

Spring Assembly to Feature Singer/Raconteur April 12

WESTFIELD — The Spring Assembly, an annual gathering of the historical groups of Westfield, will be held on Thursday, April 12, beginning at 7:30 p.m. It will take place in the meeting hall of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

Open to the public at no charge, the Spring Assembly is presented each year by the church, the Genealogical Society of the West Fields, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Miller-Cory House Museum and the Westfield Historical Society.

This year's program will include a multi-faceted performance by singer/songwriter, storyteller and radio host Gordon Thomas Ward. Mr. Ward will immerse the audience in tales, songs, poetry and ghost stories concerning the history of New Jersey. Attendees will have an opportunity to reconnect with the Lenape who roamed the forests of New Jersey before the discov-

ery of America; hear the harrowing but brave story of the encampment at Jockey Hollow, and follow the development of this crossroads state through farming and industry to the present day.

Based on his book, "A Bit of Earth," Mr. Ward will celebrate the layers of history in the landscapes where "the past is very much alive and entwined with the present."

Mr. Ward employs his experience as a teacher, writer, storyteller and radio host to inspire his audience. His songs have led him to work with notable musicians such as Eric Troyer, William J. Hall (Frostwater and Pete Seeger) and Carolann Solebello. He has shared a stage with Natalie Merchant and Christine Lavin as well as opening for The Boxcar Lilies — one of his favorite Americana bands.

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield is located at 140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield. Light refreshments will follow the performance.



FAMILY OF FAITH...Third grader Sophie Buchbinder displays her prayer book with her father, Seth Buchbinder, and her grandmother, Gail Beckman Buchbinder, education director at Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains.

Local Synagogue Students Receive Prayer Books

SCOTCH PLAINS — Third graders in the religious school at Congregation Beth Israel received their own prayer books (siddurim) at a ceremony for their families on March 11. The families participated in a short program, with the students leading some of the prayers they had learned and explaining the meaning of their Hebrew names. Rabbi Howard Tilman led the parents in reciting a blessing over the

children, and parents and grandparents presented the prayer books to the students in celebration of their learning to read Hebrew. The parents and grandparents had created personalized covers for their children's prayer books in January as part of a Family Education program.

Congregation Beth Israel's award-winning religious school offers classes from pre-school through 11th grade, as well as special-needs instruction. Third graders meet on Sunday and Wednesday for instruction in Hebrew language, Torah study, holidays and Mitzvot (doing good deeds). Congregation Beth Israel's religious school also offers student-led prayer services, grade-specific Family Education programs and online learning opportunities.

Congregation Beth Israel is an egalitarian Conservative synagogue, serving the religious, cultural, educational and social needs of congregants from Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Westfield and surrounding towns.

For more information about the religious school, contact Gail Beckman Buchbinder, education director, at (908) 889-1830 or school@cbisp.org.

Congregation Beth Israel is located at 18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains, at the corner of Martine Avenue.

AARP to Hear Talk On Solar Energy

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Westfield Area AARP Chapter 4137 will hold its next meeting on Monday, April 2. The meeting will take place at the Scotch Hills Country Club, located at Jerusalem Road and Plainfield Avenue, Scotch Plains.

Guest speaker Sarah Weber will discuss "The Truth About Solar Energy" and will receive questions afterwards. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the business meeting.

Reservations will be taken for the chapter's Monday, June 4 luncheon. For luncheon questions, call Chris Weiss at (908) 322-6198. For additional questions, call Ilse Heinemeyer at (908) 322-1788.

Wednesday Morning Club Lists April Program Guests

CRANFORD — The Wednesday Morning Club will hold its business meeting on Wednesday, April 4, at 10 a.m. Club President Sue Driscoll will introduce Colleen Hintz. Ms. Hintz will present a program entitled "The Secret Quilt Code of the Underground Railroad." Attendees will learn about the sewing of quilt blocks to create visual messages that were interpreted by slaves looking to gain their freedom in Canada via the Underground Railroad. The meeting will take place at the Cranford Community Center, located at 220 Walnut Avenue. All are welcome.

On Tuesday, April 10, the club's Public Affairs Department will meet at the home of Sue Driscoll to plan for next year. The meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. Interested persons are asked to bring a sandwich and to call Ms. Driscoll if they plan to attend.

The American Arts and Crafts Department will meet on Tuesday, April 17, at 10 a.m., in the Cranford Community Center to plan their projects for next year. If planning to attend, call Joan Davis.

The club will gather on Wednesday, April 18, for a luncheon at Giovanna's Restaurant featuring writer, singer-songwriter and actor Val Emmich. Giovanna's Restaurant is located at 1462 South Avenue, Plainfield. The luncheon begins at 12:30 p.m. and the cost is \$21. To make a reservation, call Jane Reilly.

Mr. Emmich is known for his work as an actor on HBO's "Vinyl," NBC's "30 Rock," Showtime's "The Big C" and ABC's "Ugly Betty." He also has written a very well-received first novel entitled "The Reminders." *The Huffington Post* said of his novel, "Emmich performs a bit of magic in his warm and winning debut novel."

On Monday, April 23, the Literature Department will meet at the home of Dot Conheehey at 12:30 p.m. to select the books the group will read next year. Participants are asked to bring a sandwich and call Dot if they plan to attend.

For more information about The Wednesday Morning Club, call Vice-President Carol Moran at (908) 233-5635 or e-mail her at caromm@comcast.net.



LIFE-SUSTAINING WATER...The Trinity Episcopal Church of Cranford is raising funds through Easter Sunday to benefit the Episcopal Relief & Development "Clean Water" program. The program supports projects that provide clean water to people like these children pictured at a well in Ghana.

Trinity Collecting Funds To Aid Clean Water Program

CRANFORD — The Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 119 Forest Avenue, Cranford, is collecting money for the Episcopal Relief & Development "Clean Water" program through Sunday, April 1.

"Every 15 seconds a child dies from a water-related disease somewhere in the world," said Marion Nechuta, Trinity's Outreach Committee chairwoman. "The ERD Clean Water program constructs wells, water systems, and stations that both reduce the spread of disease while promoting overall community health, well-being and economic viability."

Donations, made payable to "Episcopal Relief and Development," can be mailed to Trinity Church or dropped off at the church on Sunday morning. For more information, call (908) 276-4047.

Episcopal Relief & Development, started in 1940, is the compassionate response of the Episcopal Church to

human suffering in the world. Hearing God's call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being, Episcopal Relief & Development serves to bring together the generosity of Episcopalians and others with the needs of the world. For more information about Episcopal Relief & Development, visit episcopalrelief.org/.

Trinity Episcopal Church, founded in 1872, is a faith-based family church that welcomes all people and strives to "know Christ and to make the Lord known through faith, fellowship, and service." Sunday services, celebrated by the Reverend Andy Kruger, Trinity's Priest-in-Charge, are at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. For more information about Trinity, call (908) 276-4047 or visit trinitycranford.org/.

Trinity also provides Trinity Episcopal Day School (TEDS), a state-licensed facility serving children from age 2 1/2 through Kindergarten. Further information about TEDS is available by calling (908) 276-2881 or at tedscanford.org.

Moving Meditation To Resume at FCC

WESTFIELD — Moving Meditation classes will resume this spring on Monday evenings from April 2 through May 28, from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m., at the First Congregational Church, located at 125 Elmer Street, Westfield. A suggested donation of \$15 to \$20 will benefit the summer mission trip for the church's middle- and senior-high youth.

Moving Meditation is a simple, graceful movement based on ancient Asian Qigong wellness systems. Benefits include stress reduction, flexibility and enhanced wellness. The practice is performed standing up and ordinary street clothing is appropriate.

The classes are led by Laura Berzofsky, a certified Integral Tai Chi and Qigong instructor with the International Integral Qigong and Tai Chi Institute at Santa Barbara College of Oriental Medicine and a member of the National Qigong Association.

For more information or to register, call Ms. Berzofsky at (908) 232-0169. Drop-in students also are welcome.

Floraphile Club Plans Benefit Garage Sale

CRANFORD — The Floraphile Garden Club will host a garage sale fundraiser on Saturday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 469 Brookside Court, Cranford.

The sale will feature an array of household goods, plants, clothes, toys, books and other merchandise. Proceeds from this fundraiser will support the Floraphile Garden Club and its involvement in numerous community service projects, beautification programs, charitable donations and horticultural therapy.

Founded in 1950, Floraphile has been an active and integral part of the Cranford community for more than 65 years. Members participate in various workshops, presentations, charitable projects and garden tours.

To learn more about the Floraphile Garden Club, like the club on Facebook at facebook.com/floraphilegardenclub.

First Presbyterian Invites Community For Holy Week

CRANFORD — The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, located at 11 Springfield Avenue, welcomes the community to observe Holy Week leading up to the celebration of Easter. Holy Week began with Palm Sunday worship last Sunday. First Presbyterian's Easter worship calendar will include traditional and unique worship experiences.

Maundy Thursday will be observed today, March 29, at 6:30 p.m., in the Thomson Youth Center. Attendees are asked to enter through the church office door on Springfield Avenue. This worship service will commemorate Jesus' last supper with His disciples through dramatic readings that incorporate reflections on the traditional Passover Seder.

An Easter "Son Rise" service will be held on Sunday, April 1, at 8 a.m., in the Narthex. Weather permitting, worship will take place outside. Participants are invited to celebrate Christ's resurrection during an "unplugged" acoustic version of Easter worship.

A traditional Easter service will be offered at 10 a.m. on April 1 in the main sanctuary. Full choirs, music and flowers symbolizing rebirth will enrich the celebration of Christ's resurrection. Attendees will sing Handel's "Hallelujah" Chorus and organist Robert Grube will play Widor's "Toccata."

The community also is invited to An Easter Cantata — "Hallelujah! Christ Arose!" on Sunday, April 15, at 10 a.m., in the main sanctuary. The Chancel Choir, under the direction of Alison Nead and accompanied by Robert Grube on piano and Kathleen Daly on violin, will continue the

Easter celebration singing "Hallelujah! Christ Arose!," created and arranged by Luke Woodard.

For more information, visit the church website, firstprescranford.org. Individuals also are invited to like the church on Facebook at facebook.com/firstprescranford/ and to follow the church on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/fpsc>.

As the body of Christ inspired by the Holy Spirit, First Presbyterian Church congregants seek to be faithful disciples living their lives as a testimony of Christ's love for all. The church welcomes diversity and respects and cares for all of God's creation. Members seek to spread the word and invite others to live Jesus' command to love one another as the Lord first loved them.

Rev. Belden Advocates Return to Worship

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Reverend Christopher Belden, pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church, encourages people of all faiths who may not have been to their house of worship recently to consider attending this week.

"It doesn't matter what your religion might be, the sanctuary of your church or temple is a special place and you will find comfort there," Reverend Belden said. "God welcomes everyone. Share his open arms this weekend."

The Community Presbyterian Church is located at 1459 Deer Path, Mountainside. Sunday worship services begin at 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit cpcmountainside.com.

MLK Association to Hold 50th Anniversary Vigil

WESTFIELD — The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Westfield invites the community to participate in a vigil on Wednesday, April 4, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Participants will gather at the Martin Luther King monument, located adjacent to the South Avenue Circle in Westfield, at 6:30 p.m. The half-hour vigil will be held in remembrance of Dr. King and other martyrs of the civil rights movement who went before him, with attendees encouraged to reflect on the work and lives of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the movement.

"The Dr. MLK Association has served our local community for over

30 years, promoting the principles and ideals of Dr. King," said Elizabeth Wolf, the association's new president. "It is our hope that we will continue to do this for many years into the future."

The MLK Association is on Facebook @MLKWestfieldNJ and can be contacted at MLKWestfield@gmail.com.

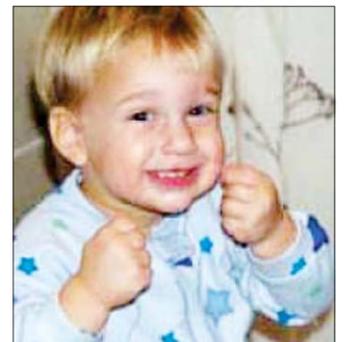
Youth to Present 'Living Stations'

SPRINGFIELD — The Youth Group of St. James the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, located at 45 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, will pray the Living Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. tomorrow, Good Friday, March 30, in the church.

Dressed as those Jesus encountered and interacted with on the way to his crucifixion, youth group members will accurately portray what occurred at each Station. There will be musical accompaniment as well.

The St. James Youth Group is under the direction of Ann Marie Gesualdo, youth minister. All are welcome to this presentation. For more information, call St. James Church at (973) 376-3044.

Westfield Pediatric Dental Group



Dentistry for Infants, Children Adolescents, and Special Needs

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908-232-1231

555 Westfield Avenue, Westfield
www.kidsandsmiles.com



Celebrate Easter at First Congregational Church

First Congregational Church invites you to embrace the power of love to overcome evil, as well as the blessings of forgiveness and reconciliation, this week and throughout the year.

Maundy Thursday
March 29, 7:30 p.m.
Candlelight service of Scripture, hymns and Communion

Good Friday
March 30, 7:30 p.m.
Service of Meditation and Reflection in Patton Auditorium

Easter Sunday
April 1, 9 and 11 a.m.
Music for organ and brass by Widor and Handel. One-room schoolhouse and infant care at both services
Coffee hour at 10 a.m.



125 Elmer Street, Westfield • fccofwestfield.org • 908-233-2494

Member of the United Church of Christ

Everyone's Welcome — Especially You!



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO WORSHIP
THIS EASTER

Good Friday Tenebrae Service
March 30 @ 7:30pm



Easter Sunday
April 1

Children's Service @ 8:30am
followed by an Easter Egg hunt

Festival Worship @ 9:30am
w/special choral and instrumental music



Calvary Lutheran Church
108 Eastman Street, Cranford NJ
www.calvarycranford.com