

# Scotch Plains NJ

## WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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### ROTARIANS PAY TRIBUTE TO VETERANS DURING LUNCHEON

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club hosted a Veterans Appreciation lunch at their meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. Veterans in the towns of Fanwood and Scotch Plains were invited to attend.

Twelve veterans including 9 guests and 3 veterans who are members of the Rotary Club attended. Veteran and Rotarian Dick Dobyns spoke about his experience as a WWII Air Force pilot in the Bay of Bengal. And he remembered 10 men who made the extreme sacrifice and never made it home.

This is an annual event. The Rotary Club is very grateful to all men and women who served the United States Armed Forces and they pay tribute to those who served, those who continue to serve, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Thank you to all the Veterans who joined us for lunch!



(above) The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club President Kim Decker with veterans George Fochesato -Navy/Cold War, Frank Chupko-Navy / Vietnam, Joe McCourt-Army /Vietnam, Wells Perkins-Army/Bavaria, Bill Kessinger-Paratrooper/Korean War, Jay Jackson-Army, Richard Russo-Army/Germany, Doug Pierce-Navy/Vietnam, Randy Threet-Army 79-97, John Marsh (Rotarian)- Navy/WWII, Richard Dobyns(Rotarian)-Air Force/ WWII, Gene Janotti(Rotarian)-Field Artillery Officer/Vietnam.

### FANWOOD-SCOTCH PLAINS ROTARY CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

Breonna Rigdon is the newest member of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club. She was induced during the November 14, 2018 meeting.

Members of the Fanwood Scotch Plains Rotary Club are from diverse walks of life – from business and professional roles in government and non-profit organizations. Rotary is non-religious and non-political, open to members of any race, culture or creed. Members are committed to making their communities better places to live, as they enjoy the fellowship of Rotary with like-minded persons. They carry out a broad range of cultural, humanitarian, and education programs that touch people's lives in the local and the global community.

Meetings are held every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. at The Stage House Restaurant, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ. For more information please visit [fsprotary.org](http://fsprotary.org) or on Facebook: Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club.

(right, r-l) Newest Rotarian Breonna Rigdon, with the most seasoned member Dick Dobyns.



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# Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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## “GWYLLYN” JOINS PIPES OF CHRISTMAS



Attention Outlander fans: STARZ Series' Outlander bard, “Gwyllyn” aka Gillebride MacMillan, has just been added to the 2018 production of the Pipes of Christmas with performances in NYC and Summit, NJ.

Tickets still remaining for the 2PM concert on Saturday, Dec. 15 in NYC and the 7PM concert on Sunday, Dec. 16 at Central Presbyterian Church in Summit, NJ.

Get tickets via [www.smarttix.com](http://www.smarttix.com) or by calling (212) 868-5444.

MacMillan will be signing copies of his new CD, “Freumhan Falaichte” (Hidden Roots) after the 7PM performance in Summit, NJ.

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## ROTARY CLUB LUMINARIES SALE

Submitted by LaMorte-Wright

During the month of December, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary club will sell Luminaries at the Fanwood Department of Public Works on Manfra Way off of North Avenue (across from the Fanwood Public Library). The sale dates are December 1, December 8-9, December 15-16, December 22-23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and December 24 – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The luminary kits cost 75 cents apiece in all quantities and include paper bags, candles and sand. Customers are encouraged to bring buckets, boxes or plastic bags to transport the sand.

Luminaries are traditionally used to illuminate the streets on Christmas Eve. A candle is nestled in sand at the bottom of a paper bag and placed along sidewalks to create a beautiful walkway.

The candles are then lit at dusk on Christmas Eve. Some neighborhoods in the area get together and buy hundreds of kits to create an amazing display.

All proceeds from the sale will be used to fund the various charitable and humanitarian projects that Rotary supports, both locally and internationally.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club has been serving the community since 1938. The club meets on Wednesdays at noon at the Stage House Restaurant. Guests are invited to attend and learn about the good that Rotary is doing worldwide. For further information about the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary club, go to [fsprotary.org](http://fsprotary.org) or visit their Facebook page: Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club.

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# NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS CLUB HAD A GREAT FALL MEET AND GREET



The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers and Neighbors Club had a great Fall Meet and Greet event in October. At the event, ladies were able to meet new neighbors, learn about the club's various activities, and win prizes from local businesses. Attendees also generously donated numerous books and pajamas for the Pajama Program. The donated items will go towards helping children in Union county. The annual membership event is a great way for potential new members to learn more about the local social club. More information can be found at [spfnewcomers.com](http://spfnewcomers.com).



  
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 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist with Soloists  
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# SPF HIGH SCHOOL INDUCTS 59 STUDENTS INTO NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



(above) National Honor Society Inductees

Photos by Scotch Plains-Fanwood public schools

On October 23, 2018, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 59 new members. The criteria for membership are rigorous. Students with a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.75 and above, and students who are in grades 11 and 12 are eligible to apply for membership.

Students must also be able to demonstrate excellence in the areas of leadership, service and character. The National Honor Society is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students will be working around the community this year conducting a variety of individual service projects, as well as a group service project schedule for later in the academic year.



National Honor Society OFFICERS 2018  
 (above, l-r) Pictured are the 2018 NHS officers Justin Walsh, President; Victoria O'Connor, Vice President; Raina Jablon, Secretary; and Vanessa Handy, Treasurer.

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## V. LAKSHMI, AUTHOR, TO SPEAK AT CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains will host a presentation on Thursday, December 6, at 7 p.m by V. Lakshmi, author of Finding Your Way When Life Changes Your Plans: A Memoir of Adoption, Loss of Motherhood and Rediscovering Home. Sponsored by the synagogue's Sisterhood, the event is free and open to the community.

Finding Your Way When Life Changes Your Plans is a cross-cultural, adoptive-family love story. Born in a remote village in India, V. was adopted and raised by a Caucasian Jewish family in America.. In her memoir, V. captures the emotions surrounding adoption and describes her encounters with racism. The book also relates V.'s struggles to cope with, and ultimately accept, her own feminine health issues that led to her loss of motherhood, including endometriosis, infertility, failed adoption and hysterectomy.

"As Jews and as women, we have so many shared experiences, yet the conversations sometimes never happen," said Lisa Melville, Sisterhood President, Congregation Beth Israel. "V's story will resonate with everyone in some way, as well as expand our sense of community,



connectedness, and Jewish identity."

V. Lakshmi is an international award-winning photographer and owns a photography business in the midwest. She holds a BA in General Studies with Minors in Psychology and Gender Studies. Finding Your Way When Life Changes Your Plans is her first book.

Congregation Beth Israel is located at 18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains, NJ (corner of Martine Avenue). For more information, contact Lisa Melville at lisamelville9@gmail.com or call the synagogue office at (908) 889-1830.

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## BRUNNER SCHOOL THIRD GRADERS PARTICIPATE IN BALI BOOK PROJECT

Last academic year, third graders in Cristina Sardo's classroom at Brunner School partnered with the Street Kid Center in Bali, Indonesia for one of their Service Learning Projects. The families at the Street Kid Center come to the

center to find resource alternatives to street begging. The moms are taught sustainable skills such as beading, bag making and sewing, while the children are provided with meals and schooling. It is a transition place for street

families to have a chance for a dignified and sustainable life.

The Brunner students learned about the Balinese culture, as well as their geography and ways of life. Students from the Street Kid Center exchanged videos with their new friends at Brunner and got to know each other despite the language barrier. The Brunner students asked their new friends what types of book they liked to read and they immediately got to work writing books about the ocean, friendship, hygiene and superheroes. They illustrated each book and personalized a message. They also made positive affirmation rocks and wrote letters to local shelters.

Ms. Sardo traveled to Bali over the summer to deliver these books personally during an entire volunteer day organized around reading these books, building a vegetable garden and decorating it with their own Balinese positive affirmation rocks.



(above) Ms. Sardo travelled to Bali this year to deliver books and affirmation rocks created by her Brunner School students for their partnership with the Street Kid Center.



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## KIDS CARE CLUB HOLD FIRST "SHARE A SANDWICH" PROGRAM



(above) School One's Kids Care Club completed their first Share a Sandwich for the school year. All their donations went to St. Joseph's Center in Elizabeth. One hundred seventy seven sandwiches were donated. Christine Mills and Sarah Bennett are the Kids Care Club advisors for the third and fourth graders.

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## “RAIDERS DON’T RISK IT” DRIVING SIMULATION SPFHS SENIORS SEE THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISTRACTED AND DESTRUCTIVE DRIVING

Scotch Plains–Fanwood High School seniors gathered on Happel Court during their physical education class and saw a car crashed into a tree. Luckily, this was a simulation, part of the “Raiders Don’t Risk It” program presented by SPF DECA, the District Student Assistance Coordinator, the Scotch Plains Police and Fire Departments, the Fanwood Police and Rescue Squads, Resolve Counseling Center and the Municipal Alliance.

The program is designed to show the aftermath of distracted and destructive driving. In the simulation, actors from the class of 2019 presented a scenario where the driver was arrested and one of the occupants of the car did not survive the crash. The rescue squad and fire department simulated the life saving measures that are taken at the scene. In addition

to the students and emergency services, parents and teachers took on the roles of parents of the victims. This was done in order to reinforce the idea that many people are impacted by the decisions that one makes.

After the presentation, police officers explained the realities of distracted and destructive driving. According to the CDC, the leading cause of death amongst 15-19 year olds is car crash related injuries. Officers expressed how one simple poor decision can have lifelong consequences.

The program was presented to seniors during their physical education classes. This smaller setting allowed the students to be able to ask questions of the officers and emergency personnel. After the presentation, students were able to debrief with their physical education teachers.



(above) Fanwood Officer Elliott Bernard addresses students during the “Raiders Don’t Risk It” program.

Photo by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

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## CAJUN CRAB OPENS ON ROUTE 22

The Cajun Crab Louisiana Seafood Restaurant opened in November 2018 at 789 Route 22 West in North Plainfield. Owner Jenny Chen operated Fresh Catch Seafood Market at the location for ten years.

The restaurant features a tank with live lobsters and dungeness crabs. The menu offers both steamed and fried dishes. Diners can choose from Louisiana Cajun, Asian Garlic Sauce or Lemon Pepper flavoring and three levels of spiciness. Meals are a hands-on experience and served with bibs and gloves.

The Cajun Crab also offers take-out service and catering. Orders can be made by calling 908-822-8888 or online at [CajunCrabOnline.com](http://CajunCrabOnline.com)



(above) Judy Chen presents a combo dish of Snow Crab Legs, Clams, Shrimp, Crawfish and Mussel, Sausage, Corn and Potatoes served in a steam bag

## SPF BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOGNIZED PRINCIPALS

The National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals along with the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey have declared the month of October 2018 as “National Principals Month”.

On October 11, 2018, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education recognized the essential role that their eight principals play in preparing today’s students for the challenges of tomorrow. Principals fulfill important roles as

educational visionaries, instructional leaders and community builders, while demonstrating uncommon dedication to furnishing their students with a positive support system that fosters academic and intellectual developments.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education recognizes and appreciates the skills and commitment of our Scotch Plains-Fanwood principals and celebrates their dedication to our students, their families and our community of learners.



(above, l-r) Principals Justin Fiory, School One; Dr. Jocelyn Dumaresq, Park Middle School; Colleen Haubert, Evergreen School; Dr. Sasha Slocum, McGinn School; Dr. Kevin Holloway, Terrill Middle School; Dr. David Heisey, Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School; and Mrs. Nancy Bauer, Board President. (Missing from the photo are Dr. Scott Bortnick, Brunner School and Dr. Karen Wetherell)

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Sat.: 11:30 am - 10:30 pm  
Sun.: 12:00 noon - 10:00 pm

**BYOB**



*Submitted by Pat Kane*

On October 11, 2018, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education recognized thirty-two teachers and five administrators on achieving tenure.

The district is very proud of its teachers. Teaching is the one profession that creates all the others. Teaching is complex, demanding, and

essential work. It requires not only keen intellect, but also vast amounts of patience and resilience. Teachers must have boundless energy and be ever optimistic. Often the teacher hardly knows of their influence or impact on a student until years later, if then, but that influence or impact is the unspoken part of their calling.



*(above) The newly tenured SPF High School teachers.*

Photo by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools.

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## FIRE SAFETY WEEK

Submitted by Pat Kane

The Scotch Plains Fire Department visited the elementary schools as part of Fire Safety Week and talked about fire safety and fire prevention.

Students had the opportunity to see a fireman in his full uniform, tour the fire truck, and see the ladder truck in action. The firefighters explained the equipment they carry and the importance of doing fire drills in their schools. They also encouraged the children to ask their parents to do a fire drill at home.



(above) Evergreen School Principal Colleen Haubert dressed in fire gear riding the basket to cheers from the young kindergarteners.

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## TEMPLE SHOLOM TO HOST ANNUAL CHANUKAH LEGO NIGHT ON DECEMBER 6

*Legos, Lights and Latkes; Open to the Community*

Temple Sholom of Scotch Plains will host its annual Chanukah Lego Night on Thursday, December 6, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Temple Sholom, 1925 Lake Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ. Back by popular demand, the event is free and open to the public.

Participants are welcome to build as many Lego creations as their hearts desire, while reveling in dreidel games, enjoying Chanukah music, and indulging in donuts, latkes (potato pancakes) and plenty of chocolate gelt. There also will be raffles for a Lego-style menorah and a Lego-style dreidel.

In Hebrew, the word "Chanukah" means "dedication." The name reminds us that this

holiday commemorates the re-dedication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks who tried to destroy the Jewish population in 165 B.C.E. Also known as the Festival of Lights, the eight-day festival celebrates the triumph of light over darkness.

"While not one of the most important Jewish holidays, Chanukah is the most anticipated – and a time when friends, family, and community come together to celebrate," said Rabbi Joel Abraham of Temple Sholom. "As Jews, we believe that it is our duty to build a better world. What better way than to start with Lego?"

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December 10, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., author, speaker, and coach Doug Berger will present a stimulating, experiential conversation about how to apply breakthrough approaches to landing your next job and to thinking about your career. [https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/images/clear\\_dot.gif](https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/images/clear_dot.gif) Doug has been a lifelong student of peak performance and transformation. He has trained thousands of people in breakthrough approaches. He has been a featured speaker throughout North America, Latin America, and

Asia, and he is the author of the e-book *The Breakthrough Mind*.

This program is presented by the Scotch Plains-Mountainside Public Libraries' Career Networking Group. It is free and open to all interested participants. Register online at [scotlib.org](http://scotlib.org), call 908-322-5007 x204, or e-mail [library@scotlib.org](mailto:library@scotlib.org).

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### DECEMBER 4

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### DECEMBER 23 THRU JANUARY 1

- the Thrift Shop will be closed for Christmas.

### JANUARY 2, WEDNESDAY

- the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop reopens for regular business hours.

All items are sold on a first come, first serve basis. The shop cannot hold purchases. Cash only. No refunds. Any questions, please call.

The members and volunteer staff of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop wish our customers and contributors a Merry Christmas, and Best of New Year's.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League

has served the local communities since 1974. Since its founding, the League has donated more than \$1.3 million for local causes. Anyone interested in learning more about the League or membership is invited to call (908) 322-5420 visit the League's website at [scotchplains-thriftshop.weebly.com](http://scotchplains-thriftshop.weebly.com) or speak to any of the volunteers at the Thrift Shop. Checkout the organization's Facebook page, "Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League," and give the League a "Like."

Shop hours are Tuesday thru Friday, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will gladly accept new and gently used donations during business hours. Volunteers will provide tax receipts. Tax receipts can be used only for saleable items.

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4 Units	10" x 4" or 6" x 8"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6" x 6" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 12"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000
2 PAGE SPREAD	21" x 12"	\$700							
BACK PAGE	10" x 4"	\$500							
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320							
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5" x 3.5"	\$240							

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# SMILES ABOUND FOR 28 YOUTH AT UNION COUNTY ADOPTION DAY

It was quite a day at the Union County Family Courthouse, as 28 youth gathered to celebrate their adoptions and an end to foster care. The morning of Friday, Nov. 16, 2018, Union County's observation of the national awareness day held each year the Saturday before Thanksgiving, 16 children entered courtrooms as foster youth but exited as part of a forever family. In addition, 12 others adopted in recent months returned to celebrate.

National Adoption Day raises awareness of children in foster care awaiting adoption. Since its inception 19 years ago, approximately 60,000 children have left foster care and entered forever families. In the United States, more than 100,000 such youth need a permanent home, and the average wait time for each is nearly four years. Unfortunately, more than 20,000 age out without a permanent home or family.

In addition to adoption hearings officiated by Superior Court Judges James C. Wischusen and James Hely, festivities included guest speakers, entertainment, gifts for the children and families, and well-wishes from all. All adoptions ended with teddy bears for all, plucked from their perch on the judges' bench.

After the adoption finalizations, families were greeted by CASA of Union County staff and Cranford Girl Scout Troop 40332 Cadettes who rallied their community to donate games and popcorn for "Family Fun Night Makes

Memories" baskets. In addition, each child received specially selected books donated by Kappa Alpha Theta's Westfield Chapter and each child will receive a bike and helmet, courtesy of the Albanese Family of Plainfield's Dairy Queen.

Prior to the formal program — which included comments from Union County's Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy and Family Presiding Judge Lisa F. Chrystal, as well as two teen adoptees — families enjoyed personalized cupcakes, books from Union Catholic high-schoolers, coats from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, elaborate balloon hats sponsored by A Birthday Wish Foundation, and the appearance of Heroes4Heroes, a Union County corrections officers organization whose members don superhero costumes and brighten the faces of all. In addition, Elizabeth's Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. A Cappella Choir performed "This is Me" from The Greatest Showman — the conclusion of which left no dry eye.

Eleven adoptees had CASA volunteers advocating for their needs: Clark's Bob Vogel, five youth; Westfield's Barbara Bagger, three youth; and Springfield's Isabella Blumberg, invited by the family to join the closed hearing as their three adoptions were finalized.

For details on CASA of Union County and ways to get involved, contact Courtney at [cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org) or 908-293-8136, or log on to [www.casaoofunioncounty.org](http://www.casaoofunioncounty.org).



(above, l-r) Members of the Phi Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority which is based in Scotch Plains distributed winter coats to children during the National Adoption Day ceremony at the Union Copunty Courthouse. The Sorority of alumni conduct a coat drive annually for the event.

## HOLIDAY CELEBRATION DECEMBER 2 AND MENORAH LIGHTING & GELT DROP DECEMBER 3

On Sunday, December 2nd, 2018, the Township of Scotch Plains invites residents to a Hometown Holiday Celebration from 2 – 5 p.m. featuring a horse drawn carriage rides, a petting zoo, visits with Santa, hot chocolate and donuts, cookie decorating, face painting and more! Santa arrives at 3 p.m. and goes back to the North Pole at 5 p.m. after he lights the town tree. New to this year's event will be a holiday variety show performance featuring Theatrical Artists Prep students and faculty from 2 – 3 p.m. on the Alan Augustine Village Green stage.

Come back for more fun on Monday, December 3rd to gather around the Menorah. Co-sponsored by the Chabad of Union County, the event begins at 6 p.m. with songs, latkes, donuts for everyone. The celebration culminates with a Gelt Drop from the town's ladder truck and, the lighting of the Menorah.

Mayor Al Smith invites all residents to

downtown Scotch Plains to take in the sights and sounds of the holidays. "Spend some time enjoying the activities with your friends and neighbors on the Alan Augustine Green," said the Mayor. "Then have a bite to eat at one our great local restaurants."

The Mayor added, "Please remember our less fortunate neighbors this holiday season and bring a non-perishable food item to donate to local food banks."

Admission to both events is free and are made possible by generous donations and contributions from the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association.

The Menorah Lighting is made possible by the Chabad of Union County.

Other sponsors are the Scotch Plains Volunteer Firefighters Association, Scotch Plains PBA Local 87, the Scotch Plains Fanwood PAL, Rossi Funeral Home, The Stage House Tavern, Caffrey Tree, Trudy Burke and Heather Kobos.



(above, l-r) Union Catholic student Jerika Kelly Lufrano, pictured with her mother, was a guest presenter at the 2018 National Adoption Day Ceremony at Union County Courthouse. She also distributed Children's books and cookies donated with the help of her classmates.

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