

## God's 'Sin Box'...Penalties of Love To Help Us Become Better People

By REV. GARY F. ROTHWELL

I am a relatively new resident in the northeast. Having grown up in the Deep South, I'm not that familiar with the sport of ice hockey. I have tried to watch televised games, but when you don't understand what's going on, it isn't interesting.

One thing I do find interesting about ice hockey is the penalty box. Evidently, when players break the rules, they are assigned time off the ice in a special box.

While there, they should think about how they messed up. They should consider how their teammates are working harder without their contribution as they try to prevent the opposing side from capitalizing on their advantage. Church members who follow hockey recently informed me of the nickname for the penalty box — "sin box".

As I reflect on this concept, isn't this what we do as parents when we give the children "time out"? Isn't that supposed to be a time of reflection, and, in spiritual terms, repentance, for breaking our rules?

God is a loving Father and He sometimes puts us into a "sin box" for discipline when we break His rules about loving Him and loving others. We suddenly find ourselves under His discipline and in His "sin box".

I think of Samson's last stand against the Philistines. God had gifted him with great potential and strength to lead Israel. God also set special parameters for his life. Samson broke all the rules and found himself in the Philistine stadium, the butt of their celebration and taunting. Samson broke all of God's rules as he made a

game with Delilah over his God-given strength. The Philistines gouged his eyes out and took him prisoner. He was defeated, it seemed — judged by His own God, in the "sin box".

Yet, the Bible says, Samson cried out to God in prayer and God granted his last request. He came out of the "sin box" and defeated more of the enemy in his death than in his life (Judges 16:30).

I think of King David, who found himself in God's "sin box" after his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba. Through the confrontation of Nathan, David was able to see his sin, confess it to God in his beautiful penitential song (Psalm 51), and come out of the "sin box" to lead Israel to new heights.

Often we find ourselves in God's "sin box". During these times, God helps us to realize that it is for our good. We may feel down and out, but God is ready to bring us out and put us back in the game as better people — loving Him more and loving others more.

Hebrews 12:10 states it this way: "Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

\*\*\*\*\*  
Reverend Rothwell is the Pastor of the Scotch Plains Baptist Church, located at 333 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains.



**HUGS FOR HEROES...**Brownie Troop No. 768 from Wilson Elementary School in Westfield recently participated in a project to thank rescue workers in New York City. Senior Girl Scout Kasey Cass is working on her Girl Scout Gold Award Project, entitled "Bear Hugs Across America," for which she is coordinating an effort to donate Teddy Bears, with homemade clothing, to the rescue workers and their families. She plans to deliver about 400 bears, along with letters of thanks, next month. Kasey, far right in the back row, is pictured with the Brownies who helped with her project. Anyone interested in helping Kasey with her project may call her at (908) 233-6226.

## LEARN Speaker to Discuss Heart Failure Treatment

SCOTCH PLAINS — The League for Educational Advancement for Registered Nurses will present a program entitled "New Treatment Modalities for Congestive Heart Failure" on Monday, February 25, at 7:45 p.m. at the All Saints' Episcopal

Church Parish Hall, 559 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains.

Diane Mirabella, Clinical Coordinator for Mid-Atlantic Cardiology of Overlook Hospital in Summit, will be the speaker for the program.

LEARN is a not-for-profit, professional organization for registered nurses that offers eight programs per academic year on current nursing topics.

Each program provides Continuing Education/Contact Hours through the New Jersey State Nurses Association. This program has been approved for 2.4 Contact Hours.

The New Jersey Department of Education, Professional Standards Board has granted this program Professional Development Hours for School Nurses.

Annual LEARN membership is \$40, or a guest fee of \$10 per program. For further information, please write to LEARN, P.O. Box 6, Scotch Plains 07076 or call (908) 754-9499 or (908) 272-7239.

## Temple to Present 'Kiddush' Program

CRANFORD — "Kiddush: The Ultimate Battlefield," a new one-man show by Marc Weiner, will be held Saturday, March 16, at 8 p.m. at Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim in Cranford.

Advance tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students; \$18 for adults and \$13 for students on the night of the performance. Cabaret-style refreshments will be available.

Free babysitting will be provided if requested in advance. For tickets and information, please call the synagogue at (908) 276-9231.

## Scotch Plains Letter Carrier Aids Injured Crossing Guard

SCOTCH PLAINS — Scotch Plains letter carrier Shari L. Johnson recently combined some quick thinking and compassion when she helped an area crossing guard in trouble.

Clarence Paige, a Scotch Plains resident, was heading to his post as a crossing guard on Westfield Avenue in early January when he tripped and fell on the street.

The fall caused a laceration to his forehead, which would require 12 stitches. He was bleeding profusely, and attempted to return home, but was having difficulty

## Professor to Discuss Situation in Mideast

WESTFIELD — Professor Fred Lazin will return to Temple Emanu-El in Westfield for a third season on Sunday, February 24, from 7 to 9 p.m. to lecture on the Arab-Israeli situation in the Middle East.

Dr. Lazin will discuss the history of the Mideast in easy-to-understand terms, revealing how the area was tumultuous long before the founding of modern Israel. He will also explain why studying the area's past may help people understand the present.

An American who has lived in Israel for more than 20 years, Dr. Lazin is presently the Lynn and Lloyd Hurst Family Professor of Government at Ben Gurion University in Israel.

The program is free of charge. Temple Emanu-El is located at 756 East Broad Street. For additional information, please call Carolyn Shane at (908) 232-6770.

because of his injury.

Ms. Johnson was out on her delivery route when she saw Mr. Paige in trouble and quickly came to his aid. She had him lean back, placed a compress on his wound and contacted the local rescue squad. Squad personnel soon arrived and transported him to a hospital.

Scotch Plains Postmaster Jim McDade learned of Ms. Johnson's efforts through a letter he received from Mr. Paige and his wife, both of whom credited the letter carrier with saving Mr. Paige's life. "We at the Scotch Plains Post Office are all very proud of Ms. Johnson," the Postmaster said.

Postmaster McDade has nominated Ms. Johnson for a QSET 100 Percent "Quality Service Every Time" award. "I'm just glad that I was there to help him," Ms. Johnson said.

## Brooke L. Molloy Named to Dean's List

WESTFIELD — The University of California, Berkeley has revealed that Brooke L. Molloy of Westfield has been named to the Dean's List with honors for her outstanding academic achievement during the fall 2001 semester.

A 1998 graduate of Westfield High School, Brooke studied in Paris, France through New York University. She has maintained Dean's List recognition throughout her academic career.

Brooke is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brian J. Molloy of Westfield.

## Monsignor Harms to Receive Pastor Planning Award

WESTFIELD — Monsignor William Harms, Pastor of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield, will receive the Yves Congar Award from the Conference on Pastoral Planning and Council Development (CPPCD) on Tuesday, March 12, in Tucson, Ariz.

CPPCD is the only national Catholic organization devoted primarily to the promotion of pastoral planning and the ongoing development of pastoral councils at the diocesan and parish level.

"Monsignor Harms was selected because he has demonstrated extraordinary service to the people of God in support of pastoral planning through his years of teaching on the university level and through the many workshops he has conducted," said Maria Rodgers O'Rourke of CPPCD.

"Bill is one of the founding fathers of our organization and has shared his expertise with numerous dioceses," she added.

Named after Yves Congar, a French Dominican theologian and cardinal who has been called the greatest ecclesiological of the 20th century, the award is presented annually. Monsignor Harms is its 10th recipient.

"I am grateful to the Conference for selecting me to receive the Yves

Congar Award," said Monsignor Harms. "I find planning to be a challenge in any setting. The church is no exception.

"When one is faced with limited resources, such as in a church situation, planning is crucial," he added.

Among the many positions Monsignor Harms held, prior to being named Pastor of St. Helen's Parish Community in 2000, were Vice President of Planning and an Associate Dean in the School of Theology at Seton Hall University. He also served as Director of Seton Hall's Church Management Program.

He was appointed as Papal Chamberlain in 1995 and was Coordinator of the Archdiocesan Synod from 1992 to 1994.

## Torah Center to Hold Purim Celebration At JCC February 25

WESTFIELD — The Union County Torah Center, located in Westfield, will present a Purim Celebration at the Wilf Jewish Community Campus and the Jewish Community Center of Central New Jersey, located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains.

The program will be held on Monday, February 25, from 6 to 8 p.m. Included will be a masquerade contest for youngsters at 6 p.m. All children dressed in costume will receive a prize and one special grand prize will be awarded for the best costume.

A multimedia Megillah reading, followed by refreshments with music and dancing, will take place at 6:30 p.m. Children will also be treated to a Purim magic show, Shalach Manot, and other activities.

There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person (reservations are preferred but not required). The program is open to the public and all are welcome to attend. For more information or to receive a free Purim guide, please call the center at (908) 789-5252.

## Lectures to Tell How Jews Can Respond To Environment Crisis

WESTFIELD — Rabbi Lawrence Troster will return to Temple Emanu-El, located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield, for a four-session minicourse on Jewish Environmental Awareness.

The lectures will be given on Wednesdays, February 27, March 6, 13 and 20, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The series will focus on how Jews can respond to the growing environmental crisis in the world.

The program is free of charge. For additional information or questions, please call Carolyn Shane at (908) 232-6770.



**REACHING THE COMMUNITY...**The Center for Women and Families' Board of Directors met recently to plan programs and events for 2002. Pictured, left to right, are: Seated, Paula Blumenthal, Maryann Higgins and CWF President Marilyn Vidovich, and standing, Carolee Marano, Program Director; Susan Koslowsky, Marilyn Spera, Susan Marino-Jennings, Dorothy Van Dyke, Surindera Dhaliwal, Jennifer Brandt, Joan Shatkin, Theresa Evangelista, Ellen Radin, Clare Gambirino and Ellen Travers.

## Center for Women Seeks Volunteers for 2002 Events

SCOTCH PLAINS — During a recent Board of Directors meeting of the Center for Women and Families (CWF), headquartered in Scotch Plains, it was determined that a concerted effort would be made to recruit volunteers from Union County municipalities to assist with 2002 programs and activities.

CWF is an 18-year-old, Union County-based, non-profit organization offering sliding scale professional counseling to adults, youths and families; free half-hour legal consultations; support groups for adults and children; community education seminars; workshops; job skills training; help-line referrals and more.

"In addition to assisting with our counseling programs, we are also

seeking people who can provide liaison and outreach services with the municipal governments and local business communities in Union County," said CSF President Marilyn Vidovich.

"We welcome retirees, students, interns — anyone who has some spare time and a desire to help," she added.

On the agenda for CWF in 2002 are plans for a children's theater benefit, a fashion show, potluck supper and other festive and fund-raising activities.

Anyone interested in joining the CWF, registering for upcoming programs or volunteering their time or services may call (908) 322-6007. The organization's headquarters is located at 1801 East Second Street in Scotch Plains.



**OLYMPIC TORCHBEARERS...**Christina Sheehy, left, of Westfield and Jan Reed, principal of Chinle Elementary School in Chinle, Arizona, were chosen to run in the Olympic Torch Relay.

## Westfielder Chosen to Run In Olympic Torch Relay

WESTFIELD — Christina Sheehy, Westfield High School Class of 1988, was one of the 11,520 people chosen to serve as participants in the Olympic Torch Relay. She carried the torch in St. George, Utah on February 4.

Sheehy became a part of the Olympic Torch Relay after nominating Jan Reed, the principal of Chinle Elementary School in Chinle, Ariz. to be a torchbearer.

At Chinle Elementary, the students face tremendous academic chal-

lenges every day. Some of the Navajo students travel over 90 minutes to attend school. More than 70 percent of the students are of limited English proficiency and a large percentage come from low-income homes without electricity, running water or telephones.

Letting nothing stand in the way of student success, Ms. Reed has dedicated herself to providing these students with the best educational opportunities possible. High-tech learning initiatives and innovative ways to increase parental involvement have reaped tremendous success. Ms. Reed also encourages parents to learn computer literacy at the school.

Ms. Reed was selected from more than 210,000 nominations, and both Ms. Reed and Ms. Sheehy were chosen to run as part of the "Inspirational Pairs Program." "The Inspirational Pairs" program allows both the selected nominee and his or her nominator to run as part of the torch relay.

Themed "Light the Fire Within," the Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Torch Relay celebrates the inspirational fire found within every United States community. Beginning December 4, in Atlanta, Ga. and ending February 8, 2002 in Salt Lake City, Utah, the Olympic Flame traveled throughout the country for 65 days, covering more than 13,500 miles.

Ms. Sheehy's parents, Dr. Martin and Patricia Sheehy of Westfield, sister, Melissa Sheehy of Westfield, and aunt, Mary Rafferty of Philadelphia, were on hand to witness this Olympic event.

## Minister to Discuss Pregnancy Centers

CRANFORD — The Grace and Peace Seniors Fellowship will hold their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, February 21, at 1 p.m. at the Grace and Peace Fellowship Church, located at 950 Raritan Road in Cranford.

The Reverend Dean Gavaris, Executive Director of Gateway Pregnancy Centers, which operates facilities in Irvington and Elizabeth. Gateway offers assistance free of charge at all times.

Reverend Gavaris will discuss his ministry and present a scriptural challenge relative to this type of outreach effort, specifically involving Christian seniors.

The Seniors Fellowship is open to all individuals over the age of 55. The meetings will conclude by 3 p.m. and the public is invited to attend. The Seniors Fellowship meets on the third Thursday of every month at 1 p.m.

# DEEGAN

## ROOFING

C O M P A N Y

### 908-322-6405

Tear-Offs • Re-Roofs  
Repairs • Gutters  
Free Estimates • Fully Insured

## Will you be audited?

You can determine your chances of being audited by the IRS.

See "Tax Planning" on our Internet home page. It is totally free and it's nontaxable!

www.neilschembrecpa.com

Neil F. Schembre, CPA

*"For All Your Personal & Business Tax Preparation Needs!"*

266 North Avenue  
Fanwood, NJ 07023  
(908) 322-6066 • FAX (908) 322-2994  
e-mail: SchemCPA@aol.com

## PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL ATTENTION

**FRANCIS M. SMITH**  
THE ONLY ATTORNEY  
INVOLVED IN YOUR CASE  
*"24 Years of Experience Settling  
Significant Injury and Accident Cases."*

Call For a Free Consultation  
*"No Fee Unless Money is Collected."*  
2281 South Ave., Scotch Plains  
(908) 233-5800