

Fanwood Library to Offer Series on Jewish Literature

FANWOOD - Beginning in September, the Fanwood Memorial Library will host a free five-part reading and discussion series called "Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature - Identity and Imagination."

The series will explore Jewish literature and culture through scholarly discussions of contemporary and classic books on a common theme, focusing on "Modern Marvels Jewish Adventures in the Graphic Novel."

The Fanwood Memorial Library is one of more than 350 libraries nationwide receiving grants to host the series, which was developed by Nextbook and the American Library Association.

"We are delighted to have been chosen to host this unique series that will allow patrons a chance to discuss a broad spectrum of themes in Jewish literature with fellow community members and with the help of a well-qualified scholar," said Library Director Dan Weiss.

On Thursday, September 4, at 7 p.m., as a prelude to the series, Mr. Weiss will lead a discussion entitled "Do you know how to read a Graphic Novel?" This session will highlight the medium of the graphic novel, its history and evolution, and will explore its effectiveness in presenting and studying complex issues.

This overview and introduction is designed to help those who are new to this style of literature as they make their way through the books in the discussion series.

The five Jewish artists represented

in the series experiment with words and pictures to tell stories of childhood, war and desire, to conjure up lost worlds, both real and imaginary, and to contemplate history, myth and the individual psyche.

The first program will explore the classic "A Contract With God" by Will Eisner and will be held on Tuesday, September 16, at 7 p.m. Other titles in the series include "The Complete Maus: A Survivor's Tale" by Art Spiegelman, "Julius Knipl, Real Estate Photographer: Stories" by Ben Katchor, "The Quitter" by Harvey Pekar and "The Rabbi's Cat" by Joann Sfar.

All programs will be held at the Fanwood Memorial Library, located at North Avenue and Tillotson Road. Professor Edward Shannon of Ramapo College will introduce each of the books and lead the discussions. Copies of the books will be available at the library starting Monday, September 1. Registration is limited.

On Wednesday, September 17, at 7 p.m., to help kick off the book discussion series and in celebration of the Jewish holidays, the library will host a special concert presentation of Margo Leverett and the Klezmer Mountain Boys. Back by popular demand, they will present their blend of klezmer and bluegrass music.

For details on the rest of the graphic novel discussion series or the concert and to register for either free program, call the library at (908) 322-6400.

Excursion to Thayer Hotel To Feature Big Band Music

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains Senior Citizen Advisory Committee has announced that it will sponsor its final trip for 2008 on Tuesday, October 7, to the Thayer Hotel at West Point.

Cabaeret Lulu's Voices of Broadway will present "And the Angels Sing," featuring the music of Benny Goodman, Harry James and others from the Big Band era.

A buffet lunch also will be included, comprised of soup, salad, cold cuts, cheeses, sirloin of beef, chicken, penne pasta, fruit, pies, cookies, tea and coffee.

The bus (subsidized by the Township of Scotch Plains) will leave at 9:30 a.m. from the Scotch Hills Golf Course parking lot on Jerusalem Road in Scotch Plains.

Registration must be made in the recreation office of the Scotch Plains Municipal Building, located at 430

Park Avenue, with participants furnishing their date of birth.

West Point security also requires that participants carry with them the day of the trip valid identification (driver's license with photograph or current passport), which will be checked at the entrance to the United States Military Academy.

According to the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, this is very important since the bus could be delayed from continuing on to the hotel if security personnel deem it necessary.

Registration for this trip will commence on Tuesday, September 9, for Scotch Plains residents at a cost of \$40, and the following Tuesday, September 16, for non-residents at a cost of \$45. For more information, interested persons are invited to call (908) 322-6700, extension no. 220, or (908) 889-2084.



FAREWELL TO FRIENDS...The Miller-Cory House Museum Volunteers recently bid goodbye to Tom and Dolores Sherry, who are moving from Westfield to Cape Cod, Mass., and thanked them for their many years of support to the museum. Pictured above, Fran Gold, left, president of the Miller-Cory Volunteers, conveys best wishes to the couple. The museum, located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, will reopen for the fall season on Sunday, September 21.

Free Course to Commence For Union County Seniors

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corporation, in conjunction with the Westfield Foundation and the Learning Is Forever (LIFE) Center of Union County College, will sponsor classes on its premises during the fall semester of 2008.

Dr. Christopher Gibbs will teach "American Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War Era." This course will be held on Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon beginning on September 5 at 1133 Boynton Avenue in Westfield.

The Life Center courses are offered free of charge to Union County senior citizens. Registration will take place the first week of class.

Parking is available in the designated parking areas and up until the

Mookeo to Discuss

Dolphins at Meeting

AREA - The Sierra Club invites members of the public to attend its meeting on Wednesday, September 10, when Mookeo (author Tom Brown) speaks on dolphins. He is the author of "The Dolphins' View" trilogy.

The author, who has done extensive research on dolphins, will discuss their nature, their society and the perils they face. Little-known science facts will be revealed and issues involving dolphins in captivity will be spotlighted.

The meeting will take place from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at The Library of The Chatham, located at 214 Main Street in Chatham. Admission is free. For more information, call (973) 263-0344.

Family Swim Night

On Tap Saturday

GARWOOD - The Garwood Recreation Commission will hold its first annual Outdoor Family Swim Night and farewell to local teacher Kelly Dunn, who is leaving for China. All Garwood residents are invited to attend.

This event will take place on Saturday, August 23, from 6 to 10 p.m., weather permitting, at the Manor Park Pool, located at the end of Beech Avenue in Westfield.

A disk jockey and singer will provide entertainment. The cost to attend is \$5 for non-pool members. Participants are asked to bring their own food and beverages. No reservations are required.

The Garwood Recreation Commission is a not-for-profit, government entity comprised of appointed volunteers. For more information about this event or other recreation activities, call the recreation hotline at (908) 418-7649.

Charles Jacobs to Give Tips On Writing and Publishing

SCOTCH PLAINS - The public is invited to the Scotch Plains Public Library on Tuesday, September 16, at 7:30 p.m. to hear award-winning author Charles Jacobs speak about his latest book, "The Writer Within You."

Subtitled "A Step-By-Step Guide to Writing and Publishing in Your Retirement Years," this book was originally geared towards retirees, but has caught on with writers of all ages, according to a statement by the library. It has been chosen as a Writer's Digest Book Club selection and has been included on multiple national best books lists.

As he does in his book, Mr. Jacobs will guide audience members on the basics of writing in various genres - the novel, memoir, how-to and commercial freelancing. Additionally, he will offer insight on how people can promote what they have written, and offer observations on the workings of the publishing world. He also will answer questions and sign books.

Mr. Jacobs is the author of the novel "Blood Bond," as well as multiple magazine and newspaper articles. He also has ghostwritten several books. The author served as a top executive on both newspapers and magazines before retiring to devote himself to writing. He has taught classes in writing and has served as guest speaker for a variety of organizations and at writers conferences sponsored by the National Writers Association.

All programs at the library are free and open to everyone. Pre-registration is highly recommended, as space is limited. The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Av-

enue, one block from Park Avenue, in the center of the township.

For more information, to register or to get directions, call the library at (908) 322-5007, extension no. 204, or e-mail library@scotlib.org.

FUSP Tours and Lunch To Recall Oscar Teale

PLAINFIELD - The First Unitarian Society of Plainfield (FUSP), the congregation of which includes residents of Fanwood, Scotch Plains and Westfield, will celebrate the life and work of Oscar S. Teale on Saturday, September 27. A 19th-century architect, Mr. Teale specialized in churches and designed the FUSP edifice in 1891. He also was a magician and friend of Harry Houdini.

Guided tours will take place between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Besides the FUSP Church on Park Avenue in Plainfield, stops will include the Mary E. Wilson Memorial Chapel in Watchung, the Seventh Day Baptist Church on Central Avenue in Plainfield, the Church of God Prophecy on Park Place in North Plainfield and the home Mr. Teale designed on Mercer Avenue in North Plainfield.

Tickets and tour maps may be obtained by sending a check for \$25 per person made out to First Unitarian Society and mailed to the church at 724 Park Avenue, Plainfield, N.J. 07060. At the door, tickets with maps will be \$30. Lunch will be provided at 1 p.m. at the Park Avenue church. For more information, call Fred Lange at (908) 889-6289.

Build-a-Birdhouse Contest Is Underway In Fanwood

FANWOOD - The Fanwood Environmental Commission is sponsoring its second annual Build-a-Birdhouse Contest. Birdhouses must be hand-made with bird-friendly material, should be able to withstand weather conditions for at least one year and include a suitable mounting mechanism.

Birdhouses will be used in the Fanwood Nature Center or other borough open spaces. Two prizes will be awarded in each of the following two categories: Child (under 13 years) and General (13 years and above).

Entries should be dropped off at the Fanwood Memorial Library during regular library hours by Wednesday, September 17, at 4 p.m.

Winning entries will be announced at the Fanny Wood Day festival on Sunday, September 21. Registration forms are available at the Fanwood Memorial Library at North Avenue and Tillotson Road, the Scotch Plains Public Library at 1927 Bartle Avenue

and at Fanwood Borough Hall at 75 North Martine Avenue.

The form also is available on the Fanwood Environmental Commission website, fanwoodec.org, along with tips and resources on building birdhouses. For more information, contact fanwoodbirdhouse@gmail.com.

Bereavement Group To Begin Next Month

AREA - A new bereavement group for those who have lost a spouse or other loved one is forming at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway that will begin meeting on Wednesday, September 24.

The group will meet for seven consecutive Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the hospital, located at 865 Stone Street. For more information or to register, call the hospital's Hospice office at (732) 499-6169. There is no fee, but individuals are required to register for the program.

4-H First-Grade Pet Club To Get Underway In Fall

WESTFIELD - First-graders interested in learning about pets and who enjoy making crafts are invited to join the Union County 4-H First Grade Pet Club.

As a member of the pet club, youngsters will learn about different pets and proper pet care through hands-on learning, speakers, demonstrations and field trips.

Club meetings take place once a month from October through June on Saturday mornings at the Union County Administrative Services Building, located at 300 North Avenue, East, in Westfield.

This club is open to all first-grade boys and girls who live in Union County. Although there are no membership dues or uniforms, club membership is limited to 10 children.

An adult volunteer leader is screened and trained to facilitate the club activities. Parents are welcome and sometimes asked to take

turns monitoring craft projects and snack time. The first meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 4, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Parents interested in attending the first meeting with their child, or seeking more information, are asked to contact Ellen at the 4-H office at (908) 654-9854, extension no. 2237, or by e-mail at ediorio@ucnj.org.

The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension. 4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades 1 to 12, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender or disability.

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