

Town Bank of Westfield Receives Permission to Begin Raising Capital

Westfield's first locally owned, independent commercial bank in over 70 years took another step toward realization when New Jersey Deputy Commissioner of Banking John M. Traier granted permission for The Town Bank of Westfield, currently in organization, to begin public fundraising.

By law, new banks in New Jersey are required to be capitalized at a minimum of \$5 million, according to Paul C. Mesches, a spokesman for the new bank.

The organizers and officers have already committed over \$2 million toward this goal.

In addition, the organizers are now authorized to complete other requirements for full state charter approval. This entails securing FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation), constructing a building, and assembling a senior staff acceptable to regulators.

Frank N. Goffreda will serve as President and Chief Executive Officer of the proposed Town Bank. Mr. Goffreda, who has served the Westfield banking community for many years, said he is pleased with the progress of the charter application.

"This is an exciting time for us and for the community," he said. "We expect to fill a deep void in Westfield's banking needs."

"The bank we envision will provide the kind of personal service once known to most communities, but largely lost over time as banks consolidated and interstate branch banking became the norm," Mr. Goffreda continued.

"We will provide the full range of commercial bank services to residents, professionals and small businesses," he said.

Ronald J. Frigerio, a local insurance executive and former Westfield Mayor, will serve as Chairman of the interim board.

"We will provide a level of service to residents and small- to mid-sized

businesses that money center banks have not provided. As bigger banks become more globally-oriented, they just don't have time for the local residents and businesses that are the cornerstones of our communities," he remarked.

"It is time for the communities to be better served," said Mr. Frigerio.

Mr. Frigerio went on to add that the organizers of The Town Bank all have strong ties to Westfield.

"The 16 men and women founders of the proposed bank all live or work in the immediate area. All of us have served in one (banking) capacity or another, and the bank has made 'giving back to the community' a high priority," he explained.

Mr. Goffreda indicated that the Town Bank plans to staff itself, where possible, with local residents at all levels, ensuring that officers and staff members have a "sound understanding" of the business and consumer environments.

"There are a number of local people who have been in this industry long enough to remember the friendlier banking environment that once thrived in Westfield," he said. "Many of these people want to return to that environment at the hometown level."

Although the Deputy Commissioner's permission allows The Town Bank to secure capital in the public markets, both Mr. Frigerio and Mr. Goffreda were quick to point out their intention is to raise capital locally.

"The local response has been resoundingly positive," according to Mr. Goffreda.

"The organizers have taken a position that we want to include as many people as possible in our investor base. To ensure broad participation, shares will be offered at a minimum purchase of \$5,000, with the maximum purchase of \$100,000," Mr. Goffreda said.

"We feel that good investors make good customers and that makes for a

better bank," he added.

The proposed bank is scheduled to open sometime in the first half of 1998. In the interim, final capital-raising activities will be balanced by efforts to satisfy other regulatory banking requirements, bank officials explained.

Plans for renovating the bank's office space at 520 South Avenue, home of the former Plaster Palace, have received preliminary approval from the Westfield Planning Board, and construction is expected to begin in December.

Until renovations are completed, Mr. Goffreda said he will work out of temporary space at 115 Grove Street. Both he and Mr. Frigerio can be reached by calling (908) 301-0800, or by Fax at (908) 301-0894.

County Seeks Nominees For Commendations Related to Preservation

The Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Department of Economic Development, is accepting nominations for the annual Historic Preservation Commendations to be awarded in 1998.

Commendations are awarded in six categories which include building preservation or restoration, continuing use, adaptive use and preservation of a structure, object or site. Preservation education and leadership achievements are also recognized.

The annual historic preservation awards are sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board. The Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs administers the program.

The Historic Sites Committee, comprised of professionals and laymen in historic preservation and related fields, reviews the nominations, and the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board makes recommendations to the Freeholder board. The commendations are awarded at a public ceremony in late winter of each year.

Nominations are solicited from the public. Although the nominated projects must be in Union County, it is not necessary to reside in the county to propose a candidate.

Nominations must be submitted by Friday, December 19. Application forms are now available at the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 24-52 Rahway Avenue, Fourth Floor, Elizabeth, 07202.

For further information, please call (908) 558-2550 or (800) 852-7899 (TT Relay Service).



HONORED FOR SERVICE... Union County officials recently paid tribute to 65 employees with 25 to 40 years of service. Pictured, left to right, are Louis DeVico of Scotch Plains, Motor Vehicles Director, Department of Administrative Services, 35 years; Lillie M. Brown of Roselle, Social Work Supervisor, Department of Human Services, 35 years; Freeholder Carol I. Cohen, Marie Oakie of Hillside, Freeholders Secretary, a 35-year employee; Freeholder Chairwoman Linda d. Stender; William Gallman, Jr. of Roselle, Park Maintenance Director, Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Operational Services, and County Manager Michael Lapolla.

Local Residents Recognized For Long Service to County

Union County recently honored 65 employees with 25 to 40 years of service at the semi-annual Union County Employee Service Recognition Program held at the County Administration Building in Elizabeth.

Among those honored were Louis R. DeVico of Scotch Plains, Motor Vehicles Director, Department of Administrative Services, with 35 years; Wendy E. Donaldson of Westfield, a building maintenance worker at Rumlens Specialized Hospital, with 25 years, and Thomas Karamus of Mountainside, head of the Division of Weights and Measures for the Department of Public Safety, also with 25 years.

"On behalf of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, I am pleased to congratulate these employees today, and commend them for their long-term dedication to Union County government," said Freeholder Chairman Linda d.

Stender at the event.

"Although this is their day, it provides the opportunity to recognize the commitment and hard work of all county government employees on a daily basis," she added.

The employees were treated to a breakfast catered by Food Service of Rumlens Specialized Hospital of Union County, and as a bonus were also given the rest of the day off by County Manager Michael Lapolla.

"The employee service reception provided us an opportunity to pause and acknowledge the loyal service of our employees," said Mr. Lapolla.

"It was a pleasure to honor those persons who have contributed to making Union County a great place to work and live," he continued. "I recognize their contributions throughout the years as an important part of what makes this a great county."

Teen Arts Touring Exhibit Continues Through Dec. 30

The Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Department of Economic Development, has announced that the Elizabeth Public Library, at 11 South Broad Street, will host the Union County Teen Arts Touring Exhibit through Tuesday, December 30.

The exhibit consists of 26 pieces of art selected from the 513 visual art works shown at the 1997 Union County Teen Arts Festival, which was held in March at Union County College.

Students from 47 schools throughout the county participate in this annual event, which is coordinated by the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Linda d. Stender, Chairwoman of the Union County Board of Chosen Free-

holders and Liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board stated, "The county is very pleased to recognize these student artists and to give the community an opportunity to experience the excellence of the work being done in our schools."

The event is open to the public. For assistive services or more information about the touring exhibit or the annual festival, which will take place again on Wednesday and Thursday, March 18 and 19, please contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 24-52 Rahway Avenue, Elizabeth, 07202 or call (908) 558-2550; Relay Service Users are asked to call (800) 852-7899.

Cable TV Show for Seniors to Feature Older Women's League

"Vintage Views," Union County's cable television program for seniors, will review during December the work being done by the Older Women's League (OWL) to encourage women to enjoy their future, even in old age, by taking charge of the present.

"OWL is a national grassroots organization dedicated to improving the lives of middle-aged and older women through research, advocacy and education of the public and policy makers about their needs and concerns," said Freeholder Edwin Force, Liaison to the Advisory Council on Aging.

The show's host, Lou Coviello, will interview Teresa D'Errico, OWL President, and Miriam Dickman, OWL Vice President, on how women — of all ages — have been misrepresented as dependent in our society, but are competent, forward-looking achievers who can reach their goals.

"Vintage Views" is made possible through the facilities and technical direction of the TKR Cable Co., and is available throughout Union County.

The show will be aired locally on Comcast Cable, Channel 57, on Thursdays beginning at 7 p.m.

For more information about "Vintage Views" or comments on programming, please call Mr. Coviello at (908) 527-4872.

Volunteers Are Sought To Become Tax Preparers

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RASVP) of Catholic Community Services in Union County is in the process of recruiting volunteers to be trained as Income Tax Preparers for the 1997 tax season.

Experience is not necessary. Volunteers will be trained by Internal Revenue Services and the New Jersey State Division of Taxation.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program is a free program to assist low income, handicapped or disabled individuals complete their income tax forms. Training will take place Tuesday through Friday, January 13 through 16, at 505 South Avenue in Cranford.

To register for the training class or for more information, please call Catholic Community Services, (908) 709-2152.

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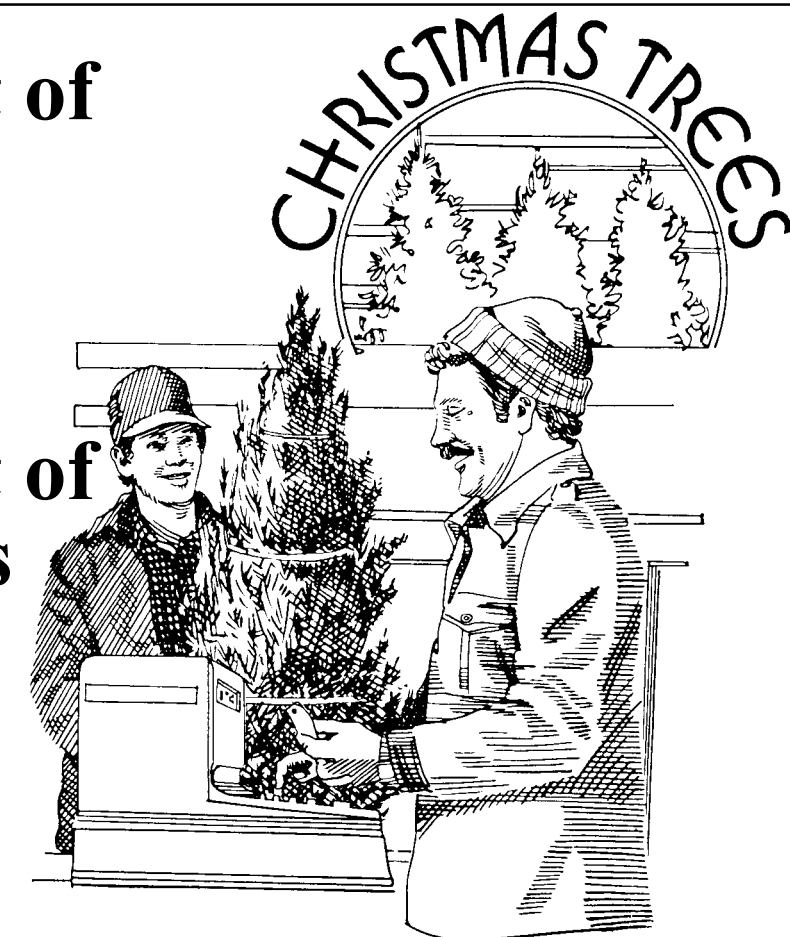
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The Spirit of Y's Men's Trees

The Spirit of Christmas Present



The tree you trim this Christmas could send a boy to camp next Summer or provide him with a scholarship enabling him to learn to swim or play soccer, basketball or tennis. It could serve a hot meal to an elderly person, or mean financial aid to tots at a day care center. That's the Westfield Y's Men's gift to the community - a tree sale that truly embodies the spirit of Christmas giving. Since 1947, more than \$800,000 has been raised for Contact-We-Care, the Diabetes Association, Children's Specialized Hospital, YMCA of Westfield, Camp Speers Eljabar YMCA, Frost Valley YMCA, and many others.



A selection of 2,900 Balsams, Fraser Firs, Scotch Pines and Douglas Firs trucked in from Nova Scotia, Pennsylvania and Michigan are reasonably priced, depending on size, shape and quality. We also have wreaths and garlands.

Every dollar of the proceeds goes to youth and community service

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Czech-American Ancestry Topic for Geneologists Group

Frederick W. Bollinger, of Westfield, will speak at the next regular meeting of The Genealogical Society of the West Fields on Thursday, December 11, at 1 p.m. in the Program Room of the Westfield Memorial Library.

During his talk, "Czech-American Ancestry," Mr. Bollinger will describe his successful search, finding maternal Czech relatives and ancestors. In previous appearances, his paternal German and Luxembourgian parentage was recounted.

Since his retirement from Merck Company, Inc., 10 years ago, Mr. Bollinger has been working on his family tree. He regards this hobby as problem-solving, sort of an extension of what he did as a Senior Chemist at Merck.

Mr. Bollinger was born in Tyndall, South Dakota, the grandson of immigrants and son of parents both born in Dakota Territory.

He graduated from the University of South Dakota and its RTOC course. Further graduate studies were interrupted by World War II. After his release from the Army Air Force, Mr. Bollinger completed his graduate training at Illinois Institute of Technology, where he received a Doctorate Degree in Chemistry. About the time Merck was

getting ready to manufacture cortisone, he was hired and he and his family moved to New Jersey.

He is President of the Genealogical Society of the West Fields, member of the Adult Education Committee, advisor to a Parkinson Support Group, teacher leader of the Triangle Bible Class and member of Monday Morn-

Frederick W. Bollinger

ing Craftsmen of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

The public is welcome to attend the meeting at no charge. Refreshments will be served. Additional details about this meeting, or the Genealogical Society of the West Fields, may be obtained by calling Mr. Bollinger at (908) 232-6419.

Westfield WAM Gift Coin Makes the Perfect Present

Searching for the perfect gift for or family member, friend, or colleague? Looking for an upscale alternative that suits every size, taste and appetite? Why not give a WAM Gift Coin, a universal gift certificate valued at participating merchants, restaurants and businesses throughout downtown Westfield?

The WAM Coin is a specially minted

Irritable Bowel Group Will Meet Tomorrow

The monthly meeting of the support group for individuals with Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) will be held tomorrow, Friday, December 5, from 7 to 8 p.m., at Overlook Hospital, Conference Room No. 1, in Summit.

Current information on IBS will also be available. The group is free and parking in the Overlook Hospital garage is also free to group members. For more information, please call the New Jersey Self-Help Clearing House at (800)367-6274.

coin valued at \$25. It was first introduced several years ago by the Westfield Association of Merchants as a unique, town-wide gift certificate.

This year, the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Westfield Corporation (WDC), the governing body for the town's Special Improvement District, are joining forces to reintroduce the coin in time for the 1997 holiday shopping season.

The coins are cast in hefty bronze and individually numbered. Each is attractively packaged with a downtown directory for convenient gift-giving. The coins are redeemable at all participating businesses and there is no expiration date on their use.

WAM Coins may be purchased for \$25 each at the DWC office, 125 Elm Street; the Chamber office at 111 Quimby Street; Summit Bank at 173 Elm Street, or through participating businesses.

For more information, please call the DWC at (908) 789-9444.

A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL...Students from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America listen as Kathy Marvel of Chubb & Son, Inc. discusses technology's impact on global commerce, following a teleconference between the company's London and Warren offices.

FBLA Chapter Gets Look At Business on Global Level

Thirty-one students from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) recently received a firsthand lesson in international commerce when they attended a day-long forum on "Doing Business in a Global Environment."

Sponsored by members of Warren-based Chubb & Son Inc.'s Information Technology Women's Council (ITWC), the day's activities included a video conference with the company's London branch office.

"We wanted to give participants a sense of how integrated and cohesive the worldwide business efforts of multinational corporations are," ITWC member Kathy Marvel said.

Other lessons included role-playing exercises intended to teach the

importance of recognizing and properly addressing cultural differences that could otherwise be a barrier to doing business abroad; addressing the technical and financial challenges associated with carrying out commerce in multiple time zones, currencies and languages, and overcoming the ever-changing regulatory environments of nations around the globe.

Students will incorporate what they've learned from the forum into a presentation the chapter is developing for its annual statewide FBLA competition.

The regional finals for that event will be held on Saturday, January 17, 1998 at Mercer County Community College. The state finals will follow at the Seasons Resort Conference Center in Great Gorge on Thursday and Friday, March 12 and 13.

With the help of its ITWC advisors, the Scotch Plains Fanwood FBLA Chapter has placed in the state finals for two consecutive years, according to a spokeswoman for Chubb & Son, Inc.

SP-FHS Music Groups To Perform Dec. 13th

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Music Department has announced that three of its instrumental groups will perform at the Woodbridge Mall on Saturday, December 13.

The Percussion Ensemble, led by Director Joseph Reo, will take the stage at 5 p.m. followed by the Clarinet Choir, directed by Vincent Turturiello, and the Brass Ensemble, led by Durand Thomas.

The performance will be held on the first floor by the Carousel. Admission is free and all persons are encouraged to attend.

Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA Kicks Off Its 50th Anniversary

Clowns, balloons, a Fun Run and a rededication ceremony were just some of the events enjoyed by attendees of the 50th anniversary kick-off celebration held at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA.

The day of fun, food and health began with a 5K Fun Run through the streets of Scotch Plains. Runners and walkers kept a brisk pace, with Patrick Scanlon crossing the finish line first.

A rededication ceremony, led by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Marching Band, followed the 5K Run.

State Senate Donald T. DiFrancesco of Scotch Plains, Congressman Bob Franks, Assemblymen Alan M. Augustine of Scotch Plains, Richard H. Bagger of Westfield, Scotch Plains Mayor Irene T. Schmidt and Fanwood Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly, as well as Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA Board President Ann Flynn all participated in the ceremony.

A presentation was made by Congressman Franks of a flag that was flown over the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

Following the ceremony, a day of merriment and health screenings was held for all ages. Children enjoyed a gymnastics obstacle course, spin art, a ball crawl, electronic football and basketball, as well as face painting by Happy the Clown.

Health clinics included blood pressure screening, pulmonary testing and hearing testing. Fingerprinting, DARE (Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education) presentations and the K-9 Unit from the Union County Sheriff's Office provided safety information to all.

An open swim, refreshments and live music performed by John LaGreca added to the day's fun.

The YMCA will commemorate its golden anniversary with a year of special events and activities, celebrating community spirit since 1947.

A 50th Anniversary Dinner-Dance will be held on Tuesday, February 6, at the Plainfield Country Club to mark

the anniversary.

The winner of a year-long raffle for a Jeep Cherokee Sport will be announced at closing ceremonies, scheduled for September 12. Raffle tickets, limited to 1,000, cost \$50 each and are available by calling the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA at (908) 889-8880.

A.T.D. Dancers Slated To Give Performance At Winter Concert

The national award-winning A.T.D. Dancers will be this year's guest artists for the Westfield Dance Company's (WDC) Winter Concert, "Santa's Workshop."

The concert will be held on Saturday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m. at Edison Intermediate School, located at 800 Rahway Avenue in Westfield.

The A.T.D. Dancers have performed at Giants Stadium during the New York Giants halftime, Continental Arena at the Meadowlands, Great Adventure and elsewhere throughout New Jersey.

The A.T.D. Dancers have also performed in Rome, Florence, and Maori, Italy, and were invited to represent the United States in performing in the opening ceremonies of the 1994 Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The concert is free to the public. Limited seating is available, so reservations are a must. For reservations or further information, please call (908) 789-3011.

Pvt. Smith Graduates Army Basic Training

Army Private Andrae R.R. Smith has graduated from basic military training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina.

During the training, Private Smith received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid and United States Army history and traditions.

Private Smith is the nephew of Helynn T. Smith of Scotch Plains, and is a 1997 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

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 But Too Many Cars Seen as Trouble**
 By Louis H. Clark

HUNG UP!!
**Attorney Can Help Protect
 Afflicted Mother's Assets**
 By Milt Faith, Executive Director
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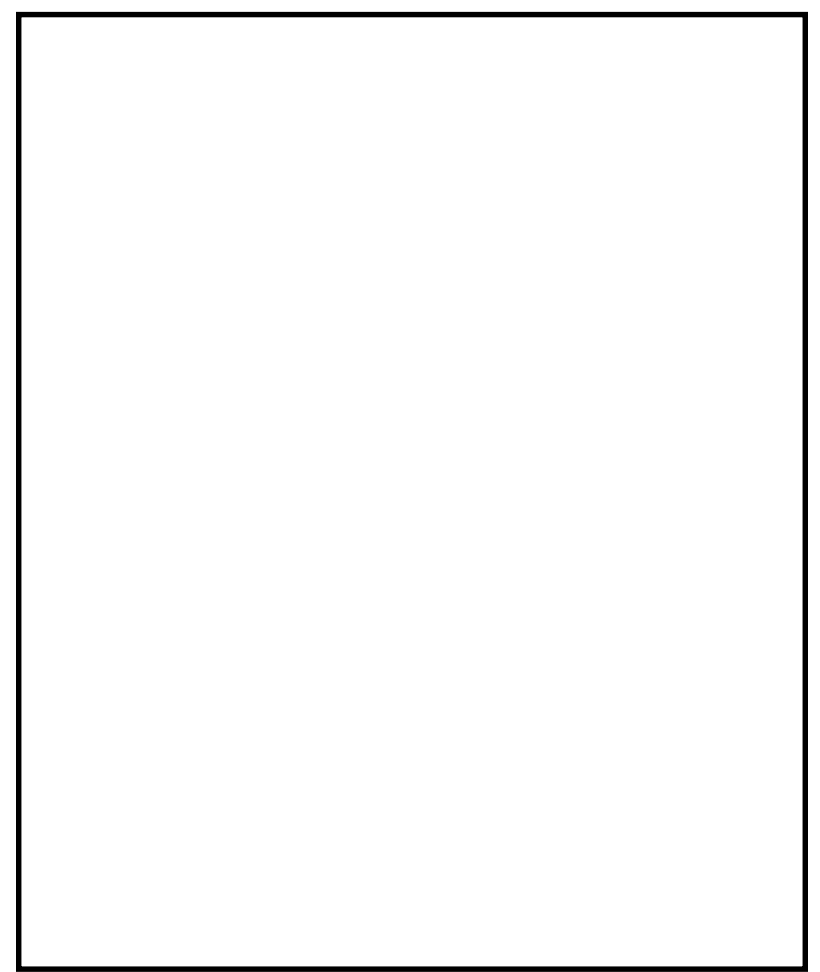
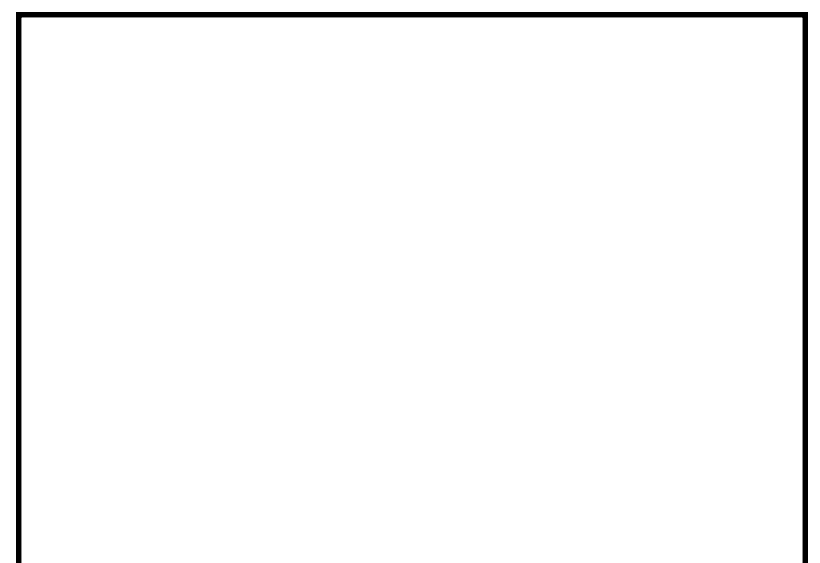
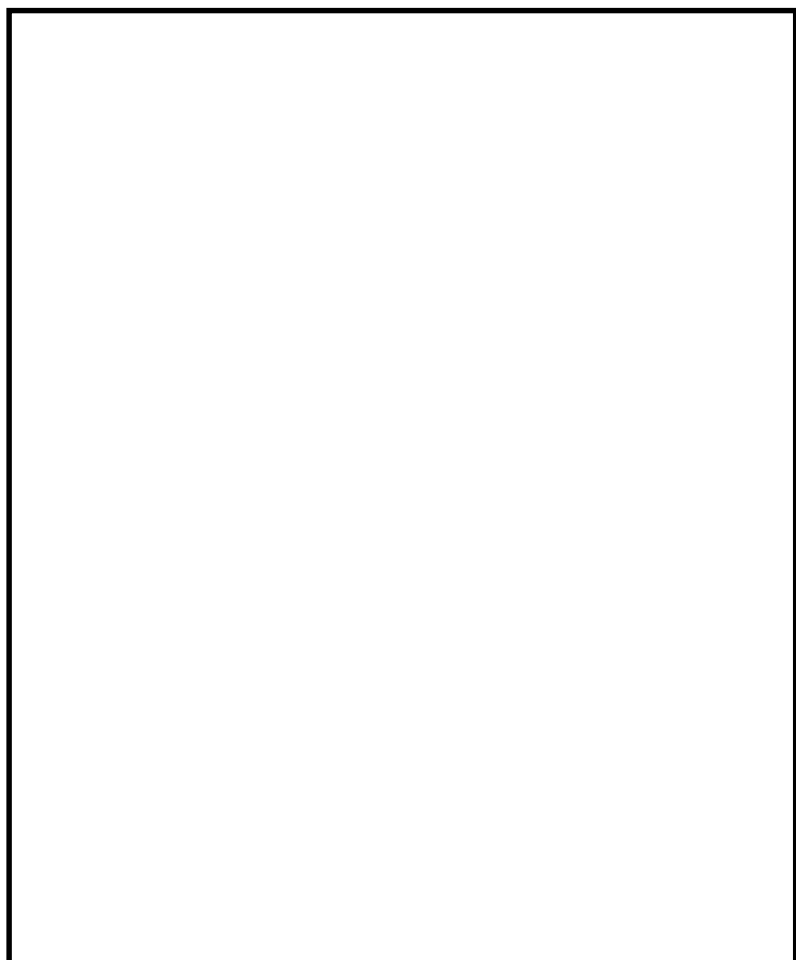
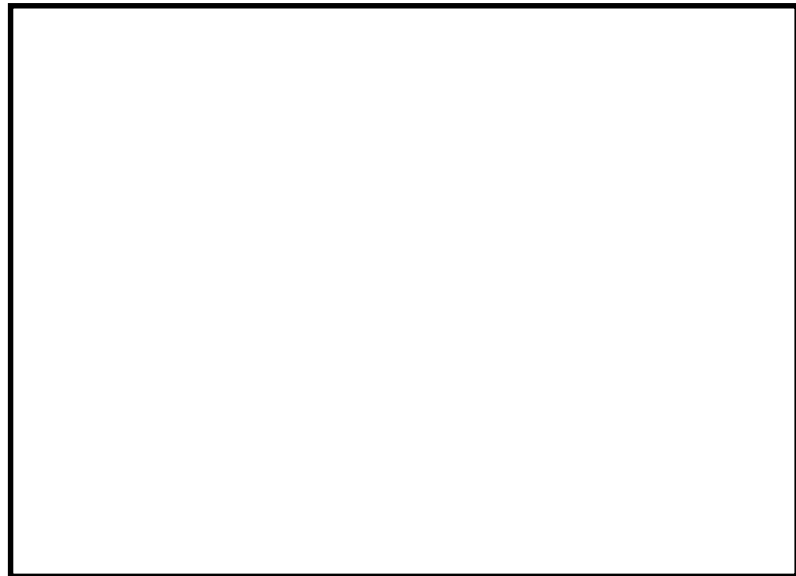
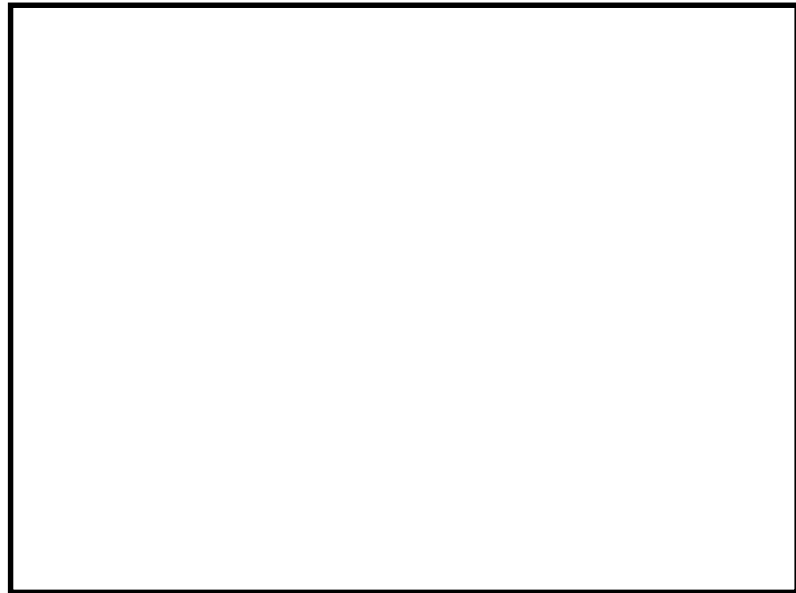
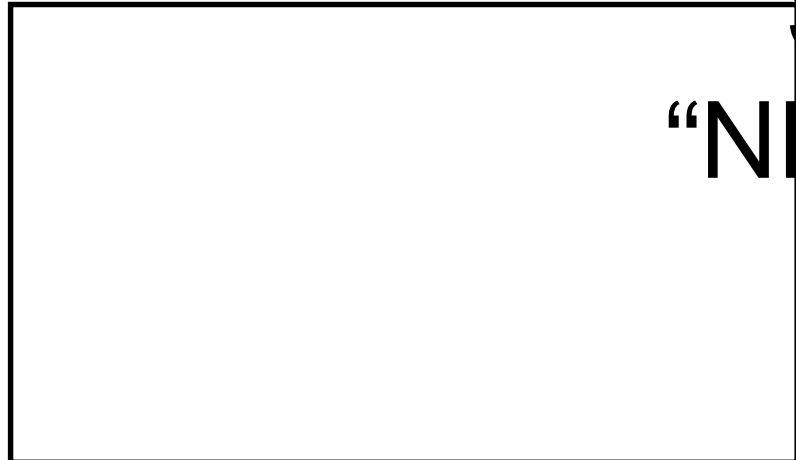
Letters to the Editor

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 TO THE EDITOR**
 All letters to the Editor must bear a signature, a street address and a daytime telephone number so authors may be verified. Letters that are E-mailed to the Editor also must contain a daytime telephone number. Our E-mail address is "press@goleader.com."
 Letters may be no longer than one-and-a-half pages, typewritten and double-spaced. Letters must be typed upper and lower case. All letters are subject to editing due to space limitations and style.
 The deadline for letters is Friday by 4 p.m., if they are to appear in the following issue.

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Welcome Home to Westfield Celebration Begins Saturday

This weekend marks the start of "Welcome Home to Westfield," the fifth annual holiday celebration sponsored by Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC), the governing body for the town's Special Improvement District, and the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

The month-long promotion features a full schedule of seasonal music and events highlighting downtown Westfield as a premier holiday shopping and entertainment destination.

This Saturday, December 6, a petting zoo and traditional horse-drawn wagon, sponsored by Magnetic Resonance of New Jersey-Open MRI of Westfield, will be featured at the South Avenue train station from noon to 3 p.m. Rides will cost \$3 per person and children should be accompanied by an adult.

Festivities continue on Sunday, December 7, with Moto Photo Portrait Studio offering photos with Santa from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each child will receive a free 5x7 photo with Santa with the donation of two cans of non-perishable food for the Westfield Food Pantry.

Also this Sunday, the Jolly Trolley

restaurant and the Chamber of Commerce will once again sponsor free trolley rides throughout the downtown from noon to 4 p.m. The trolley will depart from Prospect Street near North Avenue.

Holiday music will abound throughout "Welcome Home to Westfield," beginning this Saturday with the "Friends in Harmony" Barbershop Quartet performing holiday and barbershop classics from 1 to 2 p.m. at the corner of East Broad and Elm Streets. The rain date is Sunday, December 7.

In addition, every Saturday afternoon throughout the month, the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts will open its doors at 150 East Broad Street for free concerts by its Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Band from 2 to 5:30 p.m.

Strolling musicians and an aliphorn performer will also make spontaneous appearances to mark the season.

New this year for the "Welcome Home to Westfield" festivities are lighted seasonal wreaths and banners decorating streetlights throughout the central business district, a project of the DWC.

Local businesses are being encouraged to join in on the seasonal theme with a window display contest sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, December 9.

"Welcome Home to Westfield" events will continue next weekend, Saturday and Sunday, December 13 and 14, with wagon rides at the North Avenue train station and in-store performances by student musicians from the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts at shops throughout town.

The festivities culminate on Saturday and Sunday, December 20 and 21, with a performance by the Watson Highlanders bagpipe ensemble and the annual ice sculpting contest.

For a complete calendar of holiday happenings throughout Westfield, please call the DWC at (908) 789-9444 or the Chamber at (908) 233-3021.

OPENING WEEKEND...*Jack and the Beanstalk* opens for two weekends this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 5, 6 and 7, at the Cranford Dramatic Club. Pictured at the "Beanstalk" are Joe Zanko as Jack and Joanne Geschickter, who portrays the Singing Harp.

Jack and the Beanstalk Opens Tomorrow at CDC

The all musical and dancing production of *Jack and the Beanstalk* opens this weekend at the Cranford Dramatic Club (CDC).

This award winning show was originally presented by the children's

troupe, the Prince Street Players of New York City, and was given the Emmy Award for television excellence in 1966.

Co-Director Arlene Wachstein said, "Our cast of 13 talented singers and dancers along with some of the most fabulous sets created for local children's theater make *Jack and the Beanstalk* a show not to be missed."

"Our Musical Director, Anjanette Viliante, and our Choreographer, Mary Brunton-Webb, have merged the voices and dance into one cohesive play," commented Ms. Wachstein.

Director Ken Rosenblum related that the Costumer, Cathy Cohane, has played a big part in creating a mood for this show.

"The costumes draw the audience into the setting of Jack's house, Giant land, and the Giant's castle. All the elements for a top notch children's show are in place," said Ms. Rosenblum.

Featured in *Jack and The Beanstalk* are Joe Zanko as Jack, with Carl Barber-Steele playing the Giant. Melissa Loderstedt is Jack's Mother, Mrs. Sprague, while Rich Sibello portrays the Baron.

Sandra Howard is the Giant's Housekeeper and Terry Blackburn plays his Assistant. The Golden Harp will be portrayed by Joanne Geschickter and Cheryl Federico is the Golden Goose that lays the golden eggs.

The parts of the Beanspeople will be acted by Madge Wittle, Kevin Kessler, Amanda Wray and Madeline Skillman.

Jack and the Beanstalk is staged managed by Elliot Lanes, with properties by Susan Wray. Set construction comes via Woody Sliker, Dick Chandler and Carl Peterson. Producing *Jack* are Elizabeth Howard and Melissa Loderstedt.

Jack and the Beanstalk will be presented for two weekends and opens this Friday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m. There will be two shows each on Saturday, December 6, and Sunday, December 7, at 1:30 and 4 p.m. *Jack* will continue the following weekend on Friday and Saturday, December 12 and 13, and Sunday, December 14, at the same times.

Tickets for *Jack and the Beanstalk* cost \$5 for children and seniors and \$7 for adults. Tickets may be reserved by calling the CDC Theater box office at (908) 276-7611.

The handicap accessible Cranford Dramatic Club is located off Centennial Avenue at 78 Winans Avenue, Cranford.

For further times, directions, and information, please call the CDC Theater box office at (908) 276-7611.

Westfield Chamber, Jolly Trolley Plan Trolley Rides Dec. 7

The Jolly Trolley Restaurant and the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring trolley rides in downtown Westfield on Sunday, December 7, from 12 to 4 p.m.

Riders will board the trolley on Prospect Street near North Avenue, for a ride through the downtown. There will be treats for all the riders, as well as music, according to a spokeswoman for the Chamber of Commerce.

Visitors will also have an opportunity to shop at local stores and patronize restaurants in the town. There will be free parking.

In addition, there will be opportunities for pictures with Santa at Moto Photo and Portrait Studio from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The events are part of the "Welcome Home to Westfield" campaign being sponsored throughout December by the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Westfield Corporation.

Lynch Offers Free Planning Workshop On Preparing Taxes

Merrill Lynch will sponsor free educational workshops regarding the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 and how this may impact individuals investment and retirement planning.

The first seminar will be held on Thursday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Public Library, located at 1927 Bartle Avenue in Scotch Plains.

The topics that will be discussed in this session will cover the Roth IRA, reducing taxes using capital gains and tax free bonds, and Investment Planning to maximize strategies.

John Larkin, Vice President, and Richard Coltrera, both Financial Consultants with Merrill Lynch in the Westfield office, will conduct the workshop.

To make a reservation or for further information, please call Mr. Larkin or Mr. Coltrera at (908) 789-4341.

Hypertension Clinic Scheduled for Dec. 8

The Township of Scotch Plains will hold its monthly Hypertension (high blood pressure) Screening Clinic on Monday, December 8.

The clinic will be held in the Scotch Plains Public Library Community Room from 10 a.m. to noon, and is free. The intent of the clinic is to identify new cases of high blood pressure.

Those persons who are over the age of 30 and smoke or who are overweight or have a family history of heart disease or diabetes and have not had their blood pressure checked recently are urged to attend.

Mr. Osborne to Judge Work At Art Association Exhibit

John Phillip Osborne of Ringwood, has been selected to judge the 73rd annual Oil, Pastel and Sculpture Exhibition of the Westfield Art Association.

The event will open on Saturday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street. Awards in each media will be presented during the 2-4 p.m. reception on Saturday.

Mr. Osborne is a cum laude graduate of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, where he studied architectural illustration and design. A painter and teacher, he is now a Senior Instructor at the Ridgewood Art Institute in Ridgewood.

The public is invited to view the 70 pieces of art work on display in the Community Room. In addition to the Saturday hours, the exhibition will be open on Sunday, December 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Monday and Tuesday, December 8 and 9, from 7 to 10 p.m. each night.

John Phillip Osborne

RAAGINI OWNER HONORED... Dr. Harmesh Mittal, pictured at right, owner of the Raagini Restaurant in Mountainside, is joined by his Master Chef, Kulwant Singh Bakshi. The physician and restaurateur was recently honored as an Immigrant Entrepreneur by the Center for Migration Studies, based in New York.

Raagini Restaurant Owner Cited for Entrepreneurship

Dr. Harmesh Mittal, the owner of the Raagini Restaurant in Mountainside, was recently honored as an Immigrant Entrepreneur by the New York-based Center for Migration Studies (CMS).

A native of Samana, Punjab, India, Dr. Mittal is also a cardiologist in private practice and lives in Staten Island.

Dr. Mittal noted that owning and operating a restaurant featuring the cuisine of Royal India has been a long-time ambition, which was realized three years ago.

"By insisting on the highest quality of food, creating a splendid atmosphere and providing fine service, I believe I have brought a small piece of the best of Indian culture to New Jersey," Dr. Mittal said.

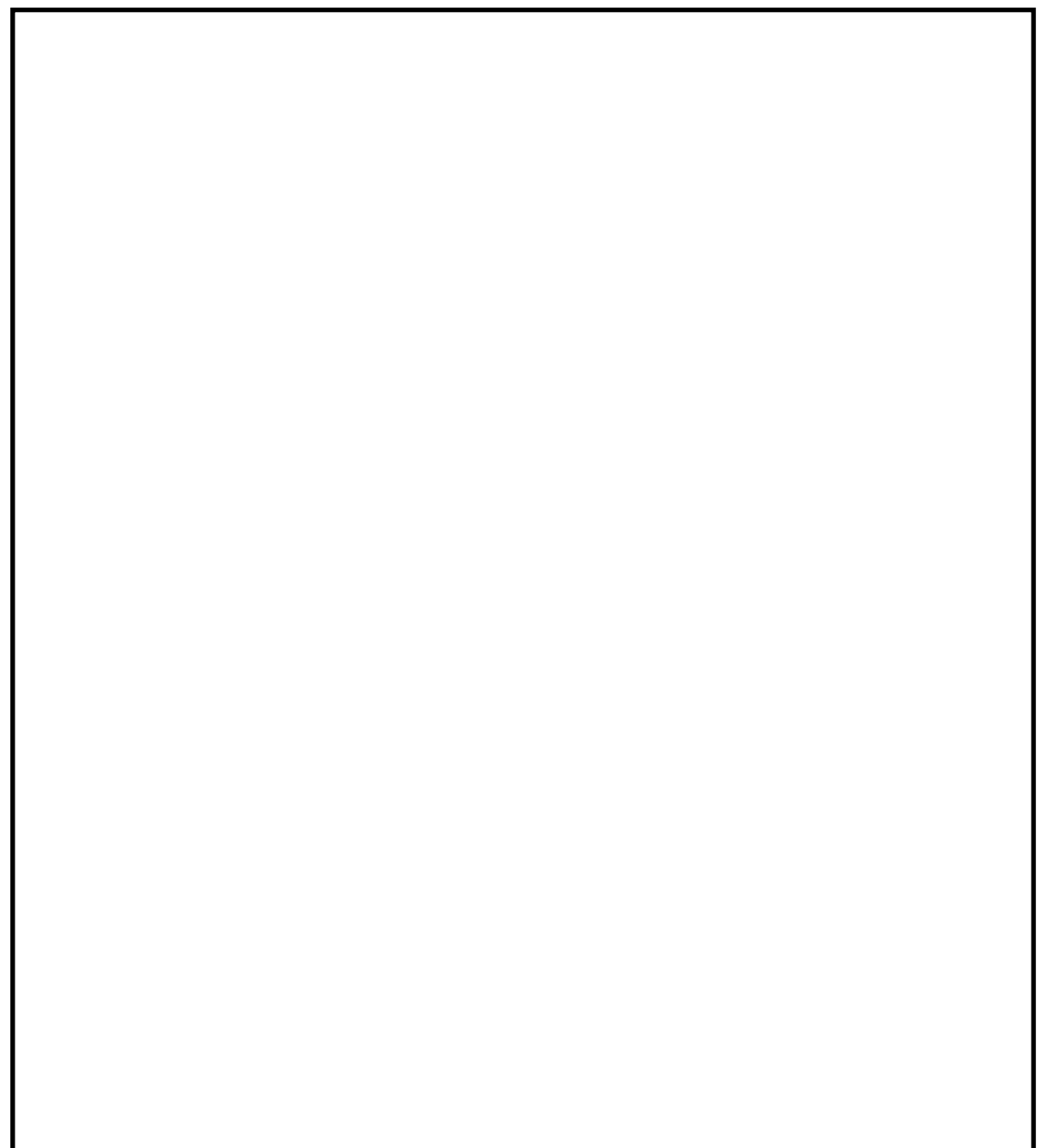
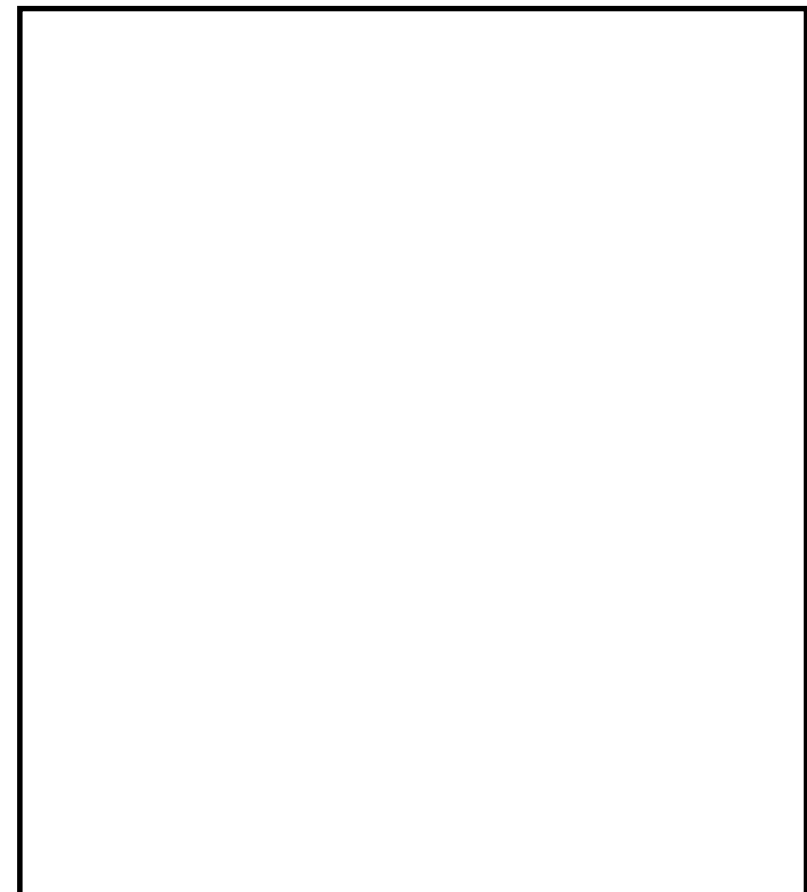
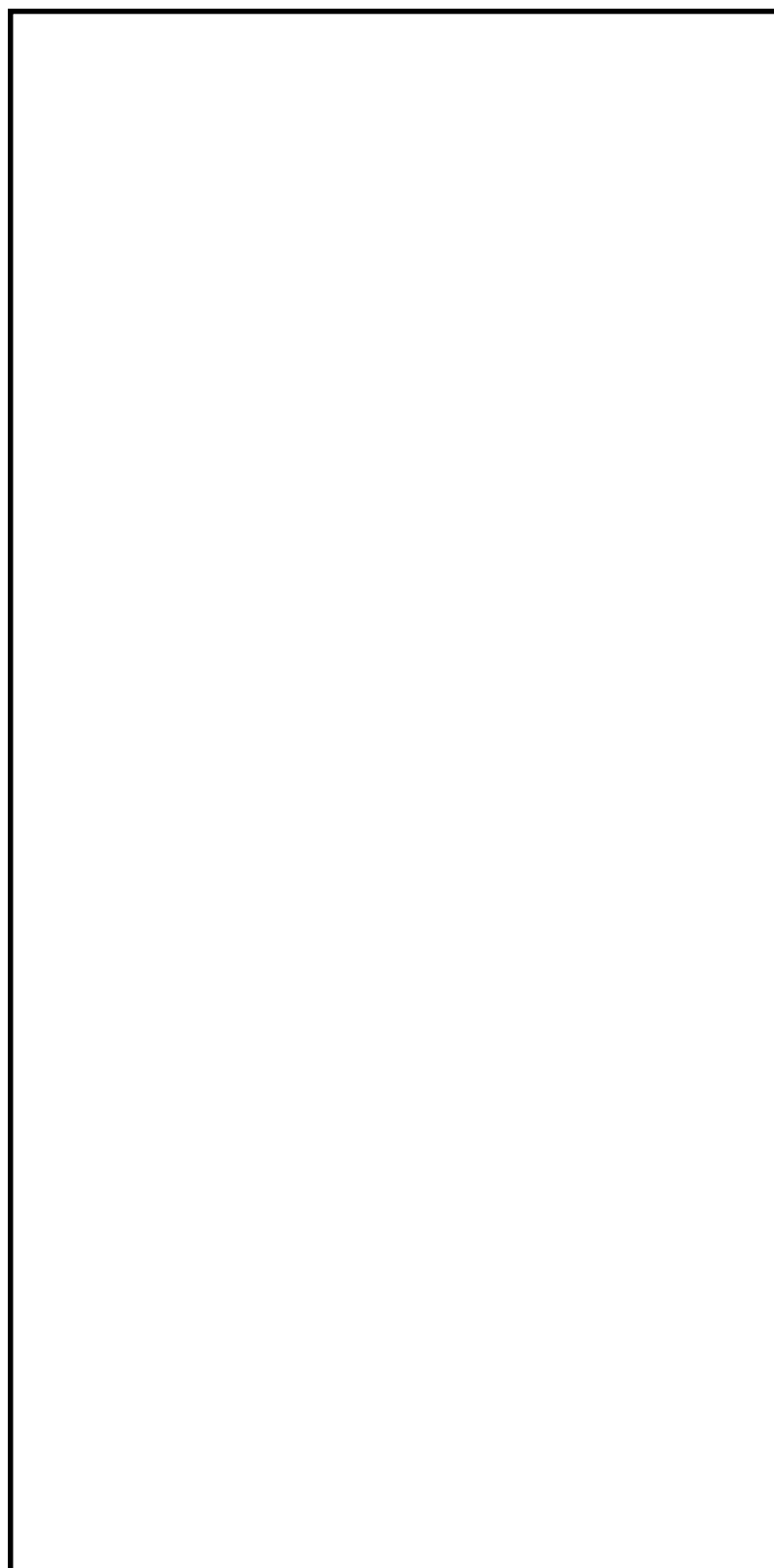
Since its opening in 1994, Raagini has garnered praise from veteran food critics. Cody Kendall of *The Star-Ledger*, who awarded the restaurant three and a half stars out of a possible four, wrote that "You'll feel like a rajah at Raagini... The food was wonderful, (but) it was the atmosphere that put this place up a notch in the ratings."

The New York Times similarly raved about the "Indian cuisine with gracious service..."

The CMS also honored three other men who have emigrated to the United States and built successful businesses, during the seventh annual State of Nations Achievement Awards Dinner Dance and Auction in Staten Island.

How can there be so much difference between a day off and an off day?
— Larson

SEE OTHER FILE
"NEWSPAPERPAGE 8"



Fanwood Committee Slates Annual Holiday Celebration

The Fanwood Decoration Committee will hold its downtown Holiday Celebration this Sunday, December 7, from 2 to 5 p.m.

This year's theme, "Deck the Halls," refers to the committee's plan to decorate participating Fanwood businesses and Borough buildings with garland and red bows.

The Holiday Celebration activities include a holiday window painting contest for students, Christmas

tree decorating by various civic groups, Christmas carols, a visit from Santa, free sleigh (wagon) rides, free face painting, free reindeer (pony) rides and free refreshments, according to a spokesman for the program.

A candlelight procession and a tree lighting ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. Interested participants and volunteers are asked to call Fanwood Borough Hall at (908) 322-8236.

AN IMAGINARY TRIP...The Kindergarten class at St. Paul's Day School in Westfield recently took an imaginary trip to Egypt. Passports and travel brochures were made in preparation for the "journey," as well as pyramids and sarcophagi for the young "mummies." Each student got to write their own name in hieroglyphs and learned interesting facts about ancient Egypt and the lives of the Egyptians. Pictured as an Egyptian Princess is Samantha Cavanagh and, as a Pharaoh, Michael Oster.

Westfield Dance Company Plans Concert for Tonight

The Westfield Dance Company (WDC), will present its Winter Concert tonight, Thursday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m. at Edison Intermediate School, 800 Rahway Avenue, in Westfield. There is no charge for admission.

This year's Winter Concert is entitled "Santa's Workshop," which will bring to life dancing toys.

The national award-winning A.T.D. Dancers will be this year's guest artists. The A.T.D. Dancers have performed at Giants Stadium during the New York Giants halftime, at Continental Arena at the Meadowlands, and at Great Adventure, among other places.

Reservations for WDC'S Winter Concert are required since seating is limited. There will be general seating and doors will open one half hour prior to the start of the performance.

The box office is located at the Westfield School of Dance, 402 Boulevard, in Westfield. Box office hours

Business Association To Hold Holiday Party

The Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association (SPBPA) will hold its annual Holiday Get Together today, Thursday, December 4, at 7 p.m. at CEO Executive Suites, located at 1812 Front Street in Scotch Plains (rear entrance).

A free hot and cold buffet, beverages and dessert will be served. All members and their employees are invited, as well as other businesses interested in joining the SPBPA. Membership is \$35. For more information, please call Ray Pardon at (908) 322-7388.

are Monday through Friday, 4 to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information and reservations, please call (908) 789-3011.

Trader Joe's to Open New Store Tomorrow

Trader Joe's, the West Coast-based chain of food and beverage stores, will hold a grand opening at their new location in Westfield tomorrow, Friday, December 5.

It is the first Trader Joe's store to open in New Jersey. Grand opening celebrations will be held throughout the weekend. The 7,925-square-foot store, at 155 Elm Street, is located in the former A&P building.

Trader Joe's carries an extensive line of domestic and imported foods and beverages, including fresh bakery and deli items, vitamins, coffees, juices, frozen foods, nuts and dried fruits, pet foods, milk and eggs, housewares and gifts.

Lions Club Continues Christmas Tree Sale

The Fanwood Lions Club is continuing its annual Christmas Tree Sale which began on Monday, December 1, and will continue until Christmas.

The hours are from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. on weekends, and from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on weekdays.

The revenue from this sale benefits local charities and scholarships for local students to aid them in pursuing their educational goals, according to a Lions Club spokesman.

Westfield Review Reveals Expanded Spring Schedule

Westfield Review, Inc., Preliminary Standard Assessment Test and Standard Assessment Test (SAT) specialists, have announced the spring schedule of classes for the upcoming SATs.

Due to increasing enrollment, Westfield Review, Inc. has expanded its offerings for the spring to include a choice of three different days, including Wednesday, Thursday or Sunday evenings, according to Director Les Jacobsen.

Each class offers the students experienced and certified English and mathematics teachers currently teaching at Westfield High School who are experienced in preparing students for the SAT, Mr. Jacobsen said.

In addition, the classes are limited to no more than 14 students and meet in the education rooms of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, 140 Mountain Avenue.

According to Mr. Jacobsen, "our aim is to provide the students of Westfield and the surrounding areas with a program of test preparation that utilizes proven strategies in test taking."

Tyler Maloney Earns Oratory Prep Honors

Tyler Maloney of Westfield, an 11th-grade student at Oratory Prep School in Summit, was recently named to the honor roll for the 1997-1998 academic year.

Tyler received first honors, which represents a grade-point average between 90 and 100 for the marking period.

ing skills and problem solving techniques."

The course meets for eight sessions that are each three hours in length. The program meets for a total of 24 hours of instruction for \$359 and includes all materials.

To register or receive additional information, please call (908) 317-2774.

Classes are scheduled to meet on Wednesday evenings beginning February 18, Thursday evenings beginning February 19 or Sunday evenings beginning February 22.

Westfield Chamber Plans Holiday Window Decorating Contest

The Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce will again sponsor its contest for Westfield businesses, giving awards to the best holiday window displays for 1997.

The windows will be judged on Tuesday, December 9. There will be awards for first, second and third place, as well as two for honorable mention.

Winning windows will be photographed with the business owners, and certificates will be provided for them to display throughout the holiday season.

Businesses are asked to have their window displays completed before December 9, so that their exhibits will be included in the judging.

READ, READ, READ!...Second grade students at McKinley Elementary School, in Westfield, did just that to celebrate National Children's Book Week which was held in November. The students in Susanne Geoghegan's class completed many projects during the week including creating posters to encourage other children to read. The posters were on display in the McKinley School Library and the Westfield Memorial Library throughout the week. Pictured, left to right, are: bottom row, Dylan Wallace, Gil Chapman, Samantha Meritt; top row, Billy Geltzeiler, Michael Wikander and Annie O'Neill.

OWL Annual Holiday Party Scheduled for December 7

The Central New Jersey Chapter of the Older Women's League will hold its annual Holiday Lunch for members and guests at L'Affaire, Route No. 22, East, Mountainside on Sunday, December 7, at noon. OWL will honor New Jersey Assemblywoman Barbara W. Wright, Merck and Company and past OWL President Miriam Dickman of Cranford for their leadership roles in improving the lives and image of women as they age, Teresa D'Errico, chapter President announced.

Assemblywoman Wright, as a longtime advocate of quality health care for all New Jersey citizens, sponsored, "The Osteoporosis Prevention and Education Program Act, legislation recently passed by the New Jersey Legislature and signed by Governor Christine Todd Whitman to promote greater awareness by the public and health providers about the prevention and treatment of this condition which affects 25 million Americans, 85 percent of them older women."

"All of us lose bone density as we age," said Ms. D'Errico, "but those with osteoporosis lose too much and by age 50 are at great risk for sustaining bone fractures."

For further information about OWL or the luncheon, please call (908) 561-4220 or (908) 355-0878.

Jill Skolnick, 28, Day Care Director; Received Maurice Greenberg Award

Jill Meredith Skolnick, 28, of Philadelphia died on Monday, November 24, in Overlook Hospital in Summit. Born in Rahway, she had lived in Westfield before moving to Philadelphia six years ago. Ms. Skolnick was the Director of Day Care at the Philadelphia Geriatric Center. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications from the University of Hartford in Connecticut, and a master's degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Ms. Skolnick received the Maurice Greenberg Award in Jewish Studies from Hartford University, and was listed in *Who's Who of American Colleges*. She was also active in the New Jersey Federation of Temple Youth

and Camp Harlem Alumni. Surviving are her parents, Ira and Brenda Skolnick of Westfield; two brothers, Charles Skolnick of Chatham and Jeffrey Skolnick of New Brunswick, and her grandmother, Rose Skolnick of Clifton. Funeral services were on Tuesday, November 26, in Temple Emanu-El in Westfield. Interment took place at Beth Israel Cemetery in Woodbridge. Arrangements were under the direction of the Menorah Chapels at Millburn in Union. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Jill Skolnick Scholarship Fund for Camp Harlem and Mitzvah Corporation, care of Temple Emanu-El, 756 East Broad Street, in Westfield. December 4, 1997

Margaret M. Carroll, 77, Navy Nurse; Received Meritorious Service Citation

Margaret M. "Peg" Looby Carroll, 77, of Holland, Pennsylvania, died on Friday, November 28, at St. Mary Medical Center in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Carroll was the daughter of the late Michael and Nora Looby. She had lived in Mountaintop for 40 years before moving to Holland in 1992. Mrs. Carroll, who received her nursing degree in 1941 from City Hospital in Newark, was a Lieutenant in the United States Navy during World War II. She served as a nurse on the hospital ship *USS Solace* from November of 1943 until December of 1944 in enemy waters. She received a citation from Rear Admiral William Chambers for Meritorious Service. After the war, Mrs. Carroll served as a member of the Visiting Nurse Association in the New Jersey area. She was a member of the Community Presbyterian Church in Mountaintop. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Carroll was predeceased by her husband, James H. Carroll, and her brother, Joseph Looby. Surviving are a daughter, Susan C. Albanese of Newtown, Pennsylvania; a sister, Winifred Lynch of Belmar, and three grandchildren. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, December 2, at the Newtown Presbyterian Church in Newtown. Interment took place at the Community Presbyterian Church Memorial Garden in Mountaintop. Memorial contributions may be made to Children's Specialized Hospi-

tal, New Providence Road, Mountaintop, 07092. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Joseph A. Fluehr III Funeral Home in Richboro, Pennsylvania. December 4, 1997

Matthew Mistretta, 21

Matthew J. Mistretta, 21, of Westfield died on Wednesday, November 26, at Overlook Hospital in Summit. He had lived most of his life with his family in Westfield. Mr. Mistretta was studying liberal arts in his second year at Union County College in Cranford. Surviving are his parents, John and Ellen Mistretta of Westfield; his brother, Luke Mistretta of Westfield, and his grandfather, Anthony Mistretta, Sr. of Kenilworth. Funeral services were held on Friday, November 28, at the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street, in Westfield. Interment followed at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield. December 4, 1997

Denise M. Moroney, 46

Denise Marie Moroney, 46, of Roselle Park died on Tuesday, November 25, at Union Hospital. Born in Summit, she had lived in Mountaintop before moving to Roselle Park. Mrs. Moroney was a member of the Roman Catholic Church of the Assumption in Roselle Park. Surviving are a son, Martin G. Moroney, Jr.; her parents, James and Veronica Herrick; a brother, James Herrick, and a sister, Marianne Bergeski. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Union Funeral Home-Lytwyn & Lytwyn. Services were private. December 4, 1997

Horace E. Moore, 73

Horace Everett Moore, 73, of Westfield died on Friday, November 28, at Rahway Hospital. Born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, Mr. Moore grew up in Tennessee and had lived in Chicago before moving to the Westfield area about 15 years ago. He had been employed as a shipping clerk for Sutton Labs in Chatham before retiring in 1995. He was predeceased by his wife, Mathilde Moore, who died in 1989. Private funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street in Westfield. December 4, 1997

Mary Sokol, 78

Mary Sokol, 78, of Scotch Plains died on Friday, November 28, in Rahway Hospital. Born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Mrs. Sokol had lived in Rahway before moving to Scotch Plains 26 years ago. Mrs. Sokol had been a computer operator for Western Electric of South Kearny for 25 years, retiring in 1974. Surviving are her husband, John Sokol, and several brothers and sisters. Funeral services were held on Monday, December 1, in the Zion Lutheran Church in Clark. Arrangements were handled by the Walter J. Johnson Funeral Home in Clark. December 4, 1997

Obituaries

Edward L. Whelan, Jr., 84, War Veteran; Had Been Director of Real Estate

Edward L. Whelan, Jr., 84, of Fanwood died on Wednesday, November 26, in the JFK Medical Center in Edison. Born in Elizabeth, he had lived in Roselle for 17 years before moving to Fanwood. A retired attorney, Mr. Whelan had been Director of Real Estate for the Third United States Naval District in Manhattan for 20 years before retiring in 1971. He graduated from the Rutgers University School of Law in Newark in 1941. Mr. Whelan served in the United States Army during World War II. He was a member of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains and the Roselle Golf Club. Mr. Whelan was an honorary life member of the Knights of Colum-

bus, St. Joseph the Carpenter Council, in Roselle. He was predeceased by his first wife, Rita C. Lynch Whelan, in 1977, and his second wife, Elizabeth M. Brady Whelan, in 1994. Surviving are two daughters, Elaine B. Whelan-Bruns of Metuchen and Michelle Whelan of Tucson, Arizona; a son, Edward L. Whelan, 3rd of New Jersey; a brother, Harold V. Whelan of Roselle, and two grandchildren. A Funeral Mass was offered on Saturday, November 29, at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church in Scotch Plains. Interment took place in Graceland Memorial Park in Kenilworth. Arrangements were under the direction of the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue, West, in Fanwood. December 4, 1997

Gloria Silverman, University Alumna; Worked for Jewish Community News

Gloria Silverman of Scotch Plains died on Saturday, November 29, in the Stanley Tippet House in Needham, Massachusetts. Born in Newark, she had lived in Cranford before moving to Scotch Plains 12 years ago. A 1947 graduate of the University of Michigan, Mrs. Silverman formerly worked for the *Jewish Community News* of Union County. Surviving are a daughter, Judith Sletzing; a son, Steven Silverman; a brother, Edward Bendet, and four grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Monday, December 1, in the Menorah Chapels at Millburn in Union. December 4, 1997

Marianne Wallace, 73

Marianne I. Wallace, 73, of Plainfield died on Monday, November 24, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. Born in Scotch Plains, she had lived in Los Angeles for many years before moving to Plainfield about 10 years ago. Mrs. Wallace was a graduate of Plainfield High School and American University in Washington, D.C. She had been a secretary for the Los Angeles Unified School District for 25 years and a member of the Teachers Union in Los Angeles. Mrs. Wallace was predeceased by her brother, Conroy Wallace. Surviving are two sisters, Antoinette Whetstone and Esther B. Crawley, both of Plainfield. Funeral services were held on Monday, December 1, at the Rescue House of Prayer in South Plainfield. Arrangements were handled by the Judkins Colonial Home in Plainfield. December 4, 1997

Virginia R. Shaw, 58

Virginia R. Shaw, 58, of Plainfield died on Monday, November 24, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. Born in Saluda, South Carolina, she had lived in Plainfield for 40 years. She was a loan specialist for Mortgage Access of Morris Plains for five years and was a former manager of Photomat in Middlesex for 10 years. Mrs. Shaw was a member of the Rock Hill Baptist Church in Saluda. Surviving are her husband, Martin Shaw; two daughters, Kimberly Shaw of Old Bridge and Andra Lockly of Piscataway; two sisters, Diane Dockery of Scotch Plains and Evelyn Kennedy of Plainfield, and four grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Saturday, November 29, at the Judkins Colonial Home in Plainfield. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. December 4, 1997

Despina Skopelitis, 91, of Westfield died on Tuesday, November 25, in the Woodland Nursing Center in Plainfield. Born in Lemnos, Greece, Mrs. Skopelitis settled in Newark in 1929 and moved to Westfield many years ago. She was a member of the Philoptochos Society of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield. She was also a member of the Lemnon Maroula Society, a national organization. Surviving are two daughters, Angelika Anderson and Anastasia Sagos; five grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Friday, November 28, in the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Arrangements were handled by the Union Funeral Home-Lytwyn & Lytwyn in Union. December 4, 1997

John V. Manoukian, 90

John V. Manoukian, 90, of Milford, Ohio, died on Saturday, November 29. He was predeceased by his wife, Zabelle Manoukian. Surviving are a son, Richard Manoukian of Terrace Park, Ohio; a daughter, Carole McGee of Westfield, and two grandchildren. Funeral services were scheduled to be held at a time chosen by the family. Arrangements were under the direction of the Craver-Riggs Funeral Home. December 4, 1997

Geraldine S. Gaskill, 99, Educator; Belonged to College Woman's Club

Geraldine Smith Gaskill, 99, died on Wednesday, November 26, in Fairfax, Virginia. Born on June 27, 1898 in Marshalltown, Iowa, Mrs. Gaskill was the daughter of Adelbert K. and Mary Reece Smith. She had lived in Chicago before moving in 1927 to Westfield, where she had lived for 67 years. Mrs. Gaskill subsequently moved to an assisted-living facility in Reston, Virginia. An alumna of Marshalltown public schools, she was a member of the Class of 1920 at Grinnell College in Iowa. She earned her Master of Education Degree from New York University. Mrs. Gaskill taught in the Cranford and Scotch Plains public school systems and for 10 years at Far Brook School in Short Hills, before retiring

professionally in 1970. Mrs. Gaskill belonged to the First Congregational Church in Westfield and the Westfield College Woman's Club. She was predeceased by her husband, Loren Byron Gaskill, in 1944. The couple had been married on December 29, 1924, in Chicago. Surviving are a daughter, Barbara Entwistle; a son, David Gaskill; three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at the First Congregational Church in Westfield on Saturday, January 3, 1998, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer Street, Westfield, 07090. December 4, 1997

Eugene Rodgers, 73, VFW Member; Former Executive With Exxon Corp.

Eugene Rodgers, 73, of Mountaintop died on Tuesday, November 25, in the Berkeley Heights Convalescent Center in Berkeley Heights. Born in Elizabeth, he Rodgers had lived in Syracuse and Linden before moving to Mountaintop in 1960. Mr. Rodgers had been an executive for the Exxon Corporation in Bayonne for 37 years, retiring in 1986. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Syracuse University and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Rutgers University in Newark. He served with the 112th United States Army Air Force in Southern France and Normandy during World War II. Mr. Rodgers was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post of Mountaintop, and had been President of the Lung Association of New Jersey. December 4, 1997

Surviving are his wife, Violet Rodgers; two daughters, Nancy L. Bechtold and Victoria L. Leary; a brother, Clifford Rodgers, and five grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Saturday, November 29, in the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street in Westfield. December 4, 1997

Carmen F. Prisco, 70

Carmen F. Prisco, 70, of Scotch Plains died on Friday, November 28, at Overlook Hospital in Summit. Born in Madison, he had lived in Plainfield before moving to Scotch Plains in 1970. Mr. Prisco was a member of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains. Surviving are his wife, Mary Secero Prisco; a daughter, Yvonne Shamanski of Somerset; three sons, Paul Prisco of Scotch Plains, Richard Prisco of Somerset and Glenn Prisco of Old Bridge; three brothers, Dominick Prisco of Florham Park, Armond Prisco of Pennsylvania and Joseph Prisco of Morristown; two sisters, Joann DeFilippis of Basking Ridge and Shirley Ann Holick of Morristown; three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, December 2, at the Higgins Home for Funerals in Plainfield, followed by a Mass at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains. December 4, 1997

More Obituaries
On Page 17

HUNG UP!!
Attorney Can Help Protect Afflicted Mother's Assets

*By Milt Faith, Executive Director
 Youth and Family Counseling Service*

Miller-Cory Heralds Arrival Of the 'Belsnickel' on Dec. 7

The Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, will celebrate German Christmas customs with the arrival of the "Belsnickel" and a traditional Ger-

are scurrying about to pick up as many candies as they can.

Visitors to the museum will have an opportunity to meet the "Belsnickel" and try to catch a candy.

Jean Peters of Edison and Diane King of Cranford will prepare a traditional German Christmas dinner over the open hearth. Visitors to the museum will be able to enjoy taste treats as prepared by cooks, while learning about early American cooking techniques.

Museum volunteers will greet visitors to the farmhouse, which will be decorated to capture the spirit of a German Christmas. Baked goods as prepared by museum volunteers will also be on sale.

Admission to the museum is \$2 for adults and 50 cents for students. Children under six are admitted free. On Sunday, December 14, the museum will feature a Swedish Christmas.

For information about the museum and its schedule of events, please call the museum at (908) 654-6554.

Bring Non-Perishables, Get Picture With Santa

Moto Photo and Portrait Studio, located at 251 North Avenue in Westfield, will be offering free 5x7 color portraits with Santa this Sunday, December 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A donation of two non-perishable food items is required to receive a free portrait with Santa. All food will be donated to the food pantry at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church.

This year's "Santa Portrait Event," is being co-sponsored by the Downtown Westfield Corporation, the governing body for the town's Special Improvement District, who will be supplying cider and donuts, and by Brummer's Chocolates who will provide holiday sweets.

Once again Westfield First Ward Councilman Norman N. Greco will be playing Santa.

In lieu of a food donation, a \$5 fee will be charged and donated to the food pantry.

BEWARE THE "BELSNICKEL"... Jack Petersen of Westfield will portray the "Belsnickel," a figure from German folklore, at the Miller-Cory Museum, 614 Mountain Avenue, on Sunday, December 7, from 2 to 5 p.m. Mr. Petersen's appearance will be part of the celebration of German Christmas customs at the museum.

man dinner cooked over the open hearth on Sunday, December 7, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Jack Petersen of Westfield will portray the "Belsnickel," a figure from German folklore, who was said to visit the homes of children around Christmas Eve. He is a scary visitor, dressed in a cape of ratty old pelts and worn out clothes.

According to legend, he was nervously awaited by the children, especially those children who had been naughty. He throws candy to the children and disappears until next Christmas, while the children

Answers on Page 19

Cable TV Show for Seniors to Feature Older Women's League

"Vintage Views," Union County's cable television program for seniors, will review during December the work being done by the Older Women's League (OWL) to encourage women to enjoy their future, even in old age, by taking charge of the present.

"OWL is a national grassroots organization dedicated to improving the lives of middle-aged and older women through research, advocacy and education of the public and policy makers about their needs and concerns," said Freeholder Edwin Force, Liaison to the Advisory Council on Aging.

The show's host, Lou Coviello, will interview Teresa D'Errico, OWL President, and Miriam Dickman, OWL Vice President, on how women — of all ages — have been misrepresented as dependent in our society, but are competent, forward-looking achievers who can reach their goals.

"Vintage Views" is made possible through the facilities and technical direction of the TKR Cable Co., and is available throughout Union County.

The show will be aired locally on Comcast Cable, Channel 57, on Thursdays beginning at 7 p.m.

For more information about "Vintage Views" or comments on programming, please call Mr. Coviello at (908) 527-4872.

Volunteers Are Sought To Become Tax Preparers

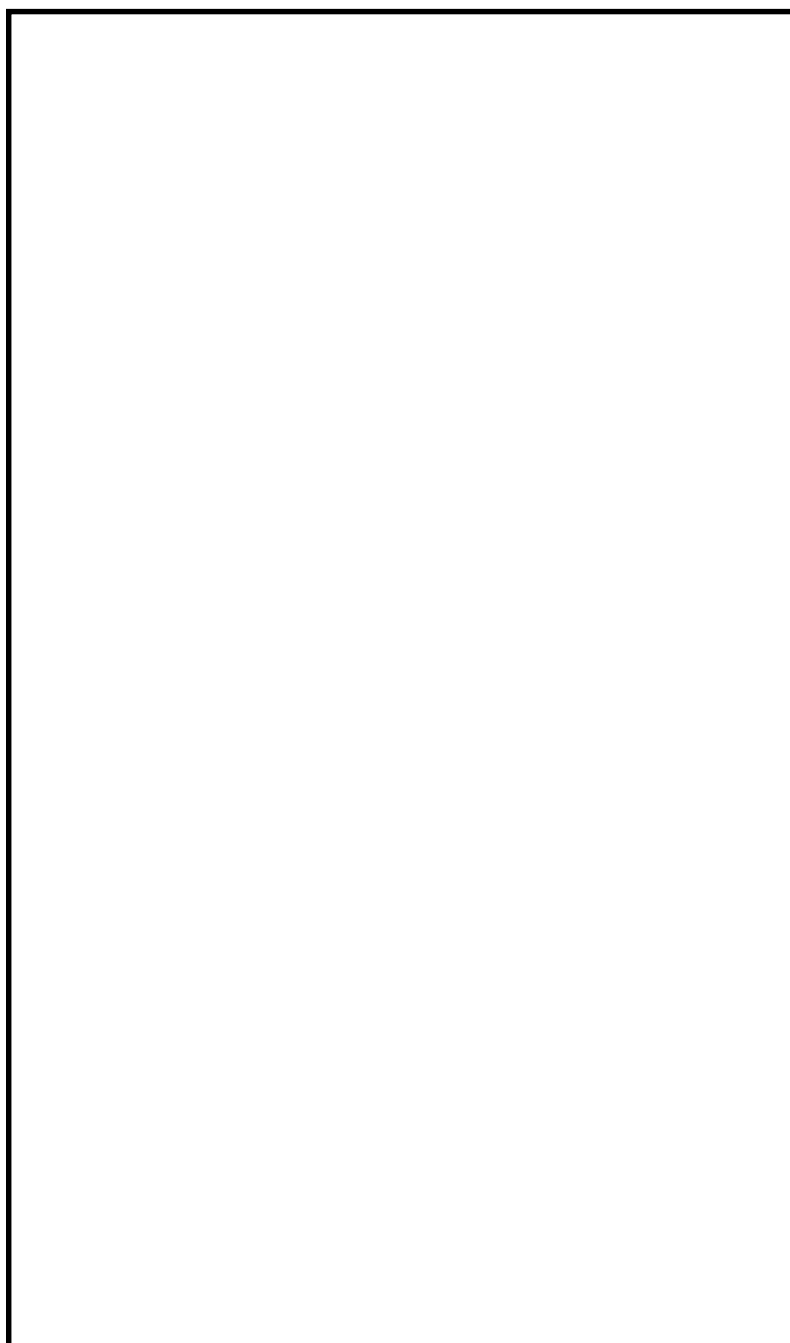
The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RASP) of Catholic Community Services in Union County is in the process of recruiting volunteers to be trained as Income Tax Preparers for the 1997 tax season.

Experience is not necessary. Volunteers will be trained by Internal Revenue Services and the New Jersey State Division of Taxation.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program is a free program to assist low income, handicapped or disabled individuals complete their income tax forms. Training will take place Tuesday through Friday, January 13 through 16, at 505 South Avenue in Cranford.

To register for the training class or for more information, please call Catholic Community Services, (908) 709-2152.

SEE OTHER FILE "JUMPS"



SPORTS

SPORTS

SPORTS

***SPORTS
WITH SOME
OPEN ROOM***

Emily Stiles, 84, Worked in Banking; Active With Senior Citizens' Groups

Emily Grace Stiles, 84, of Scotch Plains died on Friday, November 28, at home.

Born in Elizabeth, she had lived in Garwood before moving to Scotch Plains, where she lived with her family for 47 years.

Mrs. Stiles had been active in the banking industry for 40 years until her retirement.

She was active in senior citizens' organizations and travel-related activities. Mrs. Stiles also was a member of a local swim club.

She was predeceased by her husband, Norman Stiles, Sr., in 1978.

Surviving are two sons, Norman Stiles of Orlando, Florida and Craig Stiles of Piscataway; two sisters, Claire Ensminger of Deerfield Beach, Florida, and Marion Schubert of Union; five grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, November 25, at the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street, in Westfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center Home Care/Hospice Program, Park Avenue and Randolph Road, Plainfield, 07061.

December 4, 1997

Ernest P.C. Martin, 57

Ernest P.C. Martin, 57, of Plainfield died on Saturday, November 29, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Lincolnton, Georgia, Mr. Martin had lived in Plainfield for 45 years.

He was a member of the Warren Temple of the Church of the Living God in Scotch Plains. Mr. Martin worked as a landscaper at the Basking Ridge Country Club, and was formerly employed with National Pool Corporation in Robbinsville.

Surviving are his wife, Sandra Martin; two daughters, Chontey Russell of Stockbridge, Georgia, and Diane M. Martin of Plainfield; a son, Marcus J. Martin of Plainfield; five sisters, Alice Jones of Scotch Plains, and Essie Smith, Margie Marshall, Mary Wright and Mildred Wescott, all of Plainfield; two brothers, John Martin of Decatur, Alabama and Willie Martin of Plainfield, and a grandson.

Funeral services will be held today, Thursday, December 4, at noon at the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Plainfield. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until the time of the service at the church.

Arrangements are being handled by the Judkins Colonial Home of Plainfield.

December 4, 1997

NEEDS A HOME... People for Animals, a non-profit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, will sponsor a pet adoption event this Saturday, December 6, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the PetsMart store at 1022 Route No. 22, East, at West End Avenue in North Plainfield. Dogs, kittens and cats will be available for adoption. Among these pets will be Patches, a white with black markings Chihuahua-mix. Patches is an eight-pound, 3-year-old spayed female who is likes to be a lap dog as well as be playful. She is current with her vaccinations and has tested negative for heart worm. To adopt her or for more information, please call (908) 688-1073. For low cost spay/neuter information, please call the People for Animals Clinic at (908) 964-6887. Spay/neuter surgery costs range from \$35 to \$55 and include rabies and distemper vaccinations.

— Obituaries —

Herbert "Red" White, 82, Veteran; Purple Heart Recipient Owned Firm

Herbert E. "Red" White, 82, of South Plainfield died on Monday, December 1, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in East Orange.

Born in Springfield, Massachusetts, he had lived in Westfield before moving to South Plainfield over 25 years ago.

Before his retirement 15 years ago, Mr. White had been the security supervisor for the Pinkerton Security Company of Maplewood, and was stationed at National Starch Corporation in Plainfield for 10 years.

He had owned and operated the H. White and Sons Disposal Company of Westfield for 20 years, from the 1950s until the 1970s.

Mr. White was a United States Army veteran of World War II, and was awarded the Purple Heart after being wounded while stationed in Africa with the 17th Field Artillery Unit.

He was a member of the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in South Plainfield, and was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 28.

He was predeceased by his wife, Antoinette Riccardo White, in 1986. He was also preceded in death by a brother, Harvey White.

Surviving are two sons, Edward H. White of Spotswood and Robert J. White of South Plainfield, and two

granddaughters.

Funeral services are being held today, Thursday, December 4, at 9:15 a.m. at the McCrisky Home for Funerals in South Plainfield, and will be followed by a 10 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

December 4, 1997

Marie D. Russo, 81

Marie D. Gormley Russo, 81, of Westfield died on Monday, December 1, at Genesis ElderCare Network in Westfield.

Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Russo had lived in Scotch Plains for many years. She also had lived in North Plainfield for two years before moving to Westfield in August.

Mrs. Russo was a member of the Scotch Plains Senior Citizens Club. She was predeceased by her husband, Thomas Russo, in 1978.

Surviving are a daughter, Joan Russo of Chatham, and two grandsons.

Funeral arrangements were handled by the Higgins Home for Funerals of Watchung.

Memorial donations may be made to the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Avenue, Scotch Plains, 07076.

December 4, 1997

Jane Feyerabend, 83, Parishioner; Had Been Secretary at Prudential

Jane P. Feyerabend, 83, of Scotch Plains died on Sunday, November 30, at the Genesis ElderCare Network Center, The Woodlands, in Plainfield.

Born in Newark, she had lived in Virginia and Argentina before moving to Scotch Plains in 1960.

Mrs. Feyerabend had been a secretary for the Prudential Insurance Company in New York. She was a member of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church in Fanwood.

She was predeceased by her husband, Arnaldo F. Feyerabend, in 1978.

Surviving are two daughters, Susan Feyerabend and Carol Feyerabend, both of Scotch Plains.

Funeral services were held yesterday, Wednesday, December 3, at the Rossi Funeral Home in Scotch Plains.

December 4, 1997

Walter Kuczynski, 76

Walter Kuczynski, 76, of Mountainside died on Sunday, November 30, in Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in Newark, he had lived in Union before moving to Mountainside.

Mr. Kuczynski had been a self-employed mechanical engineer in the Mountainside area for 10 years before retiring 12 years ago. Prior to that he had worked at H.A. Wilson Weston Instruments.

Surviving are a daughter, Donna Lodato; two sons, Robert Kuczynski and Kenneth Kuczynski; a sister, Mary Sandy; a brother, Victor Karlen, and two grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass was offered yesterday, Wednesday, December 3, at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Union. Arrangements were handled by the McCracken Funeral Home in Union.

December 4, 1997

Marie Holmes, 81

Marie Holmes, 81, of South Plainfield died on Saturday, November 29, at home.

Born in Gary, Indiana, she had lived in Elizabeth before moving to South Plainfield.

Mrs. Holmes held various posts in the Union County Association of the Blind, Blind Men's Association of Leonardo and the Elizabeth Port Lioness Club.

Surviving are three sons, Richard Holmes of Bridgeport, Connecticut, Ronald Holmes of Scotch Plains and Raymond Holmes of San Antonio; two daughters, Marian Thomas of South Plainfield and Muriel Sharif of East Orange; 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held yesterday, Wednesday, December 3, at St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church in Plainfield.

December 4, 1997

WHS Student Earns Recognition as Scholar In Hispanic Program

Thomas Michael Repasch, a member of the senior class at Westfield High School (WHS), has been recognized as a scholar finalist in the National Hispanic Scholar Recognition Program, announced WHS Principal Dr. Robert G. Petix.

The National Hispanic Scholar Recognition Program is a College Board program that provides national recognition of the exceptional academic achievements of Hispanic high school seniors, and identifies academically well-prepared Hispanic high school seniors for post secondary institutions.

Students enter the program by taking the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test as high school juniors and by identifying themselves as Hispanic. From over 120,000 students nationwide, the 4,000 highest scoring students are initially identified as semifinalists.

Based on further evidence of their academic achievement, a select group of 3,000 students are recognized as program finalists.

According to a Westfield school district spokeswoman, the names of all finalists are listed on a roster of outstanding Hispanic students, which has been released to colleges and universities to encourage them to seek out these talented Hispanic students as potential candidates for admission.

ACT OF COURAGE... Union County Freeholder Nicholas Scutari, of Linden, left, presents a resolution to Union County Freeholder Donald Goncalves, honoring him for chasing and apprehending a car thief in Elizabeth. Freeholder Goncalves was at a job site on Elizabeth Avenue in Elizabeth when he heard people yelling "stop!" at a man driving away in a City of Elizabeth Jeep. Mr. Goncalves ran to his own vehicle and followed the Jeep until the driver stopped and ran away, then followed the suspected thief on foot, and along with another person tackled the man and held him until police arrived.

Watershed Clean-Up Produces Tons of Trash

Where could you find 61 tires, 30 shopping carts, a snow sled, two car mufflers, a lawn mower, three signs with poles and a kitchen chair?

In the Rahway River. That is, until Union County's annual fall environmental clean-up, where these were among the items collected by over 300 participants along the Rahway River Watershed, at Rahway River Park.

During the cleanup, which was sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the county's Bureau of Environmental Affairs and the Division of Parks and Recreation, individuals and members

of various organizations collected 428 bags of trash and recyclables weighing over 7,000 pounds from roadsides, wooded areas and the waterways of the Rahway River watershed.

New Jersey Assemblymen Alan M. Augustine and Richard H. Bagger joined Union County Freeholder Vice Chairman Daniel P. Sullivan and Freeholders Frank H. Lehr, Henry W. Kurz and Edwin H. Force for the event.

At the opening, the freeholders offered the many volunteers words of encouragement and praise.

"Today's tremendous turnout shows our citizens have pride in our parks system and concern over the condition of our waterways," said Freeholder Sullivan, Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

"These volunteers should be commended for giving their time and muscle to address this problem," said Freeholder Sullivan.

Freeholder Kurz, Liaison to the Environmental Health Advisory Board, said it was "important to understand the impact of litter on our landscape, and more importantly, on our environmental health. While the cleanup efforts of citizen volunteers are invaluable and make a visible difference, every citizen should play a major role everyday by preventing this from happening in the first place."

Among the groups participating included Boy Scout Troop No. 73 of Westfield, Girls Scout Troop No. 651 of Scotch Plains and Cub Scout Den No. 6 of Scotch Plains.

Also, from the Rahway Youth Soccer League, the Raptures, Thunder, Lightning, Rampage, Rebels, Cobras and Revolution teams participated.

Interfaith Observance Set Locally on World AIDS Day

The Westfield/Mountainside Ministerium and the Task Force on AIDS of the Archdiocese of Newark will be sponsoring an Interfaith Candlelight Observance of World AIDS Day on Wednesday, December 3.

The service will begin at 7:30 p.m. at The Community Presbyterian Church in Mountainside.

The theme of this year's observance is "Give Children Hope in a World With AIDS." The worship service will include sacred dance, music and candle lighting on behalf of those who have died of AIDS or who are suffering with HIV.

A panel of the AIDS Quilt will be on display throughout the worship service.

The worship leadership will be provided by Reverend Dominic Fucile of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains, Rabbi Renee Goldberg of Temple Emanu-El in Westfield and Dr. Christopher Belden of the Community Pres-

byterian Church. Beverly Warmbrand will provide sign interpretation for the hearing impaired. The sanctuary is accessible for the handicapped. A reception will follow the worship service.

For further information, please contact Reverend Fucile at (973) 763-5019 or Dr. Belden at (908) 232-9490.

Interfaith Singles Schedule Meetings

Interfaith Singles, a friendly and supportive group for single adults over 45, meets weekly for discussions on successful single living.

Continental breakfast, for a donation of \$2, is offered. Meetings for this month will take place on Sundays, December 7, 14, 21 and 28, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street in Westfield.

For further information, please call (908) 233-2278.

Area Churches to Sponsor Advent Mission Dec. 14-17

A Catholic Advent Mission to renew the Christian spirit will be held at Immaculate of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains, Sunday through Wednesday, December 14 to 17, at 7 p.m.

The event is being cosponsored by the parishes of St. Mary's and St. Bernard of Clairvaux in Plainfield, St. Bartholomew's in Scotch Plains, Holy Trinity and St. Helen's Roman Catholic Churches in Westfield and Immaculate Heart.

All members of these parishes, as well as those in the surrounding communities, are invited to join in this retreat.

The theme of the Advent Mission is "As Streams in the Desert."

The event will be moderated by Vince Ambrosetti, a composer, singer and Mission Director.

Mr. Ambrosetti is a secular Franciscan who devotes his ministry to the importance of building the parish community.

The mission will get underway with a concert for the entire family on Sunday, December 14, at 7 p.m. On each of the succeeding evenings, Mr. Ambrosetti will give inspirational talks on different themes and lead the assembly in songs, psalms and acclamations.

The program is designed to give participants the opportunity to reflect on their Catholic faith and renew parish spirit in an atmosphere of Christian fellowship, according to a spokesman.

"We invite people in the local communities to join us as we celebrate Advent in this very special way," said Reverend Ken Evans, Associate Pastor of Immaculate Heart.

"Vince will present a mixture of song and talk laughter, tears and profound spirituality for all ages. We're looking forward to a joyous retreat that will help all of us to remember what Christmas — what being Christian — is truly about," he said.

All Advent Mission events will be held at Immaculate Heart, located at 1571 South Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. There is no charge for the event.

For more information on the Advent Mission, please contact Father Ken Evans at (908) 889-2100.

United Methodist Plans Single Parent Seminars

The First United Methodist Church will offer a two-session discussion entitled "Issues Concerning the Single Parenting of Children and Adolescents."

These sessions, led by Kathy Zuber, will be held on two Sunday mornings, December 7 and 14, at 9:45 a.m. in Room No. 202.

Mrs. Zuber, a member of the church, is a social worker with degrees from Kean College of New Jersey and the New York University School of Social Work.

The public is invited to attend. Child care will be available. The church is located at 1 East Broad Street in Westfield.

For more information, please call the church office at (908) 233-4211.

- Religious News -

Mid-Day Musicales Series To Feature Quartetto Vita

The First Congregational Church of Westfield, 125 Elmer Street, will present the string quartet Quartetto Vita on their Mid-Day Musicales series of concerts on Wednesday, December 10, at noon.

These half-hour concerts are free and open to the public, and are followed by an optional luncheon available in the church social hall for \$4.50.

Quartetto Vita is composed of four young women, all accomplished soloists and chamber musicians in their own right. They are Danwen Jiang, and Hanfang Zhang, both violin; Dorothy Sobieski, viola, and Elizabeth Thompson, cello.

They formed their quartet at Rutgers University, where all were graduate students at the Mason Gross School of the Arts. Ms. Jiang was chosen at the age of 10 as a "young prodigy" by the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. At 13 she made her solo debut with the Beijing Central Radio Philharmonic, and shortly thereafter, recorded with the China Record Company. She arrived in the United States in 1987. She has won numerous competitions and performed with orchestras in the United States and Canada. She has also toured in Europe as a soloist.

Ms. Zhang was also a student at the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music. Upon coming to the United States, she enrolled at Oberlin Conservatory, where she was concertmaster and soloist for various performances, and Assistant Concertmaster for the New York String Orchestra concerts at Carnegie Hall and the

Kennedy Center for the Arts.

Ms. Sobieski, a native of Warsaw, received a master's degree from the Louisiana State University and is now a Doctoral candidate with Michael Tree of the Guarneri Quartet at Rutgers' Mason Gross School of the Arts.

She has played with such ensembles as the Bering Piano Trio and the Newstead Trio, and has appeared twice at the annual Mozart Festival in Warsaw. She has toured Europe and has won numerous awards and scholarships for her playing. She is currently on the faculty of the Pennsylvania Academy of Music.

Ms. Thompson has performed extensively in the United States, Germany, Australia, and New Zealand. She has served as Principal Cellist of the Bohemian Opera Orchestra, the Garden State Philharmonic, the Riverside Sinfonia, and the New Philharmonic of New Jersey.

She has been guest conductor for the Rutgers University Orchestra, and the North Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and served for several years as Music Director of the Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra. Ms. Thompson has degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and Rutgers University and is currently on the faculty of the Conservatory Department at Westminster Choir College.

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

CHRISTMAS CAROLERS...The Worship and Fellowship Commissions of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield will sponsor a carol sing and tree lighting on Sunday, December 7, at 6 p.m. The Amonette family, pictured above, will light the tree this year. A brass ensemble, led by the church's Music Director, James Simms, will provide the music. Dr. William Ross Forbes, the church's Senior Pastor, will serve as Master of Ceremonies. All are invited to attend. The event will take place on the front lawn of the church, and light refreshments will be served afterwards. For more information, please call the church office at (908) 233-0301.

Reverend Antokas Observes First Anniversary at Church

The Reverend Dimitrios Antokas, a town resident, recently completed his first year at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield.

A native of Jackson Heights, Queens, Reverend Antokas was raised in Glen Cove, Long Island. He studied for the priesthood at Hellenic College's Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, and received his Masters of Divinity Degree in 1985.

He was subsequently recruited by the Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee, a social services agency, to direct programs for the homebound elderly in Queens on behalf of the New York City Department for the Aging.

In 1987, he was asked to direct the city's Clean Air Policy for the Department of Transportation.

Ordained to the priesthood in 1990, Reverend Antokas was assigned to the Church of St. Demetrios in Jamaica, Queens, as the assistant priest, where his main focus was creating programs for area youth.

He established the Queens Youth Commission, which oversees all of the youth ministries in Queens and Long Island.

A former Boy Scout himself, Reverend Antokas became the spiritual advisor to Cub Scout Pack No. 346 and Boy Scout Troop No. 346 while at St. Demetrios Church.

Reverend Antokas formerly served

as Pastor of the Church of the Transfiguration of Christ in Corona, Queens. He was the Chaplain of the Boy Scouts for the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting, which is the nationally-recognized committee for the orthodox churches.

In addition, he was the Greek Orthodox Chaplain at Queens College and the Archdiocesan representative to the New York City Council of Churches.

The Reverend Antokas and his wife,

Reverend Dimitrios Antokas

the former Maria Tsamas, were married in 1988. They are the parents of two sons, John and Elliot.

NA'AMAT Chapter to Hold Children's Chanukah Party

The Medina Chapter of NA'AMAT USA is hosting a Family Chanukah Party for children and their families on Monday, December 22, at the Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Avenue from 7 to 9 p.m.

There will be entertainment, refreshments, candle lighting and a grab bag. The cost is \$8 per family and participants should bring a wrapped book costing no more than \$5 for

either a preschooler (ages 1 through 4) or an older child (ages 5 and up) for each child that participates in the grab bag.

If interested in attending this event, please call Joan at (908) 654-0666 by Wednesday, December 17.

The Medina Chapter of NA'AMAT is the local chapter of an international charitable organization which raises funds to support the needs of women and children locally, in the United States and in Israel.

NOVENA TO ST. CLARE

Ask St. Clare for 3 favors: One Business, Two Impossible. Say 9 Hail Marys for 9 days with lighted candles. Pray, whether you believe it or not. Publish on the 9th day. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored and glorified today and every day. Request will be granted no matter how impossible it seems. Publication must be promised. - R.J.W.

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