

Arts & Entertainment



COME ON, GET MERRY!...Merry Market, a boutique and craft show sponsored by the Ladies Philoptochos of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield, will be held on Thursday and Friday, November 4 and 5, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Greek foods and pastries will be featured. Take-out will be available. A donation of \$1 is requested for admission. For more information, please call (908) 233-8533. Pictured, left to right, are: Barbara Manos of Westfield, Jasmine Mestanas of Pottersville and Helen Hiotis of Mountainside.

Annual Merry Market On Tap At Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox

WESTFIELD - Greek foods and pastries, a unique boutique, quality crafters, antiques and jewelry will be featured at the 14th annual Merry Market on Thursday and Friday, November 4 and 5, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield. A \$1 donation for admission is requested.

The event will be sponsored by the Ladies Philoptochos Society.

A Fabulous Fifties booth will display vintage jewelry and valuable items donated by parishioners.

The crafts will include handcrafted jewelry, Christmas ornaments, wood items, stationery,

creative and unusual gifts and antiques.

Three Island Tavernas, each with a different Greek island theme, will feature special cuisine.

Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner will be available from 5 to 10 p.m.

The menu will include Greek favorites such as pastichio, spinach pie, cheese pies, baklava, loukoumades (honey balls). Greek pastries and snacks will also be available.

For take-out meals, please call (908) 233-8533 or fax (908) 233-0623 to place an order.

On November 5 at 8:30 p.m., an on-premise raffle will be drawn. Proceeds will be donated to Agape House, a shelter for battered women and the Christopher Reeves Paralysis Foundation.

For more information, please call the church office at (908) 233-8533.

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Camera Club Slates Program On Outdoor Photography

FANWOOD - The Plainfield Camera Club will host an educational slide program by Scott Perry of Ridgewood on Wednesday, November 3, at 8 p.m. at the United National Bank, 45 South Martine Avenue in Fanwood.

Mr. Perry's topic will be "Making Better Images - Nature and Outdoor Photography." A member of both the Tri-County Camera Club and the Ridgewood Camera Club, his tips on equipment, technique and lighting situations are designed for both the beginner and the advanced photographer.

The Plainfield Camera Club, which serves central New Jersey, meets two times per month for photography programs and slide presentations by members for judging and critiquing.

Prospective members and guests are always welcome. For more information about the club, please

call the President, Jean Luce of Westfield, at (908) 233-6276 for a brochure.

Moon Over Buffalo Set at WCP Theater

WESTFIELD - Ken Ludwig's comedy, *Moon Over Buffalo*, will be held on Fridays and Saturdays, October 22, 23 and 30, November 5 and 6, with a special 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday, November 7. All other shows will be held at 8 p.m. at the Westfield Community Players theater in Westfield. All tickets are \$12.

For ticket information, please call the box office at (908) 232-1221 and Burgdorff ERA in Westfield.

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, funded through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

POPCORN™ The Story of Us You'll Laugh, Cry and Groan

By Michael S. Goldberg

One Popcorn, Poor • Two Popcorns, Fair • Three Popcorns, Good • Four Popcorns, Excellent

1 & 1/2 popcorns
Viewers will probably squirm in their seats during a showing of *The Story of Us* - yet another cathartic diatribe on the American home and hearth in crisis. A curiously unbalanced concoction of happiness and woe, the collective discomfort this film causes the audience is palpable.

Whereas Rob Reiner's fairy tale attempts to be a hip and bittersweet dissertation on the realities of marriage, the alternately dour treatise has all the subtlety of a hammer and sickle. And while *The Story of Us* is a commercially viable title, *Dial M for Manipulation* would be far more appropriate.

Allotting the viewer a minor respect, the filmmakers stop short of using flash cards to inform us when to laugh and cry.

Beware, Mr. Reiner's film, starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Bruce Willis as the bickering lovebirds who have flown off course, can be quite seductive in its sincerity. All the emotion-

packed buttons are pushed. Certain to be beleaguered by the fits of dissonance screenwriter Alan Zweibel portrays in his flashback-enhanced chronicle of Ben and Katie Jordan's 15-year marriage on the rocks, audiences will grasp at the overly precious moments of conjugal bliss with the urgency of a Bedouin who has spied an oasis.

While Reiner's good director-bad director technique almost compensates for the lack of a more provocative story, it's obvious we're being set up; the see-saw modus operandi eventually grows wearying.

When first we meet the Jordans, they're having dinner—the very picture of domestic tranquility. Mom and Dad play a little sharing game with daughter Erin (Colleen Rennison) and son Josh (Jake Sandvig), wherein each family member is encouraged to elicit their high and low point of the day.

Inevitably, when it's either Ben or

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