

Scout Council Seeks Girls, Volunteers For New Year

WESTFIELD – As it gears up for the start of the 2006-2007 Girl Scout year, the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council (GSWRC) is seeking girls between the ages of five and 17 to become members as well as adults interested in serving as volunteers.

The Westfield-based GSWRC serves 24 communities in Union, Middlesex and Somerset Counties, among them Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside, Garwood and Berkeley Heights.

In Girl Scouting, girls are encouraged to discover new talents and hobbies; build lifelong friendships; explore their communities and experience the fun, friendship and power of girls together.

The Girl Scout program is comprised of four levels, beginning with Daisy Girl Scouts and progressing through Brownie Girl Scouts, Junior Girl Scouts and Older Girls (ages 11 to 17). New troops are being formed. Interested parents or guardians are asked to contact the council Service Center at (908) 232-3236 for further information on how girls can join a troop.

Adult volunteers may be male or female age 18 or older and do not need to have a daughter involved in Girl Scouting. Individuals may work directly with the girls, support troop activities by sharing a special skill or experience, or work directly with fellow adults on the Service Unit Team.

More than 3,000 adult volunteers

Church Invites Public To Financial Seminar

AREA – The Social Justice Committee of the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield (FUSP) will offer a free financial seminar to the public at 10 a.m. this Saturday, August 26. FUSP congregation members include residents of Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Attorney James Watt, who has experience in bankruptcy cases, will conduct the seminar in the sanctuary of the FUSP church, located at 724 Park Avenue in Plainfield.

"Financial planning is mostly available to people with a lot of money, but low- and middle-income people can have their assets wiped out by common economic disasters like job loss, divorce, death of a wage-earner or a sudden, expensive medical problem," said Committee Chairwoman Katherine Watt.

She said the seminar will provide "a general overview of ways for regular folks to protect their homes, cars and other assets, so one traumatic life event doesn't become an economic catastrophe."

For more information on the church and its programs, please visit www.fusp.org or call (908) 756-0750.

are currently involved in the council. Those interested in volunteering are asked to call the Service Center at (908) 232-3236.

Founded in 1957, GSWRC serves nearly 11,000 girls and adults in its jurisdiction. The 2006-2007 Girl Scout year marks the 50th anniversary of the council's existence. Information about the council and its activities also is available online at www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.

Registration Available For Hebrew School

WESTFIELD – Registration for the Union County Torah Center Hebrew School is now open for the upcoming year of 2006-2007. Located at Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Road, the school is open to children ages five to 13 and is held on Sundays from 9 a.m. to noon.

According to the Torah Center, the school curriculum blends academia with enjoyable activities and a hands-on learning style to teach youngsters the joys, values and traditions of their heritage. It incorporates Hebrew reading, writing, Jewish history, holidays and other activities such as games, incentives, crafts, dramatics and family celebrations.

"Our school's underlying approach is for the children to enjoy the time spent at Hebrew School, so that they are left with positive experiences and a greater appreciation for Jewish education," said Shternie Block, director of the Hebrew School.

To schedule an appointment, interested individuals are asked to call the Union County Torah Center at (908) 789-5252 or to e-mail info@torahcenter.org.

Book Group Meetings To Begin Again Sept. 5

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Area "Y" Book Group, which has been in existence since the early 1970s, will resume its meetings on Tuesday, September 5. Meetings are held at the "Y"'s Robert and Virginia Bauer Family Branch, located at 422 East Broad Street in Westfield, opposite the Westfield Municipal Building.

There are 20 sessions a year – 10 in the fall and 10 in the spring. Each session is held on a Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. at the Family Branch.

The group reads a classic book in the fall and a modern book in the spring. When meetings resume next month, members will begin Joseph Conrad's "Nostromo" under the leadership of a teacher.

There currently are openings in the group and new members are welcome. For further information, please call the front desk at the Westfield Area "Y" at (908) 233-2700.



LOVING ARMS...Amylin DiDario, a member of the congregation at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains, holds Baby Mei Mei during her visit to a Chinese orphanage in June. Through Amylin's efforts, a Chinese Potluck Dinner will be held at the church on Friday, September 8, to raise funds to pay for surgery to correct Mei Mei's cleft lip and cleft palate.

Chinese Dinner to Provide Funds For Baby's Surgery

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, located at 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains, will hold a Chinese Potluck Dinner on Friday, September 8, from 6 to 9 p.m. to benefit a three-month-old baby in a Chinese orphanage suffering from a cleft lip and cleft palate.

Dinner will be followed by a musical presentation by the Chinese American Music Ensemble. Additionally, Willow Grove Church member Amylin DiDario will give a slideshow spotlighting her recent trip to China to visit the orphanage from which she was adopted.

Amylin was adopted and brought to live with her parents in New Jersey 11 years ago when she was eight months old. In June, the family returned to China and to the MaAnShan SWI (social welfare institution) Orphanage in MaAnShan, in the Anhui Province. It was there that Amylin met baby Mei Mei (meaning Plum Blossom) and became passionate about helping the infant get the funding needed to have surgery for her cleft lip and cleft palate.

Attendees are invited (but not required) to bring a quart of their favorite Chinese dish. There will be no charge for the dinner; however, donations are being accepted for the Mei Mei Cleft Lip/Palate Fund.

There is a suggested donation of \$12, although all donations are welcome. Amylin is coordinating this fundraiser with OCDF (Our Chinese Daughters Foundation). Her goal is to raise a total of \$1,500 needed for Mei Mei to have the necessary surgery.

Reservations are requested by Wednesday, September 6. To make a

reservation, or if unable to attend but would like to contribute, please call Judy Murphy at (908) 322-5706. Checks can be made payable to Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, with a memo of Mei Mei Cleft Lip/Palate Fund.

All church facilities are handicap-accessible. For more information about Willow Grove, please call the church office at (908) 232-5678, e-mail office@willowgrovechurch.org or access www.willowgrovechurch.org.

JCC Posts Sampling Of Programs For Fall

SCOTCH PLAINS – A variety of programs for both adults and youth will be available at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey during the fall and early winter.

Among the offerings will be bead jewelry classes, Israeli dodge ball, Broadway excursions, an adult/teen triathlon and programs for special needs children. Nearly all of these programs are open to both JCC members and the general public.

Registration will begin on Tuesday, September 5, at 9 a.m. for members and Tuesday, September 12, at 9 a.m. for non-members. Full information on fall programs is available on the JCC website, www.jccnj.org. Hard-copy program guides also are available at the JCC building.

The JCC, located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains, is open to all. Tours of the facility are available upon request. For more information, please contact Membership Director Marla Itzkin at mitzkin@jccnj.org or (908) 889-8800, extension no. 236.

Cancer Foundation Receives \$30K From Odd Fellows

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Emmanuel Cancer Foundation (ECF), headquartered in Scotch Plains, has announced that it is the recipient of a \$30,000 contribution from the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) of New Jersey.

The funds will help ECF continue to provide free, in-home services to more than 250 New Jersey families with children battling cancer.

"This is a tremendous gesture from the IOOF Grand Lodge of New Jersey and a perfect example of how collaborations between agencies can benefit New Jersey families across the state," said Carol Davis, managing director of ECF.

The IOOF is a service organization with lodges throughout New Jersey. Odd Fellowship is one of the oldest fraternities in the world. A non-political and non-sectarian order, it was founded on the basis of universal brotherhood and promotes the principles of friendship, love and truth as well as a sense of obligation to others.

"We have been supporting the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation for over 10 years through regional efforts like the Annual Holiday Party and individual lodge donations," said Steve Wooton, Past IOOF Grand Master for the Jurisdiction of New Jersey and a new ECF board member.

"This year, as we looked closely at our goals and expectations for ourselves, we saw the opportunity to contribute to ECF statewide," he added. "The IOOF seeks people who want to help their community prosper and who want to serve others whenever there is a need."

The ECF provides free, in-home counseling and support to pediatric cancer patients and their families throughout New Jersey. Services are

provided through a statewide team of caseworkers and regional directors in Scotch Plains, Midland Park, Wall Township, Somers Point and Woodbury.

Founded in 1983 by Susan and Joseph Vizzoni after the death of their son Emmanuel, the ECF was established in memory of their son and as a resource for preserving the overall quality of life for families dealing with a diagnosis of pediatric cancer.

Since its inception, ECF has served more than 1,500 families by providing emotional, material and even financial support to families battling pediatric cancer. ECF is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization privately funded by individuals, corporations, foundations and community groups.

For more information about the ECF, please visit www.emmanuelcancer.org. Further information on the Independent Order of Odd Fellows is available at <http://ioofnj.org/index.php>.

Club Invites Residents For Hiking and Biking

COUNTY – Area residents are invited to take part in a variety of hiking and bicycling activities that are offered regularly by the Union County Hiking Club. Most take place in central and northern New Jersey. Membership dues are \$10 per year. For a complimentary schedule, please call (908) 527-4900.

GEORGE & MARY RYAN



Mr. & Mrs. George F. Ryan of Easton, Pa., formerly of Westfield, N.J., celebrate their

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Married August 25th, 1956 at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield by the Rev. Nick Russo.

The Ryans have six children: daughter Margaret, wife of Charles Burdge; son George; daughter Mary Rose, wife of Harry Brown; son David, husband of Jana; son Joseph, husband of Theresa, & daughter Colleen, wife of Richard Harlan. They are also blessed with 11 grandchildren: Christine, Charlie, Shannon, Harrison, Nigel, Spencer, Hope, Sarah, Caroline, Maggie & Liam.

The Kids are Raised.
The House is Yours.
It's Time to Smile!

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For more information, visit DavidWeinmanDMD.com

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