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GLHS INTERACT CLUB WINS PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

The Interact student service club at Governor Livingston High School, which serves Berkeley Heights and Mountainside, is the largest and most popular club in the school. At a recent club gathering, club members prepared, packed, and delivered needed food for the coming holiday season to the Hillside Food Bank. This club, sponsored by the Berkeley Heights and the Mountainside Rotary Clubs, is guided by two outstanding teacher-advisors Doreen Ladinski and Sharon Leahy.

On Tuesday, November 21, the club was visited by Berkeley Heights Rotary Club President Jim Ramentol, to present the Rotary Presidential Citation for 2016-17. This citation is awarded to Interact Clubs actively engaged in community outreach and service, and have carried out specific projects in these important dimensions, including promoting international understanding, the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Award weekend workshop, fundraising to eradicate polio in the two remaining countries where it remains present, and community service such as the Food Bank project. This is the 10th consecutive year that this Interact Club has been awarded the Rotary Presidential Citation.

Some of the service activities the Governor Livingston Interact Club has carried out include serving at the annual Rotary Club's Community Pancake Breakfast, participating regularly in the Berkeley Heights annual Clean-Up Day and the Make-A-Wish Marathon, pumpkin painting and holiday party at Runnells Center for Rehabilitation & Healthcare,



(above l-r) Jim Ramentol, BH Rotary Club President; Interact Club Officers Rebecca Henderson, Sarah Laveve, and Colleen Granelli.

making and delivering sandwiches to the Market Street Mission in Morristown, designing and sending holiday cards for our Military on active duty overseas, cleaning the beaches at Sandy Hook for the annual "Beach Sweep" project, packing food boxes at the Hillside Food Bank, raising funds for "Shelter Boxes" (10-person survival tents and gear) in flood- and earthquake-destroyed areas in the U.S. and overseas, and financially supporting Ecuadoran students.



(above) Interact members at work.

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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

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MEET MARYANNE CHRISTIANO-MISTRETTA YOUR CONTACT FOR NEWSPAPER CONTENT



Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

Hello Readers!

I'm ecstatic to introduce myself as the new editor for Renna Media. It's such an honor working with Joe and Tina Renna; they are awesome!

Joe has asked me to write a little bit about myself for our readership, which is probably a great idea since I'll often be out

and about in the community.

Residing in Union County with my husband, Dennis, and our beloved cat Nicholas, my interests, besides writing and editing, include animals, music, and living a healthy lifestyle.

Writing professionally since 1995, I'm an award-winning journalist. I received my award from The NJ Society of Professional Journalists for investigative journalism. I'm also an author, public speaker, and poet (recently selected to read at the All About Eve Arts Festival at the West End Theatre in Long Branch, New Jersey).

Having a great passion for music, I've developed a unique library program called "The Learn & Listen Series" which pays homage to legendary musicians.

The two-fold presentation begins as I host, sharing a musician's biography – which I wrote – followed by actual live music from local New Jersey and New York talent. Librarians can choose from a variety of singers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, Sammy Davis Jr., John Lennon, Freddie Mercury, Johnny Cash, Janis Joplin, and David Bowie.

I'm blessed to be able to work with performers like indie recording artist Keith Beck; jazz sensation Stephen Fuller (front man for Amani);

singer/performance artist, Anna Oh; and three-time Grammy winning producer, Rob Fusari.

"Learn & Listen" also includes Jayne DiGregorio and Rich Timberlake, who work behind-the-scenes filming for an upcoming documentary.

In addition to the "Learn & Listen" series, I also lecture on "History of the Newspaper Industry," "Going, Going, Gone: What the Next Generation Won't Remember" (seniors love that one!), and there's also a healthy foodies series, which includes sampling.

Now, if you've read this far, you may be asking yourself – how can this woman work so much and still have time to edit 21 newspapers? As Joe Renna himself says – "It's not work, it's a lifestyle." I somehow get everything done ... and with a big smile on my face.

When you have a grand passion for what you do, it doesn't matter what day it is. It could be a Monday, or a Friday, and you're equally as happy. Sometimes I'm home all day working in my pajamas; other times I'm having a blast taking photos at a Winter Walk. Whether I sleep in or get up super early to attend a town meeting, it's all good. In this line of work, every day is different, and every day is exciting.

In just one month of working for Renna Media, I've attended many fun affairs and met incredible people. It brings a tear to my eye when a child cheers, "I'm gonna be in the newspaper!" after I take his or her photograph. That's what it's all about – the essence of presenting a good story to the community.

So, don't hesitate to send me your community news. We call on the arts, fundraisers, nonprofits, new businesses – anything positive that should be in your local newspaper.

Reach me at 908-858-4012, or email me at: Editor@RennaMedia.com

I look forward to hearing from you!

Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta



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MOUNTAINSIDE EDUCATION FOUNDATION TO HOST CASINO NIGHT ON JANUARY 20TH

Submitted by Elisa Roland



The Mountainside Education Foundation is excited to hold their fifth Casino Night event on Saturday, January 20, 2018 from 7 to 11 p.m. at Pollard Hall at 300 Central Ave., Mountainside, NJ, in Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Enjoy a fun-filled casino night with something for everyone including professional gambling tables, music, food, drinks, prizes, and

a silent auction.

All proceeds from the event will fund educational grants that benefit the students within the Mountainside School District in the areas of arts, science, technology, mathematics, writing, and community service.

The Mountainside Education Foundation would like to thank all their event sponsors for helping to make this night a success. Sponsorship opportunities are still available for both businesses and individuals at a variety of levels. The MEF is a registered 501(c)(3) organization and all sponsorship donations are tax deductible.

Contact Caroline Klimas at klimas4@verizon.net for more information.




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MOUNTAINSIDE TREE LIGHTING

A large crowd of Mountainside residents of all ages were feeling festive at the annual tree lighting held last month. Mountainside Mayor Paul Mirabelli kicked off the festivities and holiday merriment which featured Santa and his elves, who arrived on a fire truck and posed for photographs. Hot chocolate and Christmas cookies were provided by volunteers from the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee, with proceeds

benefitting the Levi Cory House.

The success of the event was due to the volunteer efforts of the Mountainside Rescue Squad, Girl Scout Troops #40962, #40195 and #40690. The mayor gave a special thanks to the Mountainside Committee for providing the fantastic new lights that were donned on the tree, both beautiful and spectacular.



(above, l-r) Mountainside Historic Committee members Carol Goggi, Ethel Ward, Scott Daniels, Deb Daniels, Nancy Spadaccini, Wendy Fech-Caccamo, and George Urban.



(above) Members of Mountainside Rescue Squad.



(above) Girl Scout Troop #40962.



(above) Second Grade Girl Scout Troop #40690.



(above) Third grade Girl Scout Troop #40195.



(above) Mountainside Mayor, Paul Mirabelli, addresses the chorus of Christmas Carolers.

HOLIDAY SPIRIT AT THE HETFIELD HOUSE

Sunday, December 10, 2017, was a fun-filled afternoon at the Hetfield House, located at Constitution Plaza in Mountainside.

The Hetfield House was decorated as a Gingerbread House for families to enjoy from 1 to 4 p.m. Festivities included decorating gingerbread ornaments and other crafts; Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus greeted guests and were available for photographs; live music was provided by Governor Livingston Highlander Pipe Corp, Deerfield Middle School instrumental music students, and Our Lady of Lourdes Children's Choir.

The Village Shoppe boutique was open and had many holiday gifts for purchase such as ornaments, holiday treats for dogs, and jewelry.

A \$5 suggested donation raised funds for the restoration of the neighboring Levi Cory House.

For further information about the restoration of the Levi Cory House, visit:

www.mountainsidehistory.org

ABOUT LEVI CORY HOUSE RESTORATION

After two postponements, Mountainside's historic Levi Cory House (circa 1818) was finally moved on November 2, 2013 and situated on its permanent lot on November 9th. The foundation was built and the 4-foot crawl space is complete. The house was lowered onto its new foundation on September 5th, 2014. Soil has been backfilled around the house. Two chimneys were replaced and work has been completed on the new roof. Fascia and sill repair are in the process. The "modern add-on" bow window has been removed and cedar siding has been replaced. A staircase has been built inside to access the crawl space basement. First floor rooms have had walls replaced and are freshly painted. The exterior has a fresh new paint job. Future plans include interior repairs and painting, and replacement of exterior porches which were original to the house. The house now has electricity! Other utilities (water, sewer, gas) need to be brought to the house.

The Mountainside Restoration Committee has acquired the historic structure and raised funds to save it from demolition, but it had to be moved. The Borough of Mountainside allowed the house to be permanently placed on Borough property on Constitution Plaza. The house, now relocated to its new home, is a fitting neighbor to the Hetfield House.



(above l-r) Scott Daniels, chairman Mountainside Historical Committee; Coady Brown "Gingerbread Man"; and Carol Goggi, publicity chair Mountainside Historical Committee.



(above) Mrs. Claus and Santa Claus.



(above l-r) Kathryn Bager and Patrice Newcome making Christmas crafts.



(above l-r) Victoria Becke and Allie Zimmermann of Governor Livingston Highlander Pipe Corp.



(above) Ethel Ward, volunteer.



(above) Children with Gingerbread Man.



(above) The Hetfield Gingerbread House.

ROTARY CLUB OPEN INVITE TO MEETINGS

The Mountainside Rotary Club recently distributed dictionaries and thesauri to the third and fourth grade students at Deerfield School. Dan Falcone, John Schnakenberg, and Glenn Mortimer represented the club. The club has been distributing the books for over 15 years.

The club's next meeting is January 29, 2018 with guest speaker Tulsi Maharjan, the District Governor of Rotary International - District 7510.

If you would like to see what Rotary is all about, stop by one of the meetings held at the Grillstone Restaurant in Scotch Plains. Meetings are every Monday (except Holidays) at 12:15 p.m. For more information please call President Rose Sinisi, at 908-625-8308.



(above) The Mountainside Rotary Club recently distributed dictionaries and thesauri to the third and fourth grade students at Deerfield School.

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MOUNTAINSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Mountainside Public Library is located at 1 Constitution Plaza, Mountainside, NJ.
To register for these programs, stop into the library or call 908-233-0115.

The Mountainside Public Library has scheduled the following programs for January. The Library will be closed on Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

TUESDAY NIGHT MOVIES

Showtime for each movie is 6:30 p.m.

Truth (2016)

will be shown on January 9.

On the morning of September 9, 2004, veteran CBS News producer Mary Mapes believed she had every reason to feel proud of a broadcast journalism job well done. By the end of the day, Mapes, CBS News, and the venerable CBS News anchor Dan Rather would be under harsh scrutiny (R).

The Founder (2017)

January 16

This movie details the story of Ray Kroc, a salesman who turned two brothers' innovative fast food eatery, McDonald's, into the biggest restaurant business in the world, with a combination of ambition, persistence, and ruthlessness (PG-13).

My Cousin Rachel (2017)

to be shown on January 23

tells the story of a young Englishman who plots revenge against his mysterious, beautiful cousin, believing that she murdered his guardian. But his feelings become complicated as he finds himself falling under the beguiling spell of her charms (PG-13).

Our final movie of the month will be

An Inconvenient Sequel (2017).

on January 30

A decade after An Inconvenient Truth brought climate change into the heart of popular culture comes the follow-up that shows just how close we are to a real energy revolution (PG).

The Glass Castles (2017)

On February 6

will be screened. Chronicling the adventures of an eccentric, resilient and tight-knit family, The Glass Castle is a remarkable story of unconditional love bringing Jeannette Walls's best-selling memoir to life as a young woman who found the determination to carve out a successful life on her own terms (PG-13).

Winter Story Times at the Library

Stay warm and cuddle up with our children's story times with Miss Elizabeth during January.

Daytime programs are for "babies in arms" through preschoolers. Pick up a flyer in the library for times or consult the website calendar at

www.mountainsidelibrary.org/children.

Brown Bag Academy, Career Networking Group

Monday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m.

The road to new employment is rarely effortlessly traveled, but the experience wizens and prepares us for the next inevitable transition. Come and listen to the stories of Career Networking Group alumni who successfully navigated the job search maze and landed.

They will share tips and lessons learned and how networking led them to their new professional roles. They give back through their stories so that you can land your new job or move to your new career.

This program is free and open to the public.

To register for this event, please call the Mountainside Public Library at 908-233-0115.

Opera on Film Series

Friday, January 12 at 1:00 p.m.

Friday Operas on Film series, presented by Mena Clemson, will be showing Die Csárdásfürstin by Emmerich Kálmán. René Kollo stars as Edwin and Anna Moffa as Silva in this 1971 filmed version of the story of a Budapest cabaret singer in love with a young aristocrat.

"Guided Meditation for Inner Peace"

Thursday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Join us every month in the new year as we explore and experience the most talked about evidence based meditation techniques for inner peace, overall well-being and stress reduction. This month Sally Younghans will be teaching a self-guided meditation technique using visualization and prompts.

"Saturday Musical Getaways

MRB Jazz Project"

Saturday, January 20, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

The MRB Jazz Project has performed at numerous private clubs, corporate events and fund-raising affairs, as well as libraries, colleges and universities since the group's inception in 2005.

The musicians include Michael Pasqua on piano, Bruce Riccittelli on percussion and Gerry Babo on acoustic bass. Their repertoire encompasses music that spans the past ninety years of American songwriting, including classic jazz compositions, along with their unique interpretations of the Great American Songbook, often popularized on stage and screen. From romantic ballads to up-tempo swing tunes, be-bop to jazz waltzes, the MRB Jazz Project always weaves a diverse tapestry of music to appeal to a wide variety of musical tastes. And, for some added flavor, the trio often further seasons their concerts with some sultry Brazilian bossa novas or other Latin inflected tunes to round out their performance.

FREE CHILD, TEEN, AND ADULT GRIEF SUPPORT

Free support groups are available for children, teens, and parents coping with loss due to death or illness on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Imagine located at 244 Sheffield Street in Mountainside, NJ.

Imagine is a free year-round peer grief support program for children age 3-18 and young adults 18-30 who have had a parent, brother, or sister die, or who are living with a family member with a life-altering physical illness. Concurrent support groups are available for parents and guardians in both programs. Imagine also provides educational workshops and on-site bereavement and crisis support for businesses, corporations, schools and community agencies.

Imagine supports children and families coping with loss and fosters resiliency and emotional well-being for all those who grieve. If you or someone you know could benefit please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or email info@imaginejnj.org.

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TARA OLIVEIRA NAMED “VISIONARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR”

Tara Oliveira, Assistant Principal of Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights, has been named as the Visionary Assistant Principal of the Year – Secondary Level by the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA).

Mrs. Oliveira has served as Assistant Principal at Governor Livingston since August 2012. She first joined the faculty at Governor Livingston in September 2011 as a Teacher of English after having taught in Pennsylvania for nearly seven years.

“From our first day as colleagues, it was evident that Mrs. Oliveira had that special quality that would endear her to everyone with whom she would come in contact,” stated Robert Nixon, Principal of Governor Livingston High School. “Her skill set features an exceptional blend of intelligence, work ethic, compassion, determination, logic, and competitiveness. Mrs. Oliveira has the ability to administer discipline and counsel staff and students with an understanding smile. She is a relentless worker who not only expects the best, but delivers the best. I cannot imagine an Assistant Principal more deserving of this honor.”

Mrs. Oliveira has played a key role in the implementation of numerous technological advances at Governor Livingston - including the transition to Google Classroom, the 1:1 student iPad initiative, and the establishment of “GL Admin Folder” – all of which have enhanced teaching, learning, and communication at the high school.

“We are so excited that Mrs. Oliveira has been selected as the New Jersey Assistant Principal Visionary Award winner,” stated Judith A. Rattner, Berkeley Heights Superintendent of Schools. “She is a dynamic administrator who is

an integral part of our administrative team and is respected by the students because of her care and concern for them and their experiences.”

Mrs. Oliveira earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from Lehigh University in addition to a Master of Education Degree in Secondary English Teaching and a second Master of Education Degree in Educational Leadership, also from Lehigh University.

“Mrs. Oliveira’s vision has helped drive change not simply for the sake of changing, but for the sake of improving how we operate as a high-achieving school,” added Mr. Nixon. “In an educational culture where many resist change, she has not only embraced it, but she has helped create an environment where the change had a substantial positive impact and was supported by the staff.”

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ART PROGRAM FUNDED THROUGH BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

On November 8, 2017, Deerfield Art teacher, Victoria Tiscia, received a surprising email from Donors Choose, a crowd funding organization specifically geared to support classroom projects. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation provided the final matching money to complete her request to fund a pottery wheel for the Deerfield art program. Mrs. Tiscia received a total of 10 donations to fund the \$1,700 project, but the largest donation came from the Gates

Foundation. Donors may or may not reveal their identity when they decide to contribute.

Here is an excerpt of Mrs. Tiscia's grant proposal:

I would like to provide my students with access to new mediums and techniques on a daily basis. My classes range in ability from beginner artists to spatially gifted students. For many students, this could be the first and last time that they will be able to work with clay in their

academic career. I want to be able to provide every outlet possible for my students to create and explore in a three-dimensional art setting.

"Can we use the wheel?" This is the first question my students ask when they hear that we are making pottery. With your help, the answer will turn into a "yes!"

Founded in 2000 by a high school teacher in the Bronx, DonorsChoose empowers public school teachers from across the country to request much-needed materials and experiences for their students. Teachers make their request through the DonorsChoose website and individuals and organizations across the country make contributions.

Mrs. Tiscia is not the only teacher in Mountainside to have received funding from DonorsChoose. As part of a district wide initiative, this will be the fifth year that every classroom teacher in Mountainside participates. It began as a way to get more books into each classroom for the new Language Arts program, and as a way for the community to get more involved. But support has expanded. In the past four years teachers have received over \$60,000 in grants to enhance their classroom instruction, including such items as class sets of books and magazines, science lab materials, a scanner, and a weather station.

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(above) Deerfield students in Mrs. Tiscia's art class enjoy their new pottery wheel funded by Donors Choose and the Gates Foundation.

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