

Local Synagogue to Present 'Jewish Afterlife' Feb. 26

CRANFORD—The Martin and Edith Stein Hospice will present a program entitled "The Jewish Afterlife ... and Getting There Gently," featuring Bruce Birnberg, on Sunday, February 26. It will take place at 9 a.m. at Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim, located at 338 Walnut Avenue in Cranford.

While people read about death and dying, listen to music around it and watch movies depicting it, most individuals prefer not to think about their own mortality, at least until they are confronted with the inevitable.

Mr. Birnberg, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and executive director of The Martin and Edith Stein Hos-

pace, will suggest a novel approach to dealing with death: laughter.

Although death can be a heavy subject, Mr. Birnberg will present it in a different light through this multi-cultural, multi-media event designed to further educate people about the Jewish afterlife.

Breakfast will be served (dietary laws will be observed). The program is free and will be jointly sponsored by The Chesed Connection of Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim in Cranford, Congregation Anshe Chesed in Linden and The Martin and Edith Stein Hospice in Somerset.

Interested persons are asked to respond by Monday, February 20, to chesed@tbmc.org or (908) 276-9231. For more information on Mr. Birnberg's program or hospice care, call (732) 227-1212 or visit wilfcampus.org or the Stein Hospice blog at steinhospice.blogspot.com.

NAMI Announces 'Circle of Friends'

WESTFIELD—The Union County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) invites members of the community to come to its "Circle of Friends" gathering on Tuesday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m. It will take place at Martin Wallberg American Legion Post No. 3, located at 1003 North Avenue in Westfield.

During this free, informal evening of discussion, participants will have an opportunity to listen and learn about what services, programs and techniques are available to help individuals deal with the problems.

Joyce Benz, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and director of Intensive Family Support Services for the Union County Mental Health Association, along with other panel members, will bring participants up to date on services available in this area. There is no charge to attend. For more information, visit nami-nj-uc.org.

Judge Wertheimer Joins Dughi, Hewit & Domalewski

CRANFORD—Dughi, Hewit & Domalewski, P.C. of Cranford is pleased to announce that recently retired Superior Court Judge William L.E. Wertheimer has joined the firm as Of Counsel. Judge Wertheimer retired as the most senior judge in the Superior Court, Union County, and the third most senior judge statewide, having served the judiciary for more than 27 years. In addition to his responsibilities as a trial court judge, he served as Presiding Judge of both the Civil and Criminal Divisions in Union County and on the Appellate Division.

While on the bench, Judge Wertheimer earned a reputation as an excellent judge with a deep knowledge of the law and a keen insight into resolving complex legal disputes fairly. He managed, settled and tried many of the most difficult cases pending in Union County, involving commercial, construction, toxic tort, products liability, insurance, professional liability and serious personal injury matters.

Senior partner John Dughi commented, "Judge Wertheimer was a superb trial judge and, before that, an outstanding lawyer. He brings to the firm invaluable knowledge, judgment and wisdom. Our lawyers, and, more importantly, our clients, will benefit greatly from his insight and advice."

Judge Wertheimer will head the firm's Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation department and serve as Special Master in complex litigation cases pending in the state and

federal courts. In addition, he will counsel and advise clients on trial preparation, settlement and trial strategies with matters pending in state and federal court and represent clients in select matters in federal court.

Judge Wertheimer noted, "I am not retiring, but starting a new career with new opportunities. I worked with the lawyers at Dughi, Hewit & Domalewski before I was a judge, and had the pleasure of them trying many cases before me as a judge. I am excited about my new career with the firm."

Judge Wertheimer graduated from Lafayette College and George Washington University School of Law. He was commissioned in the United States Army (Infantry) in 1964 and served on active duty from 1967 to 1969. He was Chief Trial Counsel to Courts and Boards at Fort Dix. Upon his discharge from the U.S. Army, he entered the private practice of law and was a partner in a major Newark firm specializing in complex civil disputes and litigation before his appointment to the court.

He is a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers, a life fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a member of the American Arbitration Association as well as a sustaining member of the Union County Bar Association and is listed in "Who's Who in America Law."

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DISTINGUISHED VETERAN... Union County Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella, second from right, and Vice-Chairwoman Linda Carter, right, present a resolution to William Tomko of Mountainside, center, congratulating him on receiving the French Legion of Honor Medal for his service in World War II. This distinction underlines the deep appreciation and gratitude of the French people who were liberated during the war. Mr. Tomko served aboard the *USS Barnett*, an amphibious transport ship, which took part in the invasions of Sicily, Italy, Marseilles in the south of France and the D-Day invasion of Normandy. He additionally saw action in the Pacific Theater at Okinawa. Also pictured are Mr. Tomko's wife, Maria, and Richard Thompson of the Union County Office of Veterans Affairs.

Reflections on the Need For Love Extending Beyond Valentine's Day

Cards with intimate messages, flowers, candlelight dinners, special gifts—all these and more make Valentine's Day a heartwarming experience that expresses love. Why not? And one wonders what other seen or unseen signs of love are exchanged between people after Valentine's Day. One of our greatest needs is to know that we are accepted and loved. Each one of us has to feel certain, deep down in our heart, that someone loves us, cares for us, and has our best interests at heart. That is a deep-rooted need in everyone's inner self, our psyche. We want to know that someone special loves us with good intentions, too difficult to describe. A father and mother in an intimate moment of love, lust or passion caused our conception. After our birth, without some reasonable affection, and care, we would not have survived. Even those tidbits of love that we have experienced as growing children have instilled in us an inexhaustible potential for love. Love is a state of being. Love is not an outside feeling; it is deep within each

person. We can never lose it, and it can never leave us.

Imagine if all human relationships began with the belief that people are innately wonderful and beautiful—and with an inner capacity to love. It may be hard to conceive this, for we may not see this capacity in ourselves. Yet beyond our superficiality we are people with a potential for loving. We need to learn to respect the image and likeness of God in others and be part of love as the one great reality in which we can all live. With practice, we will realize that we can look through others instead of just at them; we will understand others with a capacity to love despite some outwardly unloving behaviors. Why take the trouble? Because we do live in the world and because our own peace of mind and health of body and soul are totally dependent on the relationships we establish with others. Simply put: We need to move from love platitudes to loving attitudes and actions.

Peter Kalellis
Westfield

Scotch Plains Library Slates Screening of 'Revolution '67'

SCOTCH PLAINS—The public is invited to a free screening of *Revolution '67* on Monday, February 27, at 7 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Public Library and to speak with the filmmakers during a discussion afterwards.

This award-winning documentary looks at the six-day Newark, N.J. outbreak in July of 1967 that led to 26 people dead, 725 injured and close to 1,500 arrested. The film reveals how the disturbances began as spontaneous revolts against poverty and police brutality, and ended as fateful milestones in America's struggles over race and economic justice.

Former New Jersey Governor Brendan Byrne, who served as Essex County prosecutor in 1967, stated, "*Revolution '67* dramatically reminded us of what I have called 'the awakening.' I was fascinated by every moment."

Husband and wife filmmakers Marylou Tibaldo-Bongiorno and Jerome Bongiorno began making the film as a student project in 2003. It was completed in 2007 and shown on PBS' POV and worldwide.

A lifelong Newark resident, Ms. Tibaldo-Bongiorno has said, "We made the film to understand why Newark is in the state it's in. We really had to go back to the riots in '67 and then realized the story is much deeper. It goes back through decades of neglect and federal poli-

cies, and it didn't just happen here, but all over the country and all over the world."

All interested members of the public are invited to attend this program. Pre-registration is recommended. To register or for more information, call the library at (908) 322-5007, extension no. 204, e-mail library@scotlib.org or register on the library's website, scotlib.org.

The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Burtle Avenue, one block from Park Avenue, in the center of the township.

Mental Health Center Plans Fundraiser

SCOTCH PLAINS—UCPC Behavioral Healthcare, a not-for-profit community mental health center located in Plainfield, is planning a fundraising gala to be held on Friday evening, March 30, at Snuffy's Pantages Renaissance in Scotch Plains.

The event will include live music and dancing, speakers, a Mini Tricky Tray and other prizes. Members of the community are invited to attend. Individual tickets are \$65 and additional information may be obtained by calling Yasmin at (908) 756-6870, extension no. 613, by e-mail at yacosta@ucpcbhc.org or via the center's website, ucpcbhc.org.



Kristin M. Capallo, Esq., Mario C. Gurrieri, Esq. (Chair), Richard A. Outwaite, Esq., and Andrew J. Economos, Esq.

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POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Monday, February 6, Laketha Gregory, 37, who authorities believe is currently homeless, was arrested on an outstanding fugitive warrant from Gwinnett County, Ga. Gregory was encountered on the 300 block of Brightwood Avenue and arrested on the no-bail warrant.

Thursday, February 9, Diane Haynes, 28, of Newark was arrested on the 1500 block of Lamberts Mill Road on an outstanding warrant from Maplewood Township in the amount of \$155. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released on her own recognizance.

Thursday, February 9, a contractor working in the area of the 200 block of Prospect Street reported that unknown individuals have been illegally dumping paint in the area.

Thursday, February 9, a business on the 300 block of East South Avenue reported a shoplifting incident. The suspect was described as a black male, in his middle 40s, 6 feet tall, 200 pounds, with salt-and-pepper facial hair, wearing a black leather jacket, blue denim jeans and black sunglasses on top of his head. The individual entered the business, concealed two bottles of liquor in his jacket and exited the store without paying for the merchandise, according to police. The suspect then fled the area in a gold Ford Taurus. The total value of the theft was \$99.98. The incident currently is under investigation.

Friday, February 10, Benny Rouland, 43, of Newark was arrested at Plainfield police headquarters on an outstanding Westfield criminal warrant in the amount of \$5,000. He was transported to the Union County jail in lieu of bail.

Friday, February 10, Andrzej Rzymiski, 21, of Woodbridge was arrested on outstanding warrants from Aberdeen, in the amount of \$114, and Union, in the amount of \$80, pursuant to a motor vehicle stop at Central Avenue and Park Street. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released on posted bail.

Saturday, February 11, Angel Zayas, 30, of Roselle was arrested on outstanding traffic warrants from Westampton, in the amount of \$270, and Cranford, in the amount of \$89, pursuant to a motor vehicle stop at Laurel Place and Central Avenue. Zayas was transported to police headquarters, processed and released on posted bail.

Saturday, February 11, David Ferrer, Jr., 29, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding traffic warrant from Bellmawr, in the amount of \$120, pursuant to a motor vehicle stop at South and Central Avenues. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released on posted bail.

Saturday, February 11, a resident of the 100 block of North Scotch Plains Avenue reported that unknown individuals scratched the entire exterior of a motor vehicle that was parked in the driveway.

Saturday, February 11, Daniel Kahaner, 22, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding Woodbridge warrant in the amount of \$3,000 after turning himself in at police headquarters. He was processed and released after posting bail.

Saturday, February 11, a resident of the 500 block of Summit Avenue reported a burglary and the theft of a bicycle from a shed. According to the victim, the incident occurred between 3 p.m. on February 10 and 8 a.m. on February 11. Someone entered the unlocked shed and stole a burgundy-colored specialized "step-through frame" bicycle, valued at \$500.

Scotch Plains

Monday, February 6, a business owner on Jerusalem Road reported that sometime overnight someone spray painted the wall behind his business.

Monday, February 6, a resident of Oxford Road reported that sometime during the day someone entered his residence and, once inside, removed several thousand dollars worth of jewelry. According to police, someone gained entry by breaking a window on the back door and using the key that was left in the deadbolt.

Monday, February 6, a resident of Lyde Place reported that sometime during the last few weeks someone removed several personnel documents from her motor vehicle.

Monday, February 6, a student at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School reported that he left his phone in his bag during class and when he returned, the phone, valued at approximately \$250, was gone.

Tuesday, February 7, a resident of Westfield Avenue reported that sometime over the last several weeks someone removed her bicycle, valued at approximately \$500, which was left on the side of her house.

Wednesday, February 8, a resident of Brookside Drive reported that sometime overnight someone entered his unlocked motor vehicle, which was parked in his driveway, and removed multiple pieces of

electronics valued at approximately \$1,000.

Wednesday, February 8, Jerome Waites, 27, of Rahway was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Raritan Road on an outstanding \$250 warrant issued by the Scotch Plains Court. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Thursday, February 9, Anthony Acosta, 21, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 on an outstanding \$200 warrant issued by the Plainfield Court. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Friday, February 10, Lagamont Robinson, 21, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue on an outstanding \$250 warrant issued by the Plainfield Court. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Friday, February 10, Dennis Green, 50, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Plainfield Avenue on an outstanding \$1,500 warrant issued by the Plainfield Court. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Saturday, February 11, Candyce Craig, 26, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with possession of prescription drugs after a motor vehicle stop on Raritan Road. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Sunday, February 12, Tara Pawlick, 27, of Winfield was arrested and charged with possession of prescription drugs after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Sunday, February 12, Jessica Martinez, 24, of Scotch Plains was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue on an outstanding \$181 warrant issued by the Scotch Plains Court. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Fanwood

Wednesday, February 8, Jeffrey Vazquez, 21, of Clifton was arrested on an active warrant out of Montclair after a motor vehicle stop at Terrill Road and Columbia Avenue. He was processed, posted bail and released.

Wednesday, February 8, Melissa Wade, 32, of Palisades Park was arrested on an active warrant out of Palisades Park after a motor vehicle stop at Terrill Road and East 3rd Street. She was processed, posted bail and released.

Thursday, February 9, Tyrell Ferguson-Wade, 26, of Plainfield was arrested on an active warrant out of Scotch Plains after a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and Terrill Road for a motor vehicle violation. He was processed, posted bail and released.

Thursday, February 9, Ramon Valera, 64, of Fanwood was arrested and charged with forgery after an investigation on North Avenue by the Fanwood train station. According to police, an officer was speaking with Valera and noticed the vehicle he was operating displayed a fictitious train station parking permit. He was processed and released pending his court hearing.

Friday, February 10, Rodwell Gill, 65, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on the 200 block of South Avenue on an active warrant out of Plainfield. He was processed, posted bail and released.

Friday, February 10, Danielle Nigo, 23, of Fanwood was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and Sheelens Crossing on an active warrant out of Springfield. She was processed, posted bail and released.

Friday, February 10, Robenson Germain, 47, of Roselle was arrested on an active warrant out of Roselle after a motor vehicle stop at South and Locust Avenues. He was processed, posted bail and released.

Sunday, February 12, Jabbar Figgs, 40, of Plainfield was arrested on an active warrant out of the Union County Sheriff's Office after a report of a suspicious person in the area of Martine Avenue and Pateron Road. He was processed and turned over to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Mountainside

Thursday, February 9, a resident of Chipmunk Hill reported that someone in Maryland opened a Verizon account in her name and made \$600 worth of fraudulent charges. According to police, Verizon cancelled the account.

Friday, February 10, Judith Battiloro, 43, of Kenilworth was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and trespassing after an incident that occurred on Route 22.

Saturday, February 11, Nelson M. Pena, 21, of Plainfield was picked up at the Union County Police Department and charged with an outstanding warrant in the amount of \$182.

Sunday, February 12, Artur P. Coelho, 54, of Kearny was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Mill Lane for allegedly driving with a suspended license. He was processed and released at the scene.

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