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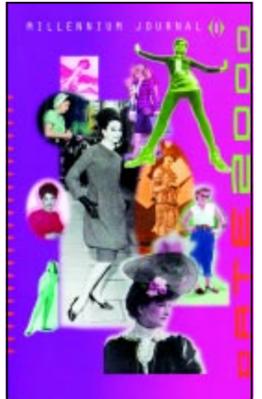
Scotch Plains Author Helps Usher in 2000 With Historic Datebooks

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SCOTCH PLAINS - Even those individuals donning sandwich boards, proclaiming, "The End of the World is Near" in fearful anti-

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ipation of the new millennium will need to keep their appointments straight. And, what better way than "The Millennium Journal," a datebook with historical essays on the past thousand years by Paul Lavenhar of Scotch Plains.

Developed by Affinity Publishing Group in Shrewsbury and the calendar and poster manufacturer AT-A-GLANCE Group, Mr. Lavenhar was approached by



One in "The Millennium Journal" series, pictured above, is "20th Century Fashion and The Changing Role of Women."

Sidney-N.Y.-based AT-A-GLANCE to give the datebook more flavor by providing a thematic series of essays on American culture and historic events.

"They asked me to jazz it up," noted Mr. Lavenhar who has worked for the past 15 years in a marketing and communications agency crafting brochures, Web pages and his advertising projects. "I thought this was a great opportunity to have some fun."

"The Millennium Journal," is available in different versions with separate themes such as "20th Century Fashion and The Changing Role of Women," "Dance and Music in the 20th Century," and other volumes which explore aviation, war and sports during the 1900s.

Each book has its own cover featuring a collage of pictures from days gone by - a virtual flashback in one's mind as to how dance steps evolved or the leaps and bounds made in the world of fashion design.

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Irving Berlin

ARTIST OF THE WEEK

Irving Berlin
(1888-1989)

We know him as Irving Berlin, but the musician known as Israel Beilin was born on May 11, 1888 around Byelorussia before coming to the Big Apple in 1893.

At 13 years of age, Berlin's father died and he had to work as a singing waiter in a Chinatown café. "Marie from Sunny Italy," Berlin's first tune, was published in 1907 and his first hit song, "Alexander's Ragtime Band," topped the charts when Berlin was 23.

"White Christmas," was one of Berlin's most famous melodies, but he also composed other favorites such as "Blue Skies," "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better," "Puttin' on the Ritz" and "Easter Parade."

Berlin composed 17 complete scores for musicals on the Great White Way, including *Miss Liberty*, *Mr. President*, *Call Me Madam* and the ever-popular *Annie Get Your Gun*. Hollywood movie musical scores by Berlin have included *Home Alone*, *The Jazz Singer*, *There's No Business Like Show Business* and *Follow the Fleet*.

Co-founder of the ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers), Berlin founded his own music publishing company.

One of the most productive music composers of our time, Berlin died at the age of 101 in his sleep in New York City.

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