

Boy Scout Organization Is Not Living Up to Its Tenets

By RABBI DOUGLAS SAGAL

Let me say at the outset that I have always loved the Boy Scouts. I was an active member of my troop in Berkeley Heights, serving as a patrol leader for quite some time. I memorized the Boy Scout creed and took it to heart. To this day, I admire Eagle Scouts tremendously.

My Scoutmaster, Mr. Baldwin, was one of the finest men I have known. He insisted that we act with integrity, honesty and humility. He would not tolerate inconsiderate behavior from anyone and was not afraid to insist that scouts be respectful and tolerant of one another and of the adult volunteers. The only thing that mattered to him was character. He was a skilled outdoorsman, and I learned many camping and survival lessons from him. (He loved winter camping and thought it was "fun" to camp in below-freezing temperatures).

He was deeply religious, and on weekend camping trips he would always hold "church" services. Even though I was of a different faith, I always participated because of my deep respect for him. I will

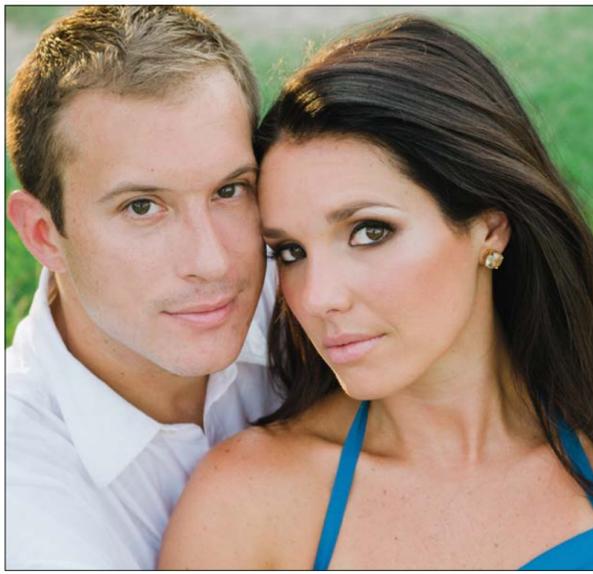
never forget that when I was scared to take on a leadership role, he gently took me aside and said, "Doug, there are times in life when you just have to step up, even when you are scared."

So it was with a heavy heart and bitter disappointment that I learned that the Boy Scouts have reaffirmed their policy of excluding gay men and boys from their organization. This violates one of my core religious principles, that we are all created in God's image, whether we are black or white, male or female, gay or straight (see Genesis 1:27). I believe that the Boy Scouts have violated their own precious tenets in voting to openly discriminate against some boys and men who wish to participate in this once great organization.

How can it be that a young gay man can risk his life for our country at the age of 18, but be denied access to the Boy Scouts at age 16?

I know what my old scoutmaster, Mr. Baldwin, would say.

Rabbi Sagal is senior rabbi at Temple Emanu-El, located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield.



Steven Krakauer and Ms. Meghan McPartland

Steven Krakauer to Marry Ms. Meghan McPartland

Sherry and Andy Krakauer of Westfield, N.J. are happy to announce the engagement of their son, Steven, to Ms. Meghan McPartland, daughter of Leigh and David Kelley of Kingwood, Tex.

Mr. Krakauer graduated from Westfield High School in 2002 and the Newhouse School at Syracuse University in 2006.

Ms. McPartland graduated from Kingwood High School and received her undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Tex. and her graduate degree in organizational public re-

lations from California State University in 2006. The bride-to-be works for CNN for "Piers Morgan Tonight," responsible for all of U.S. publicity.

The future bridegroom works for CNN as the senior digital producer for the network. His first job was as a writer for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, where he worked for several years, writing articles and creating "The Student View" column while a high school student.

The couple will be married in February of 2013 in Houston, Tex.



HAPPY CAMPERS...Wearing their own tie-dyed tees, children enjoy a closing song at last year's Vacation Bible School at the First Congregational Church. This year's camp will offer a special weekend format, August 3 to 5, and feature a lighthouse theme. The program will include activities, lessons and community service. It will take place at the First Congregational Church, located at 125 Elmer Street in Westfield. To register, contact the church at (908) 233-2494 or fccofwestfield.org. Registration is requested by Tuesday, July 31.

Weekend VBS to Take Place At FCC From August 3 to 5

WESTFIELD - Children ages 4 through junior-high school and their families are invited to enroll in a special weekend format of Vacation Bible School Friday through Sunday, August 3 to 5, at the First Congregational Church. The camp is open to all area children and church membership is not required.

Entitled "Rocky Point Lighthouse," this year's camp will combine activities, lessons and community service around the theme of shining God's light for all. The camp will begin with a family picnic on Friday evening at 6 p.m. Saturday will feature a full-day, multi-age program of games, crafts and activities, including preparing lunches for the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless. The weekend will culminate on Sunday with a special coffee hour on the lawn following the 10 a.m. worship service.

Vacation Bible School is held at the church at 125 Elmer Street in Westfield. The cost is \$25 per child (maximum \$60 for families with more than two children). Registration is requested by Tuesday, July 31; applications can be found at

fccofwestfield.org or by calling the church office at (908) 233-2494.

The Knight Owls Plan Album Release Show

KENILWORTH - Woodbridge's The Knight Owls will release their sophomore album, "Turning the Triad," to the public for the first time on Saturday, August 11, at 10th St. Live during an album release show.

Not only will the band debut a new album, and a new member (Christopher Bruno - guitar/back-up vocals), but it also will begin fusing themes of psychedelic rock with its established blues, folk and country roots.

Led by father-and-son duo John and Matt Check, the Knight Owls released their debut album, "Who Gives a Hoot," in 2010. In the past year, the band has raised charitable funds for both the Arthritis Foundation and the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, as well as for the medical expenses of brain-injury patient Nikolas Ruck.

Doors will open at 7:30 p.m.; the first act will perform shortly thereafter. 10th St. Live is located at 104 North 10th Street in Kenilworth.

Two-Session Extension Class To Feature Seafood Benefits

WESTFIELD - The Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County will once again offer its popular "Seafood at its Best" cooking class, complete with food tastings.

The two-session class will be held on Wednesdays, August 1 and 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Extension offices in the County Services Building, located at 300 North Avenue East in Westfield.

"After hearing great things about the 'Seafood at its Best' program, I am happy to see it being offered again," said Union County Freeholder Linda Carter. "The class is taught by a Rutgers nutrition expert, so this is a good opportunity to learn new recipes while getting reliable information about the benefits of seafood."

As part of a healthy diet, seafood is linked to improved heart health, brain function and overall well-being.

Led by Karen Enslie of Rutgers University, the class will include information on selecting and preparing different types of seafood, along with food safety tips.

Pre-registration is required by mail to Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 300 North Avenue East, Westfield, N.J. 07090, Attention: Judi Laganga, with a check for \$25 made out to "NJ Cooperative Extension-Cook."

For more information on "Seafood at its Best" and all other Extension programs, call (908) 654-9854. The Rutgers Cooperative Extension is supported in part by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.



LIFTOFF!...Have you ever wanted to build and fly your own model rocket? At the Westfield Area "Y," campers in rocket camp learned about the aerodynamics and physics behind each launch. The "Y" holds camps for children ages 3 to 15 with different interests, including specialty camps such as rocket camp. For a full list of the camps offered by the Westfield Area "Y," visit westfieldnj.org. Pictured, counselor Colleen Martin assists Benjamin Dunford with his launch.

Library Program to Address Canning, Preserving Food

FANWOOD - The Fanwood Memorial Library will present a program entitled "Can It with Jenny Lichtenwalner" beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 31. Participants will learn how they can easily can and preserve produce they buy or have grown in their backyard. The library is located at North Avenue and Tillotson Road.

A Roselle Park resident, Ms. Lichtenwalner will discuss canning and other home food preservation methods. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about the canning process and what supplies are needed in order to preserve food at home.

Canning is a method of preserving food in which the food contents are processed and sealed in an airtight container. It can provide a typical shelf life ranging from one to five years.

"You'll learn about New Jersey's seasonal crops and how they can be easily and safely preserved at home," said Ms. Lichtenwalner, who grew up on a farm in Bergen County, about the program. "With just a few supplies, you'll be on your way to enjoying the bounty of summer all year long!"

When Ms. Lichtenwalner was seven months pregnant with her son, her father gave her 100 pounds of tomatoes, and she taught herself how to can. Now she has a basement full of jars and her son, Charlie, is addicted to her homemade pickles, she reports.

"Some people think canning is too much work," Ms. Lichtenwalner stated. "I can pro-

vide a full canning demonstration, from recipe preparation through the actual boiling water preservation."

The Friends of the Fanwood Memorial Library will provide this program. Registration is suggested and can be done by calling the library at (908) 322-6400. For more information about other programs at the library, visit the library's website calendar at fanwoodlibrary.org, or friend the library at facebook.com.

Workshop to Feature Mushroom Cultivation

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains Public Library will offer a free workshop on home mushroom cultivation on Monday, July 30, at 7 p.m. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Rob Aptaker, an expert in growing and foraging for mushrooms, will speak about the process of inoculating spawn into logs to grow shiitake, oyster and other gourmet varieties at home.

Mr. Aptaker will bring inoculated logs to show the mushrooms' development. He also will offer logs for sale to any interested participants, for under \$20 per log.

Individuals are encouraged to register through the library's website, scotplib.org, by calling (908) 322-5007, extension no. 204, or e-mailing library@scotplib.org. The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue, one block from Park Avenue, in the center of the township.

Jazz Pianist Prestine Allen To Perform Ragtime Aug. 4

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Memorial Library meeting room will be filled with the sounds of ragtime on Saturday, August 4, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Westfield resident and jazz pianist Prestine Allen is on tap for two hours at the library, located at 550 East Broad Street.

An accomplished pianist, Mr. Allen has performed solo at Carnegie Hall and has accompanied the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir at Radio City Music Hall. He also has played at Six Flags Great Adventure with "Our Father's Music Business."

This program will be free and open to Westfield Memorial Library and MURAL cardholders. MURAL cardholders belong to libraries that are part of the Middlesex Union Reciprocal Agreement Libraries. For participating libraries, check the Westfield Memorial Library website, wmlnj.org. To register for the program, visit wmlnj.org and click on the Online Calendar, or call (908) 789-4090, option 0.

Library hours are 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday. The library will be closed on Sundays until September 23.

For more information, call (908) 789-4090, visit wmlnj.org and sign up for the monthly e-newsletter, "Library Loop," or stop by the library for a copy of its award-winning quarterly newsletter, "Take Note."

Azure Chapter OES Seeks Bazaar Vendors

CRANFORD - Azure Chapter Order of the Eastern Star is looking for vendors/crafters to participate in its bazaar this fall. The bazaar will be held on Sunday, October 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Azure Masada Lodge, located at 478 South Avenue East in Cranford.

Table space for vendors is \$30 for an eight-foot table. Each additional table is \$25. All proceeds raised will benefit the organization's community charitable projects. For more information, contact Marie at (908) 789-0813 or mariej1130@gmail.com.

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