

The PRIDE of North Plainfield



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INTERACT CLUB SUPPORTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Submitted by Michael Townley

The North Plainfield High School Interact Club sent 15 members to a recent Rutgers University basketball game to staff two concession stands and raise money for scholarships.

Along with the Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield, the Interact Club members attend eight to 10 basketball games a year with four to six Rotarians, all working concessions for men's and women's games.

The Interactors prepare hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot pretzels, and hot popcorn. They make fountain sodas to order, serve up candy and chips, hot chocolate, and coffee for the hungry fans. Their reward is the opportunity to work together, develop skills in dealing with customers, and sharing the fun of a social evening with others.

"We have been working concessions at Rutgers for over seventeen years," said Michael Townley, a member of the Rotary club who chairs the event. "For almost half that time, the Interact Club has supported our project with their hard



(above) Interact Club members pose with their adviser, Alexandra Pereira (third from right, back row) before the start of a recent Rutgers University women's basketball game. The club staffs the concession stand in the background to help raise money for scholarships.

work and dedicated service."

Interact clubs are the high school equivalent of Rotary clubs, serving others through various projects and programs. At North Plainfield High School, they are led by Alexandra Pereira, a Spanish language teacher and the club's adviser.

"Alex is a great club adviser," said Townley. "She guides the club through their own activities and service projects, such as sponsoring blood drives, and really allows them to develop their leadership skills. Alex also identifies the 'best of the best' for recognition as 'Students of the Month' throughout the school year."

From the slowest nights at the concession stand to the busiest, the Interactors take their jobs seriously. "I love working with the kids at the Rutgers games," said Roberta Smith, Rotary club president. "They are so enthusiastic and conscientious about their work, it's fun to be there with them. The scholarships that we award at North Plainfield High School only go to members of Interact. This is our way of thanking them for their hard work and dedication to our club and the community."

The Plainfield-North Plainfield Rotary Club is open to membership by business and community leaders in the Plainfield's and in the surrounding towns. Club members meet Wednesday's for a luncheon meeting at Giovanna's Restaurant, 1462 South Avenue, Plainfield. Anyone wishing to learn more about Rotary and the many opportunities to volunteer assistance to the Rotary Club should come to a meeting as a guest of the club, or contact the club through PNPRotary@gmail.com or call 908-822-1441.



(above) Three members of the Interact Club pose with their adviser, Alexandra Pereira (second from right) in the concession stand at Rutgers University basketball.

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The PRIDE of North Plainfield

The Pride • Page 2 • February 2018

The Pride of North Plainfield is published by Renna Media. 6,500 newspapers are printed monthly and are mailed to every businesses and homes in North Plainfield, NJ using the 07060 zip code and are distributed for free pick-up throughout town.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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PROMOTE YOUR EVENT

Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email editor@rennamedia.com or call 908-858-4012

ADELE DELEEUEW SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship fund of \$1 million was established by the late Adele DeLeeuw to assist needy students in the Plainfield area for their pursuit of post-secondary education. The fund is managed by PNC Advisors (PNC), and is administered by the Plainfield Foundation through the Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield.

Adele DeLeeuw was a well-known author of books for children of all ages, a prominent Plainfield resident for almost her entire life. She was a patron of the arts and literature, and took a special interest in young people.

Adele lived in Plainfield with her parents and her sister, Cateau, who was an artist. Her father was a consulting engineer with an office in New York City.

After their father and then their mother passed away, Adele and Cateau continued to reside in Plainfield. They were members and proud supporters of many literary and arts organizations in the area.

Adele was also a champion for her City of Plainfield. An article in the Courier News from 1979 said that Adele "relishes giving the Queen City, her home since 1914, an oral or written boost."

She had the opportunity to give that support in her freelance writings for the Courier News over an eight-year period. Her opinion pieces were well-received, and were eagerly anticipated by many readers.

Adele died on June 13, 1988. She was pre-deceased by her sister, Cateau. With no

immediate survivors, Adele set aside a portion of her estate for a scholarship program to be administered by the Plainfield Foundation.

Reflecting her own and her family's interests, Adele stipulated in her will that the annual earnings from her scholarship endowment would be awarded to graduating seniors from high schools in Plainfield, North Plainfield, South Plainfield, Edison, Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Watchung, and Warren. She further stipulated that eligible seniors must pursue a course of study in art, poetry, writing, journalism, or engineering; courses of study that reflected her own family's careers and interests.

Eligible students who receive first-year scholarships are encouraged to submit applications for subsequent years and receive additional awards.

To be eligible applicants must attend or be accepted to attend an accredited college or university on an undergraduate or graduate level in one of the eligible areas of study: art, engineering, journalism, poetry, and writing.

Eligible students can download the application form here: www.rotarypnp.org/pdfs/DELEFORM2018-19.pdf



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FOLK MUSICIAN TRACY GRAMMER COMES TO WATCHUNG ARTS CENTER

Celebrating the release of her new CD, "Low Tide," Tracy Grammer comes to the Watchung Arts Center for a Sunday afternoon performance on February 11, 2018 at 3 p.m. Tracy will be joined by singer and multi-instrumentalist Jim Henry. The audience will have an opportunity to meet Tracy Grammer at the special dessert reception following the performance.

Tracy Grammer rose to acclaim as half of the "postmodern, mythic American folk" duo, Dave

Carter & Tracy Grammer. From 1998-2001, the duo released three internationally celebrated, folk chart-topping albums featuring Carter's mythopoetic Americana songcraft and in 2002, toured with Joan Baez, both as featured artists and Baez's band members. Called "the new voice of modern folk music," the duo was clearly in its ascendancy when in July 2002, Carter suffered a fatal heart attack while the duo was on tour. He was 49; Grammer, 34.

Determined to honor the duo's journey and bring Carter's songs, and those of other favorite writers, to broader audiences, Grammer has kept to the road, releasing solo albums as well as selections from the Dave Carter & Tracy Grammer archives.

Grammer has become one of folk music's most beloved artists. Renowned for her springwater-clear alto, perfectly intoned violin, and guitar playing that is by turns percussive and delicate, Grammer is also a masterful storyteller with an ease and charisma on stage -- not to mention a riotous sense of humor -- that hardly belie her modest beginnings as Carter's reclusive accompanist. Stories about the duo's first meeting, Carter's quirks and fancies, or Grammer's own misadventures and missteps are woven thoughtfully into the set list to create a uniquely personal evening that connects audiences to performer, to the Carter/Grammer legacy, and most importantly, to one another.

As one fan put it, "With Tracy, it's never just about the music. It's a soul journey."

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door. You may purchase tickets securely through Eventbrite.

For more information, please call 908-753-0190 or e-mail us wacenter@optonline.net.

The Watchung Arts Center, located at 18 Stirling Road in Watchung on the Watchung Circle, is a multi-disciplinary arts facility serving Watchung, the surrounding communities and the Tri-State Area. To obtain more information about upcoming performances, classes and workshops, and monthly art exhibitions, please visit WatchungArts.org or call 908-753-0190.



Red House Records Recording Artist Tracy Grammer

Photograph by Ben Barnhart, © Ben Barnhart

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CHANGING LIVES IN SOMERSET COUNTY

Imagine living in a country where you cannot communicate with your children's educators, doctors, and/or caretakers due to a language barrier. How would you feel?

According to the 2017 Census, 2.6 million New Jersey residents and 30.2 percent of households in Somerset County speak a language other than English at home. These statistics demonstrate the need for English as a Second Language (ESL) education.

Yuliana Ballestro, a Costa Rica native and Bridgewater resident, is one of those individuals, who primarily speaks Spanish at home.

"I wanted to start to learn English to be able to communicate with my children's teachers and doctors," stated Ballestro, a mother of two.

Ballestro came across an advertisement for ESL instruction from Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County (LVSC) in a local newspaper. The organization paired her with tutor Ann Beth Constad, a retired language therapist.

"My passion has always been language and literacy," stated Constad. "I thought it would be wonderful to give back to the community and put

my skills to use with adults."

The pair meets for 90 minutes a week at Somerset County Library System New Jersey (SCLSNJ)'s Bridgewater Library branch, located at 1 Vogt Drive in Bridgewater, New Jersey. The Library provides an ideal location for tutoring sessions by offering a flexible and convenient space with multiple resources.

Ballestro, who started learning English in November, has made great strides in her communication skills. She is able to pick things up quickly and carry short conversations in English with the help of Constad, LVSC, and the Library's resources. Like many ESL students, Ballestro has a goal in mind. She desires to open a car repair business with her husband where she will work as the secretary – answering phones and helping customers.

"As much as a student learns, the tutor learns more. It's a wonderful feeling knowing that I am helping someone meet their goals and dreams," stated Constad.

In the past year, LVSC has provided 307 adults weekly tutoring from 187 volunteer tutors. Tutors

have provided more than 3600 hours of free tutoring through English conversation groups, one-on-one tutoring sessions, and citizenship classes.

"LVSC offers a unique opportunity for volunteers to truly make a difference in our community," stated Susan Engelstein, LVSC's program manager. "Through weekly meetings, our tutors work with their students on real-life, achievable goals, whether it is speaking to a child's teacher or to a doctor, obtaining a driver's license, or practicing for a job interview. Tutors provide encouragement, friendship and literacy instruction, forging lasting bonds with their students."

Practice speaking English in a friendly setting. Basic English skills required. SCLSNJ's Warren Twp. Library branch, located at 42 Mountain Boulevard, Warren Township, New Jersey, Mondays, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch, located at 6 Rockview Avenue, North Plainfield, New Jersey, Mondays, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

For more information: SCLSNJ.org



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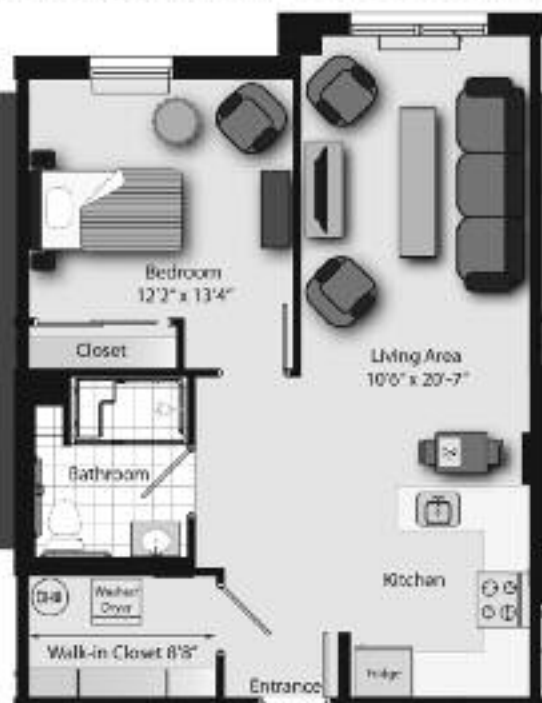
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CITIZENS FOR COMMUNITY RIGHTS

The next meeting of the North Plainfield Citizens for Community Rights (NPCCR) will be held on Thursday, March 1st at 7 p.m. at the North Plainfield Community Center, located at 614 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, New Jersey. Admission is free and residents of other municipalities are welcome to attend.

Our guest speaker will be from the State of New Jersey Department of the Treasury Division of Taxation. The subject "New Jersey's Property Tax Relief Programs" will include discussion of the Senior Tax Freeze program.

North Plainfield still has the highest municipal tax rate in Somerset County. NPCCR posts the current police reports and council meetings on our site. You can view them by going to npccr.org.



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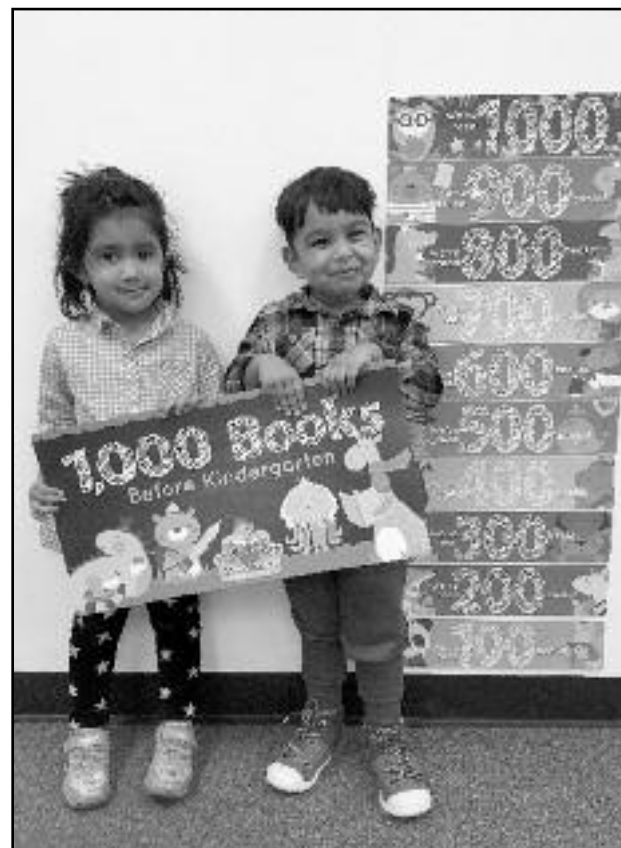
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LUNCH WITH A LIBRARIAN

Last month Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ)'s North Plainfield Memorial Library branch patrons attended the kickoff event to introduce 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, part of the Library's new SOARING (Supportive Opportunities for Achieving Reading Skills in the Next Generation) initiative. The early literacy resource is designed to help parents navigate early childhood programming and resources. Patrons brought their lunch and enjoyed stories and songs with Youth Services Librarian, Amy Behr. All participants received a free book.

For more information about SCLSNJ's SOARING initiative visit: sclsnj.org/sclsnj-soaring/



(right, l-r) Subeeksha Jay, 2, and Nixon Drozario, 3, both of North Plainfield.



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NORTH PLAINFIELD LIBRARY

The Pride • Page 9 • February 2018

SCLSNJ'S NORTH PLAINFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BRANCH

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All programs listed are free. Registration is required unless otherwise indicated and programs are subject to change. Note: SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library will be closed on February 19.

ALL AGE PROGRAMS

Happy Birthday Mo Willems

February 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Unwrap a Valentine: February 12, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Drop-in Craft: February 14, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAMS

Storytime

February 8, 15; 10 to 11 a.m.
(ages 6 months to 3 years)

Harry Potter Book Night

February 6:30 to 8 p.m.
(ages 8 to 12)

Standing Tall in Our Truth

February 6, 13, 20, 27; 3:30 to 5 p.m.
(grades 6 to 9)

Storytime Rhyme and Play

February 7, 14; 10 to 11 a.m.
(ages 2 to 4)

Choose Your Own Adventure

February 7, 14, 21, 28; 3:30 to 5 p.m.
(grades 6 to 12)

African Mask Making

February 8, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.
(grades K to 5)

Miss Jen's Lab Heart to Heart

February 22, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
(ages 5 to 9)

Holiday Celebrations Around the World

February 16, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
(ages 5-9)

ADULT PROGRAMS

US Citizenship Course

February 22; 6 to 8 p.m.

English Language Learning

February 5, 12, 26; 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

English Language Learning

February 5, 12, 26; 6:15 to 8:45 p.m.

English Conversation Group

February 5, 12, 26; 7 to 8:30 p.m.

English Language Learning

February 6, 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

New Year, New You Through Meditation

February 6, 7 to 8 p.m.

English Language Learning

February 7, 14, 21, 28; 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

English Language Learning

February 7, 14, 21, 28; 6:15 to 8:45 p.m.

Afternoon Book Discussion

February 8, 1 to 2 p.m.

Morning Knit & Crochet

February 13, 27; 10 a.m. to noon

Healthy Avenues Van:

Blood Pressure and Glucose Screening

February 13, 1 to 3 p.m.

Evening Book Discussion

February 15, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m.

The Roots of Resistance

February 20, 7 to 8 p.m.

Vegan Cooking

February 22, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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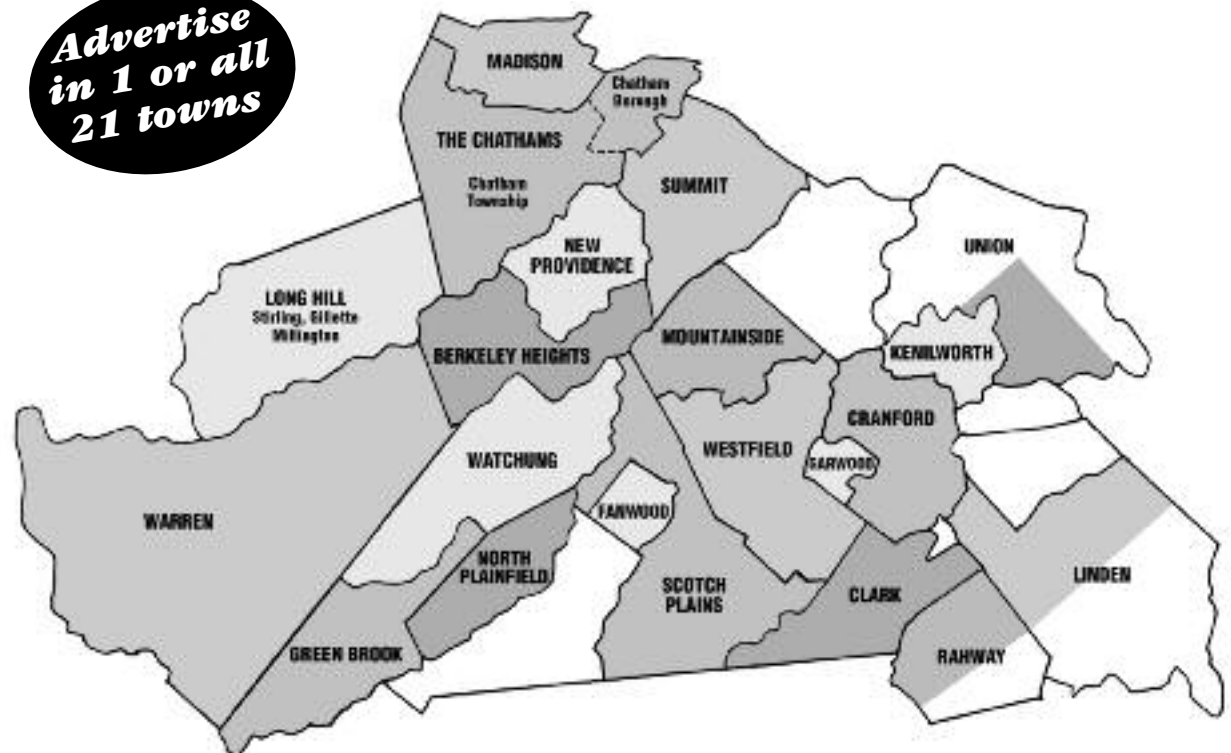
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