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Arts & Entertainment

Woman's Club of Westfield To Host Night of Improv

WESTFIELD — The Woman's Club of Westfield is sponsoring its second live improvisational comedy show on Sunday, April 27, at 7 p.m. to benefit Family Promise of New Jersey, the 2014 project of New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC).

The intention of the evening is to help provide support to children and their families with shelter and basic needs while providing an evening of live entertainment. Momenti Productions and Contagious Laughter are at it again, presenting this year's show at The

Crossroads at 78 North Avenue in Garwood.

The group consists of members Amy Colon, Wendy Connelly, Billy Geltzeiler, Barbara Karp, Pam Owen, Beth Painter, Thomas Peitz, Jennifer Principato, Emma Schwartz and Kate Walsh. Tom Landmaack accompanies the group on piano, lending a musical edge to the performance. All have been working together for several years. Emma Schwartz, the director of this fundraising effort of the Woman's Club of Westfield, and the founder of the Westfield production company, Momenti Productions, is also producing the event.

The show will be performed by the local improvisational comedy group Contagious Laughter, founded by Beth Painter in Westfield. Contagious Laughter debuted at last year's benefit and has performed at local venues since. "This is the second year that Family Promise of New Jersey will benefit from the fundraising activities of the Woman's Club of Westfield," said Dolores Geisow, president of the Woman's Club of Westfield. "Last year's improvisational comedy night was a huge success and enjoyed by all who attended. We're very excited that this year's event is hosted by the local comedy and music venue Crossroads."

The price of a ticket is \$25, which includes a complimentary beverage.

Ticket can be purchased by emailing Emma Schwartz at emmas@momentiproductions.com or calling (908) 577-7623.



NIGHT OF LAUGHS...The Woman's Club of Westfield is sponsoring its second live improvisational comedy show on Sunday, April 27, at 7 p.m. to benefit Family Promise of New Jersey. Performers, pictured, top row, left to right, are: Tom Landmaack, Barbara Karp, Billy Geltzeiler, Wendy Connelly and Amy Colon. Bottom row, left to right, are: Jennifer Principato, Beth Painter and Pam Owen.

NJ Festival Orchestra's 'Tour of Notable Homes' Set for May 10

WESTFIELD — The annual Tour of Notable Homes to benefit the New Jersey Festival Orchestra will be held on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The self-guided tour of five distinguished residences in Westfield and the surrounding area is presented by the Friends of the NJ Festival Orchestra (FNJFO), the fundraising organization for the orchestra.

"The advent of spring is always welcome in the verdant neighborhoods of suburban Central New Jersey. This year, coming on the heels of a really difficult winter, Spring is especially longed for," stated Alicia Barker, president of the FNJFO. "That's why the members of the 'Friends' group, led by Jennifer Colamedici, are particularly enthusiastic to be hosting their thirtieth Tour of Notable Homes on Saturday May 10, opening five appealing and diverse homes for public scrutiny to benefit the orchestra."

Mrs. Colamedici provided thumbnail descriptions of the five homes to be featured last Wednesday at a meeting of the Friends. According to her, the tour includes a new construction custom beauty near the downtown with important modern amenities making it worthy of the title "smart house."

This Westfield home rests on the original site of a torn-down cherry farm. The new owners have incorporated some of the bygone charm through the conversion of a barn to a magnificent garage, woodshop and pool house. Inside the home, every electronic device imaginable has been included to make the home enjoyable and secure. The home features a electronic grand piano which can resonate throughout thanks to an intricate sound system.

Mrs. Colamedici described a home in the heart of the stately Indian Forest section in Westfield. The tour will include a timeless and refined Henry West-built estate. This gorgeous home

is situated on a meticulously cultivated piece of land. Inside, the home has a breathtaking great room with an amazing sixteen foot vaulted "barrel" ceiling and is adjacent to a recently remodeled kitchen. Three fireplaces make for cozy winter days.

In the Sleepy Hollow section of Plainfield, the public will tour Glen Oaks, a classic Tudor manor that sits comfortably on a knoll adding to its impression of grandeur. Mrs. Colamedici stated it was originally built for the family that owned Madison Square Garden, the current owners have assembled a veritable treasure trove of beautiful antiques, one-of-a-kind objects d'arts and collectibles. The home holds many architectural surprises including timbered beams, Italian marble grand entrance foyer, chestnut floors, staircase and moldings, built-in alcoves and a "Prohibition Room" tucked away where, in its heyday, it would go unnoticed.

Referring to the next home on the tour as "unique," Mrs. Colamedici described a carriage house that was converted to a home for Anne Louise Davis,

a well-known doyenne in Plainfield during the 1940s. This decorator's residence is the setting for beautiful one-of-a-kind Chinese furniture fashioned from rare wood. A four-season classic conservatory was imported from England.

According to Mrs. Colamedici, this sprawling "European-style" home in Scotch Plains near the golf course, is sure to "wow." Those who love the culinary arts will appreciate in particular the kitchen, once featured in *Design New Jersey* magazine. With its 12-foot ceiling, it was inspired by those found in the chateaux of France with maple beams, stone walls and cobbled limestone floors.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 on tour day. Tickets can be purchased online at www.njfestivalorchestra.org. Tickets are also available at Baron's Drugs and The Town Bookstore in Westfield; Christoffers in Mountainside; Norman's Hallmark in Fanwood; Periwinkles in Cranford.

For more information visit www.njfestivalorchestra.org.



ANNUAL TOUR...The annual Tour of Notable Homes to benefit the New Jersey Festival Orchestra will be held on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The self-guided tour of five distinguished residences includes the Ramapo Way residence, above.

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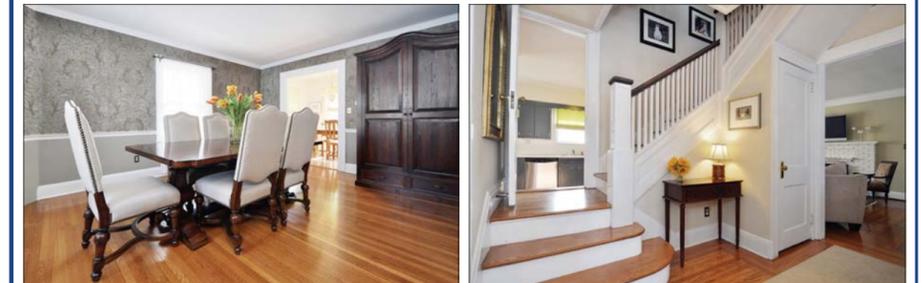
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