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COMMUNITY EFFORTS RAISE \$3000 TO GET MAN NEW BIKE

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

Allen Lindeman of Stirling has been riding his bike to his job at Stop & Shop in Berkeley Heights for at least five years. He never got a license, so his bike was always his means of transportation.

It's a 15 to 20-minute bike ride from his home to his job. Then when his bike broke down in January, Allen had no choice but to walk to work.

Berkeley Heights residents Cindy and John Lepore saw Allen walking during one of the days when the temperature was dangerously cold. They offered Allen a ride and he told them that his bike was broken.

The couple wanted to help, and Cindy's sister, Cathy Balsamo, put a plan into action by posting a photo of Allen's old bike in a Berkeley Heights Community Forum on Facebook and asking for donations to help him get a new bike.

Over \$3000 was raised within a week. And Allen was able to get his new bike, which he got from High Gear Cyclery Inc., in Stirling – where he'd go to get his bikes fixed throughout the years.

When Allen first heard he was getting a new bike, he was shocked. Cathy Balsamo told him they were going to take him to the bike shop to pick out a bike he liked.

"I love it so much. It's awesome," said Allen. "I was crying, 'Oh my God!' All happy tears."

Regarding everyone who pitched in and helped, Allen said, "I love them all."

When Allen took his first ride on the new bike to his job at Stop & Shop he said, "People were loving my beautiful bike." The night before he got the bike, he was so excited he had trouble sleeping.

Chris Ricci, a sales associate at High Gear Cyclery said that Allen's old bike needed a lot of work and wasn't rideable. "They [the community] wanted to get him a new bike. A lot of people donated. He came in here early. He was super happy. He was crying, he was so happy. This is his 'car.'"

Allen got to road-test the bike and pick out a bunch of accessories, including a new helmet. The money raised by the community fully



(above, l-r) Cindy Lepore, John Lepore, Allen Lindeman, Michael Delia, and Cathy Balsamo.



(left) Allen Lindeman enjoying his new bike.

Photos courtesy of Cathy Balsamo

outfitted him for riding. "Money leftover was donated to his family to pay some bills," added Ricci.

Ralph Bartlow, store manager at Stop & Shop added, "We got a great response from everybody in town."

Balsamo said, "All who played a big role in getting this done were Cindy Lepore, John Lepore, and Michael Delia. Such a great community. Allen is beyond happy."

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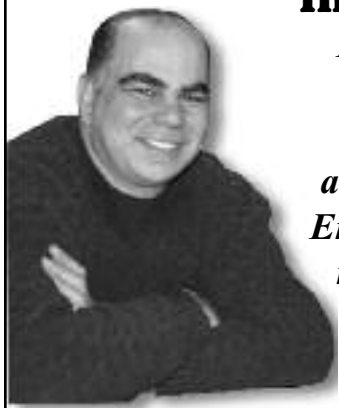
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Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email

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‘MINIMAL LIGHT’ EXHIBIT AT ARTS CENTER

The Watchung Arts Center is pleased to exhibit the work of the New Art Group once again. Minimal Light, the latest works by the Group which includes Stirling artist Susan Ahlstrom, will be on display from March 3 to March 31, 2018, in the Heinz Otto Gallery at The Watchung Art Center, 18 Stirling Road, Watchung, New Jersey. The opening reception will be held on Sunday, March 4, 2018, from 1 to 4 p.m. featuring brief artist talks, refreshments and an opportunity to network with the artists.

As member artist Nancy Ori puts it, “The light is minimal but reveals both the vulnerability and endurance of American people from an important time in our history.” Light for all artists is key. It provides the ability to see and experience visually all things in our world. Yet, at times, we all experience how it feels to be in a situation of reduced or failing light. Minimal light, as explored by visual artists, reveals the many ways in which detail and character can be perceived even in low light environments. Whether it’s the light emanating from a source, such as a sun or a room light, or the light emanating from a soul that is slowly extinguishing, the idea of minimal does not refer to a lack of richness at all.

The New Art Group today consists of New Jersey-based artists Susan Ahlstrom (Stirling), Francesca Azzara (Westfield), Orna Greenberg (Millburn), Nancy Ori (Berkeley Heights), Paul XO Pinkman (Plainfield), Heidi Sussman (West Orange) and Katie Truk (Hamilton). Founded in 1990, with an over 28-year exhibition history, the New Art Group is one of New Jersey’s longest standing visual art collectives.

For some of the artists in this exhibit, the surface of the artworks and the way light is



(above) “Dining Room; Bodie, California” by Nancy Ori.

illustrated says it all. Yet for others, minimal light is a reference point to themselves. “I always thought that winter was the season of minimal light...” says artist Heidi Sussman. “I have a personal relationship to that phrase almost painfully now since I feel I am in the winter of my life and must work quickly to accomplish all I wish to do...”

The Watchung Arts Center at 18 Stirling Road in Watchung, New Jersey offers new art exhibitions each month, performances of music, comedy, improv, and classes for children and adults. Contact Joe at wacenter@optonline.net or call 908-753-0190 for more information.

For more information about the New Art Group, visit their website at newartgroup.com or call the director, Paul Pinkman, at 908-625-1571.

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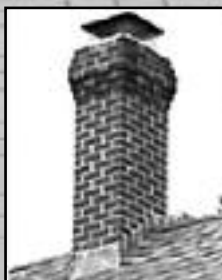
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ST VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH TO HOLD FISH & CHIP DINNER TO FUND HAITI PROJECT - MARCH 24TH

In June of 2017 Fr Richard Carton, Sr Elsa Jeronimo C.S.J.B. along with a few parishioners traveled to Haiti to learn how the partnership of St Vincent de Paul Parish in Stirling and St Paul Parish in Nanpol could best make a difference for the parishioners there. They came home with 3 specific projects:

- 1) The completion of a place for Fr. Theo, the pastor, to live in.
- 2) The restructuring of the church walls and the replacement of the tin roof.
- 3) Replacement of a water pump which would

be a gift to the local community for better access to water. Fr. Theo provided plans and costs for the rectory and church. To complete the rectory the costs estimated are at \$30,000, the church \$60,000 and the pump information was to follow.

In September Fr Theo came to Stirling to share stories of his village and the changes already begun. In November the successful Food and Wine tasting fundraiser along with individual donations provided \$30,000 of the funds necessary for the rectory completion and by December, Fr Theo was able to move in.

In January Fr Richard, Sr Elsa, and parishioners again traveled to Nanpol to see the

completed work first hand. When Fr Richard returned he wrote, "Through the generosity of a parishioner there is now a pump at the well in our sister parish—the water from that well is certainly not drinkable. It is my hope that we may be able to assist not just the parish but the community of Nanpol in providing water that is treated and may be consumed free of contamination." It has been determined that \$25,000-\$30,000 could provide clean drinking water for an entire village.

On March 24th St Vincent de Paul Parish will hold a Fish and Chips dinner to raise funds for Water for Nanpol.

For more information please visit our website stvincentschurch.org.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish

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(above, l-r) Photos of reconstructed church from June 2017 and December 2017

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FOUR LOCAL LETTER CARRIERS EARN MILLION MILE SAFE DRIVING AWARDS

Senior postal managers, municipal officials, and representatives from the letter carriers union recently gathered at the Berkeley Heights Post Office to honor four local letter carriers for earning the National Safety Council's prestigious Million Mile award. The award is presented to professional drivers who have driven 30+ years without a preventable accident.

The four safety conscious carriers receiving

the Million Mile award included: Charles Douress, Christopher Cunningham, Melvin Jones, and Earl F. Lewis. Douress, Cunningham, and Jones are Berkeley Heights carriers. Lewis, a former Berkeley Heights carrier, currently works in nearby Gillette. Several other carriers received safe driver pins or a certificate for a year or more of safe driving.

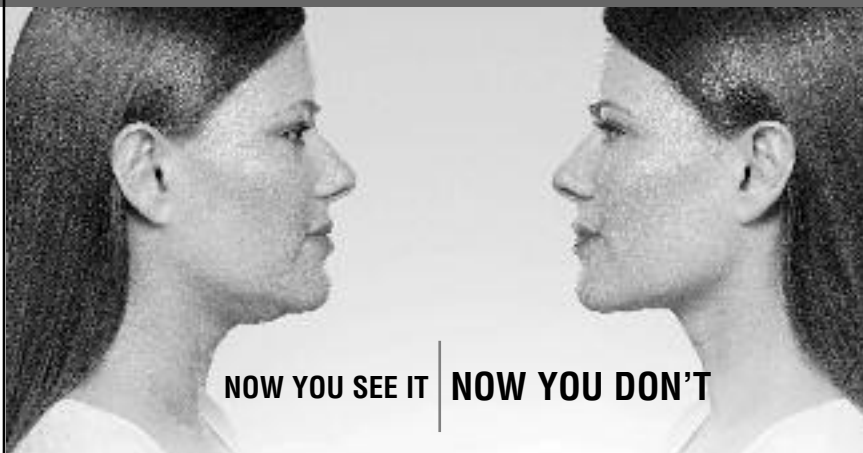
Berkeley Heights Postmaster Ted Zawartkay

organized the 30-minute ceremony. Joining Postmaster Zawartkay to honor the carriers were: Northern NJ District Manager Scott Hooper, Berkeley Heights Mayor Bob Woodruff, Police Chief John DiPasquale, Police Captain Robert Deitch, NALC Region 15 Business Agent Larry Cirelli, NALC Branch 38 President Mike O'Neill, and Northern NJ District Safety Specialist Stephen Cannon.



(above, l-r) Berkeley Heights Mayor Bob Woodruff, Captain Robert Deitch, Gillette carrier Earl Lewis, NALC Regional Business Agent Larry Cirelli, Berkeley Heights Carrier Melvin Jones, Berkeley Heights Carrier Chris Cunningham, Berkeley Heights Carrier Charles Douress, USPS Northern NJ District Manager Scott Hooper, Postmaster Ted Zawartkay, and Chief John DiPasquale celebrate the four carriers' 30+ years of accident free driving.

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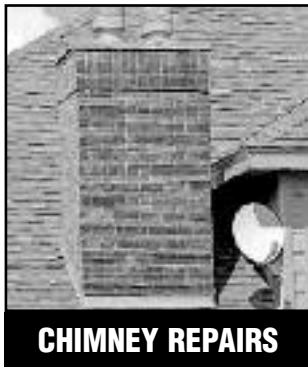
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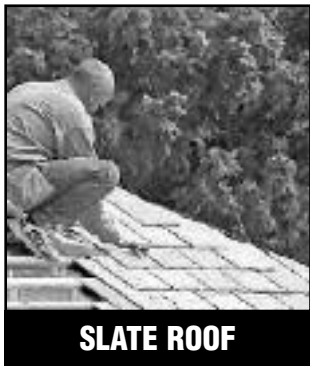
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(above) Ms. Holzinger's first grade class

Ms. Holzinger's first grade class has been studying the winter Olympics all month. They have been learning about various countries and their cultures. Students gained knowledge of sportsmanship and teamwork. While they participated in each "event" gold, silver, and bronze medals have been awarded.

Students made torches and had a torch run on February 9, 2018. The torch was the start of our "opening ceremonies party" where several

parents came to teach about different countries. Students learned about France, Netherlands, Scotland, Japan, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Mexico, Poland, and Taiwan. Students also sampled treats from each of these nations.

Student Tim Hansen's grandparents came to class to teach about the history and culture of Scotland, including the meaning of kilts, and curling. The students made a kilt craft and were treated to Scottish shortbread.



(above) Tim Hansen and grandparents.

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Fifty years ago, a group of committed citizens came together to block a jetport at what is now the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. To celebrate this inspiring example of community activism, The Madison Environmental Commission is hosting a free screening of "Saving the Great Swamp" on March 10 at 2 p.m. at the Chase Room of Madison Public Library, 39 Keep Street, Madison, New Jersey.

"This is a story about local residents with no experience in community activism coming together to overcome financial and political

obstacles," says Ellen Kranefuss, event organizer and member of the Madison Environmental Commission. "It's a story that's as important today as it was fifty years ago."

The one-hour documentary will be introduced by Karl Fenske, whose mother Helen, led the fight to save the Great Swamp, a 55-square mile watershed located in located in Morris and Somerset Counties. Scott Morris, the documentary's director and co-producer will be on hand for a discussion afterward.

For more details go to sustainablemadisonnj.org

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'WINTER CABARET' ENTERTAINS 'COFFEE HOUSE' AUDIENCE AT WHRHS

A dozen acts, along with nearly as many improvised between-act skits, made for an entertaining evening at the Script and Cue's 2018 Winter Cabaret, Thursday, Jan. 25, on the stage of the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Performing Arts Center (PAC), 108 Stirling Road, Warren, New Jersey.

An intimate audience gathered around cabaret tables and in portable chairs arranged cross-stage style on the broad PAC stage. Nearly all the stage curtaining was raised to create a coffee house style exposed-brick performance space backdrop. Blue tint mood lighting bathed the atmosphere.

Performers, mostly singers with simple self-accompaniment acoustic guitars, keyboards, or recorded music, honed their skills in front of a live audience. Everyone seemed to recognize that this was a living-learning live-audience workshop for the performers. It was also an evening for fun, encouraged, and applauded entertainment.

A healthy dose of "in-between act" performances included yeoman turns by familiar Script and Cue hosts and student leaders, Sam Sinnott, Francesca Infante-Meehan, Emma Leary, Anhal Dhir and Kayla Martins, among others. Many performed in multiple minute-or-less skits.

One of the highlights at the Winter Cabaret were appearances by some of the male student cast members of the upcoming 2018 WHRHS Spring Musical, "Guys and Dolls." Mark your calendar, Guys and Dolls will be performed Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 22, 23, and 24, 2018 in the WHRHS PAC.

At the Winter Cabaret, six of Guys and Dolls' signature male "heavies," Sam Sinnott, Ben Allgor, Will Johnson, Jack Melillo, Will Broder and Lucas Mammone, left their Nathan Detroit-style gangster zoot-suits in the wardrobe department in favor of stripped-down improv-style black slacks/white shirt-nearly-mime outfits to sing the spirited song of sweet revenge from the Broadway musical/movie, "Chicago."

With tongue planted firmly in cheek, the actor/singers worked off nearly everyone's vivid memory of the song, "He Had It Coming," being belted out most convincingly in the movie by such notable enraged females as Queen Latifah, Catherine Zeta-Jones, and Renee Zellweger, among others. The guys at the Winter Cabaret

delivered a hilarious portrayal of just enough over-the-top "wronged hurt" by a sextet of enraged males. If this skit was any indication, the "Guys" roles in the upcoming WHRHS Spring Musical, "Guys and Dolls," are in the hands of an ensemble of actors already adept at entertaining an audience as a well-oiled team.

The array of acts at the Cabaret included: Jack Melillo singing "Landslide," and accompanying himself on guitar;

Kaelin Churchill singing, "Thinking Out Loud," accompanied on guitar by her dad, Ray;

Dana Wasserman singing, "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," and accompanying herself on ukelele;

Olivia Kider and Melissa Miketen singing, "Flight," by popular Broadway leading lady, Sutton Foster;

Becca Baitel reading one of her own original poems;

The student band, Moonwake, singing two songs, "Rosie," featuring singer Nicole Bell, and "Smooth"; other members of Moonwake are, Will Broder, Eddie Cai, Ben Kosakowski, and Lucas Mammone;

Madeline Leong, singing, "I'm Breaking Down," from the Broadway musical, "Falsettos"

Maddie Johnson singing "I Will Follow You into the Dark," by the recording artists, Death Cab for Cutie, accompanied on keyboards by her brother, senior Will Johnson;

Summer Stuart singing, "I'm Here," from the Broadway musical, "The Color Purple";

Elizabeth Chapleski, Joey Pascale and Maddie Leong singing, "Learn to Do It," from the Broadway musical, "Anastasia";

Giovanna DiSanto singing, "Out Here on My Own," from "Fame," and

Justin Horowitz singing, "On the Street Where You Live," originally from the Broadway musical, "My Fair Lady."

Sound and lighting at the Winter Cabaret was provided by Nick Dinizio, Chris Valent and Rick Clark. Stage Managers were Mark Caamano and Emily Snead. Script and Cue Business manager is WHRHS Business teacher Dianne Krutz, and the Script and Cue Advisor is WHRHS Drama Teacher Doug Eaton.

WHRHS approaches all events such as the Winter Cabaret, as opportunities to encourage heavy student involvement in organizing and leading the event. Virtually every school event, including the Winter Cabaret, is seen as multi-discipline living learning experiences that include ancillary tasks such as catering, graphic design, social media usage, supportive financial and business tasks, understanding learning in context, and more.

This supports one of the stated goals of the 2015-2020 Strategic Goals: The WHRHS District will provide the resources, technology, and organizational change to achieve, among other goals: "To integrate creative, innovative, and interdisciplinary learning throughout the district to empower and inspire students to succeed in a changing global community."



(above) Junior Becca Baitel of Watchung read an original poem at the Winter Cabaret.



(above, l-r) Student organizers Emma Leary and Francesca Infante-Meehan, entertained the audience with some between-act humor at the Winter Cabaret.



(above, l-r) "He had It Coming." Bearing wronged tough-guy scowls, are, Jack Melillo, Will Johnson, Ben Allgor, Sam Siott, Will Broder and Lucas Mammone.



(above, l-r) "Guys and Chairs" Will Johnson, Ben Allgor, Lucas Mammone, San Sinnott, Will Broder, and Jack Melillo made their entrances using chairs as dance props at the Winter Cabaret.

chimney o' rock celebration

Special Menu starts Thursday, March 8

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Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, Guinness Beef Pot Pie & Irish Soda Bread

band schedule

Sunday, March 11

“Round the House” at Bridgewater
“Bloody Callan” at Gillette
Three Seatings Available:
3:30, 5:30 & 7:30 pm

Tuesday, March 13

“Hooley Shooters” at Bridgewater
“Celtic Rebels Band” at Gillette
Two Seatings Available:
5:45 & 7:15 pm



Thursday, March 15

“The Snakes” at Bridgewater
“Hooley Shooters” at Gillette
Two Seatings Available:
5:45 & 7:15 pm



ST. PATRICK'S DAY Saturday, March 17

“Bloody Callan” at Bridgewater
“Courtney Colletti” at Gillette

Performance Times:
12-3 pm & 5-9 pm

Not accepting reservations for this day. First Come - First Served

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IRS WARNS OF SCAMS (CONTINUED)

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SCAMS TARGETING TAX PROFESSIONALS

Increasingly, tax professionals are being targeted by identity thieves. These criminals – many of them sophisticated, organized syndicates - are redoubling their efforts to gather personal data to file fraudulent federal and state income tax returns.

SURGE IN EMAIL, PHISHING AND MALWARE SCHEMES

Phishing (as in “fishing for information”) is a scam where fraudsters send e-mail messages to trick unsuspecting victims into revealing personal and financial information that can be used to steal the victims’ identity.

The IRS has issued several alerts about the fraudulent use of the IRS name or logo by scammers trying to gain access to consumers’ financial information to steal their identity and

assets.

Scam emails are designed to trick taxpayers into thinking these are official communications from the IRS or others in the tax industry, including tax software companies. These phishing schemes may seek information related to refunds, filing status, confirming personal information, ordering transcripts, and verifying PIN information.

Be alert to bogus emails that appear to come from your tax professional, requesting information for an IRS form. IRS doesn’t require Life Insurance and Annuity updates from taxpayers or a tax professional.

Variations can be seen via text messages. The IRS is aware of email phishing scams that include links to bogus web sites intended to mirror the official IRS web site. These emails contain the direction “you are to update your IRS e-file immediately.” These emails are not from the IRS.

The sites may ask for information used to file false tax returns or they may carry malware, which can infect computers and allow criminals to access your files or track your keystrokes to gain information.

For more details, visit www.irs.gov; YouTube IRS Videos on Tax Scams.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Berkeley Heights police department.



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- 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!

Ronie 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 funding process!

Joseph Mazzeo, Parent of High School Senior

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