# Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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### **VERONICA VERGARA EARNS GEN. BILLY MITCHELL AWARD**

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Captain "Bud" Jackson Squadron honored cadet annually. Performing missions for America for the Veronica Vergara, a Scotch Plains resident and 16 year old highschooler, with the Billy Mitchell Award. On September 5th, Cadet Vergara received the award from CAP Lieutenant Colonel Michael Sperry, the Vice Commander of New Jersey Wing. Cadet Vergara advanced to the rank of Second Lieutenant with the achievement of this award, and is now a cadet officer. Additionally, she was appointed cadet commander of her squadron.

The General Mitchell Award is one of CAP's most prestigious cadet honors. The award is earned after completing the first eight achievements of the cadet program. In addition, the cadet must pass an arduous 100question examination testing leadership theory and aerospace topics, as well as a rigorous physical fitness test. About 15% of cadets annually earn this award, making them eligible for advanced placement should they choose to enter the US Air Force. They are also eligible for advanced credit in AFROTC, various CAP scholarships, and CAP special activity opportunities.

Cadet Vergara, a Civil Air Patrol member since October 2015, is a Junior at the Academy for Information Technology in Scotch Plains. During the summer, cadets from across the state attended the New Jersey Wing Encampment at McGuire Air Force Base as students for the first time. Cadet Vergara lead her flight of students to win the Honor Flight (a flight is the CAP term for an organized team of cadets) and Competition Team Flight Awards (100 cadets organized into 8 flights) as a Flight Sergeant. In addition, she completed the Ground Team Academy training for search and rescue operations. Her next goal is to attend a Cadet Leadership Academy that is hosted in various locations across the nation, and to earn the Earhart Award.

She has served as the Flight Sergeant of the squadron which has participated in activities such as Color Guard presentations for the YMCA Track and Field Event, the Park Middle School Science Fair Awards Ceremony, the Park Middle School 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony, Chatham Fourth of July Parade, and the John Basilone Parade. She also participated in the CyberPatriot Competition the past two years, a National Youth Cyber Education Program created to help direct students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. This program, created by the Air Force Association (AFA), features the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition for high school and middle school students.

During the same award night, the following cadets received awards. Paul Koizumi of Scotch Plains received the Eddie Rickenbacker Achievement, promoting them to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant. Lastly, cadet Ethan Morrobel of Scotch Plains received the Charles Lindbergh Achievement, promoting him to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant.

CAP, in its Total Force role, operates a fleet of 550 aircrafts and performs about 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 78 lives past 75 years, CAP received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. For more information visit: GoCivilAirPatrol.com; njwg.cap.gov; gocivilairpatrol.com.



(above) Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Second Lieutenant Veronica Vergara earned the prestigious General Billy Mitchell Award.



(above) Paul Koizumi of Scotch Plains received the Eddie Rickenbacker Achievement Award.



(above) Ethan Morrobel of Scotch Plains received the Charles Lindbergh Achievement,.

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# Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MOXTHLY

Scotch Plains Monthly is published by Renna Media. 9,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Scotch Plains.

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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 tinarenna@ rennamedia.com

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### **LOCAL YOUTH TRAIN FOR GRIEF SUPPORT**

On Saturday, September 9th, Imagine held its sixth youth facilitator training. 18 amazing young people, ages 14 to 18, attended the full day training which sensitizes teen participants to the issue of childhood grief and prepares the youth to assist with the facilitation of peer-support groups for children who are coping with the death of a parent or a sibling. Through the development of listening and facilitating skills, these teens are now prepared to be loving listeners, group facilitators and advocates for grieving children in their community.

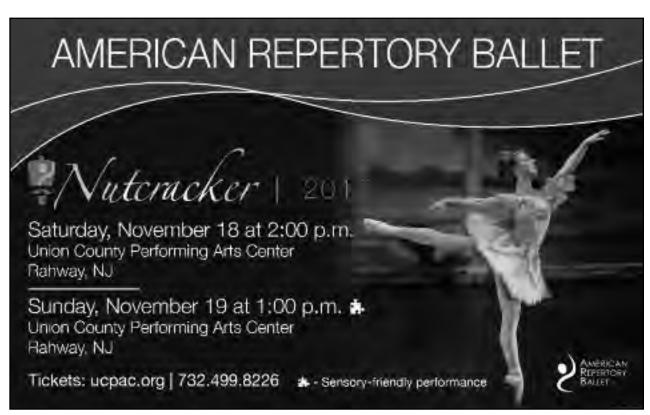
"We are so grateful for the participation of these youth. The teens bring wisdom, youthful energy and a wonderful presence and skill set to our volunteer program and grief support groups, facilitating groups right along with the adult volunteer facilitators," said Connie Palmer, Imagine Clinical Training Director. "We've been working with teen facilitators since 2012 and they have added a profound and powerful aspect to our programs."

Imagine provides free year-round peer support groups for children age 3-18 who have had a parent or sibling die, with concurrent groups for parents and guardians. Free support groups are also available for young adults 18 and up who have had a friend, sibling or parent die. Imagine also provides in-home support and support groups for children and teens who have a family member living with a life-altering physical illness. For more information about Imagine, come for a tour offered three times a month. Tour dates can be found by visiting their website at www.imaginenj.org or contact info@imaginenj.org or 908-264-3100.



Imagine is so grateful for our dedicated youth and adult volunteers who provide the opportunity for grieving children and their parents to get the support they need.

(above) Giulia Gocci of Mountainside, Julia Zucosky of Scotch Plains, Kelly Greiner of Chatham, Dani Jayinski of Scotch Plains, Sara Miller of Westfield, Amanda Carrico of Mountainside, Jessica Friebely of Scotch Plains, Colette Franciscus of Scotch Plains, Brett Simons of Short Hills, Justin Zucker of Westfield, Abby Riordon of Westfield, Sara Joseph of Kenilworth, Kai Chiang of Mountainside, Will Sherry of Westfield, Tunji Oaadewole of North Plainfield, Jeremy Dranikoff of Short Hills, Ben Krauss of Scotch Plains and Kimberly Cruz of Union.



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### **ALAN SEPINWALL,** TV REVIEWER AND **WRITER TO SPEAK**

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains welcomes Scotch Plains resident Alan Sepinwall to present at their October 23, 2017 meeting. His presentation, titled "What's Alan Watching?", will start at 7:45 p.m.; arrive at 7:30 p.m. for light refreshments before the meeting.

Mr. Sepinwall is a native of Pine Brook, NJ. He studied at the University of Pennsylvania where he began writing television reviews in his sophomore year. His reviews in the 1990s of the ABC police drama NYPD Blue helped him begin a career in television journalism at The Star Ledger. After 14 years with The Star Ledger, Mr. Sepinwall left the newspaper for a job at the entertainment website HitFix in 2010. He now writes for Uproxx.

Mr. Sepinwall has interviewed numerous television creators, writers, and personalities. He is credited with being a strong advocate for such shows as Lost, Breaking Bad, and The Wire. In addition to writing for Uproxx, he maintains a private blog, "What's Alan Watching?"

Please come and join us for this free program open to the public. The College Club's mission is to support education of our youth and local community, and we encourage you to join us on October 23 at The Fanwood Presbyterian Church located at 74 South Martine Ave, Fanwood, NJ.

More information about the College Club and their monthly programs can be found on their website at collegeclubfsp-org.doodlekit.com



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### **POLICE TO HOST** "HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT" FORUM

On Wednesday, October 11th, the Fanwood forum that will educate parents in the local area and Scotch Plains Police Departments, Municipal Alliance Committee, Scotch Plains Fanwood PTA and the Drug Enforcement Administration of NJ will be hosting a "Hidden in Plain Sight"

on drug awareness.

Held at the Forest Road Park Building at 6:30 p.m., this forum is free and open to anyone who wishes to attend.





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Submitted by Bernadette Hover, Tiny Tim Fund Board



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The annual Tiny Tim Fund Caroling Night is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Residents of Fanwood and Scotch Plains are needed to form groups to sing seasonal songs door to door and solicit donations for the Tiny Tim Fund. A group can consist of family members, friends, co-workers or any combination of participants. Caroling and collecting can be done in the neighborhood of the group leader's choice.

The Tiny Tim Fund is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to help families pay for the medical needs of children from Fanwood and Scotch Plains. The organization has been providing financial assistance to local families since 1983.

The annual Tiny Tim Caroling Night is the organization's sole fundraising event. Many groups of adults and children are needed to make the evening a success. All donations collected are used for the medical needs of local children.

Anyone interested in doing a community service while having fun in the spirit of the season can form a group or volunteer to join an existing one.

To register a group, reserve materials and/or to obtain further information please contact Flavia 908-753-4228 by or flaviablechinger@gmail.com or Mari at 908-233-6513 or mlwmcd@aol.com.



Tiny Tim Board members are preparing materials for the Dec. 6th fundraiser and are looking forward to hearing from interested volunteers. (above l-r) Tuula Ruhlandt, Mari McDevitt, Barbara Anilo, Carol Kiley and Bernadette Hoyer.

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"Behold, my book is born!" says longtime how she deals with the truth in unexpected ways. Watchung Writers Group member Vivian Fransen, a resident of Scotch Plains. "It's nothing short of euphoria to hold my book in my hands. It's been a long road to write, 'revise, revise, revise,' and then prepare my book for publication. Naturally, I credit the Watchung Writers Group in my Acknowledgments for all the encouragement I've received over the years."

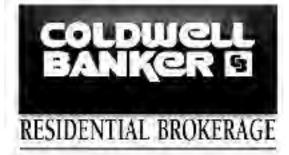
Her book, "The Straight Spouse: A Memoir," is a love story about a young woman who is married to a man who turns out to be gay—and

This story takes place in the early 1990s. Published by Open Door Publications this summer (2017), her book is available at Barnes & Noble or at amazon (http://amzn.to/2vBgQdv). For more information, visit her website at straightspousememoir.com.

The Watchung Writers Group, meets weekly on Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Watchung Library and is open to the public at no charge.



(above, front, l-r) Roy Jarmon (of Piscataway), Patricia Rydberg (of Bridgewater), Vivian Fransen (of Scotch Plains), Philip Lear (of Somerset). (back, l-r) Gregory Rendor (of Flemington), David Kaplan (of Gillette), J.R. Bale (of New Providence), Tom Melore (of Branchburg). Missing from photo are members Robert Mayers (of Watchung), Katie Taillon (of Watchung), and Alan Wohl (of Somerset). Photo by Margaret Ellis.



### Mary DePaola, ABR, SRES

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# Scotch Plains Monthly • Page 10 • October 2017 JAZZY 1920'S WHODUNNIT, THE WILD PARTY OPENS 99TH SEASON AT CDC

and excess roar across the stage in this steamy prohibition tale based on Joseph Moncure stark light of a new day, Queenie moves out into March's 1928 narrative poem of the same name. This darkly brilliant show, featuring one of the most exciting, pulse-racing scores ever written, will open the 2017-2018 season at CDC Theatre in Cranford, NJ. This marks the 99th season at New Jersey's oldest continuously producing community theatre.

"The musical is like a Jazz Age take on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream; a potent cocktail of an all-night party in late 1920s Manhattan," says director Sean Lough. Adapted from a book-length poem written in and about the Roaring Twenties, The Wild Party tells the story of one wild evening in the Manhattan apartment shared by Queenie and Burrs, a vaudeville dancer and a vaudeville clown. In a relationship marked by vicious behavior and recklessness, mirroring the times in which they live, they decide to throw a party to end all parties. As the guests arrive, we meet an assortment of people living on the edge. Queenie and Burrs set out to make each other jealous, but Queenie begins to fall in love with her conquest named Mr. Black. After a long night

(left, l-r) Nicole Boscanno as Kate, Shane Long as Burrs, Colleen Renee as Queenie and Phil Solomon as Black.

In Andrew Lippa's The Wild Party, decadence of decadence, Burrs' jealousy erupts and he comes to a violent end at Mr. Black's hand. In the a brighter world, although not necessarily a brighter future, leaving the passed-out revelers in her wake. An award-winning score by Andrew Lippa provides excitement and drive for this tale of passions out of control. Capturing the sound of a bygone era with a nod to the present one, he makes us realize that moral decadence is not only limited to our past.

> "We were blown away by the local talent at auditions", Lough continued, "this piece has a white-hot jazz score played to perfection by Jack Bender's smoking-hot eight-piece band — and every role needs a real triple threat: someone who can sing like Idina, dance like Chita and act like Streep. We have amazing local talent from Cranford, Westfield, Fanwood, as well as New Brunswick and Queens. If you love film noir or suspense thrillers, Wild Party is the perfect musicalization of the dark themes that make those genres so emotional. And yet it's as fun and fearless as anything being written for the theater today."

> The production will run from October 13 through October 28 at the theatre's 78 Winans Ave home. Additional information about the show and how to get tickets can be found by visiting www.cdctheatre.org.

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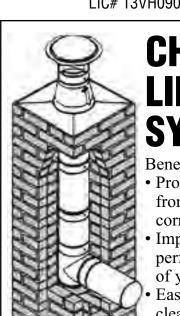
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### VINTAGE MARKETPLACE OCTOBER 22ND

Antiques, collectibles and vintage Items will be for sale at more than 75+ tables during the Vintage Marketplace fair being held on October 22nd from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the parking lot of the Fanwood Train Station located on South Ave. This event is free and opened to the public. If you are a collector, or love things from days gone by then you will enjoy this event. Spend an enjoyable day browsing through all the items being sold, have some lunch and enjoy the great music.



It should come as no surprise that our preteens and teenagers are spending more and more time online. In fact, a recent report released by Common Sense Media states that young people spend a shocking 6 to 9 hours a day using media (2015). Although the internet is a vast repository of knowledge, how do our students know what is safe, reliable, and valid when doing research for school? How will they learn to conduct themselves on social media with care and compassion when provided with the mask of anonymity? Most importantly, how can we keep

Recognizing this responsibility, last year Park and Terrill Middle Schools in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District received a grant from

our children safe with the virtual world at their

literal fingertips? With technology moving at

seemingly the speed of light, it is the

responsibility of schools, parents, and the

community to help our students become and

remain good cyber citizens and stay safe in the

virtual and real world.

SCREENAGERS
GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Presented by SPF Public Schools and the Educational Enrichment Foundation of Scotch Plains

the Educational Enrichment Foundation (EEF) to show Screenagers, a documentary by the awardwinning physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston, about students growing up in the digital age.

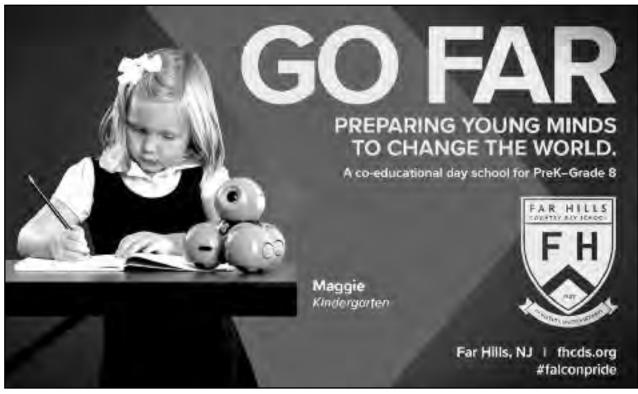
This documentary addresses the impact of screen time on kids, focusing on topics like social

This documentary addresses the impact of screen time on kids, focusing on topics like social media, video games, academics, and internet addiction and featuring analysis from experts in the field and personal stories from those who have been affected by this growing epidemic. The screening is a part of Park and Terrill's larger efforts to educate students, parents, staff members, and the community on issues of cyber safety and citizenship.

We have scheduled two screenings of Screenagers - October 18 in the SPFHS Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. and October 19 in Terrill's Auditorium at 9:30 a.m.

These events are open to everyone, including students, parents, teachers, community members, etc. We hope to see you there!







### SP-F DISTRICT TO BEGIN STRATEGIC PLANNING Scotch Plains Monthly • Page 13 • October 2017 PROCESS, RESIDENTS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

The first meeting of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education to begin the strategic planning process was held on Tuesday, October 3. Additional meetings will be held on Monday, October 16 and Thursday, November 2.

Residents will have an opportunity to provide input on the school's future direction as well as current strengths and needs of the district. Participation in any or all of our three meetings will be greatly appreciated.

Using a dynamic process guided by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the district

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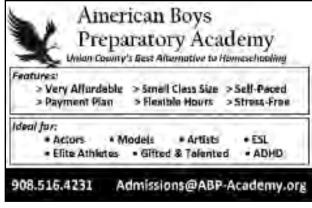
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will work together with residents, students, parents, teachers and community leaders to contribute thoughts and ideas to be incorporated into creating a shared vision for the future of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools. The Board of Education hopes that you, the residents of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, will respond enthusiastically.

Join us in creating the future for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District. Any questions, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 908-232-6161 Ext. 4002.





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Contact 908-322-0253 designsbycolorscapes@gmail.com

### **THRIFT SHOP CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Upcoming events at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop, located at 1741 E. 2nd St., Scotch Plains.

**Halloween Costumes.** 

**Accessories & Party Goods go on Sale.** 

October 10

**Doll & Toy Sale** 

November 7 -11

**Christmas Bric-a-Brac & Home Decor** goes on Sale.

November 14

**Closed for Thanksgiving** 

November 21 - 24

**Shop Opens for "Black" Saturday Sales** 

November 25

**Christmas Boutique Begins** 

December 5

**Shop Closed** 

December 26 - Jan. 1

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 \$1.2 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 www.scotchplainsthriftshop.weebly.com speak to any of our volunteers at the shop. Check out our Facebook page "Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League" and give us a "Like." Hours are Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 10-2:30 and Saturday 10-1. New and gentlyused donations are always welcome during open hours. When you donate, please respect our customers, they pay for donated items. Free parking on the street and in the rear of the building (enter parking lot via Willow Ave.).



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### **OCTOBER EVENTS**

### **COLLEGE NIGHT**

Wed. Nov. 1, 7-8:30 pm

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains in collaboration with the Counseling Department at the Scotch Plains Fanwood High School is hosting its 65th Annual College Night on Wednesday, November 1 from 7:00–8:30 pm.

All 11th and 12th grade students, whether attending Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School or any of the local private or parochial high schools, are invited to attend this informative program.

Representatives from over 200 colleges are expected to attend. Doors will open at 7:00pm at Scotch Plains Fanwood High School located at 667 Westfield Road in Scotch Plains.



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### WALK FOR CANCER RESEARCH AND THE SCOTCH PLAINS HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

October 14th

The walk takes off at 9am on the Alan Augustine Village Green with a warm up at 8:45 by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA. The walk is sponsored by Play for P.I.N.K. and all proceeds go to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Adults \$15 – Kids (under 12) - \$5 Register on line at playforpink.org/event/scotch-plains-1-mile-walk/ or register on the day of the walk at 8:30am cash only Adults \$20/Kids (under 12) \$10. One lucky participant will win a complimentary round trip car service to Newark Airport, courtesy of EWR City Executive Sedan and Limousine Service.

From 10am-1pm join us back on the Green for the Scotch Plains Health and Wellness Fair. Free health screenings, flu shots, health and wellness information, free samples and more for the whole family! Local healthcare providers will be on site to answer your questions and share information about their services. For a more information visit www.scotchplainsnj.gov

### **ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT**

October 28th

The 3rd annual Trunk or Treat will take place on Saturday October 28th with a rain date of October 29th in downtown Scotch Plains from 3:30pm-5:30pm on Park Avenue and the Alan Augustine Village Green. Festivities include: car decorating contest, hayrides, spooky stories, crafts and of course, trunk or treating. The Trunk or Treat will also feature a dog costume parade sponsored by Duke's Pet Den and WDHA 105.5. Anyone interested should contact Kim or Debbie at Duke's 908-322-2444 or dukespetden@gmail.com

Scotch Plains Downtown Redevelopment Committee Meetings Announced and Downtown Survey Available on Line at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/scotchplainsd owntownredevelopment

You may also pick up a hard copy of the survey at the Manager's Office – Room 205. Meetings are held at Scotch Plains Town Hall

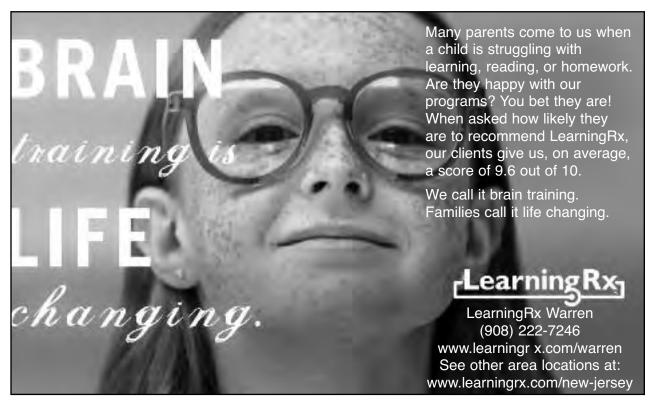
430 Park Ave Scotch Plains, NJ.

Wednesdays 6:30 pm: October 11, November 8, and December 13.

\*meeting dates are subject to change









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### **WORLD WAR I PROGRAMMING CONTINUES THROUGH NOV 9**

As part of the World War I and America series, the Scotch Plains Public Library will host many interesting lectures, discussions, and films in the months of October and November. The series commemorates the centennial of American involvement in World War One and explores the ongoing experience of veterans who have served in our lifetimes.

### Dr. Linda Caldwell Epps will facilitate a readings-based discussion on Race and World War I.

On Thursday, October 12 at at 7 pm
The readings should be completed in preparation for the evening; they are available on the library's website or by visiting http://ww1america.org/race-wwi.php. Preregistration is required for this event.

### Most New Jersey residents went willingly to war in 1917–but some did not.

On Thursday, October 19 at 7 pm

Mark Lender, retired chair of the History Department at Kean University, will explore the home-front experience of New Jersey, with a special focus on the tension between the civil liberties of those who opposed American participation in the conflict and the military needs of a country at war.

### Jessica Cooperman, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Director of Jewish Studies at Muhlenberg College, will discuss an unintentional consequence of involvement in World War I

On Monday, October 23 at 7 pm

American religious pluralism and the depiction of
Judaism and Catholicism as equal partners to
Protestantism in the "three faiths of American
democracy."

## Dr. Christopher C. Gibbs, author and U.S. army veteran, will facilitate a reading-based discussion on the American Home Front during World War I.

On Thursday, October 26 at 7 pm

Readings should be done in preparation for the evening.

They are available online by going to http://wwiamerica.org/home-front.php. Gibbs is the author of The Great Silent Majority: Missouri's Resistance to World War I, as well as six crime novels set in the aftermath of the war. He served with the military police in Vietnam, and has taught history at Rutgers, Middlesex County College, and Union County College. Pre-registration is required for this event.

### Ryan Harty, U.S. army veteran, will facilitate a readingbased discussion on Coming Home:

On Thursday, November 2 at 7 pm

The Toll of War. Harty is currently serving as the Operations Officer for the 1st Squadron, 102d Cavalry Regiment stationed in Westfield and deployed in 2008-2009 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Readings should be completed in preparation for the evening and are available online by going to http://wwiamerica.org/coming-home.php; advanced registration is required.

Finally, on Thursday, November 9 at 7 pm,

### the series will draw to a close with graphic designer and creator of the "52 Reasons to Love a Vet" gallery exhibit,

Ella Rue-Eyet, discussing how her family's experience was the impetus for the founding of a non-profit that serves veterans. A reception to honor our veterans follows her talk.

### **World War I and America**

is a two-year initiative of 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.

### **OCTOBER SPECIAL EVENTS**

Scotch Plains Monthly • Page 15 • October 2017

### **Youth Chess Club**

On Wednesday, October 18 at 6:00 pm, Scotch Plains and Fanwood cardholders ages 7-16 are invited to participate in the library's very popular chess club led by instructor Errol Singh.

Pre-registration is required for the chess club and is limited to Scotch Plains and Fanwood cardholders.

Online registration for the October 18 session will open on Tuesday, October 10.

Space is limited. For more information, please call 908-322-5007 x 204, email library@scotlib.org, or stop by the Reference Desk. For more information about other upcoming activities, check out our website www.scotlib.org.

### **October Date for Teen Anime Club**

Join the teen librarians and the ever-expanding members of the teen Anime Club for more great conversation and activities.

Meet on Monday, October 23 at 7 pm to watch the widely acclaimed Anime series Your Lie in April, discuss favorite titles, and enjoy snacks. Come dressed in your favorite anime/manga costume or any costume at all! Registration is required. This club is for teens in grades 6-12 only.

To register, visit www.scotlib.org, email library@scotlib.org, call (908) 322-5007 x 204 or stop by the Reference Desk.

### **Practice ACT and SAT**

Above Grade Level of Union County will offer a free proctored ACT Practice Test at the Scotch Plains Public Library

on Saturday, October 14 at 9:00 am.
They will also offer a free proctored SAT test on
Saturday, October 28 at 9:00 am. These tests are being
offered as a community service with no obligation or
solicitation. Space is limited and registration is required.

To register, go to www.scotlib.org, email library@scotlib.org, call (908) 322-5007 x 204, stop by the Reference Desk, or contact Above Grade Level directly at 908-889-6396 or gswitsky@abovegradelevel.com.



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### **UNION COUNTY DAY OF PRAYER SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 24**

In the challenging time of racial and religious intolerance as displayed in Charlottesville, fevered anti-immigrant xenophobia and political discord of historic extremes there comes the balance of a nation pulling together to support the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

With this backdrop the Fourth Annual Union County "Day of Prayer and Reflection: Unifying Our Community through Prayer" will be held Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Parish Community of St. Helen at 1600 Rahway Avenue in Westfield.

The annual Day of Prayer is an interfaith

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gathering of the faith-based, nonprofit and government communities to unite people from throughout the county regardless of religion, race or disability, according to Deacon Tim Williams of the First Baptist Church in Kenilworth and chairman of the steering committee of the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council, which sponsors the event each year.

The 2017 Day of Prayer will feature prayers, songs and meditations of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh religious leaders from throughout Union County and neighboring counties. The opening prayer will be given by the Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz of the Archdiocese of Newark, regional bishop of Union County, vicar for the Archdiocese's Hispanic Apostolate and rector of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

"The Union County Day of Prayer has brought together all faiths to focus on the common needs and concerns for all of the people of Union County and our nation," Williams said. "Coming together to pray has shown us the commonalties of our faiths and helped us to strengthen our relationships with our brothers and sisters of all faiths."

The Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council is an organization comprising interfaith congregations and community-based nonprofits, including Community Access Unlimited (CAU). The council promotes inclusion of all people within the community and creates a clearing house of faith-based, nonprofit and government community services available to the public while bringing greater awareness of these services to the greater community, according to Sid Blanchard, executive director of CAU.

CAU is a statewide Elizabeth-based 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 lifeskills training, education, advocacy and recreation.



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# IMAGINE OFFERS SUPPORT GROUPS FOR CAREGIVERS

Imagine is offering support groups for adult caregivers under 60 who are living with a family member's chronic or terminal illness. The groups are safe spaces in which people can express their feelings and gain support from fellow caregivers. The criteria for participation includes caring for any person with a diagnosis of physical illness, injury or disease that significantly changes one's day to day life. Caregivers must be 60 years old or younger. The groups will meet twice a month on Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Imagine's location at 244 Sheffield Street in Mountainside, NJ.

If you or someone you know could benefit www.imaginenj.org.

Imagine is offering support groups for adult regivers under 60 who are living with a family ember's chronic or terminal illness. The groups e safe spaces in which people can express their mandi@imaginenj.org.

from joining Imagine's Coping With Illness program, please contact Mandi Zucker, MSW, CT at 908-264-3100 or email mandi@imaginenj.org.

Imagine provides free year-round peer grief support for more than 250 children and adults from 48 NJ towns every two weeks and every year provides training, education, and on-site support to over 2500 teachers, parents, students, employees, social workers, counselors and members of community organizations.

For more information contact us at info@imaginenj.org or visit Imagine's website at www.imaginenj.org.

# FASHION SHOW TO BENEFIT CENTER FOR HOPE HOSPICE

Tickets are now on sale for the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care Auxiliary's 20th Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon to be held on October 15, 2017. The event will be hosted at the Pines Manor located at 2085 Lincoln Highway in Edison, NJ from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Each year this event is attended by approximately 400 women, many who have returned year after year to enjoy the fashions, luncheon, prizes, raffles and camaraderie. The fashions this year will be offered by Lord and Taylors. Music and commentary throughout the event will again be provided by the fantastic "DJ Rob" Frannicola.

One of the highlights of the afternoon is the one hundred baskets that are donated by the Auxiliary membership and friends that are raffled off during the event. There is also a Grand Raffle which will award a \$2,000 Visa Gift Card, a 55 inch smart TV and a \$500 Shop Rite Gift Card. There will also be a 50/50 drawing and a chance

to win the "Gift Card Apron" worth over \$900 in various gift cards.

Tickets for the Fashion Show are \$65 and can be purchased by contacting Elaine Pisano at 732-359-7362. Information can also be obtained at the Hope Chest, 26 Prospect Street in Westfield.

All Proceeds from the Fashion Show directly benefit the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care located at 1900 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. The Center offers end of life care to terminally ill patients and also palliative care to patients with chronic conditions in their two inpatient centers located in Scotch Plains and Elizabeth or in a patient's home.

Each year the Auxiliary raises funds through various fundraisers and also through its thrift store, the Hope Chest in Westfield. New Auxiliary members are always welcome to be involved in our group of caring and devoted individuals. For more information, please visit the Hope Chest or call the store at 908-233-9973 or visit the center's website: centerforhope.com.













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### **MOBILE MEALS HAS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Does "Back to School" mean you have some free time now? If you have one hour each week or one hour each month, please consider delivering meals to your homebound neighbors. Mobile Meals of Westfield needs volunteer drivers to pick up meals in Westfield at 10:45 am and deliver to an assigned route. Delivery takes

about 1 hour. Drivers are needed Monday - Friday. Our volunteers deliver more than just a meal, they provide a smile and a daily check in for our clients that can be so vital to someone living alone. Please call Mobile Meals of Westfield at 908 233 6146 today to volunteer once a week or once per month.

### **UNION COUNTY FAMILY SUPPORT MEETINGS**

Are you feeling stressed and alone in trying to cope with the effects of a loved one's mental illness? Join the new NAMI- Union County Family Support Group on Tuesday, October 17.

We meet monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 7:30 pm at the Presbyterian Church, 11 Springfield Avenue in Cranford.

You can park on the street or in the Gray Funeral Home lot across the street (if their lights are off which means no services).

Follow the NAMI sign posted on the church's side entrance on Springfield Ave.

A NAMI Family Support Group is a peer led support group for families, caregivers and loved ones of individuals with mental illness.

Gain insight from those sharing their challenges and successes when faced with similar circumstances. Questions?

Please email namiunioncounty@yahoo.com or call 908-233-1628.



### NAMI PRESENTS THE NJ MENTAL HEALTH PLAYERS

The Union County affiliate of National Alliance Positive Relationships". Come and learn on Mental Illness (NAMI) is an organization important coping mechanisms and strategies dedicated to helping those who care for a loved one with a mental illness. At the NAMI public meeting on October 24, the NJ Mental Health meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and is held at the Players will present 2 skits that will focus on scenarios that caregivers may often face.

The skits that will be presented are "Family Dynamics before the Holidays" and "Fostering

through these skits.

All are welcome to this free event. The RWJ Rahway Fitness and Wellness Center, located at 2120 Lamberts Mill Rd., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076. For more information call 908-233-1628 or email namiunioncounty@yahoo.com

### **HEARING SOCIETY HOSTS SPEECH READING CLASSES**

The Hearing Society, a local not-for-profit organization serving people with impaired hearing, resumed its weekly sessions in speech (lip) reading on September 14, 2017. The class meets at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, 170 Elm Street, each Thursday, September through May, 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m., unless otherwise announced. Light refreshments are served before each session.

The classes this year will be under the direction of Morgan Orlowski, speech pathologist, and will provide strategies for coping with hearing loss as well as techniques for improving communication abilities.

These sessions also serve as a support group for Hearing Society members experiencing the problems associated with hearing loss, and include discussions concerning developments in the ever expanding technology of hearing enhancements now available.

Anyone who is interested in membership in the society and participation in its classes may contact Alice Knecht at 908-688-8241 (voice) or alirobkn@aol.com for more information.



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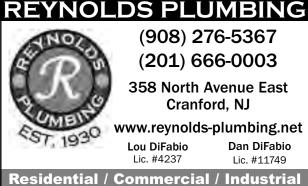
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