

Arts & Entertainment

Two Book Signings Scheduled At Town Book Store in Westfield

WESTFIELD — The Town Book Store of Westfield will be hosting two author appearances this weekend.

On Saturday, December 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., South Orange author Don Friedman will be in the store to promote his novel, "The Hand Before The Eye."

Winner of the Mid-List Press First Series Award for the Novel, "The Hand Before The Eye" is about the spiritual malaise and gradual awakening of a New York attorney.

New Jersey author Frank Finale and artist Theresa Troise Heidel, will be in the store from 1 to 3 p.m.



to promote their new book, "To the Shore Once More: A Portrait of the Jersey Shore: Prose, Poetry and Works of Art."

This collection of personal essays and poems capture the essence of the Jersey Shore while exploring the universal themes of life and nature. The book contains 100 full color paintings of some of the landmarks and locations at the Jersey Shore.

Ms. Heidel will bring some of the original works of art reproduced in the book.

Signed copies are available on reserve. For more information, please call The Town Book Store at (908) 233-3535.



GRANT FOR A CIRCUS... First Night Westfield 2000 has received a grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders to sponsor Vidbel's Olde Tyme Circus at the Westfield Armory on New Year's Eve. Pictured, left to right, are: Freeholder Chairman Nicholas P. Scutari, Freeholders Chester Holmes, Linda d. Stender, Daniel P. Sullivan, Mary P. Ruotolo, and First Night Westfield representative Barbara Karp.

Candlelight Christmas Concert Planned at Orthodox Church

WESTFIELD — The Metropolitan Greek Chorale of New York and New Jersey, accompanied by a small orchestra, will perform its celebrated Candlelight Christmas Concert at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church on Sunday, December 19, at 4 p.m. in Westfield.



Maestro Constantine Kitsopoulos

The program will include excerpts from Handel's "Messiah," Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" and ancient Byzantine Music with traditional Christmas music.

Maestro Constantine Kitsopoulos will be the conductor for the performance. Proceeds from the event will benefit the church's Millennium Fund Drive.

Tickets are \$40. Special patron tickets are available for \$100 each, including reserved seating and a listing in the program.

A catered holiday buffet reception will follow the performance.

The Metropolitan Greek Chorale was established in 1965 in New York City and is comprised of 35 voices of an all-volunteer membership from Greek communities and their friends in the greater Metropolitan area.

"Holy Trinity is thrilled to be hosting the magnificent voices of the Metropolitan Greek Chorale," said Jeannie Arida, Chairperson of the Special Events Committee of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. "Their program promises to be enchanting, sublime and very moving to all who attend. The concert is a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season."

Maestro Kitsopoulos has previously conducted the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Bangor Sym-

phony Orchestra, the Ives Center Symphony Orchestra and the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra.

He made his Carnegie Hall debut in October of 1991 after a critically acclaimed tour of Korea. Maestro Kitsopoulos was musical director of *Swan Lake* on Broadway and led the Brass Band of Battle Creek's tour of the United Kingdom, which included his debut at Royal Albert Hall.

To purchase tickets or for more information, please call M. Savorgiannakis at (908) 789-2649 or the church at (908) 233-8533 or visit the Web site: www.westfieldnj.com/htgoc.

Union County Teen Arts Festival Seeks Volunteers for March Event

ELIZABETH — The Union County Teen Arts Festival provides an opportunity for volunteers to get involved with artists, teachers and students.

Sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Department of Economic Development, the Festival is a two-day celebration of the arts held annually at Union County College in Cranford.

The event, which is slated for Wednesday and Thursday, March 15 and 16, is open to all students in public, private and parochial high schools in the county.

At the Festival, 3,000 students participate in performances, critiquing seminars, master classes

and workshops with a staff of 50 professional artists in every discipline — visual arts, music, creative writing, theatre and dance," said Freeholder Mary P. Ruotolo, Liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board.

"Volunteers are needed to assist artists with workshops, manage performance sites and staff information stations," she added. "We appreciate the invaluable assistance of our county residents with this exciting program."

To volunteer, please contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at 633 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, 07202, (908) 558-2550. Relay users may call (800) 852-7899 or e-mail Scoen@UnionCountyNJ.org.

First Night Westfield 2000 Sets Millennium Extravaganza

WESTFIELD — Westfield's First Night 2000, a Millennium Extravaganza, will include activities for all ages and a "Times Square at the Westfield Y" to cap off the New Year's Eve festivities.

A firetruck and marching band will lead a parade of participants to the Westfield Y to ring in the millennium, beginning at the Westfield Firehouse at 11:30 p.m. The gymnasium at the Y will

be transformed into a ballroom, decorated with balloons, streamers and a disco ball. There will be noisemakers and confetti for everyone. Large screens will bring a live cable feed from Times Square to witness the Waterford Crystal Ball countdown.

Videos of past First Night events will be shown, interspersed with live coverage of celebrations around the world. Dancing will continue until 1 a.m. to the sounds of the William Raye Orchestra.

First Night Westfield is a drug-free, alcohol-free community celebration of the arts for people of all ages. The purchase of a First Night Westfield 2000 button entitles participants to admission for all festivities.

Performances will be held at various venues around town, and there will be heated trolley service so there is no need to walk in the cold.

Buttons are currently on sale. The price of a button is \$10 through Thursday, December 30, and \$12 on Friday, December 31. They may be purchased at the Y, *The Westfield Leader*, Baron's Drug Store, The Leader Store, Little Treasures, Lancaster, Ltd., the Westfield Recreation Department, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Y and Kings of Garwood.

Volunteers to run the various sites are currently being organized. To work a 2-3 hour slot between 6:45 and 11:45 p.m., please call the First Night hotline at (908) 518-2983.

Assignment will be made by the First Night Volunteer Committee. All volunteers will receive a First Night Westfield T-shirt, which entitles them to entry into all other venues when they are not working. Venues are limited and go quickly.

Yu Brothers to Be Heard on WQXR

WESTFIELD — WQXR, 96.3 FM, the classical music station of the *New York Times*, will broadcast an April 11 performance featuring Westfield piano soloists Allen and Peter Yu with the Plainfield Symphony.

The radio broadcast will take place at 9:05 p.m. on Wednesday, December 22, on the station's "Young Artist Showcase" hosted by Robert Sherman.

The Yu brothers will be heard in Camille Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals" for two pianos and orchestra, a work they performed as winners of the Plainfield Symphony's 1999 Young Artist Competition.

During their appearance with the Symphony last April, the brothers were named recipients of the \$3,000 Otto Altenberg Young Pianist Prize, an award to encourage and support exceptional talents made by the Altenberg Piano House in Elizabeth in memory of the company's late president.

Allen and Peter Yu will be heard again with the Bloomfield Symphony under Maestro Edward Napiwocki on Thursday, May 25, 2000 in the Mozart Concerto for Two Pianos.



POPULAR POETS... The Carriage House Poetry Reading Series recently featured popular New Jersey poets Catherine Doty, left, and B.J. Ward. The series is made possible in part by a 1999 HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The next poetry reading will feature Cranford poets Joe Weil and Deborah LaVeglia on Thursday, January 20, 2000 at 8 p.m. The reading will be at the Patricia M. Kuran Cultural Arts Center in Fanwood. An open reading will follow the featured readers. Admission is free. For more information, please call Adele Kenny at (908) 889-7223.

Yiddish Folk, Theatre Music Slated at Local Synagogue

CRANFORD — Celebrating the Jewish musical accent in American theater, Zalem Mlotek, a foremost authority on Yiddish folk music and theater music and Broadway music director and conductor, will headline the first program of the Combined Cultural Series sponsored by three area synagogues in December.

The curtain will rise on Mr. Mlotek's "100 Years of Jewish Theater Music: From the Yiddish Stage to the Klezmer Revival" on Saturday, December 18, at 8 p.m. at Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim in Cranford.

Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah in Clark and Congregation Anshe

Chesed in Linden will sponsor the other programs. The second concert will be held on Sunday, April 2, 2000.

The cost for the Combined Cultural Series is \$12.50 for members of the sponsoring synagogues and \$18 for non-congregation members. The cost of each individual event is \$8 for congregation members and \$10 for non-members. There is no charge for children.

For tickets and further information, please contact the sponsoring synagogues: Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah at (732) 381-8403; Congregation Anshe Chesed at (908) 486-8616; and Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim at (908) 276-9231.

Messiah Concert Organized By Area Presbyterian Church

MOUNTAINSIDE — Handel's choral masterpiece, the Messiah Concert, will be sponsored by the Community Presbyterian Church in Mountainside on Thursday, December 23, at 8 p.m.

"This is always a glorious musical prelude to the celebration of Christmas," stated Conductor Brenda Kay Kucin.

The program has a 27-year history as a highlight of the holiday season and most of the past performances have been held at the church.

The concert will include a choral ensemble comprised of members of the church and community, accompanied by

a professional instrumental group. Free of charge and open to the public, a free will offering will be taken at the concert.

Mrs. Kucin was Choral Director at Jonathan Dayton Regional High School from 1982 to 1998. She has been an active choral singer with numerous concert organizations as singer and soloist at area churches and synagogues.

Solo singers will include Andrew Hoyditch, Warren Fristensky, Laurie Weeks Thomas, James Flath, Kristie Weeks Boyce and Julie Fristensky.

The program will conclude with the "Hallelujah Chorus."



Your one-stop holiday shopping and entertainment destination!

"Welcome Home to Westfield" events are sponsored by Downtown Westfield Corp. and the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

For your complete calendar of Westfield holiday events, contact Downtown Westfield Corp., (908) 789-9444, or Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, (908) 233-3021.

"Welcome Home to Westfield" Holiday Events Calendar 1999

Thursday, December 16 —

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Musical Performances in downtown stores.

Saturday, December 18 —

10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. South Avenue Train Station and Trolley Stops downtown Free Trolley Rides in downtown Westfield. Park for free in the South Avenue Train Station Parking Lot and catch the trolley for a ride to downtown Westfield for shopping, dining and entertainment.

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Watson Highlanders Pipe Band Bagpipers and drummers will perform traditional festive music throughout downtown Westfield.

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Yuletide Carolers Carolers dressed in "Dickens" attire will stroll through downtown Westfield entertaining shoppers.

1:00 p.m. - 3 p.m. "Escape" - Women's Barbershop Quartet Barbershop harmony will entertain shoppers throughout downtown Westfield.

Sunday, December 19 —

11:00 a.m. Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 1100 Boulevard Special Music Presentation at Sunday morning worship service.

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Musical Performances in downtown stores.

4:00 p.m. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 250 Gallows Hill Road Holiday Concert featuring The Metropolitan Greek Choral Tickets: \$40. Information: 233-8533.

Friday, December 24 —

4:00 p.m. First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer St. Spontaneous Children's Pageant

5:00 p.m. The Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Avenue, Sanctuary Family Service and Pageant.

6:00 p.m. First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer Street Christmas Pageant.

7:30 p.m.; 9:30 p.m.; and 12 Midnight Church of St. Helen, 1600 Rahway Avenue

Christmas Liturgies - Carol Singing 30 minutes before each service.

8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. The Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Avenue, Sanctuary Candlelight Communion Service with Choir and Organ.

11:00 p.m. First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer Street Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols.

Friday, December 31 —

7:00 p.m. - 1 a.m. First Night Westfield An alcohol-free celebration of the arts throughout Westfield. Information: 908-518-2983.

Sunday, January 2, 2000: 1:00 p.m. - 3 p.m.

4:00 p.m. The Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity, Westfield Ave & First Street Festival of Lessons and Carols for Epiphany - public welcomed.

Happy Holidays!

Downtown Westfield Corporation

