

We Are Invited to the Banquet, But Must Accept the Invitation

By DR. WILLIAM ROSS FORBES

"Life is a banquet, and there are so many suckers who are starving to death!" So goes a line from the musical *Auntie Mame*.

But it's true, isn't it? Most of us can agree that we are living in the midst of what could be a vibrant, glorious banquet, yet so many feel as if they were starving in various ways.

What holds us back? Who holds us back? Who tells us not to go forward? Who is responsible for not attending the banquet? It is I. I am responsible for me, for entering in or not entering in. We have a choice to live life or only to take its picture.

In that sense, I believe that religious belief is a bridge to meaning and understanding in life. Most of the world's great religions suggest that religious belief is a process or a pathway to truth.

As I contemplate the world's dilemmas or even the stresses and strains we experience within our own community, I believe that participation within a faith community can enhance and increase the possibility that bridges of understanding can be built between people who hold different world views.

Old Guard Announces Itinerary For April 11

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Area Old Guard, a social club of retired and semi-retired men, will hold its annual membership meeting on Thursday April 11, at the Westfield Y, located at 220 Clark Street in Westfield.

The chairmen of the Bowling, Bridge, Golf, Shuffle Board and the Merryman singing group will be in attendance for those interested in these activities.

The group's social hour will begin at 8:30 a.m., with coffee and bagels, and will be followed by a business meeting at 10 a.m. A speaker from Outreach Projects will give a presentation at 11 a.m.

Visitors are welcome. For more information, please call George Ryan at (908) 232-8094 or Roy Bowman at (908) 276-8299.

Area Siblings to Perform At First Congregational

WESTFIELD — Henry and Jean Nankung will present a program of violin and piano music on Saturday, April 6, at 5 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, located at 125 Elmer Street in Westfield. The public is invited to attend this free program.

Henry, a ninth grader at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights, and Jean, an eighth grader at Columbia Middle School in Berkeley Heights, will perform music for both instruments.

The children of Dr. K.A. and Jinsook Nankung of Berkeley Heights, they are members of the

But all this begins when we attempt to know the basic tenets of our own faith traditions and then sharpen our ability to listen to the ideas and views of those who differ from us.

Not so long ago, a good friend who was a pastor in a community where I once lived, died after a long struggle with cancer. At his memorial service, he asked to have a letter read to those who gathered for the service. One thing he said in his remarks was, "Forgive everything."

Now, he might have been asking his family to forgive any wrongs he might have done, but he was a very devout, gentle and compassionate man, who had no obvious need to ask for forgiveness. "Forgive everything," suggested that he had understood an essential component of the Christian faith.

Listen to Archbishop Desmond Tutu: "Forgiveness is taking seriously the awfulness of what has happened when you are treated unfairly. Forgiveness is not pretending that things are other than the way they are."

A psychiatrist said, "Forgiveness does not equal forgetting. It is about healing the memory of the harm, not erasing it."

At almost every intersection in our lives today, there are potential places for misunderstandings and opposing views on a multitude of issues.

The world in which we live changed significantly on September 11, 2001. More than ever, we need to attempt to walk in the shoes of others. We need to think globally as perhaps never before. At the same time, we need to get to know our neighbors and get beyond ourselves and our own interests.

One of the basic lessons children learn in their earliest experiences of learning is to cooperate and to get along with others. That lesson, taught in all of our pre-schools, seems to be a difficult lesson to apply consistently throughout our lives. Listen...Learn...Forgive...Think beyond oneself...

Dr. William Ross Forbes is the Senior Pastor of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, where he has served for 13 years.



'FRIENDS IN HARMONY'...Members of this area barbershop quartet will perform for the Woman's Club of Westfield on Monday, April 8, at its general meeting at the First Congregational Church, located at 125 Elmer Street in Westfield. The meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. Pictured, left to right, are: Jim O'Leary, tenor; Bill Ahern, lead singer; Bob Garrone, baritone, and Dick Bodmer, bass.

Area Barbershop Quartet To Sing for Woman's Club

WESTFIELD — The "Friends in Harmony," a barbershop quartet comprised of four area men, will perform at the general meeting of the Woman's Club of Westfield on Monday, April 8, at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting will take place at the First Congregational Church, located at 125 Elmer Street in Westfield. Guests are welcome to attend the performance.

The quartet includes Dick Bodmer of Westfield, bass; Jim O'Leary of Plainfield, tenor; Bill Ahern of Metuchen, lead singer, and Bob

Garrone of Colonia, baritone.

All are members of the Rahway Valley Jerseyaires Barbershop Chorus.

Hostesses for the tea following the program will be led by Dorothy Hulsart and the club's Literature Department. For more information, please call (908) 654-3946.

Girl Scouts to Present Children's Games From Colonial Era

SCOTCH PLAINS — Jennifer Bauer and Guenevere Zucker, both eighth-grade Girl Scouts of Troop No. 751, will conduct a presentation of Colonial children's games on Sunday, April 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Osborn Cannonball House Museum in Scotch Plains.

Visitors will have an opportunity to play the games, as well as learn the historical background of each game. Both scouts will be dressed in period costumes. Traditional refreshments will be served.

Jennifer and Guenevere have been serving as junior docents at the Cannonball House for more than a year. The Colonial Games program is the concluding event in their work towards their Silver Award project, the highest award a Cadet Girl Scout can earn.

The Cannonball House is located at 1840 Front Street. There is no admission charge.

St. John's Baptist Plans to Welcome Auxiliary President

SCOTCH PLAINS — St. John's Baptist Church will host guest speaker Dr. Rosa Burrell Cooper, President of the Women's Auxiliary to the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., on Sunday, April 7, at 11 a.m. The church is located at 2387 Morse Avenue in Scotch Plains.

Pastor Kelmo Porter will be the guest speaker at 4 p.m. at the North Stelton African Methodist Episcopal Church in Piscataway, where the Reverend Kenneth Saunders is the Pastor.

Pastor Porter will be accompanied by the St. John's Mass Choir, officers and congregation members. The public is invited to attend.

Miller-Cory to Present Scherenschnitte Sunday

WESTFIELD — On Sunday, April 7, Evelyn Kennelly of Westfield will demonstrate her paper-cutting artistry, called "Scherenschnitte," between 2 and 5 p.m. at the Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield.

Originally developed centuries ago by the Chinese, the art of Scherenschnitte came to America during the 17th century with the Germans who settled in Pennsylvania. Early Americans cut out lacy designs and flowers to decorate house blessings and marriage and birth certificates.

Janet Murphy of Kenilworth and Sherry Lange of Cranford will prepare seasonal foods over the open hearth, using authentic Colonial recipes and cooking techniques. Taste treats will be available for visitors to sample.

Volunteers dressed in 18th-century costumes will guide visitors through the historic farmhouse and answer questions about life in early New Jersey. The last tour will begin at 4 p.m. Various Colonial gifts and educational items are available in the gift shop.

Admission to the museum is \$2 for adults, 50 cents for students and free for children under age six. On Sunday, April 14, Eileen O'Shea will demonstrate the art of straw hat weaving.

For information about the museum, its schedule of spring events or volunteer opportunities, please call the museum office at (908) 232-1776.

St. Bart's Students Create Library History Project

FANWOOD — As part of their class community project, four students from Margaret Klastava's third-grade class at St. Bartholomew's Interparochial School in Scotch Plains researched the 100-year history of the Fanwood Memorial Library.

The students, including Billy Pilego, Justin Messercola, Stephan Cardio and Ryan Haggerty, visited the library, toured its two former

locations and reviewed several historical documents and other primary source material provided by Library Director Dan Weiss and his staff.

The students also visited and interviewed several long-time Fanwood residents who are members of the local Historic Preservation Commission and were able to identify all the library's prior locations since its official incorporation in 1903.

The results of their project are now on display at the library and include a wooden replica of the current building; a photograph of Carrie Bettman, Fanwood's first librarian; circulation records dating back to 1904 and an informational poster-board created by the students.

The Fanwood Memorial Library, located at North Avenue and Tillotson Road, is exploring how best to celebrate its 100th anniversary this year and has invited area residents to submit ideas. Interested individuals may call (908) 322-6400, send an email to fanwdlib@lmcx.org, or visit the library.

Holy Trinity Seniors To Meet on April 8

WESTFIELD — The regular meeting of the Senior Social Club of the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield will be held on Monday, April 8, at 1:30 p.m., in the gymnasium/auditorium of the Interparochial School. The entrance is on First Street.

Marilyn Vidovich, President of the Center For Women and Families in Scotch Plains, will be the guest speaker. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker, she will discuss "Making the Most of Your Retirement Years."

On Thursday, May 23, the club will attend a performance at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Attendees will have lunch at B.G. Fields Restaurant in Westfield prior to the performance and then return to the restaurant afterward.

Service to Pay Tribute To 12-Step Programs

WESTFIELD — The First Congregational Church of Westfield will hold a special worship service on Sunday, April 7, at 10 a.m., to pay tribute to anonymous Twelve-Step recovery programs. Visitors are encouraged to attend.

In an effort to endorse, celebrate and educate the public about these self-help groups, the church's professional staff will incorporate elements of groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Adult Children of Alcoholics into the church's traditional worship format. Organized by the Reverend Pamela Gilchrist, Associate Minister, the service will invoke prayers commonly used by these programs, including the "Serenity Prayer" and the "Lord's Prayer."

The scripture reading will link each of the Twelve Steps (the suggested guidelines for the Twelve-Step Programs) with a compatible biblical reference.

Dr. Barbara Thomson, Organist and Music Director for the First Congregational Church, has selected musical pieces that are favored by members of the anonymous fellowship groups, including the hymns "Amazing Grace" and "Morning Has Broken."

In the tradition of such self-help groups, the service will conclude with a speaker from the Westfield area who will share her experiences.

A reception for church members and visitors will follow the hour-long worship service. The First Congregational Church is located at 125 Elmer Street. For further information regarding the Twelve-Step Service, please call the church office at (908) 233-2494.

Communion Breakfast To Feature Author

WESTFIELD — The Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield will hold its Annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, April 21, 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.

Lorna Kelly will be the guest speaker. She is the author of "The Camel Knows the Way," in which she chronicles her experiences volunteering with Mother Theresa in the slums of Calcutta.

Ms. Kelly will be available for personalization of book purchases after the breakfast.

Tickets will be on sale after all Masses on Sundays, April 7 and 14. Tickets may also be purchased at the church Rectory, located at 315 First Street in Westfield.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for senior citizens and \$6 for children. All are welcome. For further information, please call the Rectory at (908) 232-8137.

First Baptist Offers Group For Singles

WESTFIELD — The First Baptist Church of Westfield has invited individuals over age 45 who are widowed, divorced or never married to come to the church each Sunday for coffee, cake and conversation.

Meetings will take place on April 7, 14, 21 and 28, from 9 to 10:15 a.m., in the lower level meeting room. A \$2 donation is requested.

Participants will discuss single issues, how to cope and learn from each other. According to the church, it is not group therapy, but rather an opportunity to build friendships and share experiences.

Other activities include winter movie nights, summer picnics, holiday get-togethers and more.

The church is located at 170 Elm Street. All are welcome. For more information, please call (908) 889-5265 or (908) 889-4751.

Newcomers Club Reveals Calendar of April Events

WESTFIELD — The Newcomers Club of Westfield has posted its upcoming events for this month.

A Movie and Lunch outing for Newcomers fathers and their children will take place on Saturday, April 6, at 11 a.m. at the Rialto Theatre in Westfield. The featured movie will be *Ice Age*.

Participants will meet at 10:50 a.m. inside the lobby of the theater on East Broad Street, by the video machines. The group will have lunch after the movie at The Windmill, located next door to the theater.

Play time sessions will be held on Thursdays, April 11 and 25, at 10:30 a.m. at Mindowaskin Park. The Children's Committee also offers age-based play groups.

A free trial class for children aged 18 months to three years old will be offered on Friday, April 19, from 12:15 to 1 p.m. at The Little Gym, located at 6-20 South Avenue in Cranford (next to Blockbuster Video).

Youngsters will have an opportunity to participate in fun gymnastics, movement and singing. Space is limited, so reservations are necessary.

The Ladies Dinner Out is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. at Jeffrey's of Westfield, located at 114 Central Avenue.

An "after-dinner" event for members and spouses will be held on

New Jersey Youth Orchestra

They will be accompanied on the violin concertos of Bach, Lalo and Bruch, and the piano concertos of Mozart and Grieg, by the violin solo concerto orchestra, led by their violin teacher, Stephen Wolosonovich.

The youngsters also study piano with Sondra Tammam of Westfield. There will be piano solos by Mussorsky, Palmgreen, Chopin and Beethoven. Henry and Jean will also perform the soon-to-be-published "Rustic Dances," by Walter Legawiec, which were commissioned by Mr. Wolosonovich.

The club offers day and evening, weekday and weekend social activities for women, couples and children. For more information about the Newcomers Club or any of the April events, please call Carrie Votta at (908) 389-9248 or Renee Cox at (908) 233-5605.

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