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DANAE CHURCHILL EARNS HER GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

Danae Churchill, an ambassador scout of Watchung's Girl Scout Troop 65624, completed her Girls Scout Gold Award recently. Danae designed a unique project entitled "Straight from the Heart" in which she taught local community members how to make accessories to be donated to teen girls from low income families. Danae's research had shown that even receiving small items such as accessories would help the teen's self-esteem. Everybody likes to look fashionable! Plus, in each recipient's gift bag of accessories were instructions for the teens to learn how to make their own accessories from items such as sweaters and t-shirts. Danae created a Facebook page with tutorials to teach people around the world how they can make these items and donate them to local agencies.

When Danae first conceived of the project, she immediately contacted Cindy Homer, founder of Hearts of Watchung and asked her to be her mentor. Ms. Homer has long matched low-income families with donors for holiday and



(above) Watchung Library Program Straight from the Heart
(foreground around table, l-r) Abby Langer, Evana Fahmy, Kaelin Churchill, Dana Wasserman, and Giovanna DiSanto; (background, l-r) Abby Watkins, Danae Churchill, and Diana Sarrico.



(above l-r) Cindy Homer, Danae Churchill

year-round giving. Danae knew that Ms. Homer would be a good source of information regarding what gifts would work and how to get them to the girls. Ms. Homer used her Hearts of Watchung network to channel Danae's gift bags to teens that would appreciate the accessories.

With the help of Danae's fellow troop members, Danae staffed a table at a Watchung fall festival, and held a library program to reach out to community members. People generously donated materials such as t-shirts, sweaters, and yarn, as well as their time to hot glue bags, braid head bands, and finger-knit hats.

Danae put together about 22 gift bags each with about three accessories in them. Danae officially finished the project in September 2017 and passed her Girl Scout gold award interview at that time. She held onto the gift bags to deliver them to the Hearts of Watchung annual adopt a family drive in early December 2017.

Danae would like to thank Ms. Homer for her patience and guidance; her fellow Girl Scouts and leaders for their help; the community members that made accessories; and Sharon Orlando, youth services librarian at the Watchung Library for helping her reach out to the community and her family members for their support.

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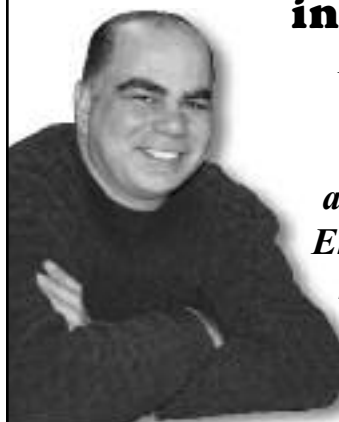
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WATCHUNG RESIDENT, FILMMAKER SAM SHAPIRO SELECTED FOR GARDEN STATE FILM FESTIVAL

The Garden State Film Festival announced today that the film "Scissor Pass," directed by Watchung resident, Sam Shapiro and Gabe Waldman will screen at the 2018 Garden State Film Festival located in Asbury Park.

Ambition and opportunity separate high school hockey teammates, sending one to college and leaving one in a dead-end job. But memories of their glory days lead them both to hard lessons in the importance of friendship and timing, inspired by a true story.

"We are excited to present "Scissor Pass" as a part of our 16th Annual Film Festival in Asbury Park, and shine a spotlight on the extraordinary talent from our state," says Lauren Concar, the

festival's Executive Director.

The film will screen on Sunday, March 25, 2018 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at House of Independents during the Garden State Film Festival which runs from March 22 to March 25, 2018. Individual screening tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door. Weekend passes are \$50 in advance and \$55 at the door. Day Passes are also available. The Saturday Day Pass is \$30, and Sunday Day Pass is \$25. Tickets are available at gsff.org and at festival box offices. For more information about this film and other programs, please visit the GSFF website at gsff.org. To contact the filmmaker, email: samshap11@gmail.com

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Lynn McKenna, Parent of High School Senior

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Barbara Eames, Parent of High School Sophomore

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Sara Pagano, Parent of High School Junior

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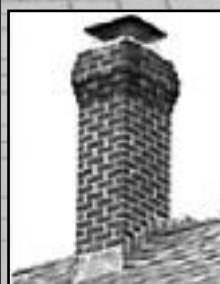
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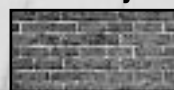
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'MINIMAL LIGHT' EXHIBIT AT WATCHUNG ARTS CENTER

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, 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. The Group has had over 70 exhibitions of members' works in venues throughout New Jersey and environs.

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

Each of us has a personal relationship with light and with its loss or diminishment. You can see some of the way in which artists consider this very idea on display at Watchung.

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.



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



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A GRATEFUL WHRHS ALUMNA RECEIVES 'UPSTANDER' AWARD

As Engy Gadmawla, Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Class of 2014, embarks on her last semester of undergraduate studies at Drew University, Madison, she does so remembering her very first class on her very first day as a WHRHS Warrior in September 2010.

She was born, and spent her first 10 years living in Cairo, Egypt, before she moved in 2003, just two years after 9/11, to Watchung with her mom, dad, and sister.

"I grew up being called a terrorist," she told the audience at the "Facing History and Ourselves" annual New York Benefit Dinner, Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017 at Pier 60 at Chelsea Piers, New York City.

Between 750 and 800 people attended the dinner. Engy Gadelmawla was one of three key speakers at the event, and one of four people presented with Upstander Awards. Others receiving Upstander Awards were: Jennifer and Peter Buffett and the NoVo Foundation; and actress, playwright and activist Anna Deavere Smith.

It is the same annual benefit dinner that in 2014 recognized the work of WHRHS Social Studies Teachers Jamie Lott-Jones and Mary Sok, and WHRHS students Engy Gadelmawla, Catherine Higgins and Monica Mahal, for creating and implementing the WHRHS "White-Out to Erase Bullying" campaign. That campaign brought together some 13 New Jersey school districts and raised awareness of bullying and upstander behavior. Lott-Jones and Sok accompanied Gadelmawla to the banquet along with members of her family.

Rising out of that effort, WHRHS students helped to literally coin a new word in the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) to describe a new concept. It is "Upstander," someone who is different from being merely a "bystander," someone who, in effect, "faces history and ourselves," and tries to do something about it.

In 2014, the WHRHS teachers and students received recognition at the Facing History and Ourselves Benefit Dinner: They were recognized as "Upstanders." Last Fall, Engy Gadelmawla received her second Upstander recognition, for everything she has done since then. She was asked to be one of the keynote speakers at the 2017 Facing History and Ourselves Benefit Dinner.

Engy shared the poem with the Facing History and Ourselves Annual Dinner audience, reading:

"First they came for the Socialists, but I was not a Socialist and I did not speak out/ Then they came for the trade unionists, but I was not a trade unionist, so I did not speak out/ Then they came for the Jews, but I was not a Jew, so I did not speak out/ Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me."

Continuing, she shared: "For me, this poem is a daily reminder that we all have the power to be 'perpetrators, bystanders or upstanders.'

Facing History has taught me that it is our decision what role we take."

She is an Upstander. For more information about Facing History and Ourselves, go to facinghistory.org/why-facing-history.



(above, l-r) Facing History and Ourselves President Roger Brooks; featured speaker and WHRHS Alum Engy Gadelmawla, who is currently a student at Drew University, Madison; Engy's mother, Omnia Mohamed; and sister, Nansy Gedelmawla.

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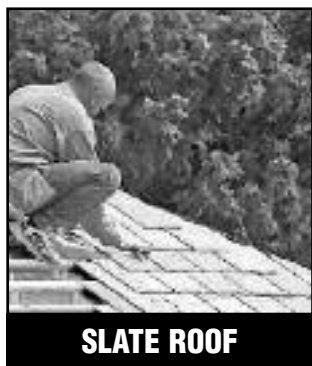
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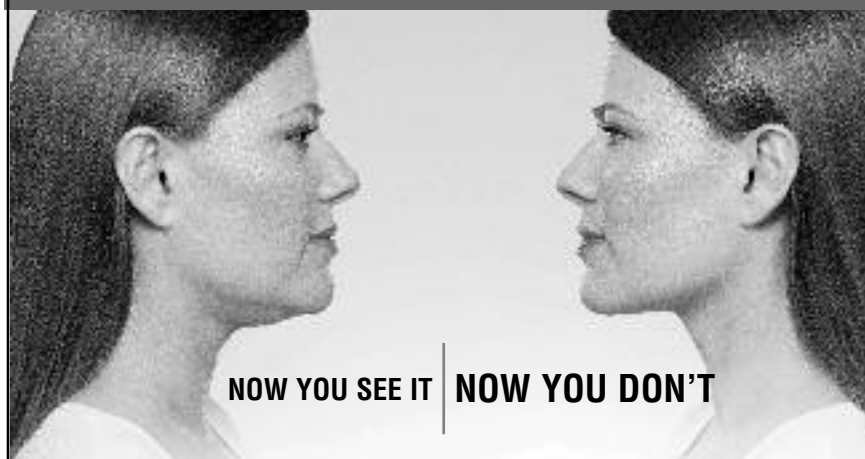
The second graders at Bayberry Elementary School, 113 Bayberry Lane, Watchung, New Jersey, collected new pajamas and new books to support the Pajama Program and their mission. Our students collected 79 pajamas

and 149 books. We celebrated the generous donations of our community by inviting a special guest to join us for buddy reading. Our hope is that this contribution will make a difference in the life a child.



(above) Second graders at Bayberry Elementary School participating in the Pajama Program.

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performers. The March 18 concert is at 3 p.m.; the other three programs start at 8 p.m.

The Watchung Arts Center, located at 18 Stirling Road in Watchung, New Jersey 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.

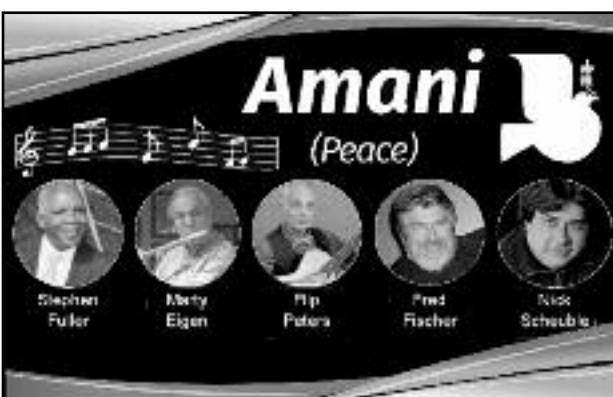
Tickets for our concerts can be purchased online at watchungartscenter.eventbrite.com. Tickets may also be purchased by mail, or in person during our office hours.



(above) Rio Clemente



(above) Kevin Hilferty & Joe Higgins.



(above) Amani: Stephen Fuller, Marty Eigen, Flip Peters, Fred Fischer, Nick Scheuble.



(above) Romanza String Quartet: Mikhail Kuchuk, Maria Ramsay, Martin Steinberg, Ruth Brons.

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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 be recognizing 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.

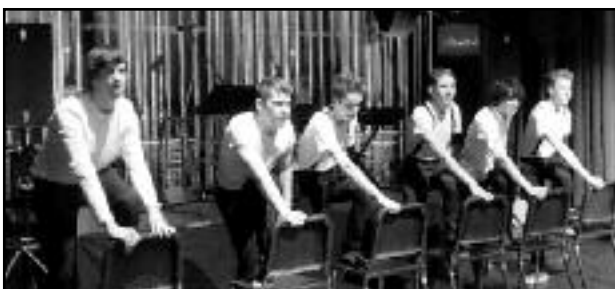
One of the highlights at the Winter Cabaret were appearances by some of the male student

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.

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.



(above, left) Junior Becca Baitel of Watchung read an original poem at the Winter Cabaret. (above, right, 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) "Guys and Chairs." Will Johnson, Ben Allgor, Lucas Mammone, Sam Sinnott, Will Broder, and Jack Melillo made their entrances using chairs as dance props.



(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.



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MAYOR POTE'S VISIT TO BAYBERRY SCHOOL

Watchung Post • Page 15 • March 2018

Mayor Pote of Watchung visited the second grade classes at Bayberry School. Students listened attentively as Mayor Pote read them the story, Two Bad Ants, that was a favorite of his daughter, Jen. The students then had the opportunity to ask the mayor questions, such as what it is like to be the Mayor? What are your responsibilities as mayor? Who else do you work with? How many years do you get to be mayor

and how old must you be? The mayor answered all of their questions and was able to explain with examples that they could relate to. Mayor Pote explained the process of creating and implementing laws. The example he shared with the students was the 'Breath Easy' law established in Watchung. The students enjoyed their visit with the mayor and learned about our local government!



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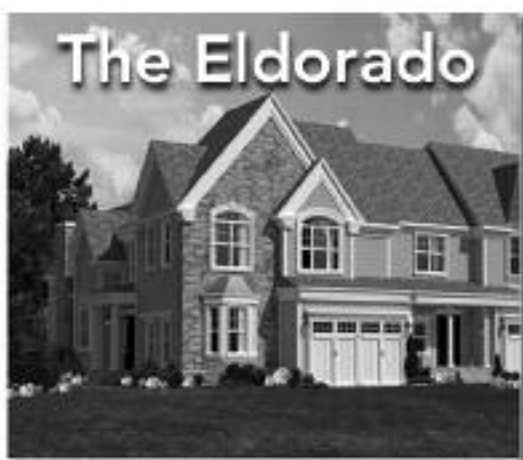
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