

SP-F Newcomers Give Back During Holiday Season

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers' Club organized multiple opportunities for its members to give back to the community during the holiday season. Under the guidance of Jennifer Delos Santos, the club's Community Outreach chairwoman, the Newcomers participated in the following programs:

Project Night Night — Thirteen tote bags filled with a stuffed animal, a security blanket and a story book were donated to Raphael's Life House in Elizabeth.

Thanksgiving Baskets — Eight laundry baskets filled with a Thanksgiving dinner, including turkeys or gift cards for turkeys, plus cereals, pastas, soups and other staples, were given to St. Bartholomew the Apostle Parish and the St. Bartholomew Academy of Scotch Plains, which distributed them to local families in need.

Raphael's Life House — Newcomers' Club members volunteered their time on November 12 to help sort and organize donated items within the house.

Little Shoebox Project — Thirty-two little shoeboxes containing gifts were collected December 14 at the club's annual holiday breakfast with Santa. These boxes were donated to the St. Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth for distribution to those in need.

Community FoodBank of New Jersey — Newcomers' members volunteered their time on December 21 to the children's division at the food bank.

The Newcomers will host an event during the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Martin Luther King Day of Service on Monday, January 20. Open to the public, it will take place from 11:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church of Scotch Plains. Individuals of all ages can bring a healthy snack donation and help assemble snack packs for the Homefirst After School Kids' Club in Plainfield. Homefirst is an interfaith housing and family service organization. More information can be found at spfmklkday.com.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers' Club is a non-profit social club for residents and neighbors looking to connect with their community. Activities are available throughout the year for individuals and families during the day, evening and weekends. For more information, visit spfnwcomers.com or e-mail spt_newcomers@yahoo.com.

Author to Give Talk on 'Loose Nukes'

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Mountainside Public Library, located at 1 Constitution Plaza, will present "Loose Nukes: Meet the Author" this Saturday, January 18, from 2 to 4 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

Published on the 12th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks, "Loose Nukes" explores an even more frightening possibility: nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists. From Kyrgyzstan to Kashmir to Britain, from Washington to New York to Alaska, the book follows the Mushrooms (anarchists with The Bomb) and the man who would stop them, nuclear nonproliferation expert Coot Jenkins.

Local author Bill Griffeth will discuss the threat of "loose nukes" (stores of radioactive materials throughout the world that are not well secured or accounted for), anarchists, terrorists and heroic nuclear nonproliferation experts. Interested persons are asked to respond to the Mountainside Public Library at (908) 233-0115.

Caregivers Announce Meeting February 3

WESTFIELD — A support group for those caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones meets on the first non-holiday Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the parish center of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church on Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield.

The next meeting will take place on February 3. These are information and sharing sessions. For more information, call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 232-1214.



SANTA'S HELPERS...Youngsters enjoy a visit from the jolly fellow in red during the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers' Club's annual holiday breakfast with Santa, which took place December 14 at the Scotch Hills Country Club in Scotch Plains. This event also featured the Little Shoebox Project, during which 32 shoeboxes filled with gifts were collected for donation to the St. Joseph Social Service Center, which distributed them to the needy.

SAR Program to Spotlight Colonial Era Cartography

WESTFIELD — The West Fields Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution invites the public and chapter members for a discussion on "Cartography of Colonial Times 1570-1800" at its meeting on Friday, January 24, at 8 p.m. It will take place in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building, located at 425 East Broad Street.

The presentation will focus on European maps from pre-colonization to the early Republic with an emphasis on the period of the War for Independence. Presenter Ira Jersey, an amateur historian, is a George Washington Fellow of the Sons of the American Revolution as well as secretary of the organization's West Fields New Jersey Chapter. Additionally, he serves on the board of the Association of Blauvelt Descendants, is a member of the North American Vexillological Association and is a friend of the Holland Society of New York.

Professionally, Mr. Jersey is a director in Fixed Income Research at Credit Suisse. He holds a Master

of Arts degree in Economics from the New School University of New York, a Master of Arts degree in International Studies from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the American University in Washington, D.C. Additionally, he has been a Professor of Professional Practice in the New School's graduate program in Global Finance and lectured at the Swiss Finance Institute's FAME Certificate Program. Professionally, he is a member of the National Association of Business Economics and the American Finance Association. Mr. Jersey is Cubmaster of Cub Scout Pack No. 368 and a travel soccer coach, both in Berkeley Heights, where he lives with his wife and three children.

See it all on the Web!
www.goleader.com

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield
Tuesday, January 7, Jesus Oropeza, 28, of Elizabeth was arrested on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant for \$114 after turning himself in at police headquarters. Bail was posted and a waiver was signed admitting guilt.

Wednesday, January 8, a 2013 Land Rover Range Rover was reported stolen from the 800 block of New England Drive. According to police, between 6:50 and 7:15 a.m. that day someone unknown entered the motor vehicle, which had been left unlocked and running, and drove away.

Thursday, January 9, a white Volkswagen Passat, valued at approximately \$13,024, was reported stolen from a business on the 500 block of East North Avenue.

Friday, January 10, Willie Swinton, 31, of Plainfield was arrested on a Newark warrant for \$100 following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue in Scotch Plains. He also was brought in on a Rahway warrant for \$50. Swinton posted bail on the Newark warrant and was released on his own recognizance by Rahway authorities.

Saturday, January 11, Casey Ballard, 20, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding Westfield warrant pursuant to a traffic stop on West South Avenue near Hort Street. Ballard was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting \$114 bail.

Saturday, January 11, Gary Robinson, 33, of Newark was arrested on active warrants from Westfield, for \$2,500, and Rahway, for \$89, after being transported to police headquarters by Union County Police Department personnel. He was turned over to the Union County jail in lieu of bail.

Saturday, January 11, an iPhone was reported stolen from the 300 block of First Street. According to police, the phone had been left unattended on a bench while the owner was playing sports. The estimated value of the phone is \$200.

Saturday, January 11, Rodney Bostic, 61, of Plainfield was arrested near the intersection of West Broad Street and South Avenue and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). He was released to a responsible adult after being issued a summons and a February 6 court date.

Sunday, January 12, Efrain Cordero, 37, of Parlin was arrested as the result of a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue in Scotch Plains on an active Sayreville traffic warrant for \$375. Cordero posted bail and signed a bail waiver.

Sunday, January 12, Paul Gordon, 79, of Plainfield was arrested at the Fanwood Police Department on an outstanding Westfield warrant for \$600. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released on his own recognizance pending a new Westfield Municipal Court date.

Scotch Plains
Monday, January 6, a student at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School reported that someone removed his iPhone, valued at \$250, from his backpack while he was at practice.

Monday, January 6, a resident of Mountain Avenue reported that while out walking someone yelled at him.

Monday, January 6, a resident of Prospect Avenue reported that someone had made approximately \$150 in purchases on his debit card without his authorization.

Wednesday, January 8, a resident of Winding Brook Way reported that someone made approximately \$1,500 in purchases on her credit card without her authorization.

Wednesday, January 8, a resident of East Second Street reported that sometime overnight someone threw bottles filled with an unknown substance on her lawn.

Thursday, January 9, a resident of William Street reported that she has been receiving numerous harassing phone calls from a former friend.

Saturday, January 11, Julio Maldonado, 22, of Clark was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on East Second Street on an outstanding \$500 warrant issued by the South Plainfield Court. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Fanwood
Monday, December 30, Alfred Voelker, 19, of Scotch Plains was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on the 10 block of Robin Road on an active warrant out of Westfield. He was processed and turned over to the Westfield Police Department.

Tuesday, December 31, Celia Zapico, 50, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Westfield following a motor vehicle stop on the 160 block of South Avenue. She was processed, posted bail and released.

Tuesday, December 31, a victim reported that his bicycle was stolen from the north-side train station between 6:15 a.m. and 7:10 p.m. According to police, someone removed the locked bicycle, valued at \$500, from the bicycle stand.

Tuesday, December 31, Drew Miller, 28, of Fanwood was arrested and charged with receiving stolen property after an officer observed a male riding a bicycle in the area of Watson Road and Hunter Avenue. According to police, the officer stopped Miller for multiple traffic violations and noticed the bicycle the

suspect was riding was similar in description to one stolen out of the train station. The victim was notified and responded to the scene and identified the bicycle, police said. The suspect was arrested, processed and released with a pending court date.

Saturday, January 4, Gilliam Campbell, 31, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at Terrill Road and East 3rd Street on an active warrant out of South Plainfield. She was processed, posted bail and released.

Wednesday, January 8, Keith Readie, 38, of Hopelawn was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at La Grande Avenue and Ashworth Court and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). Readie was asked to step out of the vehicle to perform some field sobriety tests, which he was unable to complete, police said. He was processed and released to a responsible person.

Thursday, January 9, Dennis Rodriguez, 36, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on the 190 block of South Avenue on an active warrant out of the Atlantic County Sheriff's Office. He was processed and turned over to the Atlantic County Sheriff's Department.

Friday, January 10, Deidra Hawkins, 37, of Rahway was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at Martine and Pleasant Avenues on an active warrant out of Piscataway. She was processed, posted bail and released.

Friday, January 10, Kennisha Qualls, 27, of Rahway was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on the 30 block of South Avenue on an active warrant out of Elizabeth. She was processed, posted bail and released.

Sunday, January 12, Paul Gordon, 79, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at Terrill Road and La Grande Avenue on an active warrant out of Westfield. He was processed and turned over to the Westfield Police Department.

Mountainside
Monday, January 6, Odessa C. Brown, 32, of Edison was arrested for driving with a suspended license after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22.

Tuesday, January 7, a resident of Laurel Court reported that a black male, wearing a dark jacket and light jeans, and a second male, described as either Hispanic or white, knocked on the victim's door and said they were from Union County and were checking on the elderly. According to police, the homeowner told them she was okay, at which time the suspects walked away.

Wednesday, January 8, a resident of Stony Brook Lane reported that he had received two letters stating that he had won cash prizes in the amount of \$4,550,000 and \$1,560,000, but that had to send a \$20 processing fee to receive the cash award. According to police, the victim sent in the \$20 check but has not received the prize and was unable to find the phone number of the company.

Friday, January 10, Galen A. Johnson, 27, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving with a suspended registration after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22. He was processed and released.

Friday, January 10, a resident of Mohawk Drive reported suspicious activity after she noticed a set of footprints, not belonging to her or anyone in her household, that led from the street, around the side of her house to a window and the deck in the rear of her residence. A neighbor who was shoveling snow noticed a dark-colored motor vehicle pull up to the victim's driveway, a white or Hispanic man exit the vehicle and proceed to the back of the victim's house and then return to the vehicle and drive away, police reported. There was no sign of forced entry.

Library Friends Seek Book Sale Donations

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Library will begin collecting items for their Book Sale in March. The organization is seeking clean, salable books with no torn or marked pages. Both hardcover and paperbacks will be accepted, as well as books on CD, music CDs and DVDs. The Friends request that donations do not include older or time-sensitive materials such as videotapes, records, magazines and textbooks.

The scheduled collection dates and times, all on Saturdays, are as follows: January 18 and 25, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day; February 1, noon to 4 p.m.; February 8, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; February 15, 1:30 to 3 p.m.; February 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and March 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Members of the Friends group will be available at each of these times to assist with transporting books from cars. The Friends are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to supporting the programming and development of the library. Donations are tax-deductible and receipts will be available at the front desk.

The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue. Volunteers are welcome to aid with book sorting during any of the above times. For more information, contact the Friends at spplfrinds1@gmail.com.

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