

# Arts and Entertainment

## County Senior Citizen Art Show Opens at Elizabethtown Gas Co.

UNION - The annual Union County Senior Citizens Art Contest and Exhibit will run through Friday, July 30, from Mondays to Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Elizabethtown Gas Company, 1085 Morris Avenue, Union.

"In this annual show, our county's senior artists prove that talent has no age limit," said Nicholas P. Scutari, Chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. "Their work is outstanding and deserves to be enjoyed and honored."

The site of the exhibit is wheelchair accessible.

Eligibility for the show is limited to Union County seniors aged 60 and above, both professionals and non-professionals. First place winners will represent the county at the 33rd Annual New Jersey Senior Citizens Arts Competition in September.

Four prominent artists living in Union County, Harry A. Devlin of Mountainside, Maria Mijares of Plainfield, Herb Way of Scotch Plains, and Elisa Caporale of Summit, will critique and judge the artwork.

Mr. Devlin, an artist and author, began his career as an illustrator in United States Navy Intelligence. His award-winning books highlight the diversity of American architecture through paintings. He has collaborated with his wife, Wende, on numerous children's books.

Ms. Mijares' paintings of home, church, and travel have been collected by admirers such as John Cardinal O'Connor, New Jersey State Senator John Lynch, and Rich Danko of The Band.

Due to a 1998 Union County HEART Grant, she presented 11 slide shows of her work in local rehabilitation and nursing homes. She is currently creating large, porcelain

enamel murals for the Bergenline Avenue Plaza in NJ Transit's Hudson-Bergen Light Rail System.

Mr. Way is a professional corporate, editorial and wedding photographer who remains involved in fine art photography as a means of self-expression. His work celebrates form and color in abstract and figurative images.

Recently, his photographs have been on display at Johnson & Johnson headquarters in New Brunswick and at the Elizabeth Public Library. He is now working on a project that documents black fathers and daughters.

Ms. Caporale divides her time between interests in art and the study of aging. In 1998, she served as artist in residence at the Newark Museum and has also earned a gerontology certificate at Union County College.

Exploring a variety of three-dimensional media, Ms. Caporale creates both fine art and one-of-a-kind contemporary craft objects. She has been demonstrating and teaching basket making to students of all ages in the tri-state area for the past 14 years.

The Union County Art Contest and Exhibit is sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders; the Department of Economic Development; Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs; the Department of Human Services, Division on Aging; and Elizabethtown Gas. Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State.

For more information or to attend the reception, please call the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at (908) 558-2550 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Relay services users should call (800) 852-7899 during business hours.



Kristin L. Joham

## Kristin L. Joham Awarded Special Music Fellowship

MOUNTAINSIDE - Kristin L. Joham of Mountainside, a sophomore at Governor Livingston High School, has been awarded a National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) National Trustees Fellowship to attend the Kennedy Center/National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute.

Kristin will study and perform on the French horn in Washington D.C. until Monday, July 12. She was recommended by the Alliance for Arts Education/New Jersey (AAE/NJ) to represent the state at the Institute.

Applicants from across the state were reviewed by a selection committee of the AAE/NJ and New Jersey Music Educators Association. The competition for the fellowship was open to instrumental students between the ages of 14 and 21.

The Institute is a three-week festival of orchestral and chamber music at the Kennedy Center. The fellowship will offer Kristin bi-weekly lessons with an NSO musician, master classes and seminars with music professionals, participation in the NSO Summer Music Institute Chamber Orchestra, and participation in chamber music groups.

The Chamber Orchestra will be conducted by NSO Assistant Conductors Takao Kanayama and Anthony Aibel and will present two concerts in the Kennedy Center on Sundays, June 27 and July 11. The Chamber music groups will be coached by NSO members and will also perform at the Kennedy Center.

Kristin has been studying the French horn for seven years and also takes private piano and voice lessons. She is a member of the New Jersey Youth Symphony and attends Manhattan School of Music Preparatory Division. She is active in the Governor Livingston Music Department as a member of the school

Band and Chorus.

In 1999, for the second consecutive year, Kristin was accepted into three All State Musical organizations: All State Band, All State Chorus, and All State Orchestra. She has performed as a guest artist on French horn and as a vocalist with many organizations in the Tri-State area. She will pursue a career in music.

Kristin will attend the Boston University Tanglewood Music Institute in Lenox, Massachusetts as a member of the Atlantic Brass Quintet Seminar after her experience at the institute. The seminar is for accomplished brass players and includes coaching by members of the Atlantic Brass and visiting faculty, weekly performances and master classes by the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

## South Orange Author To Attend Book Signing At Town Book Store

MAPLEWOOD - Benilde Little will be available to sign copies of her book, "Itch," on Saturday, June 26, at The Town Book Store located at 97A Baker Street in Maplewood from 1 to 3 p.m.

"Itch," which was recently released in a paperback edition, has been chosen by *Salon* magazine as one of the best books for the Summer of 1998.

Ms. Little is also the author of the novel, "Good Hair," which was named one of the best books of 1996 by the *Los Angeles Times*. The author was the senior editor at *Essence* magazine and is currently a contributing editor for *Heart and Soul*.

## George Street Playhouse Expands Summer Music Festival Program

NEW BRUNSWICK - Music will be in the air this summer at George Street Playhouse where the Summer Music Festival will expand its programming from Friday, July 9, to Thursday, July 29.

The festival will feature folk music as well as some respected names in jazz music.

"We're committed to presenting high-quality artists in a comfortable atmosphere at George Street Playhouse, and the Summer Music Festival gives us another way to do that," said Tom Werder, Managing Director of George Street Play-

house. "We hope audiences will support these tremendous talents and enjoy their experience."

The roster of artists includes internationally respected virtuosos as well as emerging musical acts.

On July 9, at 8 p.m., Satchmo, featuring Randy Reinhart, will perform. This six-piece band will perform a tribute to Louis Armstrong. Tickets are \$15.

Other performances will be announced.

For reservations, please call Brian Slater at (732) 846-2895, Extension No. 132.

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## The Dining Table

### LE RENDEZ-VOUS BISTRO

520 BOULEVARD, KENILWORTH, (908) 931-0888

By DR. JOSEPH P. DE ALESSANDRO  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

If you are invited to dinner at Le Rendez-Vous, you must not miss it.

It is one of the most charming petite country French restaurants and a great New Jersey secret.

With a double-stone front, this restaurant contains large windows with fine French and country appointments, subdued multi-colored chairs and tables and a Victorian chandelier.

An exciting invitation to fine dining begins with the beaming smile of the maitre 'd.

The dining area could be more spacious, but the clientele are most amiable and contribute well to the culinary delights that come from the kitchen. Liquor is not served. However, patrons are permitted to bring their own bottle.

I was pleasantly surprised when I saw little baskets bearing margau, latur and fine champagnes, which were all proper and equal to the quality of the food served.

Owner Walaa Elswawi, who established Le Rendez-Vous two and a half years ago with his brother and maitre 'd, Sami, conducted this delightfully well-organized dining experience with two other members of the wait staff.

Walaa and Sami are natives of Egypt. Walaa is a graduate of the French Culinary Institute in New York and a former employee at the Manhattan Mondrian and Highland Pavilion in New Jersey. He also attended the English hotel/restaurant school.

The menu is reminiscent of dining in a European restaurant - on the grand scale. The appetizer list was extensive and included a Salad of Baby Greens, Shallot Vinaigrette, Frisée Salad, Lardons, Croutons, Roquefort Raspberry Vinaigrette, Warm Goat Cheese Napoleon and Shallot and Garlic Confit.

Another extraordinary appetizer featured Hickory Grilled Large Prawns with Tomato Basil Pesto and Herb Salad. Finally, the treat to all gourmets - Seared French Foie Gras with Wild Mushrooms expertly spiced to perfection. This was a pleasure that leaves the palate wanting more.

Even now, the entrees encourage salivation! Seared Tuna with Grilled Vegetables in Wasabi Sauce was aromatic and delightful. Seared Sea Bass with Wild Baby Fennel, Champagne Sauce, Duo of Duck, Couscous and Apricot Sauce was not only tasty but filled the entire plate.

My very favorite entree and a great signature dish was the Bouillabaisse de L'Atlantique Rouille. The meal featured a very ample offering of the clearest bouillabaisse broth I have ever tasted - scented with fine aromatic herbs. The broth spotlighted large portions of Salmon, Tuna, Sea Bass, Large Crayfish, Large Shrimp with Baby Lima Beans and Two Saffron Boiled Potatoes. A tray of round toasts with garlic butter and regular butter accompanied the dish.

Even the famous Marseilles Bouillabaisse pales in comparison to this delectable dish. A review of the dessert list held great expectation and excitement. From the top of the chart, the desserts were fantastic! Vanilla Chocolate Creme Brulee tops the list followed by Caramel Chocolate Mousse with Raspberry Coulis, Lemon Tart Vanilla Creme Fraiche, Linzer Torte with Vanilla Ice Cream, Nougat Pyramid and the piece de resistance - Black and White Raspberry Coulis.

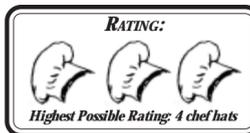
Le Rendez-Vous fulfills its promise to all the dishes, which are elegantly constructed, prepared and presented. The prices of the appetizers range from \$6 to \$12. The entrees are priced from \$21 to \$26. Desserts range from \$6.95 to \$8.

This is not a nouvelle cuisine restaurant, but hearty portions of delectable prepared gems are abundant.

Coffees round out the dinner and at the conclusion of the dining experience, a delightful chocolate truffle was served to each patron.

Le Rendez-Vous is very much in demand. Reservations are a must. The dining is leisurely and in fine style. My only criticism of the restaurant is that Chef Walaa should triple the size of the establishment to accommodate anxious patrons.

This restaurant is a must!



## 'Arts of the Home' Exhibit, Trade Show Set in County

ELIZABETH - An "Arts in the Home" free exposition and trade show presenting domestic arts from immigrant communities in Union County will be held on Saturday, June 26, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Elizabeth Public Library Main Branch, 11 South Broad Street, Elizabeth.

niture and interior decoration, gardening, and religious and holiday arts and crafts will be on display and will represent a variety of cultures and communities that exist in the immediate area. The artists will be available to discuss their traditions.

For more information, please call (973) 639-7848.



THEY'VE GOT MUSIC...The Junior Players of the Cranford Dramatic Club will present *Music Through the Years* on Saturday, June 26, at 1 and 3 p.m. All tickets are \$5. For ticket reservations, please call the box office at (908) 276-7611. The theater is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford. Pictured, left to right, are: top row, Claudia Wittel and Jessica Shohfi; middle row, Jacqueline Hollerman, Nathan Margolin, Steven Shohfi, Claudia Wittel, Lauren Wittel, Luke Wittel, Amanda Wray, and Fatima Abed; bottom row, Luke Wittel, Lucy Bacque, Sara Shohfi, Lauren Wittel, and Taylor Leigh D'Antico.

## Music Through the Years Planned By Junior Players Of Cranford Dramatic Club

CRANFORD - The Junior Players of the Cranford Dramatic Club will present *Music Through the Years* on Saturday, June 26, at 1 and 3 p.m.

The show will be a musical including Broadway songs, music from movies, and pop music. There are also some mother/father and daughter/son performers in the show.

Madge Wittel is the director and Kevin Kessler is the assistant director. Mary Beth McFall is the musical director.

Cast members include Fatima Abed, Lucy Bacque, Taylor Leigh D'Antico, Jenn Eisenberg, Glenn Eisenberg, Jacquelyn Hollerman, Kevin Kessler, Kevin Kessler, Jr., Nathan Margolin, Sara Shohfi, Jessica Shohfi, Steven Shohfi, Claudia Wittel, Lauren Wittel, Luke Wittel, and Amanda Wray.

All tickets are \$5. For ticket reservations, please call the box office at (908) 276-7611. The theater is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford.

## Ostrich Spotted in Bank



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