

## Rita Ochs, 78, Was Active Parishioner; Had Worked For AT&T and Exxon

Rita Ochs, 78, of Scotch Plains passed away on Tuesday, December 4, 2012, at Overlook Medical Center in Summit.  
Born and raised in Bayonne, she resided in Scotch Plains for 50 years.  
Mrs. Ochs was employed with AT&T (Bell Labs) in Murray Hill before retiring. Earlier, she had been employed with Exxon in Linden. She was an active parishioner of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains, where she was a member of the Rosary Altar Society. She also was a member of the Knights of Lithuania and the Ruta Lithuanian Song and Dance Group.  
Her loving husband, William, predeceased her in 1994.  
She is survived by her son, William J. Ochs, Jr., and his wife, Tamara; two

daughters, Susan Dugas and her husband, Richard, and Nancy Fox and her husband, Barry; her sister, Elena Nakrosis, and her brother, John Miskewitz. Rita was a very proud grandmother to her nine grandchildren, Samuel, Matthew and Elizabeth Ochs, Lauren, Sarah and Julia Dugas, and Danielle, Rachel and Jessica Fox.  
The funeral was held on Friday, December 7, from the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue, Fanwood. A Funeral Mass followed at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains. Interment took place at Holy Cross Cemetery in North Arlington.  
For additional information or to sign the guestbook, visit [www.fanwoodmemorial.com](http://www.fanwoodmemorial.com).  
December 13, 2012

## Olympia Bracuto, 90, Westfield Native; Nurse at Muhlenberg and VA Hospital

Olympia E. Bracuto, 90, passed away peacefully on Monday, December 3, 2012, at Brighton Gardens in Edison.  
Born and raised in Westfield, Olympia later resided in Rahway and Edison. She graduated from the Muhlenberg School of Nursing and also obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Seton Hall University. She worked as a nurse during World War II at the VA Hospital and later worked as a nurse at Muhlenberg Hospital and as a private duty nurse. Olympia was a member of the Muhlenberg Alumni Association.  
Olympia is predeceased by her parents, Cesare and Maria Bracuto,

and her siblings, Dr. Peter Cranford, Carmen Bracuto, Daniel Bracuto, Bartholomew Bracuto, Michael Bracuto, Anna Bracuto, Catherine Khouri and Theresa Bracuto.  
She is survived by her sister, Margherita DeGregorio; her goddaughter, Carol Rohman, and many nieces and nephews.  
A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Friday, December 7, at the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. Interment followed at St. Gertrude Cemetery in Colonia.  
Arrangements were by the Dooley Colonial Funeral Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield.  
December 13, 2012

## Master Gardeners Assist With Y's Men's Tree Sale

WESTFIELD—The Westfield Y's Men's Club currently is holding its Annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale, which opened right after Thanksgiving and runs through Sunday, December 23. The sale is taking place at the large lot at the corner of Elm and Maple Streets in Westfield.  
Last Sunday morning, December 3, 15 Master Gardeners helped unload a delivery of Christmas trees for the club. Within two hours these men and women, along with volunteer Y's Men, had carried 470 trees. T.J. Karns, who chairs both the Grants and Publicity Committees for the Master Gardeners of Union County, started this annual tree-unloading event in 2007 as a way to give back to the Y's Men for generous grants.  
"Both our Master Gardeners and Y's Men are volunteer groups whose mission is community service," said Ms. Karns. "Since their start-up in 1953, they have given more than \$2 million to local non-profits and charitable groups, including the Master Gardeners."  
"Likewise," she said, "we Master Gardeners raise food to feed the hungry in Union County. Since 2002, we

have donated nearly 20,000 pounds of hardy produce to local soup kitchens and food banks. We also raise flowers for local cancer centers and hospitals, to which we have donated more than 18,000 flowers and greens since 2007."  
Hours for the Y's Men's Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale are Monday through Friday, 4 to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
All trees are given a fresh cut to take water. Branches are trimmed at customer request, prior to drilling a hole in the trunk for the tree stand. The tree is then baled and loaded on the customer's vehicle. "It's a lot of heavy work," said Yard Boss Bill Rugg, "so we appreciate volunteers from high schools and local groups like the Master Gardeners."  
For more information on the Westfield Y's Men's Club and its Annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale, call Brian Duggan at (908) 232-6930. To become a Master Gardener, call Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 300 North Avenue, East, Westfield, at (908) 654-9854, or visit [mastergardeners-uc.org/](http://mastergardeners-uc.org/) on the Internet.

## Y Garwood Family Center Offers Kids Club Drop-In

GARWOOD—The Westfield Area "Y"'s new branch, the Garwood Family Center Y, located at 500 East Street in Garwood, is offering help to busy parents by opening up its doors and providing a safe, fun place for children ages 2½ to fifth grade to "drop in" and join the fun at the "Y." This program is offered from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekdays while parents run errands or get some holiday shopping done. Kids Club Drop-In is available all day or for just a few hours, even during winter break.

There is a 24-hour registration requirement. Participants may register and pay by the hour or by the day. Those who are in need of this service can take advantage of a Holiday Special, which includes one hour free, the registration fee waived and a Limited Y Program Membership (through March 1, 2013) if registering a child before Friday, December 28.  
Interested persons are asked to contact Melinda McHale at the Garwood Family Center Y at (908) 301-1616 or e-mail her at [mmhale@westfieldny.org](mailto:mmhale@westfieldny.org).

## Obituaries

### Olive S. Sampson, Dedicated to Family; Member of Woman's Club of Westfield

Olive S. Sampson of East Marlborough Township, Pa. passed away peacefully on Monday, December 3, 2012, surrounded by her loving family.  
Mrs. Sampson was born on October 27, 1921 in Upper Darby (Delaware County), Pa. and attended its public schools. She attended Temple University on a scholarship. On July 29, 1944 Olive married USMCR Lt. Robert D. Sampson of Ironwood, Mich. Throughout her married life she resided in Lake Geneva, Wis.; Geneva, Ill.; Westfield, N.J. and East Marlborough Township, Pa. She also maintained a summer residence in Stone Harbor, N.J. for 49 years.  
Olive was a member of the Woman's Club of Westfield, N.J. and the Women's Civic Club of Stone Harbor, N.J. She enjoyed giving and attending parties, dancing, old movies, bowling, figure skating, couture and knitting, bridge, cooking and baking and travel. She was an avid fan of her children and grandchildren as they participated in their school related sports activities.  
Olive is survived by her husband of

68 years and four months, Robert, and their children, Nancy Sezginalp of Charleston, S.C., Robert D. Sampson, Jr. of Stone Harbor, N.J., Marcia Casey of Kennett Square, Pa., Jack Sampson of Clinton, N.J. and Richard Sampson of East Marlborough Township, Pa. She also will be deeply missed by her brother, Lewis A. Smith, III of Wharton, N.J.; sister, Shirley Morris of Las Vegas, Nev.; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lewis A. Smith, II and Olive Louise (née Dance) Smith of Upper Darby, Pa., along with her sister, Marian Bowden of Radnor, Pa.  
A Celebration of Olive's Life will be held on Tuesday, December 18, at 11 a.m. at the First Congregational Church of Westfield. Inurnment will follow at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.  
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Neighborhood Hospice, 400 East Marshall Street, West Chester, Pa. 19380. To leave a message for the family, please visit [www.dooleycolonialfuneralhome.com](http://www.dooleycolonialfuneralhome.com).  
December 13, 2012



Olive S. Sampson

### Margaret N. Ficken, 94, Local Teacher; Avid Longtime Rutgers Football Fan

Margaret N. Ficken, 94, of Scotch Plains, N.J. passed away on Tuesday, December 4, 2012.  
Born on June 3, 1918 in McKeesport, Pa., she was the daughter of the late Clinton N. and the late Mary (Soles) Laird. She married Charles H. Ficken on December 19, 1942 in Alexandria, La. Charles died on September 26, 1989.  
Margaret graduated high school from Shanghai American School in China. In 1941 she received a bachelor's degree from the New Jersey College for Women, now known as Douglass Residential College at Rutgers. She worked at Park Middle School in Scotch Plains, where she was a home economics teacher.  
Margaret was an avid Rutgers football fan, attending nearly every home game for over 40 years. She was an accomplished knitter and quilter.  
Surviving are her grandson, Charles F. Ficken of Modena, N.Y.; her granddaughter, Kristie Ficken of North Brunswick, N.J.; a long-time friend, Diane King of Modena, N.Y.; a sister-in-law, Antoinette Crawford of Pine Bush, N.Y., and several nieces, nephews and friends.  
Her son, Frederic Richard Ficken, and daughter, Mary Antoinette "Toni" Ficken, predeceased her.  
Funeral services will be held on Monday, December 17, 2012, at 11 a.m. at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 S. Martine Avenue, Fanwood, N.J. 07023. Cremation took place at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.  
Memorial donations may be

made to the American Red Cross-Hurricane Sandy Relief, 520 West 49th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 or online at [www.nyredcross.org](http://www.nyredcross.org).  
Funeral arrangements are by Copeland Funeral Home, Inc., 162 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, N.Y. 12561, (845) 255-1212. If anyone wishes to express condolences online, please go to [www.copelandfhnp.com](http://www.copelandfhnp.com).  
December 13, 2012

### Frederick C. Rupp, 98

Frederick C. Rupp, 98, of Westfield passed away peacefully on Monday, December 3, 2012.  
Born in Baltimore, Md., Mr. Rupp resided in Westfield since 1959. He retired in 1973 after 44 years with Western Electric, including four years with Sandia Corp. in Albuquerque, N.M. as the Head of Accounting Methods. He was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America and also was a Certified Internal Auditor.  
Mr. Rupp was predeceased by his wife of 65 years, Nadine W. Rupp, and is survived by their three daughters, Julianne Hultzen, Christine Oakley and Nikki Rupp. He also will be deeply missed by his four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.  
A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday, December 10, at the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. Interment followed at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.  
To leave a message for the family, please visit [www.dooleycolonialfuneralhome.com](http://www.dooleycolonialfuneralhome.com).  
December 13, 2012

## DWC Announces Winners Of Miracle on Elm Street

WESTFIELD—The annual "Miracle on Elm Street" shopping spree holiday promotion kicked off the first of four drawings on December 1. Sponsored by the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) as part of the "Welcome Home to Westfield" holiday events, the promotion encourages people to enter a weekly drawing in downtown stores and restaurants and to place their entry forms in two special decorated mailboxes located downtown at Elm and East Broad Streets and South and Summit Avenues. Participants also may enter online at [WestfieldToday.com](http://WestfieldToday.com).  
The weekly drawings consist of six, \$50 gift-card prizes to downtown stores and restaurants of the winner's choice or one \$25 parking card. The first winners were drawn at random on December 1.  
There were more than 520 entry forms submitted during the first week. The winners of the \$50 shopping sprees were: Galina Polyanskaya of Cranford, Elizabeth Piedl of Springfield, Merian Fazliu of Roselle Park, Leslie Baier of Princeton, Melanie Schriber of Westfield and Cheryl Bishop of Westfield. Angelo Arpaia of North Plainfield won the \$25 parking gift card.  
According to Sherry Cronin, executive director of the DWC, "We are pleased with the level of participation, not only with the community but also the merchants and restaurants which have embraced this promotion and encouraged their customers to enter. We first started this promotion in 2008, and this year, the responses for the first week exceeded half of the entries for all of the Miracle on Elm Street entries last year—a sign that people really like this promotion and will shop locally this holiday season in Downtown Westfield."

Formed in 1996, the DWC is the management entity of the Special Improvement District. It is governed by a seven-member board of directors, has two full-time and one part-time staff members and numerous volunteers serving on Design, Promotion, Economic Development and Organization Committees. The vision of the DWC is for Westfield to be a preferred destination where people want to live, work and visit.  
Westfield also is one of 26 designated Main Street Communities in New Jersey, a program of the National Trust's National Main Street Center. Additionally, Westfield won the 2010 America in Bloom national award for Landscaped Areas and won in its population category among all the towns entered in the America in Bloom 2010 competition.  
For the latest happenings, event information and promotional offers from Westfield businesses, check out [WestfieldToday.com](http://WestfieldToday.com).

### Rabbi to Speak On Thomas Controversy

FANWOOD—Rabbi David Nesenoff, whose 2010 video of White House journalist Helen Thomas' controversial remarks about Jews in Palestine went viral and led to her resignation, will speak at Chabad of Union County's Chanukah Adults Night Out this Saturday, December 15, at 8 p.m.  
Rabbi Nesenoff's presentation will be entitled "To Catch an Anti-Semite: A Story of Humor, Danger, Spirituality, the Hand of God, Media Bias and Cyber Hatred."  
Chabad of Union County is located at 193 South Avenue, Fanwood. Admission will be \$18 and will include Chanukah refreshments. Sponsorships are available for \$180.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Monday, December 3, Terrence J. Shaw, 47, of Elizabeth was arrested at East Brunswick police headquarters on an outstanding Westfield warrant for \$429. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released after the court lowered his bail to \$100.  
Wednesday, December 5, James Iorio, 44, of Westfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) following a motor vehicle stop at South and Central Avenues. He was released to a sober adult.  
Thursday, December 6, Emerson Siess, 39, described by police as homeless, was arrested on an outstanding New Brunswick criminal warrant for \$400. Siess was apprehended after police responded to a call regarding a suspicious person on the 100 block of East Broad Street. He was unable to post bail and turned over to New Brunswick authorities.  
Thursday, December 6, police received a report regarding a theft on the 800 block of East Broad Street. The victim stated that jewelry and an iPod were taken from the residence. The total value of the theft was \$5,661.  
Thursday, December 6, a resident of the 900 block of Woodmere Drive filed a report of theft and fraud after someone made unauthorized transactions on the victim's debit card. The value of the loss was estimated at \$20,831.93, according to police.  
Thursday, December 6, Maureen Regan, 56, of Westfield was arrested at Tamaques Park on two Westfield parking warrants, totaling \$110 bail, during an investigation concerning a report of a suspicious motor vehicle. She posted bail and was released.  
Friday, December 7, a resident of the 700 block of Harding Street reported an incident of fraud involving an amount of \$244. Someone attempted to make an online purchase using the victim's bank account, according to police.  
Saturday, December 8, a resident of Mohawk Trail reported being the victim of fraud after purchasing concert tickets to a One Direction show from a seller on Craig's List. The victim purchased the tickets for \$600 and was told at the concert venue the tickets were fraudulent.  
Saturday, December 8, Mario John Cassitta, 29, of Roselle Park was arrested at Roselle Park police headquarters on an outstanding \$1,500 Westfield warrant. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters and committed to the Union County jail.  
Sunday, December 9, Lisa Dilollo, 25, of Elizabeth was arrested and charged with shoplifting on the 600 block of West North Avenue. She was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released.

### Scotch Plains

Monday, November 26, the owner of a Route 22 store reported that someone overnight someone threw a rock at his building, causing damage.  
Tuesday, November 27, the manager of a Route 22 gas station reported that a customer received approximately \$40 in gas and then left without paying.  
Wednesday, November 28, a resident of Evergreen Avenue reported being the victim of harassment. She stated that she has been having an ongoing dispute with her neighbor, who yells at her all the time.  
Thursday, November 29, the custodian of a Park Avenue church reported that someone overnight someone broke a window in the back door.  
Friday, November 30, a patron at a Park Avenue restaurant reported that when he went to the bathroom someone removed his backpack, which contained several video games valued at approximately \$200, from his seat.  
Friday, November 30, a resident of Country Club Boulevard reported that someone overnight someone removed his bicycle, valued at approximately \$200, that had been left on his back deck.  
Friday, November 30, a resident of Cooper Road reported that someone made approximately \$400 in purchases on her credit card without her authorization.  
Friday, November 30, Satasia Marshman, 19, of Rahway was arrested on an outstanding \$500 warrant issued by the Irvington Court following an investigation on Westfield Avenue. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.  
Saturday, December 1, Anthony Henry, 22, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Cooper Road on an outstanding \$1,496 warrant issued by the Scotch Plains Court. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.  
Sunday, December 2, Dion Johnson, 31, of Edison was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Rahway Road on an outstanding \$350 warrant issued by the Plainfield Court. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.  
Sunday, December 2, Oscar Mera-Aguire, 21, of North Plainfield was arrested and charged with possession of suspected marijuana after a motor vehicle stop on Cushing Road. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.  
Tuesday, December 4, a resident of Acacia Road reported that he received a call from a store stating that someone had opened up a credit card in his name without his authorization.  
Wednesday, December 5, Richard

Nix, 23, of Scotch Plains was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Front Street on an outstanding \$189 warrant issued by the Scotch Plains Court. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.  
Wednesday, December 5, a resident of Laurie Court reported that someone during the day someone entered her house by prying open the bedroom window. However, nothing appeared to have been removed.  
Friday, December 7, a resident of Canterbury Drive reported that someone overnight someone slashed both rear tires on his motor vehicle.  
Saturday, December 8, a resident of Redwood Road reported that someone made approximately \$1,000 in purchases on her credit card without her authorization.  
Sunday, December 9, a resident of Country Club Boulevard reported that someone overnight someone hit his motor vehicle and drove away. The vehicle was legally parked in front of the victim's house at the time the incident occurred.  
Monday, December 10, a resident of Pine Terrace reported that someone attempted to withdraw money from her bank account without her authorization.  
Monday, December 10, a resident of Lamberts Mill Road reported that someone overnight someone broke several Christmas decorations that he had displayed on his front lawn.  
Monday, December 10, Dion Johnson, 31, of Edison was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Rahway Road on an outstanding \$350 warrant issued by the Plainfield Court. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

### Fanwood

Monday, December 3, Kamall Moore, 19, and James Sykes, 21, both of Plainfield, were arrested following a motor vehicle stop on the 300 block of South Avenue and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS). According to police, while an officer was speaking with Moore, the driver of the vehicle, he could detect a strong odor of marijuana and a search of the vehicle revealed a bag of suspected marijuana. Both the driver and Sykes, a passenger in the vehicle, were processed and released on a summons with a pending court date.  
Monday, December 3, Michael Lowey, 51, of South Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and First Street on an active warrant out of Linden. He was processed, posted bail and released.  
Tuesday, December 4, Raheem Fogle, 33, of Scotch Plains was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on the 200 block of South Avenue on an active warrant out of Union Township. He was processed, posted bail and released.  
Tuesday, December 4, a member of a local organization reported being the victim of criminal mischief. The incident involved the victim's sales stand, which is located at LaGrande Park.  
Thursday, December 6, an individual reported that he parked his motor vehicle at the north-side train station parking lot between 8:45 a.m. and 4:10 p.m. and when he returned to the vehicle, someone had used a rock to smash out the rear windshield and had removed a GPS, valued at \$120.

### Mountainside

Tuesday, December 4, Lynette J. Paul, 24, of Maplewood was arrested for driving with a suspended license after a motor vehicle stop on New Providence Road, according to police. She was processed and released at the scene.  
Friday, December 7, a resident of Oak Tree Road reported that she lost her wallet at a business on Route 22 in North Plainfield and the wallet was never found. According to police, she cancelled all her credit cards and bank cards.  
Friday, December 7, Bernard C. Jones, 31, of Elizabeth was arrested for driving with a suspended license after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22.  
Friday, December 7, a resident of Hillside Avenue reported that her diamond ring, valued at \$30,000, was missing after her cleaning personnel knocked over a box containing jewelry while they were vacuuming. According to police, the incident has been turned over to the detective bureau.  
Friday, December 7, an individual visiting a resident at a Route 22 nursing home reported that he lost his square wallet, made of black leather, while he was visiting his friend.  
Friday, December 7, a resident of Ravens Wood reported that her license plate was missing from her motor vehicle after she drove to Hoboken. It is uncertain if the license plate fell off or was removed, police said.  
Friday, December 7, a patron of a Route 22 theater reported that she left her iPhone 5 on the counter at the concession stand and when she returned the phone was missing. According to police, an employee at the concession stand found the phone and asked if it belonged to anyone in line, at which time a young, white female wearing a dark coat stated it was hers, took the phone and walked away.  
Sunday, December 9, an employee of a construction company reported that a 24-foot ladder and a 30-foot ladder were removed from the top of his truck while it was parked alongside a building on Sheffield Street. According to police, the ladders are valued at \$750.

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