

# Temple Emanu-El to Hold Early Childhood Program

WESTFIELD — Temple Emanu-El of Westfield has invited families with children ages 2 to 5 to attend a special program on Sunday, February 4, from 10 a.m. to noon, for an introduction to the synagogue's Early Childhood Education Program.

Crafts, a sing-along, snacks and a slide show will be included in the event. Both current and prospective enrollees and their families are welcome to attend the festivities.

The temple's Early Childhood Education Program is accredited by the

National Association for the Education of the Young Child's National Academy of Early Childhood Programs.

Besides the preschool, Temple Emanu-El additionally offers a Kindergarten Enrichment program, Lunch, Extended Hours and Summer Camp programs. Registration for all programs for the 2001-2002 school year is in progress.

Temple Emanu-El is located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield. For further information, please call (908) 232-7663.

# Torah Center to Present Jewish Literacy Courses

WESTFIELD — The Union County Torah Center in Westfield will present three courses as part of the winter semester of the Jewish Literacy Program.

The winter semester will begin on Tuesday, February 13, from 8 to 9 p.m., with a course on Jewish Medical Ethics and Contemporary Halachik Issues.

This course will continue for four consecutive Tuesdays, through March 6, and will include topics such as Judaism and the Environment, Euthanasia and Genetic Engineering. Rabbi Hirsh Novak will teach the course at the Torah Center, located at 418 Central Avenue in Westfield.

Rabbi Levi Block, Director of the Torah Center, will present a course entitled "Kabbalah No. 101" on Wednesdays starting February 14, from 8 to 9 p.m.

The course, which will continue for three consecutive Wednesdays through February 28, is a joint program of the Jewish Community Center (JCC) and the Torah Center. It will be held at the JCC of Central New Jersey, 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains.

Rabbi Mendel Heidingsfeld will give a class on the Torah Portion of the week on Thursdays starting February 15, from 8 to 9 p.m., which will con-

tinue for four consecutive Thursdays through March 15 at the Torah Center. Topics will include "The Ten Commandments" and the "Sin of the Golden Calf."

The Jewish Literacy Program was created by the Torah Center to provide people with what is described as a "coherent, relevant and usable body of Jewish learning."

The cost for each course is \$10. For more information and to respond, please call the Torah Center at (908) 789-5252.

## Caregivers Group To Meet on Feb. 5 At Parish Center

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 8 p.m. in the Parish Center of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church on Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield.

These are information and sharing sessions. The next meeting will take place on February 5. For more information, please call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 232-1867.

# The Roller Coaster Ride of Life... Get Off by Following God's Call

BY REV. GARY F. ROTHWELL

Do you ever feel that your spiritual life is a little like a ride on a roller coaster? Are the highs very high and the lows very low, with a lot of jerking and bumping in between?

With each passing year of my life, sometimes I feel more and more like I'm on a carnival ride that keeps going faster and faster. However, I also feel the ride is becoming smoother and more purposeful as I grow in my walk of faith.

Having just celebrated my 48th birthday, I am looking at my next decade and seriously pondering what my spiritual ride will be like.

I believe chapter one of the book of Psalms describes a spiritual life very differently from a roller coaster. In that description, the Psalmist states that spiritual growth is "like a tree

planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."

In 10 years I want to be able to look back and say that what God did in and through me did not wither but prospered. Probably many of you would like that kind of life and future as well.

The secret to this steady, productive life that shows consistency and fruitfulness is also found in Psalm 1. It comes through our faith walk. How are we applying God's principles in our lives? Are we walking in the pathway of God?

It comes by hiding God's word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him. It comes through a dedicated quiet time when we allow God to speak to us and we receive guid-



Rev. Gary F. Rothwell

ance from Him through Bible reading and prayer. It comes through discipleship — learning and growing in our spiritual walk.

In 2001, I want to spend more time reading my Bible and trying to apply God's principles to my life. I want to be a learner, a disciple. I want to truly seek to understand God's word and see constant, lasting fruit as I apply it in my faith walk. God's promise to us is that anyone who does this, anyone who applies God's teachings in their lives, can anticipate to develop the consistent, fruitful life spoken of in Psalm 1.

Looking back on your life 10 years from now, do you want to see a lot of hectic, circular roller coaster trips that just stressed you out and produced no lasting fruit? Or do you want to see a consistent life that produced real, lasting, eternal fruit?

Are you willing to pay the cost of discipleship? Jesus said in Luke, "And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple" (14:27) and "In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple (14:33). Are you willing to pay the price of discipleship to gain a fruitful life. The old expression still rings true, "You get what you pay for."

May God bless your ride in 2001 and on to at least 2011!

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Reverend Gary F. Rothwell is Pastor of the Scotch Plains Baptist Church, located at 333 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains.

# Redeemer Lutheran to Host 'American Quilt' Program

WESTFIELD — The Redeemer Lutheran Church and School will host a special program entitled "American Quilts," based on a PBS video, on Saturday, February 10, at 10 a.m. in Redeemer's Luther Hall.

Redeemer is located at the corner of Clark Street and Cowperthwaite Place in Westfield. The public is invited to attend and child care will

be provided.

The program will examine quilts from three perspectives — as historical records, as symbols of family and community, and as works of art.

Janet Santichen, a Redeemer member and experienced quilt maker, will display some of her creations and describe the intricate process of planning and creating a quilt.

Anyone with a quilt is invited to bring it along and share their knowledge about its maker and significance.

## Temple Emanu-El To Host Program On Comedy Films

WESTFIELD — Temple Emanu-El in Westfield will host "Woody Allen and Mel Brooks: A Variation on Comedy Film," on Sunday, February 11, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the temple.

This audio-visual program, followed by a question-and-answer session, will be led by Dr. Eric Goldman, an expert on Yiddish, Israeli and Jewish film.

Through recent and older film clips, he will depict the "Jewish" comedy producer.

Dr. Goldman has been a curator at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and was also a member of the Educational Advisory Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Temple Emanu-El is located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield. Admission is free. For additional information, please call the temple office at (908) 232-6770.

## Holy Trinity to Hold Communion Breakfast

WESTFIELD — The Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield will hold its Annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, February 11, at the Gran Centurions, located at 440 Madison Hill Road in Clark.

The breakfast will follow the 9 a.m. Mass at Holy Trinity Church.

The Reverend Richard Kelly will be the guest speaker. Formerly assigned to Holy Trinity as a Parochial Vicar, he is currently the Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Newark.

Tickets are on sale after all Sunday Masses and in the Holy Trinity Church Rectory, located at 315 First Street in Westfield. Tickets are \$12.50 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$6 for children. All are invited to attend.

For further information, please call the Rectory at (908) 232-8137.

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