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## HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT SERVICE CLUB VISITS ROTARY CLUB

*Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart*

On Tuesday, September 3, 2019, the leaders of the Westifled High School Interact Service Club visited their sponsor, The Rotary Club of Westfield for lunch at Addams Tavern.

Interact President Gabby Scipioni spoke enthusiastically of the plans the Interact Club has for the coming year. She recently attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, a management training program to imbue leadership skills into the upcoming high school club leaders. This program includes team building and leadership training.

The Interact Club would like to build a vegetable garden at Westfield High School to honor the late principal Dr. Nelson. They would grow vegetables from seeds, water them, grow them, harvest them, and donate the vegetables to the local food pantry to help provide food to those in need. Other projects include making Gingerbread houses to help disabled children

at Bernice's Place; reading to children at Westfield Library, making care packages for the elderly; and to sponsor one child for the Gift of Life program, where a child has heart surgery to save their life.

The Interact Club plans to participate in some of the Rotary club activities, such as: making sandwiches at the Presbyterian Church; collecting of bicycles on Saturday, October 19, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.; and Breakfast with the Bands in the Spring.

The Rotary Club of Westfield meets the first two Tuesdays of the month at Addams Tavern for lunch at 12:15, and a third meeting which rotates among local restaurants, and one service project per month. Guests are always welcome. For more information the website is [westfieldrotary.org](http://westfieldrotary.org), or email Club Secretary Michael Hart [drmhart@yahoo.com](mailto:drmhart@yahoo.com).



*(above, l-r) Rotary Club Youth Liaison Heidi Obiajulu; Exchange student from Sicily Matilda Maria "Matty" Fedele; Alexandra "Alex" Blancato; Interact Club President Gabriella "Gabby" Scipioni; Christina LaPera; and Rotary Club President Liz Ensslin.*

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## WESTFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 11TH ANNUAL APPLEFEST

The Westfield Historical Society's AppleFest committee is pleased to invite our local community to the 11th annual AppleFest on Saturday, October 19 from noon-4:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Reeve History & Cultural Resource Center, 314 Mountain Avenue in Westfield.

Join the Westfield Historical Society and hundreds of friends and neighbors on Saturday, October 19, 2019, as we celebrate "Ring in Westfield 300"! The day's events and activities will go back in time, to highlight the culture and history of our town in yester years up to today!

This annual fund-raising event, hosted on the lawn of the Reeve House on Mountain Avenue, draws all ages. For AppleFest 2019, our celebrated Apple Café will feature an All-American BBQ with old and newer twists, presented by chef Greg Hichok. Our traditional

Apple Pie-baking contest will include a historic recipe category and the Westfield-grown band "Save Mary" will play cover tunes from the last 40 years, while the Westfield Ballroom dancers will swirl around. Historic-themed displays, a school art contest along with more of last year's popular Lightning Talks will round up the day's activities. Of course, there will be an assortment of old-fashioned kids' games and several quizzes for young and older! Thank you, as always, for your commitment to this town and its future. We look forward to seeing you on October 19.

AppleFest is an opportunity to explore history with friends and neighbors, while setting

traditions that will hopefully mark the future of our area. Please join us on October 19.

The Westfield Historical Society celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. 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.

For further information on the Westfield Historical Society and its activities, or to volunteer, call 908-654-1794 or visit [westfieldhistoricalsociety.org](http://westfieldhistoricalsociety.org); and like us on Facebook.



(above) The Westfield Historical Society will hold its annual AppleFest event on October 19 from noon-4 p.m. at the Reeve History and Cultural Resource Center. All are invited.

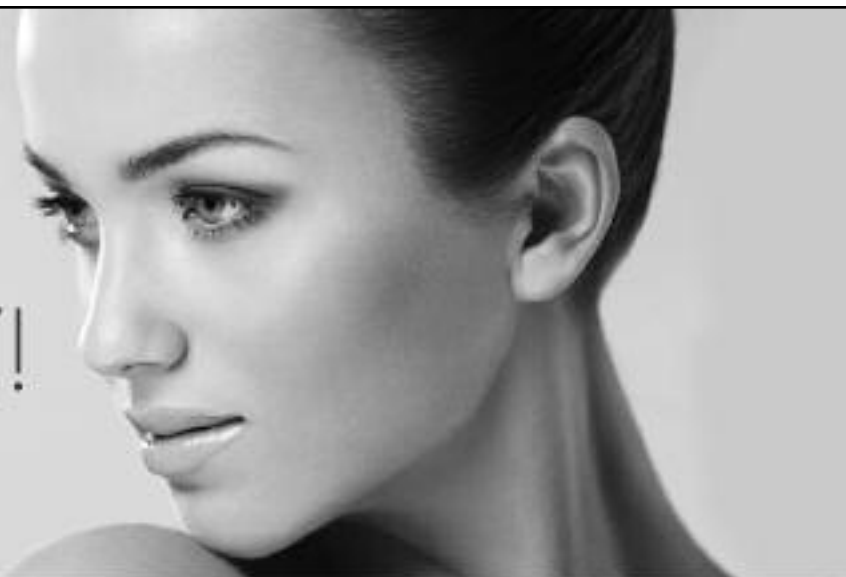
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## HI'S EYE HONORED BY THE COLUMBIA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

Westfield High School's student newspaper, Hi's Eye, received a Gold Medal for 2018-2019 from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, which provided an in-depth critique of hundreds of student newspapers across the U.S. and awarded Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals based on a numeric score on

essentials, verbal and visual categories. "Congratulations to our student journalists and advisers Shawn McDonald and Gail O'Connor on this prestigious national recognition of their hard work and professionalism," said Superintendent Dr. Margaret Dolan.



Photo by Westfield public schools

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## LIBRARY FRIENDS KNITTING UP COMFORT FOR LOCAL FOSTER YOUTH

*Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan*

As cooler temps begin to shoo the summer swelter, members of the Sharing the Warmth Group of The Friends of Westfield Memorial Library are helping ensure Union County's foster youth are ready for Mother Nature. The group's recent handmade and heartfelt donation of more than 30 knit and crochet afghans to the nonprofit Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County promises not just physical comfort to these fragile foster youth, but emotional warmth too. (After all, it's what's on the inside that counts.)

There are 500 Union County children, teens and young adults living in foster care through no fault of their own, and CASA of Union County's volunteer advocates serve approximately two-thirds of those youth. Advocates have court-ordered access to a child and all parties in their life, then report findings to the judge in order to ensure best interests remain a priority, needs are met, and the youth's trauma is not exacerbated while in care.

Upon seeing the panoply of colorful afghans, Executive Director Marla Higginbotham said, "Knowing such bright and happy works of art will go to and comfort children who have endured so much brings a smile to my face, as do the wonderfully talented members of Sharing the Warmth. Thank you all for investing your time

and entrusting your handiwork to CASA of Union County and the children depending on it. You have, indeed, shared the warmth."

Diane Weinberg, knitting group chairwoman, explained, "Sharing the Warmth is a group of volunteers who meet twice monthly at the Westfield Memorial Library to knit or crochet four-by-five foot afghans. In recent years, we've collected about 100 afghans from our hardworking volunteers. We are so pleased to have begun our ninth year of Sharing the

Warmth!" Other recipients include a Pennsylvania camp for children impacted by cancer, the library's Books on Wheels program, and Center for Hope Hospice.

Interested in becoming a court appointed special advocate for a local foster youth, or sponsoring or attending upcoming CASA events, including this fall's Foster the Dream Gala? Contact Courtney at 908-293-8136 or [cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org), or log on to [casaoofunioncounty.org](http://casaoofunioncounty.org) for details.



*(above) Sharing the Warmth, a group within The Friends of Westfield Memorial Library, presented more than 30 handmade afghans to CASA of Union County's Executive Director Marla Higginbotham for distribution to local foster youth served by the nonprofit. From left, are Meryl Reichman, Anna Lee Bachtell, Diane Weinberg, Peggy Holleran, Higginbotham, Barbara Uhr, Mary Ann Dolling and Cindy Colicchio.*



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## SIGN UP FOR FALL PROGRAMS WITH THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Registration is open for Fall Programs at the Westfield Recreation Department. Adults are encouraged to get out of the house this Fall and join us in our popular Tai Chi program on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Another energizing program to join is our Zumba & More classes on Mondays evenings 7:30-8:20 p.m. For both of these classes, all levels are welcomed. Stop by and try a class for a small fee.

This Fall, Westfield Rec. offers a wide variety of enrichment programs and afterschool classes which include: Sewing/Fashion Design (Thursday 4:15 p.m. grades 2-5, 5:15 p.m. grades 6 and up); Cartooning 5-6 p.m. and Pre-School Drawing 4-4:45 p.m. on Tuesdays; Creative Art on Mondays at 5 p.m. and Cool Chemistry on Fridays at 5 p.m. (both classes grades K-5). For LEGO fans we offer LEGO-Engineering: Jedi Master Engineering for ages 5-12 on Thursdays

4-5:30 p.m. Back again is our popular "Mannerations" courses: Social Etiquette on October 29 and Dining Etiquette on November 13. Both courses are an hour program for ages 6-10 and are geared for students to learn and practice manners and correct behavior. New this Fall for Pre-K is Music and Movement (ages 3-5 Tuesday 10-10:45 a.m.) and Drumline for Teens grades 6-8 (Monday 3:30-4:30 p.m.). It will cover the basics including marching techniques, warm-ups and real marching percussion. Also new is Safe@Home, a program designed for students in grades 4-6 to prepare them to be safe when they are home alone (3:45-5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20).

Keep your kids active this Fall by participating in our Fall Sports Classes with US Sports Institute. Classes are available for ages 2-11 and are offered in soccer, multi-sports, T-ball and lacrosse. Back by popular demand are our Pre-School Parent & Me classes and Pre-School Sport Squirts classes lead by US Sports Institute. When schools are off for vacation days (9/30, 10/1, 10/9, 10/14, 11/7, 11/8) we offer Schools Out Camps (full and 1/2 day available) Check out the schedule - there is a program for every age, with weekdays and weekends available. Go to their site at [ussportsinstitute.com](http://ussportsinstitute.com)

Westfield Recreation also offers Tennis lessons for both Youth (ages 3 and up) and Adults

(Thursday and Sunday mornings). For those who want to experience a new sport, try Fencing for grades 2-6. Participants learn the basic positions, rules and techniques of this sport. No prior experience is needed. New this Fall is our Field Hockey League for girls in grades 6-8 (Sunday 8:30-9:30 a.m.). Participants will learn new strategies, increase their game knowledge and put those new skills to use in scrimmages.

For teens, we are again offering the Safe Sitters Babysitting course. This course is for girls and boys grades 6-9 and three separate classes are being offered: Wednesday, October 9, Saturday, October 26 and Friday, November 8.

Join us on Saturday November 2 (9:30-11:00 a.m.) for a special workshop for women on protection and self defensive. "Women's Protection Workshop" is a collaboration with Sensei John Mirrione (Harmony by Karate) and the Rec. Department. This workshop teaches simple moves to stand up for and protect yourself in violent or hostile encounters.

All programs/classes require pre-registration. Register online: [secure.recl.com/nj/westfield-nj](http://secure.recl.com/nj/westfield-nj). For additional information, visit the Westfield Recreation website at [westfieldnj.gov/recreation](http://westfieldnj.gov/recreation) or email us at [recreation@westfieldnj.gov](mailto:recreation@westfieldnj.gov). You can also visit our Facebook page or contact the Westfield Recreation Department, 425 East Broad St., Westfield, at 908-789-4080.

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## CASA CELEBRATES WESTFIELD'S ANNE BRISTOW RADIO PERSONALITY JOE NOLAN TO EMCEE NOV. 8 GALA

Joe Nolan, veteran traffic and news reporter for radio and television stations in the New York City area, will emcee this year's Foster the Dream Gala, the premier fundraiser for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County, on Friday, Nov. 8, 2019.

Westfield's Anne Bristow will receive the Dream-Keeper Award for Outstanding Volunteerism, singled out for her exemplary commitment to Union County's most fragile youth: those removed from home because of abuse, neglect or abandonment and placed in foster care.

Now in its seventh year, the gala will move to the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Berkeley

Heights, a larger venue to better accommodate the increasing guests each year. The locale's elegant, avant-garde design and recently unveiled solarium known as The Glass House will enhance such festivities as cocktails, silent and live auctions, mystery bag prizes, raffles and the ever-popular wine pull. Dinner, dancing, and enthusiastic auctioneering all lead to the heart of the night: celebrating two volunteer champions.

Bristow, now working her second case with CASA of Union County, advocates for a 15-year-old transgender girl living in a system without resources to meet her needs. Anne has educated herself on LGBT rights and issues, participates in treatment and educational meetings, attends court hearings to report to the judge, and regularly visits her youth, having become an integral part of life for the teen, who initiates daily contact with Anne to check in. Anne's unwavering presence — even when her youth was suddenly hospitalized — cultivates resiliency in a young person otherwise abandoned, facing the navigation of life with the safety net of family. As a seasoned advocate,

Anne stepped up to train as a peer coordinator for the nonprofit and now oversees her own team of CASA volunteers.

This year's Honorable Jo-Anne B. Spatola Dream-Maker Award recipient is Laura Stuss of Mountain Lakes, a former advocate and board member. As gala chair for several years — and originator of the gala, now the organization's premier fundraiser — Laura has helped raise more than \$750,000.

CASA of Union County recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to advocate for children removed from home and placed into foster care due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. The nonprofit serves two-thirds of the approximately 500 Union County youth in foster care; its goal is to provide an advocate for each.

Tickets are \$150;

log on to [casaoofunioncounty.org/gala](http://casaoofunioncounty.org/gala) to purchase tickets or tables of 10.

For details, contact Alexis at [aslade@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:aslade@casaoofunioncounty.org) or (908) 293-8141.



(above) Westfield's Anne Bristow will receive the Dream-Keeper Award for Outstanding Volunteerism, singled out for her exemplary commitment to Union County's most fragile youth: those removed from home because of abuse, neglect or abandonment and placed in foster care.



(above) Joe Nolan, veteran traffic and news reporter for radio and television stations in the New York City area, will emcee this year's Foster the Dream Gala, the premier fundraiser for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County, on Friday, Nov. 8, 2019.




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#### Lunch 11am - 3:30pm

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 2 & Under .....FREE!

#### Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm

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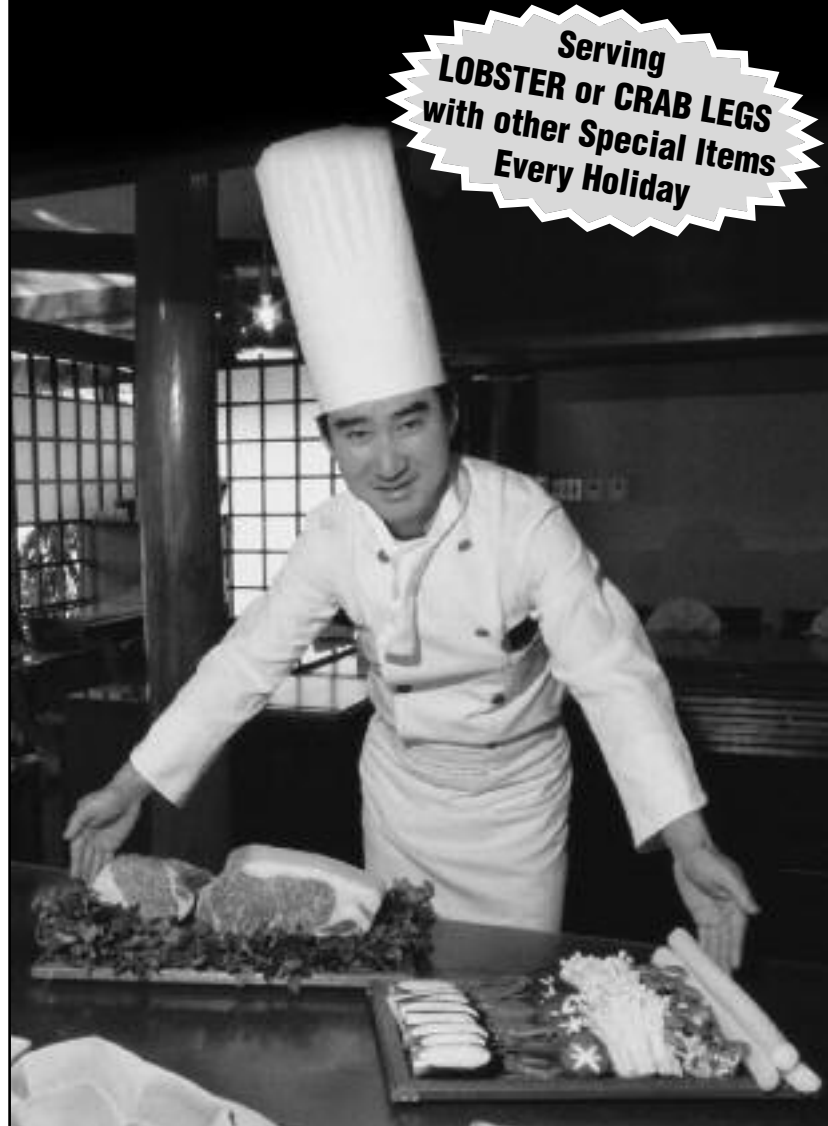
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## TICKETS ON SALE FOR SHINING STARS GALA, CHRISTMAS SHOW

Shining Stars Network, a non profit organization shining the light on the special needs community through the performing arts and other activities, has two exciting events planned over the next few months.

Shining Stars will be hosting their inaugural "Reach for the Stars" Gala on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at the the elegant Park Savoy Estate in Florham Park, featuring a 5-star dinner and show featuring the Shining Stars special needs cast members.

The night will feature a cocktail hour, dinner and a Venetian hour, all highlighted by a 45-minute performance from the amazing and talented Shining Stars cast, along with a 50/50 raffle and auction items.

Shining Stars Network is an expansion of the successful Shining Stars talent shows which began in Cranford more than eight years ago with 15 cast members. That number has grown to 50 and there are new requests each week from those who want to become a part of the Shining Stars family. While the majority of cast

members live in Union County, there are cast members from seven different counties who have taken the stage.

Tickets for the "Reach for the Stars" gala are available at [shiningstars.booktix.com](http://shiningstars.booktix.com) or you can email your ticket request to [shiningstarsgala@gmail.com](mailto:shiningstarsgala@gmail.com). The cost to attend is \$150.00 per person.

In addition, Shining Stars Network is also excited to present their second annual "Christmas Spectacular," a not to be missed evening of holiday favorites presented by their incredible cast and filled with sing-a-longs and audience participation, including the return of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," which includes every audience member and instantly became an audience favorite.

Because of the success of last year's show, this year's "Christmas Spectacular" will be presented at the beautiful and historic Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway on Thursday, December 5, 2019.

Tickets for the Shining Stars "Christmas Spectacular" are on sale now at [UCPAC.org/events](http://UCPAC.org/events). There will be a 10% discount on tickets through November 1 by using the code "holiday stars."

Also, mark you calendars for Friday, May 8, 2020 when the Shining Stars return to the UCPAC main stage for the third straight year. The 9th annual "Evening of Shining Stars" promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Shining Stars Network, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non profit organization that shines the light on the special needs community by creating opportunities in the performing arts and other events. In addition, our Shining Stars Ambassadors basketball team travels to play local first responders and organizations with the goal of building friendships and understanding in an inclusive environment. The successful Camp Shine — a two-week special needs performing arts summer camp, just concluded their 3rd year.



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## ADDAMSFEST 2019 DATES ANNOUNCED

*Town-Wide Festival Honoring Westfield's Native Son Charles Addams Expanded to Month-Long Celebration this October*

It's back! Following the success of its inaugural year, with over 12,000 attendees from 85 towns, AddamsFest will return to Westfield this October as the destination event of the season. Once again, the Town will be transformed by this uniquely exciting celebration honoring its own Charles Addams and his penchant for the macabre with a wide variety of events.

Born in 1912 and raised in Westfield, Charles Addams was one of the country's premier cartoonists, with his work prominently featured in *The New Yorker*. His most successful creation, *The Addams Family*, was inspired by his hometown surroundings. The characters that began as illustrations grew into a television series, a live action movie franchise, a Broadway musical, and a highly anticipated Addams Family animated movie scheduled to hit theaters on October 11, 2019. What better place to honor Addams' talent and creativity than the town where he grew up?

"The community is so excited for the return of AddamsFest, and we're thrilled to bring it back," said Westfield Mayor Shelley Brindle. "Our inaugural year represented the very best of Westfield -- from celebrating one of our own historic icons as a community, to the enthusiastic participation of over 300 volunteers, to the collaboration between the police, fire, DPW professionals and the unpaid volunteers. Ultimately, the connectedness that the festival created among our residents was one of our town's key highlights of 2018."

Mark your calendars and save the dates for these marquee events, back by popular demand:

**Morticia & Gomez's Masquerade Ball:** Saturday, October 19. After walking the purple carpet in high style, masked guests will join hosts Morticia and Gomez to feast on Addams-inspired gourmet fare, sip smoldering libations, and dance the night away in an interactive setting that includes the tango with Morticia & Gomez, the mamushka with Fester, tarot card readings, and more.

**The Addams Family Fun Zone:** Sunday, October 20. Families will get ooky and spooky on Quimby Street as they take in a variety of activities, including character visits, street performers, incredible displays by the Maniac Pumpkin Carvers, and the return of the Howl-o-ween Dog Costume Contest.

**Charlie's Ale Garden:** Saturday, October 26. This year, there's room for even more friends and neighbors to enjoy a variety of beers and wine, as well as food from local restaurants, as the Westfield Armory is transformed into an indoor/outdoor beer garden with live music.

**Halloween Festivities:** Sunday, October 27. Put the kids in their costumes and celebrate Halloween, AddamsFest-style! Join the beloved tradition of The Westfield Optimist Club's Halloween Parade and The Downtown Westfield Corporation's Costume Contest, which will distribute prizes for a variety of Halloween and Charles Addams-themed categories. Afterwards, the South Avenue train station becomes Trick-or-

Treating Central with the Second Annual Pugsley's Trunk or Treat. Calling all creative minds to register their cars, decorate them with an original theme, and distribute candy from their trunks for thousands of eager trick-or-treaters.

In addition, Morticia's Movies, Lurch's Lecture Series, and Paranormal Investigations will return, along with the Haunt Your House Contest and the Wicked Windows of Westfield displays throughout the downtown.

New to this year's festivities will be Gomez's Dynamite Model Railway, which will celebrate Gomez's well-known love of model trains. Exhibitions on display will be from both The Model Railroad Club of Union County and the Gersten family, whose model railroad layout was built to represent major Westfield landmarks, past and present. This memorable exhibit for train lovers of all ages will be on display in the Town Hall Community Room from October 17-26.

"This year's AddamsFest gives us the benefit of experience paired with the community's enthusiasm and anticipation," said Councilwoman Dawn Mackey, AddamsFest Chairperson. "Distributing the various events over a longer time period provides attendees with more opportunity to enjoy the festivities and get involved in this Westfield experience for the entire month of October."

Stay tuned as the all-together ooky events continue to unfold on the event's website ([addamsfest.com](http://addamsfest.com)) and social media channels (@addamsfest on Facebook and Instagram).

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## GREATER WESTFIELD UNICO

Submitted by Richard Esposito

Greater Westfield UNICO members recently joined Operation Shoe Box NJ at the Somerset Patriots to pack boxes for our troops. Operation Shoe Box is an all volunteer grassroots organization dedicated to collecting donated supplies and shipping care packages to our troops

based in Iraq, Afghanistan and other Middle East countries.

UNICO National is the largest Italian American service organization in the United States. If you would like more information about UNICO contact Richard Esposito at 908-578-0746, email respos6979@verizon.net.


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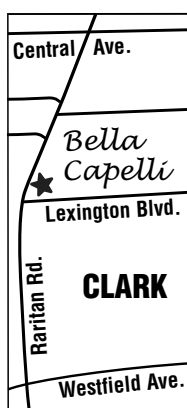
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## WESTFIELD AREA YMCA CHIEF INSTRUCTOR GEDMAN EARNS GOLD AT 2019 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Westfield Area YMCA is proud to announce that Pamela Gedman, 6th degree Black Belt and Chief Instructor of Gedman's Black Belt Academy, has become the 2019 ATA World Champion in Combat Sparring and

earned a Silver medal in Traditional Sparring and a Bronze in Weapons in her age group division. Fellow instructor Norberto (Bert) Rivera qualified in Forms and Team Combat and Team Sparring.



(above) Pamela Gedman, 6th degree Black Belt and Chief Instructor of Gedman's Black Belt Academy (center) receives medal at 2019 ATA World Championships.

## MENTAL ILLNESS IN THE FAMILY

*How to deal with this New Normal*

Union County National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will present Mental Illness in the Family - How to deal with this New Normal on Tuesday, October 22, 2019. All are welcome. Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at RWJ Rahway Fitness & Wellness Center, 2120 Lamberts Mill Rd., Scotch Plains.

Dr. Alison Johnson of Summit Psychological Services will speak about the grief that accompanies a mental health diagnosis and how to come to terms with "this new normal." This will be an important presentation for anyone caring for a loved one with a mental illness. Learn helpful information and get support at the public meeting of the Union County affiliate of NAMI. For more info: call 908-233-1628 or email [namiunioncounty@yahoo.com](mailto:namiunioncounty@yahoo.com).

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10/2	1:00 pm	"Private Violence" Domestic Violence Film
10/2	7:00 pm	Civil War Women of Courage and Compassion
10/5	2:00 pm	Vocalist Stephen Fuller-Blues, Jazz, R&B, Soul
10/8	1:00 pm	Make a Fabric Pumpkin **See website for info
10/9	7:00 pm	"Dr. Faustus" by Hudson Shakespeare Company
10/10 & 11	7:00 pm	Tai Chi Demonstration by Gang Huang
10/12	2:00 pm	Legacy of Remembrance: WWI Monuments
10/15	7:00 pm	Finding Lasting Happiness through Meditation
10/23	7:00 pm	Listen to the David Aaron Trio
10/28	7:00 pm	Gothic Poetry by Susanna Rich

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10/1, 8, 15, 22	1:00 pm	Craftersnoon Storytime 3 1/2 -5 yrs w/caregiver
10/3, 10, 17, 24	10:30 am	3's on Thursday Storytime 3 yrs w/caregiver
10/4, 11, 18, 25	10:00 am	Baby Playgroup 0-23 months w/caregiver
10/5	10:00 am	Drop-in Chess Club-Players must know how to play
10/5	10:30 am	Sew It! Learn how to sew backpacks 9-12 yrs
10/12	10:30 am	Pumpkin Painting 4+ years old
10/19	10:00 am	Paws to Read-New readers read to library dogs
10/21 & 28	7:00 pm	Girls Who Code 8-10 years old
10/22	6:30 pm	Evening LEGO Club 5+yrs Caregivers stay in library
10/28	10:00 am	Yoga Storytime 2-5 yrs with parent/caregiver
10/31	10:00 am	Zumba Fun 2-5 yrs with parent/caregiver



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The Union County Post Offices that offer passport application service include: Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Elizabeth Main Post Office, Fanwood, Garwood, Linden Main Post Office, Netherwood Station in Plainfield, Scotch Plains, Springfield, Summit, Union Main Post Office, and Westfield.

Although some Union County Post Offices like Garwood, Netherwood Station, and Scotch Plains accept walk-ins, many Post Offices offering passport services require an appointment. For appointments during regular passport processing hours, the U.S. Postal Service has made scheduling easier with the USPS Retail Customer Appointment Scheduler tool (RCAS) at [usps.com/scheduler](https://usps.com/scheduler).

The RCAS tool will display available appointment times for participating Post Office

locations that offer passport appointment services within the selected radius. Users will receive notifications of their scheduled appointment via email or text.

Application forms and information on the costs and how to apply for a passport can be found at [usps.com/passport](https://usps.com/passport).

The U.S. Department of State's National Passport Information Center is available to answer passport questions by phone or email in English or Spanish. If you have a question about passports you can call toll-free 1-877-487-2778 or email [NPIC@state.gov](mailto:NPIC@state.gov).

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# "THE STATUE OF LIBERTY – MEANT FOR EGYPT, ENDS IN AMERICA"

Westfield Historical Society's November First Wednesday Luncheon with Gary Lee Mahmoud

Submitted by Carol Goggi

As part of The Westfield Historical Society's First Wednesday Luncheon series, Actor and Westfield Native, Gary Lee Mahmoud, will talk about the story of "The Statue of Liberty – Meant for Egypt, Ends in America" on November 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.

During the eighteenth and the nineteenth century, the United States hadn't attained her power and the world leadership that she currently enjoys. So when the Suez Canal was constructed during the period from 1859 to 1869, it was the most important world event of the time. A thirty-six year old French artist and sculptor, named Fredrick Auguste Bartholdi, offered to build a colossus statue at the northern entrance of the canal with a torch in its hand. Gary Lee Mahmoud, along with commentary from his father, Sam Mahmoud, will discuss how and why the Statue was given to America, instead.

Gary Lee Mahmoud is a native of Westfield (WHS class of '96). He graduated from American University in 2000 with a BA in Political Science and a minor in history before going to work as a Legislative Assistant for former U.S. Congressman John Boehner. In 2007, he moved to New York to pursue a career in the entertainment business and has since had the pleasure of performing in notable TV shows including Blue Bloods, Law & Order: SVU, and Jessica Jones along with movies such as The Bourne Legacy and the Oscar nominated Paul Schrader film "First Reformed" where he played Ethan Hawke's doctor. Gary has also appeared in various online comedy shorts for The Onion, College Humor, and Above Average and a variety of commercials including the famous Eli Manning/Odell Beckham "Dirty Dancing" Super Bowl commercial. When not performing on stage or screen, Gary writes and produces sketch comedy videos for his YouTube channel Cringe

Factory including viral hits that have been shared in Time Magazine and ABC's Good Morning America.

Gary's father, Sam Mahmoud is a historian, writer and former columnist. Currently, he is a Westfield Historical Society Trustee Emeritus. During his active membership he made sixteen presentations on ancient, Medieval and modern histories, to the Westfield Historical Society, Rotary clubs, churches and various other organizations.

Those wishing to attend the luncheon may make a reservation by email to [westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com); or, by calling 908-654-1794, before Friday, November 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 pay online:

[westfieldhistoricalsociety.org/registration](http://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 County Club dress code information, check out the Guest Information at: [echolakecc.org/club](http://echolakecc.org/club).

For more information on the Westfield Historical Society and their events, visit [westfieldhistoricalsociety.org](http://westfieldhistoricalsociety.org) and like us on Facebook.



(above) Actor and Westfield native, Gary Lee Mahmoud, along with commentary from his father, Sam Mahmoud, will present the story of "The Statue of Liberty...Meant for Egypt, Ends in America" during the First Wednesday Luncheon of the Westfield Historical Society on November 6, 2019 at Echo Lake Country Club.

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## AT-RISK YOUTH HEAR STORY OF PERSONAL PERSEVERANCE

*Submitted by Christopher Reardon*

One evening El-Amin Jumuah mapped out his strategy for building his fledgling fashion business, including financing it with the salary from his job. The next day he was laid off.

Four years later, Jumuah's business, Passionate Rebel, is thriving and has been featured on News 12 New Jersey's Spotlight Edition and various New York Fashion Week media platforms.

Jumuah served as the keynote speaker at the 2019 Annual Youth Conference hosted by Community Access Unlimited (CAU) that drew more than 100 at-risk youth from more than a dozen youth services programs from throughout the state. CAU is a Union County-based, statewide nonprofit that strives to integrate people with disabilities and at-risk youth into the general community through comprehensive supports.

"The conference is designed to bring together youth from a number of programs, allow them to network and provide them with information and resources, thereby empowering them," said Carla Hollinger, a curriculum specialist at CAU. "It's a day of fun and education."

Jumuah's apparel is intended to create self-directed leaders who, with their independent passion, will enhance their creative skills and rebel against not following their passion, according to the Passionate Rebel website.

"Be a passionate rebel," he told the youth. "Be someone who is dedicated to following your goals regardless of the obstacles. Be a dreamer. Understand dreams take you far but they depend on the time and effort you put into them."

Jumuah said to be successful they first must define their own success. For example, a single mother might define success as caring for her children while a college student might define success as working his way through college and graduating. Success is not defined by money and material belongings, he said.

"You have to go out and learn for yourself," he said. "And there's no shame in struggling. That's the way you get to where you want to be."

Jumuah's message resonated with the youth in attendance, including Romance Morrison, 21, a CAU member.

"He really got through to me about how he started his own business out of nothing," Morrison said, adding that he has set his goals for success as going to college, getting a good job and starting a family.

"I already achieved the first part of my goal," he said. "I'm starting college in September."

Cassandra Jeffers, 22, also a CAU member, said Jumuah's message of overcoming struggles helped her. She lost her family, lost her job and lived in many places before coming to CAU.

"My goal is to get into the art of make-up," she said. "I practice every day and post videos on YouTube. But it's hard to stay motivated. So his message about not getting down when you are struggling resonated with me."

The conference also featured a number of

workshops designed to help the attendees better manage their lives and improve their life skills, according to Hollinger. Examples included goal setting, healthy relationships and living within the system.

"The workshops are intended to prepare them for life going forward," she said.

To learn more about CAU, visit [caunj.org](http://caunj.org) or follow the agency on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

### ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 40th year in 2019, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives

in the community. CAU provides support and gives voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little power in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. CAU currently serves more than 5,000 individuals and families, with the number served growing each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, online at [caunj.org](http://caunj.org) or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



(above) El-Amin Jumuah (second from right), founder of the apparel business Passionate Rebel, poses with CAU members Romance Morrison and Casandra Jeffers, along with the Passionate Rebel mascot.

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To register or obtain more info, call 908.598.5548 or email [education@sageeldercare.org](mailto:education@sageeldercare.org).

## Avoid the Pitfalls of Long-term Care

Thursday, October 3 - 6:30 - 8:00 pm

A program to learn about common mistakes that are made during a long-term care crisis, and how to avoid those mistakes, will be discussed. Elder Law Attorney Laurie Hauptman Esq from Hauptman and Hauptman, P C will explain how to effectively navigate the maze of the senior health care system with a plan and professional guidance.

## Living Options As We Age

Thursday, October 17 - 6:00 - 8:00 pm

As we and our loved ones age, we are faced with the decision of whether or not to remain in our homes. In this panel discussion we will learn about different living options. Our panel of experts will outline various living arrangements and their levels of care to help you navigate the future.

## Medicare Changes in 2020

Thursday, October 31 - 12:30 - 1:00 pm

Join us for one of our presentations by SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) counselors of Union County led by SHIP counselors of Union County SAGE. Individual appointments are available also.

## Fun-to-be-Fit Exercise Class

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (10:15 - 11:15 a.m.) and 4, 11, 18, 25 (11:30 - 12:30)

General exercise class for older adults designed to improve overall fitness for all levels. Cost is \$10 per class. SAGE Eldercare, 290 Broad Street, Summit. To register or for more information, please call 908-598-5548 or email [education@sageeldercare.org](mailto:education@sageeldercare.org).

## Gentle Chair Yoga

October 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 (11:30 - 12:30 p.m.)

Class for older adults that deepens flexibility and strengthens personal body awareness. SAGE Eldercare, 290 Broad Street, Summit. Cost is \$10 per class.

## Tai Chi

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (11:30 - 12:45 p.m.)

Tai Chi is a series of precise flowing movements that develop balance, strength, flexibility, focus, endurance, and calmness. Cost is \$10 per class.

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## THE ARC CELEBRATES 70 YEARS AND COUNTING

*A leading provider of services for people with disabilities commemorates milestone year with a landmark event this October.*

*Submitted by Ellen de Havilland*

The Arc of Union County was founded in 1949 when a group of concerned parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities gathered by the collective desire for their children to lead fulfilling lives and thrive in their communities, instead of being subject to institutions with harsh living conditions. Seven decades ago, there was much to learn about intellectual and developmental disabilities (then referred to as ‘mental retardation’), the people, their families and the causes. There were virtually no programs or services to assist people with disabilities in the community or to support their families. It was a common occurrence for doctors to tell parents that the best place for their child was in an institution. This group of parents was granted a temporary charter by the “New Jersey Parents’ Group for Retarded Children”, and what is now known as The Arc of Union County was designated the Union County Unit of that Organization. Seventy years later, The Arc has become a local pioneer within Union County and its surrounding areas.

To commemorate this major milestone, The Arc of Union County will hold their landmark event, "Celebrating 70 Years: Autumn & The Arc," on October 3, 2019 from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Stage House Tavern located at 1099 Route 22, Mountainside, NJ. The event will feature three hours of unlimited food, wine and beer, live music, and high value raffle items, including a cruise to Bermuda. Over 100 community partners and supporters are anticipated to join The Arc in their celebration of 70 years of service. All proceeds of this event will benefit the continuation of programs and services provided by The Arc. For tickets and more information, or to donate/sponsor, please contact aoliver@arcunion.org or 973-315-0009 or visit arcunion.org.

“Our 70th Anniversary has been a record-setting year for the agency,” said Frank Caragher, Executive Director of The Arc of Union County. “We have a proud history of changing with the times. While the agency has been undergoing exciting new developments and an expansion of services, its core principles have remained constant. As we work to achieve our vision of creating productive and enhanced lives for people with disabilities, their families, and the community, we’re taking a moment to reflect on our past while also embracing our future.”

Since its founding, The Arc of Union County has played a major role within the community by providing a lifespan of programs and care to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through

Photos courtesy of The Arc of Union County



*(above) The ABLE program supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, giving opportunities for social skill development, volunteer engagement, recreation opportunities and personal growth.*

quality services and by advocacy efforts to fight the stigma of disabilities, The Arc has a longstanding profound reputation for making change happen.

“As we celebrate our 70th Anniversary, we must anticipate the next 70 years. We must continue to grow, taking what has been positive about our history, and use it to improve what we do and how we do it. The more we work together, the stronger we will get, and the better we will be for our consumers and their families,” said Frank X. Caragher.

### ABOUT THE ARC OF UNION COUNTY

The Arc of Union County is a non-profit, 501c(3) organization headquartered in Springfield, NJ, dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc of Union County serves more than 1,000 families throughout Union County. To learn more contact 973-315-0000 or visit arcunion.org.



*(above) The Arc Kohler School (formerly Harry Kohler Day Care Center) in Winfield Park, NJ is where The Arc of Union County's roots were started, providing services for children and adults with disabilities, including transportation.*



*(above) Annie Forts, participant in programs at The Arc of Union County as a child, was appointed by (then President) Bill Clinton to serve 3 terms on the President's Committee on Mental Retardation (now known as The President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities).*



# SUPERINTENDENT WELCOMES STAFF TO 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Submitted by Mary Ann McGann

Superintendent Dr. Margaret Dolan welcomed back staff on Tuesday, September 3 as the Westfield Public School District prepared for the return of more than 6,200 students on Thursday, September 5, 2019.

During the opening day ceremony, Dolan welcomed 26 new staff members, acknowledged 3 new administrators – Westfield High School principal Mary Asfendis, Roosevelt Intermediate School principal Brian Gechtman, and Roosevelt assistant principal Keith Brunson – and applauded the more than 900 staff members gathered in the Westfield High School auditorium.

“As I sat down to draft my remarks for today, I couldn’t help but think about the past year. And, as I reflected on what was inarguably a challenging number of months, I was reminded of what gets our district through times that concern us or frighten us or even make us cry,” Dolan told the staff. “It is all of you. It is your steadfastness, your resilience, your professionalism, your heart, and your willingness to work together for what is best for our students.”

Dolan outlined new security procedures in place for the 2019-2020 school year and

expressed appreciation for “our strong, cooperative relationship with the Westfield Police Department which will continue to provide a daily presence in our schools.” She also reiterated the district’s continuing commitment to Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and its five competencies: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, responsible decision-making, and relationship skills.

“It’s not just a phase. It’s an ongoing commitment by our district to make sure that, along with the wonderful education our students receive, their social and emotional well-being is looked after as well,” said Dolan.

Westfield Education Association president Gail Alston, Board of Education president Peggy Oster and other board members were on hand to welcome the staff. Alston praised the hard work and dedication of the educators, while Oster recalled the first day of school as a student herself and later, a mother of five who attended Westfield schools.

“There is something about the month of September that makes us all excited for change,” said Oster. “Being in the district for 25 years, I have seen the education system in

Westfield adapt to our students facing an ever-changing society. The majority of these changes come from our teachers and staff, who continue to grow and develop as educators to be the best that they can be for our students and community and I’d like to thank all of you for that.”

Teachers and paraprofessionals gathered again on Wednesday, September 4 for a full day of professional learning organized by Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Programs Paul Pineiro and facilitated by district administrators and a few other professionals. There were sessions and workshops focusing on SEL, the new Standards-Based Report Card, digital citizenship, mental health and behavioral issues, financial literacy, technology, and other topics.

On August 27 and 28, the 26 new staff members attended a two-day, in-house orientation as part of the New Staff Institute (NSI). The NSI is a two-year program designed to support first-time educators and those who are new to the district. The comprehensive program is organized by Human Resources Specialist Barbara Ball and her staff, along with a leadership team comprised of seasoned Westfield educators.



(above) Twenty-six new educators join the Westfield Public School District, as they participated in a two day orientation as part of the New Staff Institute (NSI), a two-year program designed to support first-time educators and those who are new to the district.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools

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## WESTFIELD SERVICE LEAGUE ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP, FALL SHOP OPENING

*Submitted by Sylvia Martinez*

The Westfield Service League has two new co-presidents, a first in the organization's 87-year history. Rosann LiVolsi and Linda Heroux, both of Westfield, have teamed up to lead the nonprofit volunteer service organization.

LiVolsi and Heroux are both active in the community and decided that sharing the leadership duties would make them more effective.

"I'm excited to lead this organization that I've been a part of for 18 years," said LiVolsi, who also volunteers at the 911 Museum in New York, Newark YMCA and Echo Lake Country Club. LiVolsi has previously served as chair of the WSL Thrift Shop and has spearheaded the shop's Annual Christmas Sale for many years.

Heroux, added, "I'm eager to get to work on behalf of the Westfield Service League and continue to build on our success." A five-year member of the organization, she has served as a board member, chair of the WSL Consignment Shop and most recently as recording secretary.

The co-presidents take the helm from outgoing president Kim Taylor. In addition to LiVolsi and Heroux, the WSL board of directors includes: Vice President Beth Kroncke, Treasurer Tracie Milford, Corresponding Secretary Karen

Salemme and Recording Secretary Regina Ruparel.

The Westfield Service League owns and operates a Consignment Shop and a Thrift Shop, both housed at 114 Elmer Street.

The Thrift Shop accepts donations of new and gently used clothing, housewares, home décor and more. The Consignment Shop accepts the same from people who register as consignors.

To find out more about how to donate or consign, visit the WSL website: [thewestfieldserviceleague.org](http://thewestfieldserviceleague.org).

Donations and consignment not only reduce waste, resulting in fewer items ending up in landfills, but help pay it forward to those in need. Sales proceeds from the shops are awarded through a grant process to other nonprofit organizations in Westfield and Union County. This year, WSL donated almost \$66,000, bringing total grant awards to \$2,867,695 since 1941.

Both shops are open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 to 4. Donations are accepted during shop hours and tax receipts may be obtained from staff. For more information on the types of items accepted by both shops or to shop with us, please visit the WSL website.

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## BOOK IT!

*Bookmaking Craft with the Westfield Historical Society*

In honor of National Book Month, join the Westfield Historical Society's Program Consultant and Educator, Meg Wastie, at the Reeve House on Saturday, October 12, 2019 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Learn how books are made and go home with a variety of creative books that you will make at the workshop.

Appropriate for ages 10 through adult. Registration is strongly advised as space is limited and to assure there will be enough materials. Meg Wastie, Program Consultant for the Society, and other educators will demonstrate and assist. The Reeve House is located at 314 Mountain Avenue, Westfield, NJ.

Space is limited, so reservations are required and the cost is \$5 per person, payable on October 12. For reservations, call 908-654-1794; or email [westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).

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.

For more information on the Westfield Historical Society and their events, visit [westfieldhistoricalsociety.org](http://westfieldhistoricalsociety.org) and like us on Facebook.



*(above) Meg Wastie, Program Consultant for the Westfield Historical Society, will teach the historic methods for making books during the Book-It! craft for ages 10 and up at the Reeve History and Cultural Resource Center on Saturday, October 12, 2019.*

## ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD

*Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart*

The Rotary Club of Westfield hosted two guests from The Rotary Club of Guntakal, India, G. Vinoda Kumari and G.V. Lakshman. Lakshman presented Past District Governor and Past President Dr. D. Michael Hart with a ceremonial shawl as a present for the club's hospitality.

Rotary International includes 1.2 million business men and women in 166 countries across the World. The Mission is better international understanding and world peace. Rotary has been working to eradicate polio worldwide. For information about the Westfield Rotary Club, check the website [westfieldrotary.com](http://westfieldrotary.com).



*(above, l-r) G. Vinoda Kumari, Past President of the Rotary Club of Guntakal; her husband, G.V. Lakshman, also Past President, and Assistant Governor in Rotary District 3160; Past District Governor and Past President Dr. D. Michael Hart; and current Rotary Club President Liz Ensslin.*

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The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) recently launched, "Into the Cloud," a brand new online safety product for children in grades K-5. This includes an animated web series and video game. Using data from actual NCMEC CyberTipline reports, each episode focuses on a different element of online safety, from strategies for handling cyberbullying

to recognizing and reporting unsafe/inappropriate interactions and content. Additional episodes will be available throughout the year.

"Into the Cloud" presents important safety information in an age-appropriate and entertaining manner! All the resources are free!

The episodes are available at [www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/videos](http://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/videos).

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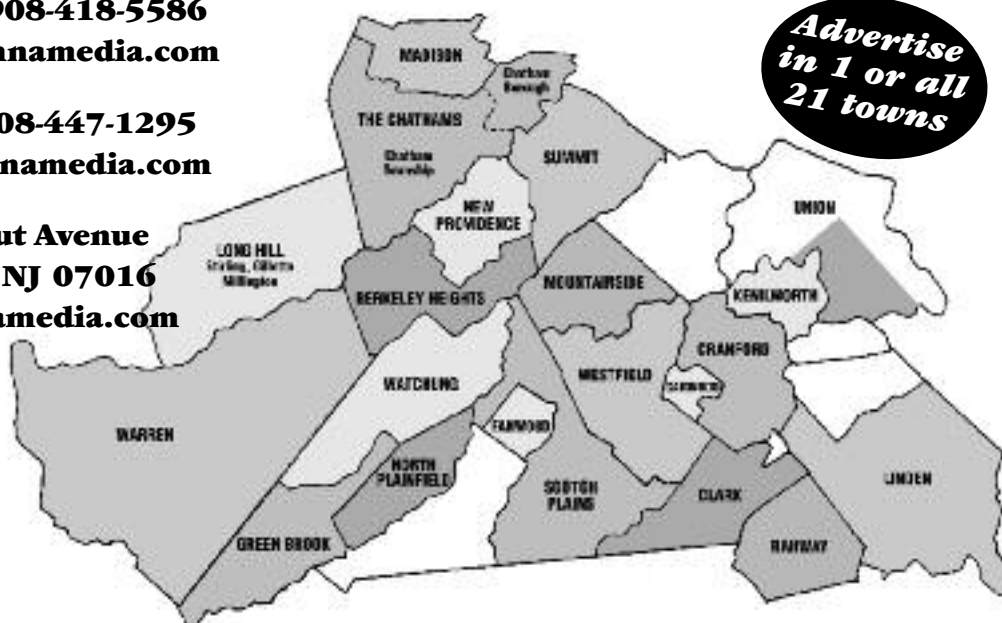
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