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OPTIMIST AND ROTARY CLUBS RUN FOOD BASKET PROJECT

Submitted by Darielle Walsh

On Saturday, December 15, 2018, members of the Westfield Optimist Club and Rotary Club again demonstrated their commitment to community service by providing a record number of holiday food baskets to almost 100 Westfield area families and individuals in need.

The Holiday Food Basket program has been an annual community service project for the club for the past 28 years. This project is made possible through the generosity and funding of both clubs, personal financial contributions from members and friends, support from King's Supermarket in assembling food boxes, and cookies from Delicious Orchards in Colts Neck.

The time and involvement of 50 volunteers from both organizations speaks volumes about caring for the neediest among us. Without the combined efforts of many volunteers, this annual project would not be successful in assisting members of our community. Most importantly,

this project is an illustration of what Optimists and Rotarians do to help our local community.

For information about the Optimist Club of Westfield visit westfieldnj.com/optimist, and for information about the Rotary Club of Westfield visit westfieldrotary.com.



ROTARY CLUB OF WESTFIELD PREPARES FOR 2019

Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart

Rotary District Governor John Wilson visited the Rotary Club of Westfield on December 4, 2018. He presented the banner with this year's Rotary theme "Be The Inspiration" to President Clark Lagemann. As District Governor, Wilson represents the Rotary International President and communicates his message to the clubs. Wilson will visit the 87 Rotary Clubs in District 7475 which encompasses 9 counties in northern New Jersey with over 2,000 members.

The goals of the Rotary Club for this year are to strengthen the clubs through membership, enhance the humanitarian services being performed by the clubs, and create public awareness of our activities.

Rotary is an organization of successful business men and women who want to give something back to their own communities. The Rotary Club of Westfield offers scholarships to high school students, plants trees in town, and has

a food for hungry children project throughout the year. They meet the first three Tuesdays of the month for lunch at 12:15 p.m. at the Westfield Y. Guests are always welcome.



(above, l-r) Past President Phil Salerno, Governor John Wilson, Club President Clark Lagemann, President Elect Liz Ensslin, and Past District Governor Dr. D. Michael Hart.

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AN EDWARDIAN TEA AT THE REEVE HOUSE

On Wednesday, February 6, 2019, the historic Reeve House, home to the Westfield Historical Society, will be transformed into an Edwardian Tea House. Enjoy a British afternoon tea as the Edwardians would have in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Experience the "Downton Abbey" way of life as you sip your tea while eating scrumptious scones with clotted cream and strawberry jam; accompanied by a variety of delicious finger sandwiches with decadent desserts to follow.

Be entertained by the sweet tone of the music in the beautifully restored 1872 Italianate Reeve House. Sit by the fireplace ablaze in the parlor, surrounded by elegant furniture and paintings; or contemplate in the Library with lovely artifacts from the Reeve family. Admire the ambience in the dining room where lovely furnishings abound. This event is perfect for a civilized lunch with friends and family. Edwardian Afternoon Tea attire is optional!

The Westfield Historical Society is hosting

this special event of an Afternoon Tea luncheon on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 12 noon, at the Reeve History and Cultural Resource Center at 314 Mountain Ave., Westfield, NJ. There is limited space, so please reserve early and no later than January 31st. Reserve by calling (908)654-1794 or email westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. The fee of \$35 (WHS members) or \$40 (non-members) 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 January 31st. Membership information will be available.

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.



(above) Guests enjoy a past Edwardian Tea Luncheon to be held again at the Westfield Historical Society's Reeve House on February 6th. Reserve early as space is limited.

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WINTER PROGRAM REGISTRATION IS OPEN AT WESTFIELD RECREATION

Registration is open for Winter Programs at the Westfield Recreation Department. Adults are encouraged to get out of the house and join our Tai Chi program on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. and by joining our Aerobics & More Fitness Class on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Both of these classes can be tried by dropping in and paying a small fee. The department also offers year-round Senior Transportation for medical and shopping for Westfield senior residents. Register now for your spot! Please visit our website for details on all our programs listed.

For school age children there is a variety of After School Enrichment programs which include: Sewing & Fashion Design (Thursdays grades 2-12), Jr. Bakers (Mondays K-5) & Slimeology (Fridays grades K-5). Our new Cartooning class is for ages 6-12 on Tuesdays 5-6 p.m. LEGO STEM FUNDamentals offers youth ages 5-12 the opportunity to gear up their engineering

skills with tens of thousands of LEGO parts on Wednesdays 4 – 5:30 p.m. We offer an array of programs for everyone to choose from. For our Preschool age participants (ages 3-5) a new Drawing class will be on Tuesdays 4-4:45 p.m. As for Pre-School sports, we offer Multi Sports & Soccer classes (and Parent & Me Sports classes for ages 2-3) on Saturday and Sunday mornings. These sports classes are held indoors at the Recreation Department and have a limited number of spots. Sessions for all of these programs run from January thru March.

For youth interested in sports we offer Fencing classes for grades 2-6 on Tuesdays from 3:30 – 4:30 and no prior experience is needed. It's not too early to sign up for Spring sports and soccer camps & classes! Our US Sports Institute Instructors offer programs for ages 2 to 14. Classes range from soccer and multi-sports to speed & agility training and footwork classes for

older children. There is a program for every age and ability!

Do you have a teen who wants to start Babysitting? The Recreation Department is offering the Safe Sitter Essentials Course. This is a one-day class is designed to prepare teens in grades 6-9 to be knowledgeable, safe and responsible sitters. Two classes are being offered: January 5 from 9 – 3:30 p.m. & February 15 from 9: 3:30 p.m. For more information, call the Department or visit the web site.

“Be Active” with one of the programs offered through the Westfield Recreation Department this winter. For additional information, please visit our website westfieldnj.gov/recreation to view the program brochure or register for a program online. Or contact the Westfield Recreation Department at 425 East Broad St., Westfield at 908-789-4080 or by email recreation@westfieldnj.gov.

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Custody	Divorce	Domestic Violence	Equitable Distribution
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This free seminar will prove beneficial to anyone who has experienced matrimonial difficulties. This includes those who are contemplating divorce, those who are presently involved in divorce litigation, and those who have already been divorced and may have questions regarding their post-divorce rights.

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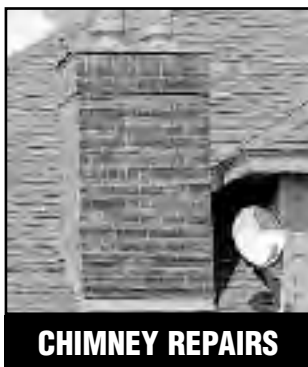
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WESTFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY CHILDREN'S AREA UPDATE

Throughout the children and teen areas of the library, you'll find new places to sit, study or read a book. Our youngest library visitors can play at the new sensory wall. And even our librarians have a new desk to host your questions, offer suggestions and manage the children's area. All of this furniture was made possible by a generous donation from the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library. The Friends membership and monies raised from book sales provide opportunities to fund library projects like this one. In addition, a special donation by Friends Members David and Sheryl Machlowitz provided the sensory wall.

"The children's area receives many visitors throughout the day. It was time to renovate the

furniture to continue to provide a comfortable library friendly place for children and their families and caregivers to enjoy. We are thrilled to make such a valuable contribution to our library." commented Cindy Colicchio the past co-president of the Friends of the Library.

The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library are a group of volunteers whose mission is to create public interest in the library and to assist the library in best meeting the needs of our community. If you would like to learn more about the Friends or become a member for \$15/individual or \$25/couple or family email the Friends at wmlnjfriends@gmail.com or contact the Westfield Memorial Library at 908-789-4090.

(above, l-r) Co-past presidents Cindy Colicchio and Christine Mason enjoy a good book at one of the new tables in the Children's Area.

JANUARY 2019 EVENTS
WESTFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY
 550 East Broad Street 908.789.4090
www.wmlnj.org
 Mon- Thurs 9:30 am - 9 pm
 Fri & Sat 9:30 am - 5 pm Sunday 1:00-5:00 pm
 Closed 1/1/19 for New Year's Day
 Closed 1/21/19 for Dr. Martin Luther King Day

Programs for Adults Check website for sign up info

1/4	1:30 pm	TGIF! The Mayo Clinic (video)
1/5	2:00 pm	Job Searching for Everyone-K. Camden
1/8	1:30 pm	Adult Craft: Sock Cupcakes and Candy
1/8	2:00 pm	Trivia Night for Teens and Adults
1/10	10:00 am	Learn to Download to Kindle Fire/Android devices-Westfield resident cardholders only
1/10	7:00 pm	Tai Chi with Gang Huang
1/11	1:30 pm	TGIF! A Walk in the Woods (movie)
1/17	2:00 pm	Learn how to Download to a Laptop-Westfield resident cardholders only
1/18	1:30 pm	TGIF! Iris (video)
1/19	2:00 pm	The Joys of Backyard Birdfeeding
1/25	1:30 pm	TGIF! Movie: My Big Fat Greek Wedding

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND TEENS: CHECK WEBSITE
 FOR SIGN UP INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
 MIDTERRN STUDY HALL HOURS: JAN 20-29 See website for hours

1/7, 14, 28	7:00 pm	Girls Who Code-grades 3-5
1/8 & 15	3:45 pm	Afternoon LEGO Club 5+years
1/8	7:00 pm	Trivia Night for Teens and Adults
1/11, 18, 25	10:00 am	Playgroup for Babies & Toddlers 0-23 months. Caregiver attends.
1/12	2:00 pm	Paws to Read-beginning readers read to WML library dogs
1/15, 22, 29	10:30 am	2's on Thursday Storytime. Parent/caregiver attends.
1/15, 22, 29	1:30 pm	Afternoon Storytime 3 1/2-5 yrs
1/17, 24, 31	10:30 am	3's on Thursday Storytime. Parent/caregiver attends.

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THE WESTFIELD SERVICE LEAGUE SEEKS GRANT APPLICATIONS

Organizations needing a small financial boost may now apply for a grant from The Westfield Service League (WSL). The organization is accepting grant applications for 2019 from local and area 501c3 organizations in Union County through January 28, 2019.

In 2018, WSL donated approximately \$58,000 to 29 area organizations; many organizations received grants between \$1000-\$2000. One of the organizations receiving grant funding was St. Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth, which offers a wide-range of services and programs to serve poor and homeless people in greater Elizabeth.

“Grants from the Westfield Service League save lives,” Bernadette Murphy, Executive Director of St. Joseph Social Service Center, told WSL members during a membership meeting. Most of the grant money goes toward prescription medication vouchers for people who can’t afford them, she explained.

“Thanks to the Westfield Service League’s support of our Health Services program, St. Joseph’s is able to help clients with life sustaining medications,” Murphy said. “We also provide

education and vital sign monitoring to assist clients in managing their health. People may not realize that this program is a downstream effect when they donate an article of clothing.”

The WSL accepts donations of clothing, shoes, home décor, toys, and other items and sells them in their Thrift Shop in Westfield. Sales of items in the WSL Consignment Shop are split between consignors and the organization. Funds for grants result from the profits of both the WSL Thrift and Consignment shops, which is why the service league emphasizes that its shoppers, consignors or donors are paying it forward and giving back to their community.

St. Joseph Social Service Center also previously received a grant which was used to purchase an awning to provide cover from sun, rain or snow to clients waiting to enter its facilities.

Grant information and an application may be requested by email at:

wslapplication@gmail.com.

Hard copies of the completed applications, with support materials, must be received by Monday, January 28, 2019.

The WSL Thrift and Consignment Shop are located on 114 Elmer Street, Westfield. For more information visit thewestfieldserviceleague.org.



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(above, l-r) Bernadette Murphy, Executive Director of St. Joseph Social Service Center, and Jacqueline Karmol, St. Joseph at-large board member, with Kim Taylor, President of The Westfield Service League.

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JEFFERSON HALLWAYS TRANSFORMED INTO MAGICAL SCENES



(above) Community service is just one scene depicted as 2nd and 3rd graders at Jefferson Elementary School recently joined parent volunteers in transforming school hallways into a magical scene of the many events that take place each year.



(above) Jefferson second grader Rishaan Salariya joins schoolmates and parent volunteers last month in painting colorful murals in school hallways.



(above) Jefferson School principal Dr. Susie Hung lends an artistic hand as students and parent volunteers join together to paint several murals in school hallways.

Second and third graders at Jefferson Elementary School recently joined parent volunteers in transforming school hallways into a magical scene that showcases the many events taking place each year.

Painstakingly painted on the walls of certain hallways are colorful scenes depicting the annual Jefferson Jubilee, Field Day, Community Service Day and band and chorus concerts. The project was guided in November by artist and art educator Caren Frost Olmsted who teaches through Morris Arts and The Center for

Contemporary Art and is founding co-chair of ARTsee Open Studio Tour.

This artistic undertaking is a continuation of a mural painted last year at Jefferson's main entrance hallway by third, fourth, and fifth grade students and parent volunteers.

"These murals are made possible by monies donated by the Jefferson PTO," says Jefferson principal Susie Hung. "We are so grateful to the Jefferson community for its support of these projects and for the countless hours of volunteering throughout the school year."



(above) Second and third graders at Jefferson Elementary School recently joined parent volunteers in transforming school hallways into a magical scene of the many events that take place each year.



Photos by Westfield Public Schools

Leo Charles Salon?

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FASHION SHOW FOR SENIORS

Submitted by Sylvia Martinez

Volunteers with The Westfield Service League, along with a couple of members' spouses, recently put on a Fashion Show for residents of Cranford Senior Housing. WSL members modeled fashions from the Thrift Shop it operates at 114 Elmer Street in Westfield. After the show, residents were able to buy some of the clothing and accessories modeled, along with other items brought to the senior housing facility. Residents

were thrilled with the fashions and affordability of the many items. A non-profit organization, WSL also operates a Consignment Shop at the same location. Proceeds from the shops are distributed via grants to other non-profits in Westfield and Union County. WSL is in its 86th year and has awarded more than \$2.8 million in grants over the decades. To learn more, visit thewestfieldserviceleague.org.



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GRIEF IS NOT SOMETHING WE "GET OVER" - SEMINAR SERIES

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave., will hold their eight-week seminar "Journey to Wholeness- Healing the Grieving Heart" on Sunday evenings from January 13, 2019 to March 3, 2019.

Patti Williams, R.N. and certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Virginia Waters, Ph.D. and psychologist, will lead the sessions from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Prime Time Room at the church. This location is handicapped accessible.

Williams and Waters have offered this seminar for over 18 years, and have helped 2,800 people experience healing, find a new purpose for their lives and feel joy once again. "This is an experience like no other," states Williams.

The sessions include learning about the stages of grief and understanding the tasks of the grieving process, coping strategies, dealing with loneliness, building a support system and more.

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

One participant, Joan, states, "I have learned more along this heartbreaking journey than I ever

thought possible. I have learned that you will never ever forget your love and that you are changed forever, but you need to give yourself permission to heal. I have learned that I can revisit the past, but I cannot live in it, because it undermines my present and all that I have is just today. I have learned that love never dies and my love is with me always because he sends me signs to tell me so. These are my greatest treasures. I have learned that by keeping his memory alive with stories, photos etc. it makes me smile and brings me a kind of peace. I believe that your

loved one only wants the best for you and you will be reunited one day."

Both of the leaders and all of the facilitators have experienced loss within their lives and share from the inside out. "It does not matter if the loss is divorce, death or job loss; loss is loss, it must be grieved. It does not matter how long ago you experienced loss. Bring family members and friends," states Williams. All faiths are welcome. To register for this event, call Williams at 908-709-1341. No fee is charged, though registration is required.

WOMAN'S CLUB WELCOMES RAPHAEL'S HOUSE

At a general meeting of the Woman's Club of Westfield held recently at The Masonic Lodge in Westfield it was the pleasure of the members to welcome Edie Coogan and Lori Ruzich who represented Raphael's Life House in Elizabeth.

This wonderful sanctuary began in 1953 and has offered ever since to this day a safe haven for pregnant, young women who have nowhere else to turn. The young ladies learn how to be good

mothers and are schooled in parenting classes and learn the ability to support themselves while living in an ideal environment. This is a safe place where the mothers are given the chance to rebuild their lives regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, or economic status.

All are welcomed at Raphael's Life House and are offered the help that they need to begin new lives with their babies.



(above, l-r) Patti Williams,, RN, certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Dr. Virginia Waters, Ph.D., phycologist, have been running the Grief Seminar for 18 years.



(above, l-r) Mary Ann Sepe WCW Vice President, Gordon Tomas Ward Musician, Edie Coogan Raphael's Life House co founder, Pat D'Angelo WCW President, Lori RuzichRaphael Life House volunteer Lori and Grace Ann Meyn WCW Cprrespnding Secretary.

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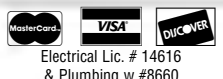
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THREE STUDENTS SELECTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS REGIONAL ENSEMBLES

Three Westfield High School students are among more than 780 of the most musically talented high school students in the Eastern region of the United States selected to perform in the 2019 NAFME All-Eastern Honors Ensembles to be held in April.

Selected to perform with the All-Eastern Honors Orchestra are senior Kevin Li (1st Violin Section) and junior Brooke Walden. Senior Matthew Siroty will sing with the All-Eastern

Honors Chorus.

Students will spend three days rehearsing with one of five conductors during the Eastern Division Conference of the National Association for Music Education (NAFME), to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in preparation for performances on April 7, 2019.

The All-Eastern Honors Ensembles consist of a concert band, symphony orchestra, mixed chorus, treble chorus, and jazz ensemble.



(above l-r) Senior Kevin Li and junior Brooke Walden will perform with the 2019 All-Eastern Honors Orchestra next April in Pittsburgh. Senior Matthew Siroty will sing with the All-Eastern Honors Chorus. Photo by Westfield Public Schools

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GREATER WESTFIELD AREA UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

**Join us for breakfast networking at
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on Tuesday January 9th from 8:00am – 9:30 am

Coffee and breakfast treats 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 pm on 1/7. Additional cost at the door. Don't forget your business cards! Parking is free until 10 am on Quimby Street, at all municipal lots, and the North Side Train Station.

**3rd Annual Legislative Panel- The Path To Progress
January 23rd 11:00am-1:00pm**

Echo Lake Country Club
515 Springfield Avenue, Westfield

<https://www.gwaccnj.com/events/legislative-panel/>

**Please join us for a panel discussion with the top
legislators in New Jersey.**

on Wednesday, January 23th

It's our the 3rd Annual Legislative Panel – focusing on the “Path to Progress”, a report issued by the New Jersey Economic & Fiscal Policy Workgroup. Introducing a new format this year with more audience participation! Immediately, after each question from the Moderator, the audience will be permitted to ask two additional follow-up questions.

Be prepared with questions! The panelists will discuss the current issues our NJ legislators are working on to help businesses and residents.

Full buffet lunch will be served.

\$30 for members and \$35 for non-members.

Additional cost at the door if space is available.

RSVP in advance online before 01/21 at 2 pm limited seating.

SCHEDULE

11:00 – 1130:pm – Lunch and Networking
11:30am – 1pm – Program

Happy Hour Networking at Kennedy's Barber Shop

January 24th 6:00-7:30pm
226 North Ave W, Westfield

<https://www.gwaccnj.com/events/networking-happy-hour-kennedys/>

Join us for networking at

Kennedy's All American Barber Club

on Thursday, January 24th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm

located on 226 North Ave W Westfield. We'll be enjoying wine/beer and cheese and other refreshments. Prospective members are welcome. Online registration is open until 1:45 pm on 1/23. Members are \$10 and Prospective Members are \$15. Don't forget your business cards!

MultiChamber Networking Event At Galloping Hill

January 30th 6:00-8:00pm,
325 Chestnut Street, Union

<https://www.gwaccnj.com/events/multi-chamber-networking-event/>

**Join us to meet business professionals from the GWACC
and Edison, Cranford Area, Gateway Regional, Greater
Elizabeth, Linden, Springfield, Suburban, Union
Township chambers.**

on Wednesday, January 30th from 6-8 pm

Enjoy the delicious all-you-can-eat buffet and make valuable contacts. Bring plenty of business cards. Sponsorship Tables are available. Please contact your local Chamber for information.

This event is limited to 275 attendees, so please register today. \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members.

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COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED TO HOLD OPEN AUDITIONS FOR "HAIRSPRAY, JR." IN JANUARY

Holy moly, welcome to the '60s! The CAU Community Players, an integrated theater troupe that brings together performers with and without developmental disabilities, is holding open auditions for an upcoming production of "Hairspray, Jr." Auditions will be held January 22, 24 and 26, 2019.

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), a Union County-based human services agency, created the troupe in 2012 to create a space for people of all ages and abilities to perform and demonstrate their unique talents. The productions also allow individuals from the greater community to interact with people with disabilities and further the agency's mission of community integration. CAU strives to integrate people with disabilities and at-risk youth into the general community through housing, vocational and life-skills training, education, advocacy, recreation and more.

The CAU Community Players stage a three-

day production that draws hundreds of attendees each year. This year, the troupe chose "Hairspray, Jr," the Tony Award-winning musical about one girl's inspiring dream to dance and change the world, for its themes of overcoming adversity to achieve integration and equality.

Spunky, plus-size teen Tracy Turnblad has one big dream – to dance on the popular "Corny Collins Show." She finally gets her shot and is transformed from social outcast to sudden star. Balancing her newfound power with her desire for justice, Tracy fights to dethrone the reigning Miss Teen Hairspray and integrate a TV network in the process. With the help of her outsized mom, Edna, and guest DJ, Motormouth Maybelle, the rhythm of Tracy's new beat proves unstoppable.

The CAU Community Players select a play that is representative of the agency's message of inclusion, acceptance and believing in oneself, as well as everyone's worth regardless of their

circumstances, according to troupe director Marguerite Modero.

"The message of this play is really important to me – embracing who you are and celebrating uniqueness," Modero said. "The subplot about the racial discrimination that took place in the '60s also fits our cause. Tracy and her mom also know what it's like to be discriminated against due to their size. People with disabilities often are discriminated against, so this message resonates with our members and their families."

Auditions are open to people of all ages and abilities. No registration or acting experience is required.

"We meet everybody where they start, and we grow from there," Modero said. "I think new cast members will find this is one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives, to work together with others to produce something that is so heartwarming and has such an important message."

For more information about the CAU Community Players visit caunj.org and click on Recreation/CAU Community Players.

Audition schedule:

Tuesday, Jan. 22 – 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 24 – 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 26 – 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.,
with call backs 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Location:

80 West Grant Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202



(above) Cast members of "Annie, Jr." during one of last year's performances.

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