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Issue 2 • February 2018

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## AWARD-WINNING TY STEPHENS PRESENTS SONG WORKSHOP

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

The Chatham Community Players were excited to host “How to Choose Your Best Audition Song Workshop” on Saturday, January 13, 2018. The workshop was presented by Ty Stephens, an award-winning singer/songwriter, entertainer/recording artist.

Stephens credentials include: Grand Prize Winner Jazzmobile/Anheuser-Busch Solo Jazz Vocalist Competition, NYC, 2006; and First Place Winner R&B/Blues Category of the International Songwriting Competition 2002, for “Somethin’ Strange.” He’s also the co-writer and original cast member of “From My Hometown,” co-writer/production; choreographer and star of the long-running “Shades of Harlem” revue show; and co-writer/production, choreographer and currently starring in the new touring hit, “On Kentucky Avenue” (Songbirds Unlimited Productions/StepForward Entertainment.) Ty also appeared on Broadway in the original productions of “Sophisticated Ladies” with Gregory Hines and Phyllis Hyman; and “Marilyn, an American Fable.”

In 2010 Stephens joined with vocalists from Broadway’s “The Lion King” singing on the recording of the soundtrack for the World Cup. He has performed/appeared with Harry Belafonte, Gregory Hines, Phyllis Hyman, Toshi Kubota, Patti Austin, Jeffrey Osborne, Phoebe Snow, Smokey Robinson, Jon Hendricks; and at Carnegie Hall with Liza Minnelli and Natalie Cole (Laurie Strauss Leukemia Foundation Benefits).

The purpose of the workshop held at the Chatham Community Playhouse, 23 N. Passaic Avenue, Chatham, was to help aspiring singers find a song that fits based on his/her skill, taste and needs. The class was open to anyone 14 and older.

“It’s a process of finding a song that suits you or refining a song you sing. Getting to know voices and approach to singing and the whole idea of a song; songs chosen for themselves,” Stephens explained.

Stephens was assisted by Richard Cummings Jr. who played keyboards. Songs were chosen in advance and the workshop was limited to 15 to create an intimate setting and allow Ty Stephens to work one-on-one with the vocalists.

The group began the workshop singing “Getting to Know You” from “The King and I” prior to getting personal attention and recommendations from Stephens.

“I want to get a sense of their voices,” Stephens said.

Spencer Scalamoni, 16, of Roxbury, came to the class with aspirations of enhancing his skills. “Singing is what I do,” he said. “If you’re good at something, do it until you’re the best at it.”

His two songs were “Dust and Ashes” from “The Great Comet,” and “For Forever” from “Dear Evan Hansen.”

Stephens said they were “excellent choices” for Spencer because they were “age specific.”

Stephens added, teasingly, “Nothing like watching a young person doing something from ‘Man of La Mancha,’” illustrating that some young singers choose songs that are too old or dated.



(above, l-r) Award-winning record artist, Ty Stephens; and Chatham Community Players workshop coordinator, George Seylaz.



(above, l-r) Keyboard sensation, Richard Cummings Jr. and aspiring singer Spencer Scalamoni having one-on-one time with Ty Stephens.

This was the fourth workshop Chatham Playhouse has hosted. Workshop coordinator George Seylaz said that they plan to have more. “Maybe a dance workshop with Ty,” he said, excitedly.

In addition to the workshops, The Chatham Players will be presenting “Grease” at the playhouse from May 4 to 19, 2018, and a summer theatre camp for kids.

The Chatham Community Players is a non-profit organization founded in 1922. For more information, visit: [www.chathamplayers.org](http://www.chathamplayers.org)

For more information on Ty Stephens, visit: [tystephensmusic.com](http://tystephensmusic.com)

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## SENIOR CENTER OF THE CHATHAMS FEBRUARY 2018 EVENTS

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All events take place at The Senior Center, 58 Meyersville Road, Chatham, New Jersey. Participants do not have to be Chatham residents.

Tech Support for Seniors. Thursday, February 1, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. For assistance with your smartphone, laptop, tablet, etc. call Center at 973-635-4565 to schedule a one-on-one appointment with a Chatham High School student volunteer.

Caregivers Presentation. Friday, February 9, 11 a.m. Topics include common caregiving issues as well as the eldercare maze of services, warning signs your loved one may need help, tips on navigating difficult conversations, managing memory changes and available community resources. Speaker: Rebecca Abenante, MA, MSW, Morristown Medial Center Healthy Aging Coordinator.

Winter Walking and Driving Safety Program. Monday, February 12, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Learn how to stay mobile and to confidently navigate winter conditions. Presented by TransOptions,

Cedar Grove, New Jersey.

Blood Pressure Screening. Thursday, February 15, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Provided by Garden Terrace Nursing Home, Chatham, New Jersey. Walk-ins okay.

Chinese New Year Celebration. Friday, February 23, beginning at noon. We'll celebrate the Year of the Dog by enjoying a Chinese luncheon followed by the program, "A Journey to China's 5000-Year-Old Civilization," presented by Shen Yun Promotions International. Must sign up by calling Center at 973-635-4565.

Pickleball. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon; and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Two courts available in the Chatham Township Municipal Building gym. Limited paddles available. Please bring own equipment if possible. Call Center for details.

For more information, call the Center at 973-635-4565 or visit: [www.chathamseiorcenter.org](http://www.chathamseiorcenter.org).



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Registration is \$12 • Note: this is a non-rated tournament.

Non-scouts (under 18 only) can register by calling Joe Renna at 908-447-1295.

Scouts can use Patriots' Path Council Munsee District Double Knot link to register on-line at [ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2300308](http://ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2300308)

Scouts can email Will Adams at [Will.adams@scouting.org](mailto:Will.adams@scouting.org) for more info.

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## CHILDREN'S BOOK TO BENEFIT ST. HUBERT'S



(above) Penelope Lagos.

Growing up with a pet is one of the great joys of a young life.

The playing, the bonding, often the forming of the first real friendship provides a lifetime of memories.

The loss of a pet is usually a child's first experience with death and it can be traumatic.

Author Penelope Lagos of Chatham, New Jersey has written a book designed to ease the grieving process by offering a helpful resource for both parents and children.

Her recently published book, "I Miss My Best Friend" (GreenTree Publishers, 2017), is geared for children ages 6 to 9 but can be read by all ages. It comes from a very personal place in Lagos' heart: sadness over the recent passing of her own best friend, her dog Cassius.

With beautiful illustrations by Sophie Moracchini, "I Miss My Best Friend" tells the story of the day Cassius came into the lives of Louie and Penny and spends his time with them in mischief and merrymaking.

"I Miss My Best Friend" can be enjoyable simply as a children's book, or it can offer help during a time of loss. The book explores grieving in a way young people can understand and relate to. It even offers parents a list of tips at the end to help them make the grieving process a little easier.

The book received a 5-star rating from Reader's Favorite (readersfavorite.com). It is available on Amazon (amzn.to/2yQs0wF) and

Barnes & Noble online (barnesandnoble.com).

Locally, the book is available at Jabberwocky in Chatham, Sterling Hallmark at the Chatham and Stirling locations, and Buddy's Boutique at St. Hubert's in Madison. Ten percent of each book purchase goes to support the humane treatment of animals at St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center. This nonprofit organization exists to provide services that support the human-animal bond and seeks to foster an environment in which people respect all living creatures. For more information, visit [www.sthuberts.org](http://www.sthuberts.org).

Lagos, a New Jersey native, graduated from Rutgers University earning a Bachelor's Degree in Communications and Theatre Arts. She is an animal advocate and strongly believes in being "a voice for the voiceless." She holds a certification in Canine Fitness and Conditioning as well as Advanced Pet CPR/First Aid. Her love of animals, and loss of her beloved best friend Cassius "The Legend" Lagos, inspired her to write "I Miss My Best Friend" and help others cope with the grief of losing a family pet. When Lagos is not spending time with her own furry friends, she is acting in independent films and commercials as well as volunteering at the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). She was the recipient of an achievement award honoring critical funds raised for LLS.

Lagos can be reached through her website at [www.penelopelagos.com](http://www.penelopelagos.com).

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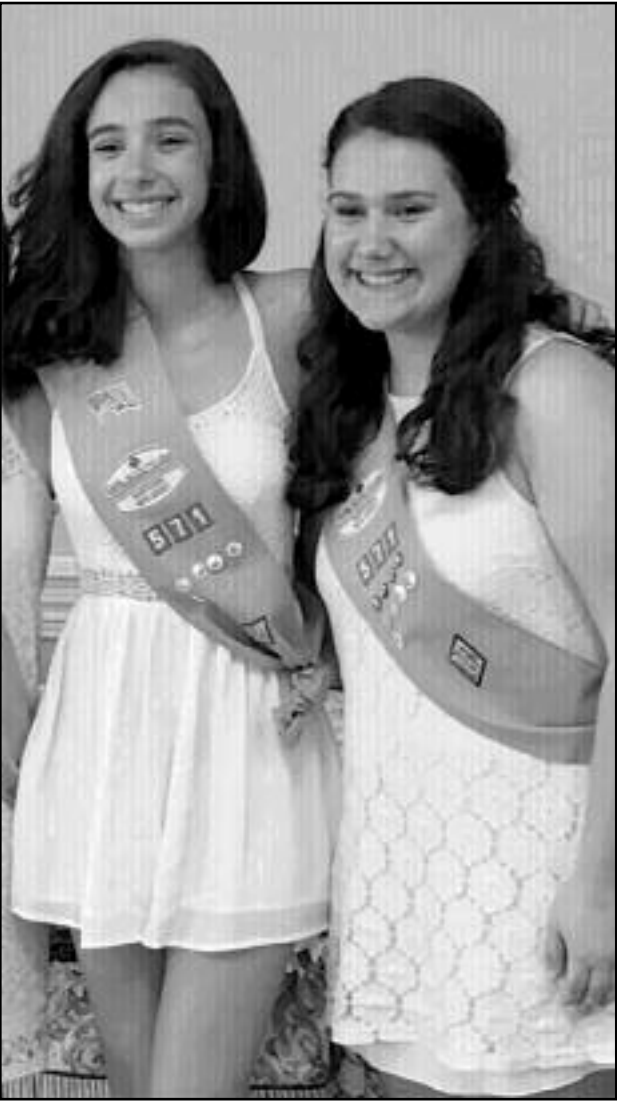
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(above, l-r) Sofia Dorrego and Amanda Gallop.

# STUDENTS OFFER FREE HOMEWORK HELPERS CLUB AT LIBRARY

Submitted by Gretchen Dorrego

Three years ago, Chatham students, Sofia Dorrego and Amanda Gallop, were tasked with the challenge of identifying a service or improvement needed in their community and implementing change. This was all in an effort to obtain their Girl Scout Silver Award, the second highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve. Realizing there was really no resource for Chatham's elementary aged school children to seek support or help outside of the classroom, the girls jumped into action and successfully founded and ran a Homework Helpers Club at the Library of The Chathams.

Sofia, who has her heart set on majoring in Elementary Education in college, and Amanda, who wants to study Family Law, could have stopped offering this free service after they were given their Silver Award, but they found their work so rewarding and received such positive

feedback from the children who attended that they have continued, with no plans of ending in sight. The Homework Helpers Club meets every other Wednesday, at the library, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Chatham students in grades K-5 are welcome to stop by for the entire time or just for a portion of it.

The girls are prepared to help with homework assignments but are also equipped with flash cards, educational games, coloring books, and puzzles. They will also be more than happy to sit and read with the children.

Please call the Children's Room at the Library of The Chathams to reserve a spot for your child in one or all the sessions or feel free to have them drop in on an as needed basis.

The Library of The Chathams is located at 214 Main Street, Chatham, New Jersey. For more information, call 973-635-0603.

# AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT FROM THE MUSEUM OF EARLY TRADES & CRAFTS

In the Fall of 2017, The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts' (METC) Education Department was excited to create a new offering as part of the After School Enrichment programs at both Milton Avenue and Washington Avenue Chatham schools. Twenty students at the two schools took part in "Museum Curators," which taught children about museums, collections, collecting and exhibit design. The students were able to create a variety of projects throughout the session, including stained glass, folio books and pinwheels. They also designed backdrops for their own personal collections, using techniques ranging from stenciling and rubbing, to collage and coloring. On the final day, each student displayed their creations and personal collections in individual exhibits. The delighted families attended this special event where they viewed the children's collections and exhibits.

For 2018, METC plans to continue its relationship with the School District of the Chathams with new programming for the Spring After School Enrichment session. "Hands-on History: Problem Solving in Early America" will provide an opportunity to learn what it was like to be part of an Early American family. Through a series of hands-on activities and projects, children will be able to explore the ways in which Early Americans adapted and solved problems without the technology we take for granted today. Some of these activities will include butter making, weaving, wool felting, toy making and more! They will also have an opportunity to handle a number of different Early American tools from the museum's collection and will learn that some of the concepts we use today, such as recycling, existed in the past as well.

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## CHATHAM LIBRARY EVENTS CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2018

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Some events require registration. You may register online at [www.chathamlibrary.org](http://www.chathamlibrary.org) or call 973-635-0603.

### Essex Water Color Club Art Show

Opening reception

**Sunday, February 4, 2018; 2:15 to 4 p.m.**

The Essex Water Color Club, the oldest watercolor club in New Jersey, will hold its annual show through February. Reception sponsored by Friends of the Library.

### The Schuyler Sisters and Alexander Hamilton

**Tuesday, February 6, 2018; 7 p.m.**

Rick Feingold, a lecturer with a degree in History from Rutgers University, will discuss the love story of Elizabeth Schuyler and Alexander Hamilton. Elizabeth, daughter of wealthy General Philip Schuyler, married Alexander, a penniless orphan, and immigrant. The love letters Hamilton sent to Eliza during their courtship will be read, and information will be offered concerning two women, Angelica Schuyler Church and Maria Reynolds, who also had designs on Alexander.

### Income Tax Assistance

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) will be held on **Wednesdays, February 7 to April 11, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Appointments for this free service may be made in person or by calling the library at 973-635-0603. Please bring all your financial records from 2017, copies of your 2016 Federal and State tax returns, photo ID, and all printed and blank forms from the Internal Revenue Service.

### Gen Y Networking Group

**Wednesdays, February 7 and 21, 2018; 7 p.m.**  
All are welcome to attend this forum dedicated to Generation Y young adults interested in job search, networking, and career development.

### Diabetes Prevention

**Thursday, February 8, 2018; 2 p.m. or  
Tuesday, February 20, 2018; 7 p.m.**

Ellen Kranefuss, Diabetes Prevention Program Coordinator at the Madison YMCA, will host a question and answer session on the prevention of type 2 diabetes. Currently one in three Americans is at risk for developing type 2 diabetes. Participants will learn how to assess their risk and explore prevention options. This program will be presented twice for your convenience.

### CALL: The History and Politics of North Korea

**Tuesdays, February 13 and 20, 2018; 1 p.m.**

Dr. Roy Licklider, Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University with a Ph.D. in International Relations from Yale, will present a two-part lecture series on the history and politics of North Korea. We will examine its history from 8000 BC through its dynasties, wars, and relationships with the Soviet Union, China, and the U.S.

### Italian Conversation Group

**Friday, February 16, 2018; 1 p.m.  
Tuesday, February 27, 2018; 7:15 p.m.**  
Are you a bit rusty with your Italian language skills? Luciana Santoriello and Carmen Del Guercio-Evans moderate this Italian discussion group.

### Teen Painting Night

**Monday, February 19, 2018; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**  
Ages 13 and up; limited to 10 students.

Registration opens Monday, February 5, 2018  
Following the guidance of art teacher Erica Pizza, learn to use acrylic paint on canvas to blend color and create a beautifully moonlit landscape. Bring your creativity and willingness to learn. All materials will be provided for you to create your masterpiece!

### Irish Music Concert with Ian Gallagher and John Nolan

**Saturday, February 24, 2018; 2:30 p.m.**

Ian Gallagher, an Irish singer and guitarist will perform Irish classics with accordion player John Nolan. Ian has performed at events attended or hosted by Liam Neeson, Gabriel Byrne, Mary Higgins Clark, and Frank McCourt. John became the first American to win the Senior All-Ireland Championship Accordion Player Award in 1982.

### Microsoft Word 2010 Workshop

**Monday, February 26, 2018; 2 to 3:30 p.m.**

Barbara Smith, owner and instructor at Programs Plus, will hold a workshop teaching the basics of Microsoft Word 2010. With a few simple tips and tricks, you will learn how to correct and avoid problems.

Registration is required. The library will provide laptops for 10 attendees; or bring your own Microsoft Word 2010 on your own laptop.

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Please join us for a FREE Educational College Financial Planning workshop that will focus on high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors. We'll discuss the FAFSA form and all the other information you need to understand in order to maximize the amount of financial aid you are eligible to receive!

Even if your family is not eligible for need-based aid, we will cover the best strategies on how to pay for college in the most cost efficient basis - without it putting a strain on the rest of your finances.

In this workshop, you will learn:

- How to increase your college-related tax deductions and tax credits
- How to pick colleges that will give you the best financial aid packages
- How to send your child to an expensive private university for less than a state school
- Which assets are taken into consideration when the U.S. Department of Education calculates your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- How to pay for college in a failing economy without relying on 529 plans, expensive private student loans or raiding your retirement accounts
- How to get ahead by developing a customized plan to meet all the college costs you will incur as a family
- How to lower your "out-of-pocket" costs and get the maximum amount of money from each school

Here is what  
parents like you  
are saying about our  
**FREE**  
College Funding  
Workshop...

"Very informative.  
The presenter told us many  
things that I was totally in the  
dark about".

*Rosie Palumbo,  
Parent of High School Junior*

"Information was clear, easy to  
understand and straight  
forward. Excellent presentation  
- no hidden agendas."

*Lynn McKenna,  
Parent of High School Senior*

"Opened up opportunity to look  
at colleges we thought were out  
of our price range."

*Barbara Eames, Parent  
of High School Sophomore*

"Covered a lot of ground - easy  
to follow and moved quickly."

*Sara Pogue,  
Parent of High School Junior*

"Demystified the college  
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*Joseph Mozzella,  
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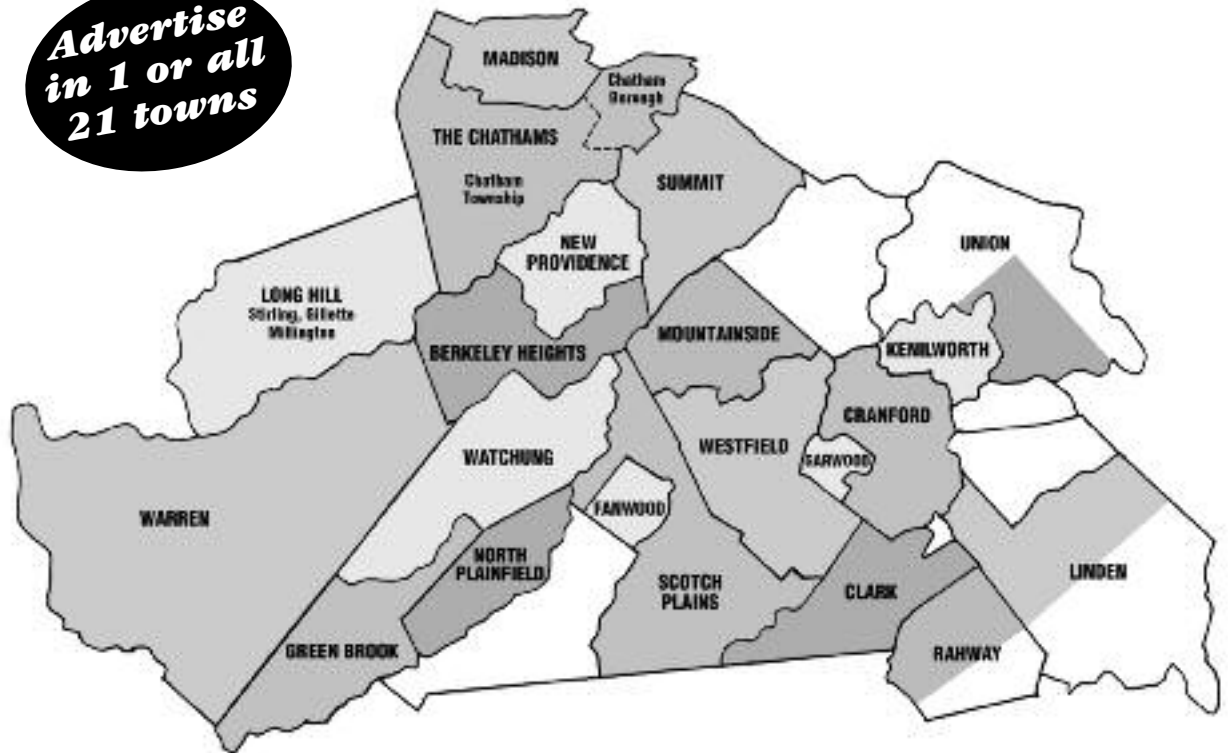
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