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VETERAN JEFFERSON TEACHER MEMORIALIZED

Submitted by Mary Ann McGann

The Jefferson School community recently unveiled a memorial bench to honor a veteran teacher who passed away in 2017. "The best teachers are those who make a positive difference in our lives," said Jefferson principal Dr. Susie Hung.

The Jefferson Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) collected donations to purchase two benches and a beautifully crafted plaque to memorialize Mary Jo Juelis, who taught at Jefferson from 1987 to 2016.

Superintendent Dr. Margaret Dolan praised Mrs. Juelis as the "consummate professional" whose students were always engaged and who mentored novice teachers as they started their careers.

"And she loved her family," said Dr. Dolan, as she addressed a crowd of Mrs. Juelis' family, friends, and colleagues gathered at Jefferson on November 19, 2018. "For all of these reasons, Mrs. Juelis' legacy continues. We were fortunate that she was a part of our school community and I am very happy to be part of this tribute."

Juelis' husband, John, and two of her three sons were on hand for the ceremony as were two of her sisters-in-law.

"Although I did not personally know Mrs. Juelis, I know she greatly impacted hundreds of students and many colleagues," said Dr. Hung as she shared a poem by Joanna Fuchs entitled "The Best Teachers."

Colleague Patricia Merlo heralded the veteran teacher as "always on the cutting edge of education," saying "many of us here today are who we are because of great role models like Mary Jo."

Jefferson PTO co-president Carolyn Koellhoffer noted that Mrs. Juelis was the type of teacher who looked at each child as an individual and who earned respect from her students.

Son Mark Juelis said his mother was "always looking for a new way to teach" and he thanked the school community for sustaining his mother "when she needed it most."



(above) Members of the Juelis family, including sons Mark and Craig (left) and husband John, attend a dedication ceremony for a memorial bench in honor of veteran educator Mary Jo Juelis who passed away in 2017.



(above) The Jefferson School community memorialized veteran teacher Mary Jo Juelis during a ceremony. Juelis, who passed away in 2017, was praised as a consummate professional who treated each student as an individual.

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WESTFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S MARCH FIRST WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON: THE DICENNIAL PROCESS OF FEDERAL REDISTRICTING

Submitted by Carol Goggi

As part of the The Westfield Historical Society's First Wednesday Luncheon series, Dr. John Leshner will be speaking on the topic of The Dicennial Process of Federal Redistricting on March 6, 2019. The event will begin with check-in at 11:45 a.m. at the Echo Lake Country Club, located at 515 Springfield Avenue, Westfield.

Dr. Leshner will explain the Federal Redistricting process which takes place every ten years in the United States. This process involves the Census Count, the apportionment of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives among the states based on the Census Count, and the formation of districts within the states from which each state's allocation of Representatives are elected and sent to Congress. "Gerrymandering" is a term used to describe how this process can become abused to redistrict for political gain.

John C. Leshner has worked in real estate development for over 40 years. He holds a BA in English from Scranton University, an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, a MA in history from Montclair State University, and a MA and PhD in political science from Rutgers University. It was at Rutgers where he completed his doctoral dissertation in 2017 evaluating the concept of redistricting.

Active in community affairs, Dr. Leshner serves as treasurer of the Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corp. and as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Echo Lake Country Club. He and his wife, Dr. Tina Leshner, have resided in Westfield for 42 years and are the parents of three children.

Those wishing to attend the luncheon may make a reservation by email to westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com; or, by calling 908-654-1794, before 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 1. Please advise if there are special dietary needs. The luncheon fee of \$35 (WHS

members) or \$40 (non-members) includes a three-course meal, coffee/tea, and gratuity. The luncheon fee should be paid in advance (check payable to Westfield Historical Society) by mailing to Westfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 613, Westfield, NJ 07091; or, online at westfieldhistoricalsociety.org/registration/.

Payments should be received by Friday prior to the luncheon. Westfield Historical Society memberships will also be available at the luncheon.

The Westfield Historical Society celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018. Since 1968, the 501(c)(3) non-profit Westfield Historical Society has worked to preserve, interpret and encourage interest in history, Westfield, and its residents through educational efforts and community outreach programs.

Echo Lake Country Club is at 515 Springfield Ave, Westfield, NJ. For Echo Lake Country Club dress code information, check out the Guest Information at: echolakecc.org/club.

For more information on the Westfield Historical Society and their events, visit westfieldhistoricalsociety.org and like us on Facebook.



(above) Dr. John Leshner will present a program on The Dicennial Process of Federal Redistricting at the Westfield Historical Society's First Wednesday Luncheon to be held on March 6, 2019 at Echo Lake Country Club.

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First graders at Tamaques School in Westfield honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr by reciting a portion of his "I Have a Dream" speech and discussing the meaning of Dr. King's legendary oration at the March on Washington in August

1963. "It's like living your inside out," said one youngster when asked about a part of the speech where the civil rights leader said "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color

of their skin, but by the content of their character." Led by the 1st grade team of Linda D'Onofrio, Mary Montes, and Jenna Utman, the students also created a mural poster entitled "Reach for the Highest Good."



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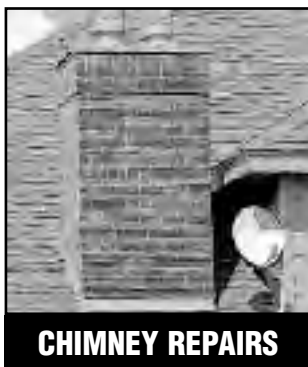




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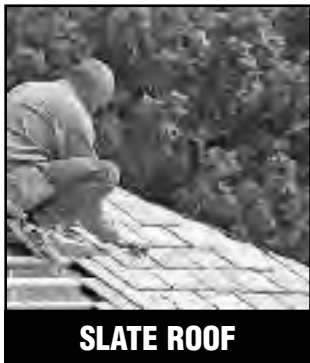
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WHS HOLDS 2ND ANNUAL HACKATHON

Submitted by Mary Ann McGann

An app to help regulate a plant's environment, a homework helper chatbot, and other innovative uses of technology were among the projects created at Westfield High School's 2nd Annual Hackathon held in December.

Organized by seniors Ethan Jaffee, Zachary Lemberg, and Justin O'Boyle, the 12-hour event was attended by 90 beginner and experienced computer programmers in 8th through 12th grade.

"During the day, students learned new topics at Java and HTML workshops led by Jaron Rubenstein and Jamie Kingsberry, both professionals in our community," says Jessica Norworth a mathematics/computer science teacher at WHS who chaperoned the event, along with advisor WHS math teacher Louis De Angelo.

Rubenstein and fellow sponsor Paul Nunes

welcomed participants to the Hackathon while Kingsberry closed the event with recommendations on ways students can further their computer science learning.

Attendees completed projects and competed for prizes. Winning projects included an app that communicated with sensors to regulate a plant's environment, a homework helper chatbot to assist students with their workloads through Google Calendar scheduling, and an app that could be used during an emergency lockdown to provide real time information about what was occurring in the building.

Norworth and De Angelo thanked the event's sponsors including Alex Hodara of Hodara Real Estate Group, Chris Zarou of Visionary Music Group and Logic, .tech Domains, Wolfram Language, and indico, along with the WHS IT department and custodial staff for "creating a working space for the Hackathon."



(above) Approximately 90 beginner and experienced computer programmers in 8th through 12th grade attend the 2nd Annual Hackathon at Westfield High School.

Photos by Jessica Norworth and Louis De Angelo.

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NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. For more information, please visit the NAMI website at nami.org.

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On Monday, February 25, 2019, Westfield firefighters will join firefighters from around New Jersey to compete at the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival benefiting the New Jersey State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center. This event, which draws people from throughout New Jersey, will be held at The Pines Manor, 2085 Route 27, Edison, NJ from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Last year more than \$50,000 was raised from the event which was attended by more than 900 people.

The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off will be an integral part of the evening as firefighters from 25 departments will compete in three

different categories: Gourmet, Firehouse and Dessert.

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where participants will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of more than 40 of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers and dessert shops all in one location.

If you are looking for an entertaining evening of great food and wine, don't miss this event. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$65 at the door. Visit cookedanduncorked.com to order tickets, view participating restaurants and wine/spirits and for more information.

Tickets can be also be ordered by calling the NJ FMBA at 732-499-9250.



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LOCAL BASEBALL PLAYERS AND COACHES WILL BE HONORED AT ANNUAL “HOT STOVE” AWARDS DINNER, SUNDAY, FEB. 10

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: DWIGHT “DOC” GOODEN

The Union County Baseball Association will induct four new members into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame at the organization's 83rd annual Hot Stove League Dinner on Sunday, February 10, 2019 beginning at 1:00 p.m., at The Gran Centurions in Clark, New Jersey.

The four new inductees into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame include:

Rich Biddulph of Roselle, an All-State catcher for Roselle Catholic High School and longtime coach of American Legion Baseball teams in Cranford and Roselle;

Walter Podgurski of Union, an All-State second baseman for the Farmers, who went on to play for the University of Pennsylvania and was drafted by the Minnesota Twins;

Chris Roof of Berkeley Heights and Scotch Plains, a standout player at Governor Livingston High School and Montclair State University and longtime coach at Governor Livingston;

Tom Urban of Elizabeth, a varsity infielder at Thomas Jefferson High School, baseball coach in Elizabeth and at Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, and director of the Union County Baseball Association Summer and Fall leagues.

The special guest speaker at the annual event

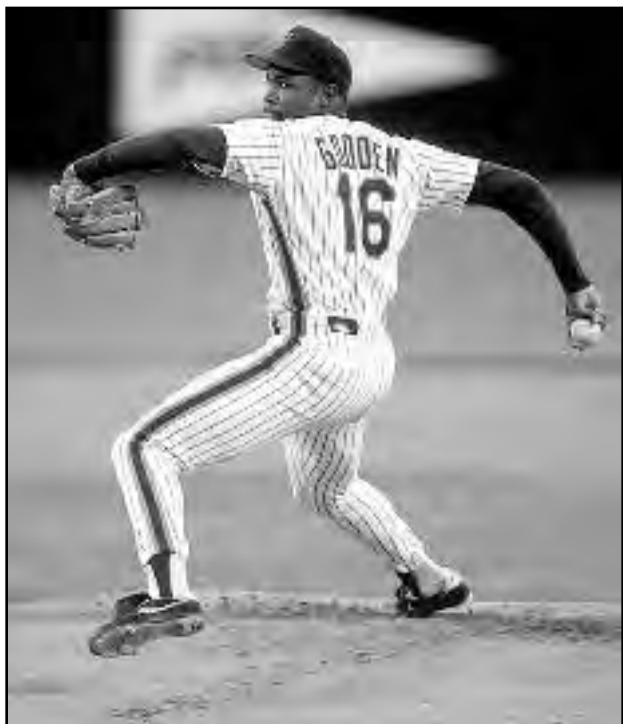
will be Dwight “Doc” Gooden, the former award-winning pitcher for the New York Mets and the New York Yankees. Gooden's headline-grabbing 16-year Major League career – including Rookie of the Year and Cy Young awards with the Mets and his no-hitter while pitching for the Yankees – remains a hot topic of discussion nearly two decades after he threw his final pitch.

Scholastic athletes from throughout Union County also will be honored at the afternoon awards ceremonies on Feb. 10 for their accomplishments in high school, college and Union County Youth Baseball leagues. Among these honorees will be Luis Amaro of Roselle Park; Jamie Belfer and Danny Serretti, both of Berkeley Heights; and Ed Kushner of Linden.

Tickets for the 83rd annual Hot Stove League awards dinner may be purchased online at UCBA-NJ.org or by writing to the Union County Baseball Association, PO Box 176, Fanwood, New Jersey 07023.

Sponsored by the Union County Baseball Association, in cooperation with the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Hot Stove League awards dinner is the primary annual fund-raising effort for the Union County Youth Baseball Leagues. The summer and fall leagues have given more than 40,000 boys and girls an opportunity to participate in an organized baseball program for the past 70 years.

For more information call Jim Iozzi, UCBA president, at 908-917-2523.



(above) Dwight “Doc” Gooden will be the guest speaker at the 83rd annual Hot Stove League Dinner on Sunday, February 10, 2019.

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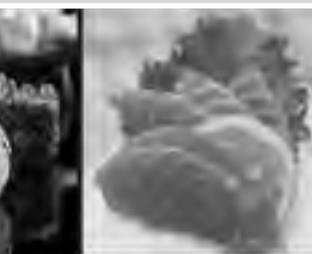
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WESTFIELD EARNS OUTSTANDING DELEGATION AWARD AT MODEL U.N.



(above) Westfield High School's Model United Nations Club won the Outstanding Delegation Award for excelling in all parts of the annual conference held in Hershey, PA on January 4-6, 2019.

Photo by Westfield High School

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Westfield High School's Model United Nations Club won the Outstanding Delegation Award for excelling in all parts of the annual conference held in Hershey, Pennsylvania from January 4 – 6, 2019. Approximately 2,000 students from 80 Mid-Atlantic schools attended the conference.

"The students participated in wide ranging debates that were the culmination of months of research and preparation," said Daniel Farabaugh, co-adviser of the WHS Model UN along with David Della Fera.

Many Westfield High School students received individual recognitions, including:

- Meghan Johnson, Nicolas Guerrierio, Wyatt Miller, Alexander McGrail and Adam Schwartz were recognized as top debaters and named Premier Diplomats.
- Acknowledged for an Outstanding First Year were Ashleigh Bahadur, Jordyn Ives, John DeSena, Shirzad Mustafa, Gabriella Scipioni, and Olivia Bergman.

- Caroline Schafer, Alexandra Sica, Caroline Gallagher and Anna Saber received recognition for Outstanding Country Research Paper.

- Officers for this year's conference were Julia Colleran, Tomas Taaffe, Luke Mizus, Justin Joseph, Brianna Vaca, Andrew Zanfagna, and Austin Chen

- Officers chosen to plan, organize and run committees for next year's conference are Brianna Vaca, Jordan Horowitz, Adam Schwartz, Brad Hornbeck, Olivia Conti, Eric Mordkovich, and Julia Colleran.

Elisa Saint-Denis, Mark Johnson, and Julia Colleran were selected to attend the Conference on National Affairs, a two-week conference in North Carolina attended by representatives from all 50 states.

The Westfield High School Model UN program is run in conjunction with the Westfield Area YMCA.

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MICHAELA MCCLAIN BAND TO PERFORM AT NORTHERN NEW JERSEY'S MOST INTIMATE COFFEEHOUSE

The Salem Roadhouse Café, 829 Salem Road, Union, NJ, proudly presents The Michaela McClain Band, performing on Saturday, February 9, 2019.

Michaela McClain is a singer/songwriter born and raised in Bernardsville. Her "folky-soul" sound is reminiscent of Carol King, Norah Jones and Alicia Keys, and "her warm groove creates an atmosphere of love that's irresistible." Her musical influences range from Carlos Jobim, Ella Fitzgerald, Indigo Girls to India Arie. Michaela writes the music for the band.

Bandmates are: Meredith Foreman, drums; Brad Schwartzseid, bass; and Raul Abbad, guitar.

At her 2016 and 2017 performances at the Roadhouse Cafe, Michaela demonstrated her solid songwriting and performing capabilities while accompanied by an extremely multi-

talented band. Each band member wowed the audiences with their individual playing, as well as playing together as a dynamic band.

The featured visual artist for the February show is Derek Jay Dent. Derek does some incredibly creative work with collage themed around jazz and music. His work will be on display for everyone before, during and after the show, with gallery lights up full at door opening and during the break, and immediately after the show.

Fans won't want to miss this live, up front and personal event.

All ages are welcome. It's a wholesome show, so bring the entire family!

Doors open 7:30 p.m. The show starts at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$20 and includes the show, snacks, beverages and dessert.

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ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

Dedication best defines the Salem Roadhouse Café: dedication to excellent music and dedication to the community. In its tenth year, The Salem Roadhouse Café reaffirms its commitment to both.

Started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth, the Roadhouse Café continues to operate as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That may be its social mission... but the Roadhouse Café is and has been a solid performance venue beloved by the musicians who play there because of its special intimacy with the audience.

CHURCH MUSIC, IT'S NOT

The Roadhouse Café has always offered its stage to local and independent main stream musicians. It's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music, in a world of clubs and bars. Jazz, rock, folk and other groups have performed. During the past ten years well over 100 different entertainers have appeared. Local fine artists also display their works.

COMMUNITY ORIENTATION

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Program, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, Groundwork Elizabeth, Union Twp. Police "Santa In Blue" toy campaign and others. Thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.

The musicians who play the Roadhouse often ask to return as soon as possible. The Roadhouse has given them a place with a beautiful stage, good acoustics, a live, attentive audience, and a sound system that is first class.

Now well into its eleventh year of operation, the Salem Roadhouse Café features many of the performers who have graced the stage in the past, as well as talent that is new to the Café stage. The current season will benefit local charities.



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A NIGHT OF LOVE SONGS TO BENEFIT HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

The Westfield High School Choir Department will perform A Night of Love Songs on Saturday, February 9th, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. (door opens at 6:30 p.m. in WHS Cafeteria B) under the direction of Mr. John Brzozowski, Choir Director and Maureen Francis, Chorus Teacher.

While having coffee and desserts, enjoy an evening of solo and group performances by members of the Westfield High School Choir. In addition, there will be gift baskets to silent auction as well as a 50/50 raffle. Tickets will be sold at the door and are \$5 per student and \$10 per adult. This wonderful event is being sponsored by the Westfield Choral Parents Association, Inc., and the proceeds will be applied toward choral performance opportunities for the students, such as trips, clinicians and special events.

For more information, or to make a monetary or other charitable donation, please contact Eliana Carvajal or Shannon Costa at whsnols@gmail.com.

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Saturday, February 9, 2019
7:00 PM
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Cafeteria B

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NINE WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT

Nine Westfield High School student-athletes signed Letters of Intent with colleges and universities, signifying recognition of the seniors' accomplishments both academically and athletically.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools



(above, l-r) Nine WHS seniors sign Letters of Intent to play sports at the college level. Seated: Erica Lawrence, Julia Romano, Anna Bowman, Carley Farella, Olivia Shields. Standing: WHS Principal Dr. Derrick Nelson, Griffin Aslanian, Devon McLane, Koury Kania, Henry Schwartz, WHS Supervisor of Athletics Sandra Mamary.

ANNOUNCING: THE CONNIE DWYER BREAST CENTER AT TRINITAS

Trinitas Regional Medical Center has partnered with The Connie Dwyer Breast Cancer Foundation to open a new breast center in Connie's name at Trinitas. The brand new \$3.4 million facility will offer a highly empathic approach to screening, diagnosis, treatment, community outreach and education to all women, regardless of financial status.



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NJ FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA OFFERS TWO PERFORMANCES OF PUCCINI OPERA

Opera's most tempestuous tale of love, deception and political intrigue—"Tosca"—comes alive in Westfield on Saturday, February 23rd and in Madison on Sunday, February 24th as New Jersey Festival Orchestra and award winning soloists perform Puccini's passionate and beautiful music in its full glory.

Puccini's irresistible lyric genius has long made Tosca one of opera's most breathtaking masterpieces. A cast of internationally acclaimed guest performers comes to Westfield and Madison to present, acted and in costume, this gripping tale of love, lust, corruption and ultimate struggle for survival.

"Tosca has long been one of the most popular operas in the entire repertoire," said NJFO Music Director David Wroe. "Puccini's powerful score illuminates the tense drama at every step, giving numerous opportunities for the three guest principals to shine."

Singing the title role of fiery prima donna Floria Tosca is award-winning soprano Jenny Schuler who has earned praise in recent seasons for her powerful vocalism and compelling stage artistry. Lauded for his distinctive timbre and magnetic stage presence tenor Kirk Dougherty makes his NJFO debut in the role of revolutionary artist Mario Cavaradossi. With a sound combining clarity, strength, and integrity, Mr. Dougherty is one of the most exciting voices entering the opera circuit today. The role of the menacing police chief Scarpia, determined to possess Tosca and thwart Cavaradossi, is

performed by Todd Thomas who is recognized by opera companies and critics alike as one of the true baritones gracing stages today.

"We are thrilled to bring these fabulous singers to our local doorstep," continued Wroe. "Each of them is a star who has already graced the stages of concert halls and opera houses across the world. With their outstanding technique and artistic interpretation of this, Puccini's most loved and most poignant work, I predict that there will not be a dry eye in the house!"

Sung in Italian with English supertitles, the opera is brought to life with costumes, sophisticated staging and colorful design by Artistic Director Maria Todaro. A free pre-concert lecture will be presented at 6pm in Westfield prior to the Westfield performance.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Saturday, February 23 at 7pm

Free pre-concert lecture by Michael Rosin at 6pm

The Presbyterian Church, Westfield, NJ

Sunday, February 24th at 3pm

The Concert Hall

Drew University, Madison, NJ

Tickets for both concerts
(\$30-\$76, students U18 \$15)

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MAMMA MIA! IS DANCING INTO CDC THEATRE FEBRUARY 15

Westfield MONTHLY • Page 17 • February 2019

The party celebrating the 100th Anniversary Season at CDC Theatre will be in full swing when the musical Mamma Mia! opens on February 15, 2019. Over 60 million people worldwide have fallen in love with the characters, the story and the music that make up Mamma Mia! ABBA's hits tell the hilarious story of a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father, bringing three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

The show's director, Sean Lough, recently shared his enthusiasm. "When it comes to having fun directing, Mamma Mia! is going to be a tough one to beat. Mamma Mia! is one of the world's most popular musicals, so we are excited to bring it to New Jersey audiences as part of our 100th Season! The cast is made up of true ABBA fans; it would be hard not to be working on this show. At our first rehearsal, everyone had huge

smiles on their faces as it hit them that we get to perform classic ABBA songs, not just sing them in our cars. This show is a true celebration. It's like we're having a party every night."

The large cast is led by Mandy Feiler, Michelle Sblendorio and Donna Faraone as Donne, Tonya and Rosie with Lindsay Maron playing Donna's daughter, Sophie. Michael Dooley, Mark Smith and James Lopez are Sophie's potential dads and Evan Krug her fiancé, Sky.

Tickets and additional details can be found by visiting the theatre's website, cdctheatre.org. For the best selection, and prices, tickets can be purchased ahead of time online following links on the website. Located at 78 Winans Ave. in Cranford, NJ, CDC Theatre has been designated the NJACT Theatre of the Year. This production is made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.




(above) Mamma Mia! opens on February 15 for the 100th anniversary season at CDC Theatre.

CDC Theatre presents


MAMMA MIA!

FEB. 15 - MAR. 2, 2019
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The New Jersey Veterans Network along with the Operation Rebound Racing Team host free monthly PTSD and benefits meetings which will aim to be fun, while being informative.

The next meeting, featuring a comic performance, will be held on February 25, 2019 at the Scotch Plains American Legion, located at 237 Park Ave, Scotch Plains, NJ at 6:30 p.m.

If you are interested in attending please contact Michael D. Boll via email mdbollio@Optonline.net, or call/text (973) 332-1556.



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ELEVEN WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MUSICIANS SELECTED FOR CJMEA REGION II BAND

Eleven student musicians from Westfield High School performed with the Central Jersey Music Educators Association (CJMEA) Region II Band in January.

After rigorous auditions that included the top musical talent from high schools in Hunterdon, Monmouth, Mercer, Somerset, Middlesex and Union counties, selected to perform with the

CJMEA Region II Band are: Kailey Zhao, Bassoon; Aprina Wang, French Horn; Valerie Chang, Oboe; Tia Lemberg, Oboe; Ian Gurland, Percussion; Robert Strauss, Piccolo; Conor Daly, Trombone; Austin Chen, Trumpet; Duncan Cook, Trumpet; Karl Peter, Trumpet; and Max Tennant, Trumpet.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools



(above, l-r) Eleven WHS students will perform with the CJMEA Region II Band in January. First Row: Max Tennant, Austin Chen, Tia Lemberg, Aprina Wang, Ian Gurland. Second Row: Duncan Cook, Karl Peter, Kailey Zhao, Robert Strauss, Conor Daly. Not pictured: Valerie Chang.

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BOYS HOCKEY TEAM LIVES FOR HOCKEY, WITH LOVE FOR COMMUNITY

Submitted by Cheryl Park

The Westfield High School Boys hockey team launched its first “Play hockey with the Blue Devils #BluePuck” event this past December.

The free program held at the Westfield Rink teamed up hockey players aged 5 to 10 years old with their high school counterparts on December 16, 2018. Over 60 boys and girls registered for the program in just two days.

The boys hockey team had 58 players volunteer during the program, which included both varsity and junior varsity players.

Although it was a blustery, cold and rainy day, Mother Nature didn’t stop the young boys and girls from practicing their stick skills and shots on goal with the high school team.



Westfield volunteers welcomed children and parents, assisted with check-in, helped youths with equipment and practiced with players for 75 minutes on the ice during drills and scrimmages.

“I forget how tiny the skates are,” said Jake Toth, a freshman on the junior varsity team. “The kids were so excited in the locker room and it was great to help out.”

Rookies got their share of high fives, chatted with high school players, grabbed photos with the Blue Devil Mascot and had their very own #BluePuck autographed.

Parents, grandparents, children and players shared smiles at the event.

Westfield High School Varsity Coach Joe Bertucci guided his team on the importance of giving back. “A strong team bond between players is more than the talks in the locker room and what they do on the ice, it’s about players getting involved in their community and growing together as a team,” he said.

Joe Bonnett, regional manager with USA Hockey’s American Development Model, recently wrote an article speaking to that point. “The hockey culture has always had its roots in community,” Bonnett states. “Hockey players by their very nature are humble people. Playing hockey means always putting the needs of the team over the interests of the individual and this mindset carries over into the community.”

That sentiment rang true as the first #BluePuck event exemplified the nature of the sport, bringing the community together. High school players acknowledged their impact in making a difference to the youth of Westfield and in turn gained great lessons to carry forward far beyond their years at WHS.

“It was as much fun for us as it was for the kids. Our team had a great time volunteering,” said Tim Rosa, a senior on the varsity team.

“These kids were so happy to be there,” said John Humiston, a senior on the Varsity team. “It

made me realize just how much it meant to them to skate with us.”

Captain CJ Duffy, a senior, alternate captain Alex Park, also a senior, and Trevor Tanella, a junior, were instrumental in creating #BluePuck. “We wanted to continue our community service efforts,” Park said. “These last couple of years, the team has volunteered with Children’s Specialized Hospital, St. Joseph’s Food Bank and the YMCA, but we really wanted to create something unique that was special for the kids of Westfield.” Duffy added “Many of us are seniors and will head to college next year. We wanted to start a tradition for the future high school hockey players in the Westfield community. That is how the idea of #BluePuck came about.”

Westfield High School Independent Hockey Association President Jim Tanella offered praise for the event. “It was heartwarming to watch these little ones and reflect back on my own son’s hockey experience” Tanella said. “Witnessing the friendships of these high school boys and realizing that their connections began long ago like many of the youth players here today. It’s what the hockey community is all about.”

Westfield parent Andrea Gerlach’s 7-year-old son attended.

“We have the good fortune of a rink in our own community,” Gerlach said. “Thank you to the WHS hockey team for their hard work in creating so much excitement for the next generation of WHS hockey players. It was amazing for all the kids who attended and my son was just so excited to skate with ‘real hockey players.’ I hope they know that they made his day.”

Live for Hockey, Love for Community. Follow the WHS boys varsity ice hockey team on Twitter @westfieldpuck for updates on the season’s activities. Fans can also visit WHSpuck on Facebook and Instagram. Visit westfieldhockey.com for up to date team schedules.

Photos by James Finver.



Art Lecturer and Singer-Songwriter Gordon Thomas Ward visited a general meeting of the Woman's Club of Westfield held recently at The Masonic Lodge, 1011 Central Avenue in Westfield. Mr. Ward gave a most interesting talk on Impressionism, a style of painting associated mainly with French artists of the late 19th century, such as Edgar Degas, Edouard Manet, Claude Monet and Pierre Auguste Renoir.

Impressionist Painting seeks to recreate the artist's or viewer's general impression of a scene. Mr. Ward showed many beautiful slides and the lovely paintings were enjoyed by all.

Guests are always welcome at WCW general meetings.

For more information please contact:
Woman's Club of Westfield, P.O. Box 1157,
Mountainside, NJ 07092.



(above, l-r) Grace Ann Meyn, Nancy Muserlian, Guest Gordon Thomas Ward, Pat D'Angelo, Jane Walsweer and Mary Sepe.

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THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF WESTFIELD WRITING CONTEST

The Woman's Club-of Westfield invites all aspiring student poets and authors from kindergarten through high school to enter its 2019 Youth Poetry and Short Story Contest.

Please submit the material in duplicate to Woman's Club of Westfield, 151 Hamilton Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090 postmarked before Thursday, February 14th, 2019.

Poetry entries may be any style with a minimum length of eight lines and a maximum length of thirty lines. Short stories are limited to 2,000 words. Entries must be typewritten, double spaced, with a minimum of one inch margins, on

one side of an 8 inch by 10 inch paper. A student may enter one short story and/ or poem.

The author's name, address, email address if available, telephone number, student's grade and school, title of piece should appear in the top right hand corner of each page. All entries are judged on content, organization and form. Decision of the judges is final. Writing must be the original, unpublished work of the author, written during the last year. Authors must be amateurs with earnings from writings not to exceed \$500 annually. Writers may want to keep a copy of their work as entries cannot be returned.

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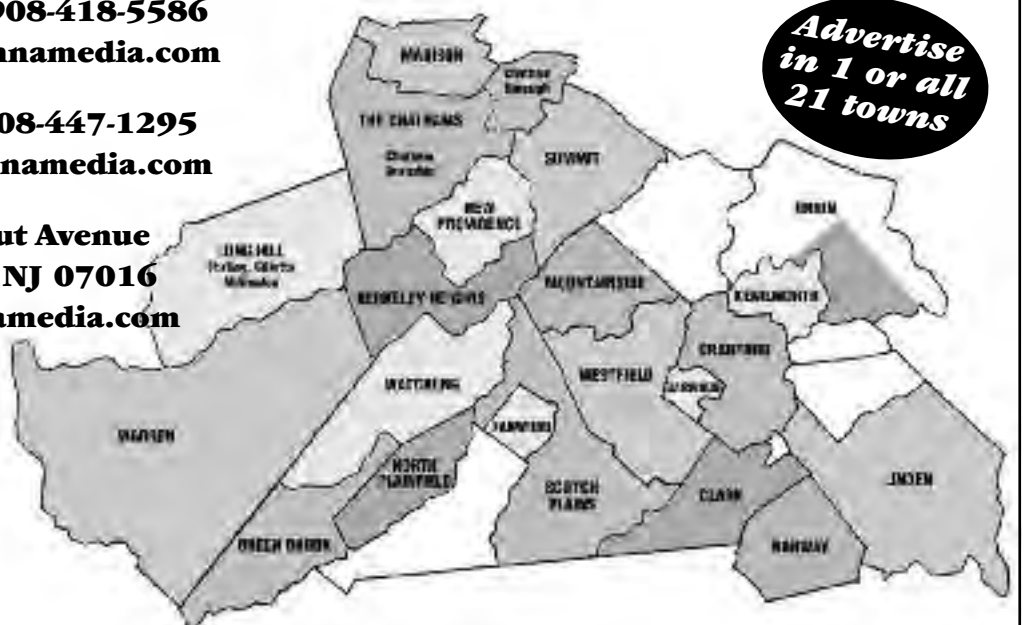
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FREE CONCERT OFFERED BY THE MUSICAL CLUB OF WESTFIELD

Westfield MONTHLY • Page 23 • February 2019

The public is invited to attend a free concert given by The Musical Club of Westfield on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. This is the first concert of 2019 offered in a year-long series of events sponsored by the Musical Club and will be held at the First Baptist Church of Westfield located at 170 Elm Street in Westfield, NJ.

There will be a reception with light refreshments immediately after the concert where audience members will have the opportunity to meet the performers. Should there be inclement

weather, the snow date will be February 20 at 1:30 p.m.

The Musical Club of Westfield is a non-profit organization whose mission is to foster and encourage good music, to provide performance opportunities for local musicians and to support young musicians from Union county with college scholarships. It also sponsors the Junior Musical Club for students in grades 8 to 12 from the surrounding communities. Additional information about the club can be found by visiting musicalclubofwestfield.org.

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For More Information: Email Jim Parlapiano at jim.parlapiano@hotmail.com

Or Will Adams at will.adams@scouting.org or 973-765-9322 x234

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Scouts can email Will Adams at Will.adams@scouting.org for more info.

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Lunch will be provided for all players.

This tournament meets the 6a requirement for earning a Chess merit badge.

GREATER WESTFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GWACC) FEBRUARY EVENTS

For more information, or to register for an event visit GWACCNJ.com.

Breakfast Networking at Business Energy

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February 5th

8:00-9:30 a.m.

Join us on Tuesday Feb 5th

at 8:00- 9:30 a.m.

for breakfast networking at Business Energy. Coffee and bagels will be available for you to enjoy. Meet business professionals and business owners from the area. All attendees will have the opportunity to introduce themselves to the group. Members attend free but let us know you are coming! Prospective members: \$10 if you RSVP online by 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 4, 2019. Additional cost at the door.

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Join us on Wednesday Feb 20th

at 6:30pm-8pm

for networking at Sokratis Dragonas Chiropractor on 134 S. Euclid, Westfield NJ. We'll be enjoying wine and cheese and other refreshments.

Prospective members are welcome.

Online registration is open until

1:30 p.m. on Feb. 19, 2019.

About the GWACC

Established over 70 years ago, the GWACC is the primary business organization in Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, and Westfield. The chamber promotes local business opportunities, economic development, and community growth. The GWACC includes 500 member businesses and nonprofit organizations.

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