments. The series has been the focus of his collage work for the past ten years.

Over the course of twenty-eight years Mr. Mussa performed on concert stages with a number of West African dance companies including the legendary International Afrikaans-American Ballet. He also taught dance for the Alvin Ailey Arts in Education Program, the Dance Theater of Harlem, Jersey City State College, and Arts Horizons.

“Art and photography always seemed very natural to me, but dance changed my life because it required a level of physical and mental training that became a catalyst in my overall development as an artist. Dancers are the athletes of the arts and the most talented of all artists,” stated Mr. Mussa. “My career as a concert dancer allowed me to become a dance instructor, musician, singer, set, lighting and costume designer, and administrator.”

The life-long artist is a native of Newark and a resident of West Orange. He has worked professionally as a photographer, concert dancer, percussionist, graphic designer, fabric artist, writer, and installation artist. In addition to his work as a visual and performing artist, he has been an arts educator for the Newark Museum, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Newark, Arts Horizons, Arts Unbound, the Alvin Ailey Arts in Education Program and the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

The Gallery is located on the lower level of the Union Public Library, 1980 Morris Avenue Union. It is handicapped accessible and open during regular library hours.

For further information, visit lesmalamutgallery.web.officelive.com or call (908) 851-5450.

## Westfield Community Band Ends Season On A High Note

WESTFIELD – The Centennial Celebration of the Westfield Community Band, came to a conclusion last Thursday with a concert highlighted by music, presentations by local government officials and many friends from the band’s 100-year history.

The evening started with the presentation of a proclamation from Mayor Andy Skibitsky, congratulating the band for their 100th anniversary entertaining the citizen’s of Westfield.

Councilman Keith Loughlin, presented a special proclamation from Senator Tom Kean and Assemblyman Jon Bramnick and Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz. Band President, Barry Rosenberg noted that the band had also received special recognition from Governor Chris Christie, Senator Frank Lautenberg and Sena-

tor Robert Menendez.

Long time, town resident and former conductor of the Westfield Community Band, Dr. Theodore Schlosberg joined the concert as a Guest Conductor, on “On Jersey Shore.” Conducting the band through the 1970s, he was the first conductor to make the Community Band a band that played year round. Elias Zareva, the longest serving band master of the Westfield Community Band, took the baton to conduct the same number he first conducted in 1980, “American’s We.”

Finally, the band was joined by many alumni on stage, along with others in the audience, to perform, “Stars and Stripes Forever.” The Westfield Community Swing Band, Nostalgia, takes the stage tonight, Thursday, July 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the Mindowaskin Park Bandstand.



100 YEARS...The Westfield Community Band concluded its Centennial Celebration last Thursday with a concert highlighted by music, presentations by local government officials and many friends from the band’s 100-year history. Pictured, left to right, are: Dr. Thomas Connors, Mayor Andy Skibitsky and band President, Barry Rosenberg.

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