

## Local Residents to Receive Martin Luther King Award

CRANFORD – The Cranford Clergy Council will honor two local women next week in recognition of their many contributions to the Cranford community and their unselfish concern for the welfare of others.

Robin Marko of Garwood, a member of the Calvary Lutheran Church in Cranford, and Lillie Brown of Roselle, a member of the First Baptist Church of Cranford, will receive the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award at the community's annual memorial service for Dr. King on Thursday, January 11, at 7:30 p.m. This year's service will be held at the Calvary Lutheran Church at 108 Eastman Street.

The annual award is given to those who have shown outstanding service in community affairs and significant dedication to the advancement of civil and human rights.

Mrs. Marko, a lifelong member of Calvary Lutheran, serves others through her church as well as in the community. As chairwoman of Calvary's Social Concerns Ministry, she has organized and completed projects benefiting the homeless, the hungry, AIDS children, refugees and seminary students.

Additionally, she has headed the township's CROP Walk, set up blood donor drives, recruited volunteers for the Community Food Bank and organized coat collections for the statewide Jersey Cares Program.

### Free Program to Focus On Alzheimer's Issues

WESTFIELD – The Alzheimer's Association, Greater New Jersey Chapter will present "Clinical Trials 101: An Introduction for Family Caregivers" on Saturday, January 20, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Westfield Memorial Library.

This free educational program will provide an overview of clinical trials, including the differences between their various phases and their impact on the treatment, prevention and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Issues for caregivers and individuals with dementia to consider, such as benefits, risks, informed consent and expectations of participation, also will be addressed.

The session will additionally offer a brief overview of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and available programs and services offered by the Alzheimer's Association. The Westfield Memorial Library is located at 550 East Broad Street.

To register for this program or for further information and directions, please call the Alzheimer's Association, Greater New Jersey Chapter at (973) 586-4300. More information about Alzheimer's disease or the Alzheimer's Association also may be obtained by calling (800) 883-1180 or through the organization's website at alznj.org.

A member of the First Baptist Church for more than 50 years, Mrs. Brown has served on the church's deacon board, the board of trustees and the Missionary Society, helping to feed the hungry, provide clothes and toys for the needy and comfort the troubled for many years.

She remains active on behalf of others through her community involvements, including the NAACP, the Urban League, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, the Roselle Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women and the Cranford Interfaith Human Relations Committee. She also serves as president of Church Women United and of the Women's Department of the New Jersey Convention of Progressive Baptists.

Members of the public are invited to attend next week's service, which will include special music. The Reverend Gladys Moore, a social activist in the Hudson County area and an assistant to the Bishop of the New Jersey Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will be the keynote speaker. For more information about the service or directions to the church, please call the Calvary Lutheran Church at (908) 276-2418.

### Mobile Meals Seeks Additional Volunteers

WESTFIELD – On December 21, Mobile Meals of Westfield welcomed volunteers from American United Mortgage Corporation of Scotch Plains, who delivered meals to the elderly and homebound during the holiday season. This marked the third year in a row that employees of the firm participated in the program.

Mobile Meals, a non-profit meal delivery service for elderly and disabled residents of Westfield, Cranford, Clark, Garwood, Fanwood and Scotch Plains, is always looking for volunteer drivers to deliver meals.

Individuals need only be available one hour one day a week to be a volunteer driver. Deliveries usually take no more than one hour to complete. Volunteers also are needed on weekday mornings to pack meals.

According to Mobile Meals, the program offers ideal volunteer opportunities for mothers with children in school; active senior citizens and others. Local community groups or businesses are encouraged to volunteer as a group and rotate the driving or packing among different members. Youth volunteers of high school age or older who need to fulfill school or church service requirements also are welcome to volunteer during school breaks.

Anyone wishing more information, interested in volunteering or who knows someone who might benefit from Mobile Meals is invited to call (908) 233-6146 or to visit the organization's website at westfieldnj.com/mobilemeals.



LITTLE ANGELS...Prior to the closing of school for the Christmas break, the children from Willow Grove Pre-School held their annual Christmas program. Above, the children in Pam Boyd's and Karen Trollo's Three-Year-Old Class as they perform "Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star." Pictured, from left to right, are: Eli Horgan, Haley Cino, Grace Sartoretti, Alex Tan, Ryan Beauregard, Erin Kylisn, Kayla Bowen, Katherine Wistner and Ian Gannaway.

## Willow Grove Pre-School To Present Open House

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Willow Grove Pre-School, located at 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains, will hold a parent pre-registration open house for the 2007-2008 school year on Thursday, January 11. (The snow date is Friday, January 12).

The event is scheduled to begin at 10:15 a.m. in the church's Alexander Hall. Director Kathy Calello will present a slide show offering an overview of the pre-school program, along with a tour of the facility.

Willow Grove Pre-School is a Christian pre-school sponsored by the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains and licensed by the

State of New Jersey.

Class teachers are state-certified educators. Classes are offered for children who will be two years old by April 1 in the 3 Minus Program. There also are classes for three-year-olds and four-year-olds, as well as the 4+ Class for children who either miss the kindergarten cutoff date or who just need another year of pre-school.

Registration for the 2007-2008 school year will begin on Monday, February 5, for present enrollees and alumni. Open registration will begin on Tuesday, February 13. For further information, please call Mrs. Calello at (908) 232-7117.

## Plainfield Friends Meeting To Welcome Rev. Harper

AREA – The Plainfield Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (the Quakers) will welcome the Reverend Fletcher Harper, executive director of GreenFaith, this Sunday, January 7. Plainfield Meeting, which includes members from Westfield and Scotch Plains, is located at 225 Watchung Avenue in Plainfield.

Reverend Harper will speak at noon on the moral and spiritual bases of environmental stewardship, following meeting for worship at 10:30 a.m. and a potluck lunch at 11:30 a.m.

"We have an on-going concern in our meeting for the traditional Quaker testimony of stewardship," said David Korfhage, clerk of the meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee, "and we look forward to hearing Reverend Harper speak to that concern."

GreenFaith was founded in 1992 by Jewish and Christian leaders in New Jersey to mobilize people of diverse religions to discover a relationship with the sacred in nature and

to take action for the earth.

The organization has worked with hundreds of houses of worship, providing education about the teachings of the world's great religions on the environment, helping religious facilities to green their operations and organizing people of faith to advocate for environmental justice.

Reverend Harper is an Episcopal priest who served two churches for a decade prior to leading GreenFaith. For more information about Reverend Harper's talk, please call the meetinghouse at (908) 757-5736.

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## GOV. CORZINE PASSES CIVIL UNION LAW

Governor Jon Corzine has just signed into law new Legislation establishing and recognizing CIVIL UNIONS. This law, which will become effective February 19, 2007, affects all gay and lesbian individuals who are engaged in a committed relationship. It will replace, and greatly expand, the former Domestic Partnership Law, which New Jersey enacted in 2004.

Gay and lesbian individuals will now have all of the exact same state rights and entitlements that are enjoyed by married individuals, just without being called "married"...for now. What does this all mean?

It means that if you are a gay or lesbian couple desirous of confirming your commitment with your partner and enjoying the benefits of that commitment, you can accomplish that by applying for a Civil Union License. This is the exact same procedure that heterosexual individuals follow when they apply for a marriage license.

Once the license is obtained, the civil union ceremony must occur within 30 days. Following the ceremony, which may be performed by a municipal official, a Civil Union Certificate will be issued, just like a Marriage Certificate.

The benefits of having your relationship recognized as a civil union will be numerous. Your rights will be expanded to include health insurance coverage, pension benefits, real estate ownership, the right to inherit by will or intestate, survivorship's rights and countless other areas including all of the entitlements that New Jersey family law provides.

Prior to entering into a civil union, one or both of the partners may wish to enter into a **Pre-Civil Union Agreement**. Such an agreement is exactly the same as the well-known and utilized Pre-Marital Agreement. There are many important reasons to have such an agreement.

First of all, the agreement will set forth an inventory of the assets of each party prior to entering into the civil union, thereby protecting those assets in the event of a subsequent dissolution.

Second, should the parties wish, the agreement can define each party's financial responsibilities in the relationship.

Third, and most important, the Pre-Civil Union Agreement will set forth the parties' understanding and intentions upon any dissolution of the civil union. Unless that understanding is in writing, it will not be enforceable. Having a Pre-Civil Union Agreement would prove to be a valuable tool in order to avoid any future nasty, elongated, expensive legal proceeding. One-half of all present marriages result in divorce and this percentage will probably be similar in civil unions. Therefore, a Pre-Civil Union Agreement is certainly worthy of your consideration.

In order to have your questions answered regarding this most important development in the law, the Cranford Law Firm of Dughi & Hewit is offering a free conference for those interested in the topic. Call Mario C. Gurrieri, Chair of the firm's Family Law Department at 908-272-0200 to arrange for an appointment. A free seminar will also be scheduled this month, which will be noticed in this publication.

PAID BULLETIN BOARD

## AARP to Meet on Monday; Announces Playhouse Trip

WESTFIELD – Westfield Area Chapter No. 4137 of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will hold its next meeting on Monday, January 8, in The Presbyterian Church in Westfield's Assembly Hall, located at 140 Mountain Avenue.

The social period with refreshments will begin at 1 p.m. and will be followed by a brief business meeting at 1:30 p.m. Afterward, guest speaker Jan Allen of the New Jersey Banking Commission will present a video and answer questions on "How to Protect Your Money and Yourself in 2007."

Community Service Chairman Skeets Kuzmuk has requested donations by members of canned and boxed grocery items to benefit poor and homeless people. Used costume jewelry also is sought for use as prizes for bingo games with patients at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights. Also, the Knitting and Crocheting Group needs woolen yarn of any color and thickness to make lap robes, shrus, hats and other items for Runnells patients.

The chapter's first day trip for 2007 will be to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on Thursday, February 15. A complete luncheon with a selection of five entrées will be served, followed by a production of the Broadway musical comedy *I Do! I Do!* There also will be a dessert room featuring a selection of about 30 offerings, with a

### JCC to Present Series On 'Lifestyle Changes'

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey, located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains, will offer a two-part series on "Preparing for Lifestyle Changes." Elizabeth Miller, a director at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City and a public health professional specializing in structuring disease prevention programs, will lead the discussion.

The first program, entitled "What You Can Do for Yourself Without Feeling Selfish," is slated for Thursday, January 11, at 10:30 a.m. The second, called "How to Be More Mindful and Stay Connected to Yourself Through Exercise," will take place on Thursday, February 1, also at 10:30 a.m.

Participants will have a chance to win gift certificates to JCC Yoga and Pilates classes at both programs. All are welcome to attend one or both sessions. They will be free for JCC members and \$5 per program for non-member participants. For more details or to register, please contact Karen Rosen, Director of Fitness, at krosen@jccnj.org or (908) 889-8800, extension no. 224.

special table for non-sugar treats.

The bus will leave at 10 a.m. from the far end of the Lord & Taylor parking lot (towards Scotch Plains), where ample parking will be available, and return at approximately 4 p.m.

Reservations may be made at the chapter's regular meetings on January 8 or Monday, February 5, or by calling (908) 232-1362. The total cost for the luncheon, show, bus transportation and all gratuities will be \$70. Non-members also are invited to participate.

### Parkinson's Group Sets Meeting For Monday

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Parkinson Support Group will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, January 8, in the Parish House Lounge of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, located at 140 Mountain Avenue. Those with Parkinson's disease and/or their caregivers are invited to attend.

Rachel Weinstein, manager of the Home Care America store on South Avenue in Westfield, will demonstrate many healthcare products and equipment that can assist people with Parkinson's in daily living activities. Light refreshments will be provided.

This free, non-denominational group meets regularly on the second Monday of each month. It provides speaker programs, a lending library and other information and support services for those coping with Parkinson's disease. For more information, please call Barbara Ringk at (908) 322-9214 or the church office at (908) 233-0301.

### S.A.R. to Hear Talk On Historic Mansion

WESTFIELD – The next meeting of the West Fields Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will be held this Monday, January 8, at 8 p.m. in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building, located at 425 East Broad Street.

Ken Ward, a trustee of the Elizabeth Historical Society, will be the guest speaker. His topic will be "The Belcher Ogden Mansion." Located in Elizabeth, the mansion was the residence of John Ogden in the mid 18th century and later was owned by the then royal Governor of New Jersey, Jonathan Belcher.

This program will cover preservation of the building and current and future uses of it and will include a PowerPoint history of Belcher/Ogden. The meeting is open to the public and light refreshments will be served. For more information, please call Warren C. Fristensky, chapter president, at (908) 654-1731.



LENDING A HAND...Regular Mobile Meals volunteers were joined by staff members of American United Mortgage Corporation in Scotch Plains, who assisted with delivery of meals to elderly and homebound residents in the area. Mobile Meals is seeking additional volunteers to prepare and deliver meals to clients in several local communities. See article on this page.

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