

Our Spiritual Road is Mapped By Help We Give to Others

By DR. JOSEPH NOVICK

"Mr. President, please wait here by the door, there are tourists in the distance and I would like to see what they want."

Can you just imagine this scenario, where the President of the United States, who is visiting a constituent, is told to wait while the host takes care of some other business? What audacity! But this interchange, with a little bit of interpretive enhancement, occurred some time ago.

The scene is as follows (Genesis 19:1-8): Abraham is being paid a get-well visit by G_d. "And G_d appeared to him as he sat in the door of the tent in the heat of the day." As described in the Torah, Abraham sees three travelers in the distance and runs to greet them. "My Lord, if I have found favor in your eyes, please don't leave me." To whom are these comments addressed? The most logical explanation is that Abraham is speaking to the strangers.

But another interpretation is that Abraham, who saw three people approaching, asked G_d to step aside while he took care of the newcomers. "Rabbi Yehuda said in the name of Rav, "Greater is the welcoming of guests (those in need) than receiving G_d's presence (Tractate Shabbat, 127a)."

This Talmudic statement emphasizes a significant component of civilization — concern for others. Our relationship with another person takes precedence over our personal encounter with the Al-mighty. It is as if G_d is saying that the spiritual or religious road can be reached only by traveling directly in the society of people.

May our road to spirituality always be guided by our responsibilities to each other.

Dr. Novick is the Director of Community Relations for the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey.



Cheri Rogowsky for The Westfield Leader and The Times
PREPARING FOR THE FLU SEASON...Mary DeFiore prepares to apply a flu vaccine to a senior citizen on November 1 at Scotch Hills Golf Course in Scotch Plains.

Boy Scout Troop No. 72 To Present Open House

WESTFIELD — Boy Scout Troop No. 72, the Pack and Paddle Troop, based at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, will hold an Open House on Monday, November 12, from 7 to 8:15 p.m.

It will take place in the church's Westminster Hall, at the corner of East Broad and Mountain Avenue.

Featured will be demonstrations of camping, canoeing, Klondike derby, cooking, mountain biking and other scout activities, as well as slides and refreshments.

All boys who have completed at least the fifth grade or who are at least 11 years old or have (or will have) earned the Arrow of Light

Award are eligible to join the Boy Scouts.

Individuals need not have participated in Cub Scouting to join, but Cub Scouts are encouraged to continue on into Boy Scouts.

Troop 72 has been in existence for more than 78 years. In addition to hikes, service projects, campouts, canoeing, skiing, snow-shoeing and bicycle trips, the troop also spends two weeks each summer at a high adventure camp in Canada.

Interested individuals unable to attend this recruiting evening may call troop representatives and then come to any regular meeting. Meetings are held most Monday evenings at Westminster Hall from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

For further information, please call Ralph Maines at (908) 232-2877 or Neil Sheflin at (908) 317-9761, or visit www.westfieldnj.com/troop72.

Program to Spotlight Hearing Aid Concerns

AREA — The Tuesday, November 13 meeting of SHHH (Self Help for Hard of Hearing People) will feature a discussion of the conference paper entitled "Fifteen Rules for Satisfied Hearing Aid Users" by R.J. Leavitt and D.E. Booster.

The meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Local History Room of the Madison Public Library.

Members and visitors are invited to contribute their views, as well as comments regarding their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with hearing aids.

SHHH meetings are open to anyone with hearing problems. For further information, please call J. H. Pickin at (973) 377-3929.

Dr. Werner Glass to Recall Youth Spent in Shanghai

WESTFIELD — Dr. Werner Glass of Westfield will speak to members of the Woman's Club of Westfield on Monday, November 12, about "Growing Up in Shanghai," from 1933 to 1947.

Dr. Glass will illustrate his talk with slides taken in China, mostly during the 1930s and 1940s. His father, a pediatrician, had taken his family to China during the Nazi era in Germany.

In 1947, Dr. Glass came to the United States to attend Syracuse University. He later obtained his

master's and doctoral degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Woman's Club meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m. Guests are invited to attend Dr. Glass' lecture at 1 p.m. in the Patton Auditorium of the First Congregational Church of Westfield, located at 125 Elmer Street.

A reception hosted by the members of the club's International Affairs Department will follow the program. For further information, please call (908) 654-3946.



Dr. Werner Glass

Lip Reading Class Resumes at Church

WESTFIELD — Following a three-month hiatus, the Hearing Society has resumed its free lip reading class. The class takes place on Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Westfield. An experienced certified teacher leads the informal class.

Other activities include monthly "pot luck" lunches. The Society also provides a scholarship for deaf students in the area who wish to continue their education at an accredited college. An attempt is being made to reschedule a get-together of scholarship winners, which was tentatively planned for the summer, in December or January.

Hearing Society office hours have also resumed and are held on Thursdays between 9:30 a.m. and noon. The Society is based at the First Baptist Church, located at 170 Elm Street.

For additional information, please call (908) 233-0266, V/TTY. The mailing address is P.O. Box 2534, Westfield 07091.

Good News

"For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood, contending only with physical opponents, but against the depots, against the powers, against the master spirits who are the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere."

EPHESIANS 6:12

THE GOSPEL

FoodBank's Turkey Drive To Include Westfield Site

WESTFIELD — The Community FoodBank of New Jersey is stepping up its efforts to meet the needs of people who are turning to emergency food pantries to help them get through difficult times, including families impacted by the tragic events of September 11.

On Saturday, November 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the FoodBank will hold its Annual Turkey Drive at 19 drop-off locations. Among them will be Franklin Elementary School on Prospect Street in Westfield.

The goal of the Turkey Drive is to provide individuals and families in need with a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Volunteers will be stationed in the parking lots of all locations with a FoodBank banner.

Turkeys may also be dropped off at the Community FoodBank's warehouse at 31 Evans Terminal Road in Hillside, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For directions to the facility, please call (908) 355-3663.

Individuals who prefer to donate funds for the wholesale purchase and distribution of food to the needy may

make checks payable to the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. Contributions should be mailed to the FoodBank address, zip code 07205, with "Turkey Drive" written on the outside of the envelope.

'Increase Your Energy' On Tap at Westfield Y

WESTFIELD — Dr. Joseph Frasco, a Chiropractor at Frasco Chiropractic Offices in New Providence, will be a presenter for a lecture entitled "Increasing Your Energy By 300 Percent" at the Westfield Y on Monday, November 12.

The lecture, starting promptly at 7:30 p.m., is open to the public. It will cover "Power Meals;" the different philosophies of health today; the technique of "Power Breathing;" and how to get "Nuclear Power."

Interested individuals are asked to call the Westfield Y at (908) 233-2700 and register at the front desk. For further information, please call Michael Johnson at extension no. 251.



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