

'Y' to Hold Open House For Adventure Guides

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Area "Y" has announced that it is expanding its Adventure Guides program (formerly known as Indian Guides) for fathers and their sons or daughters age four to nine.

An open house will take place at the main "Y" facility, located at 220 Clark Street in Westfield, on Thursday, September 28, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Adventure Guides' goal is to strengthen the parent-child bond by fostering understanding and companionship.

Church to Spotlight Gore Book and Film

AREA – Former Vice President Al Gore's book and film on global warming, both titled "An Inconvenient Truth," will be featured at free events to be presented by the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield (FUSP). The FUSP congregation includes residents of Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

The book will be discussed at a book club meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 26, at the FUSP church, located at 724 Park Avenue in Plainfield. A screening of the film will take place on Friday, October 6, at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall, to be followed by a discussion.

The screening is being made possible by GreenFaith, New Jersey's interfaith environmental coalition. Founded in 1992, the coalition mobilizes people of diverse religious backgrounds to work towards protecting the earth.

Those attending the film screening will receive information on how they can take action to reduce their own emissions of greenhouse gases through energy conservation, the use of renewable energy and advocacy.

For information about the screening, please call FUSP at (908) 756-0750. To learn more about GreenFaith, please call the Reverend Fletcher Harper, executive director, at (732) 565-7740.

St. John's Ministry Sets Annual Session Sunday

SCOTCH PLAINS – St. John's Missionary Ministry will host its 14th Annual Session this Sunday, September 24, at 4 p.m. at St. John's Baptist Church, located at 2387 Morse Avenue in Scotch Plains. The public is invited to attend.

Missionaries and others from churches throughout the area have been invited to participate in this event. The Reverend Dr. Ronald Owens, pastor of Metuchen's New Hope Baptist Church, will be the guest speaker.

Reverend Owens is the newly elected moderator of the Middlesex Baptist Association. For more information, please call (908) 232-6972.

Monthly meetings for father/child pairs take place in small circles in participants' homes for games, crafts, discussions and refreshments. Quarterly events are intended for all circles and may include campouts, trips to the zoo and children's theater, among other activities.

In YMCA Adventure Guides, the circle community serves as the program's basic group unit. It is designed to provide a structure, sense of community and support for all group activities.

Adventure Guides (parents) and Explorers (children) meet in circles twice a month and participate in Expedition adventures (such as overnight camping) throughout the year.

The Westfield Area "Y" serves the communities of Mountainside, Cranford, Garwood and Westfield. For more information on the Adventure Guides program, interested persons are asked to contact Jill Brown at (908) 233-2700, extension no. 415, or jill.brown1@comcast.net.

Mayor's Charity Gala Set For December 1

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Scotch Plains Recreation Department has announced that the annual Scotch Plains Mayor's Charity Gala will be held from 7 p.m. to midnight on Friday, December 1, at the Shackamaxon Golf and Country Club in Scotch Plains.

A cocktail hour will take place from 7 to 8 p.m., followed by a recognition ceremony, dinner and dancing. This non-partisan event raises funds for the township's Municipal Alliance Committee and honors outstanding residents of the community.

Donations are being sought for the silent auction. Additionally, nominations are sought for male, female and organization of the year. Forms may be accessed online at scotchplainsnj.com or at the recreation office in Room 113 of the Scotch Plains Municipal Building, located at 430 Park Avenue.

Tickets are \$55 and will be available in the recreation office shortly. For more information, please call (908) 322-6700, extension no. 221.

Grief Support Group To Begin October 5

WESTFIELD – The Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church of Westfield will sponsor a six-week grief support group beginning on Thursday, October 5, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Meetings will be held in the rectory, located at 315 First Street in Westfield.

These sessions will focus on experiences and feelings that are very common to many people during the grieving process. For more information, please call the Holy Trinity Parish Office at (908) 232-8137.



MERITORIOUS...The six Westfield High School students named semi-finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Program join interim Principal Dennis Fyfe following his public address announcement to students and staff. The semi-finalists, pictured from left to right, are: front row, Daniel Shorrock, Kate Kovalenko and Guan Jiaming; second row, Neha Limaye, and back row, Matan Shavit and Arielle Smelkinson.

Tri-County Red Cross Seeks Members For Youth Council

AREA – The American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter, which serves 22 communities in three counties including Fanwood, Scotch Plains and Garwood, is recruiting for its 2006 Youth Council.

The Youth Council is a governing body of high school students in grades 9 to 12 who help build relationships with other service organizations and share Red Cross information as liaisons for their respective high schools.

Red Cross staff members offer advice, direction and support to student-driven projects. Student leaders become involved in their community and help coordinate volunteer opportunities through the Red Cross.

Leadership training, peer-to-peer education programs and health and safety programs also will be sponsored through the Youth Council.

SP-F Teens Are Invited For Recreation Events

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Scotch Plains Recreation Commission is teaming with the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA to create a new activity for teenagers in Scotch Plains and Fanwood that will be offered on two Saturdays. The program will be held on September 30 and October 21 from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the YMCA, located at 1340 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains.

Open to students of the two communities exclusively, the sessions will feature a pedestal joust, disk jockey, Dance Dance Revolution and games. There will be no fee to attend. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Municipal Alliance Committee, the YMCA and the Scotch Plains Recreation Commission are the sponsors.

Affinity Federal Lauds Westfield's Alix Winter

WESTFIELD – Affinity Federal Credit Union (AFCU), New Jersey's largest member-owned, not-for-profit credit union, awarded nine New Jersey high school students with scholarship grants at a breakfast ceremony hosted by President and CEO John T. Fenton at the company's headquarters in Basking Ridge.

This year's recipients included Westfield's Alix Soffen Winter, who attends Solomon Schechter Day School.

Students, who are members of the credit union, received grants ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,500 to assist them as they transition from high school to college.

Scholarships were awarded based on the diverse criteria of academic excellence, commitment to community, extracurricular activities, and essay.

Westfield Woman Volunteers At Children's Home In Peru

WESTFIELD – While others browsed the Indian markets or hiked Machu Picchu, Carla Molowa of Westfield lent a helping hand to some of Peru's most vulnerable citizens – orphans and children of poverty in the capital city of Lima.

Mrs. Molowa was part of a team of volunteers who spent two weeks in late July and early August volunteering with childcare, teaching and construction projects at Puericultorio Perez Aranibar (PPA), a children's home serving 600 youngsters.

Situated along the oceanfront in Lima, this sprawling, wind-battered compound is home to orphans and children from troubled families.

Mrs. Molowa helped paint and repair playground equipment, assisted with a program that reunited siblings for playtime and also bid the orphans goodnight through the "sweet dreams" program.

"The children at the PPA are truly precious. They became more trustful the longer we were there," she said.

Global Volunteers, a St. Paul, Minn.-based non-profit organization, coordinated the service program. The organization offers short-term volunteer programs in 20 countries around the world. Mrs. Molowa previously volunteered in Poland with Global Volunteers.

St. Helen's to Present 'Why Catholic?' Series

WESTFIELD – St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, located at 1600 Rahway Avenue in Westfield, has invited parishioners and other interested persons to join its "Why Catholic?" program. It will begin the week of Sunday, October 8.

This program is an exploration of faith topics that was begun last spring. More than 250 people participated in one of many "Why Catholic?" small group meetings.

Groups meet once a week in a private home or at the St. Helen's Parish Center for a six-week session. This scripture and Catechism-based program is designed to help adults deepen their Catholic faith and connect its teachings to everyday life.

New participants are welcome to join existing or new groups for this fall season. Sign-up forms are available at the church or the parish center. For more information, please call John Kerins at (908) 232-8444 or St. Helen's Church at (908) 232-1214.

Volunteers are sorely needed in Lima, a city of nine million with serious economic disparities. Social services are severely strained as this bustling metropolis copes with a continual influx of people seeking better lives.

At the invitation of local host organizations, Global Volunteers sends teams to sites worldwide to work on locally directed projects such as teaching English, caring for at-risk children, assisting with health care and constructing and repairing community buildings.

Global Volunteers is not subsidized by any government or religious agency. Volunteers pay a tax-deductible service program fee—from \$1,600 to \$2,650—to cover food, lodging and project expenses. Airfare is extra.

Project sites include Australia, Sri Lanka, China, India, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, Brazil, Jamaica, Tanzania, Ghana, Italy, Poland, Hungary, Greece, Romania, Ireland and the United States.

For more information, please contact Global Volunteers at (651) 407-6100 or (800) 487-1074 or via e-mail at info@globalvolunteers.org or visit www.globalvolunteers.org.

First Baptist to Observe 'Prayer for Peace' Day

WESTFIELD – The World Council of Churches (WCC) has designated today, Thursday, September 21, as the International Day of Prayer for Peace.

All are invited to join the Reverend Dee Turlington at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, located at 170 Elm Street, at 9 a.m. today for a brief time of prayer.

The Day of Prayer is one of the initiatives of the WCC's "Decade to Overcome Violence" (2001-2010) and coincides with the United Nations International Day of Peace.

For information on this event or future times of prayer for peace, please call (908) 233-2278 or e-mail firstbaptist.westfield@verizon.net.

Rivera Participates In Leadership Forum

SCOTCH PLAINS – William Christopher "Chris" Rivera, a student at Park Middle School in Scotch Plains, recently was accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum.

Chris joined a select group of students in Washington, D.C. from September 11 to 17 to earn high school credit while studying leadership and exploring the United States' most prominent monuments and institutions.

From Capitol Hill to the Smithsonian Institute, and from colonial Williamsburg to the National Museum of American History, Chris examined characteristics of American leadership during times of national challenge and prosperity.

Forum delegates also participated in small group discussions and exercises to experience firsthand how leaders develop strategies, make decisions, build consensus and foster change.

Chris was nominated and accepted for the honor based on scholastic merit, civic involvement and leadership potential.

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the forum, which was marked with a gala celebration featuring Tom Brokaw as the guest speaker. Chris said, "I enjoyed my time making new friends and learning about our nation's history. In addition, I enjoyed learning world leadership skills and seeing the historical sites that make this a great country to live in."

Hiking Club Invites All to Outdoor Events

COUNTY – The Union County Hiking Club offers a varied program of outdoor activities that provide wholesome recreation while contributing to physical fitness.

Hiking and bicycling activities are scheduled on a regular basis. Most events take place in central and northern New Jersey. Membership dues are \$10 per year. To request a complimentary schedule, please call (908) 527-4900.

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Call for information: 908-889-1600, extension 302



BORN TO LEAD...William Christopher "Chris" Rivera, left, was selected to participate in the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. earlier this month. The program offers honor students the chance to spend a week in training interactively with members of the United States Congress and other government officials.

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