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WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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'PAT DINIZIO WAY' HONORS SMITHEREENS FRONTMAN

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

Smithereens fans, friends, family, and township officials gathered on April 17, 2018, at Montague Avenue, at the corner of Westfield Avenue, for the official Pat DiNizio Way street unveiling.

Pat DiNizio, frontman for The Smithereens passed away December 12, 2017, at the age of 62. He was a proud resident of Scotch Plains.

"It's a little bittersweet for us. Obviously, we'd rather have him than the sign," said Paul "Paulie" J. Smith, who grew up in Scotch Plains with DiNizio. "It's very heart warming for the town we grew up in to give him recognition. It's emotional he's not here anymore. Deep inside he'd feel touched and honored. He was humble, he'd be a little embarrassed about the recognition."

Jim Babjak, Smithereens guitarist agreed. "He'd say, 'Don't make a big deal of it' on one hand, but he'd be winking; Pat would be very honored."

Babjak performed a Smithereens song, "Life is So Beautiful" prior to the street unveiling. He also gave a heartfelt speech, ending with, "He was a real trooper, he kept playing to the very end."

Severo Jornacion, Smithereens bassist, who was able to fly in from L.A., said, "Of all places Pat lived in his life, Scotch Plains was his favorite." He reminisced about the places in Scotch Plains that Pat took him to, like Alfonso's Pizzeria, Stage House Tavern, and even the local Quick Check.

Band members Dennis Diken and Mike Mesaros weren't there, but Babjak read emotional messages from them, as well as a heartrending letter from DiNizio's daughter, Elisabeth.

Musician Rick Winowksi, who played in Pat's other band, The Scotch Plainsmen, performed a poignant song he wrote in honor of DiNizio.

Mayor Al Smith said that he "got emails from all over the country. Best thing we could do is have a street named after him."

Township Manager Al Mirabella said, "I wish we weren't here. I wish Pat was here. I'm glad you are here to honor Pat. Pat was a real fan of Scotch Plains and we're a real fan of his."

Bill King, fan and friend, said "We're still mourning. His voice is so full of emotion reflected in his songs. One thing was evident; how much he loved his mom."

After each speaker at the podium shared their memories of Pat, there were cheers and tears from the audience. It was truly a moving event. After the unveiling Antoinette DiNizio, Pat's mom, made an appearance. She proudly spoke about her beloved son to the many who approached her.

Fan Frank Lima, who spearheaded the event, said, "Pat's one of the greatest songwriters. I'm sad the whole thing had to happen. I'm glad to get the whole ball rolling. [Regarding the street naming]."

The Smithereens sold millions of records/CDs of melodic pop alternative hits like "A Girl Like You," "Only a Memory," "Behind the Wall of Sleep," and "Blood and Roses."

For more information on The Smithereens, visit the official website at: officialsmithereens.com.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Scotch Plains Monthly page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share."



(above, l-r) Mayor Al Smith, and Pat's mother, Antoinette DiNizio



(above) Smithereens bassist, Severo Jornacion. (left) Smithereens guitarist, Jim Babjak.



(left, l-r) Union County musicians, Nick Clemente of The Mylars; and Dennis Lords of Pharoah, paying tribute.

Photos by Maryanne Christiano Mistretta

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Scotch Plains NJ

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Scotch Plains Monthly is published by Renna Media. 9,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Scotch Plains.

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

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

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

The 52nd annual "Dollars for Students Drive" was conducted on Saturday, March 24 and Sunday, March 25, 2018 by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation. We would like to express our appreciation to the local students who participated in our drive and to the generous citizens of Fanwood and Scotch Plains who made their efforts a successful venture.

We are pleased to report that 100 percent of the money that we raise is utilized to fund post high school education scholarships for qualified students residing in Scotch Plains and Fanwood. Last year, our broad-based screening committee reviewed 150 applications and we were able to assist 92 deserving students with a total of \$144,500. During our 52 years of service to our communities, we have aided 2,997 students with \$3,071,502 in scholarship awards.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go out to all of our neighbors who so willingly continue to show the young people of Scotch Plains and Fanwood that they value them and their effort to continue their education. If you were not at home or if you did not receive a request through the mail but would like to support our efforts, please send your contribution in care of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 123, Fanwood, New Jersey 07023 or navigate to www.spfscholarshipfoundation.org and click the "Donate" button.

Mary Ball Cappio, President
Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation

FIRST SPF PAL DAY TO BE HELD MAY 12

Submitted by Bruce Moran

Do parents and players want to meet PAL coaches in various sports while enjoying food, beverages, and games?

Well, the Scotch Plains Fanwood PAL will hold its first SPF PAL Day on May 12, 2018, at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

The event at the park, which is located on Hetfield Avenue, will begin at 10 a.m. and run until 4 p.m.

Guests will be treated to hamburgers and hot dogs from the grill while beverages will be served as well. Games for the kids will also be provided. Coaches from all sports programs will be available to discuss the upcoming seasons and answer any questions that parents and players may have.

Meanwhile this event will also allow for

parents to register their children for the 2018 PAL football season. A registration form is provided here so you can bring the form with a check or cash that day. Or you can fill out the form at Brookside Park or you can still register on-line by visiting the SPFPAL.com site. Whatever option works best for you.

Cheerleaders are also invited to the Brookside Park on May 12 since cheer coaches from the grade programs will be on hand, too. However, registration for cheerleaders regarding the 2018 season will remain on on-line only so please go the SPFPAL.com site to sign up.

Spread the word and bring friends.

If any parent has a question before the SF PAL Day, please email Bruce Moran, the vice president of the Scotch Plains Fanwood PAL, at brucemdfs@yahoo.com.

SPF PROJECT GRADUATION FOOD TRUCK FEST

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Project Graduation Committee is hosting a Food Truck Festival on Sunday, May 6th to help raise money for Project Graduation!

Enjoy a day of music, food trucks,

entertainment and more! Located at 667 Westfield Road in Scotch Plains, admission is \$5 per person, with children five years or younger free! For more information visit www.spfk12.org. More details to come.

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SOMERSET PATRIOTS HOSTS ROCKIN' FOR AUTISM AND FANWOOD DAY

Submitted by Eric Sokolsky

The Somerset Patriots have teamed up with the Borough of Fanwood and Rockin' For Autism to celebrate Fanwood Community Day on May 20, 2018, where the Patriots will take on the Long Island Ducks at TD Bank Park. The event is designed to bring the local Fanwood community together over a fun afternoon of baseball, while raising awareness and funds for Autism NJ.

The ceremonial first pitches will be thrown by Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr and Mallory Banks, a 16-year-old Fanwood resident and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School sophomore, who, since 2011, has raised more than \$35,000 in honor of her brother, Ethan, and others affected by autism spectrum disorder. Miss Banks, whose dedication created the Rockin' For Autism Music Festival, has been an Autism Awareness Junior Ambassador for the past seven years, and consistently ranks among the top young adults in New Jersey who raise money for April's Autism Awareness Month.

"Fanwood is excited to be able to support the Somerset Patriots and we're proud to partner with them and Rockin' For Autism to bring together Fanwood's deep love for baseball and compassion for those affected with autism spectrum disorders," said Mayor Mahr. "Thousands of people attend the Rockin' For Autism Music Festival in Fanwood each year, and I hope that they will join us again at TD Bank Park for America's favorite pastime and to support a great cause."

"Rockin' For Autism is incredibly proud to partner with the Somerset Patriots to raise awareness and funds for autism awareness, and

we look forward to having its mascot, Sparky, liven up the crowd at our music festival on April 14," said Jeff Banks, co-chairman of Rockin' For Autism. "We're equally proud to participate in Fanwood Community Day activities with the Patriots, to say 'thanks' to Mayor Mahr and everyone else from Fanwood and the surrounding towns for their generosity and support."

The game against the Long Island Ducks kicks off at 1:05 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$11.50 and can be purchased at somersetpatriots.com and entering Portal Code: Fanwood. A portion of all ticket sales will benefit Autism New Jersey, the largest statewide network of parents and professionals dedicated to improving lives of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

About the Somerset Patriots


The Somerset Patriots led the Atlantic League in attendance and made their 14th appearance in the playoffs last season. The Somerset Patriots

will welcome their 7,000,000th fan in their 20th season at TD Bank Ballpark in 2018. Tickets are now on sale for the 2018 Season presented by Ford beginning at home on Friday, April 27th. For more information, please visit somersetpatriots.com.

ABOUT ROCKIN' FOR AUTISM

Rockin' For Autism is an annual music festival dedicated to raising awareness and funds for Autism New Jersey, the largest statewide network of parents and professionals dedicated to improving lives of individuals with autism spectrum disorders. For more information, or to donate, volunteer, sponsor or exhibit at the event, please contact info@rockin4autism.org, visit rockin4autism.org or follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/rockinforautism), Twitter (@rockin4autism) and Instagram (@rockin_for_autism). Help us spread the word via our hashtag #rockin4autism2018.


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RESCUE SQUAD PRESENTS 'MEDICAL MYSTERY: FOREIGN ACCENT SYNDROME'

By Susan Baldani, a life member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad.

Most people realize how serious a brain injury can be. After all, people can have all sorts of detrimental side effects such as blurred vision, headaches, loss of memory, and seizures. However, did you know it could also change your accent?

Foreign Accent Syndrome (FAS) was first documented in 1907 by French neurologist Pierre Marie, and is one of those rare medical mysteries that doctors are still trying to understand. According to the Center for Communication Disorders at the University of Texas at Dallas, "FAS is most often caused by damage to the brain caused by a stroke or traumatic brain injury. Speech remains highly intelligible and does not necessarily sound disordered. FAS has been documented in cases around the world, including accent changes from Japanese to Korean, British English to French, American English to British English, and Spanish to Hungarian."

According to Dr. Akshay Ganju, a resident in emergency medicine at Emory University in Atlanta, there are only about 100 documented cases around the world. Some doctors refuse to

believe it is a real malady, and though it can also be caused by psychological disorders, it's not something that can be controlled. People who suffer from FAS are often ridiculed by family and friends who think they're just faking it.


One of the most famous cases was that of a Norwegian woman who was hit by shrapnel in World War II; she developed a German accent and was ostracized as a result. Other people have woken up from anesthesia and found themselves speaking with a different accent.

Although this change of speech may last for only a short time for some, other patients have it for years and some forever. There are various treatments for this disorder, but they are not always successful.

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is a volunteer organization of Neighbors Helping Neighbors. With over 90 volunteers, we answer emergency


calls not only in Scotch Plains but in surrounding towns as well when needed. Besides answering calls, you will see our ambulances at many special events held in town, such as Scotch Plains Day, the Memorial Day Parade, high school football games, and the summer concerts on the Village Green. We are also available to provide demonstrations for Boys and Girls Scout troops, clubs, and any other group that may be interested in what we do. In addition, we lend out wheelchairs, crutches, canes, and other assorted medical equipment free of charge. Our Auxiliary Group holds fund raisers and provides other much needed support for our members. Please reach out to us if there is something we can do for you, or if you would like to become a part of our organization.

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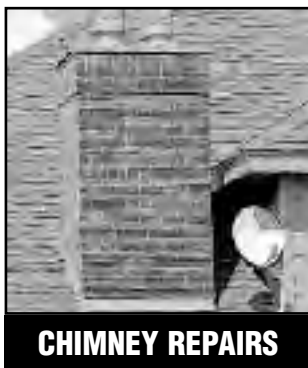
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SCOTCH PLAINS RESIDENT LAURIE RANDO SWORN IN AS CASA VOLUNTEER

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Community members from Bridgewater, Cranford, Elizabeth, Fanwood, Linden, North Bergen, Scotch Plains, and Summit recently completed child advocacy training in order to serve as extra eyes and ears for family law judges hearing cases involving Union County's abused, neglected or abandoned children removed from home and placed in foster care. The volunteers, ranging from 25- to 62-years-old, were officially sworn in today as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) by Union County Superior Court Judge James Hely.

Family, friends, CASA staff and board members looked on as Judge Hely administered oaths to the new advocates, who also received a commemorative pin and certificate. Each were matched to their foster youth or sibling set during a celebratory luncheon following the ceremony.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds make successful advocates and this class is no exception. Each brings diverse experiences, including a former foster youth, former teen mom, single parent, immigrant, soon-to-be first-time mom, and sibling of an adoptee. Professionally, members of the training class have backgrounds ranging from high school to graduate degrees, and employment that includes social services, corporate work, and self-employment. Both parents and non-parents were in the class, and most had no prior knowledge of the foster system.

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a foster child's life, including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists, and teachers, and incorporate into court reports

findings from these contacts as well as from their own time spent with the youth. Volunteers advocate in the community and in court to ensure a youth's needs are met and their time in care is as short as possible. It is CASA of Union County's goal that every area foster child have a CASA volunteer; yet half of the 600 Union

County youth in care still await an advocate. More volunteers are needed to become a foster youth's voice.

For details on training or other ways to help the organization reach more foster youth, please contact Courtney at 908-293-8136 or cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org.



(above, l-r) Outside the family courthouse in Elizabeth are, from left, newly sworn in CASA volunteers James Anglin of Fanwood, Tiffany Parchment of Elizabeth, Laurie Rando of Scotch Plains, September Patterson of North Bergen, Jaime Castro of Bridgewater, Melinda Giffen Frater of Summit and Kennisha Qualls of Linden. Not pictured is Cranford's Jim Van Horn.

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ANNUAL LETTER CARRIERS' STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE IS MAY 12

The Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is happening on Saturday, May 12, 2018. On this day, you can set out your non-perishable food before your letter carrier's regular pick up time. The top requested non-perishable food items are: cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meals (such as soups, chili, and/or pasta), 100 percent juice, peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, canned protein (tuna, chicken, and/or turkey), beans (canned or dry). You can also donate healthy, low-sodium, low-sugar items such as beans, oatmeal, and other whole grains, and canola or olive oil.

Please do not donate frozen food, homemade food, or home-canned items. Please do not donate items that have expired or are in glass containers. In keeping with good food-handling and food-safety procedures, food that is opened, damaged, out of code or does not have the official ingredients will be discarded by the food bank in the sorting process.

The Food Drive is primarily a people food drive, but if you also want to give pet food in addition to your regular donation, food banks may be able to distribute or direct it to pet shelters and organizations in the area that have a need.

Please do not donate any form of individual baby food products, including formula, jarred vegetables and fruits, meals, snacks, infant cereal. Baby food may be donated by the case or pallet, but single item donations present potential contamination risks and special handling requirements.

The Food Drive is primarily a food drive, but

if you also want to give personal care items (such as diapers, laundry detergent, soap, toilet paper, and household cleaning items) in addition to your regular donation, food banks may be able to distribute or put them to good use with organizations that also provide help to those in need. Please note that not all food banks will be able to accept these items.

If you would like to volunteer with food distribution and sorting, or in any other capacity, call your local post office and ask to speak to the local food drive person there. Many food banks have a great need for volunteers on Food Drive Day, as well as all throughout the year.

All donations to the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive are tax-deductible because all the food collected on Food Drive Day is given directly to non-profit charity food agencies in the community the food was collected. Though the

National Association of Letter Carriers plans the Food Drive's logistics and letter carriers provide the transportation for each donor's generous donation, the National Association of Letter Carriers is not the agency that gets listed on tax forms for claiming deductions. There are more than 10,000 food agencies throughout the country that receive these donations, so if you itemize your taxes and want to provide proper credit for your Food Drive donations, you will need to determine the name of the agency (food pantry or other charity) that received your food, as well as the agency's address and tax I.D. number for proper reporting on your tax-filing forms. The Food Drive Coordinator at your local post office should be able to give you the name of the receiving agency, and that agency will likely have tax information handy.

For more information, visit: nalc.org.

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SPF HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SWIM TEAM RECOGNIZED

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education recently recognized the 2017-2018 Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) High School Varsity Girls Swim Team for achieving their impressive swimming record of 12 wins and 3 losses this season.

This Varsity Girls Swim Team captured the Union County title at the Union County Girls Swimming Championship for the fourth consecutive year, and they were North II Group B State Sectional Champions.



(above) Girls Swim Team 2018

NEW JERSEY BLOOD SERVICES ANNOUNCES BLOOD DRIVES IN SCOTCH PLAINS

New Jersey Blood Services would like to announce that it is conducting the following blood drives in Scotch Plains which are open to the public.

**Location: Scotch Plains Donor Center
2279 South Ave, Scotch Plains**

Monday, May 7, 2018 - 2 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, May 9, 2018 - 2 to 9 p.m.

Friday, May 11, 2018 - 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 12, 2018 - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, May 13, 2018 - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, May 14, 2018 - 2 to 9 p.m.

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LIVERPOOL NATIVE PAUL GROOM'S TALK ON BEATLES AT SCOTCH PLAINS LIBRARY

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

Scotch Plains resident and Liverpool native Paul Groom recently spoke to a full room at Scotch Plains Library about “The Beatles: the ‘Beaginnings.’” For anyone who wanted to know about the Beatles before they became world-famous, this talk provided an insightful timeline. Groom presented the story of their rise from obscurity to international stardom from his unique perspective. Groom attended the same high school as Paul McCartney and George Harrison; the same Sunday school as John Lennon; he belonged to the youth club where Lennon met McCartney, and he lived in the same

village as Harrison and Lennon.

“I come from Liverpool, and over a lifetime I’ve absorbed a lot of information,” said Groom, in his charming Liverpool accent.

The almost two-hour program included song clips from the rock ‘n’ roll group formed by John Lennon, The Quarrymen which eventually evolved into the Beatles; and a family tree of the members’ backgrounds and social statuses. Groom also invited the audience to write their favorite Beatles songs on the paper roll of an easel.

To hear about other Scotch Plains Library events, visit scotlib.org, or call 908-322-5007.

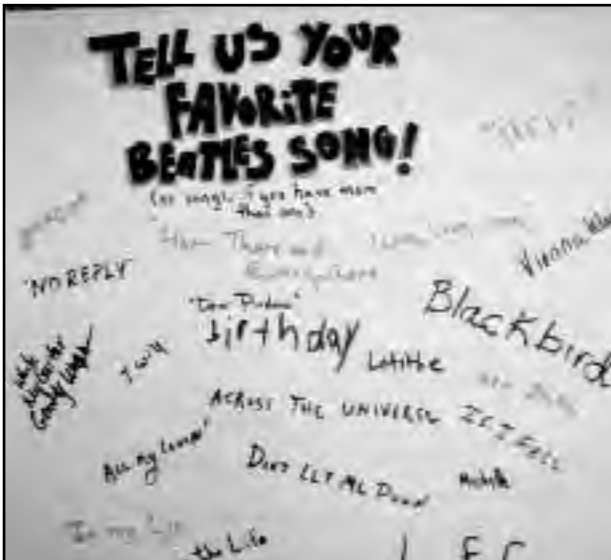


(above) Scotch Plains resident, and Liverpool native, Paul Groom.

Photos by Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta



(above) There are many books available on The Beatles at the Scotch Plains Library



(above) Beatle fans listed their favorite Beatles songs at library presentation.

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DOG AND PUPPIES RESCUE FIND TEMPORARY HOME IN SCOTCH PLAINS

Submitted by Matthew Holowienka

That day had begun typically for Scotch Plains native Marianne Bondarowicz. For the past five years, she and her family have opened their home to rescue dogs numbering in the hundreds with Berkeley Heights-based nonprofit Home for Good Dog Rescue.

However, as she returned from a brisk 6 a.m. walk on March 30, 2018, with her current charge, a pregnant rescue dog by the name of Tori, Bondarowicz immediately knew the big moment had arrived.

“By the way Tori was walking, she looked a little different,” she explained. “And as soon as we got in, her water broke. The first puppy was arriving! I called my husband and my daughter, and we got to work.”

The safe arrival of Tori’s puppies that morning marked a conclusion to a miraculous journey



(above) Rescue dog Tori was originally found abandoned in South Carolina prior to being transported to New Jersey.

already several weeks in the making.

“Tori was originally found abandoned and unwanted in South Carolina, crying out for a second chance,” Home for Good Dog Rescue’s treasurer and co-founder, Richard Errico, said. “When we first met her, we knew she was carrying puppies, and without someone intervening, she and her babies may not have made it.”

According to Errico, Home for Good Dog Rescue is a 100-percent foster-based organization dedicated to rescuing animals from high-kill shelters throughout South Carolina and Georgia, nurturing them at their rescue property in Aiken, South Carolina, and finally transporting them northward for adoption.

“But because our current rescue property in Aiken does not yet have a designated birthing area, we quickly put Tori on a volunteer rescue flight for New Jersey,” he continued. “Here, our entire team, including our on-staff veterinary technician, could oversee this entire process.”

In New Jersey, he explained, none of Home for Good Dog Rescue’s animals spends time in a shelter or kennel environment. Rather, they live with volunteer families like the Bondarowiczes, with whom they can enjoy the benefits of domestic life prior to adoption.

“We adopted our own dog, and then, we just wanted to do something to give back after she passed away,” Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School sophomore Kailey Bondarowicz, 16, said. “We wanted to make her legacy live on because she was such a good dog.”

“Home for Good has given us the opportunity to help so many more dogs in need,” her mother,

Marianne Bondarowicz, continued.

But while the entire family has opened their home to hundreds of rescue dogs since joining Home for Good’s unprecedented dog fostering program in 2013, Tori marked the first mother dog they had welcomed into their lives.

“It was a little scary at first,” Kailey Bondarowicz said. “Since we just took the pet CPR and first aid class recently, we felt more confident. As the first puppy was born, my dad helped us keep track of the times of birth and other information.”

“Tori’s instincts started to kick in, and when we first heard that puppy make a sound, we all started crying because it was okay,” Marianne Bondarowicz added.

Thanks to an innovative dog-fostering grant from Maddie’s Fund, Home for Good Dog Rescue is able to offer all of its more than 90 New Jersey foster homes canine CPR and first-aid training free of charge, Morgan Sosnowski, Home for Good Dog Rescue’s on-staff veterinary technician, explained.

She herself was able to help guide the Bondarowicz family through the birthing process on March 30 and provide them constant updates on post-natal care.

“After delivering the first one, I already started to feel more confident,” Kailey said. “We had a good system down to make sure that each newborn was recognized by the mother and cleaned up to make sure they can breathe on their own.”

But Tori’s 12 puppies only mark the latest in a string of ten successful births overseen by Home

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MIRACLE RESCUE (continues)

for Good Dog Rescue since the beginning of 2017.

“We plan to one day build a state-of-the-art facility in Aiken, SC called the Almost Home Wellness Center,” Errico said. “This facility will boast a designated birthing suite to allow us to save even more dogs just like Tori.”

Almost Home will rehabilitate dogs saved from high-kill shelters that are initially too ill or too young to travel, he explained. At Almost Home, they will receive life-saving medical care and time to recuperate until they can continue on the journey to their home for good. It will double or even triple the number of lives Home for Good is able to save each year, a number already nearing 900 annually.

“But until that vision is realized, we are so grateful to be able to rely on our New Jersey foster network to give these dogs the second chance they so obviously deserve,” Errico concluded.

“All the puppies are doing great. A few of them have even opened their eyes for the first time,” Kailey said. “It was so rewarding since we had to hand-feed a few of them, as the runts would sometimes get pushed to the side.”

“I always tell people what a difference fostering makes,” Marianne Bondarowicz continued. “They say, ‘I could never part with the dogs.’ But we see the amount of dogs who get a second chance with us.”

“It’s such a good thing for everyone and anyone,” Kailey agreed. “You can learn so much. For us, it started as a small one-time thing, but over the last five years, it’s become bigger than we ever thought it could. Fostering has changed



(above) Marianne Bondarowicz (pictured) and her family have fostered hundreds of rescue dogs through Home for Good Dog Rescue.

our lives.”

For more information on becoming a foster, on supporting the construction of the Almost Home Wellness Center, or on adoption, visit HomeforGoodDogs.org.

Home for Good Dog Rescue (HFGDR) is a 100 percent foster-based, non-profit 501(c)(3) dog rescue established in 2010 in Summit, New Jersey with offices in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. We rescue homeless dogs from high-kill



(above) Volunteer Kailey Bondarowicz, 16, helps the organization at dog transport days and adoption events in addition to fostering.

shelters in the South, which are overflowing with unwanted dogs on the brink of being euthanized. We socialize, care for, and provide them life-saving medical care at our property in Aiken, South Carolina, transport them to our rescue in New Jersey, and nurture them in our network of foster families while they await adoption into loving homes, giving them a second chance at life. To date, we have saved nearly 6000 dogs from euthanasia.



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DON "SKIP" BROWNE TO BE HONORED AT MAKING OUR CITY BLOOM GALA

Submitted by Vince Baglivo

Don "Skip" Browne of Scotch Plains will receive the Joan D. Murray Volunteerism Award at Greater Newark Conservancy's "Making Our City Bloom Gala" on May 10, 2018, at Nanina's in the Park in Belleville, New Jersey.

As a volunteer, Browne has mentored the homeless, veterans returning from service, and



(above) Don "Skip" Browne

high school students. After retiring from the banking industry as a corporate executive, he continued his role as a volunteer, making the New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC), located at Greater Newark Conservancy, his primary focus. Since 2015, the two organizations have been helping formerly incarcerated men and women from Essex County.

Through the City Bloom Landscaping Program, the Conservancy and NJRC provide job and life skills training for hundreds of Newark residents as they move towards full-time employment and reclaimed lives.

The Conservancy also provides educational programs that enrich the lives of thousands of inner city children from pre-school to high school. Sustainably-raised produce grown on the Conservancy's urban farms in Newark increase access to fresh, nutritious food for thousands of low income residents of the City, including many senior citizens.

"Skip has become a full-time mentor to many of the NJRC clients who need assistance in resume writing, financial literacy, and job preparedness," noted the Conservancy's

Executive Director, Robin Dougherty. "No task is too big or small for Skip. His motto is one of the greatest gifts you can give is your time."

Linda Bowden, New Jersey Regional President of PNC Bank, will be the event emcee. Other honorees include Hugo and Marilyn Pfaltz, who will receive the "Founder's Award"; Jane Houston, "The Shipley Family Award for Philanthropic Endeavors"; and Bill and Sharon Brown, "The Nelson Mandela Freedom Award."

You can support the continued good work of the Conservancy, which has earned a four-star rating for sound fiscal management from Charity Navigator, the nation's premier charity evaluator, by purchasing tickets for the Gala on Thursday, May 10, 2018, from 6 to 9 p.m. To reserve tickets online, visit bidpal.net/citybloomgala or call 973-642-4646.

For more information about the benefit visit citybloom.org. You can also visit the site to learn about other programs and services and volunteer opportunities and follow the Conservancy on social media at:

Facebook.com/GreaterNewarkConservancy, plus Twitter and Instagram @Citybloom87.

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THE CELEBRATION SINGERS SPRING 2018 CONCERT

Submitted by Christopher Silvestri

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concert. Any questions concerning the performances can be directed to our email at celebrationsingersnewjersey@gmail.com or to our landline at 908-552-4656.

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Funding for the Celebration Singers is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council for the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.



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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD 2018 MEMORIAL WEEKEND EVENTS ANNOUNCED

The 2018 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade Committee has announced that its annual concert and parade will be held on Sunday, May 27, and Monday, May 28, respectively. The concert is entitled "A Tribute to Fallen Heroes." The theme of this year's parade is "Remember and Honor All Those Who Sacrificed."

Memorial Day Concert (Sunday, May 27)

The seventh annual Memorial Day Concert will take place May 27 on the northside lawn at the Fanwood train station, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Westfield Community Band will play patriotic tunes and traditional marches. The program will include the reading of letters written by members of the U.S. military to their loved ones back home.

Memorial Day Ceremonies (Monday, May 28)

There will be a memorial service on May 28 and presentation of wreaths at 9 a.m. at the Fanwood Memorial Library at 5 Forest Road, Fanwood, New Jersey. A memorial tribute and laying of wreaths will take place at 10 a.m. at the gazebo on Park Avenue and Front Street in downtown Scotch Plains.

Memorial Day Parade (Monday, May 28) Starting at 10:45 a.m.

at the gazebo in downtown Scotch Plains, the 2018 Memorial Day Parade will proceed along Park Avenue to Martine Avenue into downtown Fanwood. The parade ends at La Grande Park in Fanwood.

The annual parade is funded by the Township of Scotch Plains and the Borough of Fanwood. The concert is presented through the generosity of local donors – individuals, businesses and community organizations – that underwrite the expenses of staging the concert.

Last year's parade was cancelled due to inclement weather. However, last year's parade marshals will also be featured this year since they never got a chance to march. They are Ed Miller and Joe Nagy. A third, Alan Ebersole, passed away since then, but will also be remembered.

For those individuals or organization interested in participating in the parade or making a donation to support the concert, please contact Bob LaCosta at the Township of Scotch Plains at 908-939-8448 or blacosta@scotchplainsnj.com.

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OBITUARY FOR MARIANA HAY CALDWELL, 99

Honorary Member of the Musical Club of Westfield

Mariana Hay Caldwell, 99, of Fanwood, passed away on Thursday, March 29, 2018. Born in Philadelphia, Mariana grew up in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where she attended and graduated from Johnstown High School. She then studied at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and Fine Arts. She also went on to attend Temple University, with a Master's Degree in Music and Fine Arts.

She was a resident of Fanwood for over 70 years, and a longtime member of All Saints Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains. She was a musician, playing the violin with the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra for many years as well as an active member of the Westfield Music Club.

Mariana was predeceased by her husband, Brent Caldwell, in 1974; her grandson, William Caldwell; and son-in-law, Jeffrey Jaczko. Surviving are her four children; Brent Caldwell and his wife, Linda; Blythe "Bonnie" Jaczko; Austin Caldwell and his wife, Nancy; and Louise Boyton and her husband, Tom; and her brother, George Austin Hay. She is also survived by her nine beloved grandchildren and 10 great-

grandchildren.

Donations may be made in Mariana's memory to the Fanwood Rescue Squad Fanwood, New Jersey; or to All Saints Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains, New Jersey.



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RAILSIDE CAFÉ VOTED TOP NAME TO REPLACE MARA'S CAFÉ & BAKERY

Over 300+ customers submitted name suggestions to replace Mara's Café & Bakery. A Fanwood local (whom requested to remain anonymous) entered the name 'Railside Café' and the popular community hub on the corner of South and Martine will be rebranding throughout the month of May.

Owned and operated by 501 C3 not for profit 'Inroads To Opportunities,' the charity is excited to have a fresh start and move forward with the new identity. Inroads to Opportunities is a vocational rehabilitation center that provides life skills and employment readiness training to 400+ individuals with disabilities in Union and Essex County per year. Railside Café will be a competitive integrated environment for all abilities to work in a fast paced restaurant. The charity also provides a Serve Safe Food Handler Certification Program for people with disabilities interested in working in the food services business.

"A new name ... a fresh start...endless possibilities. Inroads LLC, a division of Inroads to Opportunities purchased Mara's café in 2015. Since then a lot has happened! We were a franchise, moved over to a licensee and now we are branching out on our own as the Railside Café. We have learned a lot along the way and are very thankful to the residents of Fanwood for continuing support the Café. Look for some

changes in the Café going forward and watch out for our upcoming customer appreciation event." —Owner Michele Ford

Railside Café will continue to serve everyone's

favorite items from Mara's Café & Bakery. Our focus will be on connecting the community with our mission of, "Food For Good."



(above) Railside Café employees anxiously look on as their food was being judged. They were awarded "Best Pulled Pork," at Rahway Taste of The Town.



(above l-r) Patricia Claiborne (Cook), Paul O Loughlin (General Manager), and his daughter Josephine O Loughlin.

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NAMI UNION COUNTY PRESENTS 'WHY PSYCHIATRY IS A BRANCH OF MEDICINE' AT RAHWAY WELLNESS CENTER, SCOTCH PLAINS

Submitted by Julie Donohue

"Why Psychiatry is a Branch of Medicine." NAMI Union County/National Alliance on Mental Illness invites the public to hear Dr. Rahul Malhotra speak on this subject at the May 2018 NAMI UC Meeting. NAMI Meetings provide education and support for caregivers of loved one

with a mental health diagnosis. All are welcome. The meeting is held May 22, 2018, 7:30 p.m. at RWJ Rahway Fitness and Wellness Center, 2120 Lamberts Mill Road, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. For more info call 908-233-1628 or email namiunioncounty@yahoo.com

NAMI UNION COUNTY SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREGIVERS OF LOVED ONES WITH MENTAL ILLNESS MAY 15

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Union County is hosting 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. The next meeting is May 15,

2018, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey. For more info call 908-233-1628 or email namiunioncounty@yahoo.com

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WE WEREN'T BAD KIDS, WE WERE SAD KIDS: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT IMAGINE SHARES HER STORY

By Mary Robinson, MA, CT

When I was 14 my father died of cancer, reticulum cell sarcoma, still one of the most deadly and difficult cancer to treat. It was 1974 and I was a freshman at Madison High School, my brother Jim was a sophomore. I remember it like it was yesterday and still dream of my dad, and still miss him. The death of a parent changes a child's life forever, as it did mine.

When my father was first diagnosed I was in eighth grade and that's when I first started skipping school. Though not a very helpful way to cope with my distress, it was also not unusual, as grief starts the moment of diagnosis; someone doesn't have to die for us to grieve. And that was certainly true of me and my family.

After our dad died my brother and I acted out in ways typical of grieving children, we were text book examples of grieving children in fact, but at that time it wasn't understood that children grieve too, not just adults. The adults in our lives saw our changed behavior but didn't know what to do or say, or even to equate it with our dad's death and changed home life.

My mom was extraordinarily resilient all through my dad's illness and after he died. She went from being a stay-at-home mom to being a realtor, seemingly working 24/7 to pay the bills and keep us in our home. She is definitely my hero for how she worked so hard on our behalf, sending me to college and making the life I live today possible. But not all kids are so lucky. Often after a death there is great financial stress along with many secondary losses like having to move to a new neighborhood or even a new town, so a child loses friends, a sense of safety and familiarity and connections to the very people that could have been supportive.

I've now been working and volunteering in the field of children's grief support since 1997, working to ensure other children and teens don't lose years of their lives to unresolved grief like my brother and I did. The death of a parent is a trauma for a child but it doesn't have to leave them traumatized, if they get support. As the founder of two children's grief support centers and currently as Executive Director of Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss in Mountainside, my commitment is to ensure grieving children develop healthy coping skills, grow in their resiliency, emotional health and well-being, and to create communities where children coping with loss get the love and support they need to thrive and live up to their unique potential.

Dr. Gerald Glasser of Westfield was the catalyst for the start of Imagine. He wanted to insure that no child should ever have to grieve alone. He invited me to come to Westfield and open a grief support center providing an initial grant for startup funding through The Glasser Foundation, a philanthropic organization set up in memory of Dr. Glasser's son, Thomas Glasser, who was a victim of the 9/11 attack and who left behind two young children. The Glasser Foundation continues to provide extraordinarily generous annual support to Imagine.

Meeting Dr. Glasser was such a gift in my life.

His generosity and vision provided me with my life's purpose. When my father died there was no awareness back then that children and teens needed support after a loss like the death of a parent or brother or sister. Children truly were 'the forgotten mourners' as Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, author of *On Death and Dying* said over 40 years ago. But fortunately things have gotten better since then with over 500 children's grief support centers like Imagine existing around the country, and with schools bringing us in to provide educational workshops so that they are better equipped to support and understand youth coping with all types of loss. Now when a parent dies, families tell us that they heard about Imagine from multiple sources including their child's school, their funeral home or house of worship, and from multiple friends who scour the internet looking for support.

Childhood bereavement is one of society's more pervasive issues. One out of seven children under the age of 18 will lose a parent or sibling by age 20. And kids in grief are at-risk for unhealthy or destructive ways of coping which is why Imagine and other centers like it exist. Children and teens don't necessarily have the coping skills, life experience, or maturity to process their loss, and they re-grieve their losses during the various stages of their development. Imagine exists as an effective intervention and prevention program and a place for healthy mourning. The key to how well a child or teen or adult will do after a loss is to actively mourn the loss and not keep everything bottled up inside.

The mission of Imagine is to support children and families coping with loss and foster resiliency and emotional well-being for all those who grieve. But our higher purpose is to normalize grief and death and dying in society so that those who are grieving aren't left isolated or made to feel like there is something wrong with them. Our goal is to create "Good Mourning" communities that are grief- and trauma-informed. We do this by partnering with schools, agencies and workplaces to provide support and education on the topic of grief and loss and to hopefully change the lens through which society views grieving youth.

We work with the whole school community including school staff, parents, other agencies, healthcare providers, and first responders to create an environment that wraps around the youth served. The goal is that wherever a child turns in their life, at school, home, after-school programs, etc., there are adults who understand the impact of loss and trauma on youth, how to recognize it and how to support, listen to, and help build resilience in grieving youth.

Adults and peer support programs like Imagine can help children learn healthy ways to cope and grow more resilient. Loss is part of life and if we support children at the time of their loss they will be better able to cope with future life losses.

Over 40 years later, I am able to say, as I learned from my St. Vincent's School kindergarten friend Chris Harrington whose mom died when he was 11, that "I wouldn't have



(above, l-r) Mary Robinson and her dad, Gerry Robinson.

missed my dad for the world." I had the best dad for 14 years. Good can come from grief, loss, and pain, if we get and give support. As adults it is our job to help children navigate life's painful losses and create loving, supportive communities in which children can mourn their losses in healthy ways. That is the work of Imagine and all the centers like it around the country.

Imagine is a free year-round peer grief support center located in Mountainside, New Jersey serving children age 3 to 18 who have had a parent or sibling die, with concurrent support groups for their parents or guardians. Support for children and teens living with a parent or sibling with a life-altering physical illness is also available. Free year-round support groups are also available for young adults who have had a friend, sibling, parent or other important person in their life die, or who have a parent, sibling or friend living with an illness. Imagine is completely privately funded and completely free to participants for as long as they need. We rely on donations from individuals, companies, local businesses, and foundations to support the close to 300 children and adults currently attending our support groups every two weeks at Imagine. And we rely on volunteers to facilitate those groups. For more information about support, donating, or volunteering, please call 908-264-3100, email me at mary@imagineinj.org or visit imagineinj.org.

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