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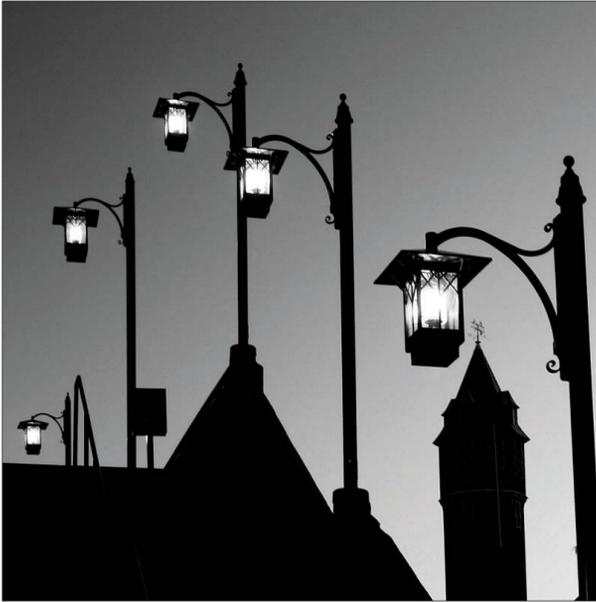
8000 Fellowship Road • Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

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A Non-profit Continuing Care Retirement Community



Arts & Entertainment



LIGHTS OUT...Mike McKenna's "South Orange Lights" will be featured in the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Arts Association's 46th Annual Members' Art Show at the Scotch Plains Fanwood Library's Gallery from Saturday, March 31, to Saturday, April 28.

SP-F Arts Association Art Show at Scotch Plains Library

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains and Fanwood Arts Association will hold its 46th Annual Members' Art Show at the Scotch Plains Fanwood Library's Gallery from Saturday, March 31, to Saturday, April 28.

The Scotch Plains and Fanwood Arts Association is a group of local artists who meet four times a year for workshops or demonstrations at the Patricia Kuran Cultural Arts Center in Fanwood. The members also participate in two group shows a year and offer several bus trips to area museums. Original works in oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, photography, graphite/pencil, and mixed media will be exhibited.

Following the month long spring show, awards will be given out at the closing reception on Saturday, April 28, from 11 - 12:30 p.m.

For additional information, contact Paula Pearl at (908) 322-2590.

The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue, one block from Park Avenue, in the center of the township. Library hours are Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon to 4 p.m.



TOE-TAPPING FUN...At the close of Act I of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School musical *Anything Goes*, the cast dons tap shoes to present the title song. Energetic choreography by Gisa DiIorio sets the audience's toes tapping to keep time with the lively music conducted by Durand Thomas.

It's Full Steam Ahead for SP-F High School's Production of *Anything Goes*

By SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SCOTCH PLAINS—Cole Porter's 1930s musical *Anything Goes* set sail last weekend aboard a cruise ship built by Scotch Plains/Fanwood High School (SPFHS)'s Repertory Theatre. Cruise ships at that time were all about the glitz and glamour of celebrities being onboard, so the captain (Samuel Zimmerman) of the S.S. America is distraught that he doesn't have any celebrities to brag about to those sailing on the transatlantic crossing.

There are plenty of celebrities-in-the-making at the SPFHS production, however, as exhibited in the talented cast of singers/dancers and actors. At the helm of the entertaining production is producer/music director Jan Allen, director Matthew Capodicasa, pit orchestra director/conductor Durand Thomas and choreographer Gisa DiIorio.

Cole Porter's musical theatre world is jam packed with archetypes: star-crossed young lovers - Billy Crocker (Nicholas Poullos) and Hope Harcourt (Rachel Naugle), a vamp - Erma (Olivia Whitehouse) and a stodgy Englishman - Lord Evelyn Oakleigh (Connor Cheney). The storyline twists and turns with the entrance of Public Enemy 13, Moonface Martin (Matthew Kempner).

The plot is a reliable smile catcher because of confused identities, mismatched lovers and super-sized characters. They all find themselves in a confined space and bump into each other with comic effect that is interspersed with familiar classic tunes like, "I Get a Kick out of You," "You're the Top" and, of course, the title track, "Anything Goes." And it wouldn't be a '30s musical without a happy ending, so this is the perfect show for the whole family.

Stand-out performances are seen in every scene, comic or dramatic. That is due, in part, to smart casting and good direction. In the sweetness category, Ms. Naugle delights in face, figure and voice, especially in "It's De-Lovely." She handled late entrances of others with poise, too, at the Friday night performance.

Ms. Whitehouse has fun with the role of Erma, not playing it in a stereotypical blonde wig and an overdone Brooklyn accent. Likewise, Nicholas Poullos, as the handsome Billy, exudes charisma and enjoys delivering every song he has with Reno or Hope.

This show requires lots of physical comedy and there are a number of actors who really deliver. Mr. Cheney's Lord Evelyn is a hoot especially in the stateroom scene and later in his song, "The Gypsy in Me." His straight-laced character breaks out in a passionate tango with Reno Sweeney. The kilt is a great touch. Mr. Kempner's two-bit gangster Moonface is a hilarious scene-stealer. Perfect timing, just enough mugging and the right inflection and delivery of every line make him a crowd favorite, especially while sharing his philosophy in the song, "Be like the Bluebird;" (which I happened to enjoy more than Joel Grey's rendition.)

A salute should be given to the sailor quartet of Christopher Centinaro, Panayiotis Dimopoulos, Robert Dyckman and Hansel Romero, as well as character parts of Brian Burns as Elisha Whitney, the boss, and Taylor Sprague as Mrs. Evangeline Harcourt, Hope's mother.

The bottom line is that *Anything Goes* is Reno Sweeney's show. The belting voice of Ms. Busch doesn't disappoint even when her microphone doesn't cooperate. She may be small in

stature, but there's nothing small about this spitfire of talent when she is appropriately dressed in red sequins. Her rendition of "Blow, Gabriel, Blow" takes people to the golden age of Broadway theatre and the movie musicals of Busby Berkeley.

Choreographer Gisa DiIorio pulls out all the stops at the end of Act I with practically the entire cast of over 50 hoofers tapping to the title song. Reno's angels, girls in her nightclub act, take center stage and rightly so, in snappy red, white and blue outfits and matching hats as part of the classy costume design of Joanne Sprague.

Overall, this is a hugely enjoyable, highly stylish revival of a golden oldie with credit due all around, especially

to the technicians and crew. The set design team led by Jeffrey Allen has pulled together some impressive sets: the two-story ship itself, and the roll-on pieces of the beautiful stateroom, cabins and a realistic-looking brig. As usual, the orchestra, comprised mainly of SPFHS students, is brought to life by Mr. Thomas who keeps the tunes brisk and lively.

If you are in the market for a toe-tapping musical, catch *Anything Goes* before it sails away at the conclusion of this weekend.

Tickets can be ordered at Reptix@verizon.net, by calling (908) 322-6533 or by coming to the high school 30 minutes before each performance.

NJWA Orchestra Academy Opens to the Community

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD - The New Jersey Workshop (NJWA) for the Arts, in collaboration with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools, is forming a string orchestra program for players throughout New Jersey, from pre-school to adult. Musicians who play a string instrument, and beginners who would like to learn to play, are invited to join the NJWA Orchestra Academy.

Dr. Ted Schlosberg, Founder and Executive Director of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, said that he is pleased to be able to offer this opportunity to the community to help enrich their lives with participation in the arts.

The NJWA Orchestra Academy is comprised of three orchestras: Beginning, Elementary and Advanced/Intermediate. Musicians who play the violin, viola, cello or string bass will be eligible. An interview is planned for each player in order to ensure proper placement. Rehearsals will be

held on Saturday afternoons. Advanced/Intermediate players will rehearse from 12:45 - 1:30 p.m.; Elementary players from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m., and Beginning students from 2:15 to 2:50 p.m. Parents are invited to join their child and play a string instrument of their choosing in the beginning orchestra.

This is a tuition free ensemble program that will hold periodic concerts. All rehearsals are held in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Band Room.

Additional information can be obtained from Dr. Schlosberg at (908) 789-9696 at ext. 17 or by emailing him at njwa2@aol.com. Background information about the Director can be viewed on www.njworkshopforthearts.com.

An interview form for participation in the orchestra is also available at www.njworkshopforthearts.com or at the studio, located at 150-152 East Broad Street, Westfield.

ANYTHING GOES

Tickets Still Available

SCOTCH PLAINS - Tickets are still available for performances of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Repertory Theatre's production of *Anything Goes* tonight, Thursday, March 22, at 7 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, March 23 and 24, at 8 p.m.

Tickets can be ordered at Reptix@verizon.net, by calling (908) 322-6533 or by coming to the high school 30 minutes before each performance.



Westfield Community Band

WF Community Band Seeks Musicians for 100th Anniversary Season

WESTFIELD - Preparations are underway for the Westfield Community Band's 100th Anniversary Concert Season.

As part of those preparations, the band has openings for a couple of

experienced musicians on clarinet, horn, tuba and percussion. Band members must be able to commit to weekly rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. through the middle of July, in addition to concert performances.

The Westfield Community Concert Band is sponsored by the Westfield Recreation Department.

For further information about joining the band, email info@westfieldcommunityband.com.

WCW Learns About Colonial Westfield

WESTFIELD - Fran Gold of the Miller-Cory House Museum in Westfield recently presented a program on Colonial America to the members of the Antiques Department of the Woman's Club of Westfield during a meeting at the Masonic Lodge in Westfield.

The club learned interesting facts including that the town of Westfield began with the Lenape Indians. The Unami tribe was the particular tribe in the Westfield area during Colonial times.

Some Westfield names common today harken back to the beginning such as: Watchung, Tamaques, Mindowaskin, Unami and Mokawk. East Broad Street and Mountain Avenue were trails during this time.

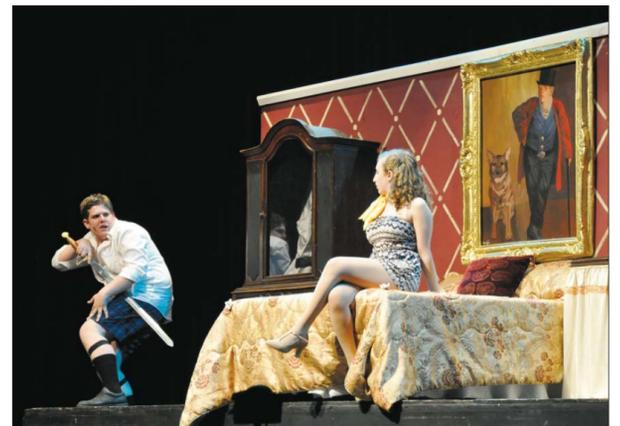
Clothing of the time was homespun made from crops as most men were farmers. Sons in families attended school during November



BACK IN TIME...Fran Gold, center, of the Miller-Cory House Museum in Westfield recently presented a program on Colonial America to the members of the Antiques Department of the Woman's Club of Westfield. Pictured, left to right, are: Vivian O'Neil, Phyllis Snyder, Marjorie Wieseman, Ruth Positan, Carol Russ, Ms. Gold, Marta Villafane, Sue Carroll, Nancy Yingling and Gloria Abitante.

through January when they were not needed to help with the crops. Girls in the families did not attend school but stayed at home to help

mother with the chores. For more information about Woman's Club of Westfield please call (908) 656-6419.



ON GUARD...Connor Cheney as Lord Evelyn Oakleigh prepares to be set up by Reno Sweeney (Julie Busch) in Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Repertory Theatre's production of *Anything Goes*.



BUDDY, BEWARE...The flirtatious Erma (Olivia Whitehouse) warns the sailors who all pursue her that she's a heart breaker in SPFHS' *Anything Goes*.



AN AHA! MOMENT...Reno Sweeney (Julie Busch) and gangster Moonface Martin (Matthew Kempner) with his machine gun try to pull a fast one on Lord Evelyn Oakleigh (Connor Cheney) in Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Repertory Theatre's production of *Anything Goes*.