

Library Requests Donations, Volunteers For March Sale

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Library are asking area residents to donate their used books and audio-visual materials and/or to volunteer a few hours to help with their upcoming used book sale, which will take place in March.

Donated items need to be in good, re-saleable condition. The Friends are seeking fiction, non-fiction, children's books, how-to books, cookbooks and other varieties. They will not be able to accept sets of encyclopedias, *Reader's Digest* condensed books, old textbooks or books that have been damaged, water-soaked or otherwise rendered in poor condition.

Lightly used videos, DVDs and books-on-tape also are sought, particularly those items that are of interest to children.

Books and audio-visual materials may be dropped off at the Scotch Plains Public Library, located at 1927 Bartle Avenue, during regular library hours.

Additionally, the Friends are looking for people to help set up for the sale, assist with publicity and help during the sale and with boxing the remainders afterwards. Interested volunteers may sign up at the Circulation Desk at the library, where sign-up sheets are provided. They also may call the library at (908) 322-5007.

The Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Library is a volunteer organization dedicated to raising funds and developing programs and awareness for the library and its many offerings.

Choral Art Society To Perform at Church

WESTFIELD - The Choral Art Society of New Jersey, Inc., a non-profit, community chorus of about 80 singers dedicated to the study and performance of great choral works, will perform Mendelssohn's *Elijah* on Saturday, January 20, at 8 p.m.

Additionally, the society will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, January 23, in preparation for a performance on Saturday, May 12, of Franz Josef Haydn's *Theresienmesse* and Ralph Vaughn Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*.

James Little is musical director for the Choral Art Society. Both the January and May concerts will be held at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, located at 140 Mountain Avenue in Westfield.

Westfield Toastmasters Reveal Meeting Dates

WESTFIELD - Toastmasters of Westfield meets at 7:45 p.m. on the first, second and fourth Thursdays of every month in the dining room of Sunrise Assisted Living, located at 240 Springfield Avenue in Westfield. Meetings are open to the public.

Toastmasters is a club that provides a supportive environment for people to practice their public speaking and leadership skills. For further information, please visit toastmasters.org, call (908) 709-9444 or e-mail marie@bestprospects.net.



DECORATING THE TOWN...Members of the Garden Club of Westfield, pictured above, brought holiday cheer to the doors of the town's municipal offices, recreation department, fire stations and department of public works by hanging wreaths that they made.

Golden Agers to Start 2007 With Trip to See *I Do! I Do!*

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains Golden Agers Club will start its new year with a trip to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on Thursday, January 25, for a performance of the Broadway comedy *I Do! I Do!*.

Tickets cost \$62 each and include the play, an elegant lunch and the bus ride from the Scotch Plains Municipal Building parking lot at 430 Park Avenue at 10 a.m. that day. If inclement weather prevents the planned trip, a full refund will be given.

The menu will feature Yankee pot roast, stuffed breast of chicken, catch of the day, shrimp and scallops, baked fruit glazed ham and various accompaniments. A dessert table also will be available. All are welcome.

The Golden Agers Club offers senior citizens an opportunity to meet with their peers, share ideas, interact and gather information. It runs from September to June and meets weekly on Thursdays at 10 a.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club in Scotch Plains.

Membership, theater outings, musical reviews and other trips are open to everyone. For trip details, please call Jean DeTorre at (908) 889-4121 or Mary DeJesso at (908) 654-4512. Membership information is available by calling Marge Van Duyne at (908) 889-4631.

Registration Available For Winter Programs

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey, located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains, has announced that registration for its winter programs is now underway.

Nearly all of the JCC's programs are open to both members and non-members. Program registration has begun for JCC members and will start on Wednesday, January 10, for others.

A variety of classes and programs for infants through senior citizens will be featured over the next several months, including many new selections. Songwriting workshops; Zumba dance instruction; a children's cooking series; Kiddie Tennis classes and a new, late-morning spin class will be among the offerings.

Upcoming special events include a Family Night at a New Jersey Devils game; a teen trip to see *Tarzan* on Broadway and the JCC's annual Comedy Night event.

The Winter/Spring 2007 Program Guide contains full information about these and hundreds of other offerings. It may be accessed online at jccnj.org. Hard copies may be picked up at the JCC building.

MLK Day of Service To Include PBS Film

AREA - In conjunction with Summit's ninth annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, BRIDGES will screen *Waging a Living*, the PBS documentary by Roger Weisberg, with a moderated discussion. It will take place on Monday, January 15, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at BRIDGES in Christ Church, located at 561 Springfield Avenue in Summit. The film looks at America's working poor, highlighting four individuals pursuing the American Dream.

Volunteers of all ages also are welcome to sort clothing and toiletries and to make brown bag lunches from 10 to 11:30 a.m. that day. Clothing, toiletries and non-perishable food items for the lunches (individual chips, cookies, drinks and fruit cups) may be brought to the Christ Church Atrium any day from Tuesday, January 2, to Monday, January 15.

BRIDGES is an outreach program serving the homeless. More information is available at (908) 273-0176 or bridgesoutreach.org.

Hannah Lieberman Among Group Aiding New Orleans

WESTFIELD - Hannah Lieberman of Westfield is one of more than 30 Reform Jews who are spending a week in New Orleans, La. from December 24 to 30 to help in the continuing rebuilding effort there.

Members of the Union for Reform Judaism's Adult Mitzvah Corps traveled to New Orleans last December following Hurricane Katrina's devastation and have returned to further help residents of the region.

The Union's Mitzvah Corps is unique from other such rebuilding missions because of the intensive week of social action, study and worship in which participants are involved. Rabbi Joel Soffin has for the past 10 years organized Adult Mitzvah Corps trips wherever the need is greatest.

Rabbi Marla Feldman, director of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism and co-director of the Union's disaster relief efforts, said the Mitzvah Corps "are not only improving the world around them, but elevating themselves as Jews and as human beings."

"We're hoping to build a community of faith as we help rebuild the communities of New Orleans," she added. "With just under \$4 million raised and almost all of it allocated

to local disaster relief agencies, neighborhood development funds and general restoration efforts, the Union has been a leader in the Jewish community's role in rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast."

The Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism established the Adult Mitzvah Corps to provide the experience of social action, study and worship for all participants. Past Adult Mitzvah Corps have served in Israel, Jackson, Miss., Burlington, Vt. and Orange County, Calif. For more details about this and past Mitzvah Corps trips, please visit urj.org/csa/mitzvahcorps.



Hannah Lieberman

Ms. Burton to Tell Society About Carnegie Libraries

WESTFIELD - Barbara Burton will discuss "Andrew Carnegie and the Creation of Public Libraries" at the First Wednesday Luncheon of the Westfield Historical Society. The luncheon will take place at noon on January 3 at B.G. Fields Restaurant, located at 560 Springfield Avenue in Westfield.

She will relate how, more than 100 years ago, steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie began granting funds for public libraries around the world. More than half of the 3,500 libraries ultimately built with Carnegie money were in the United States, including 35 in New Jersey.

Ms. Burton will describe the grant program and how communities worked with the Carnegie Corporation to secure these funds. She also will provide updated information and photographs of these historic buildings that represent varying architectural styles.

Located in 11 of New Jersey's 21 counties, some of the Carnegie libraries have been demolished, some are in adaptive re-use and some are still much as they were in the early part of the 20th century. Ms. Burton will place special emphasis on the history of the Westfield Public Library, which began with a Carnegie grant in 1906.

A Westfield resident, Ms. Burton is a member of both the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission and the Museum and Archives Committee of the Westfield Historical Society. She is program chairwoman for the society's evening programs, which are held once a month, usually on a

Friday evening. Ms. Burton also is the librarian for The Presbyterian Church in Westfield. Additionally, she is a member of the Special Libraries Association and the Church and Synagogue Library Association. She was elected to Beta Phi Mu, the International Library and Information Studies Honor Society.

Ms. Burton authored "Connecting Users with Their Information" for *Business Information Review* in December 2005. Her essay, "Westfield Votes on a Free Public Library," won Honorable Mention in the essay contest sponsored by *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* for its 2006 edition of *This Is Westfield*, published in May.

Regular luncheon attendees will be contacted by a telephone committee of the society or by e-mail to verify their reservations. Space permitting, others may attend as well. Interested persons are asked to call (908) 233-2930 by noon on Tuesday, January 2.

Hiking Club Presents Variety of Activities

COUNTY - The Union County Hiking Club invites area residents to participate in its regularly scheduled hiking and bicycling activities. These events are designed to provide wholesome recreation while contributing to physical fitness. Most activities take place in central and northern New Jersey. Annual membership dues are \$10. To request a complimentary schedule, please call (908) 527-4900.



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS...More than 200 youngsters and adults attended the Westfield Area "Y" Lunch with Santa event this year. Three seating times were available for families to choose from, and all were treated to fun, food and, of course, a visit with Santa Claus. Pictured above, Connor Whitt tells Santa his Christmas wishes.

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**January 2007 Events at the
Westfield Memorial Library**
Library Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30 AM to 9:00 PM
Friday and Saturday 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Sunday 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

ADULT PROGRAMS		
Jan 5	1:30 PM	TGIF: Classic movie week
Jan 10	10:00 AM	Computer: Genealogy Online
Jan 12	1:30 PM	TGIF: John Singer Sargent
Jan 19	1:30 PM	TGIF: Lucille Ball
Jan 20	10:00 AM	Alzheimer's Association Program
Jan 26	1:30 PM	TGIF: Ellis Island
Jan 30	10:00 AM	Computer: Business & Investment Online

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS		
Jan 6, 13, 20, 27	10:00 AM	Chess
Jan 17, 24, 31	10:00 AM	Preschool Storytime
	or	
Jan 18	1:30 PM	Readers' Theatre
Jan 18, 25	3:45 PM	Toddlers' Group
Jan 19, 26	10:00 AM	Tots' Storytime
Jan 27	10:30 AM	Mammal Mania

Restrictions regarding pre-registration or age may apply to some programs.

550 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090 ☎ 908-789-4090 www.wmlnj.org