# RAHWAY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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# **HS ORCHESTRA GARNERS AWARD AT RUTGERS STRING**

Submitted by Rob Kinch

Leaving one's comfort zone isn't always easy. It's daunting, and sometimes truly scary, although it can often pave the way for learning and on occasion, as RHS strings students have learned, can also earn an award! Competing with area high school orchestras from East Brunswick, Summit, Westfield, and Edison on November 18, 2017, the Rahway High School Orchestra, conducted by strings teacher Sergei Panov, participated once again this year in the Rutgers String Day program. Coordinated at the university by Dr. Elena Chernova-Davis and held at Mason Gross School of the Arts' Nicholas Music Center, the event was designed to bring together the most advanced high school chamber orchestras from the tri-county area for a day of playing, fun, and learning.

As part of the day's program, each high school orchestra was required to perform a movement six or seven minutes in length from a major musical work and then receive subsequent comments and feedback from a panel of judges. Mr. Panov conducted his orchestra in a performance of "Themes and Variations I, II & III" by A. Glazunov for which they received an award as Best Ensemble in recognition of their togetherness and stage presentation. Senior violinist Chelsea Lambkin, member of the Strings Orchestra for three years, expressed her excitement by sharing that receiving this award made her feel "accomplished...especially when the judges commented on our playing as a true orchestra."

Mr. Panov found that "the best part of the students' participation in the String Day was the broadening of their horizons." He added, "Seeing is believing and, in this case,

having our students see the level of playing of other high school orchestras was an eye-opening experience for them."

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Sophomore violinist Madison Melendez admitted that she was "nervous working with other schools, especially with those who have more opportunities for practice than we do." Her conductor believes this award "gave them confidence that there was definite improvement in their own playing from last year and that they were seeing the positive results of their hard work on musicality and togetherness." Ms. Melendez was very proud of their award, freely offering, "We deserved it from working so hard together; that's what gives it very special meaning to all of us!"

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Camp is particularly proud of the students' achievement as she places great value on the arts in the development of "well rounded students who become well rounded citizens."

She continued to cite that, "Mr. Panov is both an amazing teacher and talented musician. The district is truly fortunate to have such a dedicated, gifted musician working with our students. He knows how to support and encourage the beginner and, as important, to take the musically advanced students much further in their development."

The orchestra students clearly share a similar sentiment for their beloved conductor. "Mr. Panov is an inspiration for music to us; he's the reason we earned this award," stated Madison Melendez.

Chelsea Lambkin sees this award as "only the beginning of our musical career at RHS," adding,"We can't thank our conductor enough for motivating us to be our best."



(left) Rahway High School strings students celebrate their award with Mr. Panov.

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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 threetime 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.

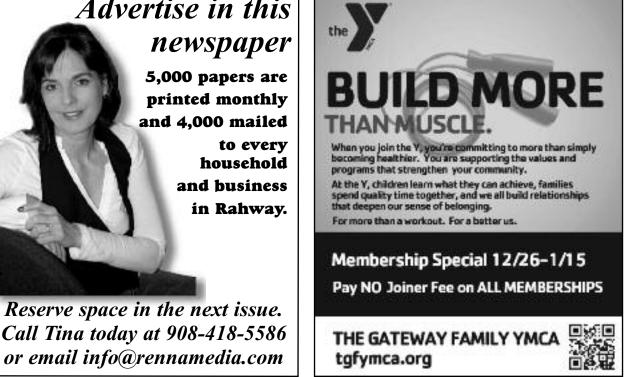
Reach me at 908-858-4012, or email me at: Editor@RennaMedia.com

I look forward to hearing from you!

Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta



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# **NEW STUDIO ANNOUNCES SEWING & QUILTING WORKSHOPS**

Cultured Expressions Sewing & Quilting Studio (the "CE Studio") in Rahway announces the release of its workshop schedule for Winter 2018. Following a series of successful preview weekends and grand opening events, the studio is launching its first series of hands-on classes in creating handbags, quilts, wall hangings, gifts, accessories and more. It's conveniently located at 1417 Main Street, in the Arts District of

downtown Rahway, NJ.

All skill levels are welcome -- true beginners are encouraged to enroll in a two-hour workshop called "Sewing Machine 101". "It's a fun session that allows beginners to "test-drive" sewing in an affordable way, and students actually complete a simple project while learning how to use the sewing machine. With even basic skills, they can immerse themselves

in our other creative workshops and the vibrant, culturally-rich fabrics. It's a real mood lifter, a very different experience from those less-than-inspiring memories some people recall from home-ec sewing lessons of many years ago." says Lisa Shepard Stewart, owner of the studio.

In addition to the hands-on workshops and events, the studio offers gorgeous handcrafted fabrics (mostly imported from African countries) and embellishments and supplies for DIY projects with cultural flair. And of course, enthusiasts can even purchase a new sewing machine at the studio, too. "We use the Janome S5 for workshops, with two other models on display and available for purchase – we carry a machine for every budget," she explains.

The studio is just one block from Rahway train station, and right across the street from the covered parking deck. Studio hours are Wednesday 4-8 p.m., Thursday and Friday 12-6 p.m., and Saturdays 10-6 p.m. Sunday hours are scheduled in advance for groups and private parties.

For updates and workshop information, visit the studio, call 866-MUDCLOTH (866-683-2568), visit www.CulturedExpressions.com/studio, or email info@CulturedExpressions.com. Follow @culturedexpressions on Instagram and Facebook.











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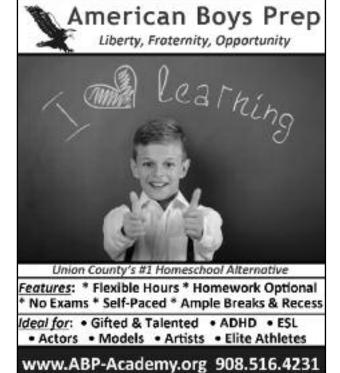
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# **RAHWAY GARDEN CLUB**

## HAVE THE **WINTER BLUES?** MISS GARDENING?

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# **HOUSEPLANTS** WINTER WATERING

As daylight hours shorten, houseplants slow their growth and requirements for watering lessen. This enables plants to adapt and survive the long winter months. Stop fertilizing until active growth resumes in the spring.

During the summertime we can usually water all of our houseplants at the same time, but now each plant must be watered for their individual water requirement. To make this easier group like plants together and refresh your memory of the water suggestions for each plant.

The most common problem related to houseplants is 'root rot' due to over watering. When plants aren't growing they don't absorb as much water. The excess water sits in the soil and on the root system. This situation allows the roots to 'rot' and leads to the death of the plant.

The easiest way to avoid this problem is a simple watering technique, touching the soil. Simply stick your finger in the top inch of soil and if it is moist don't water it. Let the soil dry out between watering. Many gardeners use this horticultural practice all year long.

Another result of wet soil is 'fungus gnats', tiny flying insects that are an annoying houseplant pest. These insects lay eggs on moist soil and hatch quickly increasing the number of gnats throughout the winter. These pests can be controlled by lessening the amount of water. Once again let the top inch of soil totally dry out between watering. You can also put a few small pieces of potato in the top of the soil. The newly hatched gnats crawl into the potato for food and can be easily removed before becoming adults. Remember to dispose and replace these chucks of potatoes once or twice a week and your problem will be solved within a few weeks. If you have a treasured houseplant this procedure is worth the time and effort to save it.

Use room temperature water. After you empty



(above) President of The Rahway Garden Club, James Keane, has been researching and answering garden questions since 1995. Visit 'Keane Gardener' blog at: keanegardener.blogspot.com

your watering can refill it and let it sit for the next time. This also lets the chlorine drop to the bottom before you water your plants again.

The modern day 'trick' of using ice cubes and letting them melt on top of the soil does more harm than good for your plant. Remember most of our houseplants are from hot tropical or desert climates. Orchids are one plant that suffers greatly from this practice of using ice cubes.

Enjoy gardening all year long,

James



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# RAHWAY HEADLINES - 100, 75, AND 50 YEARS AGO

Submitted by Al Shipley, City Historian and Rahway Library Research Consultant

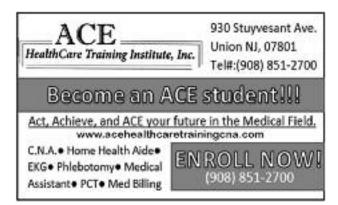
For the past three years, the January history article has taken a look back at the headlines featured on the front pages of the local newspaper of the day. As 2018 unfolds, it's again an opportune time to go back 100, 75, and 50 years for a glimpse at the events and issues that were covered.

#### 1918

The United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917 and from the onset, the people of Rahway aggressively supported the war effort. Rahway boys responded to the government's call to register and enlist. Residents helped fund the cause by buying Liberty Bonds, supporting the United War Work Campaign, and the Victory Dollars War Fund, and by joining the Red Cross. Victory Gardens were planted throughout the city.

In mid-January, work began on a \$1,500,000 Army hospital to be built in Colonia for the rehabilitation of soldiers who returned with injuries suffered during the war. In Rahway, residents were asked to open their homes to accommodate the expected 2,500 officials and workers needed for the project. By March, plans were underway to build 100 new homes in the city for the hospital workers.

The Rahway Chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, who for years had been rallying against the evils of "King Alcohol," were gratified by the passage of a constitutional resolution making it difficult to legally obtain alcoholic beverages. The group petitioned the local Board of Excise urging them to strictly enforce the law as it pertained to the city's 17







(above) The World War II Roll of Honor was located on the corner of Campbell Street and Elm Avenue next to the Campbell Street City Hall.

saloons. (A year later, on January 16, 1919, Congress would pass the 18th Amendment to the Constitution – the prohibition of alcoholic beverages in the United States.)

In April, the Board of Education passed a resolution to drop German language studies from the high school curriculum.

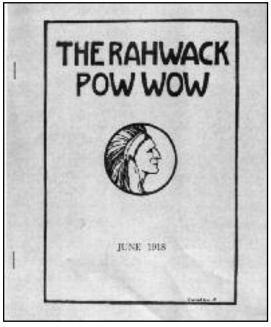
An issue of censorship arose in June when school officials at Rahway High confiscated the graduation issue of the Rahwack Pow Wow, a student publication that served as both newsletter and yearbook. Officials cut 34 pages from the prepared 70 page issue without consulting the editorial staff. The student editors brought their complaint to the Board of Education, who after a lengthy hearing, ruled that both sides were at fault, reprimanded both groups, and took no further action.

World War I ended on November 11, 1918. A parade was held in the city on the following Friday evening to celebrate the victory and the end of the war. Thirteen local soldiers made the Supreme Sacrifice, all in 1918.

#### 1943

World War II was in its third year and the citizens of Rahway did not wane in their continued support of our troops. Housewives were never heard to complain about the shortages of meat needed for their dinner tables, and continued to wait on long lines for food and gas ration books. Vacant lots throughout the city were parceled out to volunteers who cultivated them into Victory Gardens. Fund drives for the Red Cross, Bomber Campaign, and War Bonds and Stamps all surpassed the requested quotas. In September, trucks gathered 18 tons of salvage material which included paper, tin, scrap iron, rags, and rubber.

The women of Rahway played a major role during the war years. Many joined the Volunteer Special Services of the Red Cross. A recruiting office was set up on Irving Street where women could find jobs in area industries to make up for the loss of manpower. After an urgent nationwide plea for women to join the WACS, several hundred Rahway women enlisted.



(above) Front cover of the controversial June 1918 Rahway High School publication.

On July 11, a 6' x 25' Wall of Honor sign board was unveiled listing the names of over 1,200 Rahway men and women serving in the military. By the end of World War II, the list contained 2,400 names including the fifty-eight Rahway soldiers killed during the war.

#### 1968

Throughout the country, the latter part of the 1960s was a period marked by protest and unrest and Rahway was not immune to the issues that were both local and national. Minority groups sensed the time had come to become more vocal and they stepped forward to make sure their voices were heard. Groups including the Citizen's Coalition Committee, and the 4th Ward Civic Association, often with the backing of the local NAACP, pressed city officials to listen to their demands and bring solutions to their concerns. There were protests against the flood gate at the East Hazelwood Avenue Bridge (called the Berlin Wall, it was built to solve the flooding problem, but actually exacerbated the situation) and the lack of attention in creating an alternate flood control program. The groups went to city hall to raise questions about the city council's proposal to alter the Board of Education from an elective group to an appointed body. They also attended Board of Education meetings to present their positions on the Board's desegregation plans and their plan to initiate forced busing.

Following the assassination of Martin Luther King on April 4, 1968, student unrest surfaced in the halls of Rahway High. Fortuitously, an ad hoc committee was quickly formed consisting of student leaders, school and city officials, and civic and religious leaders. After several fruitful meetings, tensions had eased by the end of the month.

On Saturday, June 8, over 2,000 people gathered at Rahway Station to bid farewell to Robert F. Kennedy, as the train bearing his body passed. The Senator had been assassinated two days earlier.

Fighting was still raging in Viet Nam. Six of the 18 Rahway soldiers who died in Viet Nam were killed in 1968.

## RAHWAY'S OWN RISING STAR WINNER IS NAMED ATHLETE OF THE YEAR



## **RAHWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS**

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#### Renew, Restore & Relax Yoga Returns!

Wednesdays, January 10, 17 & 24 at 6:30pm.

All adults welcome, regardless of age or fitness level. No registration necessary.

#### **Discovery Studio - Crochet Club**

Thursdays, January 4 & 18 at 6:30pm.

Bring your hooks and yarn.

Work on a project or learn a new technique!

Program is free for teens and adults.

#### Friends' Group Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 11 at 7:00pm.
The Friends of the Rahway Public Library will meet at the library at 7:00 pm on the second Thursday of each month.

#### **Readers Circle Book Club**

Wednesday, January 17 at 2:00pm.

Join us for the discussion of The Jazz Files
by Fiona Veitch Smith.

#### **Third Thursday Movie**

Thursday, January 18 at 2:00pm. Victoria & Abdul (2017) PG-13 1h 51min - Biography, Drama, History.

#### **Gadget Program**

Did you get a new phone, e-book reader, or tablet as a gift? Are you stumped on how to do so much as turn it on? Don't panic. We'll help you figure it out. Call us and make an appointment! Program ends January 30.



#### **TEEN EVENTS**

#### **Teen Circle Activity**

Thursday, January 18 at 4:00pm. Unplug with Board Games!

#### **Discovery Studio - Comic Creator**

Monday, January 22 at 6:00pm.

Use our computers and comic creator software and create your own comic.

#### **Teen Screen Movie**

Monday, January 29 at 5:00pm.
The Mountain Between Us Rated PG-13.
All are welcome to attend.

### **CHILDREN'S EVENTS**

#### **Toddler Time**

Wednesdays at 10:30am 1/3, 1/10, 1/17, 1/24/ & 1/31.

We will be talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing during this literacy readiness storytime. Ages birth - 4 with caregiver:

#### **Junior Lego Club**

Tuesday, January 9 at 11:00am.

Make something out of Legos and put it on display! Ages 2-5.

#### **Star Wars BINGO**

Thursday, January 11 at 4:00pm. Have a blast playing BINGO at the library!

Ages 4+.

#### Crafternoon

Thursday, January 18 at 4:00pm. Make a fun craft at the library. Ages 6-10.

#### **Preschool Dance Party**

Tuesday, January 23 at 11:00am.

Come on out to play instruments and dance!

Ages birth – 5.

#### Lego Club

Monday, January 29 at 6:30pm.

Make something out of Legos and put it on display! Ages 5+.

Congratulations to Ajanae Thompson. Thompson who was named 2017 USATF NJ Junior Olympic Youth Athlete of the Year for 11-to 12-year-old girls in Hurdles.

This past July Thompson competed at the 2017 USATF Hershey National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships in Lawrence Kansas where she dominated the field in the 80-meter hurdles bringing home the National Junior Olympic title.

Thompson finished her 2017 outdoor season being NJ #1 11- to 12-year girl in the 100-meter dash, 200 meter dash, and 80 meter hurdles. She is the state and regional record holder for the 80-meter hurdles.

(left) Ajanae Thompson.

# COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

During the week of December 4th, students at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway celebrated Computer Science Education week by participating in the 5th annual Hour of Code event. During computer lab, students from kindergarten through 6th grade spent some time learning about computer science and how to code.

The Hour of Code is a worldwide campaign to prove that regardless of age, race or gender, anyone can learn how to not just consume, but build the technologies of the future. This movement, organized by Code.org and supported by Apple, Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and over 100 others, is a statement that today's generation is ready to learn critical skills for 21st-century success.



(above, front, l-r) Front row: Emmanuel Ortiz; (middle row, l-r) Jenna Birney, Brendann Griggs, Angel Garcia; (back row, l-r) Casey Lord, Chloe Callender, and Jonathan Couceiro show off their 'Hour of Code' certificates that they earned.



(above) Students work together on tasks.

# STUDENTS RAISE THEIR VOICES TO CELEBRATE A HOLIDAY OF HOPE

Submitted by Rob Kinch

"Good things come in threes," said junior Martin Fleurmont, Master of Ceremoinies at Rahway High School's first annual Holiday of Hope celebration. Hope, the magical gift that carries one forward throughout life's many hurdles is even more precious when it can be given to another. It was with this sentiment in mind that RHS teachers Leslie Breen and Rob Kinch were moved to create the concept of a 'holiday' that would enable their students, parents, and community to unite in embracing three special hopes during this festive season of giving.

"Mr. Kinch's initial idea," explained Ms. Breen, "was to create a holiday choral concert that could be taken to a new venue within the town that would be more intimate, and which would offer a more 'party' type atmosphere for our guests. Our hope was that a holiday musical program that featured songs from all nationalities, religions, and cultures would help everyone to celebrate the town's diversity which continues to be the true strength of Rahway."

RHS Choral Director Robert VanWyk enthusiastically embraced the idea of a concert outside the high school and he and his 'Madrigals' worked passionately on creating an upbeat and uplifting multicultural performance. He affirmed, "This was a great opportunity for the kids to play in front of an audience and venturing outside of the high school was a wonderful experience for them." With generous violin accompaniment to Mr. VanWyk and the Madrigals by Strings Teacher Sergei Panov, the program had just the right dash of holiday spice.

With the help, guidance, and cooperation of chef Joseph from Luciano's Restaurant in downtown Rahway, the holiday celebration found a home and could now realize its second hope—that uniting education and local business in a collaborative effort to achieve a common goal would continue to grow and thereby enrich all lives within a community.

Amy Garcia Phillips, Executive Director of the Rahway Arts and Business partnership, considers a Rahway education as "unique" and sees this

RHS Choral Director Robert VanWyk thusiastically embraced the idea of a concert straide the high school and he and his dadrigals' worked passionately on creating an obeat and uplifting multicultural performance. The affirmed, "This was a great opportunity for in addition to the classroom."

The town and its citizens, however, were not the only focus of the evening's event. It was crystal clear that the goal dearest to the heart of student and adult alike was to carefully wrap the gift of hope and present it to those who needed it the most. These are the children who, due to the insidious effects of cancer, may not have the opportunity to enjoy the holiday season as every child of every religion, nationality, and culture should. To that end, the RHS Art Department directed by teacher Katherine Turon created its very unique Holiday of Hope Tree and a parade of original ornaments hand-crafted by her student "Hopefuls." Guests of the event purchased ornaments upon entering and proceeded to hang them on the tree to signify their commitment to providing hope that a cure to the disease may be found. All proceeds from the sale of the ornaments, along with many additional generous donations from the guests, were presented to the Saint Jude Children's Cancer Research Hospital.

There is something very special and, of course magical, when children give to children. This caring could be seen in each student who gave thanklessly of himself or herself to ensure the success of the evening. Freshman "Hopeful" Arya Abdollahi offered sincerely, "Giving up my time was nothing compared to the feeling I had when I knew children of need would be one step closer to being happy."

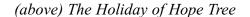
Martin Fleurmont, event MC and "Hopeful" affirmed, "It really opened my eyes to a new part of the holiday season--and of life itself. I even fought my fear of stage fright because I knew it would help the children."

It was also easy to see that each word sung by the Madrigals was dedicated to the children. Musical Theater Director Alison Dooley was proud that this event proved to all that the students "thought of more than just themselves."

RHS Vice Principal Chey Rivera "especially loved the fact that several dozen teenagers volunteered their time and represented our school, community, and themselves so wonderfully from the planning stages to the final note when we all sang holiday songs together."

This year's RHS Holiday of Hope celebration offers undeniable proof that, for the new year, one resolution will be embraced by all the community and its children. Rahway will continue to hope.







(above) RHS Madrigals lift their voices.



(above) The Holiday of Hope Tree.



(above) The Madrigals lead guests in song

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When students at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway heard about a little girl from NJ that is fighting for her life, they knew they wanted to

Four-year-old Lena Tietjen, whose life took a sharp turn recently when she was diagnosed with an inoperable malignant tumor and given just months to live without treatment, has a wish to have a library dedicated in her name.

The Blue and Gold Club at Franklin School got together and collected some books. They are hoping that it brightens Lena's day. Anyone who wishes to send Lena a new or gently used children's book can mail it to:

Lena's Library, C/O Dr. Juanita Davis, Thomas W. Wallace Junior Middle School, 688 North Mill Road, Vineland, NJ 08360



(above) The Blue and Gold Club at Franklin School.

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Through the generosity of parents, students and staff at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway, Journey Young and Jenna Birney from the school's Blue and Gold Club were able to collect many toys as part of a Toys for Tots drive. When the collection ended, the Rahway High School ROTC filled all the requests that have been made on behalf of some of the district's students. The generosity and selflessness of this school community will help to ensure that all children in Rahway had a toy for the holidays.



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# CDC THEATRE CONTINUES WINNING SEASON WITH CRIMES OF THE HEART DIRECTED BY RAHWAY RESIDENT MAURICE MORAN

Rehearsals are underway for Beth Henley's "Crimes of the Heart" at CDC theatre in Cranford, New Jersey. Warm-hearted, irreverent, zany and brilliantly imaginative, the play teems with humanity and humor as it examines the plight of three young Mississippi sisters betrayed by their passions. "Crimes of the Heart" won Best Play from the NY Drama Critics Circle, was nominated for a Tony Award, and Beth Henley won the Pulitzer Prize in 1981. The 1986 film version was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Screenplay.

"The Pulitzer Prize is given to honor a distinguished play that deals in an original way with American life. It is no wonder Beth Henley was given this honor at the age of twenty-five for her very first professionally-produced play," stated Director Maurice Moran "The show is a

tender, yet humorous, story of three sisters who help each other cope with loss and fear, those "crimes of the heart," overcoming the problems they face through the love they have for one another. We have put together a very talented cast who will touch your heart and make you smile as they enact this beautiful tale of family love."

The cast is made up of Maeve Brady, Rebecca Dolan and Katherine Brown as the three Magrath sisters, Lenny, Meg and Babe, with Danielle Mastropiero as Chick, Joe Leo as Doc, and Zach Mazout as Barnette.

The production will run from February 16 through 24 and details and tickets can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org. CDC Theatre, New Jersey's oldest continuously producing community theatre, is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford.

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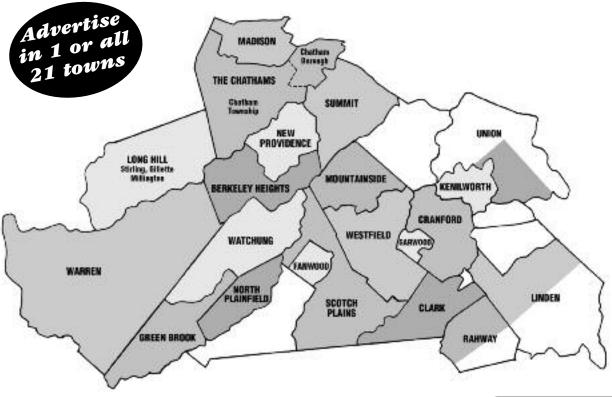
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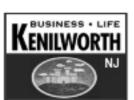
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