

Arts & Entertainment



Waterpattern — Connie Pinkowski

'Water a Living Being' Exhibit at SP Library

SCOTCH PLAINS — Photographs by local artist, Connie Pinkowski will be on exhibit at the Scotch Plains Library from Saturday, May 19, until Tuesday, June 12. The exhibit depicts Connie's love of water which comes from living by the water all her life.

"Water has continued to have an emotional and artist influence on me. My most creative ideas have always emerged while swimming or walking on the beach," Ms. Pinkowski said. "A creative challenge has been to produce interesting, vivid and colorful photographs from the clear liquid. Water is colorless, but it is our environment and natural surroundings that are reflected on the water which create my abstract images. Water is always moving, changing and reflecting the world around us. Through my photographs I'm trying to convey the connection between water and our manmade surroundings. Even though our coasts are threatened by continued flooding as the sea levels rise each year, people are still drawn to water, a perfect example are all the visitors to LBI each year."

Having spent her summers on LBI for the past 40 years has shown the artist what water can do to our environment, by the changes that have affected the island over the past decade. It is by creating images of water patterns that she portrays how connected we are to this natural resource.

In one sense the photographs can be seen as colorful abstraction or as a way to build a connection to our tangible resource that we need to help preserve. She wants people to appreciate our natural resource and find joy and the unexpected in viewing her photographs.

"I also want the viewer to think about ways they can help protect and preserve our most important natural resource, water. Our lives will depend on it. Water is life and we have an obligation to protect it, now and in the future," she said.

The artist has a BFA in photography from Rochester Institute of Technology. She has taught photography and art workshops to teens and adults at the Scotch Plains Library and at the LBI Foundation of Arts and Sciences on Long Beach Island. Ms. Pinkowski shows her photography throughout the tri-state area and her work is in many private collections.

The library invites the community to visit and reflect on these digital reflections. There will be a reception at the library, Thursday, May 31, from 7 - 8:30 p.m. 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.

WF Community Center Hosts Final Sound Station Benefit

By ERIC NIERSTEDT
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — After every other band in the Westfield area put their talent up to raise money for the destroyed Sound Station record store, the Westfield High School bands had their own shot, holding a multi-band show Friday night at the Westfield Community Center.

Organized by Transit Radio frontman Colin Barry, the event saw several bands playing their hearts out at the Community Center. The Center, like the Sound Station, has worked hard to give the young bands of Westfield a place to perform. This night was the first time the two forces have come together; with Sound Station owner Bob Larsen on hand to watch and raise cash by selling T-shirts and special merchandise. As such, the event was filled with wild music and dancing teenagers, happy to repay their benefactors.

Half of the fun of the event was simply watching the crowd enjoy themselves, as they danced in conga lines, step danced, paired off, and generally went crazy, often with Colin Barry leading the way. Mr. Barry also found time to kick off the night with a new band, the acoustic guitar and horn fueled Robert Paulson. This was the band's first show ever, which was unfortunately apparent. However, the group showed great energy and potential to become better.

The second band, Paper Mts., was a hard rock group that lived up to their names, filling the Center with pounding guitars and explosive drums, while adding hints of Mountain and Santana. Mixing in keyboards only added to the immense soundscape this young band created.

This was made even more impressive considering the difficulty of mic'ing the Center, a task that all the bands faced and easily overcame.

Despite the previous excitement, the night exploded when the third band, Rob Romano and Seismic Toss, took the stage. Beginning as a drum/guitar, they brought the energy and dancing to a fever pitch, with a furious medley of the surf

classic "Wipe Out" and Bob Marley's "Three Little Birds" and "One Love." As the teenagers moved all around them, the group joined in the dance, all the while adding covers of The Temptations' "My Girl" and Sublime's "What I Got."

It was then that Transit Radio took the stage. Showing all the amazing skill and energy that they brought to the finals of Jersey Show's "Battle of the Bands," the group launched into a six-song set. Barry was clearly the main event, as he leapt about the stage, jumped off chairs, and led the moshing crowd in more dancing, as Transit Radio brought in members from other bands to play with them and continue the party.

The night might not have been as long, or as filled as some of the other benefits, but as this was the final benefit for Sound Station, Mr. Barry, Transit Radio, and all of the bands that played, made sure it went out with a bang. And with such enthusiasm, it is just a matter of time before these groups will be playing at the new Sound Station's next live show.

Editor's Note: Sound Station, formerly located on South Avenue in Westfield, was destroyed in a late January fire. The owners are currently looking to rebuild in a location not yet determined.

Teens Take Stage At UC Performing Arts Center

RAHWAY — Most teenagers daydream about singing or dancing on a stage before a live audience. That dream becomes reality for Union County middle and high school students on Wednesday, May 16, at 7 p.m. when they perform at the Union County Performing Arts Center, 1601 Irving Street, in Rahway's downtown arts district.

Jazz combos, vocal groups, pianists, dancers and theater performers were selected from among the 4,000 students who participated at the 2012 Teen Arts Festival at Union County College in Cranford in March. The annual Festival is sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and coordinated by the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs in the Department of Parks and Community Renewal.

The Teen Arts Showcase is sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Union County Performing Arts Center. Teachers, fellow students, friends and family members of participating stu-



SEASON FINALE...WSO Concertmaster Byung-Kook Kwak will be leading the Westfield Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Maestro David Wroe for the Season Finale concert, "Simple Gifts" on Sunday, May 20.

WSO Presents Season Finale 'Simple Gifts' on May 20

WESTFIELD — On Sunday, May 20, at 7 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, the Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) under the direction of Maestro David Wroe, will present "Simple Gifts" a season finale concert of pioneering American themes, musical landscapes, spiritual journeys and supreme orchestral sounds.

The concert will offer works by Aaron Copland, including the emotional and awe-inspiring Appalachian Spring orchestral suite. Capturing the essence of an ideal America and with the iconic melody "Simple Gifts" at the pinnacle, "Appalachian Spring" is one of today's most recognizable and

beloved American orchestral works. The audience will also enjoy the opportunity to revel in the exuberant "Hoe-Down" from Copland's "Rodeo."

The concert will open with another spiritual journey as Bergen county's famed Pro Arte Chorale joins WSO to present Beethoven's "Mass in C," one more selfless musical gift that contains some of this composer's most sublime work for voices.

Aaron Copland's catchy, memorable tunes, woven so masterfully into his symphonic music, continue to be synonymous with the American heart-beat.

Attendees are invited to join musicologist Dr. Barbara Thomson before the concert at 6.15 p.m. as she uncovers the Shaker melodies, Copland's colorful instrumental effects, and the stories behind the Pulitzer Prize-winning American masterpiece "Appalachian Spring."

This concert is made possible through the generous support of the Joseph DeAlessandro Memorial Foundation and the NJ State Council on the Arts.

For tickets and information visit www.westfieldsymphony.org or call (908) 232 9400.

WHS Jazz Night

WESTFIELD — Westfield High School, in collaboration with Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools, will present its first annual Jazz Night on Friday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Westfield High School is located at 550 Dorian Road. There is ample parking behind the school, with doors from the parking lot leading directly to Cafeteria B. Tickets are \$5 before Saturday, May 12, and \$6 at the door.

For ticket reservations and more information, contact Chris Vitale, Director of Bands, at cvitale@westfieldnj12.org.

Westfield Symphony Orchestra

DAVID WROE, MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

Sunday, May 20, 2012 at 7pm | The Presbyterian Church in Westfield

THE JOSEPH DEALESSANDRO MEMORIAL CONCERT

SIMPLE GIFTS

Free pre-concert lecture at 6:15pm

Copland *Appalachian Spring*
Copland "Hoe-Down" from *Rodeo*
Beethoven *Mass in C*
 featuring Pro Arte Chorale

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This program is made possible in part by a HEART History, Education, Arts Reading Thousands of GRANTS from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Funding has been made possible in part through a grant by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts



Continuo Arts Foundation

Continuo Arts Foundation To Perform Spring Concert May 19

SPRINGFIELD — "The Sounds of Music" Spring Concert will welcome the season on Saturday, May 19, at 7:30 p.m. Presented by the Continuo Arts Foundation, this annual spring concert will take place at Saint James the Apostle Church in Springfield.

Comprising over 150 singers from across Union, Essex, Somerset and Morris Counties, The Continuo Arts Intergenerational Choral ensembles include; the Continuo Arts Children's Chorus, The Singers, Continuos, Civic Chorale and Seniors Sing.

The concert will showcase music from many different genres, time periods and composers. From a "sneak preview" of Stephen Edwards' new "Missa Brevis" to a Symphony of Psalms 23 featuring selections by Bernstein, Rutter, Raminsh and more. There will be

musical selections to delight concert-goers of all ages led by conductors Candace Wicke, Nicholas Dosman, Tom Colao and Stephanie Harris.

Singers from Saint James the Apostle, led by director Janet Natale, will join for the concert finale "We are One in Music". The Saint James parish is celebrating the 10-year anniversary of their new church building. Constructed in 2002, the sanctuary was dedicated on June 6 by Archbishop John Joseph Myers. Other anniversary activities include a special mass and reception on Saturday, June 9, in addition to further concert programs and events.

Since its inception in 2007, The Continuo Arts Foundation has garnered the attention of the international music world and here in the tri-state area. Premiering works in

Carnegie Hall, Europe, and Vatican City, The Continuo Arts Foundation connects artists to opportunities locally and around the world. In addition, local programs include a three-week intensive Summer Musical Theater Conservatory and the new Minuetto Music Festival launching in June 2012.

The "Sounds of Music" series is a free concert and open to the public; donations will be accepted at the door. The St. James the Apostle Church is located at 45 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield.

For questions, or further information visit www.continuoarts.com, find us on Facebook, or call the Continuo Arts Foundation at (908) 264-5324.

Car Wash To Benefit Operation Smile

WESTFIELD — On Saturday, May 12, a car wash to benefit Operation Smile will be held at the Westfield High School parking lot from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Costing only \$240, cleft lip/cleft palate surgery can change a life. Operation Smile provides these surgeries free to children and adults in need around the world.

The goal is to provide as many smiles as possible. Stop by to have your car washed and help give a smile!

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