

Vox Fidelis to Give Concert Sunday at St. Paul's Church

WESTFIELD — The a cappella choir Vox Fidelis will be featured in concert this Sunday, March 23, at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Vox specializes in sacred Renaissance polyphony, cultivating and confirming its important role in traditional sacred liturgy. The Friends of Music at St. Paul's will sponsor this concert.



LOCAL TALENT...Lyric soprano Carey Hackett, of St. Paul's Parish Choir, also is among the 10 Vox Fidelis singers performing in concert at St. Paul's Episcopal Church this Sunday.

Vox Fidelis ("Faithful Voice") performs concerts and leads church services throughout the tri-state area. In December 2013, the choir performed in The Chapel at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church of New York City as part of Manhattan's weekly concert series sponsored by the Gotham Early Music Scene. The group is a member of the Guild for Early Music and is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization in the state of New Jersey.

Vox Director Timothy Smith, a choral scholar, singer and director, founded the choir in 2005. Mr. Smith is the director of music at the Grace Presbyterian Church of Jenkintown,

Pa. and associate professor of music and director of choral activities at Mercer County Community College. He also lectured for several years at Mason Gross School of The Arts, Rutgers University, serving as assistant director of the Rutgers Collegium Musicum.

Mr. Smith has performed with the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Schola Cantorum, Orlando, Fla., and the Cambridge Singers, London, England, under the direction of director/composer John Rutter.

St. Paul's Church is located at 414 East Broad Street in Westfield. Area parking is free. Concert tickets may be purchased at the door. A donation of \$20 is suggested for adults; students are welcome at no charge. Concert attendees are invited to a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception following the concert. For more information, call St. Paul's Music Director Charles M. Banks at (908) 451-5082.



PRACTICING THEIR FAITH...Third graders in the Religious School at Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains received their own prayer books (siddurim) at a ceremony for their families on March 9. The students led some morning prayers and performed a play in which they taught lessons about their Hebrew names. Rabbi George Nudell recited a blessing over the children and Elly Bauman, education director, presented the prayer books to them in celebration of their learning to read and chant Hebrew. The students created personalized covers for their prayer books in January as part of a Family Education program.

JCC 2014 Family Fun Fest Open to All This Sunday

SCOTCH PLAINS — All families are invited to the 2014 Family Fun Fest at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey this Sunday, March 23, from 2 to 5 p.m. The JCC is located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains.

Family Fun Fest is a fun-filled family event that will feature inflatable activities, music, arts and crafts, snakes and reptiles, a magic show and dance parties. There also will be a Frozen room, tricky tray and giveaways, among other offerings. This event will be geared toward children age 9 and under and their families.

Proceeds from the 2014 Family Fun Fest will benefit community families in need. This year Family Fun Fest is being opened for free to more than 40 Homefirst families. Homefirst, operated out of Plainfield, delivers comprehensive solutions to homelessness by providing transitional and permanent housing, homeless-prevention assistance and social services to strengthen families and build communities.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at jccnj.org or at the door. Tickets are \$25 per family in advance and \$30 per family at the door. Admission includes all activities, giveaways and some snacks. Food will be available at an additional cost.

Among the event sponsors are Durham School Services, Northfield Bank, Powerhouse Stu-

dios and Entertainment, NJ Camps, Party Perfect Rentals, Summit Medical Group, Coldwell Banker and Investors Bank.

For more information about this event, contact Sandra Kenoff, director of marketing and special events, at skenoff@jccnj.org or (908) 889-8800, extension no. 221.

The JCC of Central New Jersey is a constituent agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, United Way of Greater Union County and the Westfield United Fund. Financial assistance is available for membership and various programs.

Kendricks Welcome Son, Gus Stephen

Stephen and Brooke (Smith) Kendrick of Westfield have announced the birth of their first child, a son, Gus Stephen, on Wednesday, February 12, at 11:23 p.m. at Morristown Medical Center in Morristown, N.J.

Gus weighed 9 pounds and 1 ounce and measured 21¼ inches in length at birth.

The baby's maternal grandparents are Jeff and Ginny Smith of Westfield. His paternal grandparents are Steve and Debbie Kendrick of Westfield.

Gus' paternal great-grandmother is Jane Perry of North Wildwood, N.J.

Miller-Cory to Spotlight 'Jews of Colonial America'

WESTFIELD — The Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, will present "The Jews of Colonial America" this Sunday, March 23. This program will take place at 2:15 and 3 p.m.

On September 7, 1654, a Dutch ship, the *Ste. Catherine*, sailed into the port of New Amsterdam, now New York City, and left 23 passengers on the wharf. They were Jews — four men, six women and 13 children — who were fleeing persecution by the Portuguese in Brazil. These refugees formed the first permanent settlement of Jews in what is now the United States.

Presenter Fran Gold will trace the path of Jews in colonial America from these first settlers and also will talk about other Jewish individuals who played a part in the settlement of this country. Among them were Luis De Torres, interpreter for Christopher Columbus; Francis Salvador, the first Jew to die in the American Revolution, and Haym Salomon, a financier of the Revolution.

Sunday's program will include, between 2 and 4 p.m., tours of the restored, 1740 farmhouse and 18th-century open-hearth cooking demonstrations in the museum's Frazee Building. Members of the cooking committee will prepare food using early-American recipes, colonial-era cooking tools and seasonal ingredients. The gift shop, which carries a variety of colonial toys, crafts, books and educational materials, will be open. Admission to the museum and its grounds is \$3 for adults and children age 13 and older, \$2 for children ages 3 to 12, and free for those under age 3.

Upcoming Sunday programs at the museum include "Celebrate the Season with Spring Cookie Decorating" on April 6 and the annual "Sheep to Shawl Festival" on April 27 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Miller-Cory House Museum is listed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places and as a site on the New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail. It is available for school, Scout or other group tours on weekdays during the morning or after school. Other programs include a showcase of 18th-century skills during which volunteers demonstrate colonial-era crafts and discuss 18th-century life in New Jersey for interested groups, including on-site at local schools.

For more information, call (908) 232-1776 or e-mail millercorymuseum@gmail.com. Details on all programs also are posted on the museum's Facebook page. The website is millercoryhouse.org.

Hist. Soc. to Present Doll Program Sunday

CRANFORD — The Cranford Historical Society will present "My Doll and Me" this Sunday, March 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. Starting at 2:15 p.m., this program will be presented at the Crane-Phillips House Museum, located at 124 North Union Avenue in Cranford.

Participants are invited to bring a doll and talk about it with other children, as well as play games, win prizes, make something for their doll and enjoy tea and cookies. There also will be a contest to name a Victorian doll. The winning name will be picked that day in a random drawing.

Admission will be free and seating is limited. To reserve a seat, call the Historical Society's office at (908) 276-0082 or e-mail cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net. Established in 1928, the non-profit Cranford Historical Society has been dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of Cranford's history. More information is available at cranfordhistoricalsociety.com.

Trinity Church-YFCS Slate Parents Seminar Tonight

CRANFORD — The Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranford and Youth and Family Counseling Service in Westfield will present a free awareness seminar for the parents of teenagers this evening, Thursday, March 20, beginning at 7 p.m. It will take place in Witherington Hall at the Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 119 Forest Avenue in Cranford.

The purpose of the seminar is to help parents to be able to distinguish between normal teenage behavior and abnormal behavior that could result in a crisis, and the knowledge about what steps to take in a crisis. "The seminar was born from our repeated experience in responding to teenage crises, including suicide," said the Reverend Gina Walsh-Minor, rector of Trinity Episcopal

Church.

"Parents are constantly challenged with differentiating between normal 'acting out' behaviors versus dangerous or crisis behaviors in their teenagers," said Carol M. Pedro, executive director of Youth and Family Counseling Service. "We are hoping to help parents identify alarming or crisis behaviors early-on and what steps to take if they do."

Kathy Crescenzi, board certified advance practice nurse, will be the guest speaker. She brings many years of experience in psychiatric evaluations, prescribing and monitoring medications, and psychotherapy. Ms. Crescenzi will focus on mental health issues in teenagers.

The seminar is part of the "Do Anything: A Collaboration of Love" series to help educate and empower parents of teens. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, visit yfcsnj.org.

Lenten Study Series To Begin at FCC

WESTFIELD — In observance of Lent, the First Congregational Church of Westfield will offer a special four-week adult study series examining how God uses the broken pieces in people's lives to build a whole person. The series will begin on Monday, March 24, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will continue on consecutive Mondays through April 14.

Entitled "Mosaic: When God uses all the pieces of our lives," the series "will examine how God uses restlessness, regret, rejection and relationships to build a beautiful, moving picture," according to an overview of the program from the church. In dealing with these and other questions, participants also will journey with Jesus on His way into Jerusalem. All evenings will be free and open to the public.

The First Congregational Church, a member of the United Church of Christ, is located at 125 Elmer Street in Westfield. For additional information, call the church office at (908) 233-2494 or visit the church website, fccofwestfield.org.

Mountainside Squad Announces Egg Hunt

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Mountainside Rescue Squad will present its annual Spring Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12, at noon at its headquarters, located at 1385 Route 22, East, at New Providence Road in Mountainside.

All are welcome. Participants are urged to bring a basket to hold their eggs and families are invited to bring cameras for picture-taking. The event will be held rain or shine. For more information, call (908) 233-6338.

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