



# Union County

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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2000 - SECTION B

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## Rule of law

My friend Maria from Cranford spent last weekend with her family mulling over the Immigration and Naturalization Service raid to snatch the Cuban refugee Elian Gonzalez. Since her own immigration from Cuba in 1968 she hasn't forgotten the terrible conditions in her homeland which forces people to risk their lives coming in boats to get to freedom.

The commande raid of Attorney General Janet Reno took the issue beyond the so-called Cuban Castro problem. It has become national for citizens who wonder how storm troopers could invade any private home. The image of the nameless but well photographed INS agent should be chilling for all citizens.

## Left Out

By Frank Capace

Trust me, its none too comfortable to find yourself agreeing with Congressman Tom Delay and Sen. Orrin Hatch. But the call for congressional and judicial investigation seems quite reasonable.

I'm struck by the use of the term "rule of law" by Reno to justify conduct. Those are the same words used by Kenneth Starr to justify legally correct but still repugnant actions for those who live under the rule of law.

I'm certain my friend Maria, a social worker, won't be standing in front of traffic or burning tires. But she could give a fine lecture to Reno and Attorney Greg Craig about people who risk their lives to reach America. It has something to do with the consent by the governed.

Many Cuban-Americans have assimilated from the cities to the suburbs. They still speak forcefully about the dire poverty and the police state of Castro's Cuba. They still call him the devil. The conduct of the INS has been seared into the consciousness of our citizens.

The troublesome stereotypes of distraught Cuban-Americans demonstrating will undoubtedly be exploited by the pro-Castro lobby. Alaida Fernandez of Westfield has seen first hand the power of Castro. She last visited her relatives during Christmas in 1996. She left Cuba in 1968.

Fernandez shares the anger of so many that the religious Easter holiday has picked as the time to conduct the raid. She believes the pressure, mostly economic, to renew relations with Cuba colored the judgment which caused the fiasco last weekend.

Fernandez recalled vividly the police state mentality of Cuba. The similar actions of Reno's INS SWAT team hurried her back to an experience in Cuba when she watched Castro's police hunt down with guns blazing a homesick soldier. She said, "I gasped at the betrayal by the United States when the boy was seized."

The image of the events last week will be twisted by the spin doctors in the Justice Department and Republicans looking to make presidential points. But there is a positive aspect.

If the procedures of the INS are in fact proper under current regulations, we had better consider changing the regulations. We need to find out who the factless foul mouth INS agents are. We need to connect names to these people. Imagine if we didn't have the Associated Press pictures to check the conduct of the agents.

The raid in the dark has brought out, ironically, an amazing amount of light. The point of a gun, no matter whether the INS Agent's trigger finger was, is an alarming picture. This is not the right conduct to break into a home when there was no reasonable expectation of danger.

The upcoming congressional investigation should be done promptly and fairly. It should be a needed lesson for Reno and friends into another aspect of the rule of law.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capace is an attorney.

## Freeholders to vote on new contract for inmate health care

By Mark Hrywna  
Regional Editor

The Board of Freeholders is expected to renew a contract with Correctional Health Services of Verona at its meeting tonight to provide health care for inmates at the county jail. Freeholders raised concerns several months ago about the 1999 contract for health care because of unexpected increases totalling nearly \$500,000.

The contract for 2000 is almost \$4.1 million, up approximately \$60,000 from 1999.

In December, the all-Democratic freeholder board was asked to approve an additional \$450,000 to the \$3.5-million contract with Correctional Health Services for 1999, which it did. At the time, the county was in the midst of negotiating the second year of a two-year contract with the company. Reasons cited for the increase included the rise in the average daily population at the jail, the increasing number of inmates with the AIDS virus, and a catastrophic medical situation for a jail prisoner.

The county's contract with Correctional Health Services began in October 1998. Prior to that, services were managed by the county-owned Rannells Specialized Hospital since June 1995.

Costs for the final year by Rannells were \$2.8 million and anticipated to be \$3.2 million in 1999. Although the cost of Rannells managing the inmate health care was lower, it was never meant to be a permanent solution.

Using Rannells, said Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sulli-

van, was merely a stop-gap measure. When Elizabeth General Medical Center started merger talks with St. Elizabeth Hospital, it did not want to renew the contract, Sullivan said. As a result, Rannells was used as a last-minute substitute. It was "always our intent to get out of that business."

Two years ago, a decision was made to use a private firm, said Freeholder Nicholas Sciarra. The county was not pleased with the contract last year, he said, and through negotiations was able to eliminate some loopholes.

"It looks like we'll get a much better deal than in the past," County officials did a much better job than in the past of examining the contract "to get what's fair."

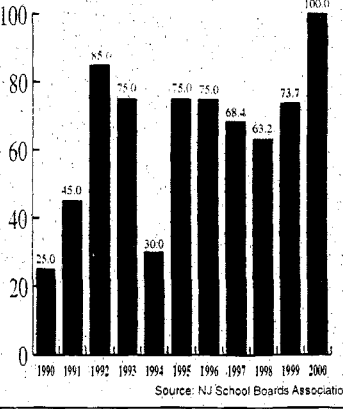
Whether the service is privatized or not, Sciarra said inmate health care will be expensive since it is the only population "constitutionally entitled to health coverage."

The new contract includes an adjustment in terms of the daily jail population, according to Sullivan. County officials believed the figure used in the 1999 contract was low. Last year, freeholders twice approved adjustments to the contract as a result of the inmate population being higher than estimated in the contract.

This year's contract will include an average daily jail population of 1,500 as opposed to last year's 1,350. Sullivan said there also were concerns about providing adequate staffing and monitoring patients.

According to Florence Law Enforcement Commission reports, Correctional Health Services contributed \$5,000 in 1999 to the Union County Democratic Committee and last month made a contribution of \$2,500.

## Percentage of school budgets approved in Union County



## Initial census returns

| Municipality     | Initial response | Target |
|------------------|------------------|--------|
| Berkeley Heights | 82               | 91     |
| Clark            | 83               | 89     |
| Cranford         | 81               | 88     |
| Elizabeth        | 54               | 65     |
| Fanwood          | 84               | 91     |
| Garwood          | 74               | 84     |
| Hillside         | 63               | 72     |
| Kenilworth       | 76               | 86     |
| Linden           | 68               | 76     |
| Mountainside     | 80               | 90     |
| New Providence   | 81               | 90     |
| Plainfield       | 49               | 59     |
| Rahway           | 68               | 77     |
| Roselle          | 61               | 74     |
| Roselle Park     | 69               | 78     |
| Scotch Plains    | 76               | 85     |
| Springfield      | 75               | 81     |
| Summit           | 74               | 85     |
| Union            | 73               | 84     |
| Westfield        | 80               | 86     |
| Winfield         | 75               | 76     |
| County average   | 73               | 81     |
| Union County     | 67               | 76     |
| State            | 66               | 70     |
| National         | 64               | 70     |

All figures are percentages. Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Alternate route police program applications due

Union County Prosecutor Thomas Manahan announced that the John H. Stamler Police Academy will offer the Alternate Route Basic Police Program in the next police recruit class beginning on July 28.

Manahan said "one of the project's goals is to create a pool of trained officers who could then be hired by local departments, sparing the municipalities the costs associated with officer training."

"The Alternate Route Program was first offered as a pilot project at the academy in 1993," said Berkeley Heights Police Chief Charles Monica, president of the Union County Police Chiefs Association.

"Over 95 percent of all alternate route candidates who graduated from the academy have obtained jobs in law enforcement," he added. Citizens who complete a written examination and review process become part of the academy's regular police training class.

Academy Director Anthony Parenti

said "the alternate route recruits receive the same instructions as the regular police cadets during the 19-week training session." The courses include firearms, investigations, court system procedures, crime prevention, community relations, juvenile crime, domestic violence, the basics of the state's criminal code, drug enforcement, crash injury management, crime scene management, constitutional rights and use of force.

Parenti said the academy functions much like a military basic training course. The alternate route and regular police cadets wear the same uniforms and must adhere to a strict regimen, including daily physical training.

Anyone interested in applying for the Alternate Route program may pick up an application at the John H. Stamler Police Academy, 1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains.

All applications must be returned to the Police Academy on or before May 12.

## Ogden to speak on open space issues

The Union County Women's Political Caucus presents guest speaker Maureen Ogden, chair of the Garden State Preservation Trust Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Civil Defense Room of the Scotch Plains Municipal Building, 430 Park Ave., Scotch Plains.

Ogden, an advocate of natural resource and historic preservation who served in the assembly for 14 years, will speak on the topic, "Open Space Issues in New Jersey."

During her time in the Assembly, Ogden was chairwoman of the Assembly Environment Committee for several years before retiring from public office in 1995. She was the prime sponsor of many pieces of legislation relating to open space preservation, including the 1989, 1992 and 1995 Green Acres Bond Act. She continues to devote much of her time to these and other vital issues.

Members are encouraged to bring guests to the meeting.

For more information call Carol Cohen, Union County Women's Political Caucus president, at (908) 527-4250.

## Fact finder offers recommendation

By Mark Hrywna  
Regional Editor

A state-appointed fact-finder has made a recommendation similar to the last offer from the county in ongoing contract negotiations with the union representing rank-and-file employees within the Department of Parks and Recreation.

United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Local 494, which represents 110 employees in the Department of Parks and Recreation, has been without a contract since its last one expired at the end of 1997. Any contract settled likely would be a three-year deal, which would expire at the end of 2000.

The fact-finder's recommendation is similar to the county's last offer, with one change, said Director of Administrative Services Joseph Saleme.

The union wanted a \$250 bonus for all employees, but the recommendation included a \$500 bonus for employees at the maximum on the salary guide, he said. Approximately 70 percent of union members are at the maximum step.

## Sheriff offers gun safety video

History is an elementary subject that is taught in all schools. Nevertheless, children often ask: Why do we have to study about the hand gun? The answer is simple, to learn from mistakes.

Communities have been devastated and parents across the nation have been shocked into a feeling of vulnerability to unforeseen dangers. The events of Columbine and Jonesboro are tragic, but they are not new. The National Safety Council reports that firearms are the fourth-leading cause of death among children 14 years of age and younger while data gathered by the National Center for Health Statistics reveal that every 10 American children ages 19 and under are killed in gun related incidents.

As early as 1990 Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich recognized that children and guns were a deadly combination. Froehlich and his staff worked for two years and produced an educational video titled, "Get Away & Get a Grow Up."

This 12-minute video was geared toward young children ages 4 to 12 and taught them to stay away from guns and call an adult if they found a gun. Sheriff's officers and their children starred in this film. Different scenarios were presented depicting circumstances where children may come in contact with firearms.

The video was shown to school children throughout Union County and was hailed by elementary school educators and the New Jersey State Juvenile Officers Association as an innovative way to teach children about the danger of firearms.

In 1994, Froehlich and his staff, with the assistance of Elizabeth High School students and teachers, produced a second video dealing with firearms. This educational video titled "Teens & Guns: An American Tragedy" was geared toward junior high school and high school students.

The plot revolves around two 17-year-old best friends, Steve and Mike. Steve is a popular student heading to college on a scholarship. Mike is a troubled youth who does not recognize his own potential and resorts to

Saleme said the recommendation would cost the county about an extra \$10,000 but it would be only a one-time cost.

Union President Joseph Petrosky could not be reached for comment by press time.

The county's last offer included \$750 wage increases in the first two years of the contract and \$850 in the third year, in addition to another step for employees at the maximum step of the salary guide.

The county offered its position on the fact-finder's recommendation, which was issued earlier this month, and is awaiting the union's position, said Saleme. He met with union representatives several weeks ago.

The fact-finder's recommendation is not binding; either side could agree or disagree. In the end, the county can implement what it wants to.

Unlike negotiations with PBA unions which can go to binding arbitration, a fact-finder offers a non-binding recommendation that may or may not be agreed upon by one or both sides.

"We cannot relax and become complacent. These two educational programs do help prevent firearms violence in schools," Froehlich said.

"Realistically, we must recognize that our school population changes every year. Seniors graduate, students transfer, grammar school students move into middle schools while eighth grade students move up to high school. These videos cannot be shown once and put on the library shelves. They must be reintroduced each year to be effective."

Sgt. Robert Samecki, the Clark Police Juvenile officer, has been presenting these videos as part of a yearly program for Clark school children.

The Union County Sheriff's Office will forward copies of these videos to any police agency, community group or religious organization upon request.

"Our children are our most valuable treasures," Froehlich said. "As parents must be ready to take the messages necessary that will help insure the safety of our children."

Any group or school seeking copies of these videos should contact the Sheriff's Office at (908) 527-4950.

## Two Hundred Club plans luncheon May 12

Union County Prosecutor Thomas Manahan will be the guest speaker at this year's Two Hundred Club luncheon to be May 12 at La Guardia in Mountainside. Each year the Two Hundred Club honors police and firefighters from Union County municipalities who have performed above and beyond the call of duty.

More than 400 people from all over the county are expected to attend the annual event held each spring. This year will mark the 31st luncheon.

On July 2, 1997, Manahan took the oath of office for a five-year term as prosecutor of Union County. Manahan formerly served as an assistant Union County prosecutor from 1979 to 1983. Before becoming Union County prosecutor, Manahan was a partner with the law firm of Satterlee Stephens Burke & Burke LLP, LLP, Summit, and New York City, where he specialized in commercial litigation and employment law.

Manahan is admitted to practice before the New Jersey and New York State Bar and the United States District Court, District of New Jersey and Southern District of New York, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.

He is a member of the Union County and New Jersey State Bar Associations, a former Chair of the District 33 Ethics Committee, and has been appointed by the Supreme Court as a Special Ethics Master. Manahan earned his undergraduate degree from Mount St. Mary's College and his law degree from Seton Hall University.

Tickets to this year's luncheon are available by calling The Two Hundred Club office at (908) 322-2422. Tickets are \$45 per person.

# Freeholders Forum highlights women

The county's Women of Excellence program and the freeholder board's efforts to improve, upgrade and expand the county parks system are the subjects of the latest "Freeholders Forum" television show sponsored by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Freeholder Deborah Scanlon discussed the recent dinner honoring 12 Union County women for their significant contributions to their chosen occupations and their communities. "Recipients of these awards become role models for women across Union County who struggle with the challenges of balancing work, family and community commitments," Scanlon said.

Sullivan referred to the county's Open Space and Recreation Master Plan as a 10-year, \$46-million initiative of repairs and upgrades to existing park facilities and construction of new park facilities.

"Last year, we acquired an 11-acre property along the Elizabeth River in Union to turn into a park. We are now evaluating exactly what to do to make the best use of that site," he said.

"We have the goal of acquiring approximately 100 acres of parkland," Scanlon said. "Our Open Space Advisory Committee is evaluating whether to initiate a dedicated Open Space Trust Fund. The committee will submit a report to the freeholder board, which will decide whether to put a

referendum on the November ballot asking the voters to approve a trust fund.

In each 30-minute program, freeholders and guests discuss news events and issues affecting the lives of Union County residents. "Freeholders Forum" is made possible through the facilities and technical direction of Union County College.

Entitled "Women of Excellence Parks," the show will be aired through May 7 according to the following schedule:

- Union County — except Elizabeth and Plainfield: Channel 57, Mondays, 6:30 p.m.
- Berkeley Heights, New Providence, Springfield Summit: Channel 36, Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon.
- Elizabeth: Channel 10, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
- Fanwood, Mountainside: Channel 35, check cable listings.
- Linden, Roselle, Roselle Park, Winfield: Channel 36, daily, 5:30 and 9:30 p.m.
- Plainfield: Channel 74, Wednesdays, 1 p.m.
- Scotch Plains: Channel 34, check cable listings.
- Weafield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside: Channel 36, check cable listings.

Anyone wanting more information or to comment about "Freeholders Forum" can call the Office of Public Information at (908) 527-4746.

## Two Hundred Club donates to firefighters

Steve Jezek, president of the Two Hundred Club of Union County, announced that the organization recently voted to send a \$1,000 donation to benefit the families of the firefighters killed in the line of duty this past November in Worcester, Mass.

Two Hundred Clubs throughout New Jersey have been asked to send donations. The Two Hundred Club, whose motto is "Because We Care" was formed to help police and firefighters killed in the line of duty.

To find out more about the organization, or to obtain a membership application, call the Two Hundred Club office at (908) 322-2422.

## Community forum on hate will be Wednesday

For the sixth consecutive year, the Union County Committee Against Hate is presenting a dramatic community forum of anti-bias messages at a program set for Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 756 East Broad St., Westfield.

New Jersey Attorney General John J. Farmer and Jimmie Jones of a special development program known as "Facing History and Ourselves" are the keynote presenters at this widely popular event known as "Standing Together Against Hate VI."

The program is free of charge and also will include interpretation for the hearing impaired.

The program will open with a short movie, "The Power of Hate," that informs viewers about bias and hate crimes that can occur in every community. It will conclude with a brief reception.

## The myths and realities of eating healthier

Are you a busy mom who wants to eat healthy but can't seem to make it happen? Do you find yourself eating jelly beans on the way to pick up the kids while promising yourself you'll eat a healthier lunch tomorrow? Perhaps you want to eat more nutritionally, but just don't know where to begin amid the whirlwind.

On Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Hanson House, 38 Springfield Ave., Cranford, registered dietician Meryl Brandwein will present "Eating Healthy: Myths vs. Facts." Brand-

wein's presentation will include timely adult nutritional information; quick, healthy meals for busy families; and tips on how to get children and toddlers to eat more nutritionally.

Brandwein, a graduate of the University of Delaware, has operated her private practice in Springfield for seven years.

EMALE — Formerly Employed Mothers At the Leading Edge — is an international not-for-profit organization supporting women who have altered their career paths in order to care for their children at home.

What began as one Illinois mother reaching out to another in 1987 has now grown to 7,300 members in over 180 local chapters in the United States and Canada. The Union County Chapter offers a variety of activities including evening discussion groups, guest speakers, mom's night out, book discussion and weekly daytime play gatherings.

The Union County chapter holds meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month at Hanson House. New members are always welcome. Meetings will continue throughout the summer.

For more information, call Patricia at (908) 232-7352 or Jennifer at (732) 382-7578.

## Technology training center open house

The Union County Educational Technology Training Center will be open to visitors from 2 to 6 p.m. on May 4. Located in Room 207 of Mancuso Hall on the 1776 Raritan Road Campus of the Union County

## COUNTY NEWS

Vocational-Technical Schools, the center provides vital staff development for kindergarten through grade 12 educators, public and non-public, using the newest high-tech advances in computer hardware, software and peripherals.

Classes also are open to all members of the community.

During the open house, there will be exhibits and demonstrations of satellite communications, interactive television, video conferencing, Office 2000, networking as well as high-speed Internet. Technology and resource vendors will be on hand to dispense information and answer questions. Get-acquainted workshops also are on the program.

There will be drawings held to win a Microcroc Scanner, software and/or an external Zip Drive. Refreshments will be served and there will be door prizes. The expansive campus offers more than ample parking.

For more information regarding the May 4 visitations or the Technology Training Center, call Lisa Greenberg, coordinator, at (908) 889-3810.

## Blood Center has drives

The Blood Center of New Jersey will sponsor the following blood drives:

- Friday, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union.
- Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Our Lady of Peace, 111 South St., New Providence.
- Sunday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Union, Elks Lodge, 281 Chestnut St., Union; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Weichert Realtors,

185 Elm St., Westfield; 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Temple Emanu-El, 756 E. Broad St., Westfield.

Donors must be 18 years of age, or 17 with parental permission. There is no upper age limit for donors provided they have donated within the last two years, or have a doctor's note.

Donors should know their Social Security number and bring a signed form of identification. People with cold or flu symptoms should wait until they are feeling better before donating, and there is a 72-hour deferral for dental work, including routine teeth cleaning. For those who have traveled outside the United States recently, call the blood center for eligibility criteria.

For more information or to sign up for a blood drive, call the blood center at (800) BLOOD-NJ.

The American Red Cross Greater Union County and Plainfield Area Chapter will sponsor the following blood drives:

- May 3, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Elizabeth City Hall, 50 Winfield Court Plaza, Elizabeth.
- May 9, 3 to 8:30 p.m., Osceola Presbyterian Church, 1689 Raritan Road, Clark.
- May 19, 3 to 8:30 p.m., Theresa's Delight, 505 Kenilworth Boulevard, Kenilworth.
- May 25, 5 to 8:30 p.m., Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad, 875 Raritan Road, Clark.

For information call (908) 353-2500 or (908) 756-1190. Your abilities can earn extra income. Advertise them with a classified ad by calling 1-800-564-8911.

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Bottles, bottles and more bottles from days gone by abound at the Main Street Antique Center in Flemington.

Photo by Wendy Cinquenta

**Main Street Antique Center**

By Wendy Cinquenta Antiques Correspondent

This spring, enjoy an afternoon in historic downtown Flemington, complete with a visit to Main Street Antique Center. The center, located at 156 Main St., boasts 110 dealers on three floors laden with a plethora of collectibles and antiques.

Although there is a variety of wares available here, it is a treasure trove for fans of toys. Whether your focus is on nostalgia, Beanie Babies, or antique toys, you'll find something to fit the bill. There are Fisher Price and Tonka toys, Matchbox cars, dolls — including Shirley Temple and Little Orphan Annie — and a marble collection. A personal favorite, Plasticville, abounds there, with several pieces in their original packaging.

The main floor consists mostly of enclosed glass cases filled with small pieces, while the upper two floors have traditional dealer booths and a small section of furniture.

Take plenty of time to explore the first floor of the center — there are many items in the glass cases and you'll want to see all of them. From jewelry to housewares; tools to toy trains; it's all there.

A narrow hall leading to the staircase is fully lined on both sides with framed artwork. The pieces cover many styles and periods. At the bottom end of the hallway, there is an intriguing display of glass pieces.

Of note upstairs is a booth containing an attractively arranged display of auto garage memorabilia. This dealer also includes a nice sampling of toy cars and model kits.

Many of the dealers are offering discounts on selected items right now, so hurry in before spring becomes summer!

As always with antique hunting, be sure to go armed with the knowledge necessary to make intelligent purchases. A successful trip to any antiques market requires that the consumer knows their prices.

Main Street Antique Center is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and can be reached by telephone at (908) 788-6767 or online at [www.antiquecenter.com/mainstreetac](http://www.antiquecenter.com/mainstreetac).

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Wearing many hats keeps Paper Mill actress happy

By Bill Van Sant  
Associate Editor

One of the Susie Speidel's strongest theatrical talents is juggling. Not the nimble-handed, three-ounce variety Springfields resident Speidel juggles her various roles — theater administrator, university professor and actress — and with an amazing aplomb, to boot.

Speidel, who is currently appearing in "The Student Prince" at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn — where she has worked in administration for 12 years, the last 6½ of which as director of education — started out in her hometown of Rahway as a child with stars in her eyes.

"It's so funny," she said during a break from a recent rehearsal in New York City, "because when I was auditioning years before, everybody kept saying to me, 'Och, you're gonna grow into your type.'"

It wasn't hard for the feisty character actress to isolate that "type" though, and she was recently able to thank her inspiration, "Student Prince" costar Jane Connell, star of, among other things, the original Broadway production of "Mame." "It's been working so well with Jane Connell, who changed my life!" Speidel enthused. "I told her that the other day. When was 12 or 13, I thought I was going to be the next Julie Andrews — I mean, I thought I was going to be the 'leading lady' — and I went and I saw 'Mame' and I saw her get laughs as Agnes Gooch. I had never heard anything like that sound. Right then and there, I went, 'I'm gonna be a character person! I'm gonna be your type.'"

What still a student at Rahway High School in the 1970s, Speidel gained attention for her portrayal of another character actress, the legendary Fanny Brice in "Funny Girl," a production that generated public cries of "Encore!" and even a trip to the then-Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel.

"We had to give more performances, the town just clamored for them," said Anna Fio Cianco of Roselle, a longtime music teacher in the Rahway school system. "So we had to get permission for two more performances the following weekend. Of course, we went to the Garden State Arts Center with 'Funny Girl.'"

Cianco, who has been retired since the mid-1980s, remembers Speidel as a consummate performer, even in her adolescence, and describes her as "a fine musician, a fine singer. I was very fond of her."

"She knew what she could do and she knew what she wanted to do. She was that type of student," Cianco said. "I couldn't say, 'No, you have to do it this way.' She knew to do it. She just knew just exactly what to do. She just flew across that stage; she owned it, she had full control."

Angelo Del Rossi, executive producer at the Paper Mill Playhouse, said, "She's a remarkable lady," he said. "She's got a personality that everyone's drawn to. She's wonderful with the kids. And, in addition to that, she's an extraordinarily talented performer in her own right. She's a very well-liked and well-loved person, that's what Susie's all about."

After earning a degree in theater, Speidel started pounding the pave-

ment and made her professional debut before long.

"My first professional show was 'Shoopy' at George Street Playhouse in 1979 or '80, or '81 maybe," Speidel said of her performance as Woodstock at the New Brunswick theater. "It was kind of ironic that I got my Equity card for not opening my mouth because, of course, Woodstock doesn't speak at all! Years of training, and nothing!"

With membership in Actors Equity Association, the stage actors' union, Speidel worked professionally for about 10 or 12 years. "I did a lot of summer stock and a couple of Off-Off Broadway things and a lot of children's theater. I landed up kind of in the resident children's theater company at Rutgers."

### Career options

It was during this time that Speidel's theatrical career took an unexpected turn.

"I was sitting in the green room at George Street in between shows complaining that I didn't have any work lined up, and the woman who was the artistic director at the time said, 'Gee, we need somebody who can do a three-month term thing because our receptionist is going on maternity leave.' She knew that I had some business skills because I was a really bad waitress!"

"She said, 'You know, if you don't have any work, why don't you work for us for three months?' and I said, 'Great!' and I did. And then I went off and did summer stock that summer and when I came back in the fall, the phone rang one day and it was the general manager of George Street, who said, 'Gee, she's decided to stay-home with the baby, she's not coming back.' What do you think? Are you interested?" And I still, to this day, don't know why I said, "Yes," because I hadn't thought about it; I was still going to continue to audition and stuff."

At George Street, Speidel worked closely with producer-director Eric Krebs, general manager Jeff Cohen and artistic director Maureen Heffernan. "All three of them, Eric and Maureen especially, are natural teachers, they're just educators in their beings," she said. "And they saw that I was interested in the administrative side and they really started teaching me about the running of a theater."

"In fact, I remember vividly, Eric came and plopped a bunch of files on my desk and an envelope and said, 'Here's the past five years of state Arts Council grants; here's this year's application. Just for fun, see what you come up with and bring it back to me and then we'll work on it together.' And that was when I wrote my first grant!"

"And so, I continued working for them in fundraising, and by the time I left George Street, I had like seven different titles and I really learned about the running of an arts organization."

Speidel's experience in theater administration at George Street led to two major steps: she enrolled at New York University to pursue a master's degree and she found a new job at the Paper Mill.

However, this little title for the spotlight, Speidel occasionally plied her craft as an actress at the Forum

Theater in Metuchen and at Plays-in-the-Park in Edison. "Once I moved to Paper Mill, I figure for about three or four years I really stopped performing completely already, and I went back to teach at the school for performing arts administration. It was one of those moments when you know you're in the right place at the right time. It was just a great experience and I learned a tremendous amount."

She had planned to leave her job at the Paper Mill once graduate school was done to be a general manager at another theater. However, co-worker John McEwen suggested developing an education department. The rest, as they say, is history.

Showing knowledge With herself encompassed in the offices of the Paper Mill, Speidel soon found herself playing to another audience: students at Kean University, where she is an adjunct professor in the Speech, Communications and Theater Department, where she has taught Introduction to Speech and Acting for past two years.

"I took this semester off because I knew I was doing this," Speidel said. "Next semester, in the fall, I'm going to teach an acting class and I'm also going to teach an arts administration class. This new elective class within the theater department is aimed to get ball rolling on one of the new degree programs under Kean's status as a university."

With all these balls in the air, how did Speidel not only find herself back on stage, but once again on Equity's active rolls?

"Back on stage?" she said. "I went back and did some community theater just because there were some roles I wanted to play. About 4 years ago now, I did 'Gypsy' at Plays-in-the-Park. Everybody at Paper Mill kind of knew that I did stuff, but nobody had really ever seen me do anything. When I did 'Gypsy,' all of a sudden everybody was interested and came to see it." Among those was Paper Mill colleague, artistic director Robert Johnson.

"Robert, I have to say, right then, took an interest in me, not only in terms of my administrative stuff — it was at the same time that the Education Department was starting to explode and really develop and really take on challenges, and we were working closely together in that regard — but he also said, 'Oh, okay, there's this performer part, too.' And he started asking me to sing at symposium events, and special concerts and fund-raisers. New Year's Eve concerts, and that was a lot of fun!"

"And then one thing just kind of led to another. I don't feel like I decided, 'Och, I'm gonna start performing again,' but all of a sudden, all of these opportunities started happening. I did 'Hello, Dolly!' at the Park last summer, and the guy who was conducting and lives in Key West, and he called me and said, 'Gee, I have this symphonic pops orchestra that I run in Key West. How would you like to come down and do a concert? We'll put you up.' A free week in Key West? I said, 'I'm there!'"

"I got back from that week in Key West, and I was meeting with Robert about other things and, out of the blue, he said to me, 'How would you like to



Actress-administrator-educator Susie Speidel, right, joins William Whitefield, above, during a run-through of the Paper Mill Playhouse production of Sigmund Romberg's 'The Student Prince.'



play Gretchen in 'Student Prince'?"

The offer meant reactivating her Equity status. "I had withdrawn from the union when I went back to school — money was tight — so I just called them and had my membership frozen at that point. It was just a matter of calling and saying, 'I'm back!'"

The rehearsal schedule provided some conflicts with her Paper Mill duties, such as the Rising Star Awards, but this has been planned around since October or November, and her assistants have "really held down the fort. They've been great!"

"If a little hard the past few weeks in rehearsal, because every break I'm running to the phone or checking my e-mail, I brought my laptop with me," Speidel said. "It is such a busy time not only with Rising Stars, but we also just did the casting for our summer conservatory — we had auditions for 250 kids right before rehearsals started. It was just nuts!"

"I'm still kind of wearing two hats at the same time," she continued. "I'm sure between shows, when we have a matinee, I'll grab a bite to eat and go sit at my desk. I'm very fortunate in that I really love what I do at Paper Mill, so it doesn't seem like a chore to me. It's what I do, so it's fun!"

Life is a cabaret. With "The Student Prince" having opened, Speidel is weighing her performance options. "I just did a cabaret show in March in the city, and I had such a great time putting that together and working on that and doing it, and I'm going back to Key West in October and I'm doing the whole week — do the concert and then do the cabaret down there. I just got a call about something over the summer, doing some cabaret stuff."

"And I kind of feel like in order to keep that juggling thing going, that's the approach, to try to do more self-contained things. It would be very difficult for me to take another Equity

contract at another theater and go away for three weeks — a theater in New Jersey, possibly. And I think that, depending on the time of year and what was going on, I think there'd be support from Angelo and Robert for me to do that."

"I'm kind of fortunate living in Springfield, it's five miles to Kean down Morris Avenue, it's three-and-a-half miles to Paper Mill. So, literally, when I teach, I teach first thing in the morning, I teach 8 o'clock classes, and then at Paper Mill, our day starts at 10, and I'm at Paper Mill by quarter to 10."

Having this many balls in the air might make anyone crazy, but Speidel sees only the bright side.

"Paper Mill is very much like a family. For them to be supportive of me, to say, 'Gee, this would be fun to have you in this show. How can we make it work? Where does that happen? It doesn't happen at IBM or AT&T!'"

"If I could design a job for myself, I don't know if I'd be clever enough to design this job!" she mused. "Everybody said to me, 'Gee, that's going to be really hard once the show opens and you're working all day and doing a show at night...' and I said, 'No, that's my life!'"

"The only difference is that I don't have to drive anywhere!"

## 4 Strings! is seeking students

Application forms are now being accepted for "4 Strings!" A Summer Chamber Music Academy for string students in grades 4 to 12, which will take place July 10 to 21 at the Central Presbyterian Church in Summit. Sessions will run weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with final concerts July 21.

Chamber groups will be formed according to age and ability. Participants will be taught works from the standard repertoire by cellist Marnie Kaller of Morristown, violinist Nancie Lederer of West Caldwell, and violinist/violist Mary Bahiarz of South Orange. Supplementing this will be master classes and special sessions with a variety of guest artists, including performers, conductors, composers and instrument makers. A music field trip is projected for the second week.

Prospective violinists and violists should have a knowledge of third position; cellists should have a knowledge of first through fourth positions, and all are required to be studying with a private teacher. Previous participants have come from Morris, Essex, Union, Somerset and Sussex counties.

Auditions will take place in late May. Application deadline is May 6. "4 Strings!" is a nonprofit organization. Those who are interested in applying, should call Bahiarz at (973) 762-1416.

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# Exhibit of women's art has merit if not thematic continuity

Loosely linked by the theme of "Intincaes," an art show produced by "Cycles: Women in the Arts," an affiliation of women artists, is currently on view the Members Gallery at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit.

It is unfortunate that the section of the gallery used for this show is not much of a space and the theme for this exhibit is not much of a unifier. There are worthy discoveries to be made among the artists contributing here, but the show as a whole does little to bring this talent out.

The 20 pieces making up "Intincaes" line a hallway and a small vestibule area which are tucked away behind the reception desk. The corridor is easily overlooked in favor of the far more appealing and capacious main gallery upstairs. NJCVA's own description of the show explains that the title, "Intincaes," is meant to reflect "the notion of the complexity of the interrelationships of life." An essential quality running through all of the works in the show is that they contain many layers of meaning, prompting this critic to wonder what good art does not have just this element.

It felt that the theme was foisted upon the works selected for "Intincaes" — as though all of the pieces were simply thrown together and their resulting random pattern given a name — la Rorschach. There was no sense that anything had been selected specifically because it advanced the theme, which makes the show's title feel somewhat lame and more than a little insulting to the intellect.

Not all group shows are thematic ones, and in this case, it would have been better to forego the idea altogether and let gallery patrons come to their own conclusions rather than force an interpretation.

"Intincaes" did, however, offer up some treats at the individual level. Christina Buschiazzo's "Broken Promises," a large oil painting, brings together influences as varied as Picasso and near-eastern art, conjoining their forces to create a latter-day inter-

## In the Galleries

By Maria Zingaro  
Staff Writer

pretation of Eve in the Garden of Eden.

A voluptuous and sweat-faced mother of civilization reclines nude amid the curlicues of a fancifully stylized tree of paradise. Using Picasso's lessons well, the planes of her face and body are isolated and manipulated, birthing several disparate views together. Her face is dually faceted and her legs lie coiled about each other like loose stockings.

Her dissonant body, one senses, reflects the dissonance in her story. She is at once betrayer and betrayed. When we think we have understood her, we are forced to look again.

Rather than jar the viewer into this realization, "Broken Promises" gently coaxes, lulling viewers to linger with

its soft and easy palette of gold, amber and sienna.

Joy Kravet's "Remains of the Luna Moon" is a piece done in mixed ink and paints, is a tribute to the beauty of line. Careful angular moon-green lines inscribed atop a polychromed agate back reveal the creature's outline: a painter's fossil, the strong remnants of a delicate being.

Graceful groups of lines, reminiscent of stretched-out musical staves, swirl in and around the moth, suggesting a past freedom of flight. Viewers are challenged to follow its path and enjoy the graceful interplay on the canvas between surface and depth.

These serene renderings depicting the phases of the moon, the work of Linda Vandensmidt-Lastella, are rich in texture, color and spirit. Their highly decorative surfaces, produced using the centuries-old ceramic firing technique of raku, also have a totemic aspect. Though all the pieces are encompassed under the whimsical title of "No Green Cheese Here!," each individual work is named after a different point in the lunar cycle: "Young Moon" is a waxing crescent,

"Full Moon" is as its name implies, while "Crescent Moon" is a waning sliver.

The rough circumferences of the roads' recall volcanic rock while their tactile opalescent surfaces are inset with pressed patterns. At their centers sit the sculpted moons in low relief.

The idiosyncratic symbolism of the individual pieces gives way to a stronger sense of narrative when all are considered as a group. The moon's own cyclic development is clearly paralleled with that of a woman's — resonating with biological cycles of both short-term and long-term durations. Perhaps there is not a new idea being played out here, but Vandensmidt-Lastella has certainly taken up a fresh means for developing it.

"Intincaes" runs at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through May 4. For more information call (908) 275-9121.



Christina Buschiazzo's 'Broken Promises' is among the works featured in 'Intincaes,' on view at the Center for Visual Arts in Summit through May 4.

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# Landscape exhibit offers intriguing view of the lay of the land

It's relatively easy to bind with the landscape genre. Unless you've spent our lives in a box, most of us have absorbed a variety of scenery which makes the activity of looking at a landscape an uncommonly direct one.

The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit has stepped out from under juror Dan Cameron's heavy conceptual umbrella in the International Juried Show 2000 into the various environments of "On the Horizon: Landscapes at the Millennium." The curators have incorporated a variety of media, from traditional oil painting and photography to video projection to actual effects of condensation, and the results are consistently fine throughout.

## In the Galleries

By Joe Lugario  
Staff Writer

In the strictest sense, Adam Straus' "Moonrise Real Estate" is hyper-real in its clarity. Under a bright moon, a low mountain range in the distance is lightly touched with the last rays of sun, as is the rocky promontory in the distant center of the composition. The painting's somewhat offbeat quality is the result of a number of wooden slates, topped by red steamers, dotting the landscape from the foreground to the horizon, like the pinnacles in de Chirico's surrealist plazas; the steamers seem to stir and flutter in an airless atmosphere all by themselves. Although they indicate the presence of wind, the viewer is left with the very distinct impression that no oxygen exists at all.

The exhibition's lone flaw lies with the fact that the curators have gleaned their works from this clip New York galleries, while bypassing local artists. The focus on established and soon-to-be-established artists communicates a distinct lack of interest in local talent; this "all-star" approach has been evident in a number of shows staged in the center's upstairs Palmer Gallery, most notably "Full Exposure," the extensive photo-exhibition held last year. With the exception of two pieces lent by the artists themselves, "Horizon" is strictly New York-certified.

Of the artists working in more traditional media, Paul Waldman is the most easily accessible, with his softly painted oil "Twilight," harking back to the 19th century. "Twilight" has a timeless idyllic feeling, consisting of two canvases representing different areas of the same pastoral landscape. Waldman effectively gives the sensation of the green lushness that occurs just after a heavy rain. The clearing sky, in gray blues and pale yellows, is marked by a developing rainbow near the center of the composition, with three thin trees at the far left, edged along their trunks with yellow light, providing scale. Waldman's canvas is heavily gessoed, allowing the artist to create a deckle edge; the jagged perimeter contrasts, but manages not to compete against, the gentleness of Waldman's brushwork, while linking the two canvases, whose horizon lines differ radically.

Alison Moritsugu's "Trophy" is a very traditional landscape painted in the center of a thick — 36-by-36-by-48-inch — oak log. As with Straus, Moritsugu's work touches on classic surrealism, bringing Magritte's wily juxtapositions to mind. Moritsugu paints with little regard for the log's fissures; the cracks, cutting rampantly through the artist's expertly rendered 19th century-style landscape, perfectly link the fantasy/realty aspects of the piece. On a nearby wall, Moritsugu's "Conquest" offers a similar fantasy experience, with another lush landscape revealing itself through 102 separately painted birch and maple tree sections arranged in an oval pattern.

Among the traditional photographers, Lynn Geesaman and Jan Staller — Geesaman with black-and-white rural settings, Staller in color with two urban industrial settings — make the strongest impressions. Geesaman's three 19-by-19-inch images of trees under overcast skies are the moodiest works in the show. Although they appear to be taken on the same day, the images were actually recorded in

Germany, Belgium and Kentucky. Geesaman's "Kentucky" image is a hazy, moody affair, with a large, dense, round tree on the right side of the composition seemingly defying gravity, like a fat exclamation point. In "Danine, Belgium" the oddly leaning trees are reminiscent of the distortions in a fun house mirror; in "Friesland, Germany," where the lone tree is being whipped by the wind, the sound of beating leaves can practically be heard.

The best of Staller's pieces, "Laviation, New York City," shows a pile of construction materials, with orange blocks stacked neatly on top of a bright blue tarp, with two-by-fours and green grass beneath. The fading violet sky and dark background neighborhood are punctuated by the small white lights of six lampposts. Staller's colors, like her forms, are all sharp. Shot from a slightly low angle, with the bright orange blocks against the dramatic violet of the sky, Staller gives her subject the majesty of a Mexican pyramid.

Robert Kalka, Michael Ashkin and the team of Jaume Jaffe and Peter Rose take less traditional approaches, all with their own very individual success. Kalka's two large plexiglass boxes contain landscapes of bare trees, along with two rowboats and a house; mounted on plaster bases, the boxes are filled with condensation, forcing the viewer to squint in order to pick up the forms. The condensation isolates Kalka's subjects, preventing the adjacent gallery walls from intruding into the piece too easily, allowing the viewer to participate more intimately.

Ashkin's three constructed pieces are certainly the most irresistible. Made of a variety of materials, including rocks, cement, dirt and Nescafé models, the works are barren landscapes describing what Ashkin calls "fringe" areas, "places where the frontier of industrial America has been, but moved on." Ashkin's land is tough and scarred and there is a vague aura of chemical contamination about it — and an even stronger hint of the after-effects of nuclear war. Despite



Alison Moritsugu's 'Trophy' uses a log as its canvas. The 36"-by-36"-by-48-inch oil painting is among the works in "On the Horizon: Landscapes at the Millennium," currently on exhibit at the Center for Visual Arts in Summit.

their raw and unethically quiet, and signs posted by the curators warning visitors not to touch, there is an almost overwhelming desire to want to rearrange and further "destroy" them. Jaffe, a sculptor, and Rose, a video artist, combined their talents to create "Soliloquy." Tucked away behind a

curtain, Jaffe's abstract cast paper sculpture of a crouching female nude serves as the "screen" for Rose's native imagery. Images of crystal clear creeks and sun-filled trees play over the form. Rose's slow zoom-ins and zoom-outs seem to cause, the sculpture to expand and contract by

turns, as if breathing. The overall effect is one of a meditation before nature.

"On the Horizon: Landscapes at the Millennium" will run through June 11. For information, see the "Art Shows" listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B10.

## CDC preps farce of 'operatic' proportions

The Cranford Dramatic Club will close its very successful 1999-2000 season and 81st year with the side-splitting comedy, "Land Me a Tenor" by Ken Ludwig, opening May 5.

Set in a hotel in Cleveland in 1934, the city awaits the arrival and American debut of world-famous tenor Tito Merelli. Arriving with Tito is his wife, Maria, fiery and mistrusting of her husband's fidelity. Saunders, the general manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera, assigns his young assistant, Max, to look after Tito, which Max finds to be quite a challenge. Max is an aspiring tenor himself, and this comes in handy as the plot complicates hilariously. To add to the confusion, Maggie, Max's girlfriend, has a thing for tenors. A singing bellhop, a passionate soprano named

Diana; and Julia, chairperson of the Opera Guild, round out the cast.

The farce features Ed Mather as Max, Patti Vadkevieve as Maggie, Bob Pells as Saunders, Frank Littera as Tito, Michelle Blum as Maria, Elaine Doman as Julia and Tommy Dragon as the Bellhop. The production is directed by Naomy Yablonsky, assisted by Jerry Yablonsky, produced by Liz Howard and stage managed by Art Kusiv.

Performances of "Land Me a Tenor" will be Fridays and Saturdays, May 5 and 6, 12 and 13 and 19 and 20. All performances are at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and available through the box office hot-line at (908) 276-7611.

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By Florence Lenaz, Staff Writer

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### REUNIONS

- Union High School Class of 1965 will conduct its 35th reunion Saturday. For information, call Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- St. Joseph's School in Roselle Class of 1950 reunion is planned for May 2000. Contact Jane Geoghegan Burke at (732) 388-7363, Al Hase at (203) 744-7890 or George Schindhuber at (920) 432-0210.
- Union High School Class of 1990 reunion is scheduled for June 10. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Jefferson High School Class of 1940 reunion is scheduled for June 24 at the Jefferson Performing Arts House in Elizabeth High School. For information, call Patrick Gargano at (908) 272-5485, or write to him at 322 North Ave. East, Cranford, NJ 07016-2435.
- Union High School Class of 1940 reunion is scheduled for July 13. For information, contact Evelyn Steude Berstay at (407) 647-8119.
- Summit High School Class of 1993 will conduct its 10th reunion July 29. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Union High School Class of 1980 reunion is scheduled for Aug. 19. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Linden High School Classes of 1950 to 1959 will conduct a 50th Reunion Picnic Aug. 26 at Memorial Park on South Wood Avenue, Linden, from 1 p.m. to dusk. For information, call Gail Hudak at (908) 862-4272.
- Summit High School Class of 1980 will conduct its 20th reunion Oct. 7. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Cranford High School Class of 1975 will conduct its 25th reunion Oct. 7. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Cranford High School Class of 1974 will conduct its 26th reunion Oct. 14. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Linden High School Class of 1989 will conduct its 20th reunion Nov. 11. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Railway High School Class of

- 1980 will conduct its 20th reunion Nov. 18. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Union High School Class of 1970 will conduct its 30th reunion Nov. 24. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Abraham Clark High School, Roselle, Class of 1980 will conduct its 20th reunion Nov. 25. For information, call Margaret Luxlich Donovan at (908) 486-7189 or send e-mail to ACHS1980@es.com.
- Cranford High School Class of 1980 reunion is scheduled for Nov. 25. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Westfield High School Class of 1990 will conduct its 10th reunion Nov. 25. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Linden High School Class of 1990 is seeking class members for an upcoming 10th reunion. Members of this class are asked to send name, address and phone number to Linden High School, Class of 1990, P.O. Box 1950, Linden, NJ 07036, or send e-mail to lts1990@e.yafoe.com.

### HOROSCOPE

#### For May 1 to May 7

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Learn some valuable lessons in finance with the help of a friend or associate. You can accomplish great deeds if you set your mind to it.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): You should be feeling very optimistic and successful during this forecast period. New financial breakthroughs are likely. Take time to celebrate.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21): You are inclined to keep your thoughts to yourself this week. Look within, and do some mental housecleaning, then prepare for a very active and outgoing cycle.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22): There's a lot of activity on the subconscious level. Inner prompting should be heeded to help you avoid an embarrassing or costly mistake.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): An enthusiastic friend proves to be a real boost to your ego. Make it a point to surround yourself with very positive and upbeat individuals.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Long-distance travels or foreign affairs are a

part of this week's scenario. Pack light, and pick up a handy book of foreign phrases.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Your focus this week is with material security and making sound investments for your future. Take your time and research companies or proposals that interest you.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): No man is an island. Don't be afraid to express your innermost feelings and seek the help and cooperation of others to help manifest your goals.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Clear and concise communication is the key to successfully working with a partner. Put all of the pertinent information or instructions in writing.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Practice moderation in social activities, and make sure that your fun time doesn't interfere with your work schedule. Find the balance!

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Enjoy a very pleasant exchange with family members this week. In the game of love and romance, you can be a real winner. Open up your heart.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): This promises to be a very active period for you on the emotional level. Be willing to honestly talk about your feelings with someone close to you.

If your birthday is this week, luck, fortune and fame smile upon you during the coming year. With the great planet Jupiter traveling through your sign, expansion and optimism abound. Play your cards right, and you can expect an increase in your personal income. Practice caution, and do your best to think in moderate terms. Be very careful not to overextend yourself financially by taking on more debt than you can realistically handle.

Also born this week: Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Saiyaji Ray, Niccolò Machiavelli, Audrey Hepburn, Karl Marx, Sigmond Freud and Johannes Brahms.

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# Young performers prove that life in Union can be a 'cabaret'

By Bill Van Sant  
Associate Editor

Actors are resourceful creatures. Going back as far as the 1600s, when commanded at the last minute to prepare a "theatrical" by the King of France, famed dramatist Moliere merely transcribed his actors' exact frenzy. The result? "The Versatiles Impromptu," still a staple some 300-plus years later on classical stages worldwide.

This tradition of resourcefulness continues today right here in Union County. Faced with no appearing projects and the ever-present desire to sing and dance, several youthful actors have joined forces to present a weekend of cabaret in Union Township May 11 and 12.

Under the guidance of Gregory Allan Bock, a 1993 alumnus of Union High School and now a professional actor, this is the second such variety show to be presented at Costa del Sol in Union. A night of cabaret in 1999 proved so successful that the performers took the show "on the road" to a restaurant in Lyndhurst. A Union encore was only a matter of time.

"We did it at Costa del Sol in Union about a year ago now and it sold out a week in advance," said Bock. "It was

so popular, we decided we'd do it again."

To secure performance space for the 1999 show, Bock went no further than his former employer. From there, the actor-singer-dancer recruited performers from among his professional colleagues as well as UHS alumni, including former leading lady Nicole E. Martone, now a student at the Tisch School at New York University.

"The process started out with myself and Nicole just throwing around some ideas of doing a cabaret show," Bock said. "And then we decided since we were coming back home for the summer, we would throw together a show and it just flew from there."

This year's cabaret has been extended to two nights primarily because of the overwhelming response to the '99 edition. Another new aspect is the addition of a theme of sorts, paying tribute to the UHS Performing Arts Company. To this end, the company of approximately 15 singers will feature representation from every show produced at the high school under UHS PAC director Yvonne Rago.

"We have a person representing each year," said Martone, a 1997 UHS alumna.



Gregory Allan Bock

Bock describes this year's cabaret as being somewhere between traditional cabaret — a potpourri of music with the performer at a microphone — and a musical revue, with each number fully staged. "Basically," he said, "there are small themes throughout the show. It's not just 'We're gonna sing with the piano.'"

This approach led to additional demands on the young producer-director when securing talent. "I didn't want it to just be someone getting up there and singing their heart out, but they're not an actress or an actor. We try to piece together small

themes between three or four songs here and there, and end off the act with a certain theme."

Working with New York-based musical director and accompanist Paul Johnson, an associate of both Bock and Martone through their studies in Manhattan, rehearsals for "Cabaret at Costa del Sol" have been taking place in New York City, with the New Jersey actors commuting for practice.

Despite his success at being an impresario, Bock has no intention of changing career paths to directing or producing. "Basically, my aspirations are being on Broadway as a performer," Bock said, "but in the meantime, while I'm not employed, I'm taking the ball by the horns and creating our own stuff. Nicole and I are great friends, we go back a long way, and we both have the passion to put something together. And, although we're not employed right now through another producer, we can still share our talents and bring together a whole great group of people that we haven't worked with in a while and put on this great show."

The program will feature musical numbers from a plethora of Broadway and Off-Broadway shows, combining familiar melodies with newer tunes.



Nicole E. Martone

The cabaret will reunite Bock and Martone with Kathy Bayer, Nick Basile, Deborah Lipkin, Daren Meyer, Melissa Abbaie, David Artiga, Steel Burkhardt, Doc Burkhardt, Kristopher Cotter, Meghan Hales, Brian Monaghan, and Marissa Rago.

"It's been years since we've all worked together," Martone said.

Bock adds, "Kathy Bayer, I hadn't even talked to her in three years. She's pursuing a recording contract right now and we just fell back in touch. And Daren Meyer just did another show in New York, but now it's his comeback to the musical stage. Nick Basile is directing films in New York

and trying to get his movies out there. So basically, it's sort of a reunion.

"But we're not billing it as a reunion," Bock continued. "We're billing it as a great cabaret with something of a Union theme."

The demands have taken their toll on the forward progress of the actors' careers. But they don't mind. "For the past month, I haven't been auditioning in New York. I squeezed one in the other day," Bock said. However, plans are being discussed to take this year's edition to other venues in the area.

"This is a great time to do it now," said Martone, who comes to the project fresh from a new revue in New York featuring the music of Broadway composer Sheldon Harnick. The timing trees her up for the demands of the current schedule. "Everybody is usually in the middle of five different projects. But this seems to be a good time to do it."

"Cabaret at Costa del Sol" will be presented May 11 and 12. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. with the show at 8:15 p.m. Tickets for Thursday are \$29.95 plus tax and gratuity; tickets on Friday are \$35.99. Costa del Sol is located at 2445 Marshall Road in Union. For reservations and information, call (908) 964-3352 or (908) 969-0590.

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9 Resonate

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14 Penthouse

15 Record of proceedings

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19 Spears

20 Ironing situation

21 Fiber from phloem

22 Kin to durn

23 Roomy cats

26 Part of OBE

27 Diplomatic VIP

30 Bring to — finish

31 Debused

32 Noted essayist

33 Summer vacation

36 'Tis a pity!

37 "... with the blue ribbon —"

38 Reator's sign

39 Hobart's island

40 Couplet

41 Devout worshiper

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43 Fish helmet

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58 Annoying leiler

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2 MacGraw and Baba

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8 Madrid miss

9 Access Debra

10 Repeat

11 Alaskan iste

12 Ultimate

13 Put together!

14 Kampala's land

15 — the sign —

22 Go on aimlessly

23 He preceded Mubarak

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25 French impressionist

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27 Vestigial wing

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32 Having 'I trouble'

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41 'A — game'

42 'Over There' songwriter

43 City on the Adige

44 Country-singer

45 Head

46 Eye takahny

47 Gil mail corps

48 Ballerina's

49 Cash slashes, chiefly

50 Luck of the Irish

52 — outdo

See ANSWERS on Page B12

# What's Going On?

**FLEA MARKET**

SATURDAY  
APRIL 29th, 2000

EVENT: Flea Market, Craft and Collectible Show

PLACE: Mrs. Owens Park, 44 Park Ave., Union, NJ

TIME: 9:00am-5:00pm

PRICE: Featuring over 100 quality dealers selling a variety of merchandise including new and used items, baseball cards, memorabilia, toys, fashion clothing, jewelry, coins and Beanie Babies galore! For more information call 201-997-9535.

ORGANIZATION: Nutley Rotary

**CRAFT**

SATURDAY  
May 6, 2000

EVENT: South Mountain Craft Fair

PLACE: South Orange Duck Pond, Corner of North Ridgewood Road and Meade Street, South Orange, (1 block South Orange Avenue), Rain site, South Orange Middle School, 70 North Ridgewood Road

TIME: 10am-5pm

PRICE: Free admission. Quality hand crafted items by more than 100 artisans and crafters. Also featuring kids' crafts, all day live entertainment and food court.

ORGANIZATION: South Mountain School PTA

**OTHER**

SATURDAY  
May 6, 2000

EVENT: Spring Jewelry and Giftware Sale

PLACE: New Eyes for the Needy, 549 Millburn Avenue, Short Hills, NJ

TIME: 10:00am-3:00pm

PRICE: Free Admission—Antique and costume jewelry, watches, silver, flatware, crystal and porcelain at reasonable prices. For more information call 973-378-0953.

ORGANIZATION: New Eyes for the Needy.

**FUN AUCTION**

FRIDAY  
April 28th, 2000

EVENT: TRICKY TRAY AUCTION

PLACE: Maplewood Woman's Club, 60 Woodland Road, Maplewood

TIME: Doors open 7:00pm. Auction begins 8:00pm

PRICE: \$5.00 admission at door. Includes one raffle card with 25 chances. Free refreshments, more than 100 great prizes. For tickets or information, please call 973-782-1951. All proceeds to support Lions charitable programs.

ORGANIZATION: Maplewood Lions Club

Bill Van Sant, Editor

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## Barbershoppers enjoy rich tradition of a unique American music form

By Bea Smith  
Staff Writer

No one can resist listening to a favorite song in old-fashioned harmony, and when the harmony is provided by a barbershop quartet such as the Railway Valley Jerseyaires Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America Inc., or SPEBSQSA, a listener can be engulfed in seventh heaven.

Appreciation of this kind of music is shown everywhere, and especially so recently when the mayor of Winfield Township, David P. Wright Sr., honored the Railway chapter by presenting the township's official proclamation naming April as Barbershop Harmony Month in Union County to Charles Spozdzial, a singer and public relations representative with the men's chorus. In addition, the Board of Chosen Freeholders presented its official resolution naming April as "Barbershop Harmony Month in the County of Union." Freeholder Linda Stender presented the resolution to the members of the chorus.

"I've been singing with the chorus and doing public relations for 11 years," Spozdzial said with pride in his voice during a chat the other afternoon. He mentioned that the international organization's singing is one of this nation's "oldest song style, dating back to the mid-1800s, and is one of just a handful of truly American forms of music." He said SPEBSQSA was

founded in April 1938 in Tulsa, Okla., "to sustain and preserve an American tradition — barbershop singing."

The national organization is celebrating its 62nd anniversary this year and the Railway Valley Jerseyaires affiliate was formed 52 years ago. Today, Spozdzial indicated, the "all-time fraternity of singers in the world has more than 34,000 members in 800 chapters in the United States and Canada."

The Railway group, which has more than 60 members — from students to retired citizens in all walks of life — "performs community services and helps raise funds for the society's national service project. Hearstopping in Wichita, Kan., a life skills learning center that deals with afflictions that inhibit normal speech in children and adults. Since 1964, the barbershoppers have donated more than \$11 million to support Hearstopping fulfilling the slogan, "We Sing That They Shall Speak."

The Jerseyaires meet in the Roosevelt School auditorium, 811 St. Georges Ave., Rahway, every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. Bob Stalknick is president of the chapter.

"I feel that it is the greatest organization in the world," said Spozdzial. "There's lots of harmony and camaraderie among the members. And we have men from all walks of life. I was a tool and die maker for 44 years and retired seven years ago. I was singing harmony for 26 years ago with the



Mayor David P. Wright Sr. of Winfield Township, right, presents an official proclamation early this month to Charles Spozdzial, officer of the Railway Valley Jerseyaires Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America Inc., naming April as Barbershop Harmony Month in Winfield Township.

Hot May 5 and 6."

Even though the organization is made up of men, Spozdzial said that there is a similar organization for women called the Sweet Adelines. "We sometimes sing with them, and the sounds are really beautiful,"

The Railway organization has planned a Roosevelt School PTA benefit show May 25, and a VFW Memorial Day show May 29 in the Iselin VFW Hall. "We have a full

schedule of shows locally and nationally," Spozdzial explained, "all the way through the end of the year."

"Everyone loves barbershop singing. We could go on forever."

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# Healthy Living

## Overlook is first NJ hospital in 'revolution'

It doesn't involve a miracle drug or a new advance in medical technology. Nevertheless, a revolution is occurring in American medicine. Hospitals are beginning to look beyond their roles as providers of medical services to include all aspects of a patient's well being in their care and treatment. At Overlook Hospital's Palliative Care Program, "Care 2000," this movement is already well under way.

In consideration of Overlook's proactive work in the field of palliative care, the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey has awarded the hospital a \$124,000 grant to formalize "CARE 2000" and the training of its staff. The broader goal is to create a model program that can be adopted by other hospitals.

The leading hospital in the field, New York's Beth Israel Medical Center, supported the grant application and is collaborating with Overlook to develop its training program and conduct research.

"Hospitals and health care workers are good at addressing the physical needs of our patients, and we need to get stronger in these other areas. The grant will help us to really sensitize our staff about what palliative care means," explains Patty Colligan-Levine, Social Work Manager at Overlook and coordinator of the training development team.

Overlook Hospital is also the only New Jersey hospital invited to participate in a study conducted by the Palliative Care Outcomes Consortium, a group of eight hospitals, led by the Beth Israel, that are collaborating on the research and development of palliative care programs.

Palliative care traditionally refers to the kind of attention given to

patients with active, progressive, far-advanced disease for whom the prognosis is limited. The focus is on helping the patient and family, so that dying is as comfortable and meaningful a process as possible. Palliative care includes state-of-the-art medical treatment, especially to control pain. Just as importantly, it also embraces a person's spiritual, psychological, social, and financial needs.

Building on its history of leadership in caring for the dying, Overlook Hospital has taken the palliative approach a giant step further. Overlook has developed the philosophy that palliative care is a model of good practice for all health care workers and that all patients, at all stages of health and life, can benefit from its lessons.

The training program at Overlook is designed to hone the principles of palliative care into a true clinical discipline, and apply to the benefit of every patient. Physicians, nurses and all staff members who have direct contact with patients take special classes. The training emphasizes simple yet essential communications skills that enable health workers to know their patients more intimately and address staff's own fears and feelings about illness and death. The goal is to build a more accurate assessment of physical symptoms along with a heightened awareness of the patient's feelings and situation. It also means fostering a close relationship between Overlook's staff and a patient's family and caregivers.

A major feature of Overlook's Palliative Care Program is an in-house team of experts to advise physicians and to assist in providing palliative series for all patients, especially those

neering the end of life.

Another critical goal of Overlook's program is providing patients with seamless care as their needs change, for example in transferring out of the hospital to hospice, nursing facility or home. This includes the obvious, such as ensuring that the appropriate course of medical treatment is understood and followed. It also includes the not-so-obvious, such as respecting the wishes of dying patients and their families about the goals of care and making those desires clear to emergency medical service teams and other caregivers outside of Overlook.

Pain management has been described as the essence of palliative care. In 1997, Overlook established an Acute Pain Management Service to coordinate procedures and train its staff. Physicians and nurses at Overlook Hospital routinely treat pain as a "fifth vital sign" in all patients. Unlike the other vital signs, pain cannot be assessed with instruments and numbers. Pain assessment relies primarily on the patient's subjective sense of distress and their own statements and responses. The accurate measurement of pain, therefore, depends crucially on staff sensitivity and communication, and commitment to listening to patients.

A national survey of patients satisfaction already points to the success of Overlook's pain management efforts. To help bring the entire field of palliative care into the future, Overlook Hospital is participating in a pilot study of the Palliative Care Outcomes Consortium about the impact these programs have on patients' quality of life, and their satisfaction with the care they receive. Relatives, friends, and caregivers are also part of the study.

Overlook Hospital is an Atlantic Health System 400-bed major teaching hospital in Summit. Home of New Jersey's first stereotactic radiosurgery program for the treatment of cancer, Overlook's specialty services include the Neuroscience Institute and Brain Tumor Center of New Jersey; the Valerie Center, a pediatric oncology cancer program; The Children's Medical Center of Atlantic Health System; a Chest Pain Center; the Same-Day Surgery Center and Hemia Center; and a Wound Care Center. Overlook also provides a Medicare-certified home care and hospice program, as well as maternity services and critical care services to high-risk newborns at the new Frank and Mimi Walsh Maternity. For further inquiries, contact (800) 247-9580.

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**Bill Van Sant, Editor**

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**Your Pediatricians SPEAK**

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**WHEN TO START SOLIDS**

Between four and six months of age, most babies are ready for solid food. Babies should have good head control and weigh at least 13 lbs. **Colic** babies who are **gaining more than 30 oz of formula per day** are probably ready for solids. Before four months of age, solid foods are unnecessary and increase the risk of overfeeding. Weaning much beyond six months may also pose a problem, as the baby may become less willing to try something new. In the second half of their first year, babies benefit from the extra calories, protein, and iron in solid foods, especially because their activity levels greatly increase during this time. Rice cereal is a good first food.

PS: Don't take a lot of time before a baby can master the art of grabbing solids food.

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## Westfield 'Y' to offer aromatherapy classes

The Westfield "Y," 220 Clark St. in Westfield, is offering a new program this spring called "Aroma Fitness - The Stress-Free Program."

This class combines aromatherapy, kundalini yoga, breathwork and the application of essential oils to help facilitate and move energy within the body.

People carry stress and tension in the body that stems from day-to-day physical and emotional activities, emotional traumas, and past experiences. Each aroma fitness class is structured to help alleviate the stress and tensions that are held in the body. This is accomplished through series of breathing and movement exercises that help the energy flow more freely, creating a healthier body, mind and spirit.

The class will run Monday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., from May 1 through June 12. There will be no class May 29. Registrations are currently being accepted. The fee for the class is \$35 per person for Gold and Silver "Y" members, and \$70 for Basic Members. Membership is required to participate in this program. For more information, call (908) 233-2700.

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Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to Arts and Entertainment Editor Bill Van Sant, Worrald Community Newspapers, P.O. Box 3109, Union, NJ 07083.

# Stepping Out

8:30 p.m.: Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The library is located at 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-4930.

**ON THE HORIZON:** Landscapes at the Museum will be on exhibit at the Palmer Gallery at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through June 11.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays from noon to 4 p.m., Thursdays evenings from 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. CVA is located at 66 Elm St., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

## AUDITIONS

**MYSTIC VISION PLAYERS** of Linden will conduct auditions for adults and teenagers for "Finnian's Rainbow." Monday and Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at the John T. Graggan Recreation Center, 330 Helen St., behind Linden City Hall. Children will be auditioned May 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Roselle Catholic High School, 1 Hanlon Road, Roselle. Auditions should prepare 15 bars of a Broadway song and bring music. For information, call (908) 925-9038.

**THE THEATER PROJECT** at Union County College will conduct auditions for "Defying Gravity" Monday and Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Roy Smith Theater at the Cranford campus, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Being sought are four women, 20s to 40s, and three men, 30s to 60s. For information, call (908) 659-5169.

**4 STRINGS!** will conduct auditions for students in 4th through 12th grade who play violin, viola or cello in early May. The annual Summer Chamber Music Academy will take place July 10 to 21 at the Central Presbyterian Church in Summit. For information, call (973) 762-1416.

**NEWARK BOYS CHORUS SCHOOL**, a fully accredited 4th through 8th-grade academic school, will conduct auditions for September 2000 enrollment. There are 18 openings for 4th grade, limited space in 5th grade. There are no residency requirements. For information, call (973) 521-8900.

**WESTFIELD YOUNG ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE THEATER** will conduct auditions for the July production of "Bingadood" by Lerner and Loewe at Westfield Community Players, 1000 North Ave., West in Westfield's Saturday, 7:30 p.m. at the NUPAC. Callbacks will be May 6 at WCP and May 7 at NUPAC.

## CLASSES

**WESTFIELD YOUNG ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE** will offer professional classes in the performing arts. Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced Acting classes will concentrate on improvisation, character development and scene study. Also offered are four levels of tap and three levels of musical theater, which focuses on script selection and interpretation, ensemble work, voice and musical theater movement and dance. Private lessons in voice and/or acting are available.

The Westfield High School is located at 728 Westfield Ave., Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-3200.

**THE MASTER GARDENERS OF UNION COUNTY** will sponsor four free lectures May 4 through 23 as part of the Spring Speakers' Series. All lectures begin at 7:30 p.m. and are conducted in the auditorium of the Union County Administration Building, 300 North Ave., East in Westfield. Lectures are scheduled on the following topics:

- May 4 — Dahlias
  - May 9 — Raspberries
  - May 18 — Composting
  - May 23 — Weeds
- Registration is required. For information, call (908) 654-9954.

## COMEDY

**COMEDIAN DAVID BRENNER** will be presented at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and \$36. UCAAC is located at 1601 Irving St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 499-2226 or visit the website at www.uccac.org.

**CASUAL TIMES** restaurant features comedians on Saturdays, at 6:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. The restaurant is located at 1085 Central Ave., Clark. For information, call (908) 989-6511.

comedians on Saturdays, at 6:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. The restaurant is located at 1085 Central Ave., Clark. For information, call (908) 989-6511.

## CONCERTS

**PIANIST ZENAIDA MANFUGAS** of Elizabeth will perform a free concert Sunday at 3 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church on Broad Street, Elizabeth. The concert is sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. For information, call (908) 585-2550, send e-mail to zena@unioncounty.org. Relay users should call (908) 862-7899.

**MOSTLY MUSIC** will be presented in concert Sunday at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 756 E. Broad St., Westfield. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$18 for senior citizens. For information, call (732) 762-6468.

**RALPH LITWIN AND THE TRIO WITH 1,000 NAMES** will be presented in a concert of acoustic folk music May 5 at 8 p.m. at the Gallery at the Arts Guild of Rahway, 1670 Irving St., Rahway. Tickets are \$8. For information, call (973) 381-7511.

**GOSPEL SINGER COOKIE PRICE-DRAYTON** will be presented in concert May 6 at 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Catholic Church, 2782 Vauxhall Road, Union. Donations are accepted for tickets; all proceeds will benefit the church's building fund. For information, call (908) 688-1385 or (888) 664-6697.

**THE SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT SERIES** at Keen University will present "An Evening of Primitives" May 6 at 8 p.m. in Wilkes Theater, Morris Avenue in Union. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$15 for senior citizens and \$10 for students. For information, call (908) 527-2337.

**PATTI LUPONE** will be presented in concert May 12 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway. Tickets are \$40, \$30 and \$80. For information, call (732) 499-2226.

## DANCE

**SUMMIT FOLK DANCERS** will meet Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the Connection in Summit, formerly the YWCA. Beginners are welcome, and no partner is necessary. Fee is \$2. For information, call (973) 487-8278.

## FESTIVALS

**SPRING FLING**, Westfield's sixth annual street fair, sponsored by the Westfield Chamber of Commerce, will take place Sunday, beginning at 11 a.m. and continuing through the day with entertainment events for the whole family. For information, call (908) 233-3021 or (908) 995-3038.

## FILM

**UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER** in Rahway concludes its Film Series Wednesday. The series concludes with:

**QUESTION OF EVOLUTION**, a watercolor by W.C. White, seeks to answer the age-old paradox, "Who came first?" It is among the works on view through Friday at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside as part of Child's Play exhibit. For information, see the "Art Shows" listing on this page.

**Bears**, ages 3 to 7 years old. May 13 and 14; "Snow White," ages 3 to 7 years old; and May 20 and 21; "Peter and the Wolf," ages 8 to 10 years old.

All performances are at 10 a.m. at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Brookside Drive in Millburn. Tickets are \$9 for orchestra seats, \$8 for mezzanine. For information, call (973) 376-4243 beginning Monday.

**UNION RECREATION** Department will sponsor weekly ceramics classes for children between the ages of 7 and 12 at the Recreation building, 1120 Commerce Ave., Union, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. For information, call (908) 464-8828.

## KIDS

**PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE** in Millburn will present a series of children's shows every weekend in April and May.

Saturday and Sunday: "Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping and Other Stories in a Story Salad," ages 5 to 10 years old. May 6 and 7; "Hansel and Gretel" and "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," ages 3 to 7 years old.

All performances are at 10 a.m. at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Brookside Drive in Millburn. Tickets are \$9 for orchestra seats, \$8 for mezzanine. For information, call (973) 376-4243 beginning Monday.

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## THEATER

**PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE** in Millburn will continue its 1999-2000 season with Sigmund Romberg's operetta "The Student Prince" through May 27. Audio-described performances are May 11, 13 and 14; sign-in-required performances are May 14 and 31; Single Night is May 18.

Evening performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 7:30 p.m. Matinees are Thursdays and Sundays at 2 p.m., and Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. The Paper Mill Playhouse is located on Brookside Drive in Millburn. For information and reservations, call (973) 376-4243; for groups of 20 or more, call (973) 379-3636, ext. 2438. Information is available online at www.papermill.org.

**FLYNN'S IRISH PUB & Steakhouse** in Rahway will present folk guitarist Markus Mattos every Wednesday at 10 p.m.

Flynn's Irish Pub is located at 1482 Main St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-4700.

**HILLTOP CAFE & GRILL** in Summit presents "From Broadway to the Silver Screen" every Sunday at 6 p.m., preceded by an all-you-can-eat dinner from 5 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$29.95 and reservations are required. The Hilltop Cafe & Grill is located at 447 Springfield Ave., Summit. For information, call (908) 277-0220.

**TAVERN IN THE PARK** in Roselle Park will present Teddie Hatak in "An Evening of Frank Sinatra" Saturday at 9 p.m. Tavern in the Park is located at 147 W. Westfield Ave., Roselle Park. For information, call (908) 241-7400.

**VAN GOGH'S EAR CAFE** in Union will present a series of musical events in the coming weeks. Tuesday nights are "Acoustic Tuesday," with open mike from 8 to 9 p.m. for folk singers, poets and comedians, followed by a featured folk performer. Jazz and blues are featured Sundays at 8 p.m. Cover charge is \$3 for all Sunday concerts.

Sunday: Joe Taino Trio  
May 7: Vince DiMura and the George Street Project  
May 14: Groove Apparatus  
May 21: Dave Hessel and Joe Knipes Quartet

May 28: Pam Purvis and Bob Ackerman  
Van Gogh's Ear is located at 1017 Stuyvesant Ave. in Union. For information, call (908) 810-1842.

**THE WAITING ROOM** in Rahway will present musical entertainment during the month of May.

May 6: Bad Antix  
May 13: Lazy Lightning  
May 20: Slow Burn

The Waiting Room is located at 1431 Irving St. in Rahway at the corner of Lewis Street. For information, call (732) 815-1042.

Crossroads is located at 78 North Ave. in Garwood. For information, call (908) 232-5666.

**EAT TO THE BEAT** Coffeehouse in Rahway will feature appearances by musical artists during April.

Sunday: Groove Apparatus, 8 p.m. Eat to the Beat Coffeehouse is located at 1465 Irving St. in Rahway at the corner of East Cherry Street. For information, or to sign up for Open Mike Night, call (732) 381-0505.

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## Local museum marks annual shearing event

On Sunday, the annual "Sheep-in-Shawl" festival will take place at the Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Ave. in Westfield from 1 to 5 p.m. under the direction of Patricia D'Angelo. The festival will take place rain or shine.

Visitors will have the opportunity to see the entire process of shearing sheep by master sheep shearer Jeremy Mills of Hamilton Square, using hand shears as was done in the 18th and 19th centuries. The steop will be provided by Beverly Elton of the 4-H Club of Somerset County. Also, visitors will see the production of woven cloth from woven fibers, which includes carding, spinning and weaving.

Children will be able to try their hands at various crafts. A bake sale will be held throughout the afternoon with a wide variety of homemade pies, cookies and cakes. Tasty treats will be available for visitors to enjoy in the Frazee Building. There is no fee for the "Sheep-in-Shawl" festival, however any donation to Miller-Cory to support the children's educational program will be gratefully appreciated.

On May 7, the Miller-Cory House Museum will celebrate May Day. The quaint museum gift shop offers a variety of educational materials, colonial reproductions and handicrafts, including cookbooks and colonial recipes prepared by the Miller-Cory cooks. For information about the museum and its calendar of events, call the museum office at (908) 232-2776 weekdays mornings from 9 a.m. to noon.

**PLAYHOUSE ASSOCIATION** of Summit will present "Enchanted April" by Jane Campbell Fridays and Saturdays, Friday through May 13. Performances are at 8 p.m., with a matinee at 2 p.m. May 7. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, students 18 years old and younger are \$10. The playhouse is located at 10 New England Ave., Summit. For information, call (908) 276-2192.

**CRANFORD DRAMATIC CLUB** will present "Lend Me a Tenor" by Ken Ludwig May 5 to 20. All performances are at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15. CDC is located at 78 Winans Ave. in Cranford. For information, call (908) 276-7811.

**ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE** will present "Of Human Bondage," adapted from W. Somerset Maugham's novel by playhouse co-founder Karen Sammons, May 12 to June 4. Shows are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. The playhouse is located at 1100 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. For information, call (908) 355-0077.

**WESTFIELD COMMUNITY PLAYERS** will present Lerner and Loewe's "Bingadood" Fridays and Saturdays, May 13 to June 10. All shows are at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15. WCP is located at 1000 North Ave., Westfield. For information, call (908) 232-1221.

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## VARIETY

**THE BACK PORCH** in Rahway will present Open Mike Night every Tuesday at 9 p.m. In addition, the following musicians will appear at the Back Porch in April:

Saturday — Devil in the Blues  
May 20 — Not in That Order  
May 20 — The Booglers

The Back Porch is located at 1505 Main St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-6455.

**CROSSROADS** in Garwood will present a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts.

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News-Record of Maplewood & South Orange  
West Orange Chronicle • East Orange Record  
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Nutley Journal • Belleville Post  
Irvington Herald • Vailsburg Leader  
The Independent Press of Bloomfield

### DEADLINES

Business Directory 4 PM Thursday  
Display - Space reservation 5 PM Friday  
Ad Copy 12 noon Monday  
In-column 3 PM Tuesday

### ADJUSTMENTS

Adjustments: We make every effort to avoid mistakes in your classified advertisement. Please check your ad each time it appears. Should an error occur please notify the classified department within seven days of publication. Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc. shall not be liable for errors or omissions in cost of actual space occupied by item in which error or omissions occurred. We can not be held liable for failure, for any cause, to insert an ad. Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc. reserves the right to reject, revise or reclassify any advertisement at any time.

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Children's clothing store South Orange  
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Must be proficient with MS Office and have  
excellent phone skills. Salary negotiable. Fax  
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**AIDS THERAPY** Full time position will train to  
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County seeks candidates for Elementary K-5  
Teachers, Special Education, Middle School  
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Send date of interest, current resume, NJ  
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**CLOTHING BIN Monitor** Extra cash for spare  
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Minimum 3000 practice seeks outgoing  
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# REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Real estate transactions are recorded in the office of the county clerk. *Worrald Newspapers publishes an abbreviated version of all transactions recorded in the 12 Union County municipalities the newspapers cover, using the recording date. The information is provided by TRW Property Data, a Folsom/Landeville, Fla., information service, and is published approximately six weeks after it is filed in the county clerk's office.*

**Clark**

Harold H. and Mary C. Schneider sold property at 600 W. Grand Ave. to Gene H. and Linda M. Simpson for \$265,000 on Oct. 30.

Patricia A. Binetti sold property at 85 Lupine Way to Bryan and Denise Barkus for \$163,000 on Oct. 11.

Edward T. Ward sold property at 60 Wheatfield Road to Daniel P. and Janine P. Ward for \$150,000 on Oct. 12.

David and Charlotte Shevick sold property at 37 Fairview Road to Joel and Marlene Gamo for \$440,000 on Oct. 15.

Christopher and Gina Fonti sold property at 7 Terry Lane to William and Gail Grzyk for \$130,000 on Oct. 21.

William J. and Mary L. Allen sold property at 1681 Raritan Road to Andrea Latavica for \$185,000 on Oct. 22.

Arkady and Fanya Shamis sold property at 54 Hutchinson St. to Gary Bloom for \$270,000 on Oct. 26.

George Sanguiliano sold property at 421 Valley Road to William Suvak for \$243,000 on Oct. 27.

Louis L. and Susan M. Batson sold property at 37 Coldever Road to Marley Tabares for \$179,000 on Oct. 28.

Henry A. and Patricia A. Kohler sold property at 92 Hall Drive to George and Silvia M. Villaverde for \$294,000 on Oct. 28.

Peter J. and Theresa M. Ginesi sold property at 144 Willow Way to Otto and Donna Ildron for \$285,000 on Oct. 28.

**Crantford**

Dorothy M. Ruskin sold property at 21 Monaghan Court to William K. and Lisa A. Pietucha for \$249,000 on Sept. 30.

Richard D. and Margaret C. Town-  
 sold property at 466 Orchard St., to  
 Jeffrey Bauman for \$282,000 on  
 Sept. 30.

Charles E. Stecher sold property at  
 116 Preston Ave., to Guiler P and  
 Paula S Ferreira for \$205,000 on Oct.  
 1.

Peter F. and Barbara J. Wagner sold  
 property at 220 Retford Ave., to  
 Richard E. and Julia B. Home for  
 \$229,000 on Oct. 8.

Anna Illing sold property at 9  
 Grove St., to C. and Loni Thuyet for  
 \$280,000 on Oct. 9.

Kevin and Nina Mickey sold prop-  
 erty at 14 Hillside Place to Marcus  
 and Judith Chandler for \$272,500 on  
 Oct. 13.

James M. and Margaret H. Cor-  
 coran sold property at 712 Orange  
 Ave., to Thomas R. and Jess  
 Vierschilling for \$190,000 on Oct. 23.

David J. and Carolyn T. Dorset  
 sold property at 718 South Avenue  
 West to Richard and Margaret Buon-  
 tempo for \$335,000 on Oct. 29.

**Hillside**

Marilyn A. Harrison sold property  
 at 428 Hollywood Ave., to Jeffrey  
 Saunders for \$110,000 on Sept. 29.

Joseph and Rose M. Cicalese sold  
 property at 1420 Boa Place to Devon  
 Higgins for \$142,000 on Sept. 30.

Federal Housing Commissioner  
 sold property at 1452 Parkview Ter-  
 race to Cynthia Alexander for  
 \$86,000 on Oct. 4.

Gerald and Mary Vecchio sold  
 property at 2 Gartfield Place to Emma  
 Dixon for \$140,000 on Oct. 12.

Jose A. Reis sold property at 189  
 Boston Ave. to Claudio Sande for  
 \$233,000 on Oct. 13.

Ronald Puorro sold property at  
 1005 Louisa St., to Bairrada Liberty  
 Construction Co. for \$40,000 on Oct.  
 15.

Kevin A. and Joyce Webb sold  
 property at 373 Sanford Ave., to  
 Amin Al-Khalil for \$149,000 on Oct.  
 15.

Ann M. Romano sold property at  
 352 Princeton Ave., to Armando and  
 Vivian M. Ferreira for \$50,000 on  
 Oct. 18.

Secretary of HUD sold property at  
 148 Frances Place to Norman Trent  
 for \$64,000 on Oct. 19.

Stella Jacobi sold property at 49  
 Mading Terrace to Ronald and Nora  
 on Oct. 26.

Wallraff for \$120,000 on Oct. 22.  
 Michael Zarubo sold property at  
 533 Harvard Ave., to Walter Dejar-  
 nette for \$75,000 on Oct. 25.

Clifford F. Goerdes sold property at  
 1167 Thomas St., to Michael Murphy  
 for \$119,500 on Oct. 28.

Francisco A. Delarosa sold property  
 at 561 Conant St., to George Pav-  
 lik for \$169,000 on Oct. 29.

**Kenilworth**

Bened Building Corp sold property  
 at 763 Union Ave. to Ahmed and  
 Katherine Abdel-Ghany for \$134,000  
 on Oct. 4.

William L. and Theresa Brog sold  
 property at 136 Coolidge Ave., to  
 Hauser S. Charles for \$135,000 on  
 Oct. 7.

Doris Finck sold property at 13 N.  
 23rd St., to Mirador Liagani for  
 \$145,000 on Oct. 28.

**Linden**

Clement Prusko sold property at 25  
 E. 10th St., to Clement Prusko for  
 \$42,000 on Oct. 4.

Giuseppe and Louisa Smeregilia  
 sold property at 546 Ziegler Ave., to  
 Vasco Cruz for \$124,000 on Oct. 4.

Rosdale and Rosehill Cemetery  
 sold property at 249A Broad St., to  
 Jose Tallafra for \$110,000 on Oct. 5.

Helen M. Martis sold property at  
 2521 Grier Ave., to Horacio E. and  
 Laura Parodi for \$110,000 on Oct. 6.

Mary Sleight sold property at 204  
 Buchanan St., to Darlene Jones for  
 \$110,000 on Oct. 11.

Ruth W. Owens sold property at  
 722 E. Blanche St., to Jose Flores for  
 \$140,000 on Oct. 12.

Rhonda Stevens sold property at  
 740 Cleveland Ave., to Florice Shel-  
 ton for \$85,000 on Oct. 14.

Sam P. and Dena Vasquez sold  
 property at 2614 Tremley Point  
 Road, to Rafael and Amy Nunez for  
 \$128,000 on Oct. 15.

Mary F. Savage sold property at 19  
 W. Gibbons St., to Andrea Hayek  
 for \$116,000 on Oct. 22.

Stanley and Vida Laurich sold  
 property at 837 Meacham Ave., to  
 Wilson and Olga Morales for  
 \$135,000 on Oct. 22.

Federal National Mortgage Asso-  
 ciation sold property at 2017 Dahl Ave.,  
 to Rhonda Moutine for \$120,000 on  
 Oct. 26.

George and Lorraine Lisa sold  
 property at 116 Berwood Ave., to  
 Dana Falco for \$166,000 on Oct. 26.

Alan and Christine Kochanski sold  
 property at 124 Springfield Road to  
 Luis and Marcia Papan for \$150,000  
 on Oct. 27.

William J. Hargan sold property  
 at 491 Wood Ave., to William Byrnes  
 for \$145,000 on Oct. 27.

Raymond J. and Patricia Androvich  
 sold property at 524 Monmouth  
 Ave., to Carlos and Alba Molina for  
 \$185,000 on Oct. 27.

Dora Delton sold property at 720  
 S. Park Ave., to Rodney J. and Boyd  
 A. Baptist for \$128,500 on Oct. 28.

Louis C. and Patricia Dabrowski  
 sold property at 413 Bachelor Ave.,  
 to Martha Negron for \$130,000 on  
 Oct. 28.

Joseph A. Gutowski sold property  
 at 1068 Elizabeth Ave., to Evidio  
 Salerno for \$155,000 on Oct. 29.

James and Linda Campanelli sold  
 property at 32 Yale Terrace to Adam  
 and Ewa Mickiewicz for \$185,000 on  
 Oct. 29.

**Mountainside**

Paul and Marci Crystal sold prop-  
 erty at 1639 Larkspur Drive to Harold  
 and Carol Hafz for \$450,000 on Sept.  
 28.

Andrew and Eonana P. Hunt sold  
 property at 1444 Forest Court to  
 Tatiana Komeyeva for \$480,000 on  
 Oct. 1.

Beneficial Mortgage Co. sold prop-  
 erty at 1381 Steeple Brook Lane to  
 Daniel E. and Sarah E. Clark for  
 \$270,000 on Oct. 19.

George and Joanne L. Hantzios  
 sold property at 1186 Blazo Terrace  
 to David and Eleanor Catalano for  
 \$320,000 on Oct. 27.

Richard D. Hewitt 1996 Trust sold  
 property at 319 Cherry Hill Road to  
 Lunhu and Yanjing S. Jiang for  
 \$328,500 on Oct. 27.

**Rahway**

James K. and Annette Hayes sold  
 property at 325 Cottage St., to Mich-  
 elle Slade for \$139,000 on Sept. 30.

Karen K. Wick sold property at 723  
 Bryant St., to Zoltan Fulop for  
 \$145,000 on Sept. 30.

Joseph F. and Deborah L. Holley  
 sold property at 990 Bryant St., to

Adrienna Washington for \$138,000  
 on Oct. 1.

Betty A. Truss sold property at  
 1284 Bryant St., to Nadine Copeland  
 for \$97,000 on Oct. 12.

Phillip Rowley sold property at  
 1106 Pierpont St., to Robert and  
 Mary J. Zuniga for \$134,900 on Oct.  
 12.

360 Milton Seawell Trust sold  
 property at 264 Harrison St., to Way-  
 ne C. and Bertie K. Dabney for  
 \$66,000 on Oct. 12.

Charles H. and Bette R. Johnson  
 sold property at 431 E. Milton Ave., to  
 Bridget and Couch Y. Buchanan  
 for \$85,000 on Oct. 13.

Charlene J. Marable sold property  
 at 1027 Jackson Ave., to Cherisse  
 Smith for \$104,000 on Oct. 15.

June N. Koldziejczyk sold prop-  
 erty at 2381 Hulick Place to Marie Col-  
 asanti for \$136,000 on Oct. 15.

Joseph and Patricia Cesumaria sold  
 property at 901 W. Lake Ave., to  
 Leonard Vanderstad for \$181,900 on  
 Oct. 15.

Joyce Twaskas sold property at 524  
 Alden Drive to Robert and Janice  
 Fowler for \$135,000 on Oct. 18.

Christopher A. and Denis Stigura

sold property at 806 Broad St., to  
 Willie E. and Darlene Grady for  
 \$126,000 on Oct. 20.

Doris H. Kurtz sold property at 710  
 W. Meadow Ave., to Charles L. and  
 Tistara K. Patric for \$155,000 on Oct.  
 20.

Helen Powell sold property at 879  
 E. Milton Ave., to Dennis Burney for  
 \$143,000 on Oct. 22.

Jose and Violeta Anchante sold  
 property at 1104 Fulton St., to Sher-  
 odd and Margaret Walton for \$129,900  
 on Oct. 25.

Ronald J. and Barbara A. Knox  
 sold property at 2096 Ludlow St., to  
 William F. and Sharon K. Graifer for  
 \$175,000 on Oct. 25.

John S. and Florence R. Curti sold  
 property at 1788 Church St., to Nel-  
 lie Kraviec for \$135,000 on Oct. 26.

Cassio Trust sold property at 883  
 Orchard St., to Barbara Wallace for  
 \$154,000 on Oct. 27.

Damon T. Oganido sold property at  
 774 Nicholas Place to Michael and  
 Layman C. Philpote for \$160,000 on  
 Oct. 27.

Darlene A. Zajkowski sold prop-  
 erty at 381 Raleigh Road to Pamela  
 Gedman for \$111,500 on Oct. 28.

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**ROSELLE AFFORDABLE COLONIAL**  
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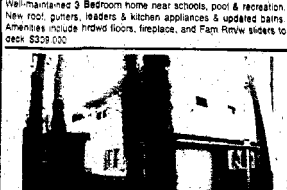
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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|---------------|------|------|------|
| 30 Year Fixed                                                         | 8.38 | 0.38 | 8.51 | 30 Year Fixed | 8.38 | 0.00 | 8.45 |
| 15 Year Fixed                                                         | 8.13 | 0.13 | 8.23 | 15 Year Fixed | 7.75 | 0.00 | 7.86 |
| 1 Yr ADJ                                                              | 8.00 | 0.13 | 8.11 | 1 Yr ADJ      | 6.50 | 0.00 | 6.55 |
| * 75% LTV required on all loans over \$120,700 - \$150,000 review the |      |      |      |               |      |      |      |
| <b>Commercial Bank</b> 800-967-4989                                   |      |      |      |               |      |      |      |
| 30 Yr Fixed                                                           | 8.38 | 0.00 | 8.40 | 30 Yr Fixed   | 8.13 | 0.00 | 8.13 |
| 15 Yr Fixed                                                           | 7.85 | 0.00 | 7.91 | 15 Yr Fixed   | 7.68 | 0.00 | 7.68 |
| 1 Yr ARM                                                              | 6.50 | 0.00 | 6.12 | 1 Yr ARM      | 6.25 | 0.38 | 6.35 |
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| <b>Commonwealth Bank</b> 800-631-9001                                 |      |      |      |               |      |      |      |
| 30 Yr Fixed                                                           | 8.00 | 0.00 | 8.05 | 30 Yr Fixed   | 8.25 | 0.00 | 8.32 |
| 15 Yr Fixed                                                           | 7.75 | 0.00 | 7.79 | 15 Yr Fixed   | 7.74 | 0.00 | 7.66 |
| 1 Yr ADJ                                                              | 6.50 | 0.00 | 6.12 | 1 Yr ADJ      | 7.84 | 0.00 | 8.29 |
| * 75% LTV required on all loans over \$120,700 - \$150,000 review the |      |      |      |               |      |      |      |
| <b>First Savings Bank</b> 800-337-9181                                |      |      |      |               |      |      |      |
| 30 Yr Fixed                                                           | 7.75 | 0.00 | 7.85 | 30 Yr Fixed   | 8.34 | 0.00 | 8.38 |
| 15 Yr Fixed                                                           | 7.58 | 0.00 | 7.68 | 15 Yr Fixed   | 7.68 | 0.00 | 7.68 |
| 1 Yr ADJ                                                              | 7.63 | 0.00 | 8.11 | 1 Yr ADJ      | 7.74 | 0.00 | 8.66 |
| * 75% LTV required on all loans over \$120,700 - \$150,000 review the |      |      |      |               |      |      |      |
| <b>Free Loan Options</b> 800-337-9181                                 |      |      |      |               |      |      |      |
| * 75% LTV required on all loans over \$120,700 - \$150,000 review the |      |      |      |               |      |      |      |

Rates compiled on April 20, 2000. NIP - Not provided by institution.

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# AUTOMOTIVE

## Automotive tradition continues at 100th annual NY Auto Show

By Walter Elliott  
Staff Writer

The 100th New York International Auto Show, currently held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center until Sunday, continues its tradition as the showcase of automotive innovation.

What started off as a 160-horseless carriage exhibition in the original Madison Square Garden has evolved into a 1,000-vehicle display. About 1.3 million visitors are expected to look at vehicles of almost every category since the show opened Saturday morning.

"The New York Auto Show started as a display among wealthy car owners," said show historian Gregg Merksamer. "In later years, it became the debut stage for cars like the 1936 Chrysler Airflow, the 1961 Jaguar XKE and the 1982 DeLorean."

The centennial edition, as galloped from the crop of new cars, is no different.

Acura unveiled the 2001 MDX Saturday. The MDX, the first sports utility vehicle built and designed in-house by the car maker, is built on a car frame and features a 3.2-liter V6 engine. It has been rated by the EPA for 17 miles per gallon in the city and 23 mpg in the country and is expected to sell at around \$35,000.

Audi joins the car-based SUV

category with its Allroad quattro. Based on the A6 sedan frame, the Allroad features an air suspension system which can automatically or manually adjust the vehicle's ride height. Power from a dual turbocharged 2.7-liter five-cylinder engine is delivered to each wheel by the rally and racing sedan series-developed quattro system.

Ducati's latest pride is found with 2000 LoSabic. The best-selling full-size car retains its 3.8-liter 3800 Series II V6 engine, but the revamped vehicle has General Motors' StabiliTrack traction control system as a standard feature. StabiliTrack incorporates sensors about the car which cue

a computer to slow or balance it during a skid.

Subaru Track is not to be confused with the Versarack system found Chevrolet's Venture minivan. Versarack is a full-time mechanical all-wheel-drive linked by a central viscous coupling. The coupling, similar in design to an automatic transmission's torque converter, delivers the proper amount of power to the wheels while allowing for a flat passenger compartment floor.

Ford debuted its 2001 Escape and plans on delivering the all-new SUV this summer. The Escape, which attempts to meld a spacious interior within a car-sized chassis, is powered by a 5.0 Electronic Fuel Injection V8.

It has been rated to get 27 mpg by the EPA and is to sell between \$18,000-\$24,000.

Honda brought its 2000 gasoline-electric Insight and news that it is sending 6,500 of the hybrid cars to electric 1,500 of the hybrid cars to electric motor whose nickel-hydrate battery pack is recharged by a three-cylinder, one-liter engine. The Insight gets between 61 and 70 mpg, but is currently available with a manual transmission.

Infiniti brought out its third-generation Q45 luxury sedan. The 2002 edition is powered by a new 4.5-liter V-8 engine, developing 340 horsepower — a 20-percent increase over the current model.

Lexus showed off its first convertible, the SC 340. Based on the LS 430, the SC 340 has a pushbutton retractable hardtop. The 4.3-liter V8-powered car is to be in showrooms next spring.

Lincoln-Mercury brought its Carrier L and Mountaineer to the show. The Carrier L is a long-wheelbase version of its Town Car while the Mountaineer is a cleanly produced car-sized SUV.

Mazda goes the old-new route with its 2001 Millennia. The restyled sports luxury car it powered by the Miller cycle engine, the common four-stroke-cycle engine whose extra compression boosts power while retaining fuel economy.

A truck Nissan did not bring made news at the show. The car maker said it will be developing a full-size truck for North America by 2003.

Subaru is also catering to the U.S. market by introducing its first flat-bed engines. The engines are found in the 2001 Outback Wagon.

Volkswagen displayed a Dune version of its New Beetle. A concept vehicle powered by a V5 engine, it falls in Europe made to the Audi quattro drivetrain.

Volvo presented its new Cross Country wagon. The lower, wider chassis houses an all-wheel-drive system activated by traction and weather-reading sensors.

The auto show is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Sunday. Adult admission is \$9, and \$5 for children 12 years old and younger.

## Mercedes combines luxury with an entertaining touch

By Mark Maynard  
Copy News Service

Talk about radical changes in car design.

The Mercedes-Benz 2000 S-Class sedan has gone California — and never has flagship luxury been so entertaining.

The S-Class is the largest Mercedes sedan — has been since the line began in 1951 — and the preceding five generations of S-Class have all been state-of-the-art prestige. They were a collective body of formal luxury with a broadening, squared-shouldered air of capability and intimidation.

The sixth-generation S is the breakthrough car — pure S-Class but with an easy-driving personality that replaces that old Teutonic seriousness.

Despite the predecessors' pin-stripe formality, the big Benz was a favorite to customize with low-profile tires, dark windows and sleek body treatments.

Personalization of their car is a signature of many S-Class owners, and Mercedes-Benz has given them a fine canvas for their creativity.

To begin with the new millennium, there are two models of 2000 S-Class, both on a long wheelbase, steel unitbody for maximum rear-seat leg room:

- \* The 275-hp, 4.3-liter V-8 S430 has a starting price of \$70,295.
- \* The 302-hp, 5.0-liter S500 is \$78,445. A 1.2-cylinder model isn't expected for at least a year.

Both models are quite complete as equipped, but it is the S500 that carries the most personality, performance and standard features:

- \* It is 2 inches shorter than its predecessor, 1.5 inches narrower and lower, and 500 pounds lighter. Inside, there is 1.5 inches more leg room and more head room.
- \* The profile is rounder, lower and sleeker with a remarkable 0.27 coefficient of drag — down from 0.32 and even slicker than the Corvette's 0.29.
- \* The shape disguises the size, but the car feels smaller and less vault-like than before. There also is 2 1/2 to 3 inches less shoulder room front and back, which will be better for some and disappointing to others.
- \* What it gives up in width, it gives back in the driving experience.
- \* The 2000 S has steered from the private lounge or office-on-wheels to a driver's car. The responsive touch to the accelerator, brakes and 5-speed SportShift transmission are all turned to feed driver interaction.

The extra horsepower of the S500 is easily appreciated and, somehow, this more expensive model felt more substantial on the road than the S430.

With its versatile shift-stick capability, you can gear down on the approach of a curve and feel the suspension respond with athletic finesse. The old car carried more ballast and wasn't as lively in the corners.

The shift points are accurate and little in the transitions.

Acceleration is formidable for a car that weighs more than two tons. The S430 will do 0-60 mph in 6.9 seconds; the S500 in 6.1.

Fuel economy is 17/24 city/highway for the S430 and 16/23 for the S500 and both pass low-emission qualifications.

The mass of this car, which is nearly 17 feet long, is also well disguised in the way it handles potholes and steep entryways without a scrape or rebound. The turning circle — 38.4 feet — also was tightened by 2.6 feet, which adds nimbleness in crowded parking lots.

As with most Mercedes-Benz cars, there is a low shoulder to the body sides so the driver and passengers have the perception of riding high, which is enhanced by a lot of glass. The interior feels open and visibility is excellent all around for the driver and passengers.

There only were a few things I didn't like about the new design:

- \* The digital readout in the instrument panel for the gear selector should be in the center of the gauge pod, not down in the right corner. For drivers who really use the SportShift feature, it helps to know the gear at a glance because engine noise is so well subdued. Until the V-8 gets wound out, it is hard to sense if the engine is overrevving.
- \* The 16-inch tires and aluminum wheels look small in contrast to the body. Also, the Goodyear LS tires on one test car felt softer and not up to the performance of the S500, but the Continental on another test car were a better match.
- \* The computer-like selection system or climate, audio and navigation adjustment will require a little extra attention to learn. It took me most of a week before I could make adjustments without taking my eyes from the road.
- \* For all its technical advancements, it should have a single in-dash CD player and not just the option for a CD changer.
- \* The divided front center console/armrest makes the armrest unusable for the passenger when the driver is enjoying a cup of coffee, and the cup holder design looks a little shabby, too.
- \* No Auto, thankfully, it can't carry a sheet of plywood, or I might consider buying one.

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**Bill Van Sant, Editor**  
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