

Greek Orthodox Church Announces Quilt-a-thon

WESTFIELD – The 17th Annual Babies Quilt-a-thon will be held on Saturday, February 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, located at 250 Gallows Hill Road in Westfield. All ages are invited to participate in this event, which is free and open to the public.

Connie Wygera of Tewksbury Township is chairman of the event, which will be funded by the Ladies Philoptochos Society. Individuals may

come for an hour or two or stay all day. Father Peter Delvizi will bless the quilts on Sunday, February 28.

The church hosts the quilt-a-thon, benefiting at-risk babies, as a one-day Lenten project. It is coordinated through ABC Quilts, a national non-profit organization. Materials are provided free, but volunteers can bring baby products such as baby food, wipes, disposable diapers and other necessities. These will be given to St. Clare's Home in Elizabeth. The quilts are for the tiniest victims of AIDS and other serious diseases.

Volunteers assemble the quilts – iron, cut, measure and knot – and a team of sewers sew them on sewing machines. Adults and youth can tie and sew, while pre-school children also are encouraged to participate by coloring blank squares to insert in the quilts. Participants are asked to bring their scissors and a snack or lunch.

The quilts will be distributed to infants in eight hospitals and transitional homes – University of Medicine and Dentistry, Beth Israel Hospital, Columbus Hospital Pediatric Services, FCB Pediatric Center and The Family Place, all of Newark; Trinitas Hospital and St. Clare's Home in Elizabeth, and John F. Kennedy Medical Center of Edison.

Church Reschedules Wilson For Tonight

WESTFIELD – Due to last week's snowstorm, the screening and discussion of *Meeting David Wilson*, originally planned for February 11, has been rescheduled for tonight, Thursday, February 18, at 7 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, located at 125 Elmer Street in Westfield. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend.

Meeting David Wilson is a feature-length 2008 documentary about the enduring legacy of slavery in today's young black society. The film touches on issues of reparation, reconciliation and healing. For more information, call Ed or Debbie Saridakis at (908) 889-4719.

Spaghetti Dinner and Show To Be Held This Saturday

WESTFIELD – A spaghetti supper and talent show fundraiser hosted by youth of the First Congregational Church will be held this Saturday, February 20, at 6 p.m. in the church auditorium. The church is located at 125 Elmer Street in Westfield. All proceeds will benefit two mission trips involving the church's youth.

Following a full dinner of salad, spaghetti, bread, drinks and dessert will be a 7 p.m. talent show featuring adult and youth participants. With the Reverend Dr. Mark Boyea, senior minister, serving as emcee, the acts will include singing, comedy, instrumentalists and a performance by First Congregational Church's own caba-

ret pianist, Joe Regan.

Proceeds from this benefit evening will help send members of the church's middle and senior high fellowship to Camp Sunshine, a Maine camp for families of children with terminal illnesses, and to a summer camp for underprivileged children at the Washington United Church of Christ in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Tickets are \$11 for adults, \$7 for children ages 6 to 12, and \$3 for children ages 4 and 5. Those ages 3 and under may attend for free. Tickets may be purchased at the door. For further information, call the church office at (908) 233-2494 or visit fcfcofwestfield.org.

Willow Grove to Spotlight 'Narnia' at Adult Forum

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Willow Grove Presbyterian Church invites members of the community to "Visit Narnia" from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on consecutive Sundays, February 21 and 28, during the Adult Forum in the church lounge.

Attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about the allegorical Chronicles of Narnia, written in the 1950s by C.S. Lewis, one of the great theologians of the 20th century. The most famous book of the series, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," was made into a motion picture in 2007, as was "Prince Caspian" in 2008. "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader" will be released in late 2010.

There are seven chronicles in all, which reveal the central tenets of Christianity when studied at a deeper level than the children's fantasy that the stories are on the surface. This portrayal of Christian beliefs is accomplished through an array of char-

acters. They include young people transported from England to the enchanted world of Narnia and talking animals that join the young humans in fighting evil.

Lou Jung will lead this discussion of Narnia, with a focus on his favorite two Chronicles – "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader" and "The Last Battle."

The Adult Forum follows the 10 a.m. worship service. Childcare and children's programs are available. For more information about Willow Grove, call the church office Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at (908) 232-5678. Individuals also may e-mail info@willowgrovechurch.org or access the church website, willowgrovechurch.org.

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



COLORFUL COSTUMES... Temple Sholom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains will hold Purim festivities on Saturday and Sunday, February 27 and 28, including a Purim Carnival that Sunday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains. Members of the community are welcome to all events. Pictured are youngsters at last year's carnival.

Torah Center Announces Purim Celebration Events

WESTFIELD – The Union County Torah Center, located at 509 Central Avenue in Westfield, will present a Family Purim Celebration on Saturday, February 27, at 7 p.m.

A Megillah reading will take place, followed by refreshments. The Megillah relates the Purim story in which Queen Esther was instrumental in the deliverance of the Jewish people from the threat of annihilation at the hands of Haman and the inhabitants of the Persian Empire 23 centuries ago.

Children are invited to participate in a masquerade contest. All children dressed in costume will receive a prize, and one special grand prize will be awarded for the best costume. There will be no charge for this program (reservations are preferred but not required).

On Sunday, February 28, at 8:30 a.m., the Torah Center will have an-

other Megillah reading, as it is a mitzvah to hear it being read on Purim day as well.

At 5 p.m. on Sunday, the Torah Center will host a Community Purim dinner, as it is a mitzvah to celebrate Purim with a special festive meal on Purim day. A catered meal and entertainment will be provided.

There also will be a separate children's program with special Purim crafts. All children in attendance will be entered in a raffle for an iPod. There will be another Megillah reading at 4:15 p.m. prior to the dinner. The cost will be \$20 per adult, \$10 per child and \$100 for sponsorships.

All the programs will be open to the public and everyone is welcome. For more information and to respond for the dinner, call the center at (908) 789-5252 or e-mail info@torahcenter.org.

Oasis-Church-NJ.com Plans Gathering For February 28

MOUNTAINSIDE – Oasis-Church-NJ.com, a newly forming contemporary Christian church, will hold its next monthly Sunday morning gathering on February 28 at 11 a.m. at 1180 Spruce Drive in Mountainside.

Employing an online survey to discover the beliefs, worries and needs of singles and young families, Oasis-Church-NJ.com has collated the results to tailor relevant church services for those who do not regularly attend.

According to David Butler, lead pastor, Oasis-Church-NJ.com began as an online relationship and spiritual advice blog. "You wouldn't believe the number of hurting people who come online and write about all their personal (issues), but feel like they can't share it with their own churches and friends for fear of being judged. How sad!" he

said. "So, as traffic kept increasing, I got the idea, 'Hey, why not start a church right here in person that meets people where they're at, and offers practical living advice from the Bible without all that 'churchy jargon' some churches use?'"

In January 2010, Pastor Butler made the decision to leave his \$82,000-a-year state job as a mediator and parent education teacher, five years before qualifying for a full pension, to devote himself full time to Oasis Church. "I knew it would be a risk, but people have great spiritual needs and I want to help make a difference," he said.

For more information about the Oasis Church, or for directions, go to Oasis-Church-NJ.com or call (732) 406-7821.

Library Trustees To Meet Tonight

SCOTCH PLAINS – The board of trustees of the Scotch Plains Public Library will hold its agenda and regular meeting tonight, Thursday, February 18, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will take place at the library, located at 1927 Bartle Avenue. Any actions taken will arise from the agenda, as prepared by the library director.

Temple Sholom to Conduct Festivities Honoring Purim

FANWOOD – Temple Sholom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains invites members of the community to join the congregation in a Purim celebration beginning on Saturday, February 27, at 6 p.m. with a Havdalah service and potluck supper. Interested persons are asked to respond by calling (908) 889-4900 and stating if they would like to bring a salad, side dish or main dish that serves eight.

At 7 p.m., the festivities will continue with prayer, a Megillah reading and a family-friendly Purim spiel. Costumes will be welcome. Temple Sholom is located at Martine and LaGrande Avenues in Fanwood.

On Sunday, February 28, Temple Sholom will host its annual Purim Carnival from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Union Catholic High School, located at 1600 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. The carnival will feature the telling of the Purim story followed by games, crafts, face painting, raffles, a costume contest, prizes and food. Admission will be free. The cost for game tickets and food will vary.

In the spirit of Purim, the carnival booths will be run by SPANCY (Scotch Plains and Nearby Community Youth) to raise funds for the group, which is made up of students in grades 8 through 12. A portion of the funds raised also will be donated to the relief effort in Haiti via the Union for Reform Judaism.

Additionally, Temple Sholom asks that people bring individually wrapped, child-friendly, healthy snack foods or juice boxes to be donated to children in the afterschool programs of the YMCA of Plainfield.

Food and beverages for sale at the carnival will be sponsored, prepared and served by the Temple Sholom Men's Club. Included will be hot dogs, chicken fingers and

Hamantashen, the traditional, tri-angled-shaped filled pastries of Purim.

This year, Purim will begin on the evening of February 27 and continue until sundown on February 28. One of the most joyous holidays on the Jewish calendar, Purim commemorates a time when the Jews in Persia were saved from extermination through the intervention of Queen Esther.

Library to Kick Off Travel Series Tonight

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Scotch Plains Public Library invites area residents to tour the world from the comfort of the library's Community Room through its travel series entitled "Around the World in 80 Days."

The series will begin tonight, Thursday, February 18, at 7 p.m. in the Community Room. Exploritas Ambassador Joe Viviani will speak about the Exploritas (new name for Elderhostel) network of educational travel opportunities in the United States and more than 90 countries.

Over the next several months, travel agents, travel writers and bloggers will speak about various aspects of travel, both near and far. Notices will be posted on the library's website, scotlib.org, in advance of each event.

In tandem with the travel series, the library has recently updated and augmented its collection of guidebooks. All programs at the library are free and open to everyone. The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue, one block from Park Avenue in the center of the township.

For further information or directions, call the library at (908) 322-5007. Interested individuals can register at scotlib.org, by calling the library or e-mailing library@scotlib.org.

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