

## King Association Announces Essay-Poetry-Art Contest

WESTFIELD – The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Westfield will conduct its 25th Annual Interfaith Commemorative Service on Monday, January 16, starting at 1 p.m. It will take place at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, located at the corner of Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street. This year's school theme for the essay, poetry and art contest is "Economic Justice."

The program also will include several awards given to deserving Westfield students for artwork, poetry and essays. As under previous guidelines, all entries should include the student's name, grade and school and be forwarded to the main office of the student's school by the deadline established by each school. Essays should be between 200 and 400 words in length and should be typed or neatly written. Any artwork will be returned to the student; however, poetry and essays will not be returned.

Judging for the essays, artwork and poetry will be held on Saturday, January 7, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Westfield Community Center, located at 558 West Broad Street. The MLK

Association reminds all students that their submission must be their own work, not the work of their parents or friends, and that this contest is conducted on the honor system. The association will notify all prize recipients during the week prior to the service. The public is welcome to come in to assist in the judging for a particular grade level. Anyone with questions about the contest, or who would like to participate in the judging, is asked to contact a member of the MLK Association or e-mail Elizabeth Wolf at elizabethwolf@eawolf.com.

Winners from both intermediate and elementary schools will receive savings bonds varying in amounts from \$50 to \$250 for first through third place.

In addition to raising funds for awards and scholarships, the committee is seeking donations to beautify the Dr. King Monument that is located on the South Avenue Circle. Donations may be sent to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Westfield, P.O. Box 2501, Westfield, N.J. 07091-2501. For more information, call Noel Brown at (908) 553-0703.



HELPING HANDS... Ten volunteers from the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes in Mountainside joined Greater Plainfield Habitat for Humanity to help build a home on December 10 during an "Adopt A Day" event sponsored by the parish.

## Our Lady of Lourdes Team Helps Habitat For Humanity

MOUNTAINSIDE – While others were shopping, wrapping, baking, decorating, entertaining or traveling in preparation for Christmas, 10 volunteers from Mountainside's Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes picked up hammers and shovels to help build a home in Plainfield.

The group, comprised of Mountainside youth, women and men, ranging in age from 16 to 50-plus, volunteered their time and energy December 10 toward building a home for Habitat for Humanity. As part of the Greater Plainfield Habitat for Humanity's "Adopt A Day" program, the parish community of Our Lady of Lourdes raised more than the \$2,500 required to sponsor this "Adopt A Day."

With that sponsorship, the parish was able to send 10 volunteers to participate in this endeavor. At any given time during the very chilly December day, one witnessed three young men digging holes, mixing concrete and filling footings for the front porch. Toward the back of the two-story house, three men were installing siding on the detached garage while the women were constructing decking at the back door.

A group of Girl Scouts from Mountainside provided lunch for the volunteer crew. Once fortified

with sandwiches and cookies, the volunteers continued their work until the volunteer work supervisor called it a day.

Habitat for Humanity is one of the largest homebuilders in the United States. Since its founding, Habitat has built, rehabilitated, repaired or improved more than 500,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 2.5 million people. Homes are built "in partnership" by the homeowner families and volunteers. Each homeowner family must contribute 400 hours of sweat equity in the building of their home.

For information on volunteering for Habitat for Humanity or to contribute, call (908) 769-5292 or go to [gphabitat.org/home](http://gphabitat.org/home).

## Crane-Phillips to Offer Storytime-Craft Event

CRANFORD – Area residents are invited to visit the Crane-Phillips House Museum on Sunday, January 22, from 2 to 4 p.m. for a "Winter Story Time and Craft" program. Participants will have an opportunity to listen to a story about winters past in addition to making a Victorian craft.

The Crane-Phillips House Museum, located at 124 North Union Avenue in Cranford, is open September through May on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. or by appointment. Admission is free. Interested persons are asked to respond in advance by calling (908) 276-0082 to reserve a spot.

Founded in 1927, the Cranford Historical Society's mission is to preserve and perpetuate the history of Cranford. To see the rest of the schedule or to become a member, visit the organization's website, [cranfordhistoricalsociety.com](http://cranfordhistoricalsociety.com), or call the office at (908) 276-0082.

## Retirees' Meeting On Tap Tuesday

MOUNTAINSIDE – The Mountainside Active Retirees (MAR) will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, January 10, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Mountainside Municipal Building, located at 1385 Route 22, East.

Guest speaker Dave Larkin from Bank of America will discuss the subject of Social Security. Following his presentation, Deanne Andre will give an update on the "First Alert System in Mountainside." All MAR meetings are held on the second floor in the Community Room.

All retirees are invited to attend this first meeting of 2012. Refreshments will be served.

## Aaron Arkin Raises Money To Aid Brazilian Rainforest

FANWOOD – Aaron Arkin, a seventh-grade Terrill Middle School student and member of Temple Shalom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains, is raising money to plant trees in the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest in preparation to become a bar mitzvah.

As part of becoming a bar or bat mitzvah (one who is responsible for the commandments of Judaism), students at Temple Shalom are required to create a mitzvah project to show that they realize their personal responsibility to make the world a better place.

So far, Aaron has raised nearly \$1,000 toward his goal of \$1,500 for the Plant a Billion Foundation.

Trees planted by the Foundation provide oxygen and produce products, such as wood and fruits, which can provide a profit for local farmers. In addition, these trees help support the Brazilian ecosystem.

"I believe that the environment is one of the most important com-

ponents to the survival and well-being of the world," said Aaron, whose father, Jeffrey Arkin, helped him create a website where people can easily donate, [wepay.com/donate/31684](http://wepay.com/donate/31684). Aaron will become a bar mitzvah on January 28.



Aaron Arkin

## Miller-Cory to Spotlight 'Legend of La Befana'

WESTFIELD – The Miller-Cory House Museum will celebrate "The Legend of La Befana," the kindly witch of Italy's Christmas season, this Sunday, January 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. The museum is located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield.

La Befana is one of Italy's oldest and most celebrated legends. Each year on the evening of January 5, according to the legend, the "Christmas witch" flies among the clouds searching for the Christ Child. Children awaken the next day in the hope that she has visited their house and left a nice gift (not a lump of coal!).

Museum volunteers will bring the legend of La Befana to life in a re-enactment of her Christmas tale. The program will be given every half hour starting at 2 p.m., with the last

one at 3:30 p.m. Visiting children also may color their own Befana story and enjoy light refreshments.

Admission will be \$3 for adults and \$1 for students; children under age 4 may attend for free. Upcoming Sunday programs at the museum include "The History of Snowmen" on January 22; "A Collection of Novelty Valentines" on February 5 and "Abraham Lincoln and the Old School House" on February 12.

The museum is available for tours for school groups during the week as well as for scout troops after school on weekdays. Special programs also may be arranged on site for schools and other community groups.

For more information, visit the museum's Facebook page, call the office weekdays mornings at (908) 232-1776 or e-mail [millercoreymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:millercoreymuseum@gmail.com). The museum's website is [millercoreyhouse.org](http://millercoreyhouse.org).

## Holy Trinity Seniors Post Jan. 9 Meeting

WESTFIELD – The Holy Trinity Senior Social Club will meet on Monday, January 9, at 1:30 p.m. in the Holy Trinity Interparochial School gymnasium, located at 336 First Street in Westfield. The "Roxies," a dance ensemble, will provide entertainment. Refreshments will be served.

The club expresses appreciation to Father Matthew Looney, who planned the group's Christmas trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse last month. Additionally, the club wishes to thank everyone who contributed to the success of its recent Christmas luncheon. Members are asked to continue to bring non-perishable food items for the local food pantry.

## Caregivers Meeting To Be Held Monday

WESTFIELD – A support group for those caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones meets on the first non-holiday Monday of each month at 8 p.m. in the parish center of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church on Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield.

These are information and sharing sessions. The next meeting will take place on January 9. For more information, call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 232-1214.



HAPPY CHANUKAH... Young families got ready for the Jewish festival of lights December 10 at the annual pre-Chanukah pajama party at Temple Shalom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains. The two-hour program, led by Director of Education Michelle Shapiro Abraham and Student Cantor Vicky Glikin and organized by volunteer chairwoman Stacey Bender, included wooden dreidel decorating, card making, cookie decorating and a dinner of pizza, latkes and Chanukah doughnuts. Pictured above, Lyubov Khordos decorates dreidels with some of the children.

## Temple Shalom to Continue 'Jews Clues' This Sunday

FANWOOD – This year, Temple Shalom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains is offering a new twist on its popular Jews Clues program. The new "Celebration Series," designed for children ages 2 to 4 accompanied by a caregiver, explores holidays, stories and traditions through play, music, arts and crafts.

The second lesson of this series, "On The Doorposts of My House," will take place this Sunday, January 8. Sessions are held on Sunday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains. The cost is \$15 per session.

"When the families arrive that morning, they go on a hunt for the three 'Jews clues' hidden around the

room," said Director of Education Michelle Shapiro Abraham. "When they find the clues, they figure out together what Jewish tradition they are learning about that day."

Participants in this Sunday's program will create mezuzahs to take home and will receive a copy of the book "A Mezuzah on the Door" by Amy Meltzer.

All families are welcome to participate in this program. Temple membership or any previous knowledge of Judaism is not required. To register or for more information about Temple Shalom's worship and programs for young families, visit [sholomnj.org](http://sholomnj.org) or call (908) 889-4900.

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