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North Plainfield's Hometown Newspaper

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PLAINFIELD MUSICIAN TO RECEIVE ROTARY CLUB AWARD

Submitted by Michael Townley

The Rotary Club of the Plainfields has announced that Plainfield resident Victoria Griswold, former owner of the Plainfield Music Store, will receive the 2019 Service Above Self Award at the club's 20th Annual Wine Tasting Dinner. The event will be held on May 1, 2019 at Giovanna's Restaurant in Plainfield, and is a fundraiser for the club's scholarship program.

Ms. Griswold is a renowned pianist who rescued the Plainfield Music Store when it's former owner retired. She moved the store to 120 North Avenue in Plainfield and built it into the area's premier location for sheet music. She is a member of the Plainfield Music Club, the Watchung Book Club, the Plainfield Arts Council, and numerous other organizations in support of the arts. Ms. Griswold has played with the Plainfield Symphony and many other musical groups over her career. She was recently a highlighted performer at the Plainfield Music Club's Black History Month presentation at the Plainfield Public Library.

Club President Roberta Smith cited Ms. Griswold's dedication to the arts and to her membership and service as a Rotarian as the determining factors in her selection for the award:

"Your spirit of volunteerism is manifested in the many ways that you have served the people in our area in both club and community activities. None of us on the Board can recall any club project that you did not raise your hand and volunteer to serve or chair. Third graders enjoy your presentation of dictionaries every year. Our scholarship program has benefited from your insightful review and selection of candidates every single year. Even after long hours at the Plainfield Music Store, you found time to volunteer for multiple games at Rutgers, staffing concessions for our scholarship fundraiser. In the hot sun or cloudy shade, you are always there at our Track and Field Meet and for work at the Giving Garden. These are but a few of the projects that have benefitted from your participation.

"We also will present this award in recognition of your service and accomplishments as a musician par excellence. Your dedication to music drove your decision to take ownership of the Plainfield Music Store and save it for music lovers everywhere. Under your ownership, the business expanded its reach with on-line sales and served as a resource for even more musicians throughout the world. You supported this business as a labor of love for music lovers everywhere.

Past recipients of the Rotary Service Above Self Award include Janice Allen, former mayor and councilwoman of North Plainfield (2010 - inaugural recipient); William Parenti, North Plainfield Chief of Police (2011); Michael Townley, South Plainfield resident and Rotary member (2012); Donna Albanese, Plainfield business owner and leader (2013); Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, Superintendent of Schools North Plainfield (2014); Plainfield Mayor Adrian Mapp (2015); North Plainfield Mayor Michael Giordano (2016); Shirley Weaver Thompson of South Plainfield (2017); and then-Freeholder Linda Carter of Plainfield (2018).



(above) Vicky Griswold, recipient of the Rotary of the Plainfields' 2019 Service Above Self Award. Photo courtesy of Plainfield Arts Council.

Tickets for the Wine Tasting Dinner are \$70.00 each and are available on-line at tinyurl.com/2019WineDinner. A tax deductible portion of the cost is available because credit card payments go to the Rotary club's foundation (Rotary PNP, Inc.), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Seating is limited and early reservations recommended. Tables will be reserved for parties of eight or more.


For more information about the Rotary Club of the Plainfields, visit their website at RotaryPNP.org. The club meets every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. at Giovanna's Restaurant, 1462 South Avenue in Plainfield, except for Social Hours at The Coffee Box at 8:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested in learning more about Rotary and the club is invited to attend a meeting as a guest of the Club.

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The Pride of North Plainfield is published by Renna Media. 6,500 newspapers are printed monthly and are mailed to every businesses and homes in North Plainfield, NJ using the 07060 zip code and are distributed for free pick-up throughout town.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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VERMEULE MANSION ANNOUNCES GIANT YARD SALE, APRIL 27TH

We're back!! The Friends of Vermeule Mansion (FOVM) announces their annual Giant Yard Sale to be held on Saturday, April 27th, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the grounds of the Vermeule Mansion, at the corner of 614 Greenbrook Road and Clinton Avenue. A rain date is scheduled for Sunday, April 28th. Buyers are greeted with a wide variety of goods for sale that day.

Interested in participating as a vendor? We need you, too! For North Plainfield residents, this your opportunity to have an additional sale date above and beyond the allotted three garage sale limit/per household, and for a lower cost!

Vendor spaces cost are 10' x 10' space is \$10 paid prior to April 12th. Spaces are \$15 if reserved and paid for after April 12th. No tables or chairs will be provided, and no food items may be sold by vendors. Sellers may set up at 8 am,

and sign-in is at the driveway. All vendors must vacate the property by 4:30 p.m., and must take their remaining unsold items and trash with them.

Food and drink will be offered for sale by the FOVM throughout the day. For more information and an application to reserve a space for the day, call Janice Allen at 908-753-1151.

The proceeds from the Yard Sale help fund various activities the Friends of Vermeule Mansion (FOVM) offer to the public, often free of charge, including Music at the Mansion concert series, Journey through the Past history event, scholarships and other special events.

Please come out and support us in our endeavors.

Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/vermeulemansion and look for our event page, facebook.com/events/257291831815236

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WEST END SCHOOL PTA TO HOLD ITS ANNUAL BASKET AUCTION

Submitted by Karen Maloney

The West End PTA Presents




(above) This year's Beth's Baskets trickie tray will have over 200 prizes featured.

The West End School PTA will hold its annual basket auction, "Beth's Baskets" for the eighth consecutive year on Saturday, April 6, 2019. A community tradition originally named "Basket-Palooza," "Beth's Baskets" was renamed three years ago after the sudden passing of the school's beloved principal, Beth Sobel.

This adult-only, tricky tray-style event is the West End PTA's annual fundraiser. The profits help sponsor many events and activities for the students, as well as the purchase of additional educational supplies and opportunities.

There are well over 200 prizes including: Disney Park Hopper passes, designer handbags, a generator, tickets to theatre and sporting events, themed baskets, gym memberships, gift cards to local and regional eating establishments, and so much more! There are four prize levels with prize

tickets sold in sheets of 25 for the first three (white, pink, and blue), and top tier (gold) sold individually. Ticket packages will also be available for purchase as well as 50/50 tickets.

Doors open at 6 p.m. with the first ticket to be pulled at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15/person (includes one sheet of level one tickets). Pre-sale admission tickets as well as reserve tables for 10 people (\$140) are available at squareup.com/store/WestEndPTA.

Cash and credit cards will be accepted at the event for admission and ticket purchases.

"Beth's Baskets" will be held at West End School, 477 Greenbrook Rd., North Plainfield, NJ. On-site parking available. For more information, visit: tinyurl.com/weptabasketauktion.



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North Plainfield Events



- 4/6 8:30am Fishing Derby
Green Acres Park
 - 4/13 2pm Easter Egg Hunt
(rain date 4/20)
Vermeule Park
 - 4/19 Good Friday - Borough Hall Closed
 - 4/19 Passover Begins - Happy Pesach!
 - 4/21 Happy Easter!
 - 4/27 9:30am Giant Yard Sale
(rain date 4/28)
Vermeule Mansion Grounds
- Coming 5/4 - SPRING CLEAN COMMUNITY DAY
- See northplainfield.org For More Info
Questions? - 908 769-2902
events@npmail.org

NORTH PLAINFIELD STUDENTS HELP CRANFORD BASED DOG RESCUE

North Plainfield, NJ students in Ms. Friedman's seventh grade English class began an important project in February. Upon completion of a persuasive writing unit in class, Lauren DeNoma, of Best Friend Dog and Animal Adoption based out of Cranford, visited the students with some special friends. She discussed this organization's mission and the importance of their work.

Students took notes during the presentation, and have now begun using their newly acquired skills to solicit donations for the rescue. Each student chose a business in the Cranford area, and began writing a persuasive letter to their chosen business. They are hoping not only to raise money with their letters, but also raise awareness for the need to adopt rescue dogs rather than shop for them.

In addition to this writing project, Student Council sold paper paw prints for \$1. For one week students and faculty purchased paw prints that are on display in the school's hallway. All money raised will go to saving one dog from a

high kill shelter. Students who participate in the fundraiser will be entered into a contest, and the winner will have the opportunity to name the newly rescued dog!

About Best Friend Dog and Animal Adoption Best Friend Dog and Animal Adoption is a 501(c)3 non-profit, no kill, all-volunteer organization. We are a small group of people dedicated to giving dogs and cats a second chance at life. Our mission is to find forever homes for so many of our area's unwanted, abandoned and/or neglected animals.

When they become a part of the Best Friend family we take care of all their basic needs, try to train and socialize them the best we can, and place them in loving homes. In the meantime, they receive medical treatment, food, shelter and love, but what they really need is a forever home.

If you are interested in adopting or fostering one of our dogs or cats, please call to arrange an appointment with us. All adopters are required to complete a pre-adoption form.

For more information visit bfdaaa.com.

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(above) Students with Shorty.



(above) Lauren DeNoma, of Best Friend Dog and Animal Adoption, and Shorty.

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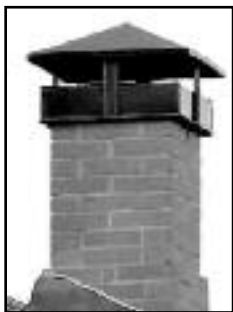
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ALL AGE PROGRAMS

Family Storytime - Fables and Tables

(families with children)

April 13, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Family Night - Recycled Crafts

(families with children)

April 25, 7-8 p.m.

CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAMS

You're So Punny Challenge (grades 5-12)

April 1, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Storycrafters (grades 5-12)

April 2, 3:30-5 p.m.

Toddler/Preschool Storytime- Rhyme and Play

(ages 18-60 months)

April 3, 10, 17; 10-11 a.m.

Minecraft Club (grades 4-7)

April 3, 3:30-5 p.m.

Baby/Toddler Storytime - Discover Stories

(ages birth - 36 months)

April 4, 11, 18; 10-11 a.m.

LEGO® Club (grades 2-5)

April 8, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Culinary Creators (grades 5-12)

April 9, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Young Adult Advisory Council (grades 5-12)

April 10, 3:30-5 p.m.

Saturday Teen Cinema

"The House with a Clock in Its Walls"

(ages 10 and up)

April 13, 1-3 p.m.

Knitflix (grades 4-12)

April 16, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Learning Lab - Earth Science (grades K-5)

April 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Baking and Books - Lemon Cookies (gds 2-5)

April 29, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Writers' Group

April 2, 16; 6-8 p.m.

Computer Help

April 3, 11 a.m. - noon

Book Discussion: "The Muralist"

by B.A. Shapiro

April 4, 1-2p.m. & April 18, 7:15-8:30p.m.

U.S. Citizenship Course

April 4, 11, 18, 25; 6-8 p.m.

Knit and Crochet

April 9, 23; 10 a.m. - noon

English Conversation Group

April 15, 22, 29; 7-8:30 p.m.

Cooking Class - Spiced Air-Fried Chickpeas

April 20, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Book Turned Movie Film Discussion

"The Great Gatsby,"

on April 27, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Healthy Avenues Van

April 30, 1-3 p.m.

NEW SPANISH-ENGLISH BILINGUAL PUBLIC SPEAKING CLUB

District 83 Toastmasters announces the formation of a non-profit Spanish English bilingual public speaking club. The working name is "Club Liderazo y Comunicacion Toastmaster". The club meets at the North Plainfield Public Library, in the Woodland Room on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Members meet to deliver and evaluate prepared and impromptu speeches in an effort to improve as speaker and leaders. Toastmasters is 94 years old. Guests are always welcome. Inquiries can come to Jim Samuel, 732-631-0114.

District 83 Toastmasters anuncia la formación de un club bilingüe de habla pública en español, sin fines de lucro, en español. El nombre de

trabajo es "Club Liderazo y Comunicación Toastmaster". El club se reúne en la Biblioteca Pública de North Plainfield, 6 Rockview Ave, North Plainfield, NJ 07060, en el Woodland Room, el 2 ° y 4 ° sábado, de 10 a.m. a 11:30 a.m. La reunión de inicio es el sábado 23 de febrero de 2019.

Los miembros se reúnen para pronunciar y evaluar discursos preparados e improvisados en un esfuerzo por mejorar como oradores y líderes. Toastmasters tiene 94 años.

¿Podría por favor enviar una explosión a su lista para anunciar el club, tal vez en español e inglés, y publicar el evento en el periódico, por favor? Los huéspedes siempre son bienvenidos. Las consultas pueden venir a mí, Jim Samuel, 732-631-0114.

SAFE+SOUND SOMERSET SEEKING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE TEAM (DVRT) VOLUNTEERS

Submitted Joe Godby

In collaboration with local police departments in Somerset County, Safe+Sound Somerset's Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) volunteers provide immediate support to domestic violence survivors and information regarding the law, safety options, and available resources at the moment of crisis.

DVRT volunteers empower survivors of domestic abuse by:

- Decreasing the emotional trauma experienced by victims;
- Educating survivors about the dynamics of domestic violence; and

- Increasing survivors' awareness of community resources and legal options available to them.

Safe+Sound Somerset is currently accepting applications from individuals interested in becoming DVRT volunteers. All applicants must pass a comprehensive criminal and motor vehicle background check and the Domestic Violence 40-hour training, including specific training components to be a DVRT volunteer.

If you are interested in becoming a DVRT Volunteer, submit a Volunteer Inquiry Form online at safe-sound.org/support/volunteer or call Deanna Keller, Volunteer Associate, at 908-359-0003, ext. 202.

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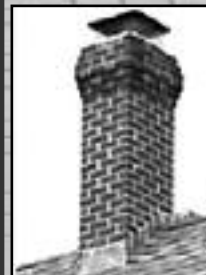
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NORTH PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT ACHIEVES RE-ACCREDITATION

Police Chief William G. Parenti announced that a team of assessors from the New Jersey Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission "NJLEAC" arrived on Sunday, January 20th, 2019. The assessors re-examined all components of the Police Department's policies, procedures, management, operations, and support services. The accreditation program requires police agencies to comply with modern police standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations and support services. "North Plainfield Police was the first agency in Somerset County to receive the coveted accredited status and it is our pledge to be continue to be held to a higher standard and obtain our 4th Re-Accreditation." Chief Parenti said.

Every three years law enforcement executives from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police come to the North Plainfield Police Department to confirm that we continue to meet the standards. A copy of the standards is available at the Borough Clerk's office and posted on the Police Department's website. For more information, contact Sergeant William Speck at 908- 769-2970.

Chief Parenti stated "Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping law enforcement agencies calculate and improve their overall performances. The assessors for our Re-Accreditation were from the Rutgers University Police and the Edison Police Department. I thank the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police for pursuing the concept and developing a voluntary statewide Law Enforcement

Accreditation program for New Jersey.

I want to praise the men and women of this Department. These Officers make a difference in people's everyday lives. It is a testament to them that the North Plainfield Police Department is an Accredited Police Agency. North Plainfield's motto is 'A Proud Community' and the North Plainfield Police strive to be held to that higher

standard. We thank the Mayor, Council, and the public we serve for their support."

The accreditation leader stated he was going to recommend the department be reaccruited and was quoted as saying "Chief Parenti's leadership clearly resonates throughout this police department and North Plainfield Police should be used as an model for others to follow."

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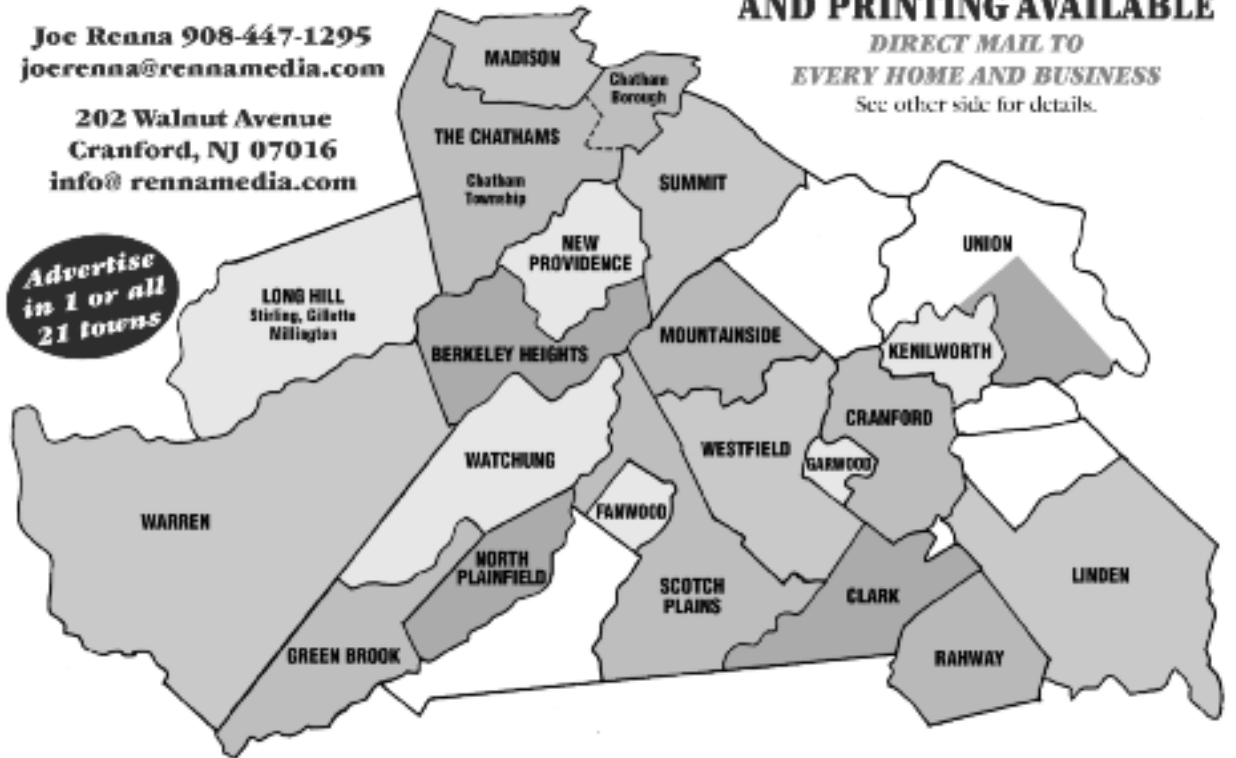
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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
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HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND OTHER RESOURCES AT LIBRARY

Alternatives, Inc. and the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) are continuing their partnership throughout 2019, offering residents housing assistance and other resources through satellite office hours hosted at SCLSNJ's branches.

"SCLSNJ is excited to announce our partnership with Alternatives, Inc. We are pleased to meet the needs of our communities by creating spaces which allow for meaningful interactions and connections," said Lauren Ryan, SCLSNJ manager of branch services - strategic initiatives and special projects.

"I feel honored to be collaborating with the Library System, which has provided Alternatives new opportunities to better the lives of individuals in the community we serve. Being able to educate, offer support, and connect people to resources and community providers is very fulfilling. Through this partnership, the library staff and I are able to learn about the needs in the community and to help individuals gain more

independence and achieve their own personal journey towards recovery," said Heather Bielefeldt, LAC, director of intake and admissions at Alternatives, Inc.

Services provided will include: clinical counseling, psycho-education, assistance with daily living skills, money management, and linkages to community resources, medical and mental health providers, housing, and more.

"Like other senior managers at the Library, I serve on boards of local non-profits, not just to lend a hand but to partner with them in addressing community needs. As a result, we find opportunities to partner and to develop new ways to align the strengths of each agency in better achieving our mutual missions," said Brian K. Auger, SCLSNJ county library administrator.

Alternatives, Inc.: Satellite Office Hours Hosted at SCLSNJ

April 17, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., hosted at the North Plainfield branch located at 6 Rockview Avenue in North Plainfield.

Drop-in hours only. No appointment required. To learn more about Alternatives, Inc., visit alternativesinc.org. For more information on the Library System, visit SCLSNJ.org.

ABOUT ALTERNATIVES, INC.

Alternatives, Inc. provides comprehensive services to individuals and families with special needs enabling them to reach their highest level of independence and integration into the community. Alternatives, Inc. is committed to being the human services agency of choice in providing residential and support services to people in the Greater Central New Jersey community. Alternatives, Inc. person-centered philosophy is dedicated to providing each person served the support they need to assist them in achieving their goals. No matter what challenges you may face, Alternatives will develop an individualized plan to help you on your journey as an active member of our community. Learn more at alternativesinc.org.

ABOUT SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM OF NEW JERSEY

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit SCLSNJ.org.



MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR BUSINESS GROWTH

Participants will discover how communicating with customers regularly can help a small business stay connected, and generate increased referrals, repeat sales, and unwavering customer loyalty. Attendees will learn best practices and proven strategies and will have plenty of time to ask questions, share experiences, and network with peers.

DATE: April 18, 2019
TIME: 9:00 am - Noon
LOCATION: Small Business Administration office (10th floor) 2 Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102

Corner of McCarter Highway & Market Street, one block from Newark Penn Station

COST: \$20
REGISTER: <https://www.gwaccnj.com/events/marketing-strategies/>
Phone: (908) 233-3021.

Space is limited. Please register by April 8.

Joe Renna, Renna Media
Joe has been in business since 1984 supplying businesses with a full array of marketing and advertising services. From developing business and marketing plans to multimedia production, Renna Media has focused on the needs of the local business owner offering customized, affordable, advertising opportunities for every size business.

Mr. Renna's presentation will address the different aspects of building a marketing plan and tuning up existing ones.

Participants will leave with the information to guide them in developing a plan that will get them the best return for their marketing budget. The presentation will encourage questions from the audience and will address specific challenges facing their business.

Michael Pilla, Pilla Creative Marketing
Michael has built his career on achieving business objectives by combining the best of art and technology, creating "Micro Celebrities" - helping clients to build a targeted, loyal, online community of fans and followers, customers and clients.

After working for several online agencies, Mr. Pilla founded Pilla Creative Marketing in 2003 to bring the power of online marketing to businesses and organizations - creating branding, websites, social and email marketing for companies in Arts & Entertainment, Food and Beverage, and Professional Services.

Participants will learn how to start and build a strong permission-based customer list, get their audience to open, read and act on their email, and leave with real-world insights and knowledge they can put to work immediately to help their business succeed.

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