

## Katharine S. Taylor, Beloved Aunt; Retired Roosevelt School Teacher

Miss Katharine S. Taylor passed in her sleep early on Saturday, January 5, 2019. She was born in Chester, Pa., on February 29, 1920 and grew up in Moorestown, N.J. She obtained a bachelor's degree from Albright College in Reading, Pa., and earned a Master's Degree in Education from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. Miss Taylor taught home economics at Roosevelt Junior High School in Westfield, N.J., for most of her 45-year career before retiring in 1987. An avid traveler and adventurous spirit, in retirement she went down the Colorado River on a rafting trip. She was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Westfield until she relocated to Seabrook Village in May, 2001, along with her sister, Lois Stegenga. At Seabrook she was active in many activities, including the Seabrook

Protestant Community (Church) and the Protestant Choir and the Silvertones. Her address remained at 517 North Shore until her move to the Renaissance Gardens in the fall of 2017. She was preceded in death by her sister, Lois, and by her two brothers, Robert and Alfred. She was a beloved aunt to her ten nieces and nephews, and is survived by nine of those ten, as well as their children and grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 19, 2019, at the Atrium in Town Square, Seabrook Village, 3000 Essex Road, Tinton Falls, N.J. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, 1275 York Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10065, would be appreciated. For online condolences, please visit [www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com](http://www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com).  
January 17, 2019

## Alfred L. Rees, 74, P.E., Enjoyed Learning; Active In Community

Alfred L. Rees, 74, of Scotch Plains died on Monday, January 14, 2019, at Center for Hope Hospice in Scotch Plains.

Visitation will be on Friday, January 18, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the Rossi Funeral Home, 1937 Westfield Avenue, Scotch Plains. Cremation will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Al's memory to: Temple University Alumni Relations, 1947 N. 12th Street, 3rd floor, Philadelphia, Pa. 19122, and the Salgi Esophageal Cancer Research Foundation, P.O. Box 1912, East Greenwich, R.I. 02818.

Al was a lifelong student, always learning; his first professional degree came in 1965 from Temple University, where he earned an associate's degree in Mechanical Technology. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1971 and a Master's Degree in Engineering Management in 1973, both from NJIT. In 1978 he graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a Master's Degree in Business Administration and in 2000 Al received a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from NJIT. Al worked for 40 years as a project engineer/project manager in the chemicals, plastics and consumer

products industries. He worked at Union Carbide, Johnson & Johnson, Tenneco Inc., and retired from Degussa Corp. By no surprise, after his retirement Al worked part-time for MDisko Associates in Kenilworth.

Al was a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of New Jersey, was a life member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, was a former member of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, former member of the Board of Directors of Resolve Community Counseling Center in Scotch Plains, member of several Academic Honor Societies in Engineering and Business, and was a former Deacon with the Dunellen Presbyterian Church.

Al had many hobbies as well; he was a jogger/runner for over 25 years, an avid reader with a large collection of books, music lover and enjoyed target archery.

Al is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Ruth M. (née O'Bryan); his loving daughters, Kathleen Rees, Jennifer Schulze and her husband, Will, and Allison Rees and her husband, Scott Mills, and his cherished granddaughters, Heidi and Haydn.  
January 17, 2019

## F-SP Rotary to Host Holiday Party January 24

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary will host its annual Holiday Party on Thursday, January 24, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. It will take place at the Shady Rest at Scotch Hills Country Club, located at 820 Jerusalem Road, Scotch Plains.

The party is typically held after the holiday season to avoid competition with other events during the season. The party is BYOB with a buffet. Coffee and soft drinks will be provided. The party also will include a hot chocolate bar and a disc jockey with karaoke.

Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$30 for those 30 years and younger. Children under 12 may attend for free. Interested persons are asked to RSVP to [fsprotaryservice@gmail.com](mailto:fsprotaryservice@gmail.com) and pay at the door.

"This will be a great, family-friendly event that will celebrate the good work of our members," said Deanna Dell Bene, who is organizing the event. "As someone under 30, I am proud to be a member of Rotary and support the great things we do for our community. We need more young people to join us, so please come to our holiday party to learn more and have some fun."  
"I'm looking forward to an evening of food, dancing and karaoke," said Tom Strowe, a member of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary, and also under 30. "This will be a happening good time and we hope to have as

many people as possible join us and become part of our mission to promote service above self."

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary has been serving the community since 1938 and has more than 70 members. The club supports many charitable activities and sponsors local and international causes, including scholarships for Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students.

The club meets on Wednesdays at noon at the Stage House Restaurant in Scotch Plains. On the last Wednesday of the month, members can participate in a service project for Mobile Meals of Westfield and/or attend a friendship lunch. Guests are invited to attend and learn about the good that Rotary is doing worldwide. For further information, go to [fsprotary.org](http://fsprotary.org).

### WCC Announces January Events

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Community Center (WCC), located at 558 West Broad Street, Westfield, will host multiple events this month.

A K-9 Unit demonstration by the Union County Sheriff's Department will be held today, Thursday, January 17, at 12:30 p.m.

A pancake breakfast celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will take place on Monday, January 21, at 8:30 a.m. Pedestrian Safety by the Brain Injury Alliance is scheduled for Thursday, January 31, at 12:30 p.m.

To register for these programs, call (908) 232-4759. In addition to its Seniors Program, the WCC offers daily Coffee Chats and monthly Movie Days, along with Chair Yoga, bingo, puzzles, trips and games.

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# Obituaries

## Eleanor Kaplan, A Founding Member Of Temple Emanu-El

Eleanor Kaplan (née Moranz), 90, of Scotch Plains, N.J., died on Saturday, January 5, 2019, at the Center for Hope Hospice in Scotch Plains.

Eleanor was an avid tennis player and a supporter of the Israel Tennis Association of Israel. She and her late husband, Harold, were original members of Temple Emanu-El of Westfield, and she served as the P.T.O. president of Westfield High School. Eleanor attended Worcester State Teachers College in Worcester, Mass., for three years. Previously, she was a graduate of Classical High School in Worcester.

Born in the Bronx, N.Y., she lived in Worcester, Mass., Westfield and Short Hills, N.J., and Palm Beach,

Fla., before moving to Scotch Plains one year ago.

Predeceased by her husband, Harold I. Kaplan, Esq., she is survived by her daughter, Joanne Kaplan Bartosik of Scotch Plains, N.J.; her son, Bart Kaplan (Barbara) of Farmingville, N.Y., and her grandchildren, Louis (Anna), Zachariah, Ellesse and Charles (Melanie).

Donations in her memory may be made to the Center for Hope Hospice.

Graveside services were held on Monday, January 7, 2019, at Beth Israel Cemetery in Woodbridge. Arrangements were by the Menorah Chapels at Millburn in Union, N.J.  
January 17, 2019



Rowdell's Fitness New Location, 123 South Avenue East

## Rowdell's Fitness Has Moved To New Location

Rowdell's Fitness has moved to a New Location at 123 South Avenue East, Westfield, N.J. 07090. (908) 233-9198, [rowdellsfitness@comcast.net](mailto:rowdellsfitness@comcast.net).

New Year's Resolution, Flash Super Sale 50 Percent Off all Personal Training Packages and 50 Percent Off All Group Fitness classes (new clients only).

Rowdell's Fitness has been in busi-

ness for 25 years in Westfield. Rowdell's has worked with clients with special disability, certain limitations, general fitness, sports specific competitive training and more. Gift Certificates available.

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## Library Programs to Cover Downloading, Bird Feeding

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Memorial Library, located at 550 East Broad Street, will round out the month of January with new programs.

From 2 to 3:30 p.m. today, Thursday, January 17, the library will conduct "All About Downloading to a Laptop Computer." Due to the hands-on nature of this class, registration is available for Westfield resident cardholders only. The class will teach students how to download books, movies, magazines and music to a laptop from Overdrive, Flipster, Hoopla, Freeding and Ebsco books. Students must come with their library card number and a laptop computer.

The library will present a program on bird feeding this Saturday, January 19, at 2 p.m. This program will address how to use water, bird feeders and shelter to attract native birds. It also will cover how to discourage nuisance animals and make one's property bird friendly.

Attendees should sign up for the programs, which are free and open to

Westfield Memorial Library and MURAL cardholders unless otherwise specified. MURAL cardholders belong to the 40-plus libraries that are part of the Middlesex Union Reciprocal Agreement Libraries. Interested persons are advised to check the Westfield Memorial Library's website, [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org), to see if their library is a MURAL participant.

To register for the programs, visit [wmlnj.org](http://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; 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The library will be closed on Monday, January 21, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

For more information about library programs and services, call (908) 789-4090, visit [wmlnj.org](http://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."

## Trinity Bake Sale to Benefit St. Clare's Homes for Children

CRANFORD — The Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 119 Forest Avenue, Cranford, will have a bake sale fundraiser on Sunday, January 27, benefiting St. Clare's Homes for Children. It will take place from 11 a.m. to noon in the church's Sherlock Hall.

### Library to Feature Super Bowl Snacks

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Public Library invites the community to learn how to prepare delicious, healthy Super Bowl snacks on Saturday, January 26, at 2 p.m.

Jennifer Bridgeman, known for her innovative approach to creating healthy and delicious food, will present an overview of how to lighten up favorite treats without sacrificing taste, followed by a hands-on workshop where participants will create their own mini seven-layer dip to take home.

Registration is required. The library will contact registrants in the event of inclement weather.

The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue, one block from Park Avenue in the center of the township. Interested persons may sign up on the library's website, [scotlib.org](http://scotlib.org). Participants also may check the website for cancellations due to inclement weather. For more information, call (908) 322-5007, extension no. 204.

## Barbara E. Pluta, 75, Beloved Wife, Mother, Grandmother, of Westfield

Barbara Ellen Pluta, 75, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, surrounded by her beloved family at her home in Westfield. Born in Newark to Frank and Leona Jezek, she attended St. Benedict's Elementary School and St. Vincent Academy in Newark. After living in Germany for the first year of her marriage, she and her husband, Tom, returned to the United States and moved to their home in Westfield on Valentine's Day of 1970. She and Tom have been faithful parishioners at Holy Trinity since then, where Tom serves as a deacon. Barbara was active in several pastoral and liturgical ministries, the Christian Family Movement and Family Promise, which shelters and mentors homeless families.

When she was 40, she began to work toward realizing her lifelong goal of attending college. She earned an associate's degree from Union County College and then, at the age of 52, after attending school on nights and weekends while working fulltime, earned her Bachelor of Science degree in occupational therapy from Dominican College. She worked for many years as an occupational therapist in the Jersey City and Westfield school systems.

Barbara loved Cape Cod and Ocean Grove and spent her happiest days there. She loved music and joyfully

sang in the Holy Trinity Contemporary Choir. She was an amazing occupational therapist who helped countless children. She will always be remembered for her beautiful smile and joyful spirit.

Barbara is survived by the love of her life, Thomas A. Pluta, her husband of 53 years; her daughters, Ellen Pluta (husband Claas Ehlers) and Jessica (Pluta) Heiberg (husband Todd Heiberg); her six beloved grandchildren, Arabella, Luke, Colette, Ethan, Jack and Will; son-in-law, Kent Diamond; her sister, Mary Ann Malik; many nieces and nephews, and the best friends and neighbors in the world. She was predeceased by her parents, Frank and Leona Jezek, and her daughter, Erika Pluta Diamond.

Visitation for Barbara will be held at the Holy Trinity Church in Westfield today, Thursday, January 17, from 6 to 9 p.m., and Friday, January 18, from 1 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, January 19, at 10 a.m. Private interment will be at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Barbara's memory to St. Vincent Academy, 228 W. Market Street, Newark, N.J. 07103. Arrangements are in the care of Dooley Colonial Funeral Home in Westfield.  
January 17, 2019

## Cranford Event to Spotlight History of Black Baseball

CRANFORD — The community is invited to join the Cranford Historical Society and the Cranford Public Library in celebrating Black History Month with "The Color Line on the Baseball Diamond," a lecture on the history of black baseball.

This special event will take place on Wednesday, February 13, at 7 p.m., in the Cranford Community Center. It is part of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities Public Scholars Project. Lawrence Hogan, Ph.D., professor emeritus of history at Union County College, will present the program.

Black baseball in America is a multifaceted narrative, including pioneers like Jackie Robinson and the rich relationships in "Blackball" during America's era of segregation, across the nation and in New Jersey. During this session, a robust conversation, an account by a veteran Negro Leaguer, a rendition of an "iconic" baseball poem, "KC at the Bat," by its author, Kevin Kane, and selections from the documentary *Before You Can Say Jackie Robinson* will further participants' understanding.

Professor Hogan is the author of "A Black National News Service:

Claude Barnett and the Associated Negro Press" as well as "The Forgotten History of African American Baseball." He served as executive producer and historian for *Before You Can Say Jackie Robinson: Black Baseball in New Jersey and America in the Era of the Color Line*. He is the editor and co-author of "Shades of Glory: The Negro Leagues and the Story of African American Baseball" published by National Geographic and the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

No registration is required for this free event. The Cranford Community Center is located at

220 Walnut Avenue, and is accessible to all.

For more information about the Cranford Public Library, visit [cranfordlibrary.org](http://cranfordlibrary.org).

This program is made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.



Lawrence Hogan



## Celebrate National Children's Dental Health Month With Westfield Pediatric Dental Group

February is Children's Dental Health Month and Westfield Pediatric Dental Group is raising awareness about the importance of children's oral health.

The hygienists from WPDG travel to local elementary schools, preschools and local clubs to help educate children and parents on the importance of children's oral health. Our office also offers small, private guided office tours to Brownies, Cub Scouts, Mommy and Me and other youth groups regarding children's dental care. Our presentations are free of charge and each child goes home with a dental goodie bag.

During our school presentations we will discuss first dental visits, importance of teeth, and demonstrate how to maintain good oral health through

homecare and nutrition. Developing good habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums.

Westfield Pediatric Dental Group is proud to be a part of educating our community, children and parents for Children's Dental Health Month. Please call our office at (908) 232-1231 and ask for Christina to arrange a guided tour or a presentation for your school or club.

Westfield Pediatric Dental Group  
555 Westfield Avenue  
Westfield, N.J. 07090  
(908) 232-1231  
[www.kidsandsmiles.com](http://www.kidsandsmiles.com)

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