

## Summer Reading Among Varied Library Activities

WESTFIELD - The summer reading program is now underway at the Westfield Memorial Library. This year's theme is "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales" for pre-kindergarten through fifth grade and "Creature Feature" for teenagers.

Animal activities, stories and movies for all ages will be featured. In-person registration is required for "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales," while teenagers may register online for "Creature Feature" at [www.wmlnj.org](http://www.wmlnj.org).

Additionally, two programs will be offered for adults. Adult programs are free and open to Westfield Memorial Library or M.U.R.A.L. cardholders.

Author Helen-Chantal Pike will discuss her book, "Asbury Park's Glory Days: The Story of an American Resort," on Tuesday, June 27, at 7 p.m.

"TGIF: Emily Dickinson" will be held on Friday, June 30, at 1:30 p.m. and will spotlight the poet's work. Light refreshments will be served.

There also will be several other programs for children. Children's programs are open to all full service Westfield Memorial Library cardholders.

"Baby Rhyme Time," for babies who are not yet walking and a caregiver, will be held Monday, June 26, from 10 to 10:20 a.m. Attendees participate in rhymes, lap bounces, songs and claps.

"Preschool Story Time," for those age three-and-a-half to five, will take place on Tuesday, June 27, at 10 a.m. and Thursday, June 29, at 2 p.m. Children listen to stories and do an activity.

Youngsters are invited to play chess at the library on Wednesday, June 28, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Also on June 28, the "Mother Goose Group," for toddlers up to age two-and-a-half with a caregiver, will be offered from 10 to 10:20 a.m. Children take part in stories, songs, finger plays and movement activities.

"Tots' Story Time," for those age two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half and a caregiver, will meet Thursday, June 29, from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Youngsters listen to a story and do an activity.

"Creative Dramatics," for those in kindergarten to third grade, will meet on June 29 from 4 to 4:45 p.m. Children listen to classic stories and take part in a creative dramatics activity.

Finally, Color/Shape Bingo, for young children who know some shapes and colors, will be held on Friday, June 30, from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Participants will play bingo and win stickers.

The library is located at 550 East Broad Street in Westfield. For more information, please call (908) 789-4090, visit the library's website at [www.wmlnj.org](http://www.wmlnj.org) or stop by the library for a copy of its quarterly newsletter.



GIVING HOPE TO THE HOMELESS... The Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains was recently honored on its 20th anniversary of providing shelter and meals to homeless people on a rotating basis with other houses of worship through Homefirst, formerly known as the Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County. Pictured, from left to right, are: Mary Robinson, Director of External Affairs for Homefirst; Bill Franklin, a former shelter client; Gloria Valentine, Homeless Host Coordinator, and Marilyn Thorne, Mission Elder.

## Willow Grove Renews Hope For Homeless For 20 Years

SCOTCH PLAINS - During the Sunday morning worship service on May 7, the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church received special recognition for 20 years of providing temporary shelter to homeless people from Union County.

Mary Robinson, Director of External Affairs for Homefirst, and Bill Franklin, a former shelter client, spoke during the service. Mr. Franklin described the effect Homefirst has had on his life as he has recovered from addictions, found a job and a permanent home and become active in his home church. He also shared how grateful he was to be welcomed with open arms into the shelter congregations in his time of need.

Together, he and Ms. Robinson presented to the congregation a commemorative 20th Anniversary banner, which now is prominently displayed in the sanctuary.

In 1986, Willow Grove had a shared vision with other Union County religious leaders and lay people to eliminate homelessness in Union County. Out of this vision, they created the Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County.

What began as a commitment of 11 congregations to shelter 14 single women and families on a rotating basis has grown within Union County and beyond. The Interfaith Hospitality Network is now used as a model implemented across the country.

In May, the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church hosted homeless guests as part of an ongoing mission project with Homefirst, formerly known as the Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County.

### Area Residents Invited To Hiking Club Events

COUNTY - The Union County Hiking Club offers a varied program of outdoor activities that provides wholesome recreation while contributing to physical fitness.

Hiking and bicycling activities are regularly scheduled, most of which take place in central and northern New Jersey. Membership dues are \$10 per year. For a complimentary, six-month schedule, please call (908) 527-4900.

## Hadassah Gives Mrs. Bieber National Leadership Award

WESTFIELD - Renate Bieber of Westfield, a member of the Westfield Chapter of Hadassah, was recently named a recipient of the 20th Annual Hadassah National Leadership Award.

Chapter President Jeanne Goldstein announced the award at the chapter's annual installation luncheon that was held May 23 at the Spanish Tavern in Mountainside.

This award pays tribute to members whose leadership accomplishments reflect Hadassah's dedication to the principles of the volunteer ethic. Award recipients are selected by their peers and represent a wide range of achievements.

"Leadership often means taking risks, being able to face criticism, develop vision and carry through a project despite all complications," said National President of Hadassah June Walker. "Anyone who has dared to be a leader understands the challenges."



Renate Bieber

Mrs. Bieber recently was installed as membership vice-president of the Westfield Chapter of Hadassah.

Her past accomplishments for the Northern New Jersey Region of Hadassah include acting as Myrtle Wreath photographer; Spring Conference Coordinator, Bulletin Editor Chief and Area Advisor to several chapters.

Mrs. Bieber is active in the Parent-Teacher Organization at McKinley Elementary School in Westfield and volunteers at the McKinley School library. She and her family are members of Temple Shalom in Fanwood. In addition, she is an expert quilter and has displayed her work in quilt shows.

With 1,000 chapters in the United States and Puerto Rico, Hadassah is the largest Jewish women's organization, as well as the largest Zionist organization in the United States. Hadassah is celebrating 94 years of service rooted in health care, education, child rescue and rehabilitation.

## Garden Club Recognizes 'Random Acts of Beauty'

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Garden Club recently selected three winners for "Random Acts of Beauty," a major project of the club during 2005. It was designed to recognize and thank area merchants for their efforts to beautify their surroundings and contribute to quality of life in their community.

Judges for the event were Ruth Paul, Diane Clemson and Barbara Lewis, all members of the Westfield Garden Club.

Williams Nursery and Gift House on Springfield Avenue was honored for planting and maintaining the urns at the Mindowaskin overlook during the spring and summer seasons.

Nancy Priest and Kay Cross were recognized for having designed and installed the fall and winter arrangements for the overlook. Williams Nursery and Gift House donated these as well.

Helen and Peter Rentoulis, owners of Vicki's Diner on East Broad Street, were acknowledged for fall and holiday displays in front of the business.

Current plans call for a continuation of the Random Acts of Beauty project in 2006. Members of the public are invited to nominate Westfield business owners or professional offices to receive the award. Nominations must be received by August and may be directed to Ruth Paul at (908) 232-3736.

A review of nominated spaces will take place in August and September. The Westfield Garden Club is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Central Atlantic Region.

## Optimist Club Announces Oratorical Contest Winners

WESTFIELD - The Optimist Club of Westfield has chosen Danielle Fields of Roosevelt Intermediate School and Amelia Morabito of Edison Intermediate School as the winners of the club's inaugural oratorical contest for middle school students.

With the assistance of fine arts instructors Kim Jonny and Michael Altmann, the club honored the students at a dinner on June 14, presenting them each with a \$250 United States Savings Bond, a medallion and a Certificate of Achievement.

A total of 27 seventh-grade Public Speaking students participated in the competition, held at both schools. Each gave a public address four minutes in length on one of three topics: "The benefits of volunteerism are..." "What makes middle school students tick" or "The positive and negative aspects of stereotyping are..."

Faculty and administration selected the finalists and members of the club chose the winners.

The other finalists were Mark Andrononis, Meghan Dunn, Georgia Gleason, Christopher Neylan,

Amy Reich and Meghan Sullivan of Roosevelt and Paige Xio Alvarez, Rachel Baron, Siya Bhatt, Stephen Buell, Meghan Cleary, Catolina Gaglioti, Corey Lipshultz, Sierra McAliney, Madison Mone, Olivia Ryan and Samantha Waldman at Edison. Each finalist received a Certificate of Achievement.

This is the first year the club, which has been active in the community since 1989, has sponsored the contest. Other programs and service projects the club organizes and participates in are holiday food baskets, the annual Halloween haunted house, essay contests, a ninth-grade orientation service project and the annual Project Graduation (BASH).

The club also gives annual recognition for special achievements in the community, including the Friend of Youth Award, the Youth Volunteer Award and the Middle School Teacher of the Year Award.

### Local Church to Hold Vacation Bible School

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Terrill Road Baptist Church will offer its Vacation Bible School, entitled "Arctic Edge: Where Adventure Meets Courage™," from Monday to Friday, July 31 to August 4, from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the church, located at 1340 Terrill Road in Scotch Plains.

Built around a trip to the Arctic, the week will feature Bible stories, a Crafts Depot, fun music, snacks and recreation. It is open to children from infants through sixth grade. To register, please call (908) 322-7151 or visit [www.members.aol.com/terillrdbaptist](http://www.members.aol.com/terillrdbaptist).

### Thrift Shop Featuring Fashions For Summer

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop, located at 1730 East Second Street in Scotch Plains, is offering summer attire for the entire family.

Shorts, T-shirts, bathing suits, casual and dress clothes for men, women and children are available, along with shoes, sandals and purses.

To make room for new merchandise, the shop will hold a semi-seasonal Bag Sale from Saturday, June 24, to Friday, June 30, during which time customers may fill a bag for \$5. Anything that does not fit will be half price. Also included in this sale will be the few remaining wedding gowns still left on the racks, offered at half price. The gowns are now priced from \$25 to \$100.

The store will be closed for the July 4 holiday and will reopen on Thursday, July 6, on its summer schedule. Shelves and racks will be restocked with all new gently-used merchandise.

Shop hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. from Tuesday through Saturday in July, and Tuesday through Friday in August. For directions or more details, please call (908) 322-5420 during business hours.

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Weeks of June 26<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Baseball Camp with Dave Duels**  
Weeks of July 3<sup>rd</sup> & July 10<sup>th</sup>

**Basketball Camp with Neil Horne**  
Weeks of June 26<sup>th</sup> & July 10<sup>th</sup> (M-Th)

**Wrestling Camp with Glen Kurz**  
Weeks of July 3<sup>rd</sup> & August 7<sup>th</sup>

**Flag Football Camp with Dave Duels**  
Weeks of June 26<sup>th</sup> & July 17<sup>th</sup>

**Held 9:00am-12:00pm, Mon-Fri. for Ages 8-14yrs.**

Westfield Recreation Department  
425 East Broad Street ~ 908-789-4080  
[www.westfieldnj.gov/recreation](http://www.westfieldnj.gov/recreation)

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