

## Richard E. Franklin, 94, Was Engineer; Member of Radio and Musician Groups

Richard Evans Franklin, 94, of Kenilworth died on Saturday, June 27, at the Cranford Health and Extended Care Center.

Born in Bridgeton, he had been living with his daughter since 2005.

A professional engineer, Mr. Franklin received his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1937 from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. He had been employed as an electrical engineer with General Electric before retiring in 1977.

Mr. Franklin was a member of the Amateur Radio Relay League, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the American Federation of Musicians Local 746 and the First Baptist Church of Westfield.

His wife, Elsie, predeceased him in 2004 and his son, Mark, predeceased

him in 2001.

Surviving are a daughter, Janet Mae Zahumeny; two granddaughters, Amanda Evans Franklin and Carole Ann Rohan, and three great-grandchildren, Jared, Brandt and Evan.

Funeral services were held yesterday, Wednesday, July 1, at the First Baptist Church of Westfield. Entombment followed at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue in Fanwood.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Math Scholarship Fund at Roselle Park High School, 185 West Webster Avenue, Roselle Park, N.J. 07204.

For additional information or to express condolences, please visit [www.fanwoodmemorial.com](http://www.fanwoodmemorial.com).

July 2, 2009

## Vincent Tomalonis, 86, AT&T Retiree; Had Served in Merchant Marines

Vincent P. "Tom" Tomalonis, 86, died on Wednesday, June 24, at his residence in Westfield.

Born in Mahanoy City, Pa., he lived in Westfield since 1960.

Serving during World War II, Tom was in the Merchant Marines. He graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy in 1944.

Tom had worked as a marine engineer for Marine Transport Lines in New York City, then AT&T in Morris Plains for many years, before his retirement in 1989.

Surviving are his loving wife of 58 years, Maria W. (née Mello) Tomalonis, and his five children, Gail Grossmann and her husband, John, Jane Gursky and her husband, Robert, William and

his wife, Barbara, Mark and his wife, Kathleen, and David Tomalonis. Also surviving are his grandchildren, Rachael, Jeffrey, David, Andrew, Sarah, Katharine, Erin and William.

A Funeral Liturgy took place on Tuesday, June 30, at the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. Burial followed at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street in Westfield.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Westfield Rescue Squad, the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church or to the charity of one's choice.

July 2, 2009

## Muriel Berke Ruddock, 88, Had Been Popular Owner-Director of Camp

Muriel Berke Ruddock, 88, died on Monday, June 15, at her home in Westfield.

Known by her loved ones as "MooMoo," she was the mother of Evan Berke of Westfield, Jeffrey Berke of Rockville Centre, N.Y. and Melissa Pellnitz of Boca Raton, Fla. She also is survived by eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Born in 1920 in the Bronx, N.Y., Muriel spent much of her adult life in Wantagh and Long Beach, N.Y., where she raised her family and owned Ber-Kira Day Camp and Nursery School with her late husband, Ira Berke. Later, they owned Camp Woodfield, a sleep-away camp in Gilman, Conn.

Throughout her life, she truly cherished the time she spent working with children and was a beloved camp director. After the death of her hus-

band, she married Arnold Ruddock and enjoyed traveling around the world and spending time with her young grandchildren.

Widowed again, Muriel moved to the Claridge House in Verona, N.J. in 1989 to be near her son, Evan, and his family. In 1999, she moved to Westfield, where she resided until her death.

Muriel had a larger-than-life personality and maintained a positive attitude until the very end, despite her failing health. She will always be remembered for this.

A family service was held graveside at Mount Ararat in Farmingdale, N.Y. on Wednesday, June 17.

Donations may be made to the Center For Hope Hospice and Palliative Care, 1900 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076.

July 2, 2009

## HUNG UP!!

### Wife Seeks Advice on Helping Sons Meet Their Half-Sister

By Milt Faith, Executive Director  
Youth and Family Counseling Service

A Questioning Wife Writes: Several years ago, my husband and I had violent arguments that resulted in his moving out of the house for a brief period of time. We reconciled and have been happy with each other since. Four years ago, he told me that during that separation, he had had an affair with someone and became the father of a daughter who is now 3. I have accepted my husband's indiscretion. Several months ago, my husband told me he wants to include his daughter into our lives (she and her mother, who has since remarried, happily, live several towns away). We have two sons, ages 17 and 14, who are not aware of this girl. After some therapy, I feel comfortable in meeting the girl and introducing her to her siblings. I'm afraid my sons might feel uncomfortable, condemn their father and reject her. Your thoughts, please.

Answer: Since both you and your husband are comfortable with including his biological daughter into the family, I encourage you to do so. Your sense of acceptance will help you as you both prepare your sons for this new situation. I would be open with the facts (in no way condoning what your husband had done during the brief separation), relate to your sons' probable confusions and hesitations, be supportive and understanding, and lay out a plan to have you all meet and "greet."

The TV personality Larry King has just written a book that also focuses on his biological son (who is in his 40s), who entered his life, and the ensuing meetings with Mr. King's present wife, two young sons, and two older children from previous marriages (Man, it's hard to keep up with all of this).

A Nostalgic Mother Writes: My 25-year-old son is going steady with "Wendy" (disguised name). He writes the sayings for a famous greeting card company, so words are important to him. Recently, he reminded me that, as a child, I used to sing a song to him that my husband used to sing to me when we were courting. He felt the words expressed the emotions he feels for Wendy and wants to create a special card for her on her birthday. The song was called "The Alphabet Song." Do you know it and could you publish it? We would appreciate it and Wendy would love it. Funny, but I cannot remember most of the words. I could find it online,

but he would appreciate reading it in your column - to which I refer often! Answer: Here it is: "A," you're adorable, "B," you're so beautiful, "C," you're a cutie full of charms.

"D," you're a darling and "E," you're exciting and "F," you're a feather in my arms.

"G," you look good to me, "H," you're so heavenly, "I," you're the one I idolize.

"J," we're like Jack and Jill, "K," you're resokissable, "L," is the loveliest in your eyes.

"M," "N," "O," "P," I could go on all day.

"Q," "R," "S," "T," alphabetically speaking, you're OK.

"U," made my life complete, "V," means you're very sweet.

Double-"U," "X," "Y," "Zee."

It's fun to wander through the alphabet with you.

To tell you what you mean to me.

Good Lord; I think I sang this as a teenager!

A Message to My 'Tween' and Teen Readers: Throughout the years, young readers have discussed feelings of depression and anxiety re the stresses they experience or anticipate experiencing. Since music is a potent vehicle to so many youth, who can identify with the lyrics and search for expressions of hope, please listen to one of the biggest music hits today by Miley Cyrus (yes, it's Hannah Montana). The song is called "The Climb" and expresses motivation to succeed and overcome obstacles, obstructions that get in one's way, and the determination to move on.

Good Luck. Here are some of the important lyrics:

The struggles I'm facing, The chances I'm taking

Sometimes they knock me down, but no I'm not breaking

I may not know it, but these are the moments that

I'm going to remember most, yeah just got to keep going

And, I, I got to be strong just keep pushing on, cause

There's always going to be another mountain

I'm always going to want to make it move

Always going to be an uphill battle, Sometimes I'm gonna have to lose,

Ain't about how fast I get there, Ain't about what's waiting on the other side

It's the climb.

## — Obituaries —

### Mary Agosto, 81, Devoted to Family; Receptionist at Westfield Law Office

Mary Margaret Agosto, 81, of Westfield passed away in Bonita Springs, Fla. on Friday, June 12, while recovering from hip surgery.

"May," as she was affectionately known, is survived by her loving husband of 60 years, Gunner; her devoted children, Dawn, Megan and David; dear grandchildren, Megan Erin, Ryan and Kasey, and beautiful great-grandchildren, Rylie and Kai. Much to Mary's sadness, her eldest son, the sweet and handsome Stephen, passed away in 1994.

Mary was born in Manhattan to a very large and very proud Irish family, the Buglers, the source of a thousand and one amazingly entertaining stories of growing up Irish-American during the Great Depression. After marrying Gunner in 1948, the two embarked on a diamond of a marriage marked by equal parts world travel, family fun and very hard work. Mary

found time for trips to Europe and North Africa, an apartment in Italy and a summer home in Vermont, all while raising four children and working for many years as everyone's favorite receptionist at the Westfield law office of Lerner, David, Littenberg, Krumholz and Mentlik.

Mary will be remembered for her beauty-queen looks, her child-like sweetness, her perfect manners, her devotion to Gunner and her tough Irish mothering.

Quietly spiritual, Mary took the time each night to say small prayers for everyone from family to friends to co-workers to the mailman to the President. Now all the prayers are for her.

Mary's family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the loving and caring nurses and staff at Juniper Village of Naples, Fla. Mary will be greatly missed and forever loved.

July 2, 2009



Mary Agosto

### Edward J. Simmons, 90, Was Executive; Served as Medic During World War II

Edward J. Simmons, 90, of Mountainside died on Monday, June 29, at his home.

Born and raised in the Glendale section of Queens, N.Y., Mr. Simmons had lived in Westfield from 1953 to 2000, when he moved to Mountainside.

He had been the president of Triangle Industries in New Brunswick and Holmdel before retiring.

He served in the United States military during World War II as a medic.

His wife, Madelyn Simmons, predeceased him in 2003.

Surviving are a daughter, Patricia Hughes; a son, Don Simmons; four

grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. today, Thursday, July 2, at the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield.

A Funeral Mass will be offered at 11 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, July 3, at the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. Entombment will take place at Saint Gertrude Cemetery in Colonia.

Memorial donations may be made in his memory to the Center For Hope Hospice, 1900 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076.

July 2, 2009

## Library Invites Patrons To Compare Books-Films

GARWOOD - The Garwood Public Library, located at 411 Third Avenue at the corner of Walnut Street, has announced that it has a large collection of books that have been turned into movies, and invites patrons to compare the two versions to see what liberties have been taken by converting a novel into film.

Among the books and film adaptations available at the library are Daphne Du Maurier's "Rebecca," W. Somerset Maugham's "The Painted Veil," F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," Margaret Mitchell's "Gone With the Wind," Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher," Bram Stoker's "Dracula," Lew Wallace's "Ben-Hur," Peter Benchley's "Jaws," Den-

nis Lehane's "Mystic River," Stephen King's "The Shining" and others, Ken Kesey's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," John Godey's "The Taking of Pelham 123" and Dan Brown's pair of "Angels and Demons" and "The DaVinci Code."

Additionally, there are many children's classics that have become films. Among them are Fred Gipson's "Old Yeller," S.E. Hinton's "The Outsiders," L. Frank Baum's "Wonderful Wizard of Oz," P. L. Travers' "Mary Poppins," Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," J. M. Barrie's "Peter Pan," Betty Smith's "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," E. B. White's "Charlotte's Web" and Jules Verne's "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea."

## Alberto Rapuano, 92, Had Won Awards For Dancing; Sang at Opera House

Alberto Rapuano, 92, of Westfield passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 30, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Born on April 22, 1917 in Summit, Mr. Rapuano moved in 1921 to Guardia Sanfromondi, Italy, where he met the love of his life, Emilia (née Falato) Rapuano. They were married there and had three children, returning to Westfield in 1952.

He worked for the American Can Co. and then specialized in granite work in the Union County area.

Mr. Rapuano was an avid fan of boxing, cooking, dancing and singing. He won several awards for his dancing, from the Tango all the way to ballroom dancing. He also performed his singing at The Opera House in Newark.

He was a member of the Italian-American Club in Westfield.

His parents, Massimino and Jennie Rapuano, and two brothers, Dominick Rapuano and Pasquale Rapuano, predeceased him.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 71 years, Emilia Rapuano; his devoted children, Nina Calavano and her husband, Joe; Sam Rapuano and his wife, JoAnn, and Ralph Rapuano, and his loving sister, Madeline Garafano. He also will be deeply missed by his loving grandchildren, Maryanne MacDonald and her husband, Doug, Joey Calavano, Lisa Scaturro and her husband, Jerry, Sammy Rapuano, Lisa Grossi and her husband, John, Dina Vieira and her husband, Jack, and Ralphe Rapuano and his wife, Renee. He also was a loving great-grandfather to seven and a great-great-grandfather to one.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. today, Thursday, July 2, at the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church of Westfield. Entombment will take place at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield.

July 2, 2009

## Library Invites Teenagers To Improv Acting Sessions

WESTFIELD - This summer the Westfield Memorial Library, located at 550 East Broad Street, will present two workshops in improvisational acting techniques for teenagers. The program is entitled "Whose Library Is It, Anyway?"

In each workshop, teenagers will join an improv actor and learn the tricks of creating believable characters and making up dialogue for improvisational scenes. Westfield teenagers in grades 9 through 12 will

### First Congregational Invites Kids to VBS

WESTFIELD - Children ages 4 through the fourth grade are invited to enroll in the First Congregational Church's Vacation Bible School, to be held Monday through Friday, July 20 to 24. Enrollment is open to all area children and church membership is not required.

This year's camp theme will be "Studio GO!" It will feature a game-show format designed to entertain and teach. Each day, campers will rotate through activities such as "Prime Time Bible Challenge" and "Service Showcase" that use songs, crafts and games to bring Bible stories to life. Children will form small groups led by an adult or teen, as they become contestants in the game shows.

The camp will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. daily at the church. The cost is \$15 per child (maximum \$30 for families with more than two children). For further information or to register, call the church office at (908) 233-2494 or download an application at [fcofwestfield.org/vbs](http://fcofwestfield.org/vbs). The First Congregational Church, a member of the United Church of Christ, is located at 125 Elmer Street in Westfield.

meet on Monday, July 13, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and teenagers in grades 6 through 8 will meet on Tuesday, July 14, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Participants must bring their library card.

"Teens who'd like to try performing without a script will find that it's fun to be spontaneous in a safe and laughter-filled space," said Kathy Muhm, coordinator of Youth Services at the library.

To learn about other youth or adult programs at the library, access the library's website, [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org), sign up for the monthly electronic newsletter "Library Loop," call (908) 789-4090 or stop by the library for a copy of the quarterly newsletter "Take Note."

### Thrift Shop Book Sale

#### To Kick Off Tuesday

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop will reopen on Tuesday, July 7, with a large selection of hardcover and paperback books for sale.

Through Saturday, July 18, hardcover books will sell for 50 cents and paperback books for 25 cents. Books will sell for their regular prices after July 18. Featured will be books by popular authors, plus pre-teen and young adult books and audio books.

Additionally, beach towels, bags, hats, sandals and bathing suits, along with summer clothing for men and women, will be available. There will be a free drawing. No purchase is necessary. Summer hours at the shop beginning July 7 will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday in July and Tuesday through Friday in August. The shop is located at 1730 East Second Street in Scotch Plains. For directions or more information, call the store at (908) 322-5420 during business hours.

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