

Local Girl Scouts Receive Silver and Gold Awards

FANWOOD - Girl Scouts of Fanwood-Scotch Plains gathered earlier this year to celebrate the accomplishments of girls who have earned the organization's highest awards.

Kris Conlan, Erin Finan, Emily Katz, Barbara Slaugh and Christina Woods each received the Gold Award, the highest earned recognition in Girl Scouting. Eight other girls received the Silver Award, the highest award available to Cadette Girl Scouts.

To earn the Gold Award, a Girl Scout must complete prerequisites in leadership, career exploration, values, goals and community service. Finally, each girl plans and carries out a Gold Award project - a community service project in an area she cares deeply about.

The project requires at least 50 hours of her time and demonstrates her leadership abilities and her commitment to the community. The five Gold Award recipients had each selected a different topic for a final project.

Kris Conlan of Troop 561 sought to help raise awareness of the constant need for volunteers and donations, especially food, by non-profit organizations. Working with the founder of Fanwood's Heart for Humanity organization, Kris helped make Easter baskets from donated materials and delivered them to the needy, delivered food from a food drive and created two food drives of her own.

Kris also created a presentation on how to run a food drive, with tips to encourage others to organize similar efforts. She is a 2008 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and will attend Ramapo College of New Jersey in the fall.

Inspired by her many hours of volunteering with the AGAPE soup kitchen in Elizabeth, Erin Finan of Troop 96 opened a new soup kitchen, Loaves and Fishes, at her church, the First Presbyterian Church in Roselle. It provides homemade meals every Tuesday night.

Erin recruited and organized volunteers to staff the soup kitchen, publicized it and is still the key volunteer there every Tuesday evening. She will be a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School in the fall.

Emily Katz of Troop 821 conducted a health fair for middle school girls. Her "Have Fun, Stay Healthy" workshop was attended by 30 girls, ages 11 to 14, who learned from professionals about nutrition and fitness, and tried out exercise options such as Jazzercise and yoga. Participants also made themselves a salad for lunch.

Additionally, Emily donated yoga mats and a yoga DVD to Girl Scout Camp Hoover, so more girls can learn about yoga at camp. She will be a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School in the fall.

Barbara Slaugh of Troop 561 created a multi-part Gold Award project that focused on veterans and patriotism. She assembled 70 gift bags for a platoon of soldiers serving in Afghanistan and fringed fleece blankets for that platoon to donate to Afghani orphans to create goodwill.

Additionally, Barbara decorated 96 denim squares for Operation: Quiet

Comfort, which will use them in denim quilts for wounded veterans. Finally, she organized an evening program at her church where three veterans spoke about patriotism and service. Barbara is a 2008 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School graduate and plans to attend Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah in the fall.

Christina Woods of Troop 561 is an active member of the First Congregational Church in Westfield and designed a project to clean up and refurbish the church's library and resource center. Her project included reorganizing the books, videos and resource materials, repainting the table, chairs and walls, developing a system to organize the books and catalogue them to facilitate future use.

She also designed a program in which members of the church can donate books to commemorate a special occasion or person. Christina, a 2008 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School graduate, will attend Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pa. in the fall.

The eight Silver Award honorees were Theresa Chrystal, Shannon McGovern, Jessica Moore, Christina Reiman and Nicole Sultatos from Troop 310; Jillian Leahy and Ellen Tomljanovic from Troop 621, and Abigail Slaugh from Troop 851.

Volunteers Make Meals To Go For Needy

WESTFIELD - Brian Higgins Bachmann recently went food shopping to help Woman's Club of Westfield (WCW) provide what is needed to make over 200 lunches for the Bridges Organization.

The Bridges program distributes lunches under bridges and at shelters in Irvington, Newark and New York City to homeless and hungry adults and children. Each lunch contains a ham and cheese sandwich, juice, snack, fruit cup and dessert.

WCW has been doing this for the last eight years, once a month, except in summer, when it is done twice a month.

Brian is the grandson of Woman's Club of Westfield member Anne Magnotti and will be in fifth grade this September at Franklin School in Westfield.

For more WCW information, call (908) 233-2339

Baptist Church to Host Olympic Themed Event

WESTFIELD - In honor of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, the First Baptist Church of Westfield is hosting a fun themed event on Saturday, August 9. The event will feature Olympic games, a sideshow of Beijing and make-your-own missionary bracelets.

The event is open to the community and will run from 4 to 6 p.m., rain or shine. All are welcome, but please register by calling the church office at (908) 233-2278.

The First Baptist Church of Westfield is located at 170 Elm St.



GOOD AS GOLD...Fanwood-Scotch Plains recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award were recognized at a recent ceremony. Pictured, from left to right, are: Christina Woods, Barbara Slaugh, Kris Conlan, Erin Finan and Emily Katz.

Union's Liberty Hall Museum To Host Children's Birthdays

UNION - Children can now celebrate their birthdays in historic fashion with a Liberty Hall Museum Birthday Party. Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University offers two new party themes.

For kids who dream of being a firefighter, the Firefighter Birthday Party allows children to tour Liberty Hall's Firehouse Museum, dress up like real firefighters and explore a real fire truck. Children will also receive a souvenir Liberty Hall Firefighter Helmet.

For children who enjoy playing tea party, the Victorian Tea Birthday Party has them to step back in time and explore tea party traditions from centuries ago. Children will dress up in Victorian wear and tour the Liberty Hall Museum. All children will receive a souvenir wooden fan.

All parties include a private party room, arts and crafts and other party games. Cost is \$15 per child, with the birthday child being free. Reservations are required and must be made two weeks in advance.

For additional party information, call Lorraine Bartone at (908) 527-0400, e-mail lbartone@keane.edu or visit keane.edu/libertyhall.

Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University chronicles more than 200 years of American history. Built in 1772 by William Livingston, New Jersey's first elected governor, the Victorian-style mansion displays forgotten letters from Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin and collections of antique furniture, ceramics, textiles, toys and tools owned by seven generations of the Livingston and Kean families.

The Firehouse is the latest addition to the Museum's complex, housing two antique fire engines and a collection of fire memorabilia.

Liberty Hall is located at 1003 Morris Avenue in Union. It is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday.



LUNCH TO GO...Brian Higgins Bachmann helped the Woman's Club of Westfield shop for food to make 200 lunches. The food went to the Bridges Organization, which helps feed the homeless.

Seminar Series on Grief To Begin in September

CRANFORD - The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford will present an eight-week seminar entitled "Healing the Grieving Heart - A Journey to Wholeness" from Sunday, September 14, through Sunday, November 2.

Patti Williams, a Registered Nurse and pastoral bereavement counselor, and Dr. Virginia Waters, a psychologist, will lead the seminar sessions from 7 to 9 p.m. in the church's Mettam Lounge, located at 11 Springfield Avenue in Cranford. Mrs. Williams and Dr. Waters have offered this seminar for eight years.

The eight sessions will include the stages and tasks of the grieving process, coping mechanisms, taking care of oneself, the changes, challenges and choices that occur, examining one's spiritual journey, exploring how to create memories that can be cherished, and coping with the holidays, loneliness and feelings of being disconnected.

Participants also will have the opportunity to experience a special candlelight service that will include

WHS Class of 1948

Announces Reunion

WESTFIELD - The Westfield High School Class of 1948 will hold a 60th year reunion weekend, beginning on Saturday, October 11, with an informal dinner at Lana's Restaurant in Clark.

The big celebration will take place on Sunday, October 12, at the Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield. Wrapping up the festivities will be a brunch on Monday, October 13, at the Westfield Community Players.

Reunion organizers are trying to locate the following class members: Don Brooks, Shirley Bryant Morrison, Bette Cameron Hoag, Gordon Cameron, Janice Christian Fellman, Kent Corduan, Betty Jane Crutenden Wuillamey, Suzanne Evans Whitney, Dick Gustafson, Joan Healy, Janice Horstman Beam, Wilson Kite, Maureen Kostkos Ford, Dick Kramer, Mary Kyrioglou Demetriou, Barbara McIntosh Carpenter, William Miller, Robert Mulcahy, Tom Parsons, John Payne, June Saal Clark, Eleanor Williams Pierce and Elsie Wirth Hezedeus.

Those interested are asked to e-mail p.norwine@comcast.net.

Deadline Extended For Homestead Rebates

AREA - Senior citizens and persons on Social Security Disability are advised that the filing date for the Homestead Rebate and Property Tax Freeze programs has been extended to Friday, August 15.

For information and forms, call Ed Evans at the Scotch Plains Public Library at (908) 322-5007, ext. 208.

the labyrinth walk and fellowship time. Both of the program leaders and all of the facilitators have experienced significant loss within their own families and lives.

All are welcome, regardless of when their loss occurred, and are invited to bring family members and friends. This seminar, which is dedicated to Mrs. Williams' late husband, the Reverend Bruce D. Williams, is offered free of charge. To register, call the church office at (908) 276-8440.

Festival Seeks Colonial Native American Crafts

MOUNTAINSIDE - The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is looking for artisans, crafts people and food vendors to demonstrate colonial or Native American work and craft skills and to sell their handcrafted wares at Union County's 27th Annual Harvest Festival.

The event is a celebration of colonial and Native American life featuring music, dancing, children's crafts, colonial food, games, a petting zoo and much more. The Harvest Festival will take place, rain or shine, at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside on Sunday, September 28, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Union County Harvest Festival is a popular event that draws nearly 4,000 visitors. By participating, demonstrators and vendors of handcrafted goods will receive excellent exposure and have the opportunity to educate others about their craft or work skill and the colonial time period in general.

Examples of the handicrafts and work skills being sought are: blacksmithing, kick-wheel pottery, broom making, shoe making, hat making, jewelry making and quilting or other colonial or Native American crafts or skills.

For details about how to participate, call the Department of Parks and Community Renewal at (908) 527-4900.

New Health Resource Guide Hits Libraries

TRENTON - All libraries in the state of New Jersey now distribute the NJ Nutrition and Physical Activity Programs Resource Guide, published by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services. The guide lists local nutritional, physical activity and wellness programs.

The guides were distributed through the support of the New Jersey State Library and the Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperative. Programs included are non-profit or free-of-charge, community-based, open to all residents and promote healthy eating and/or physical activity.



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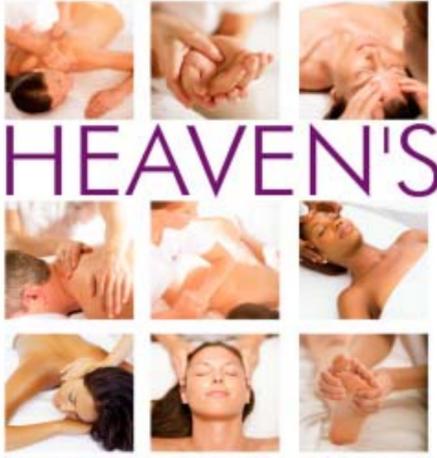


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