

Local Clergy Have Come Together To Serve Needs of the Community

By RABBI CHARLES A. KROLOFF

At the end of June, I shall be retiring from my position as Senior Rabbi of Temple Emanu-El after 36 years of extraordinary personal fulfillment. I will take this opportunity to reflect on some of my experiences and some transformations I have witnessed.

On the interfaith scene, we at the temple have, since our inception, enjoyed close bonds with most of the churches of Westfield and some beyond. Let me cite two examples. The First Congregational Church invited us to use its facilities when our synagogue was born in 1950 and there we remained for several years. That church's clergy partnered with us in efforts to bring greater social justice and understanding to our community.

For more than 15 years, we have participated with St. Marks Episcopal Church of Plainfield in what has become a stunning interfaith, inter-racial effort to rehabilitate housing, pursue social justice and enjoy each other's fellowship.

Two years ago, Temple Emanu-El adopted a first-grade class at the Clinton School in Plainfield, providing a range of support services, together with the promise that if the students graduate high school, our "I Have A Dream" program will pay their college tuition.

I have learned so much from my Roman Catholic, Protestant, Greek Orthodox and Islamic colleagues. Some have become cherished friends, like Reverend Hugh Livengood of St. Paul's Episcopal in Westfield, may his memory be for a blessing.

I am especially grateful for the creative interaction that I have experienced with the Westfield-Mountainside Ministerium Associates and with our ad hoc association of senior clergy. During these three and a half decades, we at the temple have enjoyed formal and informal dialogue programs with almost ev-

ery church in town.

These powerful relationships provided the foundation for the historic gathering of 1,500 Westfield citizens at the memorial service sponsored by Westfield clergy and religious institutions and held at Temple Emanu-El in memory of the victims of September 11. That spiritual hour has come to symbolize the cooperative spirit of our pluralistic faiths and our shared dedication to the service of God.

With the passage of the years, Westfield has become a more welcoming and caring community. Racial and religious barriers are breaking down. Concern for senior citizens has intensified. The hungry are offered food and the homeless have been given sanctuary and hope within our walls. Lately, I have become aware of a growing respect for the need for low-income housing in our community.

Of course, there is more that needs to be done. We need to become much better educated about each other's religions. We should teach more comparative religion to our children and to adults. We should be engaged in more interfaith programs designed to respond to the needs of our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

My successor, Rabbi Doug Sagal, will be warmly welcomed because Westfield has become a more welcoming place. Yes, he - along with our Westfield clergy colleagues - will confront many social challenges. But the prospects for creating a more just and compassionate society are bright because this town has an abundance of good people who have a passionate desire to do the work God expects of us - to make the world a better place for all God's creatures.

Rabbi Kroloff is the spiritual leader for Temple Emanu-El, located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield.

Area Hadassah Members Set to Attend Convention

AREA - Representatives from the Northern New Jersey Region of Hadassah will attend the 88th National Convention of Hadassah, to be held Sunday through Wednesday, July 21 to 24, at the Coronado Springs Resort, Walt Disney World, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

The Northern New Jersey Region, the second largest Hadassah region in the United States, spans Union, Essex, Bergen, Passaic, Morris and Hudson Counties, along with parts of Staten Island.

Attendees will celebrate Hadassah's 90th anniversary at the convention, which will feature the theme "Build Tomorrow Today." Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to be the keynote speaker.

During the convention, Hadassah representatives will present megillah scrolls to National Hadassah President Bonnie Lipton, give other awards and hear talks by several distinguished speakers. For more information, please call the Region office at (973) 472-1401.

Union County Hiking Club Lists Weekend Activities

AREA - The Union County Hiking Club has scheduled a ramble on Saturday, June 15, at Turkey Mountain in Montville, led by Peter Wolff. He may be reached at (973) 239-0788.

On Sunday, June 16, Don Meserlian will lead a ramble at Pyramid Mountain in Montville. Individuals are asked to bring a trail lunch to enjoy during the hike, which may last almost two-and-a-half hours. Mr. Meserlian may be reached at (973) 228-2258.

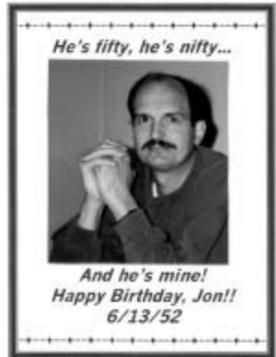
Both hikes will start at 10 a.m. at the Pyramid Mountain Visitors Center parking lot.

Also scheduled for Sunday is the Neshanic Bike Ride, to be led by Mary Doyle. She may be reached at (908) 580-1778. Participants will meet at 10 a.m. at the Readington School on Readington Road, 1.5 miles from Route 523, in Readington Township.

Participants will take a scenic backroads tour over moderate terrain, with a lunch stop at the Neshanic

Station Flea Market. It will comprise about 27 miles. Individuals are asked to bring lunch and helmets are required. Rain will cancel the event.

A complimentary, six-month Hiking Club schedule is available by calling (908) 527-4900.



SUPPORT OUR SALE...Pastor Vanessa Rush Southern, far left, is joined by Westfield residents, left to right, Steve Donahue, Gail Schen, Jim and Carolyn Johnson as they prepare for the Unitarian Church in Summit's 25th Garage Sale, to be held tomorrow and Saturday, June 14 and 15. The sale will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. tomorrow and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday at the expanded church property at 4 Waldron Avenue.

Westfield Newcomers Post Calendar of Club Activities

WESTFIELD - The Newcomers Club of Westfield has announced its upcoming events for this month.

The Social Committee has organized a baseball outing for Newcomer members and their spouses on Saturday, June 22, at 7:05 p.m. at the Commerce Ballpark in Bridgewater, where the Somerset Patriots will play against Atlantic City. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

On Tuesday, June 25, youngsters will have an opportunity to tour the Westfield fire house on North Avenue at 10:30 a.m. during a trip arranged by the Children's Committee.

Space is limited so advance reservations are necessary. Afterward, the group will go to Mindwaskin playground for a bring-your-own picnic lunch.

The Children's Committee is also offering poolside playgroups for the summer starting the week of Sunday, June 16, at the Westfield Memorial Pool on Scotch Plains Avenue.

Parents and children from infants through age 2 will meet on Fridays at 10 a.m. at the baby pool, while parents with children ages 2 to 4 will meet on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the kiddie pool.

Age ranges are flexible and siblings are always welcome. Participants should look for a balloon indicating the meeting place.

The Community Service Committee is seeking volunteers to donate teddy bears to the Center for Women and Families, for a program that helps children cope while their

parents are going through a divorce.

Founded in 1944, the Newcomers Club is open to women over age 21 who are new to Westfield or surrounding communities or established residents who have experienced a lifestyle change such as a marriage, the birth or adoption of a baby, a job change or a move within the town.

For a membership application or more information about joining the club, or any of the June events, please call Carrie Votta at (908) 389-9248 or Renee Cox at (908) 233-5605.

SHHH Meeting Agenda To Cover Many Topics

AREA - The Monday, June 17 meeting of SHHH (Self Help for Hard of Hearing People) will feature a general discussion of the year's programs. It will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Madison Public Library on Keep Street.

Among the subjects to be covered are "Be Alert for Hearing Loss"; "Hearing Aid Best for You"; "Fifteen Rules for Satisfied Hearing Aid Users" and "Dual Microphone Hearing Aid and How It Controls Background Noise".

Other topics will include "Telephones and the Hard of Hearing"; "Problems with Ear Molds of Hearing Aids"; "Goals for Your Hearing Aid"; "AT&T and Hearing Aid Development" and "Assistive Listening Devices".

All individuals with hearing problems are invited to attend SHHH meetings. For more information, please call J.H. Pickin at (973) 377-3929.

Devlin Commendation Awards To Be Held June 26

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Historic Preservation Commission (WHPC) will hold its 10th annual Devlin Commendation Awards on Wednesday, June 26, at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Westfield Municipal Building.

The Commendation Awards are designated to recognize property owners who have established historic preservation standards when expanding, altering, restoring or maintaining their buildings and grounds and to encourage other owners of historic properties to incorporate these standards into their future renovations, a Commission spokesperson said. The Judging Committee who selected these award recipients was composed of members of the WHPC and Wendie Devlin Gates, daughter of the late Harry Devlin.

Among this year's recipients are

Mr. and Mrs. J. Scott Kephart, who are presently completing major additions and renovations to their home at 304 East Dudley Avenue. Their newly constructed wrap-around porch replicates the original design of their home.

Also being honored are Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Rothstein, owners of 230 Charles Street, built in the mid 1880s. Their recent repainting of their home in its original Victorian colors, period-appropriate landscaping and extensive fret work on the front porch caught the attention of Commission members.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Bond of 229 East Dudley Avenue will also receive a Devlin Award for their addition, alterations, repainting and landscaping of their historic property.

All interested members of the public are invited to attend the Devlin Commendation Awards program.



A HISTORIC PROPERTY...Pictured above is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Bond, who live at 229 East Dudley Avenue.

Nomination Deadline Nears For Volunteers of the Year

SCOTCH PLAINS - Nominations for male and female volunteer of the year and volunteer organization of the year will be accepted at the Scotch Plains Recreation Department, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, through Friday, June 28. Forms are still available. Please call (908) 322-6700, extension 221 or visit the Scotch Plains Public Library or Wallis Stationery.

The chosen volunteers will be honored at the 2002 Mayor's Charity Gala to be held on Friday, December 6, at the Snuffy's Pantages Renaissance. The evening will begin at 7 p.m. and continue until midnight with dinner and dancing.

Tickets cost \$50 per person and the Gala will once again feature a Silent Auction, with items available from area merchants.

The Mayor's Charity Gala is a non-partisan affair for the entire community to come together for a night of music, fun, food and conversation. Proceeds of the Gala will go to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Municipal Alliance Committee (MAC), a community coalition for the prevention of substance abuse.

The MAC has served the communities since 1988, supporting programs such as Project Graduation, Teen Night, Senior Citizen Luncheons and other activities.

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GOOD NEWS

I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me.

Philippians 4:13

The Gospel



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July 17	Medicare Coverage and Appeals	10:30 AM

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