

All Are Invited to Attend Sunday Menorah Lighting

FANWOOD - Chabad of Union County welcomes the entire community to celebrate Chanukah at its annual public menorah lighting ceremony this Sunday, December 17, at 4:30 p.m.

The event will take place on the third night of Chanukah on North Avenue, off of Martine Avenue, behind the Fanwood train station. Following the lighting, the program will feature Chanukah gifts, treats and music.

Known as the Festival of Lights, Chanukah propagates the message that good ultimately will prevail over evil, freedom over oppression and light over darkness and is highlighted by the kindling of the menorah each night of the holiday.

"In ancient times, our ancestors rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem with the menorah. Today, we rededicate ourselves to making this world a better and brighter place," stated Rabbi Avrohom Blesofsky, director of Chabad of Union County.

Temple Coat Collection On Tap This Sunday

WESTFIELD - Temple Emanu-El of Westfield, in partnership with the New Jersey Cares Annual Drive, will collect gently used winter coats this Sunday, December 17. Volunteers will be stationed in the parking lot of the temple from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to accept donations.

The temple is located at 756 East Broad Street. For more information, please contact Executive Director Carolyn Shane at (908) 232-6770 or cshane@tewnj.org or visit the temple's website at www.tewnj.org.

FUSP Church Plans Blood Drive Series

AREA - The First Unitarian Society of Plainfield (FUSP), the congregation of which includes residents of Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood, has begun a regular series of blood drives in conjunction with New Jersey Blood Services.

The drives will be held on the fourth Friday of each month, with the next ones scheduled for December 22 and January 26. They will take place between 3 and 8:30 p.m. at the FUSP church at 724 Park Avenue in Plainfield. Donors giving whole blood do not need appointments and all are welcome. Those giving platelets or other types of apheresis must make appointments. Appointments are at 3, 5 and 7 p.m.

Donors should be between 18 and 75 years of age, in good health and should know their Social Security number. To make appointments, please call (800) 933-2566 or Bob Sommerich at (908) 889-1891.

Hot latkes and fresh Chanukah doughnuts will be available during Sunday's event. In addition, children will receive a free dreidel. There is no charge to attend.

In its Chanukah outreach campaign, Chabad of Union County joins thousands of Chabad centers across the globe that are staging similar public displays of the menorah and its symbolic lights. For more information, please call Chabad at (908) 790-0008 or visit www.ChabadUC.com.

Fanwood Lions Hold Christmas Tree Sale

FANWOOD - The Fanwood Lions Club currently is holding its annual Christmas Tree Sale at LaGrande Park in Fanwood. Douglas Firs, Frasers, Balsams, roping and wreaths (decorated and undecorated) are available.

Sale hours are 6:30 to 9 p.m. weeknights and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Unwrapped toys are being accepted at the lot for the United Family and Children's Society of Plainfield.

Proceeds from the sale are donated to various local organizations, the visually impaired and to local high school students in the form of scholarship aid to college.

Miller-Cory to Feature Toys of Christmas Past

WESTFIELD - The Miller-Cory House Museum will present a holiday program for families this Sunday, December 17, from 2 to 4 p.m. entitled "Toys of Christmas Past." It will show how toys have been part of an American Christmas from Colonial days to the present.

The event will feature a festive display of dolls, trains, bears, games and other symbols of past decades. Children will have an opportunity to make three simple, old-fashioned crafts. Holiday refreshments will be served in the museum's Frazee Building.

Museum docents also will be available to guide visitors through the restored, fully furnished Colonial era farmhouse, located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield. The museum's gift shop, which is stocked with a variety of Colonial toys, crafts, books and educational materials, will be open for business as well.

The fee for Sunday's program is \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for students. Children under the age of four may attend for free. The museum will be closed on Sundays beginning December 24 and will reopen on January 14 with its first program of 2007, "The Indian Medicine Man." For more information about the museum and its programs, please call (908) 232-1776 on weekday mornings.



BASKETS OF LOVE...Senior Girl Scouts from the Fanwood-Scotch Plains community of the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council display the pajama-themed gift baskets they created to give to those less fortunate. The project was one of many collaborations among all six Senior troops.

Scouts Create Gift Baskets During 'Pajama Party'

SCOTCH PLAINS - Representatives from all six Senior Girl Scout troops from the Fanwood-Scotch Plains community of the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council (GSWRC) came together recently for their annual Holiday Service Project.

Troops 751, 96, 821, 561, 621 and 736 participated in the project, which this year featured a "pajama party" theme. Many of the girls got together prior to the December 1 event to shop for items such as pajamas, toiletries, makeup, journals and even some stuffed animals.

During the holiday get-together at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Scotch Plains, the girls created pajama-themed gift baskets to be distributed to needy women and teenage girls through Heart for Humanity, a grassroots, non-profit organization founded by Trish Nering of Fanwood. The organization is dedicated to helping needy families and formerly homeless people who are motivated toward self-sufficiency.

The annual holiday "wrapping party" became a tradition in Fanwood-Scotch Plains years ago when there was only one Senior Girl Scout troop (Troop 561) in the community and has continued bringing all the Senior troops together for the last five years.

On November 3, the Senior Girl Scout troops gathered for a pizza party and to create some "care packages" for the 14 college freshmen who bridged to adult Girl Scouts last spring. Boxes were sent to the girls at college campuses containing items that included packaged macaroni and cheese, toiletries, candy, gloves, silly toys and notes. According to GSWRC, e-mails immediately began arriving from these former Senior Girl Scouts about how surprised and touched they were to get their "care packages"

from their Girl Scout sisters. One freshman commented that it came just in time to rescue her from an unannounced closing of her dining hall for Veterans Day.

These six high school troops have committed to getting together throughout the year. After two successful service projects, they plan to have some fun at Midnight Laser Bowling this winter.

Fanwood and Scotch Plains are two of the 24 communities served by GSWRC. Founded in 1957 and headquartered in Westfield, the council provides the Girl Scout experience to over 11,000 girls and adults. For more information about the GSWRC, please visit www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.

All Saints' Church Reveals Christmas Service Schedule

SCOTCH PLAINS - The All Saints' Episcopal Church will celebrate Christmas with three different worship services beginning on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24 and continuing on Monday, Christmas Day, December 25.

On Christmas Eve, the 5 p.m. Family Service will be a service of Lessons and Carols. Young people will read the Bible stories that tell of the birth of Jesus and describe the significance of this event.

Fanwood Presbyterian Plans Sunday Concert

FANWOOD - The Fanwood Presbyterian Church has invited all to attend its Festival of Lessons and Carols at 4 p.m. this Sunday, December 17, in the sanctuary.

This concert traces high points in Biblical history from Genesis through the New Testament. Carols are interspersed with scripture readings and include choir pieces and audience singing.

The original Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was performed at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England in 1918. Similar concerts have been held there at Christmastime ever since, except for one year during World War II, and they are still broadcast by radio to millions of listeners worldwide.

This concert will be offered free of charge. The Fanwood Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Martine and LaGrande Avenues and is wheelchair accessible. For further information, please call the church office at (908) 889-8891.

The All Saints' Youth Choir, directed by Mary O'Connor, will lead the congregation in singing Christmas carols. The service will include a celebration of Holy Eucharist - the first Eucharist of Christmas.

On Christmas Eve at 10:30 p.m., the church will celebrate a Festival Eucharist that will include Christmas carols (sung by the congregation and choristers) and special vocal and instrumental music from the All Saints' Choir, under the direction of Organist and Choirmaster Michael Spassov. The Reverend Jane Rockman, Rector of All Saints' Church, will deliver the sermon.

On Christmas Day, Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Reverend Rockman will give a sermon and the congregation will sing Christmas carols with organ accompaniment.

Since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, there also will be a service at 10 a.m. on December 24, which will be celebrated as the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The fourth and final candle on the Advent Wreath will be lit as the church completes the Season of Advent and prepares to commemorate Jesus' birth.

All Saints' Church is located at 559 Park Avenue, across from Park Middle School, in Scotch Plains. Parking is available behind the church, just off School Place (which is accessed from Church Avenue). For more information, please call (908) 322-8047.

Son, Colin Charles, Welcomed By Mahrs

Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr and her husband, George, have announced the birth of their third son, Colin Charles Mahr, on Thursday, December 7, at 3:30 p.m. at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Colin weighed 8 pounds and 3 ounces and measured 20 inches in length at birth.

He joins his brothers Liam, age four, and Daniel, age two-and-a-half.

The baby's maternal grandparents are Nancy Yewaisis of Scotch Plains and the late Joseph S. Yewaisis.

His paternal grandparents are Ann Martino of Pagosa Springs, Colo. and George Mahr, II of Gillette.



SIGN OF THE SEASON...Members of Boy Scout Troop 77 of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield, pictured above, wrapped up their sale last weekend of decorated wreaths and white pine roping for the holiday season. The sale took place in the church parking lot at 414 East Broad Street.

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