

# Arts & Entertainment

## Westfield High School Theatre Department to Present *Pippin*

WESTFIELD—The Westfield High School (WHS) Theatre Department will present *Pippin* at Westfield High School, March 8, 9, and 10.

The students of WHS are working to bring *Pippin* to life on the Westfield High School stage. *Pippin* was originally produced in 1972 with a score written by Stephen Schwartz and book by Roger O. Hirson. The musical, with memorable music and dance, was originally directed by Bob Fosse.

Daniel Devlin, WHS teacher and director, will once again direct the talented students in this production. In 2011, Westfield High School was honored with the Best Musical Production award from the Paper Mill Rising Star Award competition for *Sweeney Todd - Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. Several members from that award winning production will

be returning this year including Matt Lynn who will play the role of Pippin.

Surrounded by a talented and large ensemble of singers and dancers, *Pippin* will transport the audience through a coming of age tale. The story revolves around a young man finding his way and at times rebelling against the establishment, and war, as well as his father, Charlemagne, played by Geoffrey Ko. The tale is woven through song and dance guided by Leading Player. On Broadway, the role of Leading Player was memorably brought to life by Ben Vereen. For this production Leading Player will be performed by Taylor Jackson.

The score includes recognizable songs, such as "Magic to Do," "Corner of the Sky," and "I Guess I'll Miss

the Man."

Annie Oldakowski will play the role of Catherine, with Fastrada played by Maggie Tanji. The cast is completed with the roles of Bertha, Rebecca Skowron; Lewis, Will Cary and Theo, Connor Wynne.

The Fosse Choreography will be performed by WHS dancers under the direction of choreographer Samantha Hahn. Once again, the sets will be designed and executed by WHS' own Paper Mill 2011 Winner of best set design, Roy Chambers.

All are invited to see *Pippin* at Westfield High School, located at 550 Dorian Road. Performances will take place on March 8, 9, and 10 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 each and available by email at WHStickets@westfieldnj12.org or by calling (908) 233-0563.



GOING OVER THE DETAILS...Former "The Real Housewives of New Jersey" star, Dina Manzo, filmed a segment of her HGTV series "Dina's Party" at the Farmhouse Store on East Broad Street on Monday. Ms. Manzo is pictured with Farmhouse Store co-owners, Ed Menapace, left, and Bill Curtis, as well as a member of the HGTV production crew.



WORKING HARD...The cast of *Pippin* rehearses "Morning Glow." Performances will take place in the Westfield High School Auditorium on Thursday, March 8, Friday, March 9, and Saturday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m.

## Crafts Festival to Offer 'A Sensory Celebration'

SOMERSET – The 19th Annual Sugarloaf Crafts Festival will host an Artisans Showcase entitled "A Sensory Celebration" Friday, March 9, through Sunday, March 11, in Somerset at the Garden State Exhibit Center, 50 Atrium Drive, Somerset, NJ 08873.

The show hours: Friday, March 9, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, March 10, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, March 11, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission (valid all three days) is \$7 for adults online, \$9 at the door. Children under 12 are free. Parking is free.

More than 250 of the nation's most accomplished craftspeople invite spring cleaners and sun-seekers to awaken their senses and treat themselves to something special. The jury-selected craftspeople personally show and sell their handmade works at the award-winning Sugarloaf Crafts Festival, offering their one-of-a-kind handmade items in functional and decorative pottery, sculpture, glass, jewelry, fashion, wood, metal, furniture, home accessories, photography, and fine art.

Sherry Lane of Scotch Plains will be displaying and selling her handmade jewelry in at the festival.

The Sugarloaf Crafts Festival in Somerset will feature "A Sensory Celebration," the show's new theme, which highlights the full experience

of enjoying fine, contemporary American crafts with thousands handcrafted items to touch, see, taste, smell and hear.

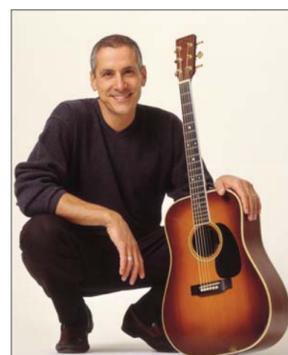
Gourmet foods and favorites — including candies and chocolates, hearty soups, artisan breads, jams and dips, syrups, and olive oils — will be available to sample and purchase from dozens of specialty food purveyors.

Master craftspeople will show how their work is made in continuous live demonstrations. Family entertainment includes interactive children's activities and live contemporary music.

For more information, including driving directions and admission discounts, visit [www.sugarloafcrafs.com](http://www.sugarloafcrafs.com) or call (800) 210-9900.



Jewelry by Sherry Lane of Scotch Plains will be offered at the Sugarloaf Crafts Festival including this bracelet.



David Roth

## Concert to Benefit FoodBank Of NJ

WESTFIELD - The Coffee With Conscience Concert Series continues its twelfth season by presenting singer/songwriter, folk legend, David Roth, in concert. The concert will take place on Saturday, March 17, at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield, 1 East Broad Street (corner of North Avenue) in Westfield. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and the concert begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$19 on line and \$23 at the door.

Baltimore Based singer/songwriter, Victoria Vox, will open the show and the proceeds from this concert will benefit the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. Tickets can be purchased online in advance by going to [davidroth.eventbrite.com](http://davidroth.eventbrite.com)

The Coffee With Conscience Concert Series is a seven-show series running from October through May at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield. The Series supports the following charities: Contact We Care (Westfield), Homefirst (Plainfield), Habitat for Humanity (Plainfield), the Community Food Bank of NJ (Hillside) and the Keith Knost Special Needs Fund (Mountainside). Each beneficiary has at least one concert dedicated to it during the season.

The Coffee With Conscience Concert Series is sponsored by Ahrr's Coffee Roastery at 104 Elm Street in Westfield and is further supported by a generous grant from the Westfield Service League, and a few other private donations.

For more information about the Coffee With Conscience Concert Series, visit [coffeewithconscience.org](http://coffeewithconscience.org), call (908) 412-9105 or e-mail to [ahrr@ahrr.com](mailto:ahrr@ahrr.com). Volunteers are always appreciated.

## Liberty Hall Museum to Host Special Events

UNION – Liberty Hall Museum invites young patrons and their families to see if they like green eggs and ham on Sunday, March 4, when Liberty Hall hosts a Dr. Seuss' Birthday Breakfast, celebrating the birthday of the beloved author/illustrator of children's books. Guests are invited to enjoy a whimsical breakfast while museum staff entertains with classic Dr. Seuss stories. The breakfast will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and reservations are required. The program fee is \$20 per child, \$25 per adult.

A Wednesday afternoon tea will be held on Wednesday, March 14, from 2 to 4 p. m. The "Luck of the Irish Afternoon Tea" is the perfect place to sip tea, lunch on finger sandwiches and desserts while gazing at the formal English garden from the comfort of Liberty Hall's glass-enclosed porch. A tour of Liberty Hall will follow afternoon tea. The program fee is \$40 per person and reservations are required. The museum is an entertainment destination for history aficionados, families, seniors and student groups.

The ongoing exhibit during 2012 is "The Weary and the Wounded: 72 Hours in the Life of a Civil War Nurse." This exhibit commemorates Christine Kean Griffin's service, and the service of all Civil War nurses. Admission to this exhibit is free; a fee applies for a tour of Liberty Hall.

Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University was the one-time home of New Jersey's first elected governor, William Livingston. Chronicling more than 200 years of American history, the museum and its grounds are a treasure trove of significant riches. Along with forgotten letters from Thomas Jefferson, Liberty Hall also houses extensive collections of antique furniture, ceramics, textiles, toys and tools owned by seven generations of the Livingston and Kean families. The

property boasts manicured gardens and fruitful orchards and vegetable fields. The Firehouse is the latest addition to the Museum's complex housing antique fire engines and a collection of fire memorabilia.

General admission to the museum for regular visits is \$10 for adults, \$8 for Kean University alumni, \$6 for students (ages 3 – 17) and free to children under three. Liberty Hall Museum members and Kean University students, faculty and staff. Liberty Hall is located at 1003 Morris Avenue in Union, New Jersey. It is open to the public Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For further information, e-mail [libertyhall@kean.edu](mailto:libertyhall@kean.edu) or visit [www.kean.edu/libertyhall](http://www.kean.edu/libertyhall).

## Thomson to Perform at Mid-Day Musicales Concert

WESTFIELD - The First Congregational Church of Westfield, 125 Elmer Street, continues its series of Mid-Day Musicales with a concert by organist Barbara Thomson on March 7. These half-hour noon concerts are presented on Wednesdays during Lent with an admission fee of \$5.

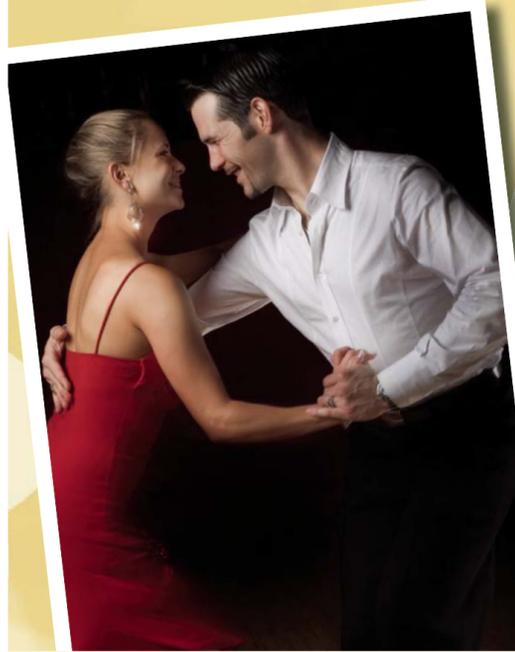
Ms. Thomson has been critically acclaimed for her technique, musicianship, and ability to communicate. She has concertized across the United States and Europe, including performances at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, and in Austria, Germany, Italy, Holland, and Yugoslavia. She has played at Lincoln Center, Trinity Church Wall Street, and the Riverside Church in New York, the Cathedral Basilica in Newark, the Kennedy Center and the National Presbyterian Center in Washington, D.C., as well as many other noted venues. She has performed with the Westfield Symphony Orchestra and the Peabody Symphony, and was a founder of and performer in the North Jersey Bach Festival.

A former professor at a number of universities, Dr. Thomson graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the Pennsylvania State University with a double major in organ performance and theory/composition. She has a master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, and did further study at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Vienna.

Dr. Thomson is Voorhees Chapel organist at Rutgers University, organist and Director of Music at the First Congregational Church of Westfield, and organist at the Monmouth Reform Temple in Tinton Falls, N.J. Funding for these concerts has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

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