

Fragile Huts Are Reminder To Care For Those In Need

By RABBI DOUGLAS SAGAL

During this week, Jewish people all over the world are observing the festival of Sukkot, or as it is known in English, The Feast of Booths. One of the central practices of this joyful holiday is for a family to construct a fragile hut, or booth, and many decorate it with gourds, popcorn and paper chains, and colorful banners.

The booth, or sukkah, as it is known in Hebrew, is meant to recall the fragile huts lived in by our ancestors as they journeyed through the desert from Egypt to the Promised Land.

Although it is the practice to eat meals and even sleep in sukkah, it is intended to be a temporary structure and is usually removed after a week. Eating and living in the fragile booth reminds us that there are many people on our planet who are forced to live in temporary or inadequate shelter all year long and we are to be sensitive to their plight.

One year ago, Hurricane Katrina devastated our Gulf Coast, leaving thousands homeless. Many of those displaced still have no home. Last week, members of the Westfield-Mountainside Ministerium participated in a Habitat for Humanity Build, creating a home in Westfield that will be transported to Biloxi, Miss. for use. This was a truly interfaith effort, uniting members of our churches and synagogue for a blessed purpose.

I wish to congratulate the ministerium and those volunteers of all faiths who participated in the Biloxi Build. You represent what is best about our community and provided genuine shelter from the storm. I hope your efforts inspire others to follow your example.

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



GENEROUS GESTURE...Elizabeth Youngs, president of the Genealogical Society of the West Fields (GSWF), center, presents a contribution of \$1,000 from the GSWF to Westfield Memorial Library Director Phil Israel as Jennifer Reese Schulze, GSWF liaison to the library, looks on. The donation will benefit library modernization efforts.

Genealogical Society Gift To Aid Library Upgrades

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Memorial Library received a contribution of \$1,000 from the Genealogical Society of the West Fields (GSWF) September 20 for the 2006 Library Improvement Project. The gift places the GSWF on the Twain Circle Honor Roll of honored contributors.

In response to the changing needs of the library, plans are underway for a renovation and development of a modern new library to enhance programs, activities and services through better space planning and expanded service areas. Contributions for this major project are appreciated. All donations of \$1,000 or more will be acknowledged on a special donor wall of recognition in the library's main lobby.

All Saints' Harvest Fest On Tap For October 21

SCOTCH PLAINS - A petting zoo and pony rides, face painting and pumpkin decorating will all be part of the Harvest Fest on Saturday, October 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the All Saints' Episcopal Church, located at 559 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains.

The All Saints' Crafters will offer an assortment of handcrafted pieces. Additionally, vendors will have various items for sale including handmade jewelry, soaps and candies; Japanese crafts; art prints; note cards; glass vases and birdhouses, among other merchandise. A large display of gift baskets and baked goods also will be offered for sale.

Lunch will be available, including sandwiches, hot dogs and chili. Raffle tickets for a 50/50 will be on sale until 3 p.m. The drawing is scheduled for 4 p.m. and winners need not be present. For more information on the Harvest Fest, please call (908) 322-8047.

Westfield Memorial Library trustees agreed to sponsor the GSWF on January 10, 1980. GSWF executive board meetings and its monthly meetings are held at the library, located at 550 East Broad Street. Members and the society as a whole have donated many books to the library and volunteered numerous hours in manning the library's Local History Room.

Membership in the GSWF is open to all persons interested in promoting the purposes of the society. For more information about joining the GSWF, please call Membership Co-Chairpersons Janice and Marty Unfried at (732) 793-7513.

Bruce Harris to Discuss Sherlock Holmes Book

SCOTCH PLAINS - Local resident and author Bruce Harris will discuss his new book about Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson on Monday, October 23, at 7 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Public Library.

Mr. Harris, a marketing analyst at UPS and contributor to The Baker Street Journal and Sherlock Holmes Journal, will share how the book explores the personality types of the famous literary detective and his ever-present companion.

"Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson: ABOUT TYPE," Mr. Harris' first book, is a recent publication dealing with the characters' physical, social and psychological make-up.

The author and his wife have been residents of Scotch Plains for 13 years and have two children. Mr. Harris first became interested in Sherlock Holmes in 1964. He also is a pipe collector (a related hobby).

The seminar will be held in the library's Community Room. The library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue. For further information or directions, please call (908) 322-5007.

Library Series to Spotlight Concerns of Disabled People

SCOTCH PLAINS - Beginning tonight, the Scotch Plains Public Library will continue its yearlong program series on issues relating to disabled individuals and their families with six offerings slated for October, which is National Disabilities Awareness Month.

A program entitled "As My Child Grows" will be held this evening, Thursday, October 12, at 7 p.m. Dr. Kristen Sharpen will discuss important developmental milestones, warning signs of significant delays in speech and motor skills and what to do if a child appears to be missing age-appropriate milestones.

On Saturday, October 14, the movie *Radio* will be screened at 1 p.m. It shows how the mentoring relationship between a prominent high school football coach and a mentally challenged man at first divides but ultimately unifies a small South Carolina town.

On Wednesday, October 18, at 7 p.m., Union County representatives will explain the county system of Early Intervention and Case Management. Case managers, with parental consent, work with parents and physicians to evaluate an affected child and develop an individual service plan for the family.

Certified speech-language pathologist Stacia Paganelli will conduct individual speech-language screenings of children ages one to five throughout the day on Tuesday, October 24.

This free screening will provide information on a child's speech and language skills using standardized testing and play assessment. Parents concerned about their child's communication skills are asked to pre-register by calling (908) 322-5007, extension no. 202.

Parents and caregivers of persons

Simchat Torah Slated Tomorrow at Temple

WESTFIELD - Area residents are invited to attend the Erev Shabbat service and Simchat Torah celebration at Temple Emanu-El beginning at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, October 13.

There will be dancing (hakafot), Torah processions and the unrolling of the Torah scroll, as well as songs and refreshments. All are welcome to listen and take part as the congregation finishes reading Deuteronomy and begins Genesis.

Shemini Atzeret services will be held on Saturday, October 14, at 10:30 a.m. in the main sanctuary during which yizkor will be read.

Temple Emanu-El is located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield. For further details, please contact Carolyn Shane, executive director, at (908) 232-6770 or cshane@tewnj.org or visit www.tewnj.org.

with Autism Spectrum Disorder are welcome to share in "Autism Families Talk" on Wednesday, October 25, from 7 to 9 p.m. This will be an open forum for support and to share ideas and experiences.

Finally, community members are invited to a meeting of the Commission for Community Programs for Individuals with Disabilities on Wednesday, November 1, at 7 p.m. It will focus on setting the course for developing collaborative initiatives to advance the acceptance and inclusion of people with disabilities.

The programs will be held in the library's Community Room. A resource display of books, pamphlets and educational materials also will be available. The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue. For more information or directions, please call (908) 322-5007.

Rummage Sale Set For This Saturday

WESTFIELD - The Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion in Westfield will host a rummage sale this Saturday, October 14, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will take place at American Legion Post No. 3, located at 1003 North Avenue in Westfield. All proceeds will benefit veterans. The auxiliary is a non-profit organization.

CROP Walk on October 22 To Help Combat Hunger

CRANFORD - Area residents are gearing up to participate in the 32nd Cranford CROP Walk on Sunday, October 22, at 2 p.m. The six-mile walk will begin and end at the Cranford United Methodist Church at Walnut and Lincoln Avenues, with a halfway refreshment stop at the First Presbyterian Church on Springfield Avenue in Cranford.

Organized locally, the Cranford Clergy Council CROP Walk is one of 2,000 across the country. The organizers' hope to have 200 walkers and raise \$17,000 to help stop hunger locally and around the world through self-help development initiatives. Last year, 193 walkers raised \$16,030 in the Cranford CROP Walk.

Twenty-five percent of the funds

raised through the Cranford CROP Walk will benefit Cranford Family Care as well as the food pantries of the Osceola Presbyterian Church of Clark and the First Congregational Church of Westfield. The balance will be directed to Church World Service, a ministry of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. that works to combat hunger and provide disaster relief within the United States and globally.

The Cranford CROP Walk has raised over \$265,000 in the past 31 years. For more information about the walk, please call Robin Marko at (908) 789-0739. Walkers and sponsors can register and contribute online at the CROP Walk Friends Asking Friends website, which can be accessed at www.cropwalk.org or by calling (888) CWS-CROP.

Candidates to Speak At Temple October 19

AREA - Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah, located at 111 Valley Road in Clark, has invited area residents to meet the candidates for the Seventh Congressional District.

Assemblywoman Linda Stender, the Democrat candidate, will be the guest next Thursday, October 19, at 7:30 p.m. On Wednesday, October 25, Republican Michael Ferguson will speak, also at 7:30 p.m.

Each candidate will speak for approximately 20 minutes and then take questions from the audience. There is no admission fee and both events will take place at the temple. Refreshments will be served. For further information, please call Geri Modell at (908) 668-4942.

Willow Grove Invites

All to Fall Festival

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains has invited members of the community to attend its Fall Festival on Sunday, October 29, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Admission will be free.

A variety of games, cookie-making, arts and crafts, tattoos and storytelling will be available for all. Weather permitting, the festival will be held in the church parking lot. Otherwise, it will take place inside Ryno Hall.

The church is located at 1961 Raritan Road. All the 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 visit www.willowgrovechurch.org.

The Scotch Plains Recreation Commission Announces:



GRAND OPENING

SCOTCH PLAINS MINIATURE GOLF COURSE!

Saturday, October 14th 2:00 P.M.

Located on Plainfield Avenue and Jerusalem Road

Bring Postcard and play for Half Price!!

All those who come in a sports jersey from a Recreational or Interscholastic Program will also play for Half Price!!

Lunch will be provided. Supplies are limited.

