

# Scotch Plains -Fanwood HS Kids Help Raise Awareness of Hunger

By MARYLOU MORANO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — For the second year in a row, students of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School have helped raise the awareness of local and international hunger by holding a Hunger Banquet.

Sponsored by the school's Students Concerned for the Needy, this year's Hunger Banquet was held at the high school on February 28.

"The Hunger Banquet serves two purposes," said Jamie Dougher, a senior student from Scotch Plains who is a co-President of Students Concerned for the Needy. "We want to show the impact hunger has globally, and we want to open the public's eyes to hunger right here in our local community."

Upon arriving at the Hunger Ban-

quet, guests were socially divided into lower, middle and upper classes by the color of the entrance pass given. The upper class guests were seated at tables set with dinnerware and complete with tablecloths and candles.

They were served a four-course chicken breast dinner. The middle class sat at regular cafeteria tables and served themselves chicken nuggets and rice from a buffet table. Members of the lower class sat on mats on the floor and were given beans and rice to eat.

Dr. Sanford Fineman, co-founder and President of the Yes, We Care Soup Kitchen, was one of the evening's guest speakers. Dr. Fineman, a Scotch Plains resident, has been running Yes, We Care for eight years. It is the only mobile soup kitchen in the area. Meals prepared

at Zion Lutheran Church in Clark, along with clothes and toys, are taken into Elizabeth weekly.

Police Lieutenant Henry Thibault of Piscataway, an officer of the Salvation Army in Plainfield, spoke to the group about hunger.

"All it takes is one crisis to change your whole life," Lieutenant Thibault said, adding, everyone has the potential to experience hunger.

"The United States is the wealthiest country in the world, yet 30 million Americans can't afford to eat three meals a day," said Ms. Dougher in a short presentation prior to the distribution of food.

"Many people think of hunger as being 'out there' somewhere," said senior student Susanna Klassel of Scotch Plains, also a co-President of Students Concerned for the Needy. "The Hunger Banquet allows the community to see and hear local people who are doing something about it."

English teacher Bob Stevens is the advisor for Students Concerned for the Needy. He praised the service club, saying its members are a high caliber of students who are willing to do whatever needs to be done.

"They are a great bunch of kids who mostly work behind the scenes," said Mr. Stevens. "They don't seek recognition for what they do."

Last year's Hunger Banquet raised \$700 for local agencies that feed the hungry. It was anticipated this year's event would at least raise, if not surpass, this amount.



TRAVELING PIECE OF WESTFIELD...The Excellent Diner, formerly of Westfield, has recently - July 2000 - been spotted in Wasseraffingen, Germany on the circle one block north of the Bahnhof (Train Station). Wasseraffingen is located off Autobahn A7 about 45-50 kilometers north of Ulm.



FIGHTING HUNGER...Eleventh graders Emily Rodino, left, and Jennifer Ordelt, right, both of Scotch Plains hand Lauren De Martino, also a junior from Scotch Plains, a program at the Second Banquet for Hunger held at Scotch Plains - Fanwood High School on February 28.

## Letters to the Editor

### Seniors Who Qualify Can Apply For Tax Reimbursement Fund

This letter is being written to make sure our senior citizens are aware of the Property Tax Reimbursement Fund.

This program is available to eligible senior citizens whose property tax will increase due to the passing of a school bond referendum. Westfield voters passed a school bond referendum this past December.

To be eligible, seniors must be 65 and over with a total annual income for a single individual of less than \$18,151. For married couples the combined total income must be less than \$22,256. Applicants must be New Jersey residents since January 1, 1989.

To take advantage of this program and "freeze" their property tax bills, seniors must apply to the state.

I have long advocated for assistance for our seniors and view this as one way we can enable them to remain in their homes.

In order to get the word out to as many seniors as possible, I am sending a copy of this letter to the Mayor and Town Council and to the various organizations in town, such as the United Fund and the Westfield Community Center. I hope anyone knowing an eligible senior citizen will pass this information on to them.

For additional information about the Property Tax Reimbursement Fund, seniors should call the New Jersey Division of Taxation at (800) 882-6597.

Susan Jacobson  
Westfield

### Resident Questions Wisdom Of Redevelopment Proposal

I write to question the wisdom of the proposed redevelopment of the triangle now occupied by Tullio's. As proposed, the project will eliminate eight existing parking places and require that at least 60 more non-existent parking spaces become available to service the customers and tenants of the redeveloped space.

I cannot believe, as the developer claims, that his 20 apartments will be occupied by car-less individuals and couples commuting to jobs in Manhattan. I'm sure each one of the apartments will have at least one car associated with it.

When the residents of this town are now having to pay more for meter and lot parking in order to fund a parking garage, the idea of wiping out existing

parking spots and increasing the need for even more parking spots is inappropriate. If any redevelopment should take place on the triangle, I suggest the town buy the spot and convert it to parking.

In addition, Lenox Avenue, which separates the present parking lot from the triangle, could also be converted to public parking spots and add to available spots at little public cost.

In the alternative, the developer should be asked to pay for the expense of 68 of the spots making up the proposed parking deck. This way, the true cost of his project would be born by him and not the public.

Larry Cary  
Westfield

### Ketubah Couples To Dine March 25 At Deli Restaurant

AREA - The B'nai B'rith Ketubah Married Couples Unit (40+) will have dinner at Harold's New York Deli Restaurant, 3050 Woodbridge Avenue (in the Ramada Inn) in Edison on Sunday, March 25, at 5 p.m.

The cost is each individual's share of the bill.

Ketubah Unit is open to Jewish couples age 40 and over. Prospective members are welcome to join the group for the dinner and any other events.

Persons interested in attending the dinner are asked to call Elaine at (908) 232-0062 by Friday, March 23.

### Township Police Set Neighborhood Watch Meeting for March 14

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains Police Department will hold a Neighborhood Watch meeting for residents on Wednesday, March 14, at 7 p.m. in the Court Room of the Municipal Building, located at 430 Park Avenue.

During the meeting, attendees will be advised on crime trends in the local area. Revisions to the Neighborhood Watch program will also be explained and new police contacts will be introduced.

### Holy Trinity Seniors Plan Musical Program In Honor of St. Patrick

WESTFIELD - The regular meeting of the Senior Social Club of Holy Trinity will be held on Monday, March 12, at 1:30 p.m. in the gymnasium of the elementary school.

A musical program in honor of St. Patrick will be presented by Rita Curran, pianist, and Betty Avis, violinist, along with musicians and members of the parish.

Refreshments will be served.

On Monday, May 21, club members will visit the Renault Winery at Egg Harbor, enjoy a luncheon and tour the Tuckerton Seaport Museum.



LIFESAIVING LESSONS...Webelos Pack No. 171, pictured above, from Wilson Elementary School in Westfield recently participated in an American Red Cross course to learn what to do until help arrives when faced with an emergency. The boys learned how to respond to an emergency, how to use the EMS system, what to do while waiting for help and how to assist a choking victim. The course was taught by Linda Johnson, Director of Health and Safety for the Westfield/Mountainside Red Cross Chapter.

### WILLIAM J. SWEENEY

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### Red Cross Chapter to Hold CPR Classes During March

WESTFIELD - The Westfield/Mountainside Red Cross Chapter has joined the national commemoration of March as Red Cross Month by offering health and safety classes.

These activities are part of the Westfield/Mountainside chapter's effort to raise awareness of the life-saving services provided by the Red Cross and to encourage people to become actively involved in furthering the organization's mission.

Courses that will be offered during March are as follows:

- Infant/Child CPR: Thursday, March 15, from 6 to 10 p.m. The fee is \$30.
- Adult CPR: Thursday, March 22, from 6 to 10 p.m. The fee is \$30.
- CPR for the Professional Rescuer: Saturday, March 31, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The fee is \$60.

CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) courses provide instruction in how to recognize and care for breath-

ing emergencies while teaching life-saving skills. Certification will be given at the completion of each class.

All training will take place at the Chapter House, located at 321 Elm Street in Westfield. Advance registration is required and space is limited.

Interested individuals may visit the chapter house or call (908) 232-7090 for more information, to register or to inquire about the spring course schedule.

### African Violet Society To Meet on March 15

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Union County Chapter of the African Violet Society will meet at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, at the Scotch Plains Public Library, located at 1927 Bartle Avenue in Scotch Plains.

The featured program will be entitled "Going to Show." All are invited to attend.

## Donate Your Car

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## PUBLIC NOTICE TO VOTERS UNION COUNTY

### REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

For the convenience of the voters, the office of the Commissioner of Registration will be open on March 19th, 2001 until 9:00 p.m.

Municipal clerks' offices in Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Elizabeth, Fanwood, Hillside, New Providence, Plainfield, Union, Westfield and Winfield will be open March 19th, 2001 until 9:00 p.m.

### REGISTRATION BY MAIL

Anyone wishing to register by mail can do so by requesting mail registration forms from the Commissioner of Registration, 271 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208 or by calling (908) 527-4123.

### VOTING REQUIREMENTS

To vote in Union County, a person must be a citizen of the United States; a resident of New Jersey and Union County for 30 days; and shall have attained the age of 18 years by the School Board Election Day, April 17th, 2001.

### TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION

A voter who moved should transfer his/her registration to the new address. This is accomplished by informing the Commissioner of Registration in writing. Such notice must be signed by each voter. Change of Residence Forms can be obtained at the offices of the Boards of Elections and offices of the municipal clerks. If you have not notified the election board of an address change within Union County, you will be permitted to vote on Election Day by doing the following.

- 1) Go to the polling place for the election district of your current address.
- 2) Tell the poll worker you are registered to vote, but have moved within the county.
- 3) You will be permitted to vote by provisional ballot.

Provisional ballots will only be available for registered voters. They will not be available to unregistered voters.

If you have any questions as to your voter registration status or polling location call (908) 527-4123.

The deadline to register for the School Board Election is March 19th, 2001.

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