

Carol Lombardo to Retire As Dir. of Garwood Library

GARWOOD — Carol Lombardo will retire as director of the Garwood Public Library, effective July 1, 2015. Having served as director since being appointed in October of 1998, Mrs. Lombardo has brought the Garwood Library through many changes.

When she began her tenure as director, following the retirement of Madeline Ayres, the library was housed in the basement of the Franklin School, located near the corner of Walnut Street. The library was small, only 1,980 square feet, yet served both the general public and the school students since 1933.

When it was determined that Franklin School was to be torn down, Mrs. Lombardo and her staff had to put most of the books in storage while still maintaining library services. The library moved into a small building in JFK Plaza, keeping only the bare necessities to maintain a collection for the public, while keeping a small basement room in the school available for the books for the school population. Once the new school annex was built, the library staff moved all the books into the new larger quarters located at the back of the school complex on the corner of Walnut Street and Third Avenue, almost doubling the size of the library.

Under Mrs. Lombardo's supervision, the Garwood Library has grown exponentially in size and services. It has developed an extensive DVD collection, a large collection of audio-books, a growing number of large-print selections, a substantial young adult collection, and an e-book collection. The library also maintains a regular schedule of book clubs, story time for toddlers, an annual Summer Reading Club, once-a-week movies and a variety of monthly events and programs for all ages.

Before coming to the Garwood Library, Mrs. Lombardo was the library coordinator at St. Anne's Parochial School in Garwood for five years. Before that, she worked as a

senior library assistant at the Van Buren Branch Library in Newark, and was a senior receiving department clerk at the main branch of the Newark Public Library. She received her Master of Library Science degree from Rutgers University in 1997.

Once settled in the new building in 2005, Mrs. Lombardo and her staff established a web presence for the Garwood Library, including a Facebook page and Wi-Fi; developed new programs and expanded library services to the community, including home delivery to the elderly and disabled. Under her leadership, library circulation has more than doubled and the number of cardholders has increased dramatically. The library provides online catalog services, interlibrary loans and electronic resources that give Garwood Library cardholders access to a variety of information any time of the day or night.

Maryanne Duffy has been appointed as the new library director by the Garwood Library Board of Trustees. She has served as library assistant for 10 years at the Garwood Library.

Mrs. Lombardo will remain active in the library community. She also plans to travel and play golf, one of her most recent passions. "I'm retiring from my career — not from life. I plan to be active in the library and the community. I will, however, miss the day-to-day interaction with the wonderful library visitors and my great staff who over the years have become my friends," she remarked. "Libraries have always been part of my life and I don't see that changing anytime soon."

The Garwood Library Board of Trustees will honor Mrs. Lombardo at a farewell reception, open to the public, to be held on Saturday, June 27, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the library. The Garwood Public Library is located at the corner of Third Avenue and Walnut Street, behind the Lincoln School complex.



A GOLDEN ACHIEVEMENT...Alison Jaruzelski, a junior at Westfield High School, recently earned her Girl Scout Gold Award. Her project consisted of gathering all the furnishings for and setting up the first apartment in Union County for Roots & Wings, an organization that provides housing for teens aging out of the foster care system.

Alison Jaruzelski Earns Gold With Roots & Wings Project

WESTFIELD — Alison Jaruzelski, a junior at Westfield High School, received her Girl Scout Gold Award at the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey recognition ceremony on May 3. The highest honor in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award requires a minimum of 80 hours of researching, planning and executing a project that fulfills a community or national need.

Alison completed her Gold Award project with Roots & Wings, a non-profit organization that provides housing and transitional support to teens aging out of the foster care system. Roots & Wings provides safe housing and counseling to these teens, enabling them to complete their schooling and find employment on their way to self-sufficiency.

For her project, Alison was responsible for collecting donations for and setting up the first apartment leased by Roots & Wings in Union County. She hosted an apartment-warming shower for kitchen and bath accessories, bedlinens and school supplies last fall at the First Congregational Church of Westfield

that was attended by 50 people.

Alison also was charged with finding furniture for the two-bedroom apartment, including beds, desks, dressers, bookcases, lamps, a kitchen table and chairs. She solicited donations of gently used furniture through online registries and social media. Additionally, she wrote letters seeking donations of items that had to be in new condition, including mattresses and carpeting. Ron Shovlin of Shovlin Mattress Factory in Fanwood and Ben Slack of Major Mills in Clark were especially generous in contributing these key items.

After all the donations were gathered, the apartment was set up in less than one week from the time the keys were received until the first resident moved in. Alison was responsible for coordinating all the volunteers to help move, unpack and assemble the furnishings. The first two clients moved into the newly completed apartment last November.

As the final piece of her project, Alison compiled an apartment manual, including furnishing checklists, solicitation letters, photographs and a contact list of resources. The manual is now used by Roots & Wings as the template for setting up future apartments.

"In spite of all the work, it was very gratifying for me to be able to help other teens in my own community who have not had the benefits of a secure family life that so many of us take for granted," said Alison.

"Everyone I contacted about this project was so enthusiastic and so generous with their time and donations. I am especially grateful to the members of Roots & Wings Union County who devoted so much effort to help me move in and set up the apartment over one very busy weekend," she continued.

Alison, the daughter of Jennifer and Barry Jaruzelski, has been a member of Girl Scout Troop No. 40769 since kindergarten. Her mentor for the project was Wendy Masteller, a Roots & Wings board member and former science teacher at Westfield's Roosevelt Intermediate School. For further information about Roots & Wings, contact rootsandwingsnj.org.

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

Mountainside Library Offers Summer Reading, Activities

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Mountainside Public Library has announced its calendar of summer activities.

The library's summer reading program this year will feature the theme "Every Hero Has a Story" and the selection of books will focus on what it means to be a hero. Through their annual summer reading programs, libraries seek to help youngsters maintain and perhaps improve their reading ability during the summer months.

Story Times will be held on six Tuesdays, June 30 through August 4. They will include Cuddle Story Time (infants to 23 months), 10:30 to 11 a.m., and Preschool Stories and Crafts, for children 3, 4 and 5 years old, from 2 to 2:45 p.m.

On six Thursdays, July 2 to August 6, Toddler Story Time, for 2-year-olds, will be held from 10:30 to 11 a.m., while Stories and Crafts, for those who will enter kindergarten to second grade in the fall, will take place from 2 to 2:45 p.m.

Summer Book Discussion groups will meet on Wednesdays in July. Third and fourth graders will meet at 10:30 a.m.; fifth and sixth graders

will meet at 1 p.m. and seventh and eighth graders will meet at 3 p.m.

In addition to story times, crafts and book discussion groups, the library has scheduled three family-friendly presentations.

"Raptor Trust: Owl Program" will take place Wednesday, June 17, from 2 to 3 p.m., for children in second grade and up.

"Caryn Lin Presents: Sounds of Silence" will be offered on Tuesday, June 23, 11 to 11:45 a.m., for youngsters in kindergarten to eighth grade.

"Rick Mikula: The Butterfly Guy," for all ages, will be featured on Thursday, June 25, from 2 to 3 p.m. Adults also are welcome to attend these three events, with or without children. Registration is required and starts on Monday, June 15. Space is limited. For details, interested persons are asked to contact Elizabeth Perrin by e-mail at eperrin@mountainsidelibrary.org or at the library at (908) 233-0115.

Summer Reading officially begins on Monday, June 22, and is sponsored by the Friends of the Mountainside Public Library. The library is located at 1 Constitution Plaza, Mountainside.

Westfield Library to Present 'Health Benefits of Herbs'

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Memorial Library, located at 550 East Broad Street, will present "The Health Benefits of Herbs" next Thursday, June 18, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Lorraine M. Harwelik, a Registered Yoga Teacher, dual-certified clinical herbalist and a licensed New Jersey educator, will present the program.

"Many of the herbs and spices that our parents and ancestors used in meal preparation did more than just make the foods taste better. They actually helped people to become and stay healthy," said Ms. Harwelik. "Which herbs and spices do you stock that can help you and your family? In this talk you will learn about many interesting and healthful uses for familiar herbs and spices."

For more than a quarter century, Ms. Harwelik has been helping people of all ages get well and stay well using natural diets, herbs and exercise. She is the founder of Natural Therapeutics for Health,

LLC, in Cranford.

This program is 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. Persons looking to find out if their library participates are advised to visit the Westfield Memorial Library website, wmlnj.org, and click on the "About Us" tab. To register for the program, visit wmlnj.org and click on the Online Calendar, or call (908) 789-4090, option 0.

Library hours are 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday; and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday. The library is closed on Sundays during the summer.

For more information on library programs and services, call (908) 789-4090, visit wmlnj.org and sign up for the monthly e-newsletter, "Library Loop," or stop by the library for a copy of its award-winning, quarterly newsletter, "Take Note."

Rich Skorupski Named Among U.S.'s Top 10 Insurance Producers For 2014

CRANFORD, N.J. — Richard Skorupski, senior vice-president of the independent insurance agency Meeker Sharkey & Hurley, was ranked as one of the top 10 insurance producers in the nation for 2014 by the insurance publication *Business Insurance America*.

According to *Business Insurance America*, "The ranking system is an objective way of ranking the best-performing producers." They were ranked on total revenue in 2014, revenue growth, new policies written, new clients, and their total number of clients.

Mr. Skorupski provides insurance for many industries, but his main focus is working with nonprofit organizations. "Working with social service organizations, I appreciate the work they do to support their specific missions and the populations they serve. Being an insurance agent allows me to help these organizations meet their goals by protecting their assets," Mr. Skorupski said.

"In an increasingly competitive insurance marketplace, Meeker Sharkey & Hurley has always been known for its comprehensive client service. Rich exemplifies our tradition of putting the needs of our clients first," said Tom Sharkey, Jr., president and chairman, Meeker Sharkey & Hurley.

Mr. Skorupski has over 20 years' experience dedicated to insuring nonprofits. His firm Meeker Sharkey

& Hurley is a leader in insuring nonprofit organizations, from social service agencies including ARCs, cerebral palsy, autistic, and mental health agencies to advocacy, halfway houses and YMCA/YWCA programs. Serving the community since the 1860s, Meeker Sharkey & Hurley at www.meekersharkey.com provides both personal and commercial insurance coverage, employee benefits, and risk management services.

Richard Skorupski



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Thrift Shop Reveals June-July Hours

FANWOOD — The thrift shop at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church will be open through June on Wednesdays with the usual hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. New hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. will be in effect on Wednesdays in July, through July 22, when the shop will close for the summer.

The thrift shop, run by volunteers, is located at the rear of the church complex on McDermott Place. Summer clothing, books and needlework kits are among the items available.

Donations will be welcome on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For further information and directions, call the church office at (908) 889-8891 or e-mail admin@fanwoodpc.org.

F-SP Service League Shop Offers Summer Event Items

SCOTCH PLAINS — With the start of summer less than two weeks away, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop is ready for celebrations and seasonal activities. The thrift shop has gifts appropriate for graduations and Father's Day, plus outfits for weddings and other special events, including wedding dresses. Gifts for the bridal couple also are available.

Summer clothing is ready for sale. The thrift shop has comfortable clothing for work and play, including clothing children can wear for camp or other summer fun. All items sold are gently used or new. The shop is located at 1741 East Second Street, Scotch Plains.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that has served the local communities since 1974. Since its founding, the League has

donated \$1.1 million to local causes. Anyone interested in learning more about the League or membership is invited to call (908) 322-5420, visit the League's website at scotchplains-thriftshop.weebly.com or speak to any volunteers at the shop. Interested persons also are invited to check out the organization's Facebook page at "Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League" and give the League a "Like."

Thrift shop hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Donations are always welcome during business hours. Free parking is available on the street and in the rear of the building; visitors may enter the parking lot via Willow Avenue. Individuals are advised to call (908) 322-5420 regarding summer hours.

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