



WE HAVE LOVE... Cheryl Parris thanks volunteers from the Greater Plainfield Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, many from the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, at the September 18 key ceremony, when she and her family received the keys to their new, two-story home that was built by the volunteers. Pictured, from left to right, are: Pastor Carla Parlin, Ms. Parris, her daughter, Chadaira Parris; Molly Adams of Comcast, Al Yoshimura, President of the Greater Plainfield chapter; and Ms. Parris' son, Chad Griffith. Pastor Parlin, Ms. Adams and Mr. Yoshimura spoke at the ceremony at St. Mary Street in Plainfield. This is the 26th house that has been built by the Habitat for Humanity chapter since it began in 1989.

JCC Announces Schedule Of Courses and Lectures

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey will offer an American Red Cross Community First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification course on Wednesdays during November from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The course will provide the knowledge and skills necessary in an emergency.

Additionally, Laura Bransky, Head JCC Barraudas Swim Team Coach, will discuss "Sports Nutrition for the Youth and Teen Athlete" on Sundays, October 16 and 23, from 2 to 3 p.m. both days. She will review "game day" nutrition strategies, basic nutrition and hydration.

On Thursday, October 27, Ms. Bransky will lecture on "Fitness Swimming Essentials" from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. She will discuss ways of maximizing workouts in the pool using stroke videos, and introduce the F.I.T. components. Additionally, she will help individuals develop their own fitness swimming programs.

Area residents also are invited to take advantage of an optional evaluation, and sample the Adult Master Workout class held at the JCC on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:15 a.m. Enrollment for the American Red

Cross Learn-to-Swim program will start Thursday, October 20, for swimmers of all abilities and ages. The JCC can schedule an evaluation to determine the correct program for each swimmer.

The JCC is offering a new Aqua Fitness class and Aqua Jam class. Classes are held Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Participants work on strengthening muscles, improving cardiovascular efficiency and overall flexibility. Classes are held in both the shallow and deep ends of the pool.

The JCC is located at 1391 Martine Avenue. For more information, please call Rebecca Rivera at the JCC at (908) 889-8800, extension no. 219, or visit www.jccnj.org.

Hiking Club Offers Outdoor Excursions

COUNTY - The Union County Hiking Club offers various hiking and bicycling activities on a regular basis that foster outdoor recreation as well as physical fitness. Most of these events take place in central and northern New Jersey. Membership dues are \$10 per year. To request a complimentary, six-month schedule, please call (908) 527-4900.

Local Activist Fights for Peace, the Environment

By CAROL F. DAVIS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - Diane Beeny, who has spent most of her life in Westfield, has a "different world view," that began with a childhood most only imagine. Born in Bogota, Colombia, where her father was working as an electrical engineer in telecommunications, Ms. Beeny came to this country with her parents when she was two-years-old, and spent the next couple of years living in Scotch Plains.

Two years later, the family moved to Westfield, but Mr. Beeny was soon sent overseas again, and from 1963-1965, he raised his family in Tehran, Iran while installing satellite antennas. From there, the family was sent to Turkey, described by Ms. Beeny as "a little more modern." She vividly recalls the water shortages and electrical blackouts, occurring daily, as the country was at war with Greece.

"I was given celebrity status when I first came back to the U.S.," said Ms. Beeny, "but that was short-lived when the other students realized I was lousy at gym and didn't know slang."

Ms. Beeny's first experience at organized protest was in 1982, at the No Nukes Rally on the Great Lawn in Central Park. The peaceful event was an awakening for her, and there she saw "an outpouring of hope."

She was extremely motivated by the appearance of Dr. Helen Caldicott, who has devoted her life to educating the public about the dangers of living in a nuclear world.

To that end, Ms. Beeny shares her own concerns with the plight of animals, food and the environment at large, and writes and speaks on the topic to audiences like the Big Apple Vegetarians and the Northeast Organic Farming Association.

Closer to home, she has participated in workshops at Union County's Trailside Nature and Science Center. On genetic engineering, she sees the "manipulation in the name of science without a long-range view as short-sighted," and with "disastrous environmental consequences."

A vegetarian for 25 years, Ms. Beeny has been vegan (no animal products or by-products) for the past 13 years. She is involved with New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance (<http://www.nj-ara.org/>) and the Central Jersey Vegetarian Group (<http://www.geocities.com/sfenster/cjvg.html>). Speaking out for the rights of animals, she has been concentrating her efforts on stopping the bear hunt in New Jersey.

College at Rutgers University on September 21, Ms. Beeny said, "How we treat animals, nature, other human beings and the planet is completely interrelated."

Locally, Ms. Beeny co-chairs the Union County Peace Council (UCPC), a group founded 17 years ago by Sylvia Zisman, Co-Chairwoman of the New Jersey Hiroshima Day Remembrance Committee. These two groups are intertwined, and the Second Annual World Peace and Friendship Day held in downtown Cranford on August 6 was a commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Meanwhile, the UCPC (<http://unioncountypeacecouncil.org/>) is growing in numbers, and its members are busy. They are hosting an educational film series, Films for Change, in Westfield on Friday nights at the First United Methodist Church. The group recently held a vigil in Cranford in support of Cindy Sheehan, which Ms. Beeny attended, while her mother participated in a simultaneously-held vigil in Westfield.

A seven-year member of the Solidarity Singers of New Jersey, Ms. Beeny has performed solo and with the group on picket lines, at festivals and at protests. She has re-written songs with lyrics to reflect today's circumstances. The group has released one CD and is included in several other compilation CDs.

One of the issues that most strongly kindles Ms. Beeny's passion has been her ongoing commitment to legislation, re-introduced by U.S. Congressman and former Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) on September 14, for the establishment of a cabinet-level Department of Peace and Nonviolence (HR 3760). The bill is co-sponsored by New Jersey Congressmen Rush Holt (D-12) and Donald Payne (D-10) among many others, with support from Senator Mark Dayton (D-Minn).

Ms. Beeny attended a conference in Washington D.C. and lobbied Congress in support of this legislation. Before that, she volunteered for the Congressman's presidential campaign, and attended the Democratic Convention in 2004.

Self-employed, Ms. Beeny finds that "being a responsible citizen does not pay the bills. People doing the most important work are not remunerated, while those gaining are destroying our planet." At this rate, Ms. Beeny will never be wealthy, at least not in the conventional way.

Ms. Beeny may be contacted at (908) 233-7344 or diane181@yahoo.com.



NEW ROTARY GOVERNOR... Andy Calamaras, the new Governor of District No. 7510 of Rotary International, speaks to the Watchung-Warren Rotarians at Twin Brooks Country Club on September 13. He set out goals for the year, such as making the Rotary Club more visible and bringing clean water to Hondurans.

Area Clergyman to Address 'Sexuality and the Church'

WESTFIELD - New Jersey Voice of the Faithful, Union County Affiliate, will welcome the Reverend Ed Edwards on Thursday, October 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield.

Reverend Edwards will speak on "Sexuality and the Church." He will address same sex marriage, homosexuality and the priesthood, and homosexuality and pedophilia. He also will answer questions after his presentation.

Ordained in 1983, Reverend Edwards holds a master's degree from the Catholic Theological Union and a Master of Social Work degree from Yeshiva University. He has been Di-

rector of the Office of Ministry to Priests, Deacons and Families; an adjunct faculty member of the social work faculty at Seton Hall University, and Chairman of the Continuing Education Committee for priests of the Diocese of Metuchen.

There is no admission fee and all are welcome. The First United Methodist Church is located at the intersection of East Broad Street and North Avenue (Route 28) in Westfield.

Voice of the Faithful is a Roman Catholic reform group. Its goals are to support survivors of abuse as well as priests of integrity, and to shape structural change within the church.

Church Workshop to Focus On Why Suffering Occurs

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Spiritual Growth Team at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains will present a workshop that explores suffering which occurs in the world.

Interested individuals may attend the workshop on Wednesday, October 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. or Thursday, October 13, from 9 to 11 a.m. There will be a half hour of refreshments, snacks and fellowship.

The study will be based on a chapter from the book "Searching Issues" by Nicky Gumbel, and will be led by the Reverend Diane Curtis, Interim Pastor of Willow Grove Church, located at 1961 Raritan Road.


Participants will discuss current events in their lives and search for answers about God and why suffering is allowed to take place. "What Causes Suffering - God or Our Sins?" and "What Good Is Suffer-

ing, Anyway?" will be among the questions addressed. Attendees also will explore what can be learned about these topics through an investigation of the Bible.

Babysitting will be available in the Children's Ark if requested in advance. Individuals are just asked to let the church know if childcare will be needed and the ages of the children, so that appropriate activities can be planned for them.

Anyone interested in attending the workshop is asked to call the church office during morning hours, Monday through Friday, at (908) 232-5678, e-mail wilgrv@netzero.com or visit the church's website, www.scotchplains.com/wgpc.

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Come join us for an entertaining morning with Don Weill. He speaks for the senior generation in light verse about the joys of grandparenthood, to the aches and pains of senior athletes, to the recollection of old romances - something men and women will enjoy!

WHEN: Tuesday, October 11
TIME: Breakfast: 9:30 a.m.
Book Signing: 10:00 a.m.
WHERE: The Chelsea at Fanwood
295 South Avenue, Fanwood

RSVP REQUIRED
908-654-5200

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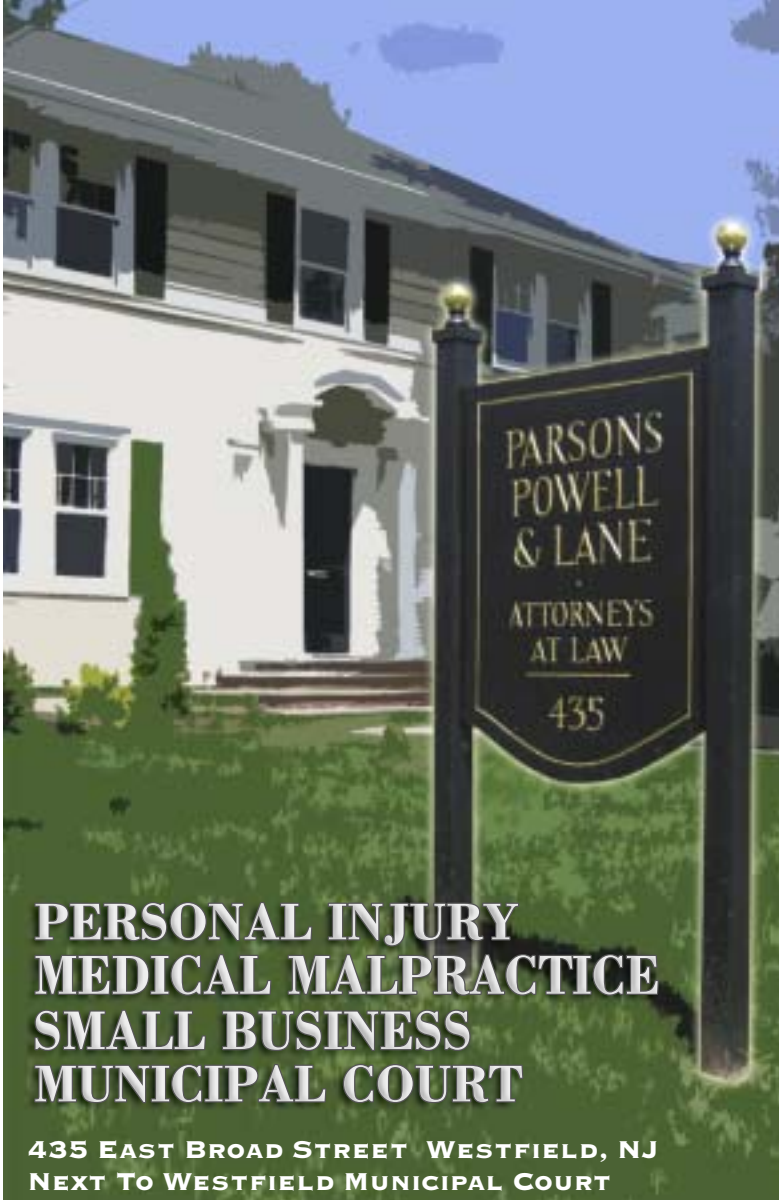
WHEN: Tuesday, October 18
TIME: Breakfast: 9:30 a.m.
Lecture: 10:00 a.m.
WHERE: The Chelsea at Fanwood
295 South Avenue, Fanwood

RSVP
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Yom Kippur Family Service
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