

God Calls On All of Us to Be Part of One Loving Community

By REV. JANE ROCKMAN

I was on a bus recently, coming back from New York City. It was late afternoon, the start of rush hour. As the bus pulled out of Port Authority and headed into the Lincoln Tunnel, the driver turned on his microphone and started to talk.

He welcomed everyone, offered several newspapers for the trip, and gave traffic and weather reports. Then he announced that this was his final trip, at least until June, when he hoped to be back behind the wheel of his bus, serving his passengers.

The bus erupted in applause, and a number of people called out their good wishes. You did not have to be a regular commuter to appreciate the moment. Here was a genuine, if fleeting, glimpse of community.

A lot is being written these days, by students of the contemporary scene, claiming that our sense of community is becoming an endangered species. More and more, individual needs and desires are seen as paramount, and community suffers as a result.

Add to this that we spend so much time isolated in our cars, privately engaged on our cell phones, and alone at our computers, and again, community is diminished.

How ironic that the Bible is a veritable how-to for living, with a level of concern that goes beyond ourselves. God is always telling us to look out for one another. In

Arbor Day Festivities Planned in Fanwood

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Shade Tree Commission will hold an Arbor Day program on Friday, April 26, at the new Carriage House Park on Watson Road.

Arbor Day is an annual observance of the role trees play in people's lives and promotes tree planting and care. This year's program will feature the inception of the Fanwood Memorial Tree Program. Two memorial trees will be planted in the park.

Ceremonies will begin at 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The public is invited to attend. Thirty tree seedlings will be given away.

Rosarians Announce Communion Luncheon

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Rosary Altar Society of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains will hold its Communion Luncheon Buffet on Sunday, May 5, at the Gran Centurions in Clark.

The image of the Blessed Mother will be crowned and officers will be installed at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. The luncheon will immediately follow.

Reservations are \$23 and can be made by calling Chairwoman Peggy Barry at (732) 381-4864 or Co-Chairwoman Marion Whalen at (732) 381-5406 by Wednesday, May 1.

The guest speaker, Professor Frank Corn, will give a slide presentation on the Marion Churches in Rome.

Meeting Dates Posted By La Leche League

WESTFIELD — The La Leche League of Westfield, a non-profit organization that provides breastfeeding information and support for nursing mothers, holds meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 9:30 a.m.

Meetings are held at the Cranford United Methodist Church, located at 201 East Lincoln Avenue in Cranford.

Meetings for mothers of toddlers are held on the first Thursday, while meetings for mothers of infants and babies are held on the third Thursday.

Participants, who may bring their children, have an opportunity to learn more about breastfeeding, have their questions answered and meet other breastfeeding mothers.

The next meeting dates are May 2 for mothers of toddlers and May 16 for those with infants and babies. For more information, please call (908) 301-1339, (908) 789-4772, or (908) 233-7164.

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Deuteronomy, the command is that grain be left around the edges of a harvested field, and grapes in a vineyard, to accommodate the sojourner, the widow and the orphan.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus describes God's eternal kingdom as the resting place of those who, during their lives, have fed the hungry, tended the sick, visited the prisoner, and welcomed the stranger. And St. Paul, in First Corinthians, says that whatever talents and gifts we possess have been given us by God for the common good.

Among the parables Jesus tells in the Gospels, is the story of feeding a large crowd of people with very meager rations. This is such a powerful story, it appears seven times in the four Gospels, sometimes with 4,000 being fed, and sometimes with 5,000. There is always a large crowd in a remote setting listening to Jesus. The hours pass and the people need to eat. Nobody has brought supplies, so the Disciples talk over what to do.

Jesus gets everyone to sit down, and a young boy comes forward with a little bit of bread and fish. It hardly seems enough for all those people, but after Jesus takes and blesses this food, it is distributed, and several miracles occur.

First, there is more than enough food for everyone, with baskets of leftovers. And second, the big crowd is transformed into a community — sitting together, eating and sharing.

At all times, but especially in our confusing, unstable world, we need each other. God has placed us all in communities. Let us not forfeit this great gift.

Reverend Rockman is Rector of the All Saints' Episcopal Church, located at 559 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains.

NAMI to Counsel On Combating Fear

CLARK — The Union County Affiliate of the National Alliance of the Mentally Ill (NAMI) will sponsor a free community program on the control of behaviors causing fear, obsession and other conditions that trigger negative physical and emotional consequences.

It will take place on Tuesday, April 23, during the organization's regular community meeting, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Osceola Presbyterian Church in Clark. Admission and materials will be free.

The event will feature Recovery, Inc., a nationwide, non-profit, self-help organization that teaches people how to identify and control the thoughts, reactions and behaviors that cause physical and emotional symptoms of fear, obsessions, compulsions, bizarre thoughts and various physical consequences like nervousness, shortness of breath, sweats, fatigue, headaches and sleeplessness.

The general public is invited to call NAMI at (908) 233-1628 to learn more about the organization. Individuals may also contact the organization at namiunion@hotmail.com. NAMI meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Osceola Presbyterian Church, located at 1689 Raritan Road.

Program on Teaching Local History to Kids On Tap For April 23

SCOTCH PLAINS — An original program created to teach elementary school children about the history of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, utilizing hats, will be presented at the monthly meeting of the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 23, beginning at 8 p.m. at the Fanwood train station, located at North and Martine Avenues.

Historical Society members Marie Leppert and Betty Eves conceived and wrote the history program some years ago. It will be presented at the meeting by Ms. Leppert and Renata Maroney.

All are invited to attend. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the program. Further information may be obtained from Historical Society President Richard Bousquet, P.O. Box 261, Scotch Plains 07076 or by calling (908) 232-1199.



DOUBLE CELEBRATION...Twins Kenneth, second from left, and Eric Wasserman of Fanwood made their Bar Mitzvah last week at Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains. Pictured with the young men on this milestone occasion are Rabbi George Nudell, far left, and Cantor Matthew Axelrod.

Torah Center Reveals Jewish Literacy Courses

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

The spring session will begin on Monday, April 22, with a course on "The Joy of Yiddish II." A follow-up to the Yiddish I course that was presented during the winter session, this course will acquaint participants with the Yiddish language through discussion, stories and famous Yiddish expressions.

It is not necessary for individuals to have attended "Yiddish I" in order to participate. This course will take place on three consecutive Mondays, ending on May 6, and will be given by Rabbi Yisroel Zell.

Rabbi Dr. Mitchell Bomrind will present a course on "Jewish Heroism in Modern Times" on Tuesdays. Each lecture will focus on a different time period in recent Jewish history.

On April 23, "The Triumph of the Jewish Spirit in the Dark Days of the Holocaust" will be featured. On May 7, participants will learn about "The First Settlers of Israel, 1850-1900." For May 14, the program will be "The Fighters and Founders of the

Standing Together Against Hate Forum

WESTFIELD — The Union County Committee Against Hate will present its eighth annual forum on Thursday, May 2, at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. This year's theme will focus on school violence and bullying.

Bill Tonkin, Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, will spearhead the presentation "Standing Together Against Hate VIII." The presentation will begin at 7 p.m. For further information please call (908) 653-0357 or (908) 527-4505.

Novelist to Appear At Author Luncheon At Temple Emanu-El

WESTFIELD — Dorothy Samuels, a New York Times writer and author of "Filthy Rich," will be the guest speaker at the Sisterhood of Temple Emanu-El's annual book and author luncheon at the temple, located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield.

The event will take place on Wednesday, May 15, at noon. The cost of the luncheon is \$15 and reservations may be made by calling Shirley Cowan at (732) 382-7831 or Lynn Aronson at (732) 396-4421.

Canada Geese Management To Be Focus of Meeting

SCOTCH PLAINS — Rutgers Cooperative Extension, in cooperation with United States Department of Agriculture-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services, will hold an informational meeting to discuss the issue of Canada geese in New Jersey.

Residents of Union and Somerset counties will meet at the Union County Vocational-Technical Magnet High School campus, located at 1776 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains, on Wednesday, May 1, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Some of the topics to be covered will be the reason the Canada geese

State of Israel (Haganah, Irgun, the Stern Gang), 1900-1948."

Rabbi Dovi Scheiner will be the guest lecturer for the "Tea and Torah" class on three consecutive Wednesdays and will present a course entitled "Topics in Chassidic Philosophy."

On April 24, "Finding G-d in the Fruit Store" will explore the concept that God is present in people's material reality as much as in the spiritual realm. The featured program for May 1, "Body Cravings versus Soul Delights," will focus on achieving a spiritual balance in a material world.

On May 8, "The Energizer Donkey" will explore the journey to redemption and the experiences of several Biblical figures.

This course is a joint program of the Jewish Community Center and the Torah Center and will take place at the JCC of Central New Jersey, located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains.

The Jewish Literacy Program was created by the Union County Torah Center to provide people with a coherent, relevant and usable body of Jewish learning. It is designed to give participants the ability to make informed choices in personal and communal Jewish life.

The fee for each lecture is \$8, while the complete course is \$20. All the courses, other than the Wednesday evening class, will take place at the Torah Center, located at 418 Central Avenue. All are from 8 to 9 p.m.

For more information and to respond, please call the Torah Center at (908) 789-5252.

Scotch Plains Baptist Sets Service Honoring Chaplain Tricules

SCOTCH PLAINS — The New Jersey Council of the Race Track Chaplaincy of America will hold a special retirement service for the Race Track Chaplain Homer Tricules on Sunday, April 21, at 5 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Baptist Church.

Chaplain Tricules served for more than 30 years in ministry on New Jersey's race tracks. He was also Pastor of Scotch Plains Baptist Church from 1982 to 1988.

A special love offering will be received for Chaplain Tricules during the service. A light dinner reception will follow in the church's chapel. The service is open to the public. For more information, please call (908) 322-5487. The church is located at 333 Park Avenue.

Troop No. 72 Participates In Recent Scout Sunday

WESTFIELD — Boy Scout Troop No. 72, sponsored by The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, recently attended an annual event known as Scout Sunday, in which they showed their appreciation to their sponsoring organization by participating in Sunday services.

This year, the scouts are celebrat-

Blood Drive Scheduled At Lord & Taylor Lot

WESTFIELD — The Blood Center of New Jersey has announced that a blood drive will be held on Wednesday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Lord & Taylor parking lot, located at 609 North Avenue, West, in Westfield.

Donors must be 18 years old. Seventeen-year-olds may donate with parental permission. There is no upper age limit for donors, provided they meet health requirements.

Donors should know their Social Security number and bring a signed or picture form of identification. People with a fever or sore throat should wait until they are feeling better before donating, and there is a 24-hour deferral for teeth cleanings and fillings.

Individuals who have traveled outside of the United States recently are asked to call the Blood Center at (973) 676-4933, extension no. 132, for eligibility criteria.

For more information or to sign up for a blood drive, please call the Blood Center at (800) 652-5663, extension no. 140.

ing the 80th anniversary of the Troop No. 72 charter. Over the years, the troop has recognized the achievements of its Eagle Scouts — the highest level in Boy Scouting — in many ways.

One was to add an engraved nameplate to an Eagle board which this anniversary year has been rebuilt by Troop Leader David Leiz.

The rededication of this Eagle board was additionally significant because it was done in honor of Troop No. 72 Eagle Scout Roger Holt, known as an avid outdoorsman, who died in May 2000.

Mr. Holt was the son of William Holt, a previous Troop No. 72 Scout Leader, who, along with his wife, Caroline, attended the Scout Sunday services and received a miniature version of the new Eagle board.

Day of Recollection Planned For Saturday By Catholic Daughters

AREA — This Saturday, April 20, the New Jersey State Court of the Catholic Daughters of America will sponsor a Day of Recollection, to be held at St. Joseph's Shrine in Stirling.

The Reverend Joseph Keenan will be the Retreat Director. Members of the Court Trinity of Westfield, with its Regent, Anna Checchio, will attend.

Any Catholic woman interested in joining the Catholic Daughters may call Mrs. Checchio for information.

Children's Specialized to Hold Family Fair This Saturday

MOUNTAINSIDE — Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH) will host the 2002 Family Fair this Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This free event will offer various activities for children and families and will be held at the hospital's Mountainside facility, located at 150 New Providence Road.

The festivities will include face painting, music and a dance presentation by the Dance Innovation Performance Company of Chatham, as well as an appearance by the Somerset Patriots team mascot.

A wide range of interactive and educational activities will also be featured, including

Free hearing screenings provided by CSH staff.

Fingerprinting for children age one and older by the Union County Sheriff's Department, which requires parental consent. Copies of the fingerprints are given to parents.

A fire safety program presented by the Mountainside Fire Department and the Westfield Bureau of Fire Prevention, highlighted by the Fire Safety House, an educational mobile unit that demonstrates how to properly escape a smoke-filled room. Fire engine tours will also be provided.

A bicycle safety program presented by the Brain Injury Association.

Information on car seat safety from the Union County Police Department.

Educational displays will also be offered on CSH programs and services; the Children's Miracle Network; Buddy Ball of Edison;

Somerset Hills Horseback Riding; Special Olympics; Suburban Music School; Union County Recreation; the Westfield Community Center and support groups from the Epilepsy Foundation, Moms of Multiples, the Mothers' Center of Central New Jersey and CHERAB (Communication, Help, Education, Research, Appraxia Based).

For more information, please call Event Coordinator Jill Jacobi at (908) 301-5478.

Mr. Sommerich Speaks To Fanwood Lions About Donating Blood

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Lions Club welcomed Robert Sommerich as a guest speaker in March. He gave a talk on the importance of donating blood, especially platelets.

Mr. Sommerich, at age 87, still gives blood and volunteers his time to promote blood drives for the Red Cross in Fanwood and neighboring communities.

In support of the Lions' primary efforts on behalf of the visually-impaired, the club has donated more than \$300 to the New Jersey Lions Eye/Ear Foundation, in memory of Past District Governor Charles Schadle and Lion Walter Lehigh. Mr. Schadle had been a member of the Fanwood Lions Club for many years.

The Fanwood Lions Club meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at Snuffy's Patisserie in Scotch Plains.



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Good News

"Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord,
keep watch over the door of my lips!"

Psalm 141:3 The Gospel