

Historical Society to Hear Talk on N.J.'s 350th Year

WESTFIELD – The Reverend Dr. Robert Higgs, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth, will discuss the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey at the First Wednesday Luncheon of the Westfield Historical Society. The luncheon will be held at noon on May 2 at the Echo Lake Country Club, located at 515 Springfield Avenue in Westfield.

The year 2014 will mark the 350th anniversary of the land grant given by King Charles II to Lords Carteret and Berkeley, who were authorized to form the provinces of East and West Jersey in the colony of New Jersey. Beginning from a parcel of land obtained from the Lenape Tribe by a group called "Elizabethtown Associates," settlers who came from Connecticut and Massachusetts via Long Island began to settle the region, and the area developed from there.

Planning committees at the regional and statewide levels are being formed to celebrate the "sesquicentennial" of New Jersey. The Reverend Higgs is helping to organize the events and will discuss plans.

The First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth is built over the site of the original meetinghouse constructed by the colonists and played a key role in the American Revolution.

Reverend Higgs has been in ministry for 20 years, serving congregations in Lusaka, Zambia; Pittsburgh, Pa.; California, Pa.; Atlantic City, N.J.; Philadelphia, Pa. and Elizabeth, N.J. A resident of Cherry Hill, he and his wife, Kelly, have three adopted children and two foster children.

Reverend Higgs holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Business Administration degrees from the University of Virginia and a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Seminary. In addition to his duties as pastor, he is executive director of the Old First Historic Trust, a secular non-profit that is renovating the campus of First Church.

All those wishing to attend the luncheon are asked to make a reservation by calling (908) 233-2930 by noon on Monday, April 30. The cost of the luncheon is \$21 for members and \$26 for non-members, including gratuity.



BANNER YEAR... Westfield Girl Scouts took time out from their annual Service Day to salute the Westfield United Fund for its long-standing support. The Girl Scouts are one of three original non-profit agencies that have received funding from the Westfield United Fund since its inception in 1937. The Fund's 2011-2012 campaign closes on April 30 and is still shy of its \$625,000 goal. To make a contribution, call (908) 233-2113 or visit westfieldunitedfund.org.

Miller-Cory to Spotlight Jersey Devil, Other Tales

WESTFIELD – The Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, will present "The New Jersey Devil and Other Tall Tales" this Sunday, April 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. Appropriate for ages 5 and older, this program will shed light on the witches, devils, zombies and ghosts that have become part of Jersey folklore.

The event also will include tours of the fully furnished colonial-era farmhouse given by costumed docents. In the museum's Frazee Building, members of the cooking committee will prepare dishes over the open-hearth fire using authentic colonial methods and seasonal ingredients. The gift shop will be open, offering a variety of colonial toys, crafts, books and educational materials. Admission will be \$3 for adults, \$1 for students and free for children under age 4.

Upcoming Sunday programs include house tours on May 6 and "Cleanliness is in the Mind of the Beholder" on May 20. Also coming up is the museum's annual "Aunt Carrie's Attic Sale" on Saturday, May 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain date is Sunday, May 27). The public is invited to attend the sale and also to donate items such as housewares, books (excluding textbooks), linens,

toys, bric-a-brac or small furniture pieces. The museum is not accepting clothing, electronics of any kind or anything that is broken.

Interested persons are asked to call or e-mail the museum to arrange a drop-off time between May 1 and May 25. All donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, or to arrange a tour or other program, call the museum office weekday mornings at (908) 232-1776 or e-mail millercorymuseum@gmail.com. Details on programs also can be found on the museum's Facebook page. The website is millercoryhouse.org.

Peace Corps Alumna To Speak at FUMC

WESTFIELD – The First United Methodist Church will welcome Catherine Cronin this Sunday, April 29, at 11:30 a.m. She will speak to guests in the church's Fellowship Hall about her experiences in the Peace Corps.

Ms. Cronin worked for the Peace Corps from 1989 to 1991 in Nepal, tackling the problems associated with the lack of clean water. In her role as assistant district engineer, she worked on building the water systems and teaching sanitation to the local population. More than 20 years later, availability of clean water has become increasingly problematic.

The First United Methodist Church is located at One East Broad Street in Westfield. For more information, call the church office at (908) 233-4211.

Local Library to Feature Morgans' Art and Poetry

SCOTCH PLAINS – Long Beach Island watercolorist Pat Morgan will be featured at the Scotch Plains Public Library, exhibiting her work from Sunday, April 29, through Friday, May 18.

On Thursday, May 17, at 7 p.m., her husband, Richard Morgan, will speak at the library on his belief that there is poetry in everyone, and will read from his two recently published books, "I am Sea Glass" and "Sea Glass People."

Following her retirement, Pat Morgan began classes in watercolor. She has studied with well-known artists Janet Walsh, Charles Reid and Mel Stabin. Mrs. Morgan has received multiple local and regional awards and is a signature member of the North East Watercolor Society and an elected member of the Salmagundi Art Club.

Her paintings have been accepted into the Hudson Valley Art Association, the Garden State Watercolor Society and the New Jersey Watercolor Society juried exhibits.

Mrs. Morgan's work, using a light sensitive touch, often evokes a soothing, peaceful state. When not painting or in her gardens, she enjoys teaching other painters her love

of watercolor. The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue, one block from Park Avenue, in the center of the township. Library hours are Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.



SISTERS STROLL... Watercolorist Pat Morgan, whose painting, "Sisters Stroll," is pictured above, will have an exhibit of her work at the Scotch Plains Public Library this Sunday, April 29, through May 18.

Mountainside Announces Memorial Day Activities

MOUNTAINSIDE – The Borough of Mountainside will sponsor a Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 28, followed by a parade honoring those who died in service to their nation.

The ceremony will take place at noon at the veterans flagpole monument on Constitution Plaza (between the fire house and the library). Upon conclusion of the ceremony, veterans, scouts, rescue squad, fire department and police personnel, along with community groups, will parade toward Deerfield School.

The parade will proceed from Constitution Plaza up to Bridle Path to Wood Valley Road to Central Avenue, ending in the Deerfield School parking lot. It is expected to conclude at 1 p.m.

The grand marshal of the parade will be William "Bill" Tomko, a long-time Mountainside resident and highly decorated veteran of World War II. A Purple Heart recipient, Mr. Tomko also was re-

cently honored with the French Legion of Honor Medal, France's highest decoration.

While serving in the United States Navy aboard the USS Barnett, Mr. Tomko took part in the invasions of Sicily, Marseilles and the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

The Mountainside Memorial Day Parade Committee is comprised of individuals representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mountainside Borough Council, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, fire department and rescue squad.

The committee invites members of the community to attend the ceremony and parade to show their appreciation for the veterans.

Any Mountainside veterans wishing to march or ride in the parade (vehicles will be provided) are asked to call Bill Tomko at (908) 232-2941. For further information about the parade, call Carol Goggi at (908) 789-9420.

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