

WARREN MONTHLY_{NJ}

WARREN'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Published by Renna Media, LLC. On-line at RennaMedia.com

ISSUE 73 • JANUARY 2019

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FOUR WHRHS ATHLETES SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT



(above) Four senior athletes-athletes at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) signed letters of intent on Wednesday, November 14, "Fall Signing Day," to play sports for the Division I or Division II universities they plan to attend next year. The four who signed are (seated, l-r) Madelyn Murphy, Kelly Fitzgerald, Kaylee Donnelly, and Lindsay Wolf. Standing behind them are WHRHS Principal George Alexis, left, and Girls Soccer Coach, Brian Figueiredo.

Photo by WHRHS

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Four senior athletes-athletes at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) signed letters of intent on Wednesday, November 14, "Fall Signing Day," to play sports for the Division I or Division II universities they plan to attend next year.

"Congratulations to the WHRHS student-athletes who have signed their National Letter of Intent," said both WHRHS Athletic Director Daniel Root and Principal George Alexis.

The four who signed are: In Girls Soccer, Kaylee Donnelly, who plans to study at Bucknell University; Kelly Fitzgerald, at the University of Rhode Island; and Lindsay Wolf, at the University of Massachusetts (UMass), Amherst; and in Girls Lacrosse, Madelyn Murphy, at Monmouth University. Bucknell, URI, UMass, and Monmouth are all Division I schools.

"All student-athletes who have an NLI (National Letter of Intent) are being recognized during the Fall Signing Session, except football, which will be handled at the Winter Signing Day, Wednesday, February 6," said Athletic Director Daniel

Root. "Based on the NCAA's recommendation, student-athletes with a commitment to a Division I or Division II Institution that does not offer NLIs, for example the Ivy League and the Service Academies, will be invited to participate. The Fall Signing day will be for all sports, except football."

"All student-athletes who will be continuing their athletic careers at a Division III school will be recognized during the Spring Signing Day session on Wednesday, May 1," Root said. "In addition, Division I and Division II student-athletes who committed after the fall and winter signing dates will be invited to participate in May."

The last day of this kind of recognition will be Wednesday, June 5.

"In early June, a photograph of all future college student-athletes will be taken," Root said. "This will be a final celebration for all our student-athletes who will be competing in an NCAA sport at the Division I, II, or III level."

(continued on page 2)



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Warren Monthly is published by Renna Media. 6,200 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and home in Warren, NJ and the balance are distributed for free pick-up throughout town.

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LETTERS OF INTENT (continued)



(above) Attending the Fall Signing Day ceremony at WHRHS on Wednesday, November 14, are Rob and Kathy Donnelly and their daughter, Kaylee, who plans to play soccer at Bucknell University.



(above) Chris and Terri Murphy, and their daughter, Madelyn, who plans to play lacrosse at Monmouth University.



(above) Tim and Nancy Fitzgerald, and their daughter, Kelly, who plans to play soccer at the University of Rhode Island.



(above) Gary and Meredith Wolf, and their daughter, Lindsay, who plans to play soccer at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Photos by Warren Hills Regional High School

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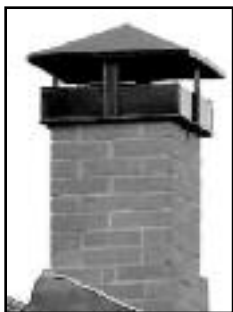
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WHRHS NEWS STUDENTS MEET AUTHOR OF SCHOOL-WIDE READ

One of the highlights of the first part of the 2018-2019 School Year at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) was the opportunity for students to meet, hear from, and ask questions of novelist Hilary Reyl, author of the “school-wide read,” “Kids Like Us.”

Reyl, of New York City, spoke to students during assemblies held in the school’s South Auditorium this fall.

She also joined a group of WHRHS English teachers during the lunch period between the assemblies that day. Much like the sessions with the students, Reyl was forthcoming with her time and attention, according to English Department Supervisor James Aquavia. She shared her experiences and the unique perspectives and insights that went into both the writing of this novel and her other writings.

“For days after Hilary Reyl’s visit,” Aquavia said, “teachers dropped by to say how much they and their students appreciated the opportunity to hear her thoughts on what motivated the development of this novel – her experience, reading, research, imagination and craft – as well as her observations about the process of writing this novel, and of being a writer as a profession.”

Reyl also provided positive feedback to Aquavia about her visit to WHRHS, he said.

“My happiest moments as an author are moments of dialogue around my work,” Reyl said. “Seeing it refract differently in all kinds of minds and hearts is amazing. Interaction with readers is so nourishing and inspires my work going forward. And you have a terrific bunch of readers.”

Reyl’s appearance was made possible by Nicolle Anthony, a Community Business Development Manager with Barnes and Noble, Inc. It was she who suggested the possibility of having Reyl visit WHRHS to speak to students and teachers, Aquavia said.

Dealing With Being on the Autism Spectrum Kids Like Us is Reyl’s second novel, published in 2017 by Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing

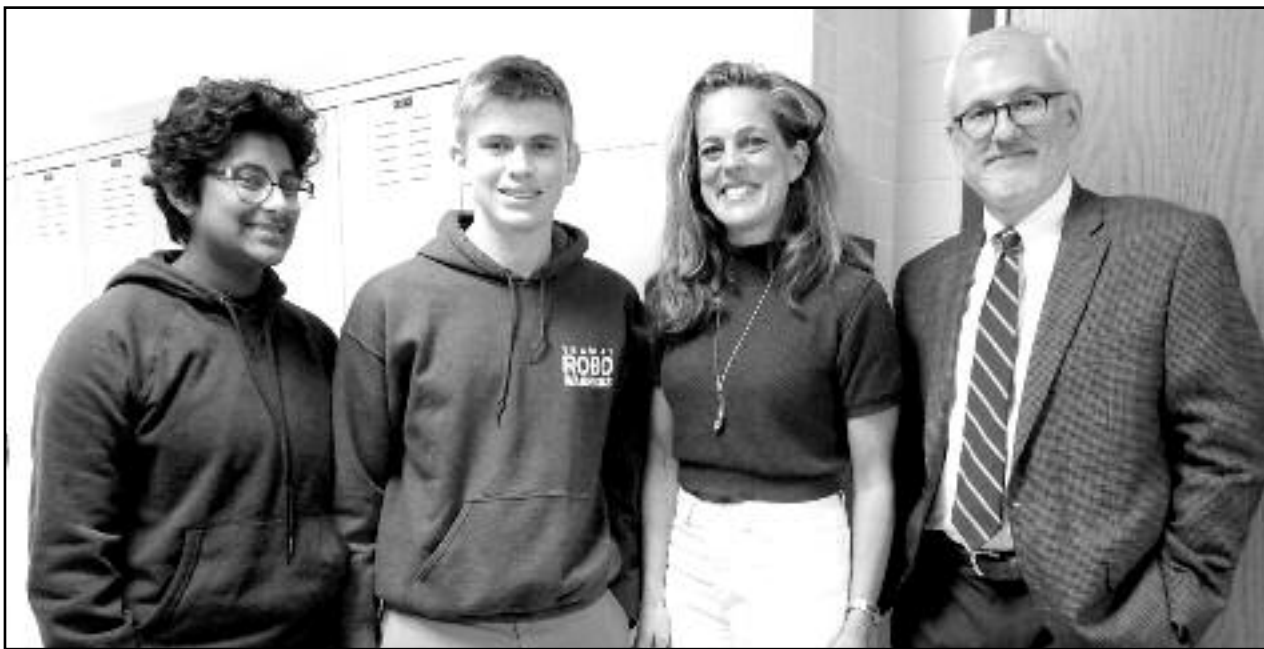
Group, New York.

Reyl started the student assemblies with a short talk about the experience of writing the novel. Then students Ian Martin of Warren Township and Shoili Banerjee of Millington were selected to start the lengthy question and answer session during the first assembly. Students in the audience at both assemblies were invited to ask additional questions, and they supplied dozens of questions.

The book was written as a diary by her protagonist, a high school-age student named Martin. The style of the writing is faithful to the perspective of being in the voice of Martin, who is on the Autism Spectrum. Reyl shared during her remarks the fact that one of her daughters is, like the character Martin, on the Autism Spectrum. She added that she included among the challenges faced by teens on the spectrum as well

as how their parents have a natural tendency to want their children to maximize their potential. As a mother, she understands how parents want their teens to stretch their communication and interpersonal relationship skills. They hold the notion of wanting their teens to “become all they can become.” As author, however, she also understands the equally important sense that teens like Martin want the complex assurance from their parents that they are loved by their parents for who they are now, not only for who they wish they may become.

This dichotomy is a theme addressed throughout the novel from a variety of perspectives and in a variety of characters, both teen and older, and both on the Autism Spectrum, and by those who are not. In the book, folks not on the Autism Spectrum are referred to as “neuro-typical.”



(above, l-r) Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) students Shioli Banerjee, of Millington and Ian Martin of Warren Township and WHRHS English Supervisor James Aquavia, right, welcomed Author Hilary Reyl to the school’s South Auditorium on Wednesday, October 17. Reyl wrote this year’s “school-wide read,” the coming of age novel, “Kids Like us,” and she spoke to students and staff, sharing her perspectives both on her book, and on writing as a profession, at two assemblies. The experience was one of the highlights of the first part of the 2018-2019 School Year at WHRHS.

Photo by WHRHS

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WARREN SENIORS HOLIDAY PARTY



Warren seniors enjoyed a Holiday Party on December 5, 2018 at the Forest Lodge located in Warren, NJ. Lunch was served, Santa made an appearance, and there was live music and many attendees enjoyed dancing and singing along.

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



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Come out and enjoy Warren Township's 11th Annual Winter Festival, Bonfire and Fireworks on January 12, 2019 (rain date January 19). All age groups can enjoy this free event which will feature various activities such as horse and carriage rides, petting zoo, carnival rides and games provided by the Recognized Sport Groups, hot chocolate and much more!

Entertainment includes special performances by Watchung Hills Regional High School Marching Band, Take Flight Dance Center, and music by DJ Bob Marino.

Food will be available for sale by Jonny Zeppoli, and Big Pinks BBQ.

The event will take place at the Municipal Baseball Fields located at 46 Mountain Blvd, Warren, NJ from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. The lighting of the bonfire is scheduled for 4:20 p.m., and fireworks at 7:00 p.m.

Additional parking is available at the Municipal Complex and across the street.

In case of inclement weather or if you have any questions please contact the Recreation Office by phone at 908-753-8000 x 271 or by email at recreation@warrennj.org.



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SEBIT CHURCH WALKS TO COMBAT HUNGER

Submitted by Larry Holt

Achieving contributions of \$7,300, the 2018 New Providence Crop Walk of Sunday afternoon, October 21, 2018 in spite of the high winds and mid-40s temperature, was a large success. Matching funds and other contributions are still arriving. Since 1974, the town has had this annual walk.

Planned by Faith Lutheran Church and hosted by United Methodist Church, the Crop Walk saw one-hundred eight adults and children with Crop Walk signs, plus a dog, hiking the three mile route through town. The walkers were members of area churches. The three with the largest number of walkers were the Asian Indian Christian Church of Berkeley Heights, the Sebit Presbyterian Church of Warren and Faith Lutheran of New Providence. Each had about twenty-seven walkers.

The chairperson of the Crop Walk was Mike Warin of New Providence, who is a member of Faith. He was assisted by fifteen volunteers.

Prior to the walk, Mr. Warin conducted a brief orientation. He reminded the participants that many of the world's poor and hungry have to walk long distances for food and water and that

hunger is a significant issue in the United States as well. The walkers were raising funds to help alleviate this international and national issue. Mr. Warin was followed by Bob Hasbrouck of Faith and New Providence, who instructed regarding the procedures and route of the walk. Mr. Hasbrouck has assisted with the Crop Walk since its beginning forty-four years ago.

Rev. Jane McCready of Faith read a bible scripture and conducted a responsive prayer with the group. John Everson and Courtney Auchter, accompanied by guitarist, Jim Skidmore, the three also of Faith, led the walkers in the singing of "We Are Marching in the Light of God."

In recognition of hunger being a problem throughout the world, one of the verses was sung in Swahili.

Aroused by "We Are Marching in the Light of God," the walkers then lifted their red and white Crop Walk signs and marched down Springfield Avenue.

Upon completion, the walkers and volunteers enjoyed ice cream at the Methodist Church. The plentiful ice cream was donated by Zita's Home Made Ice Cream, 1790 Springfield Avenue, New Providence.

Mr. Warin expressed his gratitude to the New Providence Police Department for their special effort to protect the walkers.

All of the contributions will be donated to Church World Service, an interdenominational organization which combats hunger in the United States and around the world. The focus of Church World Service is meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged people. Church World Service will return twenty-five per cent of the money to the soup kitchen at St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Newark. With the pending arrival of winter and other soup kitchens having closed, the needs of St. John's are significant.

Persons wishing to make contributions to the Crop Walk may send their donations to Faith Lutheran Church, 524 South Street, New Providence, NJ 07974. The phone number is 908-464-5177. The web site of Faith Lutheran is famfaith.org.



(above) Walkers cross South Street in New Providence.



(above) Barbara and Tom Sproule registered participants prior to the walk and served Zita's Ice Cream after the 2018 Crop Walk.



(above) Crop Walkers begin their march, after singing We Are Marching to the Light of God.



(above, l-r) Courtney Auchter, Jewel Vanriele, Victoria Vanriele, John Everson, Jim Skidmore. Victoria ran the Crop Walk.



(above, l-r) Ky Luu, Harry Nord, Pat Bellone, Susan Nord, Courtney Auchter, Cliff Auchter, all of Faith Lutheran, visit before the Walk.

GIRLS SCOUTS WIN CONGRESSIONAL AWARD BRONZE CERTIFICATE

Submitted by Sonia Estevez

Celine Chu and Francesca Holl, both Girl Scouts from Warren troop 65512, have earned the Congressional Award Bronze Certificate for outstanding contributions to their community and undertaking the values of initiative, service, and achievement. The Certificate is awarded by the US Senate and House of Representatives to young adults for setting goals and executing them in the areas of community service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition.

They decided to start working on the award when they learned about volunteering at the SRAS (Somerset Regional Animal Shelter). "We knew we were committed to helping the animals at the shelter and that we were going to put in as many hours as needed", said Francesca. "This is what got us started", said Celine.

They have been going to the shelter for over a year and a half, and just got certified to handle dogs. To earn the award, the girls needed to set a goal for each category of the award: community

service, personal development, and physical fitness. For personal development they each have taken extra curricular classes, and for physical fitness Celine worked on improving her golf skills, and Francesca her gymnastics skills. They said that the expedition requirement was very challenging.

"We had to plan an 8 hour day trip with a purpose, research the location, what to do, and how to get there. We had to do the trip and then report on what we did and saw. This was a bit intimidating, and we both learned that things do not always go as planned and we had to improvise", said Francesca. "In the end, although challenging, it was a fun Certificate to work on and earn", said Celine.

They are starting on the Silver Certificate now and they are hoping to also earn the Gold Certificate as well before they graduate from High School.

Celine Chu is a Junior at Watchung Regional High School. Francesca Holl is a Junior at Mount Saint Mary Academy.



(above) Warren girl scouts Celine Chu and Francesca Holl with their Congressional Award Bronze Certificates.

CASA SHAW INFORMATION SESSIONS

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties (CASA SHaW) has announced Information Sessions in January for individuals in our community who are interested in learning more about becoming a CASA volunteer advocate.

"Every month we hold three to four information sessions for members of our community and individuals who want to learn more about what it takes to become a CASA," said Tracey Heisler, Executive Director of CASA SHaW. "It's a great way to learn more about what we do and how people can help," Heisler said. Attending an Information Session is required for anyone interested in applying to become a CASA.

Below are the dates, times and locations for the upcoming information sessions:

- Tuesday, January 8 & Wednesday, January 23 - 5:30 p.m. at the PeopleCare Center in Bridgewater, NJ (120 Finderne Ave, Bridgewater, NJ)

- Wednesday, January 16 - 5:30 p.m. at the CASA SHaW office in Washington, NJ (150 Boulevard, Suite 1, Washington, NJ)

If any member of our community is interested in attending one of these information sessions, registration is required. Please contact our Volunteer Trainer, Karen Cassano, at karen@casashaw.org or by phone at 908-689-5515 if you plan to attend on either date.

CASA of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties is part of a statewide network of community-based, non-profit programs that recruit, screen, train and supervise volunteers to "Speak Up for a Child" removed from home due to abuse or neglect. CASA is the only program in New Jersey that uses trained volunteers to work one-on-one with children, ensuring that each one gets the services needed and achieves permanency in a safe, nurturing home. To find a local CASA program in your county, visit casafnj.org.

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The law firm Norris McLaughlin, P.A., is pleased to welcome Kimbrilee M. Weber as an Associate. She joins the firm's Litigation Practice Group, concentrating her practice on complex commercial litigation, including insurance coverage defense and subrogation matters.

Weber has represented clients in multi-million-dollar breach of contract, bad faith, and tort claims in state and federal courts in New York and New Jersey. Her experience litigating both plaintiff and defense matters informs her flexible, problem-solving approach to cases aimed at maximizing efficiency and positive outcomes for her clients.

Prior to joining the firm, Weber was an Associate at a boutique insurance litigation firm, where she assisted with representation of clients in all stages of litigation, from inception

through appeal. She clerked for the Honorable Susan L. Reisner, P.J.A.D., in New Jersey's Appellate Division, where she drafted case memoranda for review of Appellate Division judges and reviewed judicial opinions prior to their publication and dissemination.

Weber earned her J.D., magna cum laude & Order of the Coif, in 2015 from Seton Hall University School of Law and her B.A., highest honors, from Lehigh University. During law school, Weber was a member of the Seton Hall Law Review as both an Associate Editor (2013-2014) and the Editorial Board's Symposium Editor (2014-2015); her Comment was published in the journal's 45th volume. She was a student advocate in Seton Hall's Civil Rights and Constitutional Litigation clinic, and worked as a summer intern for the Honorable Claire C. Cecchi, U.S.D.J.

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CENTRAL SCHOOL HOSTS SOCK-TOBER DRIVE FOR LOCAL SENIOR CITIZENS

Central School students, staff and families collected socks for local seniors during their first ever "Sock-tober" sock drive. With the help of the PTO, Central School Student Leaders collected over 390 pairs of socks. The socks were delivered to the Somerset County Senior Center.

"I am so proud to be part of the Central community! Once again, the generosity of our students, parents, and staff made this event a great success. On behalf of the PTO, thank you to everyone who participated, especially our student leaders who tied a note with warm wishes onto each pair of socks. We hope that they bring a smile to seniors in our community this holiday season," said Jennifer McCarey, Central School

PTO.

The Student Leadership group, run by Ms. Alyssa Pech, Central School Guidance Counselor, has a mission to promote positivity throughout their school community. Central School students completed an application to become Student Leaders. The application process included a section for the students to describe the characteristics they possess that would make them a good leader. The Student Leadership group is now made up of nineteen proud fourth and fifth grade students.

According to Pech, Central Student Leaders will be hosting Penny Wars for their next event to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



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