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Published by Renna Media, LLC. On-line at RennaMedia.com

ISSUE 44 • MAY 2017

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GREEN BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL'S THE WIZARD OF OZ



On March 23rd the cast, crew, and staff of Green Brook Middle School's The Wizard of Oz proudly drew the curtains on their opening night of the show. The 54 cast members went through a five day prep and audition process and spent the last twelve weeks memorizing lines and stage directions, learning to sing the iconic songs from the show, and perfect the choreography. The 21 crew members had their work cut out for them backstage with difficult lighting cues, lots of mic switches, quick scene changes, and the use of projected images and fog, but they performed like pros.

Audience members were blissfully unaware of the difficulties of executing this production because the students seamlessly transitioned from scene to scene with the incredible actors keeping us engaged every step of the way. The genuine emotion that the actors elicited from the audience

was palpable. Whether they were making us laugh through the overacting of the Wicked Witch or making us cry over Dorothy's yearning to go home, the students of this show entertained us from the opening number to the bows.

The final show concluded with a wonderful cast party enjoyed by all 75 cast and crew members which is hosted by a group of parent volunteers. The show was directed by the school's chorus and orchestra teacher Mr. William Alzaher while the backstage crew was managed by Mrs. Erin Ferrara. Mr Alzaher is in his second year at Green Brook while Ferrara is in her first year as the school's theater arts teacher. Mr. Alzaher and Mrs. Ferrara are both so incredibly proud of all the students and parents involved in this year's musical and can't wait for the next show-stopping performance by the students of Green Brook!

SPRING AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Warren Township Recreation Commission is gearing up for Spring and Summer programs in Warren. Registration will open for Green Brook and Watchung residents on May 23, 9am.

Tennis lessons run from spring to fall for ages 4 to adult. Our camps include the playground program for grades 1-5 (going into in September), Teen camp for grades 6-8, Jr Field Hockey Summer Camp for grades 5-9, Little kids Camp for

ages 4-6 and Legos (Magical Laboratory and Lego building) Camp for ages 6-12.

NOTE: The Recreation office is on the first floor, first office on the right in the new building.

To find more information and register with a credit card go to www.warrennj.org/recreation or go to the Recreation office at 46 Mtn Blvd, Warren or if you have questions call 908-753-8000 ext 270 or email recreation@warrennj.org

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email editor@rennamedia.com or call 908-418-5586

MATHEMATICS AND ORIGAMI

Watchung Hills Regional High School student Jacqueline Lee (pictured, standing), hosted a Mathematics and Origami program at SCLSNJ's Watchung Library branch on Monday, April 17.



(above) with Jacqueline are (left to right) Andrew, Jaclyn, and Lynn Scopel, who learned how to trisect an angle with origami and made several skeletal octahedron.

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

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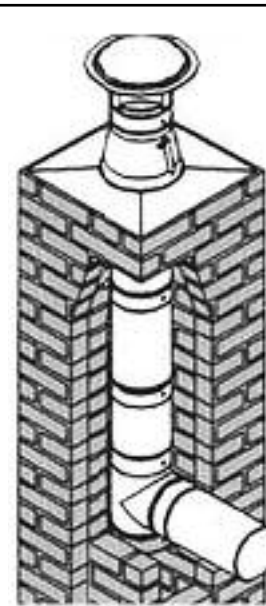
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SIX TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE WHRHS HALL OF FAME ON MAY 12

Six alumni or staff will be inducted as the Class of 2017 members of the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Hall of Fame at 7 p.m., Friday, May 12, at the school's Performing Arts Center.

The general public is invited to attend the ceremony. Tickets are \$20, and may be purchased at the high school or at the door on the evening of the induction ceremony.

The new members to be inducted to the WHRHS Hall of Fame on May 12 are:

Juan Carlos Cruz: The beloved late former Spanish Teacher and JV Soccer Coach who died this past Fall, held a degree in Criminal Justice from Rutgers University, was on faculty at WHRHS for 12 years. Juan Carlos Cruz was JV Soccer Coach for that entire time. He had also been track coach for two years. In addition to teaching Spanish, he helped foreign students feel more welcomed when they visited here by showing them popular points of international interest, for instance, in Washington, D.C.

Stephanie Wriede Morawski: The 1988 WHRHS graduate was a highly decorated New Jersey State Champion swimmer at WHRHS, and a highly decorated Ivy League and NCAA All-American and swimmer at Harvard University. She is a 20-year swim coach at Harvard, who has guided The Crimson to numerous Ivy League



(above, l-r) James Kanach, Juan Carlos Cruz, Bob Beckert, Ruth Schoenborn, Stephanie Wriede

achievements and honors. It was at Harvard last year, when the first transgender swimmer in NCAA Division 1 history successfully transitioned from being a female varsity swimmer to being a male varsity swimmer. Stephanie Morawski joined with other officials at Harvard in helping to facilitate that transition. This historic fete was profiled on a 60 Minutes piece reported by Leslie Stahl.

James J. Kanach: From 1980 to 2014, James Kanach was an esteemed teacher of English at WHRHS. He was named International Reading teacher of the year in 1986 as well as Watchung Hills Teacher of the Year in 1986. He was also a highly decorated, record-setting coach. He coached in 1,365 contests in multiple sports, for both boys and girls teams, and at all levels. He won Coach of the Year six times.

Robert (Bob) Beckert: Bob Beckert was a 1976 WHRHS graduate, who died in 2004, and was a highly decorated runner and member of the 1974 State Champion WHRHS Cross Country Team. He also competed in Track and Wrestling at WHRHS. He, his wife, Nancy, and their four children, all graduated from WHRHS. Bob Beckert was an active community volunteer, an active church volunteer, and a Sunday School teacher. He was a successful AT&T professional, and an avid lifetime recreational runner. His family organizes the annual Bob Beckert

Memorial 5K run/walk every June at WHRHS, which has to date raised more than \$70,000 to fund scholarships available to all WHRHS seniors.

Ruth Schoenborn: A resident of Watchung for more than 30 years, Ruth Schoenborn was employed since 1957 as a Physical Education Teacher and Girls Basketball and Softball Coach at Watchung Hills, and retired in 1995. She was also coordinator of the Watchung Hills Adult School for 18 years, and involved with Klub House Kids, an afterschool daycare program in Watchung. She was a volunteer with the Watchung Rescue Squad, and a longtime member of Wilson Memorial Union Church in Watchung. Ruth passed in 2010.

Megan Kopecki: The 2007 four-year varsity letter winning WHRHS graduate was first girl to score more than 1,000 career points in basketball. Megan Kopecki led her team to multiple conference championships. At Scranton, she earned numerous awards, including being named All American twice, being named conference player of the year three times, and leading her team to the Elite Eight in the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament. She holds numerous basketball records. Her mark at WHRHS for most career points for a girls basketball player held until this year, when current WHRHS girls basketball player Julia Cunningham broke it.

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Coloring Cafe

Meets the first and third Fridays of the month.
Supplies will be provided as well as light refreshments.
Come join us and color your cares away

Happy Box Collage

Workshop is on Saturday May 6th at 1:00 p.m.
This workshop will be an opportunity to have fun, play with pictures and words and to see where your creativity takes you. We will be supplying boxes, scissors, glue sticks and magazines.

Crochet Club

Meets on Monday May 8th at 1:00 p.m.

Zumba

Monday night Zumba is continuing!
Every Monday at 7:00 p.m.
join Diana Lamiera. \$8/class, no weekly commitment.

Book Club

The Book Club will meet on
Thursday May 25th at 1:45 p.m.
The theme is New Jersey!

Annual Spring Tea

The Friends of the Dunellen Public Library's Annual Spring Tea is coming up! Save the date:
Sunday, May 21st at 12:30- 2:20 p.m.
This year the Friends are having a Mad Matter themed

Tea Party! It will be held in the community room at the Dunellen Public Library. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children (under 12 years). There will be a selection of teas, finger sandwiches, scones, and desserts.
A raffle will be held!

Meditation

Interested in learning the basics about meditation?
Come to a FREE introductory session.
Please call (732)968-4585 and register for ONE of these dates:
Wednesday, May 3rd at 10:00 am;
Wednesday, May 10th at 7:00 pm;
Friday, May 26th at 1:00 pm;
Saturday, June 3rd at 1:00 pm.

We hope to offer a series of meditation classes if there is interest.

Gardeners! Bring a plant, take a plant: Plant exchange!

Saturday May 13th at 1-2:30 p.m.
Bring your unwanted plants swap them out for new ones. Herbs and vegetables are welcome. You can get a whole new flower bed without a trip to the garden center and without the expense. Basic guidelines of the swap: Label the containers as to what the plant is, the color, and its sun specifications; if you bring a plant that is a rapid spreaders, warn the recipients! Please don't bring plants that have disease or insect problems.

Choose a Glass Painting Party

Paint a Wine Glass or Beer Pilsner. Perfect for Graduation, Wedding and Father's Day Gifts! Tickets are \$25 per person. Please purchase your tickets in advance!

CHILDRENS' PROGRAMING

Kids Movie:

Wednesday May 24, 3:30 pm,
All ages welcome! Registration is required call 732-968-4585.

Alphabet Express:

Story, craft and the occasional game or activity focusing on early literacy. Featuring a different letter of the alphabet each session. With an adult caregiver.
May 19- "M" & May 26- "N" 11:30 am, ages 2-5.

Tween Pinerest Craft

Have some DIY fun making Pinterest inspired crafts on
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Rising Stars Networking Group - Is a group designed for young, entrepreneurs, business owners, and exceptional professionals who are looking to network with other ambitious and extremely focused individuals.

Our goal is to educate and inspire a new generation of great leaders. By building a rock solid cooperative relationship between all members, where personal growth is encouraged and nurtured.

We will create a positive encouraging atmosphere where all participants can grow, support and do business with each other.

While this group is designed for an under 45 crowd, we will be sending invites to senior members of the chamber to come and share their wisdom

- This group will be a very proactive member of the community.
- All members of the group will be positive and encouraging to each other.

• A new member can not introduce themselves to the group until they have attended at least once before.

• We do things selflessly, with the right motivation at heart.

• We make a positive impact on everyone who attends and those around us.

Meetings will be held every second thursday of the month at Trainer Joe's Warren location.

Next Meeting May 11th 8AM- 10AM A Healthy Breakfast will be served!

Contact the Chamber or Trainer Joe's for more info Trainer Joe's (Warren)

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by Jyotsna Thapar, DPM

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CUB SCOUTS ANNUAL PINEWOOD DERBY

The annual Pinewood Derby was held recently. Participants combine woodworking, design, artistic expression and physics with friendly competition to see which homemade car is the fastest in a series of downhill races. More than

65 racers, with their families cheering them on, enjoyed the carnival-like atmosphere as food, beverages, and race-themed deserts were available.

Cub Scouts Pack 129 once again invited local

Girl Scouts troops from Green Brook and Dunellen - Service Unit #62 to participate. Excitement was in the air as all participants enjoyed the fun and excitement of friendly competition.



(above) Cub Scouts Pack 129 invited Girl Scouts troops from Green Brook and Dunellen to participate in the 2017 Pinewood Derby

CUB SCOUT PACK 129 CROSSING OVER CEREMONY

During a boy's time as a Cub Scout he will have fun participating in many outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, and fishing.

He will also work on accomplishing achievements based on community service,

understanding basic first aid and emergency preparedness, understanding his role as a citizen, among many others.

No achievement, however, is greater than obtaining the Arrow of Light which indicates that he has completed his Cub Scout requirements and is ready to cross over to become a Boy Scout. On the evening March 21 fellow scouts and family

members were witness to the Crossing Over ceremony where seven Cub Scouts from Pack 129 gained their Arrow of Light and were welcomed into Boy Scout Troop 129.

Cub Scouts Pack 129, based in Green Brook, is open to all boys grades K through 5th. For information about Pack 129 you may contact Brent Cheshire at info@greenbrookpack129.org.

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WASHINGTON ROCK PARK COMMISSION

Submitted by: The Green Brook Cultural Heritage and Historic Preservation Committee

Most visitors to Washington Rock don't even notice the unoccupied house directly across Washington Avenue that has served many years as a guardian to the Park.

The NJ Legislature created the Washington Rock Park Commission in 1911. Funded by \$ 5,000 to acquire up to 100 acres to preserve the Park. Charles McCutcheon of North Plainfield had persuaded many persons in high places for the historic need. Through Mr. McCutcheon's efforts, he arranged for those he knew to sell the first 28 acres to the Commission for a total of \$ 1. The Commission then looked for a way to protect the Park. Someone knew an architect named White in NYC (not the famous Stanford White). He donated most of his services and the "Lodge" or Warden's House was built and completed in 1914 for a total cost of \$ 4,600. The location is close to the resort hotel that had been located just to the rear of the current firehouse. The hotel had started as the Washington Rock

Mountain House but had many names over its 22-year life. But that life ended in March 1883 when a fire in the flue burned it to the ground. However three stone fireplaces survived and found a new life in the Caretaker's Lodge in 1914.

The first Warden of the Park was very generous. The Lodge also served as a mini museum with items dating back to the Revolution and antiques loaned from the DAR. And the Warden served tea to the Park visitors every 3 p.m. Doubt that was part of his job. However by 1919, the public reported that the Warden had been tipping too much before the afternoon tea. So he was asked to find other employment.

The next occupant was Henry S. Lund who became a long-term Warden. He strangely may be best remembered for operating an ice cream and refreshment stand in the far western corner of the current parking lot. Remains can still be found elsewhere on the property. During his time, a son, Robert H. Lund, was born. That son "Bob"

later became The Township's first Police Chief. And later as Somerset County Sheriff.

Bob told stories of life in the house. No electricity until 1941. His job after school was to go to the well across the street and pump the handle 250 times to fill the copper tanks in the attic of the house to provide the only water supply. After his father retired in 1962, Steven Hugar was the Warden for over 20 years. And then a series of Park Rangers occupied the house.

Come join us on Thursday, May 18th at 7:30 at the Municipal Building.

The Green Brook Cultural Heritage and Historic Preservation Committee and The Green Brook Historical Society meet the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Green Brook Town Hall located at 111 Greenbrook Rd., Green Brook, NJ. We are always looking for people interested in history and culture to join our group, as a guest or a member. For more information about the Green Brook Historical Society, visit www.gbhsnj.org.



(above) Caretakers Lodge.

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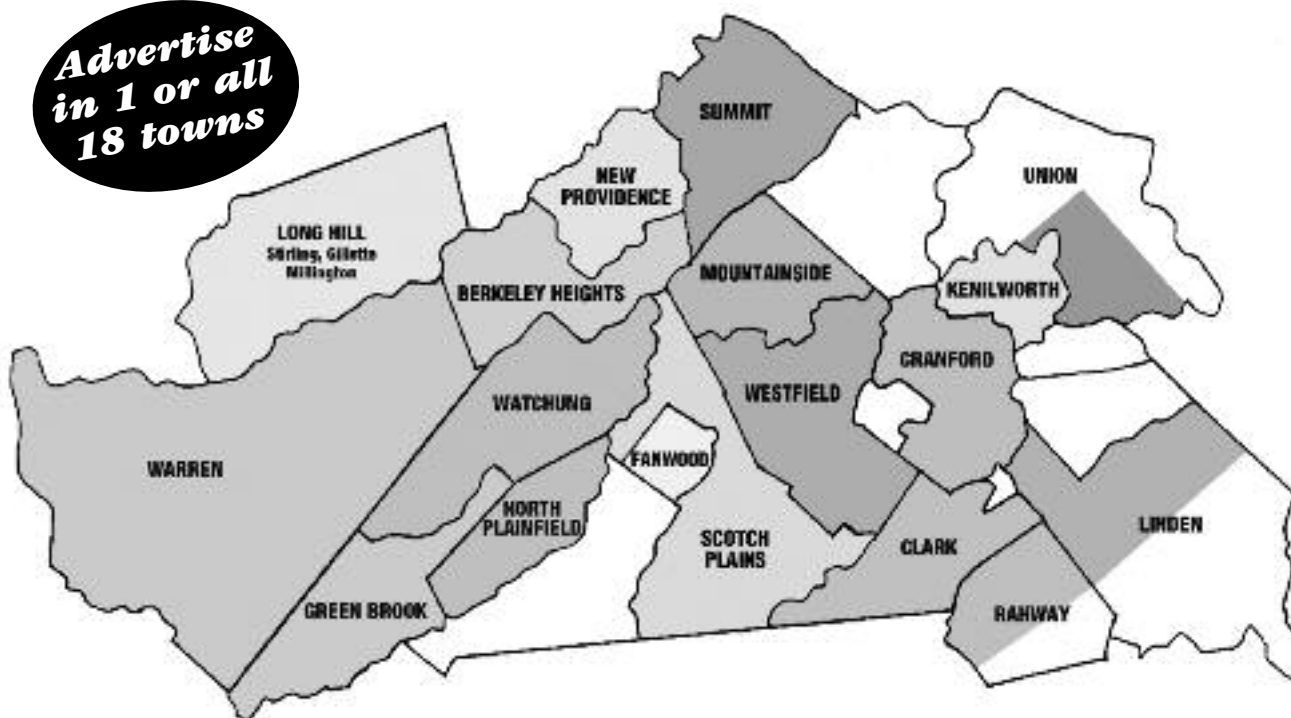
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WINE TASTING EVENT TO BENEFIT BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scouts of America, Patriots' Path Council will be holding a Riedel Wine Tasting event on Wednesday, May 24th at Alfies Ristorante in Warren at 6:30pm. Guests will sample great wine using Riedel Wine glasses, learn more about the wines, how to pour them, the effect wine glasses have and how to improve the overall enjoyment of wine. The ticket price of \$150 includes hors d'oeuvres, four glasses of red and white wine rated at 90 points or better on the Wine Spectator List, four course meal, auction and a set of Riedel Wine glasses to take home. All guests must be 21 years or older to attend. The event is being co-hosted by community members and Scouting volunteers, Karen and Michael Cantone of Warren.

The proceeds of this event provide the necessary funds send underprivileged youth to four of our camps in New Jersey and New York State. Over 4,000 youth are served in this program, and a total of 16,000 youth served in traditional Scouting in our area. Most recently the BSA has enhanced STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) content in every facet of Scouting, from summer camp to the Pinewood Derby, by developing programs that explore the STEM principles behind familiar Scouting activities. The STEM Program is another beneficiary of this event.

The RSVP deadline is Wednesday, May 17, 2017. Registration required at www.ppcbsa.org/give/special-events.

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