

## Library Friends to Present Love Letters February 14

FANWOOD - The Friends of the Fanwood Memorial Library will sponsor a benefit Valentine's Day presentation of A.R. Gurney's popular Pulitzer Prize-nominated play *Love Letters* on Sunday, February 14.

There will be two performances, at 1 and 5 p.m. They will take place in the public reception rooms at The Chelsea at Fanwood, located at 295 South Avenue. Ann and Leslie Minski will star as Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepeace Ladd, III, childhood friends who exchange letters over a lifetime. Through 50 years of correspondence, both what is written and hinted at between the lines, the audience finds out what has kept them together...and apart.

The Minskis have their own theater love story, having met during call-backs for a production of *Gypsy* and *Dolls*. Their meeting has led to a 27-year friendship and marriage, daughters Katherine and Elizabeth, and a home for 16 years in Fanwood.

Mrs. Minski has served as co-director of the Fanwood Memorial Library's Summer Drama Club for 11 years and as a library trustee. She is now a fourth-grade teacher at McKinley Elementary School in

Westfield.

Mr. Minski has continued in professional theater, appearing in productions from Maine to New York City to New Orleans. He also has directed various productions locally.

Following each performance, patrons will have an opportunity to meet the Minskis, perhaps win a door prize and enjoy refreshments.

The Friends organization hopes to help fund a growing list of programs, materials, projects and improvements in all aspects of library service.

One program now in development is Museum Pass, a special program jointly sponsored by both the Friends of the Fanwood and Scotch Plains libraries to provide free passes to more than 10 area museums.

Tickets to *Love Letters* are on sale only at the Fanwood Memorial Library, located at North Avenue and Tillotson Road. The cost is \$15 for members of Friends of the Fanwood and Scotch Plains Libraries and those age 65 and older. General admission is \$18. The play is not suitable for young children and seating is very limited. For more information or to obtain tickets, e-mail fanwoodbooks@gmail.com or call Nancy at (908) 322-6559.

## FCC Group Plans Screening Of Meeting David Wilson

WESTFIELD - In honor of Black History Month, the First Congregational Church's "Cinema Circle" group will host a screening and discussion of *Meeting David Wilson* on Thursday, February 11, at 7 p.m. in the church's Coe fellowship room. The church is located at 125 Elmer Street in Westfield. Admission will be free and the public is invited to attend.

A feature-length 2008 documentary, *Meeting David Wilson* is about the enduring legacy of slavery in today's young black society. David Wilson, a 28-year-old African-American, travels into his family's past to find answers about America's racial divide. Along the way, he learns of a plantation in North Carolina where his family was once enslaved.

Mr. Wilson discovers that the owner of the plantation is a 62-year-old white man, a direct descendant of his family's slave master, who also is named David Wilson. This discovery leads to a momentous encounter between these two men who share a name, but whose ancestors were on the opposite sides of freedom. The film touches on many issues such as slavery and reparation, but is ultimately about reconciliation and healing.

Cinema Circle meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. to view and discuss movies as a group. Those who would prefer can watch the film ahead of time and arrive later for the discussion. For more information, call Ed or Debbie Saridaki at (908) 889-4719.

## Forum on Housing Solutions To Take Place This Sunday

SCOTCH PLAINS - A program entitled "Housing Solutions, Preventing Foreclosures: Know Your Rights and Options" will take place this Sunday, February 7, at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church.

Patrice Simms, a housing counselor with the Central Jersey Community Development Corporation's Housing Assistance Recovery Program (HARP), will lead a discussion on what New Jersey families facing foreclosure can do. This informational session is designed to make people aware of their options in case they or people close to them find themselves in foreclosure.

HARP's mission is to rebuild communities by finding permanent solutions that stabilize neighborhoods through prevention, housing assistance and recovery, financial

education and advocacy. This ministry of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, based in Somerset, is available to families from anywhere in New Jersey.

The Adult Forum will begin at 11:30 a.m., following the 10 a.m. worship service. Childcare and children's programs will be available. For more information, call the church office Monday through Friday at (908) 232-5678, send an e-mail to info@willowgrovechurch.org or visit the church website, willowgrovechurch.org.

The Willow Grove Presbyterian Church is located at 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains, across from the Scotch Plains Southside Firehouse and near the corner of South Martine Avenue.

## Social Security Seminar to Be Held

Wells Fargo Advisors and Stewart Ritter will present an Educational seminar on Social Security. Stewart A. Ritter, Senior Vice President - Investments for the Westfield office of Wells Fargo Advisor will host a complimentary, informational seminar on Social Security.

The guest speaker will be Jack Root, Regional Vice President of Prudential Annuities. The presentation will be held Tuesday, February 9, at 7 p.m. at The Westwood in Garwood. Refreshments will be served.

Stewart A. Ritter is Senior Vice President - Investments with Wells Fargo Advisors in Westfield, New Jersey. He also conducts investment presentations for local civic groups, clubs, and organizations.

The Social Security seminar is free, but space is limited! For your complimentary tickets, please call Stewart Ritter's office at Wells Fargo Advisors in Westfield, at (908) 789-7802.

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ORNATE HEADPIECES...Stacey Miller, center, recently presented a program on hats and headpieces from around the world during a general meeting of the Woman's Club of Westfield at the Masonic Lodge in Westfield. She has a collection of 1,000 hats, representing over 100 countries and an array of cultures, tribes and ethnic groups. Joining her are WCW Program Chairman Jean Murphy, left, and Finance Trustee Marjorie Wieseman. All are wearing collected headpieces.

## Lady of Lourdes Announces Chapel Anniversary Event

MOUNTAINSIDE - The parish community of the Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the 10th anniversary of the church's Perpetual Adoration Chapel on Thursday, February 11, at 7:30 p.m.

The chapel first opened on February 11, 2000. Adorers visit with the Blessed Sacrament 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Adorers are always present while the Holy Eucharist is exposed. Hundreds of people from within the parish and other parishes devotedly keep their scheduled hour every week, according to the parish. "An hour spent in the chapel is the best spent hour in the week," said Irene Ciccarino, the chapel's coordinator for the past 10 years.

The celebration will take place at the church, located at 300 Central Avenue in Mountainside. All past, present and future adorers and their families are welcome to attend this Celebration of Evening Prayer and Benediction. Bishop Manuel Cruz, Regional Bishop of Union County, will preside. Light refreshments will follow in Pollard Hall. Those interested in attending or seeking more information are asked to call the parish office at (908) 232-1162.

Scheduled adorers are always needed and welcome. Anyone interested in volunteering an hour a week as a regularly scheduled adorer, including sharing an hour with a partner, is invited to call Irene Ciccarino at (732) 574-0064.

## Library Program to Address Starting One's Own Business

WESTFIELD - Individuals interested in starting their own business with little or no money can learn how to do so on Wednesday, February 10, at 7 p.m. at the Westfield Memorial Library. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street.

A representative from the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) will present a 90-minute program designed to debunk the myth that businesses can only be started with a great deal of money.

Buck Buchanan, a veteran SCORE counselor who has started two successful businesses, will discuss the characteristics of people who succeed in business compared to the characteristics of those who fail. He also will discuss the five steps absolutely necessary for success and how successful companies differ from unsuccessful companies.

SCORE is a non-profit association dedicated to educating entrepreneurs and to the formation, growth and success of small business nationwide. It

also is a resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

This program is open to Westfield Memorial Library and MURAL cardholders. To register, visit [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org) and click on Online Calendar, or call (908) 789-4090, extension no. 4140.

## St. John the Apostle Posts Healing Mass

AREA - A Healing Mass will take place on Wednesday, February 10, at 7:45 p.m. at St. John the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, located at 1805 Penbrook Terrace in Clark/Linden (on Valley Road in Clark, off Stiles Street in Linden).

All who are in need of physical, emotional, relational and spiritual healing are invited. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Individual Eucharistic Blessing and Benediction will be included. Refreshments will follow Benediction. For directions to the church, access [sjanj.net](http://sjanj.net) or call (908) 486-6363.

## Willow Grove Welcomes All To Mardi Gras Jazz Service

SCOTCH PLAINS - On Sunday, February 14, the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church will hold its fourth annual Mardi Gras Jazz Worship Service and Brunch beginning at 10 a.m. at the church. The community is invited to attend.

This year's event will feature the Dixie Mix Jazz Band, which has been performing since 1995 throughout Central New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The quintet consists of Hank D'Angelo of Woodbridge on tenor sax, Rod Anderson of Princeton on clarinet, Doug Rollender (director) of Bridgewater on trombone, David Grego of Hoboken on tuba and Willow Grove Church's Director of Music Paul DiDario of South Plainfield on piano.

"Although the current traditions

## Seniors to Meet Today At Garwood Firehouse

GARWOOD - The next meeting of the Garwood Senior Citizens Club will be held at noon today, Thursday, February 4, at the Garwood Firehouse on South Avenue.

After welcoming all members, the club president will call for committee reports. Walter Maszczak, trip coordinator, will discuss trips being planned for 2010. During the meeting, members will be advised about club by-laws, and a discussion will follow.

Continuing activities for Garwood senior citizens include line dancing at the firehouse on Mondays from 9 to 10 a.m., bowling on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. at Garwood Lanes and an exercise class from 9 to 10 a.m. at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church Hall.

Additionally, a craft class will take place on Thursday, February 11, at 10 a.m. at the firehouse. Individuals must pre-register five days ahead by calling Rosemary at (908) 272-1705. A ceramics class will be held on Thursday, February 25, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the firehouse. Participants must pre-register five days in advance by calling (908) 276-1090.

Birthdays celebrated during January included those of Walter Maszczak, Madeline Pevarnik, Ann Romano, Jack Washleski and Sonia Washleski. February birthday celebrants are Dolores Cielinski, Florence Pelusio, Angelica Piniero and Rita Unnold.

of Mardi Gras in New Orleans seem far from a Christian celebration of God's love for humanity in Jesus Christ, we can reclaim those religious roots and enjoy the rich musical traditions of jazz, gospel and spirituals that give voice to our faith," said Willow Grove Pastor Cynthia Cochran-Carney.

Concurrent childcare and children's classes will be provided, but children also will be welcome to remain in the worship service.

After the service, worshippers will be invited to stay for a light brunch featuring the traditional egg dish, bagels and fruit. Also served will be King's Cakes, made to honor the Magi. Each cake will be decorated in the traditional Mardi Gras colors and will contain a small doll, symbolizing the baby Jesus. People search for the baby Jesus in the cake, remembering the three Wise Men who looked for Jesus after his birth. Finding the baby Jesus will win participants a prize.

If possible, interested persons are asked to make reservations by Thursday, February 11, through the church office at (908) 232-5678 or by e-mail at [info@willowgrovechurch.org](mailto:info@willowgrovechurch.org).

The Willow Grove Presbyterian Church is located at 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains, opposite the Scotch Plains Southside Firehouse and near the corner of South Martine Avenue. All of its facilities are handicap-accessible.

## Singer-Songwriter Due At Library February 9

MOUNTAINSIDE - The Mountainside Public Library will host acoustic guitarist Kenny Cunningham in a free concert on Tuesday, February 9, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Originally from Liverpool, England, Mr. Cunningham is a singer-songwriter who covers songs from the 1960s and 1970s and also performs original music. Attendees are expected to hear the influence of various artists in his repertoire, ranging from The Beatles to Simon and Garfunkel.

Admission is free but space is limited, so interested persons are asked to call the library at (908) 233-0115 to reserve a seat. The Mountainside Public Library is located on Constitution Plaza. For more information about the library and its programs, visit [mountainsidelibrary.org](http://mountainsidelibrary.org).

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