

# Watchung Post

Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

NJ

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## WATCHUNG HILLS ELKS SUPPORTS "SENSORY GARDEN" AT THE SOMERSET CHILDREN'S CENTER

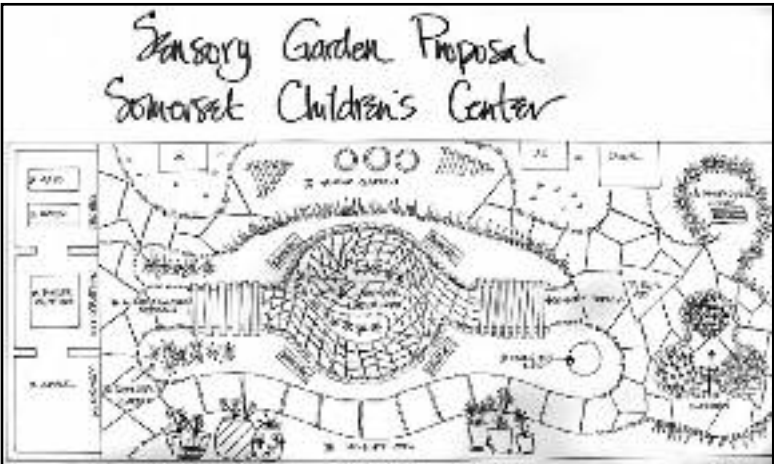
Submitted by Michael Ryder

The Watchung Hills Elks Lodge #885 recently presented the Somerset Children's Center with a \$4,000 donation to be put towards the replacement of their outdated playground with a "Sensory Garden." The garden is an area where children with multiple handicaps (Autism, Asperger Syndrome, and other communicative disorders) can find an environment that is conducive to rehabilitation and treatment. The funds were coordinated from a number of different sources. ENF Chair Joann Bataille secured an ENF Anniversary Grant in the amount of \$1,500. The Lodge 885 English Trust Fund matched the Anniversary Grant for another \$1,500, and our Special Children's Committee fund donated \$1,000.

The following people were involved in working on this opportunity: Danny Larsen, Lodge 885 ER; Joann Bataille, Lodge 885 ENF Chair; Marc Steinberg, Somerset Children's Center BOD Chairman; Michelle Waiser, Lodge 885 member and Trustee at the Somerset Children's Center; Mindy Hoppe, Director of the Somerset Children's Center; Kim DeVizio, Lodge 885 member and English Trust Fund BOD member; Stephanie Zitsch, Lodge 885 PER and English Trust Fund BOD member; Pia Grant, Lodge 885 member and English Trust Fund BOD member; and Betty Volker, Lodge

885 PDDGER and Special Children's Committee Chairperson.

Not yet a member? Are you interested in making new friends, providing direct service to veterans, special children or making a difference in your community? Consider joining the Elks – We have 7 acres of property, a members-only lodge/bar, swimming pool and other facilities. Start by contacting us at [membership@elkslodge885.org](mailto:membership@elkslodge885.org) or visiting our website at [elkslodge885.org](http://elkslodge885.org).



(above) A sensory garden is a garden environment that is designed with the purpose of stimulating the senses.



(above, l-r) Danny Larsen, Joann Bataille, Marc Steinberg, Michelle Waiser, Mindy Hoppe, Kim DeVizio, Stephanie Zitsch and Betty Volker.

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# Watchung Post

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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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## PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

**Organizations  
who are interested  
in submitting  
content can  
email**

**editor@rennamedia.com  
or call 908-418-5586**

## WYOMING SEMINARY WRESTLER MURRAY TO ATTEND MCKENDREE UNIVERSITY

Shaina Murray of Watchung, NJ, a senior wrestler at Wyoming Seminary, will continue her academic and athletic career at McKendree University, Lebanon, Ill., in fall, 2019. She is a member of the Sem Blue Knights girls varsity wrestling team, coached by Erin Vandiver and USA Women's Wrestling Team Champion Adeline Gray, and will wrestle for the McKendree Bearcats. The top-ranked Bearcats,

coached by Sam Schmitz, compete in the NCAA Div. II, Women's Collegiate Wrestling Association.

Wyoming Seminary is an independent, coeducational day and boarding college preparatory school located in northeastern Pennsylvania; it enrolls 485 students in grades nine through 12, as well as a postgraduate year.



(above, l-r) Seen following Shaina Murray's announcement are, (seated) Jamie Murray, mother; Shaina Murray, student-athlete; and Erin Vandiver, head varsity girls wrestling coach; (standing) Jim Anderson, Sem associate director of athletics.

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## LETTER CARRIERS' STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE – MAY 11

The 27th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is on Saturday, May 11, 2019.

The Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is happening on Saturday, May 11, 2019. On this day, you can set out your non-perishable food before your letter carrier's regular pick up time. The top requested non-perishable food items are: cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meals (such as soups, chili, and/or pasta), 100 percent juice, peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, canned protein (tuna, chicken, and/or turkey), beans (canned or dry). You can also donate healthy, low-sodium, low-sugar items such as beans, oatmeal, and other whole grains, and canola or olive oil.

Please do not donate frozen food, homemade food, or home-canned items. Please do not donate items that have expired or are in glass containers. In keeping with good food-handling and food-safety procedures, food that is opened, damaged, out of code or does not have the official ingredients will be discarded by the food bank in the sorting process.

The Food Drive is primarily a people food drive, but if you also want to give pet food in addition to your regular donation, food banks may be able to distribute or direct it to pet shelters and organizations in the area that have a need.

Please do not donate any form of individual baby food products, including formula, jarred vegetables and fruits, meals, snacks, infant cereal. Baby food may be donated by the case or pallet,

but single item donations present potential contamination risks and special handling requirements.

The Food Drive is primarily a food drive, but if you also want to give personal care items (such as diapers, laundry detergent, soap, toilet paper, and household cleaning items) in addition to your regular donation, food banks may be able to distribute or put them to good use with organizations that also provide help to those in need. Please note that not all food banks will be able to accept these items.

If you would like to volunteer with food distribution and sorting, or in any other capacity, call your local post office and ask to speak to the local food drive person there. Many food banks have a great need for volunteers on Food Drive Day, as well as all throughout the year.

All donations to the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive are tax-deductible because all the food collected on Food Drive Day is given

directly to non-profit charity food agencies in the community the food was collected. Though the National Association of Letter Carriers plans the Food Drive's logistics and letter carriers provide the transportation for each donor's generous donation, the National Association of Letter Carriers is not the agency that gets listed on tax forms for claiming deductions. There are more than 10,000 food agencies throughout the country that receive these donations, so if you itemize your taxes and want to provide proper credit for your Food Drive donations, you will need to determine the name of the agency (food pantry or other charity) that received your food, as well as the agency's address and tax I.D. number for proper reporting on your tax-filing forms. The Food Drive Coordinator at your local post office should be able to give you the name of the receiving agency, and that agency will likely have tax information handy.

For more information, visit: [nalc.org](http://nalc.org).



## Celebrate the Decades at The Chelsea at Warren

### 1960's

**Lunch & Learn**  
Wed June 5th  
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RSVP by June 3, 908-903-0911

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### 1940's

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Wed July 17th  
10:00 AM  
RSVP by July 15, 908-903-0911

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2	20	35	58	70
15	22	FREE	51	74
7	17	37	56	67
3	30	40	50	62

### 1950's

**Sock Hop Party**  
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2:15 PM  
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# THE GARDEN CLUB OF WATCHUNG'S ANNUAL HOME-GROWN PLANT SALE

*Submitted by Vonnice Mott*

The Garden Club of Watchung's Annual Home-Grown Plant Sale will take place at Best Lake parking lot in Watchung on Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Come early because our plants sell quickly!

Our plant sale is unique because the plants we offer have been grown and donated by our members. We have a wide selection of perennial plants that do well in our climate and most are deer resistant.

The plant sale is one of our major fundraisers. Proceeds enable us to carry out our community service projects. You will see us planting flowers on the Watchung Circle in May, give us a wave

as you drive by! For our Watchung Library, we support a summer children's program, decorate the children's reading room in winter, and plant flowers in the spring in the Shakespeare garden. We mentor the fourth grade Youth Gardening Club at Bayberry School. Two of our members are on the Traffic and Beautification Commission of Watchung Borough. Our garden behind the

Watchung Arts Center is filled with deer-resistant perennials. The Blue Star Memorial garden on Somerset Street honors those who have served and are serving to protect our country. Additionally, we contribute to organizations that protect and add beauty to our environment.

Interested in becoming a member? Give us a call 908-754-5766.



(above) The Garden Club of Watchung's Annual Home-Grown Plant Sale will take place at Best Lake parking lot in Watchung on Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

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# ARTS CENTER PRESENTS VIRTUOSO PIANIST SOPHIA AGRANOVICH

*Submitted by Shikha Sareen*

Virtuoso pianist Sophia Agranovich will perform a solo recital at the Watchung Arts Center on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 8 p.m. The program, Moonlight Remembrances, features 'Moonlight' Sonata by Beethoven, Scherzo #4 and other works by Chopin, selections of Transcendental Etudes by Liszt, and works by Mendelssohn and Debussy. The performance will be followed by a wine and dessert reception.

Internationally acclaimed soloist, chamber musician, recording artist and educator, Sophia Agranovich is "a bold, daring pianist in the tradition of the Golden Age Romantics...A tigress of the keyboard" - Fanfare. Her performances captivate audiences by the "orison of uncommon beauty" - Audiophile; "the ideal balance she achieves between the intellectual and the emotional" - Fanfare; "interpretation that dares to be different", "magnificent shading and superior musicianship" - American Record Guide.

A Steinway Artist, Ms. Agranovich has performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, Steinway Hall, Bargemusic, Salle Cortot, and Ehrbarsaal. Sophia Agranovich has collaborated with prominent musicians and members of major orchestras. She is a First Prize winner of Ukrainian Young Artists and Bergen Philharmonic competitions, a recipient of a Gold Medal and six Silver Medals from Global Music Awards, two Gold Medals from Prestige Music

Awards, Best Classical Solo from Akademia Music Awards, Best Classical Piano Album from Clouzine International Music Awards, and Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award. Her CD albums are broadcasted on major stations worldwide, most recently in Brazil, Canada and New York on WWFM and WQXR.

Sophia holds Bachelor and Master Degrees from the Juilliard School where she had a full scholarship and Fellowship teaching Piano Minor, and continued Doctoral studies at Columbia University. Her professors at Juilliard were the legendary Sascha Gorodnitzki and Nadia Reisenberg.

An esteemed pedagogue and adjudicator, Sophia Agranovich is a recipient of numerous teaching awards. Her students are consistently winning top prizes in regional, national and international competitions. Ms. Agranovich is the voting member of NARAS, listed in 'Who's Who in America' and 'Who's Who in the World', Artistic Director of The Classical Music Series at the Watchung Arts Center and Program Chair of Music Educators Association of New Jersey.

Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$10 for students and \$22 (\$20 for WAC members) at the door. You may purchase tickets securely through Eventbrite ([watchungartscenter.eventbrite.com](http://watchungartscenter.eventbrite.com)). Tickets can also be purchased in person during office hours, or by mail - include an email address or phone number with mail orders.

The Watchung Arts Center, located at 18

Stirling Road in Watchung on the Watchung Circle, is a multi-disciplinary arts facility serving Watchung, the surrounding communities and the Tri-State Area. To obtain more information about upcoming performances, classes and workshops, and monthly art exhibitions, please visit [WatchungArts.org](http://WatchungArts.org) or call 908-753-0190.



*(above) Sophia Agranovich*

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## 9TH ANNUAL WARREN WATCHUNG GREEN FAIR

The Warren Watchung Green Fair will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. at the Warren Middle School, 100 Old Stirling Road in Warren Township.

This event is sponsored by the Warren Township Committee under the guidance of the Warren and Watchung Borough Green Teams.

There will be activities, environmental information, an electric car display, and recycling collections of hard-to-dispose-of items.

The entire community is invited to this fun and engaging free event!

### WARREN-WATCHUNG GREEN FAIR

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## ARGYLE FISH & CHIPS DINNER EVENT - JUNE 1

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling is holding its Sixth Annual Argyle Fish & Chips Dinner event on Saturday, June 1, from 5 - 7 p.m. Plans are to hold it outside on the front lawn as has been the custom each year; some indoor seating will also be available. As in previous years, bagpiper David Palladino of Berkley Heights is scheduled to make an appearance.

The dinner is catered by Argyle Restaurant in Kearny, NJ. Their Fish & Chips dinner is legendary, and loved by many in the community. Dinner includes fish, chips, cole slaw, beverage and dessert. The dinner can be enjoyed at the church with others from the community, or can

easily be a "Take-Out" meal. There is also a "chicken option" for those who prefer it.

Funds raised at this annual event support the church and its mission activities. The church's mission of "Feeding Those Who Hunger" is met in a literal sense here: in the past 5 years of this event, over 100 free dinner tickets have been given to community members in need.

The church is located 158 Central Avenue in Stirling. Tickets in advance are \$21 for adults, \$16 for seniors, and \$11 for children under 10 (prices higher at the door) and are available from the church office or from any church member. For more info, contact the church at 908-647-1033 or online at [fpcstirling.org](http://fpcstirling.org).

## EARLY REGISTRATION FOR WATCHUNG RECREATION'S SUMMER CAMP

Watchung Recreation's Summer Camp early registration is now open for Watchung Residents.

The program will be held at Round Top Swim and Tennis Club, 106 Mt. Horeb Road, Warren. The 7-week program takes place from July 1

through August 16, 2019 full days rain or shine. All weekly trips included. Before and aftercare available.

Space will be limited. Open to ages 6 - 13. For registration forms & information, visit [watchungnj.gov](http://watchungnj.gov).

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2019

Far Hills is honored to share with you the list of secondary schools to which the 40 members of the Class of 2019 gained admission:

Academy of Saint Elizabeth  
 Avon Old Farms School  
 Berkshire School  
 Blair Academy  
 Brewster Academy  
 Choate Rosemary Hall  
 Debarton School  
 Deerfield Academy  
 George School  
 Gil St. Bernard's School

The Hill School  
 The Hotchkiss School  
 The Hun School  
 IMG Academy  
 Immaculate High School  
 Kent Place School  
 The Lawrenceville School  
 The Loomis Chatter School  
 Mercersburg Academy  
 Middlesex School

Montstewart School  
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 Northford Mount Hermon School  
 Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child  
 Orono Preparatory School  
 Reddie School  
 Phillips Academy Andover  
 Phillips Exeter Academy  
 The Pingry School  
 Princeton Day School  
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# HOPE MITCHELL SET TO ADVOCATE FOR LOCAL FOSTER YOUTH

*Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan*

Thanks to Hope Mitchell, Watchung was among 13 municipalities represented by the 15 newest court appointed special advocates tasked with serving as extra eyes and ears for family

law judges on the cases of Union County youth removed from their home due to abuse, neglect or abandonment and placed in foster homes or residential facilities. The ceremony was held on April 9, 2019 at the Union County Family

Courthouse.

After completion of approximately 30 hours' training with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County, Mitchell and her classmates took their oath and were sworn in as advocates and judicial volunteers by Superior Court Judge Richard Wischusen. After completion of three hours' court observation to see seasoned CASA volunteers in action, the new advocates will meet their assigned foster youth or siblings.

The new advocates range from age 23 to 66, are parents and nonparents, and work in such fields as education, nonprofit, and law enforcement, as well as homemakers. Most had no prior knowledge of the foster system.

With court-ordered access to foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, CASA volunteers incorporate their findings into court reports and work to ensure each youth's needs are met and best interests protected. They are a constant during chaos and work to ensure the youth's trauma is not exacerbated in care.

There are approximately 500 Union County youth from birth to age 21 in foster care, and more than 200 are still waiting for their very own CASA volunteer in their corner. Could that be you?

For further details as well as training opportunities, contact Courtney at [cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org) or 908-293-8136.



(above, l-r) Among the newest advocates for Union County's foster youth are Hope Mitchell of Watchung, Stephen Wells of Westfield, Elizabeth Bennett of Rahway, Marykate La Bau of Cranford, Miozotty Diaz of Roselle Park, Lisa Betz of Summit, Andrea Balbuena of Kearny, Maryann Kaelin of Clark, Judge Richard Wischusen, Daniela Faibes of Mountainside, Samiyyah Muhammad of Linden, Sabrina Stein of Towaco, Nisha St. Louis of Irvington, Marcela Tricanico of Elizabeth, Kristin Steinmetz of Mountainside and Patricia Walsh of Cranford.

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John Montanna

## PREACHER AND COMEDIAN TO PERFORM AT WILSON MEMORIAL MAY 4TH

Wilson Memorial Union Church, in Watchung, will present Susan Sparks, a stand-up comedian, on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 7 p.m. It will be a Benefit event to support the Church's Outreach programs. A book signing and light refreshments will follow the performance.

Rev. Susan Sparks, trial lawyer turned preacher and stand-up comedian, is the Senior Pastor at Madison Avenue Baptist Church, NYC and the author of Laugh Your Way to Grace and the soon to be released, Preaching Punchlines: The Ten Commandments of Standup Comedy.

Tickets are \$30 and are available through the church's website: wilsonmemorialchurch.org.

The performance will benefit the church's outreach programs including Starfish of Plainfield - which provides emergency food assistance, Neighborhood House - early childhood education center, Atlantic Home Care, Overlook Hospice, Haiti Partners - working to enhance education in Haiti, and World Neighbors - which works to alleviate hunger and poverty.

### Watchung - Warren Rotary Club

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# HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GIVES EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO SPECIAL NEEDS ADULTS

Submitted by Tom Kranz

A high school junior, volunteering her time, has brought creativity, comradery and joy to the adult residents of Mt. Bethel Village for almost two years in an extraordinary commitment of service to others.

Niharika (Nina) Iyer, who is finishing up her junior year at Watching Hills Regional High School, first reached out to Mt. Bethel Executive Director Carolann Garafola in 2017 with a desire to bring art projects to Mt. Bethel's developmentally disabled adults. The projects were designed to be done in two or three hours and could be taken back to each adult's apartment to be enjoyed later. They grew beyond day projects and are now part of the fabric of life at Mt. Bethel Village, located at 130 Mt. Bethel Road in Warren. During the month of April, Ms. Iyer continues visiting MBV, completing to date more than 22 projects over 66 hours on-site with countless additional hours of prep time including the purchase of materials. The projects are planned, in writing, and tied to seasonal events and holidays and are tailored to each individual's capabilities.

"Through these activities, Nina has taken time out of her weekends to come on-site to motivate our adults to create their own art," said Mrs. Garafola. "She also encouraged and helped them learn how to get along in a group, how to clean up after the activity, how to have fun with art and how to be proud of what they accomplished."

As you might expect, Ms. Iyer's parents are very proud of her.

"Niharika has grown tremendously through this experience that will be a part of her forever," said Sn Suresh, her father.

Mrs. Garafola has recommended Ms. Iyer for recognition by the National Honor Society.

"She did not get glory on a sports field, on a stage, but in the quiet walls of MBV," she wrote. "For a young woman to initiate such a project took a lot of fortitude, strength and commitment as working with adults with special needs is very challenging."

Mt. Bethel Village is an apartment-style residential community for adults with autism, developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries.



(above) Niharika Iyer, who through her volunteer efforts has completed more than 22 projects over 66 hours on-site at Mt. Bethel Village.



(above) New Year's Eve glasses were among the various art projects that Niharika Iyer completed with MBV residents,

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### Bus Trip – Miss. Lotta Lunch Cruise

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Cruising aboard the Miss. Lotta Paddle Boat, truly a unique experience on Lake Hopatcong. Trip includes round trip bus transportation. Buffet lunch inside dining cabin or roof deck. Cash bar. Bus departing 10:00 a.m. sharp, from Best Lake, Watchung. Returning approximately 3:30 p.m. Cost: Members \$45.00. Guests \$55.00. For more information call 908-561-1932

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## MAY PROGRAMS AT SCLSNJ'S WATCHUNG LIBRARY BRANCH

Located at 12 Stirling Road, Watchung, NJ.

Reach by phone at 908-458-8455

or visit online: SCLSNJ.org.

All programs listed are free. Registration is required unless otherwise indicated and programs are subject to change; visit SCLSNJ.org or call the library for more information and to register.

### ALL AGE PROGRAMS

Mini-Maker Art Space (families)

May 13, 27; 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

### CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAMS

Toddler Storytime - Tiny Tot Time  
(ages 18-36 months)

May 7, 10:30-11 a.m.

Preschool Storytime - Miss June's Room  
(ages 36-60 months)

May 9, 4-4:30 p.m.

Preschool Storytime - Just for You Storytime  
(36-60 months)

May 10, 10:30-11 a.m.

Bingo with Miss June  
(ages 4 and up)

May 10, 4-4:30 p.m.

Music with Miss Donna  
(ages birth - 5 years)

May 13, 10:30-11 a.m.

Creative Hands  
(grades K-2)

May 15, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

From Our Farms  
(ages 3-5)

May 17, 10-10:45 a.m.

Sing-Along Storytime  
(ages 18 months - 3 years)

May 20, 10-10:30 a.m.

The Bees' Knees  
(grades 2-5)

May 21, 4-4:45 p.m.

### ADULT PROGRAMS

Watchung Writers Group

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30;

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The Canasta Group

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; 1-3 p.m.

Learn Basic Hand Sewing Stitches

May 4, 11; 1-2:30 p.m.

Mah Jong Club of Watchung

May 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28; 1-4 p.m.

Game Night

May 6, 13, 20; 7-8:45 p.m.

Book Discussion

"Mennonite in a Little Black Dress,"

May 9, 7:30-8:45 p.m.

## SPRING INTO CRAFTS AT THE LIBRARY



(above) Children and their caregivers recently connected with storytime and a craft at the Watchung Library. Pictured are Watchung residents Madeline Mayers, 3, Alessia Berkowitz, 2, and Angela Coxe creating a 'Spring into Crafts' projects.

## LIBRARY JELLYBEAN CONTEST WINNER

Two-year old Chloe Xuan has won the Friends of the Watchung Library's jellybean-guessing contest. Here's Chloe with her prizes - the jellybeans (nearly 700 of them!) and a teddy bear almost as big as she is. Chloe's mom Iris reports that Chloe "loves the bear."

The Friends of the Watchung Library plan another contest for May. Library visitors can guess the title of a shredded book in the jar. There will be one contest for young children, one for teens, and a third for adults. Three winners will be drawn from the entries with the correct book titles.



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## CINEMARK OPENS NEW THEATRE ON RT 22

Cinemark Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: CNK), a leader in the motion picture exhibition industry, opened a new 10-screen theatre in Watchung, NJ, on Thursday, April 18, 2019. Located at 1670 Route 22 East, the Cinemark theatre features heated Luxury Lounger electric recliners in all auditoriums and an XD auditorium. Tickets are now available at [cinemark.com](http://cinemark.com).

"We are excited to bring Cinemark's top-of-the-line features and innovations to the Watchung community," stated Mark Zoradi, CEO, Cinemark. "Moviegoers can now enjoy 'The Best Seat in Town' as they make our first Somerset County Cinemark location their entertainment destination for years to come."

At the new Cinemark theatre, guests can look forward to seeing a variety of 2019 blockbusters including "Avengers: Endgame," "Aladdin," "Spider-Man: Far From Home," "The Lion King" and more. Cinemark guests will also experience cutting-edge technology and customer-preferred amenities such as:

- Ten ultra-modern auditoriums with wall-to-wall screens and enhanced sound systems;
- Cinemark Luxury Loungers – electric-powered, plush, oversize recliners with footrests, cup holders and heat-controlled seats;

- A Cinemark XD auditorium – the No. 1 exhibitor Premium Large Format (PLF) in the world, featuring state-of-the-art picture and sound quality;
- 4K digital projection powered by Barco projectors and RealD 3D capability in several auditoriums;
- Reserved seating with online, kiosk and app ticketing capabilities;
- A concession stand offering a variety of food and beverage options including freshly popped popcorn, fountain drinks, pepperoni or cheese pizzas, Hershey's Chocolate Chip Cookies, Edy's Ice Cream and an added selection of hot foods made fresh;
- Special discount pricing for Senior Mondays, Discount Tuesdays, and Active Military, and;
- A party room available to rent for birthday parties and other celebrations.

Guests can further enhance their moviegoing experience by signing up for Cinemark Movie Club, the monthly in-theatre membership program for \$8.99 per month, plus tax where applicable, which provides exclusive benefits including 20 percent off concessions, rollover and companion tickets, reserved seating and no online fees. For more information about the Movie Club, visit [cinemark.com/movieclub](http://cinemark.com/movieclub).



(above) Amenities include an XD auditorium with wall to wall screens and luxury lounges.



(above, l-r) Members of the press, Tina Renna of Renna Media and Dawn Del Russo of BellaDawn.com sampled the heated lounge chairs in the XD auditorium during a tour at a pre-opening event.



(above, l-r) The mural "The Legend of Watchung" by Garfield Hunter Jones was salvaged from the now defunct Sears Building which once stood on the Cinemark property will be a permanent fixture in the theater.



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# NJ SHARING NETWORK REPORTS THAT 678 LIFE-SAVING TRANSPLANTS TOOK PLACE IN 2018

NJ Sharing Network, the non-profit, federally designated organ procurement organization responsible for the recovery of organs and tissue in the state, has released statistics regarding donation in New Jersey during 2018. Last year, a total of 678 life-saving transplants were made possible, 537 from deceased donors and an additional 141 from living donors.

More hearts (79) were transplanted than ever before, representing an 18 percent increase over 2017. Additionally, an unprecedented number of eye donors (826) gave the gift of sight, a nine percent increase from the prior year.

These record-breaking numbers are against the backdrop of significant growth in organ transplantation in New Jersey, which has increased 35 percent over the last six years. In fact, 2018 marks the fourth year of over 500 organs transplanted in the state. Over that same timeframe, heart donation saw an enormous increase of 132 percent.

Transplants saw an upswing nationally, as well, with over 36,500 organ transplants performed in 2018. This sets an annual record for the sixth straight year, according to preliminary data from United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS).

Vernell Williams of Paterson, NJ, says that he is eternally grateful to a man named Victor Startek of Toms River, NJ, who passed away at age 27 and donated his heart and kidney. Startek had registered as an organ donor when he first got his New Jersey driver's license. His mother, Deborah Martinez, and twin sister, Ashley Startek, said that knowing Victor had already made the decision was an enormous relief for them. Williams, 50, who suffered from congestive heart failure, had waited months to receive a heart transplant and had nearly given up hope.

"The months that I spent in the hospital waiting for a new heart were the most challenging of my life. I'm an optimistic person, but I'd begun to think I was facing the end. That's when I got the call – and Victor literally saved my life."

Like Victor, nearly 40 percent of those who gave the gift of life in 2018 previously registered as an organ donor and made their wishes known to family and friends, and this number continues to grow.

"The increased percentage of donors who were previously registered speaks to the incredible job that our entire staff does to educate and inform

the community about the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation," said Joe Roth, President and CEO of NJ Sharing Network.

Today, there are nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents awaiting a life-saving transplant. Every day, approximately three people are added to the New Jersey waiting list, and one person dies

every three days while waiting for a transplant. One organ donor can save eight lives and one tissue donor can restore health to over 75 people. New Jersey residents can help save lives by registering as organ and tissue donors, having a conversation with family and friends and getting involved at NJSharingNetwork.org.

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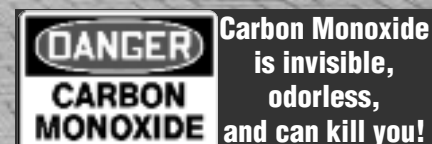
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