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#### **'AN EVENING OF SHINING STARS' SPECIAL NEEDS TALENT SHOW**

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#### Submitted by Michael P. Curci

Shining Stars," featuring members of the special needs community from around Union County, will take place on Friday May 4, 2018 at 7 p.m.

Founded by Cranford resident Sally Curci, the 7th annual showcase will feature "Music from the Decades" with the cast set to sing and dance their way into your hearts as they show off their amazing talents.

And for the very first time, the "Shining Stars" cast will take the professional stage at the beautiful and historic Union County Performing Arts Center, where many of America's biggest names have performed.

"We are so excited to give our special cast the chance to perform at such a great venue," noted Sally Curci. "Our audience has grown each and every year, and our cast continues to grow as we spotlight talent from around Union County. It's going to be a night to remember."

When the lights will go up, the "stars" will shine, entertaining you with music from the '20s through today, with solo acts and full cast dance choreography, which is one of the highlights of the show.

Adam Fleissner, who has performed in every show, can't wait to take the stage again, as he prepares to sing "Help!" by the Beatles.

"We meet so many great people," said Fleissner. "We get One of the area's most anticipated events, "An Evening of new people in every year and everyone has a good time meeting each other and performing. All of it is just fantastic."

Caitlin Madden is also excited to team with volunteer buddy Mark Lynch on the Elton John song, "Don't Go Breaking My Heart," with rehearsals in full swing.

"I'm very excited for the show, I like my number," said Madden. "I like all the years I've been doing it. It's fun. Come see us!"

Tickets are on sale now at UCPAC.org/events. Find the Shining Stars logo, select your seats and you'll be in for one of the best nights of the year!

"An Evening of Shining Stars" is presented by Shining Stars Network, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Union County that shines the light on the special needs community by creating inclusive events such as their annual talent show, dances at local high schools, and our Ambassadors basketball team, which travels to play local first responders to promote friendship and understanding.

SSN will also host their 2nd annual two week performing arts camp, "Camp Shine," from August 20 through August 31 in Scotch Plains. To reserve your spot, or for more information on any of these programs or events, email shiningstarsnetwork@gmail.com,or check out their website at ShiningStarsNetwork.org.



(above) Cast to appear at Union County Arts Center 2018 Shining Star Show May 4, 2018



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### **5TH ANNUAL GRETA'S RUN REGISTRATION OPEN**

Submitted by Ben Nanna

The 5th Annual Greta's Run will be held Sunday, April 22 at Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark Street, Westfield, New Jersey. Register to run, walk, roll, volunteer, donate or sponsor Greta's Run.

Early registration is \$25, and it ends April 4. The entry fee becomes \$30 thereafter, and only early registrants are guaranteed race shirts. The course is USATF certified and sanctioned.

fundraiser organized in memory of Greta Schoenemann, a Westfield High School freshman who died from injuries sustained on the first anniversary of 9/11 when a tree fell on her during lunch. Organized by Greta's childhood friends, Jayne Ruotolo and Ben Nanna, Greta's Run is a neighborhood centerpiece that over 1000 people of all abilities look forward to participating in annually. All proceeds benefit people with special and adaptive needs.

For more information, visit: bit.ly/GretasRun. Greta's Run is a 5K run, walk, roll, and For questions or to learn more, contact: Ben director Nanna, co-founder and at ben@gretasrun.com.





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### **GWACC PRESENTS THE DUPREES AT THEIR 70TH ANNIVERSARY GALA - APRIL 19**

The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) is very excited to announce The Duprees will perform at their 70th Anniversary Gala on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 6 p.m., at The Primavera Regency in Stirling, New Jersey. Unique Cruise & Travel of Garwood has graciously offered to sponsor The Duprees for this event.

The Duprees are known all over the world over for their romantic interpretations of some of the most beautiful love songs ever written. They have made a career out of giving new life to old hits. If you take the Glenn Miller arrangements of the 1940s along with the tunes of Joni James, Frank Sinatra, Jo Stafford, Nat King Cole, (just to name a few) and the vocal harmonies of Tom Petillo, Tony Testa, Phil Granito, and Jimmy Spinelli and put them together, you have the sound of The Duprees. Today's Duprees perform all the charttopping songs you know and love, mixed with a few contemporary hits, like R. Kelly's "I Believe I Can Fly" and Lionel Richie's "All Night Long." After an evening with The Duprees, you will discover why their harmonies and hits are as timeless as ever.

Along with their unique sound and outstanding vocal harmonies, The Duprees perform with showmanship that is individually and collectively, second to none. Thousands of fans around the globe are captivated by their wonderful mixture of romance, energy, and fun. When The Duprees take the stage, be prepared to be thoroughly entertained.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets to the 70th Anniversary Gala, please call 908-233-3021 or go to gwaccnj.com/events/gala/ The Gala will be a two-hour cocktail party featuring an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, carving stations, pasta stations, salad and assorted cheeses. After, all guests will sit in the grand ballroom to enjoy dessert, coffee, commence our awards ceremony and enjoy the harmonizing melodies of this very talented musical headliner.

GWACC was formed in 1948 at the Rialto Theater by 29 local business owners who paid \$10 each to form the Chamber. Only Baron's Drugs and the Rialto remain in business today.

Come and help us celebrate the past and embrace the future. GWACC is located at 212 Lenox Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey, and can be reached at gwaccnj.com or by calling 908-233-3021.



(above) The Duprees



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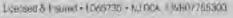
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### **"KINDNESS MONTH" AT JEFFERSON SCHOOL**

Jefferson School marked February as "Kindness Month" with students and their families using the written word to express their gratitude to the school's teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, and other staff members.

More than 300 Gratitude Notes flooded the school last month. Many of the notes adorn the hallway bulletin boards; others were compiled and presented to staff members at month's end to enjoy.

"Positive energy can be contagious," says parent volunteer Susan Edwards who, with fellow parent Erin Hughes, teamed up with staff members of the Professional Learning Community (PLC) on the schoolwide project.

thanks to Jefferson staff.

"Our goal was to create some positive energy and inspire the kids, families and staff to be grateful for the good things that happen each day at school."

Sentiments expressed to Jefferson's staff members included notes of gratitude to the custodians for their hard work in maintaining the school and its grounds, to teachers for inspiring a love of books, to those who make Jefferson "a better place," and appreciation to a staffer for a simple fist bump in the hallway.

"With Valentine's Day being in February, we often associate it with love, friendship, and kindness. Therefore, the idea of Kindness Month evolved," Jefferson principal Susie Hung explains. "Having a positive attitude and a sense of appreciation can go a long way in life. It is wonderful that our students and families had an opportunity to share their gratitude notes with the staff."

Teachers Tracy Ciotti (art), Sally Heyder (librarian/media specialist), Jaime LaRosa (school counselor), and Wendy Woodfield (music) are members of the PLC group which Hung says "designs activities to create a strong school community and a sense of pride for our students and staff."

"We hope that our Jefferson staff feels the love from our community," adds Edwards. "And we hope that our entire Jefferson community and staff might feel inspired to continue to express their gratitude."

Photos courtesy of Westfield Public Schools

AFTER

Who am I grateful for: Mrs. Heyder Why am I grateful for them? I am grateful to bringing enthusiasm and love teaching to the library. She has transformed the carry to a warm and creative space - the children forward to her class each week She has also gone above and beyond with the extra STEM activities (above) More than 300 Gratitude Notes flooded Jefferson School during "Kindness Month" in She plans. Mrs. Heyder is an amezing addition to *February, with families expressing heartfelt* 

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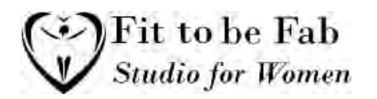
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Kelly C., Scotch Plains, 39 yrs. old



On Monday, February 26, 2018, Westfield firefighters joined together with 24 other teams of firefighters from around New Jersey to compete in 'The Ultimate Fire Department Cookoff,' part of the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival held at the Pines Manor in Edison New Jersey.

The event benefited the New Jersey State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

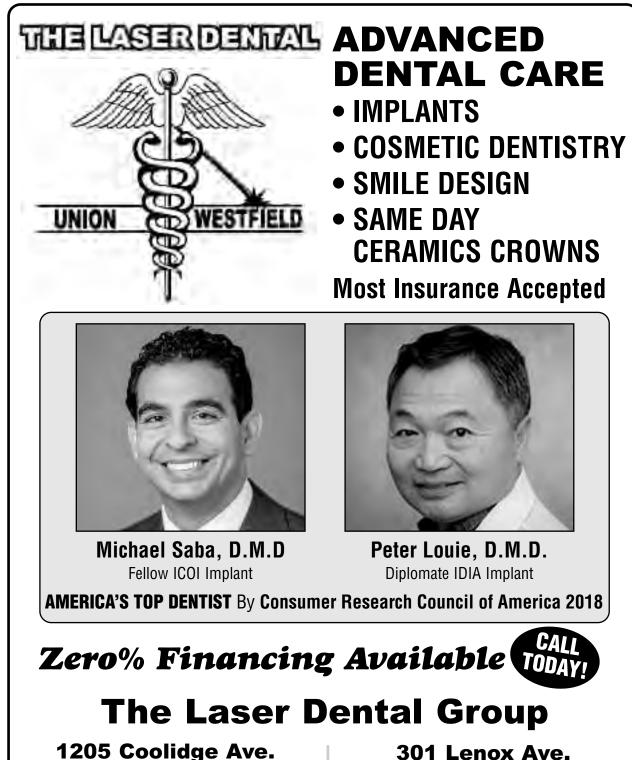
The Fire Department Cook-off is part of a culinary extravaganza where participants were able to experience the tastes and flavors of more than 30 of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers and dessert shops all in one location. This event, held at The Pines Manor in Edison, NJ, drew more than 1000 people from across New Jersey. According to event organizers, \$65,000 was raised this year, St. Barnabas will receive half. The Cooked and Uncorked event has provided The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center with over \$170,000 over the past 8 years.

(above right) The Cranford Fire Department team consisting of Chris Wyte, Angelo Bencinvega, Danny Genovese, and Ryan Dullea, competed in 'The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off' during the 8th Annual Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Westfield Monthly page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like," "Tag" and "Share."







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WE'RE GETTING BETTER, TOGETHER

### **WESTFIELD RECREATION ANNOUNCES PROGRAMS FOR SPRING**

It's time to join the Recreation Department on our mission to keep the community active with our "Be Active, Be Healthy" movement! If this year's resolution is to get and stay healthy, come join our new class "LaBlast" fitness class on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. with Peggy and try our "Tai Chi" classes on Tuesday at 10 a.m. with Barry. All levels are welcomed in both classes. Drop in and try one of these classes and find out how much fun they are.

For the kids, sign them up for one or more of our Spring after school programs. We offer a variety of activities. Sewing and Fashion are offered on Mondays and Thursdays; and Fencing on Tuesday with Advanced Fencing & Fitness Academy for grades 2 to 6.

As our weather gets warmer in the spring, our after-school activities move outside to explore a range of sports such as tennis, golf, volleyball, and field hockey. Our Volleyball & Field Hockey clinics are developed to improve skills and increase knowledge of the games and are supervised by Westfield High School coaches.

Westfield Recreation department also offers a wide variety of sports and programs thru USA Sports Institute. Programs range for ages from 2 thru adults. Check their website at for spring and summer programs at usasportgroup.com/ westfield-recreation-sports-camps-classes for more information and schedules.

New this spring is a Thursday morning adult tennis clinic for players who are beginners thru advanced. This class has been added to our regular adult tennis clinics offered Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. For those looking to have some fun and exercise, come try out our pickleball class which is offered on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. It's a combination of tennis,

badminton, and ping pong.

For our Westfield seniors, we offer a Senior Transportation Service. This program provides Westfield residents rides to and from local medical appointments and shopping. Senior residents must register in advance for this service. Please call 908-301-1287 or visit our website for additional information.

Registrations is now open for all these programs. They are available on a first come basis. Participants can be registered on line, in person or thru the mail.

For additional program information, please visit our website: westfieldnj.gov/recreation for the Spring "Rec Room" Program Brochure or contact the Westfield Recreation Department at 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey at 908-789-4080. "Like us" on Facebook for up to date information.



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APRIL 2018 EVENTS WESTFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY 550 East Broad Street 908.769.4090 www.wminj.org Mon- Thurs 9:30 am - 9 pm Fri & Sat 9:30 am - 5 pm Sunday 1:00-500 pm Closed March 30 for Good Friday and April 1 for Easter Friends of the Library Glant Book Sale April 24-28 Check website for all dates and times

Programs for Adults Check website for sign up information-Some restrictions\* 4/4 Christopher Dean Band 7:00 pm 4/5 10:00 am Zumba Gold for Adults\*\*

4/6	1:30 pm	TGIF! Norman Lear (video)
4/9	2 & 6;30 pm	Foreign Film: Frantz German 113 minutes
4/11	7:00 pm	Meditation: A Stress Antidote
4/13	1:30 pm	TGIF! Movie: The Producers
4/14	2:00 pm	Celebrate Poetry Month with Tiferet Journal Poets

#### PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN CHECK WEBSITE FOR SIGN UP INFO

#/6, 13	10:00 am	Playgroup for Babies 0-23 mos
4/6	3;45 pm	Chess Club for Kids-No age limit but players must know how to move pieces
4/7	0:00 am	Paves to Read—Beginning readers read to library dogu in ten-minute segments
#/10	6:30 pm	Evening LEGO Club 5+ years
4/3, 10, 17	10:30 am	'2's on Tuesday Storytime
4/3. 10, 17	1:00 pm	Crafternoon Storytime 3%-5 years
4/5, 12,	10:30 am	3's on Thursday Storytime

#### **SPRING BOOK SALE SPONSORED BY FRIENDS OF WESTFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Once again the Friends of the Westfield Saturday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to noon. Memorial Library is sponsoring the Spring Book Sale. It's the perfect time to clean out your book shelves ... and fill them right up again. The Westfield Memorial Library is located at 550 East Broad Street in Westfield, New Jersey.

The sale consists of two parts: Donation Days and Sale Days. During the donation days we accept donations of hardcover and softcover books and CDs and DVDs in good condition for all ages. Sale days are the shopping days of the sale and a great time to get books at a great price. We offer a half price day on Friday, a bag day (all the books you can fit in our bag for \$7) on Saturday and teachers receive half price throughout the entire sale.

Come Donate from Wednesday, April 18 to Friday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and

Come Join the Friends for \$25 a year and Shop the Friends Members Preview Sale on Tuesday, April 24 from 4 to 8 p.m.

Come Shop on Wednesday, April 25 to Friday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Volunteer opportunities, including community service hours for students, are available to help with pre-sale and sale work. To learn all about what a Friends membership has to offer or to Friends volunteer email the at wmlvolunteers@gmail.com.

All the Book Sale profits go directly towards funding Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library sponsored programs.

We look forward to seeing you at our 2018 Spring Book Sale.

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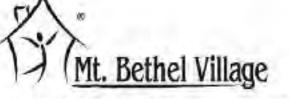
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### **JUNIOR MUSICAL CLUB PRESENTS A FREE CONCERT**

The Junior Musical Club is proud to present its annual Ensemble Concert on Wednesday, April 18, 2018, at 7:30 p.m., in the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street, Westfield. Club members in eighth grade and high school from the local area will join together in duets, trios, quartets, and quintets, playing the most popular music of the past 250 years. The concert will also feature the world premiere of a piano quintet and a New Jersey premiere of a wind quintet, both by composers with local roots.

Pranav Thota, violin, and Seth Jahnke, piano, play the first movement of Antonio Vivaldi's "Violin Concerto in G minor." Keri Jean and Victoria Tian render the first movement of P. D. Q. Bach's piano four-hands parody "Sonata Innamorata." Suraj Chandran and Julia Yu, violin; Mira Yang, viola; Marisa Li, cello; and Rachel Hamelburg, piano, present the World Premiere of Rachel's piano quintet, "Reaching."



(above, l-r) The Junior Musical Club Executive Board: Marisa Li, Vice President, Programs; Divya Narayanan, Hospitality; Samantha Sprechman, Vice President, Auditions; Mira Yang, President; Victoria Tian, Secretary; and Suraj Chandran, Treasurer.

Daniel Shenker, alto saxophone, and Mira Yang, piano, play Eugene Bozza's "Aria." Suraj Chandran, violin, and Ethan Marmolejos, tuba, perform P. D. Q. Bach's "Only Piece Ever Written for Violin and Tuba." Soprano Samantha Sprechman, with Katie Zhuang, piano, sings Stephen Sondheim's "Children Will Listen" from "Into the Woods."

Divya Narayanan, flute, Ashlen Suen, clarinet, Suraj Chandran, alto saxophone, Stan Delaurentis, baritone saxophone, and Ethan Marmolejos, tuba, present the New Jersey premiere of Jacob Gelber's "Quintet for Sunstruck Faces." Natalie Lee and Katie Zhuang, piano four-hands, perform Johannes Brahms' "Hungarian Dance in F sharp minor."

Keri Jean, violin, and Natalie Lee, piano, play Emil Waldteufel's "Espana Waltz." Julia Yu, violin, and Jessica Yu, cello, render Jay Ungar's "Ashokan Farewell." Rachel Hamelburg, clarinet, Mira Yang, viola, and Seth Jahnke, piano, present the third movement of Robert Schumann's "Fairy Tales." Florian Schantz, trumpet, plays Johann Strauss' "Feuerfest Polka." Junlin Yi, violin, and Daniel Shenker, piano, render movements 1 and 4 of Johann Sebastian Bach's "Partita number 3."

This annual event is the only concert that features all the members of the club and the public is invited free of charge. There is also a reception following the performance at which the audience may meet the artists and enjoy light refreshments.



### **ROTARY CLUB OF WESTFIELD'S BREAKFAST WITH THE BANDS FUNDRAISER**

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta The Westfield High School (WHS) Stage Band kicked off the Westfield Rotary Club Foundation's 52nd Annual Breakfast. The event was held at WHS cafeteria on March 4, 2018, and raised scholarship and grant money for Westfield



(above) Rock n Joe Coffee Bar participated in providing coffee for the breakfast.

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High School graduates.

"It used to be called 'Pancake Day,' but people were coming for the bands, so we changed it to 'Breakfast with the Bands,'" said Michael Miller, Grants Chairman, "It's a fun morning."

In addition to the WHS Stage Band, live music was provided by WHS Jazz I and WHS Jazz II Ensembles; Roosevelt Intermediate School's Jazz I and Jazz II Ensembles; Edison Intermediate School Jazz Ensemble; and the Blue Devil Treble.

From 8 a.m. to noon, close to 500 people came through the doors to enjoy a free breakfast and enjoy the music. Breakfast was provided by Rock n Joe Coffee Bar and Stop & Shop. Rotary Member David Foltz provided breakfast for band members. "It's a meet and greet; brings people together," said Foltz.

James and Janice Nusse have been coming to the breakfasts ever since their daughter won a scholarship 20 years ago. "We're always interested in supporting," said Janice.

Mary Ellen O'Boyle, who is on the scholarship committee, said, "It's just so wonderful, listening to all the bands. They work so hard and this is their opportunity to shine."

Rotary Club of Westfield consultant, Chang Kun Shih, said he expected to generate a net contribution from the event to total about \$8000 to \$ 9000, which will be used for the Community Grants and the Westfield Rotary Scholarship Program for Westfield High School graduates.

In the past, The Westfield Rotary Club Foundation has awarded more than \$2.6 million in college scholarships and \$200,000 to local non-profits, advancing the quality of life in the community.

The Rotary Club of Westfield was founded in 1921 when its members joined together to provide service to both the local and international community. The Rotarian motto, "Service Above Self," reflects these goals. For more information on the Rotary Club of Westfield, visit: westfieldrotary.com







#### **ROTARY BREAKFAST PHOTOS**



(above, l-r) Michael Miller, Grants Chairman; David Foltz, Rotary Club of Westfield member; Mary Ellen O'Boyle, Scholarship Committee; Deirdre Gelinne, Rotary Club of Westfield member.

### **UNION COUNTY NAMI EVENTS APRIL 2018**

#### Union County National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

has a support group for caregivers of loved ones who have a mental health diagnosis. Join our peer led monthly group meetings and gain insight from others facing similar challenges. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey.

#### The "ER" Experience

The public is invited to hear Kelly Baker, Director of Psychiatric Emergency Services at Trinitas Regional Medical Center, speak about what to expect in the ER, the screening process/law and how caregivers fit into it. NAMI meetings offer education and support as well as an invaluable opportunity to share with others who

understand the challenges of caregivers. This event is *April 24, 7:30 p.m.* at RWJ Rahway Fitness and Wellness Center, 2120 Lamberts Mill Road, Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

For more information, call 908-233-1628 or email namiunioncounty@yahoo.com.



Westfield MONTHLY • Page 15 • April 2018





(above) Breakfast with the Bands.



### HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1ST WED. LUNCHEON: ART AND CULTURE IN BHUTAN

#### Submitted by David Polonitza

As part of the Westfield Historical Society's First Wednesday Luncheon series Gabrielle Yablonsky will be presenting a talk on art and culture in Bhutan on May 1, 2018. The event will begin at 11:45 a.m. at the Echo Lake Country Club, located at 515 Springfield Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey.

Bhutan is a landlocked country of about 750,000 people in the Eastern Himalayas between India and Tibet. Bhutan's lower elevations are home to indigenous Indo-Mongoloid tribes and recent Nepalese immigrants; and its higher altitudes are settled by Tibetans, who immigrated into Bhutan's three main regions of West, Central and East Bhutan starting around the 8th century, though the country was not unified until the reign of Shabdrung Nawang Namgyal in the 17th century. These regions are diverse in language, social customs, and religions, including the ancient Tibetan Bon religion, Central Asian shamanism, and Red Sect Buddhism. Bhutan's religious diversity is reflected in its remarkable

arts, said to number thirteen, which include weaving, sculpture, painting, woodcarving, and metalwork.

Gabrielle Yablonsky, an art historian and artist, undertook fieldwork in Bhutan in the 1970s at a time when foreigners were not permitted entry into Bhutan and Bhutanese customs were still well preserved. Her several years of fieldwork were supported by Fulbright and Ford Foundation grants; and her collateral research in Nepal and the Indian Himalayas was sponsored by a Guggenheim Fellowship. Subsequently, she traveled in Tibet, Western China, and Central Asia. In addition to her PhD studies at UCLA, she holds an MA from Yale University, an MFA from Boston University, and a BA from Bryn Mawr College. She has taught at the University of Texas, Austin; the University of California, Santa Cruz; and the University of Oregon, and has published articles on cloth and shamanism in Bhutan, on Bhutanese sculpture, and on the murals of the Tibetan Book of the Dead adorning an obscure

Tibetan temple she discovered in 2002.

Those wishing to attend the luncheon may make a reservation by calling Carol at 908-654-1794, by noon Friday, April 27th, 2018. The luncheon fee of \$35 (WHS members) or \$40 (non-members) includes a three-course meal, coffee/tea, and gratuity. The luncheon fee may be paid at the door. Westfield Historical Society memberships will also be available at the luncheon.

For Echo Lake County Club dress code information, visit: echolakecc.org/club.

The Westfield Historical Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Since 1968, the 501(c)(3) non-profit Westfield Historical Society has worked to preserve, interpret and encourage interest in history, Westfield, and its residents through educational efforts and community outreach programs.

For further information on the Westfield Historical Society and its activities, or to volunteer, call 908-654-1794 or visit westfieldhistoricalsociety.org; and like us on Facebook!



#### **IMAGINE GIVES BACK ON MLK DAY**



(above) Imagine participants and volunteers prepare sandwiches for people in need on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



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Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss, recently partnered with the Mandy Reichman Feeding Program at Temple Emanu-El, 756 East Broad Street, Westfield, and the Good Will Rescue Mission. 79 University Avenue, Newark, to make lunches for people who may be foodinsecure in Newark, New Jersey. Participants and volunteers at Imagine donated bread, deli meats and cheese, juice, and water as well as fruit, candy, and snack foods along with sandwich bags and brown paper lunch bags to make over 150 lunches for people in need. Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Imagine offered the opportunity for participants who come for grief support to make lunches and give back to a community in need.

"Being of service builds our own resilience," said Mandi Zucker, Imagine's Program Director. "We can all think of a time when we were feeling down and helpless and then did something nice for someone else. More often than not we feel better about ourselves and empowered that we can still do for others even when we are in need ourselves."

Imagine provides several opportunities each year for service work for participants. Imagine is a free year-round peer grief support program for children ages 3 to 18 and young adults from 18 to 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, corporations, schools and community agencies. Imagine supports children and families coping with loss and fosters resiliency and emotional well-being for all those who grieve. If you or someone you know could benefit please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or email info@imaginenj.org.

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### **SR. JACINTA AND EDIE MOVE ON FROM ST. JOSEPH** SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER AFTER OVER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Sr. Jacinta Fernandes and Edie Cheney stepped down from their full-time work at the St. Joseph Social Service Center, Elizabeth, New Jersey in July of 2017. They led the center, working together for more than 30 years. Sr. Jacinta recently moved to Lutherville, Maryland to join her Benedictine Community. Edie is a Sister of Christian Charity and has yet to decide where her next ministry will be. The many volunteers of St. Joseph's, who come from all over Union County and beyond, continue to partner with the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless as sister agencies, to serve the poor and homeless of the Elizabeth area.

Since 1983, St. Joseph's has served the poor and homeless community of the greater Elizabeth area by providing basic human needs like food, clothing, and medications; as well as a wide range of services and programs to help them acquire the material goods and social services they need to live with integrity.

St. Joseph's ministry to people in need dates back to 1968, when the American Friends Service Committee began a housing assistance program in Elizabeth. Sr. Jacinta was on staff and became one of the founders of St. Joseph's. She and other Sisters distributed food and clothing from Sacred Heart Convent. These programs then gave birth to CUE (Coalition for a United Elizabeth), from which came the Elizabeth Coalition House to the Homeless.

In 1983, Sacred Heart merged with Our Lady

of Fatima Church. The food and clothing programs were formalized and became Our Lady of Fatima Social Service Center, with Sister Jacinta as the director. Edie Cheney assisted her part time, while also pursuing her studies in family therapy. Both the Coalition and the Social Service Center were housed at Our Lady of Fatima Convent, the former Sacred Heart Convent.

On February 10, 1986, Our Lady of Fatima Social Service Center and the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless relocated to the former St. Joseph's Church at 118 Division Street, Elizabeth. This location provided more space for the growing number of clients. Our Lady of Fatima Social Service Center then became St. Joseph Social Service Center with Sister Jacinta and Edie as its leadership team. Services were expanded to include a soup kitchen, job program, counseling services, and a medical clinic, which evolved into a prescription assistance program. In addition to housing advocacy, the Coalition added on a children's program and three transitional houses.

Bernadette Murphy is now the Director; and Annette Calderin is taking on Sr. Edie's responsibilities in counseling and leadership.

Sr. Jacinta and Edie were honored and celebrated on March 5, 2018 at the annual St. Joseph's Feast Celebration. People wished them well and original songs were performed. An emotional and impromptu testimonial was

delivered by a man who visted the center to share his personal experience of how the center helped his family when he was very young, and his mother needed assistance. He credited the Center for his stability and for creating an environment for this mother to thrive. He is now a productive person with a family of his own.

#### PROJECT READY

St. Joseph's also offers a Project Ready program with the goal of getting adult students back into the workforce by:

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- Supporting students as they take the first step towards improving their status
- Finding appropriate clothing and assisting with transportation costs for job interviews

St. Joseph's is an independent, nonprofit 501©3 organization. If you're interested in joining St. Joseph's team of volunteers, email: volunteer@sjeliz.org or to send a donation, visit: sjeliz.org/donate.html

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: SJELIZ.ORG

Well wishes can be sent to Sr. Jacinta and Edie in care of St. Joseph's at: 118 Division Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201-2736; or via email info@sjeliz.org.

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(above, l-r) St. Joseph's Chaplain Fr. Anthony Randazzo, Pastor of Holy Trinity R.C. in Westfield; St. Joseph's Project Ready volunteers Tom Conheeney, Dot Conheeney, and Joan and John Crout, all from Westfield.



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(above, l-r) Edie Cheney; Sr. Jacinta Fernandes; Board of Trustees president and Cranford resident Harold Kessler, and his wife, also a trustee. Sharon Kessler.



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### **CHARITABLE SPIRIT ALIVE AND WELL IN WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Submitted by Mary Ann McGann

Students, staff, and parents in Westfield Public Schools continue the district's long tradition of helping others both in and outside of the community, with a number of students recently recognized for their efforts.

Fifteen Westfield High School juniors and sophomores were honored by the Community Food Bank of New Jersey for collecting more than 5000 pounds of food items for families in need.

"Of the sixty schools who participated in the "Students Change Hunger" campaign last fall, Westfield donated the most amount of food," said CFBNJ's director of school programs and community outreach Michelle Jansen, as she



Asfendis congratulates seveth grader Alexandra Cicala, recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award, on February 28.



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presented a trophy to the students on March 5.

Jansen said the food collected by the WHS students was distributed to approximately 1,000 food banks to feed more than 300 families.

"It takes a village to make a change," Jansen said. "You are the village."

"I'm so proud of all of you," added WHS principal Derrick Nelson, as he stressed the importance of always lending a hand to others.

The "Students Change Hunger" campaign is a statewide food and fund drive that ran from September 18 through December 11, 2017.

At Edison Intermediate School, the "Stone of Hope" Club, named after former French teacher Shannon Stone who created a culture of volunteerism in the school, meets every



(above) Members of the "Stone of Hope" club at Edison Intermediate School meet every Wednesday before school to make sandwiches to supplement a program that provides much needed lunches to a homeless shelter in Plainfield.
(l-r): Ashley Talwar (grade 8), Kayla Louison (grade 8), and Carly Rodrigues (grade 7). Wednesday before school to make sandwiches to supplement the "Extra Lunch Wednesday" program. As part of the program, students donate an extra lunch, with all the sandwiches and lunches delivered by Edison parent volunteers to a homeless shelter in Plainfield.

The "Stone of Hope" Club is sponsored by the Westfield Rotary Club as an "Interact Club," the Rotary Club's designation for middle school student volunteers.

"Our club currently has between fifteen to twenty members from grades six to eight," says social studies teacher John Stasi who runs the club with fellow teacher Michael Kozlowski. "We hope the students take away from this the idea of community service and helping others in need."

Roosevelt Intermediate School 7th grader Alexandra Cicala recently received the President's Volunteer Service Award which recognizes middle and high school students across the United States for outstanding volunteer service.

Cicala's volunteer efforts include proposing and forming the "Kindness Club" as a sixth grader and spearheading a variety of charitable projects including support for the Children's Specialized Hospital and Hurricane Harvey relief.

"Alexandra is well deserving of the President's Volunteer Service Award," said Roosevelt principal Mary Asfendis. "Her enthusiasm and dedication to helping others is exemplary."

The President's Volunteer Service Award is granted as part of the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program which is sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

Each of the district's six elementary schools participate in year-round charitable giving as well, with activities ranging from sandwichmaking and coat drives to writing servicemen and women on Veterans Day and donating gifts to those in need during the holidays.



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### **COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OF NEW JERSEY CHARITABLE AWARD WINNERS**



(above) Fifteen WHS juniors and sophomores received a trophy on March 5 from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey for collecting more than 5000 pounds of food during the organization's "Students Change Hunger" campaign last fall. (front row, l-r): Madelyn McDevitt, Zoe Tedeschi, Marcela Avans, Julia Clark, Madeline Cohen, Daniella Vollaro, and WHS principal Derrick Nelson. (back row, l-r) CFBNJ's Michelle Jansen, William Litchholt, Anna Obsgarten, Ava Paul, Samantha Stravach, Julie Dannevig, Charlotte Moore, and Julia Rickert.

Photos Courtesy of Westfield Public Schools



# **TEN TOP ACT SCORES EARNED BY WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL 11TH**

#### THE 11TH GRADERS RECEIVING A TOP SCORE OF 36 ARE:

- Kathryn Armstrong: Math, Science, STEM & English
- Rachel Bowman: English
- Kayla Butera: English
- Katherine Ceraso: Reading
- Nicholas Chermak: Math
- Fiona Gillen: English
- Jared Greenspan: Science, English & Reading
- Emma Herber: English
- Jenna Miller: English
- Jennifer O'Connell: Science Photo courtesy of Westfield Public Schools





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Ten Westfield High School students achieved the highest score possible on the February 2018 ACT standardized tests, according to recent reports received by the school. In a congratulatory letter to each student, Westfield

High School principal Derrick Nelson commended them for "exceptional achievement," saying: "It speaks volumes about your abilities and commitment to your education."



(above, l-r) Nicholas Chermak, Kathryn Armstrong, Jenna Miller, Jennifer O'Connell, Fiona Gillen, Katherine Ceraso, Rachel Bowman, Kayla Butera, Emma Herber, Jared Greenspan, and Westfield High School principal Derrick Nels





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### **ONCE UPON A MATTRESS AT CDC THEATRE**

**CDC** Theatre

"The Princess and the Pea" by Hans Christian Anderson, the next show at CDC Theatre in Cranford, New Jersey, may surprise you! "Once Upon A Mattress" carries this tale of royal courtship, curses and love along on a wave of wonderful songs composed by Mary Rodgers.

Zach Mazout, who has appeared often on the CDC stage, jumps into the director's chair for this show. "Once Upon a Mattress' is one of my favorite shows because of its iconic music and tongue-in-cheek humor," he recently shared. "Although the show was written in the late 1950s and first performed in the early 1960s, at

If you think you know the classic fairy tale the center of the story is an atypical ingénue, Fred, whose story challenges traditional fairytale princess stereotypes. This theme has only gained popularity among modern audiences. It has the spectacle of a classic Broadway show without feeling dated or boring, and it's a show that audiences of all ages can enjoy."

> Boasting a large cast of talented local performers, the show opens on Friday, May 4, and runs for three weekends until May 19, 2018. Additional information about the show and ticket purchases can be found by visiting the theatre's website, cdctheatre.org.



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#### **KEAN UNIVERSITY HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION**



The annual Yom HaShoah Holocaust Commemoration at Kean University will take place on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 6:45 p.m. at the Wilkins Theatre for the Performing Arts, 1000 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey.

This year's featured speaker will be Robert Bielsky, the youngest son of the legendary partisan commander Tuvia Bielski, portrayed by Daniel Craig in the 2009 film "Defiance." He lectures throughout the world about the heroics of his father and uncles, and about their successful mission that saved over 1200 Jewish lives during the Holocaust, whose descendants today number in the tens of thousands.

Robert Bielsky is active in many Jewish organizations. He is a member of the Associates Board of the Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City, and is past president of the Holocaust Memorial Committee of Brooklyn.

This event is free and open to the public; and is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ and Kean University's Holocaust Resource Center. Educators who attend will receive professional development credits, and sign language interpretation will be provided. For more information and to register, visit jfedgmw.org/kean.

#### **WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS AUDITORIUM OPEN HOUSE**

Two years ago, voters in Westfield New Jersey approved a bond referendum to renovate the aging auditoriums in Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools. Major aspects of the renovations include new seating and flooring, electrical and lighting upgrades, state-of-the-art sound systems, acoustical treatments and air conditioning.

To thank the community for its support of Westfield Public Schools and the renovation project, an Auditorium Open House will be held at Edison, 800 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, on

Wednesday, April 11, 2018; and at Roosevelt, 301 Clark Street, Westfield, on Thursday, April 12, 2018, from 6 to 8 p.m. on both nights. All are welcome.

Please join us in celebrating these renovated spaces and thanking the community for its support of our students. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, contact Mary Ann McGann at mmcgann@westfieldnjk12.org or call 908-789-4463.

#### WESTFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEEKS **PROGRAMMING CONSULTANT**

The Westfield Historical Society is seeking a please request further information Program Development and Community Engagement Consultant for a 10-Month Grant Program from April/May to January/February 2018/19.

This Museum and/or History Education Professional Consultant will plan and implement museum and history education programs to encompass a broad community engagement in Westfield, New Jersey and surrounding areas. The Society is grateful for the support of The Westfield Foundation in making possible this step in our capacity to serve the community.

For detailed information on the background and scope of work and how to submit a proposal,

at: westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

The Westfield Historical Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Since 1968, the 501(c)(3) non-profit Westfield Historical Society has worked to preserve, interpret, and encourage interest in history, Westfield, and its residents through educational efforts and community outreach programs.

For further information on the Westfield Historical Society and its activities, or to call 908-654-1794 or visit volunteer, westfieldhistoricalsociety.org; and like us on Facebook!

#### HEALING FROM GRIEF AND LOSS SEMINAR

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey, will hold their six-week seminar "Journey to Wholeness: Healing the Grieving Heart" on Sundays, April 15 to May 20, 2018, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Patti Williams, R.N., and certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Virginia Waters, PhD, will lead the sessions in the Thompson Youth Center. Patti and Virginia in the 18th year





(above, l-r) Patti Williams and Virginia Waters.

of this ministry, and have helped approximately 2650 people experience healing, find a new purpose for their lives, and feel joy once again. This is an experience like no other. Teaching is interactive, and the small groups are homogenously categorized among a facilitator with the same loss.

The sessions include learning about the stages of grief and understanding the tasks of the grieving process, coping strategies and tools for the journey, taking good care of ourselves, dealing with changes, decisions, loneliness, holidays, anniversaries, and building a support system.

Both leaders, and all the facilitators, have experienced loss within their lives and share from "the inside out." It does not matter if your loss is divorce, death, depression, loss of health, or job loss. Loss is loss; it must be grieved. It does not matter how long ago you experienced loss. Bring family members and friends. All faiths are welcome. You must pre-register for this life changing event and attend the first session. Registration closes as of session one. Please call Patti to register- 908-709-1341. No fee is charged.

The seminar is dedicated to Patti's late husband, the Rev. Dr. Bruce D. Williams, who had a vision for this program wanting to help others deal with their pain and suffering during their time of loss.

### THE NEXT BIG THING!!! JOE RENNA'S HYPER LOCAL NETWORK ON YOUTUBE

Renna Media has launched a new YouTube channel called Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network! The channel will consist of a variety of shows, each with its own focus. The first episode of each show is up and ready to view.

#### **Mind Your Own Local Business**

Mind Your Local Business uses real life examples to illustrate successful techniques for managing and marketing your business. Local businesses will be featured. The first episode is about crafting a 30 second elevator speech. The February 2018 meeting of the Irish Business Association held at Molly Maguire's in Clark, NJ is featured in the first episode. Businesses that would like to be featured in an episode can email Joe at joerenna@rennamedia.com.

#### **The Peterstown Show**

The Peterstown show is a video continuation of the Peterstown Newspaper. The show focuses on the 100-year history of an Italian American Neighborhood in Elizabeth, NJ. Like the newspaper, it preserves the culture and traditions while recording the oral history that may be lost. The first episode is an interview with Carmela Lepore who turned 108-years-old on January 30, 2018.

#### Renna's Arena hosted by Nick Renna

Nick Renna has been the voice of high school sports as a public address announcer and brings that experience to a variety show; an eclectic mix of old and new video about general interests. His first episode is a video he shot of a 5th and 6th grade St. Anthony's Grammar School game from 1989.

#### **The Video Shoebox**

As a camera bug from a very young age Joe Renna amassed a collection of VHS tapes and 8 mm film. The first video is of the Linden Debutant Ball that he shot in 1992. There are hundreds of hours of videos to come.

Anyone with 8mm film or VHS tape to transfer should email joerenna@rennamedia.com.

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### PLEASE VIEW / LIKE / COMMENT / SUBSCRIBE.

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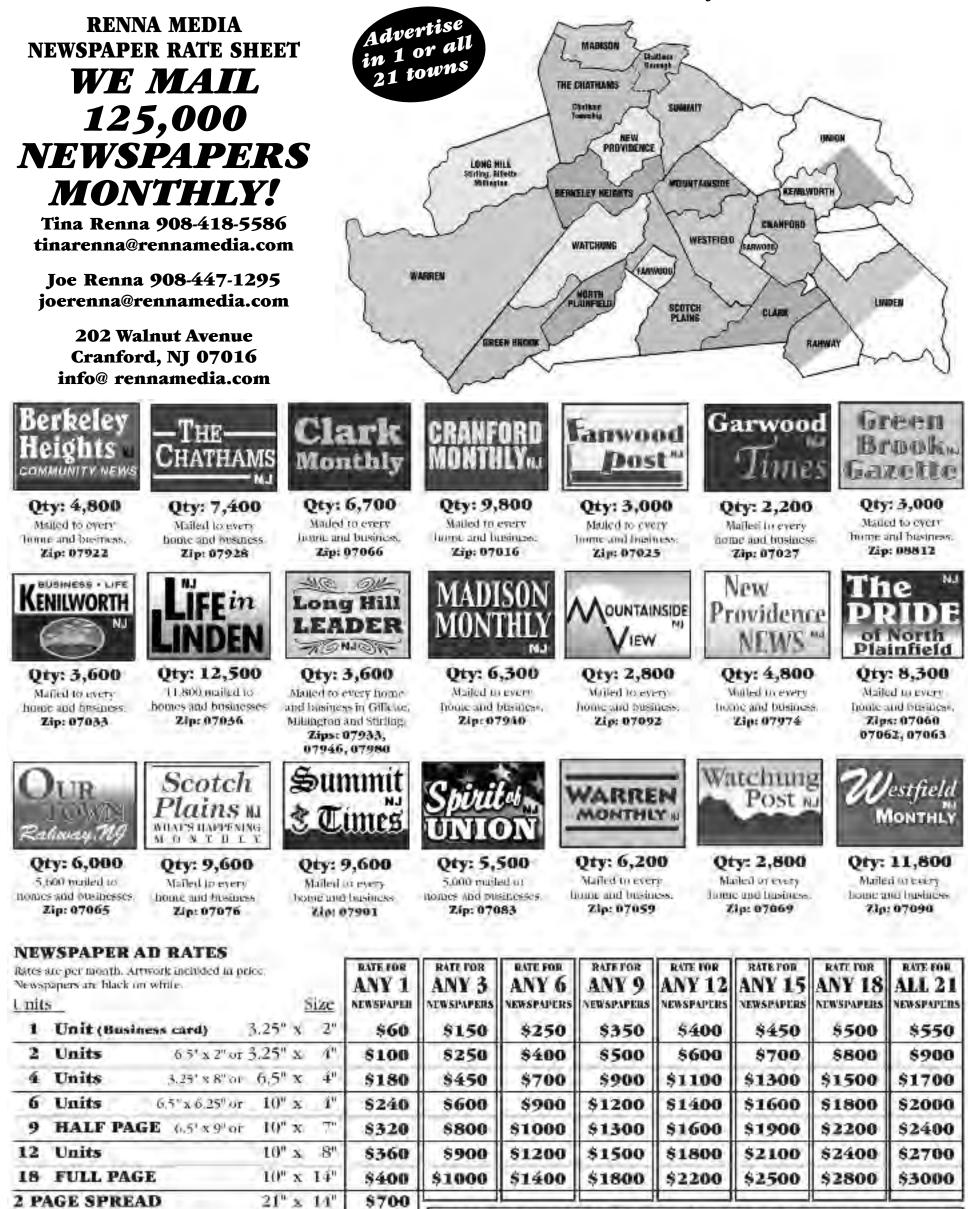
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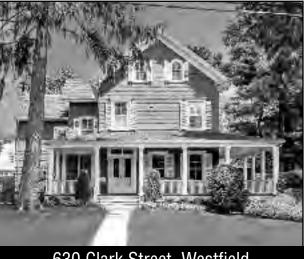
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