

## Children's Theater Activity Among Library Highlights

WESTFIELD - Youngsters will have an opportunity to hone their acting skills through the Readers' Theatre on two Thursdays, January 18 and February 1, at 3:45 p.m. at the Westfield Memorial Library.

Librarians Jill Farrer and Kathy Muhm will coach interested young readers in the program. There is no age requirement, but children must know how to read in order to participate.

"There will be no memorizing, no props and no costumes," said Ms. Muhm. "The children will practice reading short scripts based on folklore and then will present them that same afternoon."

Pre-registration is necessary. For more information, please call the library's Youth Services Department at (908) 789-4090, extension no. 3.

Several other programs also are scheduled. For adults, "TGIF: John Singer Sargent" will be featured tomorrow, Friday, January 12, at 1:30 p.m. Influenced by the impressionist movement, Sargent is known for his portraits and landscapes. The TGIF topics for the following two Fridays, January 19 and 26, will be Lucille Ball and Ellis Island, respectively. Both

also will begin at 1:30 p.m.

The Alzheimer's Association, Greater New Jersey Chapter will present "Clinical Trials 101: An Introduction for Family Caregivers" from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, January 20. To register, please call the Alzheimer's Association at (973) 586-4300.

"Business and Investment Resources Online" will be held on Tuesday, January 30, at 10 a.m. Participants must know how to use a mouse and a keyboard. This demonstration hands-on class will cover the basics of ReferenceUSA, NetAdvantage and Hoover's. Registration is required.

"Preschool Storytime," for ages three-and-a-half to five, will be held on Wednesdays, January 17, 24 and 31. Participants may attend sessions at 10 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.

"Toddler Group," for babies and toddlers up to age two-and-a-half and a caregiver, will be available on Thursdays, January 18 and 25, at 10 a.m.

"Tots' Storytime," for children ages two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half with a caregiver, will be offered on Fridays, January 19 and 26, at 10 a.m.

"Mammal Mania - Tales of the Wild" will take place on Saturday, January 27, at 10:30 a.m. It is designed for ages four and up. Participants are asked to register by calling the library's Children's Department at (908) 789-4090, extension no. 3.

Finally, youngsters are invited to play chess every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at the library.

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are free and open to Westfield Memorial Library and MURAL cardholders. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street in Westfield. For more information, please call (908) 789-4090, visit the library's website at wmlnj.org or stop by the library for a copy of its quarterly newsletter.



Ms. Alexie Kupka and Michael A. Duels

## Ms. Alexie Kupka To Wed Michael Duels

Mr. and Mrs. John Kupka of Cranford have announced the engagement of their daughter, Ms. Alexie Kupka, to Michael A. Duels. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Duels of Westfield.

A 1997 graduate of Cranford High School, the bride-to-be received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, Pa. in 2001. She is employed as a senior supervisor with Kelly Services in Cranford.

Mr. Duels graduated from Westfield High School in 2001 and from the Union County Fire Academy in Linden in 2003. The future bridegroom is a professional firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician with the Westfield Fire Department.

The couple is planning a spring 2008 wedding.

## Library to Hold Session On Digital Pictures

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains Public Library will present "Digital Pictures: Online and In Your Hands" at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24, in its Community Room. No registration is required.

Reference Librarian Jenny Lichtenwalner will discuss how individuals can manage their digital pictures by using one of the many online photo sharing and printing services.

All programs at the library are free and open to all interested participants. The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue. For more information or directions, please call (908) 322-5007.

## PT REPORTERS NEEDED

Strong, community-minded, detail-oriented writers with professional demeanor needed to cover local government evening meetings. Must be able to meet deadlines, know how to write a lead, and take an active interest in a regular beat in order to develop news stories. This opportunity is perfect for stay-at-home moms, as a second income or just for those who love to write. Please e-mail resume and clips to:

editor@goleader.com

The Westfield Leader & The Scotch Plains-Fanwood TIMES

## Jewish Friends Plan Celebrity Deli Lunch

AREA - The Circle of Single Jewish Friends 49+ will hold a Meet and Eat Lunch on Sunday, January 21, at noon at Jack Cooper's Celebrity Deli.

The eatery is located at 1199 Amboy Avenue (in the Tano Mall) in Edison. The cost is \$3 plus the price of a meal/tip off the menu. To respond, please call Roberta at (908) 668-8450.

## Westfield PBA to Hold Blood Drive January 19

WESTFIELD - Westfield Policemen's Benevolent Association Local 90 will hold a blood drive on Friday, January 19, from 2 to 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building, located at 425 East Broad Street.

New Jersey Blood Services (division of New York Blood Services) has issued an urgent appeal for blood donations. NJBS needs to conduct an estimated 250 blood drives per month and needs approximately 120,000 donors annually to supply New Jersey hospitals.

Volunteer donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good general health. The blood donation process takes less than an hour and includes a free mini medical examination (temperature, iron count, pulse rate and blood pressure).

Donors will need a photo or signature identification and knowledge of their Social Security number. For questions about the donation process, please call NJBS at (800) 933-2566.

## Samantha Luscombe Named 'Point of Light' For Service

WESTFIELD - Samantha Luscombe, 16, the daughter of Nancy and Peter Luscombe of Westfield and a junior at Westfield High School, was selected as the National Daily Point of Light for December 28, 2006.

This award honors an individual who is making a positive and lasting difference in the lives of others and is given each weekday by the Points of Light Foundation in cooperation with the Corporation for National Service and the Knights of Columbus.

For 11 years, Samantha has been a Girl Scout. She recently completed requirements for her Girl Scout Gold Award by organizing a "Bear Fair." Local youngsters were invited to stuff plush animals for youngsters in painful or stressful situations.

In all, 155 animals were then donated to the Westfield police and fire departments and the rescue squad, the Hospitality for the Homeless Network through the Church of St. Helen in Westfield and Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. The animals are being distributed to children present at police calls, home fires and accidents and to those in the hospital and homeless networks.

A three-time recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award - Silver Level, Samantha has continued her community service efforts since then. She has collected more than 500 picture postcards with good wishes from all over the world for a child with brain cancer and helped at a Breast Cancer Awareness Day.

Samantha was an invited speaker November 3 at the Association of Fundraising Professionals' (formerly the National Society of Fundraising Executives) New Jersey Conference on Philanthropy as a youth philanthropist. She spoke about appropriate service for children of all ages; the ease and importance of getting children interested in philanthropy at a young age and actual projects she has done through the years, as well as plans to teach philanthropy to the Brownie troop she co-leads as a Westfield Girl Scout Leader in Training.

In addition to letters from elected officials and a special plaque com-

## Movie Matinee on Tap For Moms/Daughters

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey will host a Mother/Daughter Movie Matinee on Sunday, January 21, at 2 p.m. Girls in grades 3 to 6 and their mothers are invited to attend a screening of *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*.

The festivities also will include snacks and games. This program is open to both JCC members and the general public. The cost is \$10 per family and the deadline to make reservations is Wednesday, January 17.

The JCC is located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. For more information or to make a reservation, please contact Jodi Baxter at jbxater@jccnj.org or (908) 889-8800, extension no. 235. Information also is available at jccnj.org.

memorating her being honored as a "Point of Light." Samantha will have her own permanent page on the Points of Light website describing her community service efforts. The address is: <http://pointsoflight.org/awards/dpol> and Samantha's permanent page is <http://pointsoflight.org/awards/dpol/3366>.

Samantha has yet more plans for the new year, among them organizing and running a hepatitis C awareness day this spring and helping at a teen/senior dance in summer of 2007.



AN INSPIRATION...Samantha Luscombe of Westfield speaks during the Association of Fundraising Professionals New Jersey Conference on Philanthropy November 3 about ways to inspire children toward philanthropy and her own experiences in helping others over the years.

## Carnival For Families To Take Place at CSH

MOUNTAINSIDE - The Mountainside Twigs, in conjunction with Children's Specialized Hospital, will sponsor a carnival for the siblings and parents of children with special needs. It will take place on Saturday, January 27, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the CSH facility at 150 New Providence Road in Mountainside.

The Twigs, one of the hospital's volunteer groups, has been working with the Recreation/Child Life Department to create an event where parents can spend some quality time and have fun with their other children.

Among the planned activities are carnival-type games with prizes; face and hand painting; crafts; a graffiti wall and family photographs. Should parents feel the need for some quiet time, too, they can participate in the parents-only area where there will be light refreshments, aromatherapy and massages.

Information about the Disabilities Awareness Program at CSH and other programs for siblings of special needs children, including ClubSib and Saturday Sibs, also will be available. There is no fee to attend the carnival; however, those interested are asked to call Linda Nordstrom at (908) 301-5488 by Wednesday, January 24. Registration is limited.

See it all on the Web!  
[www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com)

## CIVIL UNIONS ARE NOW THE LAW

Governor Jon Corzine has just signed into law new Legislation establishing CIVIL UNIONS. It is important to know that your rights can be protected by a pre-Civil Union Agreement (similar to the often utilized pre-Marital Agreement) prior to your entering into a Civil Union.

Should you have any questions about what this means to you, the Cranford Law Firm of Dughi & Hewit, P.C. is pleased to announce that *Mario C. Gurrieri, Esq.* Chair of its Family Law Department, *Richard A. Outhwaite, Esq.* and *Lisa Stein-Browning, Esq.*, will provide a free office conference, so that your rights may be explained and your questions answered in connection with Civil Unions and preceding agreements.

Call (908) 272-0200  
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