

## Willow Grove Invites Public For Build-A-Bike Event

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Willow Grove Presbyterian Church will hold a Community Bike Build to benefit children in need on Sunday, October 12, starting at 10:30 a.m. Families and individuals of all ages are invited to help build children's bicycles from an easy-to-assemble kit. Teams of four to six will work together, following instructions and using tools provided for each kit. The bicycles will be donated to children from Mabel G. Holmes No. 5 School in Elizabeth through the Tools 4 Schools program, which operates as part of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey in Hillside. Tools 4 Schools provides free classroom supplies through the Tools 4 Schools Resource Center, a free classroom supply store for teachers. The activities on October 12 will start with a short, informal worship service in the church sanctuary at 10 a.m. Teams will gather together and be given instructions at approximately 10:30 a.m. The bicycles will then be built outside on top of tables on the church front lawn and parking lot. In case of rain, teams will move inside to the fellowship hall to build the bicycles. Participants

also can make cards and others gifts to send to the students receiving the bicycles. After the bicycles have been assembled, bicycles and helmets will be presented to a representative from Mabel G. Holmes No. 5 School. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers and everyone will receive a souvenir water bottle. A suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$20 per family will help cover the cost of the food and supplies. The Community Bike Build event is funded in part by a grant from Presbytery of Elizabeth. Anyone wishing to participate in the bicycle-building event is asked to register by contacting the church office at (908) 232-5678 or office@willowgrovechurch.org. Those who register will reserve a place for themselves and their families on a bicycle-building team. There is a limited number of bike kits, so early registration is encouraged. Willow Grove Presbyterian Church is located at 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains, near the south-side soccer field and firehouse off of South Martine Avenue.



CONGREGATION GIVES BACK...Volunteers at Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains prepare sandwiches September 17 as after-school snacks for participants at Plainfield's Second Street Youth Center, a non-profit organization that provides educational, vocational, cultural and recreational activities for youth and adults in the Plainfield community. The monthly sandwich-making sessions are open to community members of all ages. Anyone interested in preparing or delivering sandwiches may call the synagogue at (908) 889-1830. Pictured, from left to right, are: Debbie Gerstenfeld, Garry Goldberg, Fallon Goldberg and Rachel Gerstenfeld. Not pictured are Samantha and Molly Bates.

## F-SP Service League Shop To Commence Halloween Sale

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop, located at 1741 East Second Street in Scotch Plains, will begin its annual Halloween Costume Sale on Tuesday, October 7. Racks will be filled with costumes in a wide range of sizes. Accessories like masks, hats, scarves, shoes, gloves and other props, plus some vintage clothing, also will be available. Merchandise will be replenished throughout the week. If a patron is looking for something in particular, shop volunteers can check the stock not yet on display. Additionally, the shop has plenty of flannel shirts and jeans at modest prices for dressing up scare-crows. The shop once again will offer its "Great Pumpkin Mystery Discount" for all shoppers from Tuesday, October 28, to Saturday, November 1. Shoppers will complete their orders and then pull a surprise discount ticket from the "Great Pumpkin" to get dollars off their orders. Customers may pull only one ticket each day. The League also has announced a new rack that will appear intermittently in the store: the "As Is Rack."

Items on this rack will be flawed in some way — perhaps a zipper needs to be replaced or there is a stain. While the League normally would not put these items out for sale, occasionally an item with a minor flaw can be corrected by someone with expertise. These items will be especially low-priced. For more information about the League or membership, call (908) 322-5420, visit scotchplainslthriftshop.weebly.com or speak to any shop volunteers. Individuals also are invited to "like" the League on its Facebook page, "Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League." Shop hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The League is working on extending Friday shop hours to 2:30 p.m. Patrons are advised to check the sign on the front door to confirm if the shop will be open on Friday until 2:30 p.m. Gently-used donations are always welcome during business hours. Free parking is available on the street and at the rear of the building. Visitors may enter the parking lot via Willow Avenue.

## Sydney Kessler and Friends To Raise Funds at Bake Sale

WESTFIELD — Sydney Kessler, a 5-year-old who attends kindergarten at Precious People Early Learning Center in Westfield, will hold a bake sale with her class at her school tomorrow, Friday, October 3, from 2 to 6 p.m., as part of her continued fund-raising efforts on behalf of celiac disease research. Sydney was diagnosed with celiac disease at age 3 and is on a strict gluten-free diet. That means she can not have the pizza, cupcakes or cookies that her friends at school eat, but Sydney maintains a positive attitude and has been raising money for research into the disease. The bake sale will include many gluten-free treats, some of which will be baked by Sydney's kindergarten class. Precious People Early Learning Center is located at 132 South

Avenue, East, in Westfield. When Sydney found out that her teachers and classmates at Precious People would host a bake sale to raise money for her celiac walk and The Center for Celiac Research, Sydney told her mother, "I think I must be the luckiest girl in the world." For more information, call (908) 233-2330 or (732) 762-6008.



Sydney Kessler

## Holy Trinity Seniors To Meet on Monday

WESTFIELD — The Holy Trinity Senior Social Club will meet on Monday, October 6, at 1:30 p.m., in the Holy Trinity Parish Center. The parish center is located adjacent to the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church on Westfield Avenue in Westfield. Helga Thomas from the Hope Chest on Prospect Street in Westfield will be the guest speaker. Club members also are reminded to bring donations for the Food Pantry. There will be no meeting the following Monday, October 13, since it is Columbus Day. Father Matthew Looney has arranged "A Harvest Luncheon" for the club next month, catered by Robert Treat Delicatessen of Westfield. All members are welcome.

## Caregivers Meeting Set Monday Evening

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 October 6. These are information and sharing sessions. For more information, call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 232-1214.

## Madison Goldberg Attains Silver By Helping Students

SCOTCH PLAINS — Madison Goldberg, a Girl Scout of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Troop No. 40205, worked with Woodland Elementary School in Plainfield and the Plainfield Children's Library to complete her Silver Award Project. Madison has always enjoyed working with younger children and recognizes how much education can affect a child's life. A freshman at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, she wanted to help underprivileged children have a great start to school. Financially challenged families could not afford backpacks, school supplies and books needed for the start of this new school year. Madison swung into action and immediately created a plan that would help these families, entitled "Giving Back With Backpacks." She enlisted the support of friends, Fanwood residents and businesses, in particular Fanwood Bagels. The shop's owner allowed her to arrange a collection booth at her storefront. She spent many hours collecting donations for Woodland Elementary School. Madison then sorted, packed up and boxed all the supplies according to gender and arranged to meet with the principal to hand deliver them to

the school, where students would really benefit from receiving these much-needed supplies. She wanted to let youngsters know that anybody can make a difference in someone's life just by giving back a little at a time. Madison also spent several hours tutoring the kids after school and assisting them with homework both at Woodland Elementary School and at the Plainfield Public Library, where many students would gather for assistance. Her many donated books also were greatly appreciated by children who otherwise would not have access to them. Madison's overall goal was to give these kids a great start in school and instill confidence in them. To have a lasting impact, she will continue to tutor the young students at Woodland Elementary, as well as recruit others who will want to extend a helping hand to these very deserving young students. Madison has been a dedicated Girl Scout since first grade and really enjoyed getting to know the children and the opportunity to help a school community in need.



THE GIFT OF LEARNING...Cadette Girl Scout Madison Goldberg, left, presents new donated backpacks to Principal S. Johnson Tucker of Woodland Elementary School in Plainfield as part of her Silver Award project. Antonia Atkins and Stephanie Prybella, right, along with Jeremy Lewis, a fourth-grade student at Woodland, and Woodland alumna Diana Michelle Ventura, front, also were on hand.

## Westfield Library to Feature Jersey's 'Historical Haunts'

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Memorial Library will present "The Historical Haunts of Central New Jersey" by Gordon Thomas Ward on Wednesday, October 8, at 7 p.m. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street. From the shadowed woods of the Somerset Hills to the dappled banks of the Delaware River, "Historic Haunts" will deliver a mix of factual history and the sound investigation of ghostly phenomena. A lifelong artist, Mr. Ward has a body of work including songs, books, speeches, newspaper and magazine articles, interpretive displays and poetry. His CD, "Welcome to the Past," contains 13 original acoustic songs in a folk rock style. Mr. Ward is the author of "Life on the Shoulder: Rediscovery and Inspiration along the Lewis and Clark Trail," a book of original poetry entitled "Windows," and a meditation on the meaning of childhood's link to history entitled "A Bit of Earth," which brings the author back to the land where he spent his childhood with echoes of Wordsworth and Thoreau. Mr. Ward's many years of experience

with the collection of forensic-based evidence to both dismiss and support claims of hauntings, especially in historic locations, led to his book "Ghosts of Central Jersey." His most recent published book, "Tracing Infinity: Bridging the Gap between Earth and Heaven," is more spiritual in nature and deals with sensing and experiencing the divine in the world. The author and musician currently resides in northern New Jersey, where he continually pursues his other passions for photography, hiking and running. This program will be free and open to Westfield Memorial Library and MURAL cardholders. MURAL cardholders belong to libraries that are part of the Middlesex Union Reciprocal Agreement Libraries. To see if a library participates, call the Westfield Memorial Library at (908) 789-4090. To register for the program, visit the library's website at wmlnj.org and click on the Online Calendar, or call (908) 789-4090, extension 0.

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## FCC Announces Calendar Of Special Events For Fall

WESTFIELD — The First Congregational Church of Westfield invites the community to attend a series of special events taking place this fall. Visitors and prospective members are invited this Sunday, October 5, to "Bagels & Beliefs," an opportunity to learn about the history and mission of the church in an informal setting. The brunch will follow the 10 a.m. service and childcare will be available. Attendees will have a chance to share their beliefs and ask questions of the Reverend Mark Boyea, senior minister, and other First Congregational members and staff. Beginning Monday, October 6, "Faith and the Front Page" will return to the Adult Studies program. This popular series examines current events from an ethical, moral and Biblical perspective. The emergence of ISIS, the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., the spread of Ebola and the Supreme Court Hobby Lobby decision are some of the issues that will be discussed from a spiritual viewpoint. The series will continue over five consecutive Monday evenings through November 3, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the church's Chapel Lounge. On Tuesday, October 7, "By Faith..." will examine the New Testament book of Hebrews, considered to be the most sophisticated and elegant writing in the Bible. It was written to encourage Christians to persevere and hold on in troubled times. Over the five-week series, participants will discuss this thought-provoking book

and who wrote it, when, and for what audience. The series will continue on consecutive Tuesday evenings through November 4, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the Chapel Lounge. 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 fccofwestfield.org.

### Trinity Church to Bless Animals This Sunday

CRANFORD — A Blessing of Animals ceremony will be held this Sunday, October 5, during the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services at the Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 119 Forest Avenue in Cranford. Inspired by St. Francis of Assisi's legendary love for animals, Blessing of the Animals has become an annual celebration of the love and companionship between people and their pets. Everyone is invited to bring their pets to receive a blessing. Cats and birds should be kept in carriers and cages and dogs on leashes. People also may bring photographs of pets that are too ill to attend or are deceased, to receive a blessing. Small children who do not have pets may bring stuffed animals to receive a blessing. For more information about Trinity Episcopal Church, call (908) 276-4047 or visit trinitycranford.org.



ACHIEVING SUCCESS...The Westfield Area Y Achievers Program will hold a kick-off orientation on Wednesday, October 15, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Main Y Facility in Westfield. The 2014 Graduating Achievers Class, pictured left to right, are: Grant Hill (Catholic University), Sara Mora (Nyack College), Gabrielle Buissereth (Seton Hall University), Omar Finch (Union County College), Jahlisa Prunty (Montclair State University), Jenny Tyler (Montclair State University), Timani Walker (Johnson & Wells) and Siniah Wallace (Stockton University).

## Westfield Area Y Achievers Plan Kick-Off Orientation

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Area Y Achievers Program is gearing up for its 2014-2015 school year. An Achievers Kick-Off Orientation for returning students and new recruits will be held on Wednesday, October 15, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. It will take place at the Main Y Facility, located at 220 Clark Street in Westfield. The program engages youth with the 3D Motto of Discipline, Diligence and Determination. Achievers is a college-readiness and career-development program offering FAFSA, scholarship, résumé-building, college essay writing and SAT Prep workshops. Participants are taught various life skills, including financial literacy, personal and professional etiquette and basic self-defense. Multiple community service, networking and recreational activities are all inclusive with a free YMCA youth membership. Achievers are 13 to 17 years old and are in grades 9 to 12. The Achievers Program began at the

Harlem YMCA in 1968 as a conduit to helping minority youth develop life skills and educational goals. The program at the Westfield Area Y began 17 years ago and makes an effort to boost academic achievement and career success for minority and underserved youth, with the goal of creating confident youth and stronger communities. The Achievers Committee will host youth and their families to light refreshments, a Learn Do Earn presentation and information session. Registration for the program will be available during the course of the evening. Minority career professionals are invited to serve as role models and make a positive impact in the lives of youth. For more information, contact Nadya Lawrence, Achievers coordinator, at (908) 518-2512, extension no. 412, or nlawrence@westfieldny.org or Janice A. Carthens, senior director, Member Services, at (908) 233-2700, extension no. 227, or jcarthens@westfieldny.org.



*Come see how our family can become part of yours!*

Confirmation retreat, 2013

At First Congregational Church of Westfield, we strive to help families, children and teens discover and use the gifts and talents God has given them to serve the world. Youth play an active role in our faith community, from worship to music to outreach. Please join us on Sundays at 10 a.m. and at any of our family activities:

- October 5**, 11:30 am: "Bagels & Beliefs," come share your beliefs & learn about ours
- October 6, 13, 20, 27**, 7:30 pm: "Faith & The Front Page" Adult Studies
- October 7, 14, 21, 28**, 7:30 pm: Adult Studies on the book of Hebrews
- October 18**, 7 pm: "October Surprise" Cabaret Night
- October 25**, 10:30 am: Bridges Run to Newark Y with youth group

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