

Westfield High School Students Honored At Annual Awards Night

WESTFIELD — At Westfield High School's annual Awards Night, more than 130 awards were presented to graduating seniors.

The following students received awards:

Elena Arida – Gail W. Trimble Memorial Award; Jane Aronds – Westfield Welcome Club; Brigid Barber – Charles Addams Memorial Art Award; Jamirah Barden – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Association/Dorothy Kirkley Memorial Award; Alexander Beals – National Merit Scholarship Program – Finalists; Alexander Beals – Advanced Placement Computer Science; Alexander Beals – Margaret Dietrich Award; Matthew Binkowitz – Katherine E. Cuthbertson Memorial Achievement Award; Kathleen Bond – Most Outstanding World Language Student; Natalie Brennan – Bruce Dunning Scholarship; Catherine Bruno – Concert Choir “Esprit de Corps” Award; Gabrielle Buckman – Helen Bell and John S. McMartin Award; Gabrielle Buckman – Douglas C. Yearley Memorial Scholarship; Nicolas Carayannopoulos – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Anna Centrella – Italian Club Achievement Award; Anna Centrella – Forensic Science Award; Abigail Cook – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Abigail Cook – Spanish Club Academic Achievement Award; Abigail Cook – Advanced Placement Statistics Award; Abigail Cook – Chemistry 2 AP Award; Tyler Debbie – David M. Hart Science Award; Jennifer DeCandia – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Christopher DeMasi – The Douglas J. Odenkirk Memorial Award; Alexa Derman – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Alexa Derman – Youth and Government Award; Alexa Derman – English Department Award for Excellence in Literature; Alexa Derman – Jean M. McDermott Fine Arts Award; Nicole Devitt – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Nicole Devitt – The Seeing Eye Puppy Raiser Service Scholarship; Nicole Devitt – English Department Award for Excellence in Language; Julia Diamantopoulos – Robert L. and Marilyn P. Bunting Award; Julia Diamantopoulos – State Farm Good Neighbor Scholarship; Allison Diamond – Calculus AB Award; Brianna DiDario – Justina V. Taylor Memorial Award; Jackson Dumont – The Les Jacobsen SBATAI Award; George Egberts – Peggy H. and Jeremiah A. Lott; Benjamin Eisenberg – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Catherine Eliades – Westfield Association of Administrators and Supervisors Scholarship; Jared Ellner – Italian Club Achievement Award; Jared Ellner – Rachel Mather Sullivan Scholarship Award; Michael Esler – Katherine E. Cuthbertson Memorial Achievement Award; Rachel Fan – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Catherine Felix – Katherine E. Cuthbertson Memorial Achievement Award; Christine Ferraro – Westfield Education Association Scholarship; Christine Ferraro – Westfield Chapter of UNICO; Erica Fischer – Exercise and Sports Science; Shea Fitzpatrick – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Evan Garfinkel – Sylvia Cummin Outstanding Business Student Award; Evan Garfinkel – Exercise and Sports Science; Edwin Gee –

National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Edwin Gee – Biology 2 AP Award; Thomas Gerris – Westfield Chapter of UNICO; Thomas Gerris – Douglas C. Yearley Memorial Scholarship; Mark Gillespie – National Merit Scholarship; Mark Gillespie – National Merit Scholarship sponsored by Genentech; Mark Gillespie – Marc Hardy Memorial Latin Award; Mark Gillespie – Colonel and Mrs. Henry Bayard McCoy Scholarship; Mark Gillespie – Calculus BC Award; Mark Gillespie – Seminar in College Mathematics; Mark Gillespie – Physics 2 AP-C Award; Nia Glasco – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Association/Dorothy Kirkley Memorial Award; Geneva Gleason – Foreign Language Awareness Group Award – French; Geneva Gleason – Edmund K. Faltermayer Award; Sophia Goldschmidt – Westfield Jaycees Scholarship; David Gruskin – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; David Gruskin – Joseph E. Rood Memorial Award; Samantha Gruskin – Steven Lapidus Memorial Scholarship; Samantha Gruskin – Youth and Government Award; Victoria Guerriero – Westfield Welcome Club; Victoria Guerriero – The Gregg F. Clyne Memorial Foundation Award; Austin Hatch – Biology 2 AP Award; Kristin Hauge – National Merit Scholarship Program – Finalists; Kristin Hauge – Excellence in French Award; Kristin Hauge – Physics 2 AP-C Award; Casey Hewett – Laurence F. Greese Achievement Award; Sara Hoerner – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Sara Hoerner – Laura Meierhans Memorial Award; Rachel Holtzman – National Merit Northwestern University Scholarship; Nicole Johnson – The Wil...Power Scholarship; Nicole Johnson – Douglas C. Yearley Memorial Scholarship; Michelle Kim – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Caroline King – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Caroline King – Charles E. Brown Prize in History; Rebecca Kreuzer – New Jersey Certified Public Accountant High School Scholarship; Gemma Larche – French Elan Award; Lucia Liu – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Lucia Liu – Chemistry 2 AP Award

Matthew Luppino – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Matthew Luppino – Excellence in History Award; Matthew Luppino – Westfield Democratic Committee Public Service Award; Agatha Magierski – William E. Wyman Memorial Award; Agatha Magierski – Westfield Jaycees Scholarship; Magda Magierski – Foreign Language Awareness Group Award – French; Magda Magierski – Megan Beck Memorial Scholarship; Kristen Mahler – Environmental Science; Olivia Masciandaro – Waldron W. Holck Memorial Award; Jake Mastronardi – Katherine E. Cuthbertson Memorial Achievement Award; Kelly Mazzucco – Liesja Anne Tortorello Carpe Diem Award; Brittany McCarthy – Mandeville-Rentrop Scholarship; Thomas McDonald – State Farm Good Neighbor Scholarship; Stephanie Milan – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Stephanie Milan – Lisa Monteleone Teaching Scholarship; Lena Morello – Westfield Chapter of UNICO; Alex Mossawir – National Merit Scholarship Program – Finalists; Julia Napolitano – Model UN Award; Elisabeth Neylan –

Westfield Spanish Ladies Club; Elisabeth Neylan – Matching McCoy Scholarship by the Westfield Foundation; Laura Nogan – Forensic Science Award; Shannon O'Brien – Joel P. Langholtz Award; Alexandra Palatucci – Model UN Award; Sophia Palia – State Farm Good Neighbor Scholarship; Abigail Paone – Katherine E. Cuthbertson Memorial Achievement Award; Megan Pinna – Italian Club Achievement Award; Elizabeth Ponce – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Association/Dorothy Kirkley Memorial Scholarship; Elizabeth Ponce – The Barbara Philpot School Spirit Award; Tyra Quallis – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Association/Dorothy Kirkley Memorial Award; Jill Rosenfeld – National Merit Novartis Scholarship; Jill Rosenfeld – Westfield Democratic Committee Public Service Award; Kimberly Roth – Concert Choir Award; Daniel Savickas – Westfield Republican Committee Public Service Award; Lauren Schneider – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Alex Schneider – Katherine E. Cuthbertson Memorial Achievement Award; Alex Schneider – The Wilson School Scholarship Award; Sophia Shiffman – Noel and Thelma Taylor Memorial Award; Chase Skibitsky – Douglas C. Yearley Memorial Scholarship; Samuel Sokolin – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Lorena Souza – Helen Bell and John S. McMartin Award; Allison Sprung – The Seifeldin Ashmawy Peace Award; Gabrielle Stravach – J. Isabella Dodds Award; Rebecca Trickey – Discrete Mathematics, Probability, and Statistics; Rebecca Trickey – Social Studies Department Award; Tiffany Tsui – Environmental Science; Dara Tucker – National Merit Scholarship Program – Commended; Jack Venezia – The Book Lover's Award; Joseph Vricella-Stokes – Charles H. Frankenbach Award; Joseph Vricella-Stokes – Fundamentals of Calculus Award; Lily Yixue Wang – National Merit Scholarship Program – Finalists; Fraser Weist – Madeline Wild Bristol Award; Fraser Weist – Westfield High School Distinguished Student Award and Jingyan Cindy Xiao – National Merit Bayer Scholarship.

Westfield High School teachers received awards for outstanding achievement during the 2013-14 academic year, including:

The Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award - Robert Brewster, Science teacher; Robert and Linda Foose Memorial Award- James Hart, Industrial Arts teacher; and PTSO Outstanding Teacher Award- Rose Calimano, Mathematics teacher.

A new award was created by parents this year – the Westfield High School Above and Beyond Award – presented to Andrew Buckner, Guidance Counselor, and Michael Seiler – Science teacher.



PRE-PROM FUN... Westfield High School seniors and juniors enjoy the day at a Pre-Prom party hosted by Bob and Ann Marie Centrella at their Westfield residence on May 31 prior to the Westfield High School Prom.



EXCELLENT... Pictured, from left, Union County Freeholders Sergio Granados and Alexander Mirabella congratulate Joseph Cowper of the Kenilworth Fire Department on graduating from the Union County Fire Training Academy as part of the Fall 2013 Class during a graduation ceremony at Union County College in Cranford. Firefighter Cowper earned the Chief Anthony Schepis Award for Excellence in Firefighter 1, the Battalion Chief Ken Nocera Memorial Award for Outstanding Excellence in Firefighter 1 and the Ben Laganga Leadership Award. They are joined by Kenilworth Fire Chief Louis Giordino and Hillside Deputy Chief Steve Ruhl (Ret.), Dean of the Union County Fire Training Academy.

NJ Intergenerational Orchestra and HHS Collaborate on *Les Misérables*

HILLSBOROUGH — The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) in collaboration with the Hillsborough High School (HHS) Theatre will present three performances of *Les Misérables: In Concert*, on June 13, 14 and 15 at Hillsborough High School.

Winner of over 100 international awards and seen by more than 65 million people world-wide, *Les Misérables* is an epic, grand and



LES MIS... The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) in collaboration with the Hillsborough High School (HHS) Theatre will present three performances of *Les Misérables: In Concert*, on Friday through Sunday, June 13, 14 and 15, at Hillsborough High School. Pictured, the orchestra in rehearsal for the June production of *Les Misérables: In Concert*.

uplifting musical that packs an emotional wallop. It is a saga of broken dreams, passion and redemption against the backdrop of a nation in the grips of revolution.

The NJIO adds its strong orchestral expertise to the exceptional vocal talent found at HHS Theatre Department to deliver a spectacular performance on the stage. This production includes 101 performers featuring Hillsborough faculty, alumni and current students alongside a 65 piece intergenerational orchestra.

At the center of this collaboration are Warren Cohen, artistic director of the NJIO and B.J. Solomon, director of the HHS Theatre. Mr. Solomon leads an ambitious theater program at HHS with several productions each year. Previous musical successes include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Titanic* and *Phantom of the Opera*. B.J.'s productions and students have received numerous awards and accolades,

including an invitation to the renowned Edinburgh Fringe Festival and awards and nominations from the Paper Mill Playhouse including this year's Rising Star Award.

With this performance Maestro Warren Cohen is returning to his roots. He began his career conducting musicals and operas in Hawaii and Arizona before becoming an orchestra conductor and music director. During his first year with the NJIO as Artistic Director and Conductor, Mr. Cohen has led the orchestra in several special performances including the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and their 20th anniversary concert at UCPAC. Mr. Cohen also serves as the Music Director of MusicaNova in Arizona.

Tickets are \$15. Performances will be held on Friday, June 13, and Saturday, June 14, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 15, at 2 p.m. at Hillsborough High School, 466 Raider Blvd, Hillsborough, NJ. Tickets are available online at www.hhstheatre.org or call (908) 431-6600 ext. 2099.

For more information about NJIO and their intergenerational programs contact Mary Beth Sweet at (908) 603-7691. NJIO is committed to ensuring that our programs and events are accessible to all.

Ponderosa Farm Park Closed Through June 13

SCOTCH PLAINS — The sprayground of the Ponderosa Farm Park is expected to be closed through Friday, June 13, pending the weather, for minor repair work. While the spray portion of the playground will be closed, the remainder of the playground and the park itself will remain open for usage during this time. The Ponderosa Farm Park is located at 1600 Cooper Road in Scotch Plains.

Bio-Blitz in Oak Ridge Park and Ash Brook Reservation

AREA - Nature lovers of all ages will have the opportunity to get up close and personal with wildlife in their own "backyard" during Bio-Blitz 2014, beginning at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 13. The annual outdoor event will organize teams of plant and wildlife specialists to scour two Union County parks in Clark and Scotch Plains in search of plants and animals over a 24-hour period.

Plant, fungi, insect, fish, bird, mammal, amphibian and reptile experts, plus water monitors and amateur naturalists will collect and identify species from the parks. Teams will return to Bio-Blitz Central, an outdoor, tented field lab and exhibit space in Oak Ridge Park, 136 Oak Ridge Road in Clark, to sort and count what they find.

The primary purpose of Bio-Blitz 2014 is to gain a "snapshot" of the biodiversity (or richness of species) in these adjacent Union County parks. Another important goal of the event is to raise public awareness of the importance of parkland as wildlife habitat and outdoor classrooms.

Free nature-related programs for all ages will be offered throughout the event, including evening programs from 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday, June 13, and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 14.

Free shuttle buses will be available to get participants to and from program sites. Programs will include: Mammal Tracking, Frog Slog; Owl Prowl; Star Watch; Stream Sampling; Wild Edible Plant Walk; Live Hawk and Owl Talk; Early Morning Birding, and more.

Bio-Blitz Central, the hub of the event, will be located at Oak Ridge Park in Clark. The large field tent will house team "labs" where scientists will sort and identify their findings. Live fish will be on display along with plants, insects, fungi, and amphibians and reptiles.

Bio-Blitz Bingo will offer younger "scientists" an opportunity

to record their findings and enter a drawing to win nature-related prizes. A Junior Scientist tent will have young naturalists interacting with hands-on activities related to the natural environment. Union County's Trailside Nature and Science Center staff also will be on-hand to offer guided walks and provide live animal exhibits.

Gardeners and homeowners who want to attract wildlife and increase biodiversity in their own yards will have the opportunity to learn all about invasive and native plants through exhibits by the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team and the Native Plant Society of N.J. Native plants will be on sale by Toadshade Farm.

Bio-Blitz 2014 is sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, Kean University and the Rahway River Watershed Association, with partial funding provided by PSE&G. Team volunteers will be fed and "watered," caffeinated and "clothed" thanks to generous donations from ShopRite of Clark; Starbucks of Westfield; N.J. American Water and Whole Foods of Union. Additional donations will be provided by the Rahway River Watershed Association, Reed Writers, Wild Birds Unlimited, Jenkinson's Aquarium of Point Pleasant, Staten Island Zoo and other area vendors.

Other partner organizations include the Arthur Kill Watershed Association, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Friends of Lenape Park, New Jersey Mycological Association, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Fish and Wildlife, the NJDEP AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Plant Protection and Quarantine Programs.

For more information, visit www.ucnj.org/bio-blitz.



SERVICE WITH A SMILE... Viv, Kate and Emily of Westfield ran a first class lemonade stand during a recent garage sale on Lawrence Avenue. Served the old fashioned way, with courtesy and a smile, making the drink a much welcome refreshment, indeed.