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JULIA CUNNINGHAM SIGNS WITH PRINCETON



(above, standing, l-r): Chris Clintock of Warren Township, who plans to play Lacrosse at St. Joseph University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Jonathan Taub of Warren, Lacrosse at Rutgers University, New Brunswick; Tyler James of Warren, Lacrosse at The College of Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts; Michael Murray of Green Brook Township, Baseball at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York; Tyler Riley of Green Brook, Baseball at the University of Maine, Orono, Maine; and Drew Furlong of Warren, Lacrosse at SUNY Binghamton, Binghamton, New York (sitting, l-r): Julie Burton of Warren, Lacrosse at West Chester University, West Chester, Pennsylvania; Julia Cunningham of Watchung, Basketball at Princeton University, Princeton; and Katelyn Carroll of Warren, Lacrosse at Radford University, Radford, Virginia.

Eight Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) students who competed in Fall sports at WHRHS have signed letters of intent to play sports for the Division I college they intend to attend in the fall, while one WHRHS athlete intends to attend and play sports for a Division II college.

WHRHS Director of Athletics Christopher Van Vliet congratulated the seniors as they announced their plans to play college sports on Monday, November 27, 2017, in the school's Media Center.

"We are very proud of you," Van Vliet said. "We wish you the best in the next chapter of your lives."

Van Vliet also congratulated the coaches and parents who gathered in the Media Center to witness the college athletic announcement. Most of the athletes will be playing at colleges in New Jersey, Pennsylvania or New York, including two planning to stay in-state at Rutgers University and Princeton University. "Go Warriors," he

added.

Those planning to attend and play at Division I schools are: In Boys Lacrosse, all from Warren Township: Chris Clintock at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia; Drew Furlong at SUNY Binghamton University, Binghamton, N.Y.; Jonathan Taub at Rutgers University, New Brunswick; and Tyler James, at The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass.

In Baseball, both from Green Brook Township, Tyler Riley at the University of Maine, Orono, Maine; and Michael Murray at Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y.

In Girls Lacrosse, Katelyn Carroll of Warren Township at Radford University, Radford, VA.

And in Girls Basketball, Julia Cunningham of Watchung at Princeton University, Princeton.

Planning to attend and play sports at Division II schools is: In Girls Lacrosse in Division II, Julia Burton of Warren Township at West Chester University, West Chester, PA.

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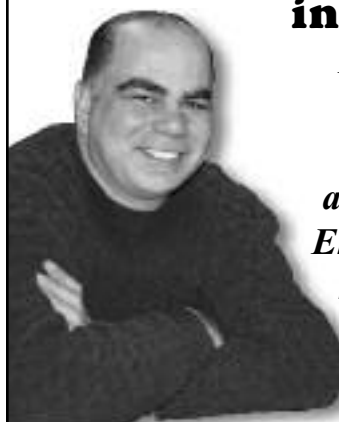
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*Maryanne
Christiano-Mistretta*

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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RAVE ON! RETURNS TO ARTS CENTER

The Watchung Arts Center will be rocking to the beat of the '50's and '60's on January 20, 2018. Two years after their last sold-out performance at the WAC, "RAVE ON!" returns, playing the music of Buddy Holly and Roy Orbison. The concert will feature Holly and Orbison hits, like "That'll Be the Day," "Not Fade Away," "Peggy Sue," "Pretty Woman," "Crying," and "Only the Lonely," along with other classic early rock-n-roll songs. The show starts at 8 p.m. and will be followed by a dessert reception and an opportunity to meet the band.

This is the music that paved the way for rock-n-roll and influenced The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, and countless other artists.

"RAVE ON!" is living proof that Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison and the music of early rock-n-roll is timeless and continues to appeal to people of all ages.

The members of "RAVE ON!" are Chris Roselle (guitar and lead vocals), Pete Farley (bass guitar and background vocals) and Don Guinta (drums and background vocals).

A "RAVE ON!" concert is always a crowd pleaser.

Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$22 (\$20 WAC members, \$10 students) at the door. You may purchase tickets securely through Eventbrite (watchungartscenter.eventbrite.com). To obtain more information about upcoming performances, classes and workshops, and monthly art exhibitions, please visit WatchungArts.org or call 908-753-0190.

The Watchung Arts Center, located at 18 Stirling Road in Watchung on the Watchung Circle, is a multi-disciplinary performing arts facility serving Watchung, the surrounding communities and the Tri-State Area.

WATCHUNG LIBRARY

12 Stirling Road in Watchung, behind the Watchung Arts Center.

For complete program registration information, please check the online calendar (www.somerset.lib.nj.us, then go to Events/Programs for Watchung).

Monday through Thursday, 9:30 am - 9 pm and Friday and Saturday, 9:30 am - 5 pm.

MAKING HOLIDAY MEMORIES

On December 16, 2017, at SCLSNJ's Watchung Library branch, patrons of all ages came together to create glittering ornaments using intricate laces, motifs, fabrics, sequins, beads, and other craft materials from India.

On January 16, the Watchung branch will be holding another craft program called beaded sculptures.



(above, l-r) Displaying her ornament is Makenna Wildgoose, 7, of Hillsborough, and program presenter Seema Moondra.

DELVING INTO ART

On December 19, children participated in the last of a four-part art enrichment series at SCLSNJ's Watchung Library branch. Channeling inspiration from 20th century Dutch artist Piet Mondrian, Jesenia Joseph, 7, of Watchung, focuses on the arrangement of her creative piece.

Explore Somerset County's local bird species during the backyard birds program hosted by the Somerset County Park Commission on January 9, from 4-4:45 p.m. at the Watchung branch.



(above) Jesenia Joseph, 7, of Watchung.

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WHRHS 2017 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

GIRL SCOUTS ADOPT A FAMILY FOR HOLIDAYS

Girls Scout Seniors and Ambassadors Kaelin Churchill, Gianna Tautonico, Gwen Kinder and Danae Churchill embraced the holiday spirit by adopting a family for the holidays through the Hearts of Watchung program founded by Cindy Homer.

The girls happily shopped for the family of three in mid-November. Following that the girls wrapped the gifts, while they mixed in some holiday fun making gingerbread houses.

Gwen and Danae then dropped off the bags of gifts at the annual Adopt a Family drive on December 3, 2017.



(above, front, l-r) Gwen Kinder, 17 and Kaelin Churchill, 15; (standing, l-r) Gianna Tautonico, 16 and Danae Churchill.

Hundreds of students take advantage every year of some 70 Co-Curricular Activities at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS).

According to Dan Bertelli, who is the supervisor of Arts, Health/Physical Education and Co-Curricular Activities, students participate for a variety of reasons. Some students want to have fun, explore new horizons, meet new friends, and stay productive, while others want to experience working productively in a group. Some want to contribute to their class, their school, and their community. Many want to add to their resume, develop a marketable skill, and augment their classroom learning.

In addition to Co-Curricular Activities, there is, of course, also a long list of WHRHS Warrior Fall, Winter, and Spring interscholastic and club sports teams through which to develop skills, gain experience, record achievements and find

fulfillment.

At a variety of public events during the school year, student representatives can setup displays, which highlight the function and benefits of these co-curricular activities. In addition, bulletin boards throughout the school give identity to the co-curricular activities, announce upcoming events and offerings of the activities, and congratulate and call attention to achievements and milestones.

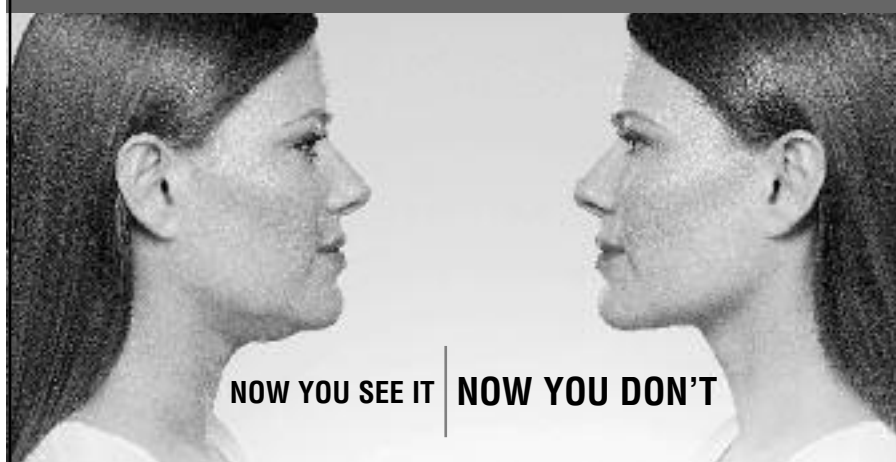
All club and activity information can be found on the school's Web site. The school's Web site also advises that any student or group of students that have an interest in starting a club can begin by downloading the Intent to Organize form. Applicants must fill out the form in its entirety.

For more information, students can contact the All School Council (ASC) office, during lunch or after school. ASC members can assist students through the process.



(above, l-r) Spirit Store: Anna Baitel, grade 11; Jamie Pila, 10; Camille Brady, 9; Danielle LaCanna, 9; Jed Ober, 9; Ayla Prinzivalli, 11; and Gabriella Santos, 11.

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WHRHS FALL DRAMA PRODUCTION 'DRACULA'

The staging of the annual Fall drama, "Dracula," on November 16 to 18, 2017, at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS), was a team effort, involving a full cast and crew of students, staff, volunteers, and supporters of the school's Script & Cue Drama Program.

The Director's Note in the play's program gave the time, place and setting of the drama: "The time is late-1887, and the places are Lucy's Home, an Insane Asylum near Whitby, England, and Dracula's Castle in Transylvania, Bulgaria. Set in oppressed Victorian times, Bram Stoker's Dracula is a story written through a combination of letters and narrative structure. Although

episodic, the play follows Stoker's story closely. As in most versions, it concentrated on Dracula's venomous pursuit of the living. As he so eloquently states when moving to the crowded city of London, 'How I delight in thinking of the bustling streets, peopled with the mad whirl and rush of humanity. Oh, to be in the midst of that

banquet of life!'"

Save the Dates. The annual Spring Musical production presented by Script & Cue will be "Guys and Dolls," presented on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 22, 23, and 24 2018 at 7 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, March 24, 2018. All are invited.

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(above l-r) Ben Allgor, who portrayed Dracula; Sam Sinnott's mother, Gail Sinnott; and Sam Sinnott who portrayed "Renfield."



(above, l-r) Cast mates Christine Tanko, Maria Irvin, Chris Gagliano, and Kyra Anthony,

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(above, l-r) Dracula cast members Matt Oboh, Kevin Lynch, Matt Mazzarisi, and Massai Schuler, celebrate at the reception in the lobby of the WHRHS PAC after the performance.

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WHRHS 2017 INSTRUMENTAL WINTER CONCERT



(above) The Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Concert Band, with more than 100 student musicians, filled the stage at the WHRHS 2017 Winter Instrumental Band, Thursday, December 7, 2017, at the schools Performing Arts Center (PAC). The band performed four pieces, "Westridge Overture," "Fortress Variants," "Continental Christmas Suite," and "The Nightmare Before Christmas."



(above) The WHRHS Orchestra stands and receives a standing Ovation at the completion of their three pieces at the Winter Instrumental Concert, Thursday, December 7, 2017. They played 'Overture from The Makado,' "William Burd Suite," and "Brandenburg Concerto No. 4, a piece extending some 15 or 16 minutes.



(above) The WHRHS Wind Ensemble performs one of its five scheduled selections at the 2017 Winter Instrumental Concert. They are: "The Earl of Wexford's March," "Satiric Dances," "Psalm for Band," "The Eighth Candle," and "A Christmas Festival." At the end of "A Christmas Festival," an energetic number by popular mid-20th Century American Composer Leroy Anderson, the audience called for an encore, and the Wind Ensemble delivered an appropriately rousing rendition of Anderson's most popular piece, "Sleigh Ride." The composition is considered among the top 10 most requested/played Christmas songs.

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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,

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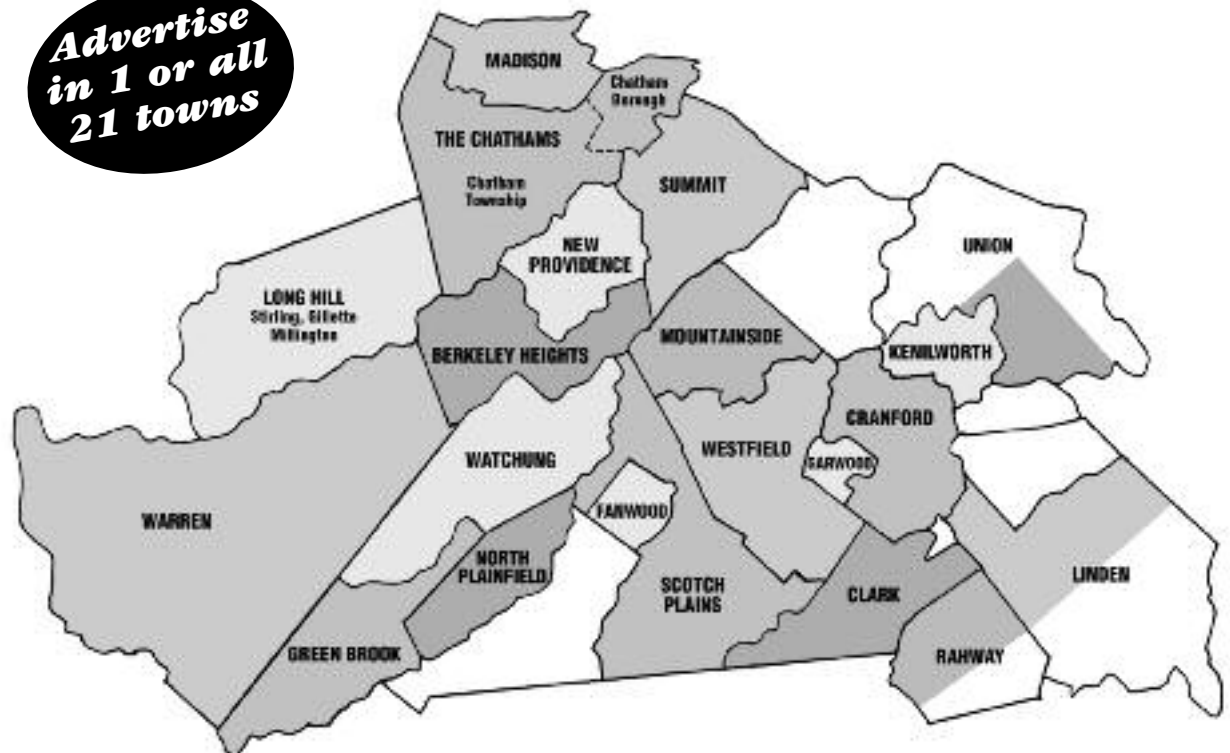
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