

Westfield Rescue Squad Launches '06 Fund Drive

WESTFIELD - Westfield Mayor Andy Skibitsky kicked off the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad 2006 fund drive by proclaiming March as "Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad Month."

Mayor Skibitsky proclaimed that the "Westfield Rescue Squad has unselfishly provided emergency medical care and transportation to the residents and visitors of Westfield, in the event of accident, disaster, sudden illness and the like, for the past 55 years."

The mayor's proclamation went on to say that during the year 2005, squad members had, "volunteered tens of thousands of duty hours of service to answer 2,423 calls in the alleviation of human suffering."

The mayor's proclamation concluded by stating, "The Westfield Rescue Squad members have generously donated their time and efforts to provide for the physical well-being of the community and its residents with no reward other than the knowledge of a job well done."

The squad, funded solely from private donations, depends on the support of all who live and work in Westfield to provide for its day-to-day expenses. Every home and busi-

ness in Westfield will receive a letter asking them to help financially support the rescue squad.

Reid Edles, vice president of the Westfield Rescue Squad and the officer in charge of the 2006 fund drive, said the squad is asking people to help either by supporting the fund drive or volunteering with the squad.

"The fund drive," said Mr. Edles, "is our once-a-year appeal to raise enough money to support our day-to-day operations and to try and save for our biggest single expense, the purchase of new ambulances, which we need to replace every few years."

This year, as well as raising money, the squad also needs volunteers to serve as Emergency Medical Technicians and dispatchers to replace the normal turnover of members who retire or move away.

The squad is an all-volunteer organization, and one of the few resident squads in New Jersey, according to a squad spokesman. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to: The Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad, 335 Waterson Street, Westfield, N.J. 07090. To learn more about volunteering with the rescue squad, please call (908) 233-2500.



RESCUE SQUAD MONTH... Westfield Acting Mayor Mark Ciarrocca helps kick off the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad's 2006 fund drive by reading a proclamation at the February 26 town council meeting designating March as "Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad Month." Pictured, from left to right, are: Mr. Ciarrocca and squad officers Reid Edles, vice-president; Dan Sullivan, treasurer; Miki Urso, captain; Kristin Wanca, deputy captain, and Joe Urso, president.

FCC to Hold Bible Study, Classes For Lenten Season

WESTFIELD - The First Congregational Church of Westfield will hold a series of Bible study, spirituality and parenting classes during the season of Lent. These courses will be free and open to the public.

A Bible study on "The Sayings of Jesus" will take place in five weekly sessions. Led by Senior Minister Dr. Mark Boyea, the classes will be held March 13 to April 10, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the minister's study.

On Tuesdays through April 11, a Spirituality Workshop on "Christian Meditation" will take place in the church's Patton Auditorium from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Each week during Lent, attendees will learn about and practice the specific form of meditation known as "lectio divina."

Purim Discussion Set Saturday at Redeemer

WESTFIELD - "The Jewish Roots of Christianity," a monthly discussion hosted by the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Westfield, will focus on Purim this Saturday, March 11, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Purim recalls the story of Esther and her heroism. The meeting will take place in the house alongside the Redeemer Lutheran School. Hamantashen will be served.

The Reverend Marc Danzis of the Beth-El Messianic Congregation in Forest Hills, N.Y. serves as the discussion leader. The Redeemer Lutheran Church and School is located at 229 Cowperthwaite Place.

The topic for Saturday, April 8, will be Passover. For more details, please call the church office at (908) 232-1517. All are welcome.

Torah Center Announces Events Celebrating Purim

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Union County Torah Center will present a Family Purim Celebration on Monday, March 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey's Wilf Jewish Community Campus, located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains.

Purim commemorates how Queen Esther was instrumental in the deliverance of the Jewish people from the threat of annihilation at the hands of Haman and the inhabitants of the Persian Empire 23 centuries ago.

At 6:30 p.m., there will be a masquerade contest for children and other activities. All children dressed in costume will receive a prize, and one special grand prize will be awarded for the best costume. A Megillah reading will be held at 7:30 p.m., followed by refreshments with music and dancing. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person (reservations are preferred but not required).

On Tuesday, March 14, another Megillah reading will take place at 7 a.m. at the Torah Center, located at 418 Central Avenue in Westfield.

Ketubah Unit to Meet For Dinner on Sunday

COUNTY - The B'nai B'rith Ketubah Married Couples Unit (40+) will meet for dinner on Sunday, March 12, at 5:30 p.m. at Pierre's, 582 Georges Road in Monmouth Junction.

The prices for the Early Bird dinners are about \$14.95 each, plus tax and gratuity. The bill will be split evenly among those attending. Prospective members are welcome. To respond, please call Elaine at (908) 232-0062 by tomorrow, Friday, March 10.

Additionally, the Torah Center will host a Purim dinner for adults at 6 p.m. There will be a catered meal, live music and entertainment with standup comic Effie Braun, who explores Jewish identity through comedy with her show "Member of the Tribe." There is a \$25 per person fee and reservations are required.

All these programs are open to the public and everyone is welcome. For more information, please call the Torah Center at (908) 789-5252 or email info@torahcenter.org.

St. Helen's Craft Fair On Tap This Weekend

WESTFIELD - St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, located at 1600 Rahway Avenue in Westfield, will sponsor a spring craft fair this Saturday and Sunday, March 11 and 12.

Over 50 vendors will offer a variety of handcrafted, decorative and functional items for sale. This indoor event will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday. The premises are handicapped-accessible.

Proceeds will benefit the Youth Ministry Program's current outreach project - providing housing for a year for a family from Poland with three children who earned scholarships to the Juilliard School of Music. The siblings will perform on Sunday at 11:30 a.m. at the fair.

A \$1 donation for adults at the door will entitle visitors to enter a drawing for a Memorex DVD player. Refreshments will be served and home baked goods will be sold. For more information, please call (908) 233-8444, extension no. 13.

Library Friends to Present Abigail Adams on March 19

WESTFIELD - The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library will present a free performance of the American Historical Theatre's production of *Abigail Adams: Dearest Friend* on Sunday, March 19, at 1:45 p.m. in the library's Community Room.

Abigail and John Adams spent most

Dancers to Entertain Holy Trinity Seniors

WESTFIELD - The Holy Trinity Senior Social Club will meet on Monday, March 13, at 1:30 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Interparochial School on First Street in Westfield. The February meeting was cancelled due to last month's blizzard.

The Marie Moore School of Irish Dance in Scotch Plains and the Kelly School of Dance in Westfield will present a program of Irish dancing.

Teresa Whitehead will conduct the program, explain the costumes and introduce the various dances. The regular meeting will be held immediately after, with refreshments to follow. The group's next trip will be on Wednesday, March 22, to Doolan's in Spring Lake for a St. Joseph's celebration.

of the years during the War for Independence apart, yet their prolific letter writing kept them in constant communication regarding everything from matters of Congress to family life at Braintree, Mass.

Although she was almost entirely self-educated, Abigail Adams' letters reflect the power of womanhood in the 18th century. She offered strong arguments for equality for all Americans, including the need for women's education and the abolition of slavery.

Actress, singer, dancer and choreographer Kim Hanley will portray the First Lady. She has appeared with the Bolshoi and New York City Ballet companies and in the first national tour of the musical *She Loves Me*.

Ms. Hanley was discovered by the American Historical Theatre while appearing in short historical drama presentations during the summer of 1997. Since then, she has portrayed Abigail Adams, Betsy Ross, Elizabeth Powel, Molly Pitcher and Elizabeth Drinker.

All are welcome to attend this program, sponsored by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. The Westfield Memorial Library is located at 550 East Broad Street.

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