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VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED DURING RESCUE SQUAD MONTH

Submitted by Susan Baldani, a life member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad.

May is Rescue Squad Month, and the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is proud to say that after 80 years, we are still serving the residents of Scotch Plains with an all-volunteer membership. Over the years, many rescue squads have either closed down or have been taken over by a paid service. But thanks to the generous contributions of our community, we continue to carry on the same as we have since 1937.

Even though our members aren't paid salaries, it takes quite a bit of money to support the high-level of service that we provide year after year. Monetary donations not only allow us to pay for necessities like bandages, oxygen tanks, and defibrillators, but they also mean we can regularly update and buy the latest and most reliable equipment and ambulances. This year, we are purchasing a new ambulance as well as the newly mandated communication devices. Just these two things will total over \$225,000. Thankfully, through our annual fund drive, we have had the finances to cover these large expenses.

Besides big ticket items, we also have many other everyday expenses such as maintenance of our building and the cost of utilities. There are also insurance premiums, uniforms, gasoline for the ambulances and fire rehab vehicle, and many other expenses that arise throughout the year.

We hope to continue to provide the best service, even though we have received many fewer donations and much less money over the last few years. Therefore, when you receive our fundraising letter, please consider giving whatever you can to this worthwhile organization.

Besides our monetary needs, we must also have volunteers to staff our ambulances to ensure we can respond in a timely manner. The rescue squad provides all necessary training and uniforms, so there is no cost to the member. Besides answering over 1,300 calls a year, we also stand by at many special events held in town, such as Scotch Plains Day, the Memorial Day Parade, high school football games, and the summer concerts on the Village Green. In addition, we provide demonstrations for Boys and Girls Scout troops, clubs, and any group that may be interested in what we do.

Becoming an Emergency Medical Technician not only benefits our town, but these skills can be used wherever you are in a multitude of emergency situations. Instead of just being a bystander calling 911, you can actually save someone's life. There's no better feeling than that.

Please feel free to contact us regarding donating or volunteering at scotchplainsrescuesquad@gmail.com or call (908) 322-2103 for non-emergencies.

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

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

Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email

editor@rennamedia.com

SCOTCH PLAINS INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

On Saturday, July 1 (rain date July 2nd) the Township of Scotch Plains will host its 2nd Independence Day celebration: Fireworks at the Scotch Hills Golf Course! The course will open at 7pm for viewers to set down chairs & blankets; fireworks will go off at dusk. Please wear comfortable shoes; no heels will be permitted on the golf course. Food Vendors will be on site throughout the evening. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the premises. There will be

several road closures leading up to and during the event to ensure safety for pedestrians and motorists alike.

Please check the Township website: www.scotchplainsnj.gov for details. The golf course will be open Saturday morning for golfers; the last tee time is at 10:00am. The course will re-open at 10:00 am on Sunday, July 2nd. For more information please contact the Manager's Office at (908)322-6700 Ext. 314.



(above) 2016 Scotch Plains Independence Day Celebration.

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THE SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR LUCKY LIBRARY PATRONS

The Fanwood Scotch Plains Rotary Club recently donated two Orion Starblast 4.5 telescopes to Fanwood Memorial Library and the Scotch Plains Public Library which library patrons can check out with a library card. Rotarian Wayne Zuhl was inspired by an article he read in Sky & Telescope Magazine about an astronomy club in New Hampshire which successfully implemented a program to provide free telescopes to libraries. According to Zuhl, the program has been “well received by libraries and patrons alike,” contributing more than 100 telescopes to libraries throughout the state.

The telescopes cost approximately \$400 each, including modifications specially designed by Wayne Zuhl and Jim Nordhausen of Amateur

Astronomers, Inc. (AAI) in Cranford, to make them user-friendly for beginners. Features include a star map, lens pen to clean the eyepiece, head light for hands-free illumination, and an instruction manual with step-by-step directions for using the telescope. Patrons will also find helpful info about the donor org. and AAI.

Fanwood and Scotch Plains Libraries will loan the telescopes to residents and “bring joy and the beauty of the night to everyone,” said Zuhl. Each

library will have its own telescope so that aspiring astronomers can view the moon, planets, and other celestial wonders at their leisure.

Eventually, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club hopes to collaborate with other Rotary Clubs to expand the telescope project to include additional libraries in New Jersey. In true democratic spirit, future stargazers will soon have the opportunity to borrow a telescope with as much ease as a library book.



Photo by Maria LaMorte-Wright.

During the May 10th Fanwood Scotch Plains Rotary Club meeting two Orion Starblast 4.5 telescopes were donated to the Fanwood Memorial Library and the Scotch Plains Public Library for patrons to check out. (above l to r) Don Rosenberg, Wayne Zuhl, Dan Weiss, Director of Fanwood Memorial Library; FSP Rotary President Carmela Resnick; Kim Decker, Michelle Willis, Directory of Scotch Plains Public Library; and Steve Goldberg.



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SPF HIGH SCHOOL DECA RECEIVES AWARDS IN CALIFORNIA

Seventeen Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA students traveled to Anaheim California to compete in the International Career Development Conference. Over 10,000 students from fourteen different countries competed in various business, leadership and entrepreneurship

events. Students compete in categories that require business presentations as well as core competency tests. Four students from Scotch Plains Fanwood High School were recognized for outstanding achievement at the conference. Senior Claudia Gentile was recognized for

having one of the top three test scores in Principles of Hospitality and Tourism. Senior Max Mazursky was recognized for having one of the top three test scores in Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making. In addition the team of Mazursky and junior Niva Patel placed amongst the top twenty teams in the Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making event based upon their case study presentation and test scores.

Senior Matthew Fox was awarded the prestigious Larry Lorenzi scholarship. The Scholarship was awarded based on Matt's DECA involvement, leadership ability, community service and academic performance.

The scholarship is named after former NJ state DECA advisor and National DECA board member, Larry "Loris" Lorenzi who helped to expand NJ DECA.

The entire Scotch Plains-Fanwood chapter was recognized at the national conference for achieving Thrive level status. Thrive level chapters complete three projects throughout the school year in Entrepreneurship, Community Service and Promotion. Only twenty-two schools from New Jersey were recognized as Thrive level chapters.

DECA is the co-curricular Marketing and Business club of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. Mrs. Marjorie FitzGibbon is the club's advisor.



(above) Matthew Fox



(above-r) Niva Patel, Max Mazursky, and Claudia Gentile.

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The 2017 Scotch Plains Mayor's Gala Committee is starting their fundraising effort for the Gala which will be held Friday, December 8, 2017 at the Shackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains. The event honors community volunteers and the proceeds benefit local non-profit volunteer organizations.

Donations of items for the Tricky Tray and Silent Auction will be gratefully accepted. Table

sponsorships are also available. Items donated will be displayed with your name or your organization's name and logo. Additionally, you will be recognized during the night for your generosity as well as in post-Gala press. Any organizations or individuals wishing to donate a gift, sponsor a table or have any questions are asked to contact the Recreation Department at 908-322-6700 ext. 220 for more information.

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BEST ROTARY CLUB IN THE UNIVERSE

During the May 10th Fanwood Scotch Plains Rotary Club meeting the members celebrated winning the Governor's Cup which is presented to one club in the district recognizing the "Outstanding Club of the Year Award." Members joked that their club is the "Best Rotary Club in the Universe."

If you would like to make a difference in the community and learn more about Rotary, you can attend a Wednesday lunch meeting at 12:15 pm at the Stagehouse Restaurant in Scotch Plains. For more information, you can visit their website at www.fsprotary.org or follow them on Facebook.

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Photo by Maria LaMorte-Wright

SERVICE LEAGUE THRIFT SHOP SUMMER HOURS

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop at 1741 East 2nd St., Scotch Plains will be open for the summer. Summer hours are Tues.- Fri 10-2:30 and Saturday 10-1.

The shop will have all new summer items to take you thru the lazy, hazy, days of summer. The shop will have home decor to give your home that summertime look, kitchenware for summer cooking, good books for summer reading, and of course, work and leisure clothing for women, and men. Children can be hard on summer clothing. The Thrift Shop will have the extra clothing they will need. For special June events; graduation, weddings, and Father's Day, shoppers will find last minute gifts and clothing for that important occasion.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League

is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that has served our communities since 1974. Since its founding, the League has donated \$1.1 million for local causes.

Anyone interested in learning more about the League or League membership is invited to call 908-322-5420, visit our website at www.scotchplainsthiftshop.weebly.com or speak to any of our volunteers at the shop.

Check out our Facebook page "Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League" and give us a "Like." Donations of new/gently used in season items are always welcome during business hours. Please remember, your donations are appreciated, but must be saleable. Free parking on the street and in the rear of the building (enter parking lot via Willow Ave.).

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WWW II VETS SELECTED TO BE CO-GRAND MARSHALS OF MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Longtime Fanwood residents Joe Nagy and Ed Miller were honored during a memorial service held on Monday, May 29. They had been selected to serve as co-grand marshals of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade which was canceled due to rain. Also honored was Alan Ebersole, who had accepted the honor to be a co-grand marshal this year but died in late April at age 94. The annual parade commemorates the sacrifices of fallen service men and women.

Joe Nagy

Joe Nagy spent two years in military training before the age of 20 to aid in America's efforts to win World War II.

The 94-year-old Nagy originally worked in nearby Perth Amboy in the clay industry before being drafted into the Army in 1943 and training in Fort Dix. From there, he spent 90 days in Texas working in the Tank Destroyer Battalion and later served in a unit in South Carolina. His South Carolina unit was dismantled in 1944, and then went to train in Mississippi to become an infantry replacement.

He was part of the occupying force in Japan. In September 1945 -- just one month after the atomic bomb was dropped -- Nagy's unit conducted operations to bring peace to Japan.

"Japan was badly devastated. Tokyo was almost nothing," continued Nagy. "(In Hiroshima) One bomb and 120,000 people disappeared. You really recognized the futility of war in that moment."

Nagy remained in the reserves for 23 years



(above l-r) The late Alan Ebersole, Joe Nagy and Ed Miller were selected in April to serve as the co-grand marshals of the 2017 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade.

when he returned home and eventually retired as a major.

Ed Miller

Ed Miller, originally a native of Kearny, New Jersey, had just finished high school when he was drafted into the Army Air Corps in 1943. Part of the sixth aircraft repair unit in San Antonio, following basic training and 17 weeks of machinist school, Miller worked alongside civilians in the biggest repair station of the army to ready equipment for the war.

"Right out of school, the Army needed machinists. In high school, I had worked for a fellow who made model airplane engines, so I luckily had a little experience," explained Miller.

Deployed to the Philippines in 1944, Miller was part of the 5th fighter squadron in support of the Chinese. Miller was assigned to the floating Air Depot of the Pacific to combat Japanese aggression in the South China Sea.

"We were there to support the invasion of Japan. That was our one and only focus," Miller said.

Upon his return home following victory, Miller moved to Fanwood and worked manufacturing steel in nearby Garwood. He successfully earned his degree in math and science from Jersey City State College.

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BETH ISRAEL COMMEMORATES THE HOLOCAUST

Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Day, known as Yom HaShoah in Hebrew, on April 23, with presentations by Peter Fleischmann and Joel Lebowitz, who shared stories of their families' experiences as Holocaust survivors. About 70 people attended, including sixth and seventh-graders from Congregation Beth Israel's Religious School, as well as their families, fellow congregants and community members.

Peter Fleischmann, who is a member of Congregation Beth Israel, was born in the Sudetenland, the area of Czechoslovakia that, in 1938, was the first step in Hitler's expansion plans that eventually led to World War II. From 1938 to 1941, Peter and his family survived the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia and its restrictive Nuremberg laws, until they were given assistance by strangers to escape Prague and eventually make their way to New York.

Joel Lebowitz described how his family survived the Holocaust through the help of the Bielski Partisans, an organization of Jewish resistance fighters who hid in forests and fought back against Nazi occupiers. Operating in German-occupied Poland (now Belarus) between 1942 and 1944, the Bielski Partisans provided protection for Jews – including women, children and the elderly – enabling more than 1,200 Jews to survive the Holocaust.

Congregation Beth Israel's Holocaust

Remembrance Day program was jointly sponsored by the synagogue's Second/Third Generation Holocaust Survivors Group, its Men's Club and its Religious School. The Second/Third Generation Holocaust Survivors Group creates programs to educate the public about the Holocaust and to honor and remember those who suffered and perished.



(above) Joel Lebowitz and Peter Fleischmann.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AWARDS NIGHT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONDERS



(above) Fanwood Rescue Squad Treasurer Bob Kruthers who, at age 90, is serving his 60th year of active membership with the Squad. He is also a Knight and is seen wearing his Knights sash.

On April 26th the Knights of Columbus held their 42nd annual awards night for public safety responders in Scotch Plains and Fanwood. The Knights of Columbus Father John Nelligan Council is based at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church, Scotch Plains, NJ, and presents these



(above) Fanwood Assistant Fire Chief Steve Szanto presented an award to the entire Fanwood Fire Department for their dedicated service in serving the people of Fanwood. Accepting the award were a number of Fanwood firefighters including Chief John Piccola.

awards every year to Fanwood and Scotch Plains police, rescue and fire responders for outstanding service.

Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr made opening remarks. Awards were presented by Seth McQuillan, Grand Knight.



(above) Scotch Plains Deputy Fire Chief John Lestarchick presented awards to Firefighter Douglas Freitag and Chief Jonathan Ellis, both of whom are in their 40th year of service with the SPFD.



(above) Scotch Plains Police Chief Ted Conley presented awards to Detectives Mark Lynch (yellow tie) and Brian Hayeck for solving a rash of burglaries in 8 towns in three counties. He also presented an award to Sgt. Jerald Brown for his 19 years of service as an officer, instructor and his involvement with Scotch Plains youngsters. Grand Knight Seth McQuillan is at far right.



(above) Fanwood Police Chief Richard Trigo recognized Sgt. Marc Gottlick and Officers Elliot Bernard, Dan Kranz, and Kevin Stomber (not present) for administering Narcan on two additional occasions, helping two more victims back to consciousness. Chief Richard Trigo also recognized Lt. Francisco Marrerro and Off. Daniel Piccola for administering Narcan to an individual who overdosed on an opioid.

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(above) Fanwood Rescue Squad President Jeff Downing presented an award to Vice President/Training Officer Patty Buckridee for her ten years of dedicated service to the Rescue Squad including three years as Captain. Grand Knight Seth McQuillan is also pictured.



(above) Scotch Plains Rescue Squad Deputy Chief Carolyn Sorge presented an award to Deputy Chief Christopher Smith for his dedication and diligent service to the Rescue Squad.

LILLIAN OLSH CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

Lillian Olsh, a resident of the Chelsea Senior Living at Fanwood since 2015, celebrated her 100th birthday on May 19th.

Lillian is originally from Colonia and spent

more than 35 years working for AT&T. She has a family of more than 35 nieces, grandnieces and grandnephews, several of whom were at her party.



(above) Lillian Olsh and her grandniece Caitlin Madden, grandniece Alyssa Curry, niece Susan Wilson, Susan's husband Bob Wilson, grandnephew Chris Curry and niece Mary Jean Madden of Scotch Plains, a preschool teacher at Brunner Elementary.

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PTA REFLECTIONS CONTEST WINNERS

On March 16, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education recognized the students who participated in the PTA Reflections Program. This is a nationally acclaimed student recognition program established by the National PTA designed to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home. Students in grades K to 12 can reflect on a common theme and create original works of art.

The theme for 2016-2017 was "What Is Your Story?" whereby students submitted their interpretation of the theme in six artistic areas including: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts.

The following ten students received a Certificate of Participation from the Union County PTA for their creative entries:

Isobel Bruce, 4th grade student at Brunner School received recognition for her literary submission entitled, "My Story". Aditi Gokhale, 2nd grade student at Coles School received recognition for her literary submission entitled, "A Night at the Hotel". Taylor Murray, 2nd grade student at Coles School received recognition for her music composition entitled, "My Lifetime Story". Emma Telepis, a 3rd grade student at Coles School received recognition for her photographic entry entitled, "My Favorite Place". Luca DiMeglio, a 3rd grade student at Coles School received recognition for his photographic entry entitled, "My First Day". Ava Khan, a 4th grade student at Coles School received recognition for her visual arts entry entitled, "A Bridge Between 2 Worlds". Mitav Mehta, a 2nd grade student at McGinn School received recognition for his visual arts entry entitled, "Feet in Two Worlds". Kevin Wright, a 3rd grade student at School One received recognition for his visual arts entry entitled, "The Voices Inside My Head". Emily Colasanti, a 5th grade student at Terrill Middle School received county recognition for her literary entry entitled, "Who am I...".

Kayla Fiore, a 5th grade student at Terrill

Middle School received county recognition for her music entry entitled, "Changes".

In addition to the ten students being recognized by the county, the following three students creative entries have received recognition from the State PTA:

Briana McGowan, an 11th grade student at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School received an "Honorable Mention Award" for her literary entry entitled, "I am OK".

Ellie Agnello, a 4th grade student at Coles

School received an "Award of Merit" for her film production entitled, "This is my Story".

Ryan Agnello, an 8th grade student at Terrill Middle Scholl continues to be recognized by the State of New Jersey PTA with an "Award of Excellence" for his film production entitled, "Why I'm Always Late".

This is the fifth year that one of Ryan's film productions is being recognized by Union County and the State of New Jersey PTA. Ryan's entry will now be judged at the national level.



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IMAGINE CELEBRATES THEIR VOLUNTEERS AND LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Over 100 volunteers and their family and friends filled the new space at Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss, on April 27th for the fifth annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Dinner, music, coffee and awards were provided to show the volunteers how special and appreciated they are!

The evening was catered by Castle on a Cloud who donated all of the food, desserts and staff. Guests were also treated to live music by The Have Some Hotel band who donated their services, and delicious coffee from Rockin' Joes in Westfield, also donated. The event theme was candy, to exemplify how "sweet" the volunteers are, and they received awards such as the Starburst Award for painting all of the color on

the walls of the new center and the Rock Candy Award for the pure energy they provide to the youngest of participants.

"Our volunteers are priceless," said Mandi Zucker, Imagine's Program Director. "As our programs continue to grow, we absolutely could not make it happen without the time and commitment from the volunteers. We use over 100 volunteers every two weeks to facilitate our support groups, work in the office, serve on committees, the Board of Trustees, and set up and clean up the space before and after the groups meet. We hope this event shows our volunteers, in some small way, how much we appreciate them and how grateful we are to be able to do this work along side them."

Imagine's next Volunteer Facilitator Training, which will prepare us to start up our fifth Night or Support serving 60 new children and adults, is July 7-10th, from 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. daily. One recently trained facilitator, Stephanie Naphtali of Wyckoff said, "The training restored my belief in the compassion of all. It was a transformative experience. I learned so much and my life has been enriched by the knowledge I learned."

Please contact Mandi Zucker at 908-264-3100 or mandi@imagine-nj.org if you would like to learn more about the training and the commitment involved to be a facilitator or visit our website at www.imagine-nj.org.



(above l-r) Front Row: Rachel Furnari, Scotch Plains; Melissa Montalvo, Cranford; Back Row: Ann Furnari, Scotch Plains, Tarajee Wade'ah Russell-Wertz, Hillside; Thomas Greene, Westfield.

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FANWOOD LADIES NIGHT OUT JUNE 15TH

Ladies, come to Fanwood Ladies Night Out on June 15th from 6 - 9 pm for a fun evening in downtown Fanwood! Local merchants will stay open late and offer special discounts. Once you finish shopping, you can redeem your receipts for tricky tray tickets. A large tricky tray event is held in the registration area from 8 to 9 pm.

Several sponsorship packages are available for local businesses to connect with the over 250 women who come to Fanwood for Ladies Night Out. This event is sponsored by the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact Mindy Scarlett at mindy@scarlettryanconsulting.com.

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July 17th to the 21st the Fanwood Presbyterian Church will hold a Vacation Bible School each day from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

The theme is "Maker Fun Factory" to discover that we are lovingly crafted by God. This program is for children 4 years old to those entering grade 6.

There is special program for those entering grade 6 called "Mission Possible" a week of fun, fellowship and service. They will travel off campus a few days during the week to participate in local mission work.

All are welcome. The registration deadline is Friday June 30 and registration is first come first serve until the capacity is reached. The registration form may be picked up mornings at the church office.

For more information or directions to the church please call the church office at 908-889-8891 or e-mail admin@fanwoodpc.org or on the website www.fanwoodpc.org.

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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SHINE AT ANNUAL KEAN UNIVERSITY CEREMONY

Five Kean University alumni, including Dr. M. Ann Walko of Scotch Plains, were honored on Sunday, April 23, at the Alumni Association's annual Distinguished Alumni Award event held at the North Avenue Academic Building.

The recipients of the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award share a strong work ethic and an unwavering commitment to their communities.

Dr. M. Ann Walko '60 '64 M.A. of Scotch Plains received a Kean bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in educational leadership at Kean and prides herself on being a lifelong learner. Walko has called Kean her second home for more than 50 years as a faculty member in the College of Education.

"I am always amazed by the caliber of our distinguished alumni each year, and this year was no exception," said Kean University President

Dawood Farahi, Ph.D. "They are leaders in business and their communities, each serving as shining examples of the quality education that is offered at Kean."

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes Kean alumni who have made significant contributions to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations and careers have honored the legacy of excellence at the University. Recipients are accomplished in three distinct areas: professional achievement and career distinction; service to society; and service and support to Kean University. These areas reflect Kean's core value: excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect, and selfless services.

To see more details about this year's recipients as well as past recipients, please visit www.keanalumni.org.



(above) Dr. M. Ann Walko was presented with her Distinguished Alumni award from Edward Esposito, Kean University Alumni Board President



Kean University awarded Distinguished Alumni Awards to five individuals who have made significant contributions to society, their professions at their alma mater.
(above l-r) Standing: Geraldine Ponto, Alumni Association President Edward Esposito '69 '72 MA, George Gilcrest, M. Ann Walko, Scott Schober; Bottom: Kean University President Dr. Dawood Farahi and Caroline Jolly. Photo credit: Patti Banks/Kean University.

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SCOTCH PLAINS SUMMER READING REGISTRATION BEGINS JUNE 1

Another exciting summer reading season is about to begin at Scotch Plains Public Library. Readers of all ages will explore many ways to “Build a Better World,” in keeping with this summer’s theme. Registration for Summer Reading will begin online and in-person at 9 am Monday, June 1.

As always, summer reading for children and teens includes two parts; participants receive prizes for the time they spend reading, and they also sign up for the activities and events that interest them.

The season’s programs will kick off with an

all-day Harry Potter 20th Anniversary (HP20) celebration on June 26, 2017, with registration for HP20 commencing June 12. Harry Potter fans agree that J.K. Rowling introduced us to a new world twenty years ago this summer, with the United Kingdom publication of Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone (released as Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone in the US in 1998).

HP20, with programs for all ages, will begin at 9 am with screenings of the first two movies, and conclude with a 6:30 pm party and a 7:30 live radio-show style Harry Potter parody presentation by the actors from Radio Raconteur, complete with theatrical lighting, costumes, Golden Age radio equipment, and extensive sound and special effects.

Harry Potter is just the beginning. Summer activities for school-age children will include performances by a magician and other entertainers, a visit by wild animals, makers’

activities, story times, crafts, chess, and outdoor fun. Pre-schoolers have their own Wee Readers program. Teen participants will explore science, art and books. They can take part in anime and chess clubs, book discussions, parties and a special Escape the Room evening program.

Adults can join their children for several programs, and they will also have their own art, book discussions, cooking and film events.

Registration can be done online or in person. Sign-up for children’s and teen activities that require registration is typically offered one week in advance. Adult event sign-up can be done any time after June 1 until programs are filled. The library’s children, teen, and adult summer reading calendars will be available on the Scotch Plains Public Library website (www.scotlib.org). Programs are free of charge and open to Scotch Plains and Fanwood library cardholders in good standing.

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MEMORIAL DAY NOTICE OF UPCOMING LIBRARY PROGRAM

This Memorial Day, as we pause to remember and honor those who have fallen in service of the United States of America, Scotch Plains Public Library is proud to announce a series of programs that will take place this fall at our library. Funded by a grant from The Library of America, “World War I and America” will mark the 100th anniversary of the nation’s entry into the war in 1917.

World War I and America is a two-year initiative that aims to bring veterans and their families together with the general public to explore the continuing relevance of the war by reading, discussing, and sharing insights into the writings of Americans who experienced it firsthand.

Scotch Plains Public Library’s programming will include visits from “Combat Paper” veterans, guided discussions led by veterans and other community members, lectures about WW1, and an art installation. We will jump start our involvement this summer with a guided tour of an exhibition at the NY Historical Society, and the planting, tending, and enjoyment of a Victory

Garden on library grounds.

More information will be forthcoming. Check the library’s web site for regular updates: (www.scotlib.org). Veterans are especially encouraged to volunteer to lead discussions of some of the guided readings for this program. More information is available from the librarians in the Adult Department of the library.

This program is part of World War I and America, a two-year national initiative of The Library of America presented in partnership with The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the National World War I Museum and Memorial, and other organizations, with generous support from The National Endowment for the Humanities.

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VERY SPECIAL "ALADDIN JR." COMING TO UNION COUNTY JUNE 29-JULY 1

The CAU Community Players will be staging a very special production of "Aladdin Jr." at the Rahway High School Center for Performing Arts June 29, June 30 and July 1. Show times are 7:30 p.m. on June 29 and 30 and 2:00 p.m. on July 1. Saturday's performance will be Family Day. Members of the audience, including children, will be able to have their photos taken with members of cast prior to the show.

The CAU Community Players is a troupe of individuals with developmental disabilities and actors and actresses from the broader community. Formed in 2012 by nonprofit Community Access Unlimited, the troupe allows CAU members to engage in the pleasures of acting, singing and dancing with people from the wider community and to be judged for their talents rather than disabilities.

CAU is a statewide nonprofit providing support programs and services to adults with disabilities as well as youth served under the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to enable them to live independently in the community, providing supports in areas including housing, vocational skills and life-skills training, education, advocacy and recreation.

Each year the CAU Community Players select a play that is representative of the agency's message of inclusion, acceptance and believing in oneself, as well as everyone's worth regardless of disability. Based on the Disney movie, which itself was based on the folk tale of the same name, "Aladdin Jr." is the story of a street urchin, a princess and a genie all overcoming their respective obstacles to escape the traps of their lives and achieve their fullest potential and happiness.

Tickets are available for \$10 by visiting www.caunj.org, clicking on Upcoming Events, then CAU Community Players Present Aladdin Jr., then the 2017 Ticket Ordering Form. Or contact Cara Pavia, director of marketing, at 908.354.3040, ext. 4376 or cpavia@caunj.org.

About Community Access Unlimited
Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 38th year in 2017, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic

activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil right. CAU currently serves more than 6,000 individuals and families, with the number served growing each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908.354.3040, online at www.caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

BUS TRIP TO CITI FIELD METS VS DODGERS GAME

Scotch Plains Letter Carriers Branch 4102 is sponsoring a bus trip to Citi Field. Proceeds will benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Sunday, August 6th, 2017, Mets vs Dodgers game, bus departs Scotch Plains Town Hall at 10:15 a.m. Cost \$60 per person. Interested persons should call Rick at 908-510-6543.

BRUNNER PTA LAUNCHES BRICK PAVER SALE

Proceeds will fund the revitalization of the school garden

The Brunner PTA has launched a brick paver sale to fund the revitalization of the Children's Garden at Brunner Elementary School. Individuals can have a brick paver installed in their name or in honor of someone special. "The paver sale will help the garden become a true outdoor classroom," said Deb Lambert, President of Brunner PTA.

The Children's Garden at Brunner Elementary School was established in the 1990s as a dedicated Monarch Waystation by Bernadette Hoyer, a teacher at the school. Today the garden is intended to serve multiple functions for the school and the community.

"The revitalized garden will preserve habitat

for pollinators, provide a place of visual splendor, and become a learning space that enriches curriculum," said Scott Bortnick, Principal of Brunner Elementary School, where the garden is located.

The paver sale is running from May 1 until September 1, 2017, or until all bricks have been sold.

Two sizes are available for purchase: 4" x 8" for \$50.00 or 8" x 8" for \$125.00.

The pavers will be installed in one of three activity areas in the garden.

For more information or to order a paver, please email brunnergarden@outlook.com or visit www.bricksrus.com/order/brunnergarden.

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COMMUNITY JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

On Monday, June 19th at 6:30 pm, all members of the community are invited to enjoy music, food, and good fellowship at a free Juneteenth program to be held at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church located at 1961 Raritan Rd, Scotch Plains, NJ.

Juneteenth is the oldest and the most popular annual national celebration of African American emancipation from slavery. It marks the day, June 19, 1865, when news finally came to Texas that the Civil War had ended and all slaves were now freed, fully two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

Thanks to sponsorship by Social Justice Matters, Inc. (SJM) and Scotch Plains Public Library, participation by students from YMCA Achievers and the Black Student Union (BSU) of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, and the

hospitality of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, the community will hear music by professional pianists Gil Chapman and Fred Fischer on keyboards, with vocal accompaniment by Lauren Scales and Stephen Fuller respectively. A sing-along will follow the performances. Teens from Y Achievers will provide context and an overview of the Juneteenth celebration, its importance to the Black community, and its relevance to modern-day America. BSU students will present, The Black Student Union will present "Freedom's Song: A Musical Journey from Negro Spirituals to Hip Hop, examining " the role music played and continues to play in the march toward freedom.

After a 90-minute program, the program will move outdoors to enjoy free refreshments, including Kona ice, participatory art with artist

Mansa K. Mussa and games organized by the Y Achievers and the Black Student Union (BSU) of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Community Juneteenth has been proudly supported by a grant to The Friends of Scotch Plains Public Library from Investors Foundation, and by SJM through fund-raising efforts at Mara's Café and Bakery in Fanwood.

This event is offered to the public as the finale event to the Voices from the Margins: Connecting our Stories grant project awarded to Scotch Plains Public Library, Social Justice Matters, Inc. and the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education (Chhange) at Brookdale Community College. Voices from the Margins: Connecting our Stories was made possible in part by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this series do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

Advance registration is recommended. Please register at www.scotlib.org/event/juneteenth/ For more information, contact the Adult Services librarians at Scotch Plains Public Library: library@scotlib.org or (908) 322-5007, x204.

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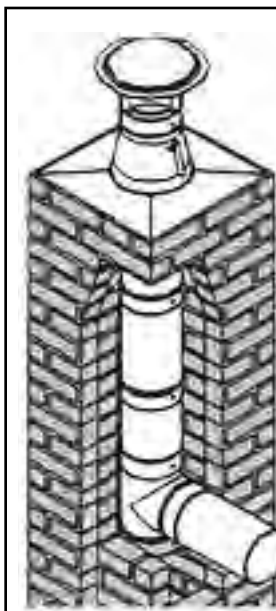
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