

We Possess the Capacity to Build Safe and Caring Communities

By RABBI DOUGLAS SAGAL

My call to the pulpit of Temple Emanu-El was also a call to home. Raised in Berkeley Heights, a graduate of Governor Livingston High School, part of my youth included movies at the Rialto and dinner with family at Westfield restaurants.

Looking back, my growing years in Central New Jersey were idyllic. We rode our bikes freely in the streets, walked downtown and to school, explored the woods behind our homes, had costume parades, cider and doughnuts when the air turned crisp. We acted in school plays, participated in concerts and recitals, played pick-up baseball in the cul-de-sacs. Neighbors opened their houses to one another and our quiet streets had the sense of shared living space, the open and welcoming doors of so many homes.

Now a parent myself, I am grateful for the opportunity to provide for my own children some of the joys I experienced as a youth. But I am also aware that my children live in a fundamentally different world than the one in which I was raised and formed. They have experienced a kind of assault on the peace and tranquility of suburban life, the likes of which we could not have imagined 30 years ago.

Every fall, my friends and I collected coins for UNICEF; my kids marched recently to raise money for funds related to September 11.

This year, some of the mock horror of Halloween has been replaced with genuine fear and anxiety. We have all read of children in seemingly safe communities abducted or injured by strangers. We are at war with an enemy that has brought suffering to our own shores. We have prayed daily for the safety of our fellow citizens in the Washington D.C. area.

Our children have been clearly affected by the intrusion of sorrowful real life into their youthful experiences. My oldest daughter expresses her fear of being abducted by strangers, and my children ask about terrorists and falling buildings. For our children, safe, make believe fantasy has been replaced by genuine horror.

I would suggest that while we can never fully insulate our children from the terrors that have beset us in our days, we can build a wall of safety and security by our own actions.

The neighborliness and "looking out for one another" of the past can be reaffirmed and reinvigorated in our own day, in our own neighborhood, on our own streets. The old adage "Good Fences make Good Neighbors" can be turned around — "Good Neighbors Make Good Fences."

We can join together to create for us and our children a sense of security and mutual responsibility. The realities of life have changed, but our capacity for goodness, generosity and compassion has not. Kids can ride their bikes or walk to school or the library knowing that we adults are watching out for them — for all of them.

I am privileged to live once again in Central New Jersey, a place of so many good memories for me. While the innocence of a childhood of over 30 years ago may be irrevocably lost, even in our own day, we can strive to build together streets and neighborhoods where children play without fear and adults help one another to live lives of meaning and joy and companionship.

Rabbi Sagal is senior rabbi at Temple Emanu-El, located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield.

Miller-Cory to Explore Lenape Indian Culture

WESTFIELD — Lenape Indian culture in New Jersey will be featured at the Miller-Cory House Museum this Sunday, November 3, from 2 to 5 p.m. The museum is located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield.

Sherry Lange of Cranford and Janet Murphy of Kenilworth will explain various aspects of the everyday life of the Lenape Indians, such as folklore, village structure, types of dwellings, the division of labor between men and women, games children played and herb medicines.

Tours of the restored farmhouse will be given throughout the afternoon by costumed docents. The last tour will begin at 4 p.m.

Diane King of Cranford and Jean Peters of Edison, members of the

museum's Cooking Committee, will prepare foods over the open hearth using Colonial recipes. They will demonstrate cooking methods and utensils of the period. Taste treats will be available for visitors to sample.

Admission to the museum is \$2 for adults and 50 cents for students. Children under age 6 will be admitted free of charge.

Individuals interested in volunteering, or in learning more about the museum and its fall events, may call (908) 232-1776. Volunteers will have an opportunity to learn new skills and no experience is necessary.

On Sunday, November 10, the museum will present "A Dandy of a Yankee Doodle Sunday."



ALL GOD'S CREATURES...The Reverend Dan Bottorff, Minister of Pastoral Care at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield, holds his pet cat, "Zeus," during the annual Blessing of the Animals service that took place October 5 on the grounds of the church. Pets of all types were honored during the service.

Giant Book Sale to Benefit St. Paul's Church Activities

WESTFIELD — The Friends of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield will hold its annual Giant Book Sale from Sunday through Tuesday, November 3 to 5, in the Parish Hall. Bag Day will be November 5.

Thousands of books in all categories will be featured, including paperback and hardback fiction, non-fiction, audio books, videos, software, compact disks and children's books.

Proceeds from the sale will support the various musical programs, concerts

Caregivers to Hold Meeting on Monday

WESTFIELD — A support group for those caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones will meet on Monday, November 4, at 8 p.m. at the Parish Center of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, located on Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield.

These are information and sharing sessions. Meetings are held on the first non-holiday Monday of each month. For more information, please call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 232-1867.

and activities offered at St. Paul's Church.

Book donations will be accepted at St. Paul's through Saturday, November 2. The sale hours will be 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday.

The Bag Day hours will be from 9 a.m. until noon. Individuals will be able to purchase a grocery-sized bag filled with books for \$4.

St. Paul's Church is located at 414 East Broad Street in Westfield. For further information, please call (908) 232-8506, extension no. 17.

Cannonball House To Continue Exhibit

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Osborn Cannonball House, located at 1840 Front Street in Scotch Plains, will be open to visitors this Sunday, November 3, from 2 to 4 p.m.

A display of mourning attire from the 19th and 20th centuries will continue to be featured. Costumed docents will be available for tours. There is no admission charge.

Westfield UNICO Observes Twenty-fifth Year Milestone

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Chapter of UNICO, founded in October 1977, celebrated its 25th anniversary of service to the community this month.

Founded by a local group of 20 Italian-Americans, the chapter currently has 51 members. Membership is comprised of individuals of Italian descent or with spouses of Italian heritage.

Since its inception, the chapter has established multiple programs and events.

Each year, Westfield UNICO awards six scholarships, averaging \$1,000, to graduating Westfield High School seniors. It also gives annual awards to The Arc of Union County and to Community Access Unlimited for employment training programs.

Westfield UNICO additionally sponsors a Columbus Day essay contest for Westfield High School sopho-

mores; the Ella T. Grasso Literary Award, for essays and short stories on the Italian-American experience; the Marconi Award for scientific achievement and the Brian Piccolo Award for athletic achievement.

The organization contributes to research for Cooley's Anemia and to the Jimmy V Fund for cancer research. It additionally provides special funding for New Year's Eve and Super Bowl parties for the mentally handicapped and responds to special requests from the Westfield community.

For further information about the Westfield Chapter of UNICO, please contact Charles Grillo at (908) 654-3717; by fax at (732) 494-3045 or by sending an email to uniconj@westfieldnj.com.

Presbyterian Church Sets Labyrinth Walk For Sunday Afternoon

CRANFORD — The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford will sponsor a series of Labyrinth Walks in the church's Bates Hall, located at 11 Springfield Avenue.

The next Labyrinth Walk is scheduled for Sunday, November 3, from 1 to 4 p.m., with subsequent walks to be held on the first Sunday of every month.

Walking the Labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice of prayer and meditation. It symbolized the Christian pilgrimage to Jerusalem for people who could not personally make the journey.

The 11-ringed pattern, painted on canvas, is modeled on the 13th-century labyrinth at France's Chartres Cathedral.

For further information on the Labyrinth Walks, please call the church office at (908) 276-8440.

Shiru Na to Perform Varied Music at JCC

SCOTCH PLAINS — The musical group Shiru Na will perform a diverse repertoire of music, including Hebrew, Yiddish and English songs, on Tuesday, November 12, at noon at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey's Wilf Jewish Community Campus in Scotch Plains.

A fee of \$5 will cover the cost of the performance and a luncheon featuring Israeli foods, including salad, tahini, pita bread and veggie burgers. Reservations are required by Friday, November 8. The Wilf Jewish Community Campus is located at 1391 Martine Avenue.

To make a reservation or for more information, please call Nan Statton, Director of Adult and Senior Services, at (908) 889-8800, extension no. 207.

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Westfield Grand Opening Celebration, November 16, 9a.m. - 1p.m.



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