

Ellen Lafurn Due at Library On Saturday for 'Songbook'

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Memorial Library will present singer Ellen Lafurn and her musicians performing music from the Great American Songbook this Saturday, January 20, at 2 p.m. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street.

With a jazzy stroll through classic music, Ms. Lafurn will sing memorable tunes such as "Almost Like Being in Love," "It was a Very Good Year," "When Sunny Gets Blue" and "It's Only a Paper Moon." She will be joined by Vic Cenicola on guitar and Ron Naspo on bass.

Ms. Lafurn started singing professionally at the age of 17 with a "show group" called Chang Lee and the

Zaniacs. She then joined Jerry Mitchell and the Impacts, working and learning from many jazz greats including Roland Hanna, Gus Johnson and Danny Gibson.

Next came the Joe Zarr trio, with the late Al Ross on organ and Warren Battiste on guitar. She recorded on an album entitled "Danny & Friends" and became the vocalist with the Bob Ackerman Group — through whom she met her late husband, Gerry Lafurn. After a brief interlude, she is back to her first love — music performance.

This program is open to Westfield Memorial Library and MURAL cardholders. MURAL cardholders belong to the 43 libraries that are part of the Middlesex Union Reciprocal Agreement Libraries. Interested persons are encouraged to visit the Westfield Memorial Library website, wmlnj.org, and click on the "About Us" tab to see if their library is a MURAL participant. To register for the Ellen Lafurn program, visit wmlnj.org and click on the Online Calendar, or call (908) 789-4090, option 0.

Westfield Memorial Library hours are 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

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."



INNOVATIVE EDUCATOR...Robert Lichtman, Chief Jewish Learning Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, presents the Hoffman-Grinspoon Award to Linda Wolf during a December 4 ceremony at the Jewish Community Center of Central New Jersey. Ms. Wolf, a religious school teacher at Temple Sholom in Scotch Plains, was recognized for excellence in Jewish education.

Linda Wolf Is Recipient Of Hoffman-Grinspoon Award

SCOTCH PLAINS — Temple Sholom of Scotch Plains has announced that one of its religious school teachers, Linda Wolf, received the annual Hoffman-Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education at a ceremony at the Jewish Community Center of Central New Jersey.

The award, which was presented to Ms. Wolf on December 4, is a joint effort between the Grinspoon Foundation and philanthropists Gene and the late Adele Hoffman. The award is given to up to two Jewish educators in the Greater MetroWest area, as well as select educators in other regions, who have exhibited innovation in the classroom while helping to shape the future of Jewish education.

Ms. Wolf is the second Temple Sholom educator to receive the honor in the past three years. A veteran educator with 30 years of experience in special as well as mainstream education in public schools, and 20 years of experience in Jewish education, Ms. Wolf teaches Inclusive Hebrew to children at Temple Sholom. Inclusive Hebrew, Ms. Wolf explained, "is Hebrew for kids who need some extra help, and who need Hebrew taught a little bit differently than it's normally taught."

Additionally, Ms. Wolf works one-on-one with adults in the congregation to teach them Hebrew. She starts by teaching the adults the very basics of Hebrew, then teaches them the Hebrew prayers, and takes them all the way to preparing for adult Bat or Bar Mitzvah. The process of working individually with each adult can take a couple of years,

and she does it as a volunteer. She has even written a book sharing her wisdom about how to teach Hebrew to people who have different styles of learning.

"I think Temple Sholom is special because it's a place that values individuals, to be who they are, and therefore to learn however they need," she said.

Ms. Wolf herself learned Hebrew for the first time, together with her son, when she was in her 30s and her son was 12. Up until that point, she did not know any Hebrew or Jewish prayers, except for the blessing for the candles. Ms. Wolf made her own Bat Mitzvah at age 44.

"Linda sees the sacred in every child and nurtures it with a fine mix of structure, challenge and kindness," commented Jennifer Levine, Temple Sholom's director of education. "Her energy is unstoppable, admirable at any stage of life, let alone the senior years. We are deeply blessed to have her."

Jewish education is vital, said Ms. Wolf, "because we have an incredibly old and wondrous religion, that if you aren't educated, you can't carry on."

"If I can teach loving and caring and being open to other human beings, then I've done something good," she reflected.

For more information about Temple Sholom and its religious school, visit sholomnj.org or call (908) 889-4900.

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

Shackamaxon Country Club To Host Bridal Expo Feb. 18

SCOTCH PLAINS — Shackamaxon Country Club, for the first time in a few years, is hosting the region's most elegant and much anticipated Bridal Expo on Sunday, February 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Admission to the Expo is free and includes live music, a fashion show, and a host of over 30 specialty wedding vendors offering products and services for every bride-to-be. For instance:

- Limousine Services
- Floral Arrangements
- Beauty Products
- Invitations
- Photography

- Videography
- Wedding Photo Albums/Books
- Wedding Cakes
- And more!
- Grab your mom, sister, girlfriends, or even your fiancé!
- Registered attendees will be entered to win one of several prizes, including:
 - Honeymoon Giveaway
 - Wedding Planning Consulting Hours
 - Free Tuxedo Giveaway
- Additional giveaways and incentives are yet to come!
- Details and registration at <http://elegantbridal.com/bridalshow/1628/>.

Cranford Church to Present Souper Bowl-Chili Festival

CRANFORD — The Cranford United Methodist Church will host a Souper-Bowl and Chili Festival on Saturday, February 3. Nine homemade soups and chilis will be available for takeout — ready the day before the Super Bowl.

Pints and quarts of the following soups and chilis will be available for \$5 and \$9 each: Tomato Basil; Vegetarian Vegetable; Turkey Vegetable; Italian Wedding; Chili; Potato Cheddar Ham; Potato Cheddar Bacon; Potato Cheddar (no meat) and Chicken Corn Chowder.

Pre-ordering is highly recommended. Limited quantities will be available for walk-ins. Interested persons are asked to download the order form from the church website, cranfordumc.com, fill it in, enclose their check payable to CUMC and mail it to: Cranford United Methodist Church, Souper-Bowl Team, 201 Lincoln Avenue East, Cranford, N.J. 07016. Pre-paid advance orders will be available for pickup at the event and must be received by mail or dropped off in the church office by Monday, January 29. However, individuals are not required to order in advance — walk-ins also are welcome.

Orders can be picked up on Sunday, February 4, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., in the kitchen of the church's education building at 201 Lincoln Avenue, Cranford, at the corner of Walnut and Lincoln Avenues. Ample free parking is available.

For more information, call Marti at (908) 276-0936 or send an e-mail to office@cranfordumc.com.

Blood Drives Set In Summit, Clark

AREA — Blood drives to address an emergency shortage will take place next week in two area towns. January is National Blood Donor Month.

A blood drive will be held this Saturday, January 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at St. John's Lutheran Church, located at 587 Springfield Avenue, Summit. A second drive is set for next Thursday, January 25, from 1:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Clark Rescue Squad headquarters, located at 875 Raritan Road, Clark.

Participants are advised to eat a meal prior to donating blood and to bring identification with them to the blood drive.

For an appointment at either blood drive, call 1-(800) 933-2566. Walk-ins also will be welcome. All donors at the Clark drive will receive a \$15-off Jiffy Lube coupon.

AN AD ON THIS PAGE WILL BRING RESULTS

Knights 'Sunday Gravy' To Benefit Special Olympics

AREA — Monsignor Joseph F. Loreti Council No. 3240 of the Knights of Columbus invites the community for a "Sunday Gravy" dinner on January 28. It will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. in Loreti Hall of the Church of the Assumption, located at 113 Chicago Place, Roselle Park.

The menu will include pasta with homemade gravy/sauce, homemade meatballs, sausage, salad and bread. The cost is \$10 per person.

All proceeds from this event will

support Council No. 3240's Polar Bear Plunge team, which will participate in the annual New Jersey Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge in Seaside Heights on Saturday, February 24.

New Jersey Special Olympics is a cause that has long been supported by the Knights through their annual Tootsie Roll Drives, and this year the Knights have chosen to participate as a team in the annual plunge.

For more information, contact John Kennedy at ljssek@verizon.net.

'Renegade Revolutionary' To Be SAR Topic Friday

WESTFIELD — The West Fields Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) will sponsor a program on Friday, January 19, at 8 p.m., in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building, located at 425 East Broad Street. This program, and a short SAR meeting, are open to the public and light refreshments will be served.

Guest speaker Phillip Papas, senior professor of history at Union County College in Cranford and author of "Renegade Revolutionary: The Life of General Charles Lee," will discuss the former British army officer turned revolutionary who was one of the earliest advocates for American independence and one of the most complex and controversial figures of the American Revolution.

General Lee fought on and off the battlefield for democracy, freedom of conscience, individual liberties, human rights, and for the formal education of women. His capture by the British and his later court martial after the Battle of Monmouth in 1778 have dominated his place in the historiography of the American Revolution. As Professor Papas asserts, however, studying General Lee's life, his political and military ideas, and his style of leadership, offers new insights into the way the American revolutionaries fought and won their independence from Britain.

Professor Papas earned his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in History from Hunter College (City

University of New York) and his Ph.D. in History from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. His book on General Lee, published by New York University Press in 2014, received Honorable Mention for the 2015 Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award and Honorable Mention for the 2015 Book Award from the American Revolution Round Table of Richmond, Va.

For further information, call Warren Fristensky, West Fields Chapter president, at (908) 654-1731.

Miller Cory to Feature Snow Globes Sunday

WESTFIELD — Between 2 and 4 p.m. this Sunday, January 21, the Miller-Cory House Museum will showcase "The Wonderful World of Snow Globes." The museum is located at 614 Mountain Avenue, Westfield.

These miniature worlds under glass called snow globes have been delighting people since the 1800s. The museum program will include a display of globes, a short presentation on their history, and a children's craft. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is \$4 for ages 13 and older; \$3 for ages 3 to 12, and free for those under age 3.

For more information, call (908) 232-1776 or e-mail millercorymuseum@gmail.com. The museum's website is millercoryhouse.org.

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