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BERKELEY HEIGHTS EXPERT

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WHARTON ANNOUNCES 2019-2020 CONCERT SEASON WITH A FOCUS ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

New Jersey's largest non-profit community performing arts education organization has announced its 2019-2020 season, featuring 35 public events presented by over 1,500 talented students and faculty members. And with a grant from The Catalyst Fund of the League of American Orchestras, Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA) embarks this season on an equity, diversity, and inclusion initiative to help advance its mission to create supportive and inclusive learning for a wide range of students.

"As we continue to inspire our students to strive for personal excellence through performing arts education, we desire to practice culturally responsible instruction by embracing and celebrating diversity on and off the stage," says WIPA Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Helen H. Cha-Pyo. "To this end, we will offer more intentional programming this season with works representing cultures from around the world and music written by under-represented composers, in addition to celebrating the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth with over 15 works by this beloved 19th century composer."

"Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts is committed to transforming communities through music education, a powerful tool that affects the greater education system by improving student graduation rates, college readiness, and job readiness," says incoming Executive Director and new force behind Wharton's growing community presence, Peter H. Gistelinck. "It also spurs economic development by making communities more attractive to live in, creating jobs, and improving quality of life as Wharton's programs impact communities across the state of NJ from Berkeley Heights, to Paterson, and beyond. Above all, we view our work

through the lens of social justice and shared power, ensuring that the benefits of music are accessible to all students despite their ability to pay, socioeconomic background or where they come from."

On Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), a Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts program, will give a rare performance of Two Nutcrackers: Tchaikovsky & Ellington at the Union County Performing Arts Center, located at 1601 Irving Street in Rahway. The NJYS Youth Symphony and Jazz Orchestra will perform side-by-side in this holiday spectacular sure to delight the entire family. Tickets can be purchased at www.ucpac.org.

In addition to collaborating with and under the guidance of a consultant to further equity, diversity, and inclusion, NJYS will celebrate female African-American composers Florence Price and Julia Perry in a concert on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. at Princeton University's Richardson Auditorium. A world premiere by New Jersey resident Aferdian Stephens, winner of the 2018 Bohuslav Martinu Award and 2018 ASCAP Young Composer Award, will be featured alongside the annual NJYS Concerto Competition winner on Sunday, May 3 at 7:30pm at Rutgers University's Mason Gross Performing Arts Center.

The Performing Arts School (PAS) Wharton Players will present Elf, Jr. on Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 8 at 3:00 p.m. in the Wharton Arts 100-seat black box theatre located at 60 Locust Avenue in Berkeley Heights. Tickets can be purchased at whartonarts.org. PAS will also present practical workshops and inspiring master classes with world-class

(continued on page 2)



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WHARTON CONCERT SEASON

(continued from page 1)

artists such as Afendi Yusuf, Principal Clarinet of the Cleveland Orchestra, and Dr. Min Kwon, Professor of Piano at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University.

On March 29 at 3:00 p.m., the annual crowd-pleasing Playathon pops concert takes place at The Mills at Jersey Gardens in Elizabeth, featuring a 500-piece orchestra performing a wide range of movie and Broadway favorites. Students from NJYS, PMP, and PAS participate in this day of music making, furthering the organization's mission to make performing arts accessible to everyone.

The season culminates with the NJYS American Celebration of Music Concert Series in Italy, June 27-July 6. The tour, including four orchestral concerts and one chamber concert, will present some of NJYS' and the Garden State's most talented young musicians at Milan's Teatro dal Verme, Florence's Teatro Verdi, Rome's St. Andrea della Valle and St. Eustachio, and Albano's Festival Liszt Albano at Castel Gandolfo. NJYS will participate in a festival exchange with the Florence Conservatory of Music (Conservatorio Luigi Cherubini) in an exclusive concert series through Music Celebrations International.

For ticket information and full 2019-20 season brochure, visit www.WhartonArts.org.

The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts' mission is to provide the highest quality performing arts education to a wide range of students in a supportive and inclusive

environment, where striving for personal excellence inspires and connects those we teach to the communities we serve.

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving over 1,500 students through a range of classes and ensembles including the 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve 500 students in grades 3 – 12 by audition. Beginning with Out of the Box Music and Pathways classes for young children, Wharton Arts offers private lessons, group classes, and ensembles for all ages and all abilities at the Performing Arts School. With the belief in the positive and unifying influence of music and the performing arts and that arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay, Wharton teaches all instruments and voice and has a robust musical theater program. Based in Paterson, New Jersey, the Paterson Music Project is an El Sistema-inspired program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts that uses music as a vehicle for social change by empowering and inspiring children through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing.

Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 10 counties. All of Wharton's extraordinary faculty members and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

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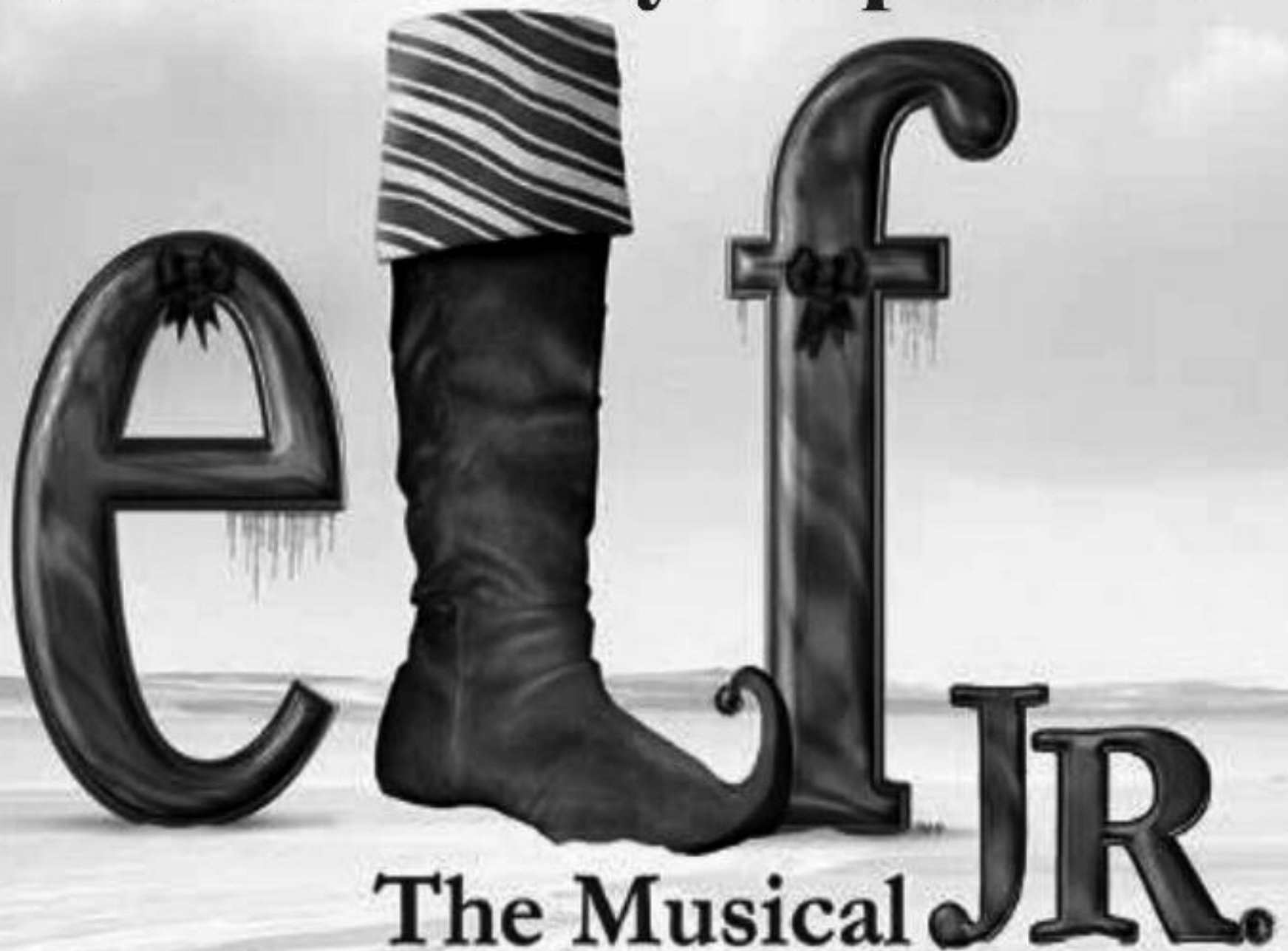
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WORK SMART: EFFECTIVE SALARY NEGOTIATION FOR WOMEN

On November 18, 2019, the Summit College Club (SCC) will offer a free workshop for women in salary negotiation. The event will take place at Mondo, 426 Springfield Ave., Summit, NJ, from 6 to 8 p.m.; refreshments and networking will follow from 8 to 9 p.m. (Check-in begins at 5:30.) The workshop and networking are both free, but space is limited, and online registration is required: bit.ly/summit-work-smart

Using discussion, examples, and problem resolution, a leader will guide the group through Work Smart, a nationally acclaimed program created by the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Nationally, women continue to earn about 80 percent of what men earn. The gender pay gap starts early and grows with time. Typically, raises are tied to current salary; salaries in new positions depend on past earnings; company pensions and social security benefits are also based on salary. So, every lost pay dollar has consequences that snowball.

Hedy Tukey, president of SCC, explains: "The reasons for the pay gap are complex, but one factor is that many women are uncomfortable in asking for advancement. AAUW's Work Smart program is a clear and sensible way to prepare women to negotiate effectively for money, position, and benefits. Our workshop will help participants recognize their own value in the workplace, set an informed negotiating strategy, and practice needed responses."

A branch of AAUW, Summit College Club is celebrating a century of service to women. Several organizations are generously supporting the workshop: amazing.community, a non-profit dedicated to expanding the age horizon for working women; the law firm of Nukk-Freeman & Cerra, which specializes in employment law; the National Organization of Women—NJ; and the League of Women Voters of Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Summit.

Questions should be addressed to summitworksmart@gmail.com.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PROVIDES VOTER EDUCATION TOOL, VOTE411

Ahead of elections this fall, the League of Women Voters of Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Summit offers the nonpartisan election resource VOTE411.org. This "one-stop shop" for election information provides simple, helpful tools to help New Jersey voters navigate the voting process. VOTE411 provides candidate information, a voter registration tool, polling place information, and other helpful election information for all voters nationwide.

"Voters in Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Summit need simple, accessible tools to help them navigate the voting process before Election Day," said Susan Ferris Rights. "VOTE411 is the nation's premiere online election resource, and the League of Women Voters of Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Summit has published our voter guide on VOTE411 to serve as a resource for all of Berkeley Heights, New

Providence and Summit voters."

VOTE411 helps millions of voters each year—many of them young people and first-time voters—learn about candidate stances, look up what's on their ballot, find their polling place, and more.

"The League of Women Voters of Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Summit is pleased to provide this important, nonpartisan resource to voters," said Susan Ferris Rights. "We encourage voters to visit VOTE411 to make a voting plan so they are prepared to cast their vote confidently on November 5."

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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Alzheimer's New Jersey offers support services, education and programs to New Jersey families affected by Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. **Order a meal to go in advance by calling 908-903-0911 by November 5th** and you will directly support this worthy cause, not to mention enjoy an excellent meal prepared by our fabulous chef!

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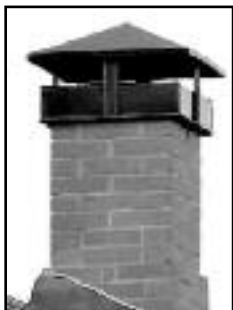
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SANTA CLAUS SHOP HELPS DELIVER JOYOUS HOLIDAY TO LOCALS IN NEED

Submitted by Lauren Bialek

The Santa Claus Shop will open its doors once again to area families, providing its 53rd consecutive year of complimentary holiday shopping. The shop serves more than 400 low-income families and senior citizens from Summit and other local communities, including New Providence and Berkeley Heights, who are referred by local social services agents.

This year's Santa Claus Shop will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, 587 Springfield Avenue in Summit. Families will be offered shopping hours by invitation only on Wednesday, December 4. In addition, the Santa Claus Shop will be hosting a holiday gathering for senior citizens on Tuesday, December 3.

The Santa Claus Shop guests personally select a household item, new clothing for each member of their immediate family, a hat and mittens, a book, and a new toy for each child. Local volunteers are responsible for the shop setup, personal shopping services for each guest, gift-wrapping, and clean up.

The Santa Claus Shop is chaired by Summit residents, Michelle Frei, Kim McGovern, Megan Rende and Christine Semcer and co-chaired by Lauren Bialek, Susan Campbell, Maritess Manaluz and Marnie O'Connell. The Santa Claus Shop exists solely on donations and volunteers. With the monetary donations from area residents, local organizations and businesses, the Santa Claus Shop can purchase the gifts that allow less

fortunate neighbors to experience the joy of holiday giving without financial burden.

To keep the holiday spirit alive for local residents in need, the Santa Claus Shop chairwomen ask for members of the community to consider giving. Checks can be made payable to SHIP, with Santa Claus Shop noted on the

check's memo line, and mailed to the Santa Claus Shop, P.O. Box 119, Summit, NJ 07901. The ability to make an online donation is also available at summitsantaclausshop.com. If you would like to find out more information or get involved please visit our website or follow us on Facebook at Santa Claus Shop - Summit, NJ.



(above, l-r) The co-chairs for the 53rd annual Santa Claus Shop, Megan Rende, Kim McGovern, Christine Semcer and Michelle Frei.

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SAGE ANNOUNCES BIRTHDAY BASH TO CELEBRATE 65 YEARS

In celebration of SAGE Eldercare's 65th year as a community leader in older adult care, the nonprofit will hold a birthday bash at Canoe Brook Country Club on November 7th beginning at 6:00 pm. The celebration will honor SAGE's corporate partner PNC Bank and longtime volunteer Kitty Hartman of New Providence. SAGE volunteer John Mell and his wife Anne of Summit will be guest speakers. The celebration will also pay homage to SAGE Founders and the nonprofit's story, which began in 1954 when a group of civil minded volunteers saw a need in the community to help older adults and took

action to make it happen. The event will feature a silent auction, which will include two rounds of golf at Canoe Brook Country Club, dinners at The Summit House, Fiorino and the Harvest Group Restaurants, a blue sapphire necklace from Schroth and Lorenson Jewelers in Summit and lots more.

"It is hard to believe that SAGE is celebrating its 65th year," said Executive Director, Angela Sullivan. "We have accomplished so much over the years and yet when we look at the overwhelming statistics facing our aging community, we realize our work is needed now more than ever. Older adults count on SAGE and the valuable services we supply. We need the community's support to remain viable and helpful."

To purchase tickets to SAGE's Birthday Bash please contact Jean Finsen at 908-598-5504 or email jfinsen@sageeldercare.org. To help SAGE in other ways or to learn more about SAGE's services, visit www.sageeldercare.org.

ABOUT SAGE ELDERCARE

Since 1954, SAGE Eldercare has been helping make the communities it serves amazing places to age. The non-profit organization provides a wide array of information, support, and services designed to help individuals lead the most independent and active lives possible. From helping with errands and delivering Meals on Wheels, to exercise classes, community programs and support groups, Medicare counseling, care planning, an adult day health care center, and home health care, as well as the SAGE Resale Shop and Furniture Restoration Workshop, SAGE's expertise helps older adults remain independent in their own homes. SAGE is committed to being the leading provider of programs and services to meet the changing needs of older adults, their families, and caregivers in Union, Essex, Morris, and Somerset Counties. For more information, please call 908.273.5550 or visit www.sageeldercare.org.

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(above) SAGE Board President Christopher Cotter, SAGE volunteer Kitty Hartman, SAGE Trustee Michael Foncannon of PNC Bank and SAGE Executive Director Angela Sullivan.

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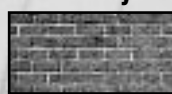
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"Every day, nearly 22 veterans take their own lives. Our team is saving lives and providing a better way of life for our uniformed heroes."

Michael D. Boll, Director of New Jersey Veterans Network and United States Marine Corps Veteran

A few years ago, I was approached by a friend and co-worker of mine who expressed how extremely depressed he was and that he wanted to take his own life. Initially, I was completely shocked because this guy always seemed to be upbeat and happy all the time. Immediately, I asked him to come with me to a private office so we could talk about his awful situation. This was the first time in my life that I had a friend talk to me about suicide, and I knew I had to really do my best to help him get through this horrible ordeal. We spoke for a few hours and I listened closely to everything he said. I was able to convince him to immediately get some help and we went to the hospital. I stayed with him at the hospital and met with him when he was released. I did everything to show my friend that I had his back and because of this he is alive today. This awful situation inspired me to do whatever I possibly can to help others in need and shortly after we created our mobile outreach program.

In today's day and age, most of you have known a veteran or first responder that has taken their own life. Every day we lose nearly twenty-two veterans and approximately three hundred

first responders every year to suicide. Even with all the awareness and new anti-suicide programs available, this number has not changed and, in some cases, has increased. The Veteran Hospitals' PTSD and mental health programs are packed with patients and unfortunately, they continue to grow. More of our first responders are also seeking help and utilizing some of the state programs being offered. So many people want to help and put an end to this crisis but sadly there isn't a foolproof program available that will stop this ever-growing crisis from destroying our uniformed heroes and their family's lives.

For the last two years our team has been working tirelessly with other charities to come up with a better solution to help prevent this epidemic from continuing. Personally, we believe our "Mobile Outreach Team" is really making a difference and everyday it helps our uniformed heroes live a better way of life.

The first thing we learned is to lose your "EGO" and seek out other groups and organizations that are looking to save lives. Then we find the right volunteers who are committed and dedicated with being a mentor to a person in crisis. Volunteers are extremely valuable because

they want to be there, and they usually care more than the people who get paid for their services.

To date, we have been able to change and save countless lives because of the incredible commitment from the volunteers and other supporting groups.

Our approach is to aggressively seek out and contact a veteran or first responder in crisis. Our goal is to immediately work on building trust by being completely honest with the person in crisis. Using our network is wonderful, but it's more important to show the person in need that we are there for them and won't give up. Usually, we go out and meet with those in crisis and spend whatever time is needed to help them get in a better frame of mind. Bottom line "Human Contact" and "Friendship" is the key to saving a life.

Our Mobile Outreach Team is unique because it consists of mentors from all over the state that are willing to do whatever it takes to save and change a life.

If you are interested in joining our team please feel free to contact me at (973)-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.



(above) Operation Rebound is one of the outreach programs of the New Jersey Veterans Network. It is a mobile outreach team of mentors who help at-risk veterans and first responders to live a better life. The team has made huge strides with suicide prevention simply by building trust and cementing friendships with people in need. It's most important to be honest with each person in crisis and follow up with ways to help them regain purpose in life. Setting goals motivates them to stay on a positive track. If you are interested in joining the Operation Rebound Racing Team please feel free to contact Michael Boll at mdbollio@optonline.net or call 973-332-1556.

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THE STARLET LETTER – SONGS FROM THE SILVER SCREEN

Hickory Tree Chorus is excited to present their 2019 show, The Starlet Letter: Songs from the Silver Screen on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 3 p.m. at the West Morris Mendham High School, 65 E Main St Mendham. Come hear movie favorites like Seasons of Love, Beauty and the Beast, Aquarius, and many more, sung in

four-part acapella harmony. The show also features guest quartet Taylor Made and student singers from West Morris Mendham H.S. Buy tickets at tickets@hickorytreechorus.org, \$22 adults/\$17 students. Tickets also available at the door for an additional \$5/ticket.

The Hickory Tree Chorus, an award-winning

chapter of Sweet Adelines, International, performs fun-filled popular music, barbershop style. Founded in 1968 in Chatham Township, NJ, HTC currently rehearses in Stirling, NJ. Rehearsals are open to guests and auditions are held year round. For more information visit hickorytreechorus.org.



(above) Hickory Tree Chorus will present their 2019 show, The Starlet Letter: Songs from the Silver Screen on Saturday, November 23, 2019.

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THE RAPTOR TRUST NOVEMBER EVENTS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2019 AT 2:00 P.M.

"Owls in the House!" Join us to learn about New Jersey's owls, meet a live owl, and build an owl house for your own backyard. A great holiday gift for family, friends and for the owls. Location: The Raptor Trust Education Center at 1452 White Bridge Rd., Millington, NJ. Ages 7 and up, \$10 per person. Optional owl box kit \$40.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH, 3:00 P.M.,

The Salmon-Eating Owls of Russia, with guest lecturer Jonathan C. Slaght, Ph.D. Somerset County Parks Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, Basking Ridge, NJ. \$10 General Admission. \$5 for seniors. Blakiston's fish owls are the largest owls in the world, with six-foot wingspans and weights in the range of Bald eagles. Jonathan C. Slaght, of the Wildlife Conservation Society, has spent more than twenty years working on conservation issues in the Russian Far East, fifteen of them with Blakiston's

fish owls, and is a foremost expert on the species. He will provide an overview of the landscape and the diverse wildlife found within the region, followed by a description of Blakiston's fish owl biology, ecology, and the efforts of Slaght and his Russian colleagues to protect them from extinction.

Space is limited and registration

is required for events

by visiting TheRaptorTrust.org/news/events.

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located at 1390 White Bridge Rd., Millington, NJ. They provide free care and assistance to injured, sick, or orphaned wild birds. They offer educational programs to the public about wild birds, especially birds of prey. They strive to provide a human example for others. For more information, or to make a donation, visit info@theraptortrust.org. To report an injured bird call 908-647-2353.

SUMMIT OLD GUARD NOVEMBER EVENTS

If you are a retired male and have an interest in living an interesting life with like-minded men... new members are always welcomed. Meetings are held each Tuesday in the New Providence Borough Hall, 360 Elkwood Ave., New Providence, NJ, starting at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and conversation, followed by programs consisting of stimulating talks. After the meetings, many members join together to have lunch at various local restaurants.

For more information, contact James Hewitt, Chairman, Membership Committee, (908) 233-5507, info@SummitOldGuard.org. You can also visit summitoldguard.org.

NOVEMBER SPEAKERS

NOVEMBER 5TH - Dr. Merv Turner will discuss the need to develop new drugs for old diseases, especially malaria. Dr. Turner's talk will highlight the obstacles that had to be surmounted in the discovery of this molecule, which is just starting its journey towards the clinic to meet its foe.

NOVEMBER 12TH - wealth management advisors will speak about the risks and opportunities of tax planning under the new tax law including how to optimize charitable gifting with the changes to deductions, estate planning with the new Federal exemption and making sense of Opportunity Zone investments.

NOVEMBER 19TH - Dr. William Hagmann will discuss the life of Thomas A. Edison as a rock star of technology and invention in the turn-of-the-century America, despite receiving only a short elementary education. His greatest invention may be the modern research and development and his trial and laboratory that still inspires us today.

NOVEMBER 26TH - Dr. Matt Wyvratt will talk about an air inversion which took place in a small western Pennsylvania town in the late 1940s. This air inversion created a killer smog resulting in the death of twenty town residents with many more developing serious health problems. This disaster is recognized as the beginning of the clean air movement in the United States.



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WOMAN'S CLUB OF BERKELEY HEIGHTS

Submitted by Christine Bjornstad

The GFWC Woman's Club of Berkeley Heights had a successful fundraiser in October. Thank you to all whom participated in helping us raise funds for a scholarship to be given to a member of Governor Livingston High School class of 2020.

The Woman's Club has been assisting St. Joseph Social Service Center for over 20 years through monetary and in-kind donations. Since 1983 St. Joseph's has been serving the working with the poor and homeless in the greater Elizabeth area to acquire the materials, goods and services they need to live with integrity. Each day the poor and homeless come for sandwiches. Each month families and individuals are given non-perishable food from their pantry. Saturday soup kitchens are hosted by Union County religious institutions, which purchase, prepare, and serve hot meals. A wide range of services and programs are available to provide the tools and support they need to live healthy, self-sufficient lives. The

Center serves over 2,500 individuals every month.

Members of the Woman's Club donated candy and filled 500 treat bags for the children's Halloween Party at St. Joseph. This month we are collecting new toys for all ages for the Center's annual toy sale. If you are interested in making a donation call Chris at 908-771-5527.

We cordially invite residents of Berkeley Heights and surrounding area to our meeting on Tuesday, November 19 held at the YMCA of Berkeley Heights, 550 Springfield Ave. at 12:15 p.m. Elizabeth Girouard, certified Holistic Health Coach and Workplace Wellness Ambassador, presents "For the Love of Chocolate", an interactive workshop on all things chocolate. Learn about its health benefits and how it can be a part of your overall health. There will be an opportunity for you to taste and compare different qualities and types of delicious chocolate.

For questions call Carol at 908-464-2651. To learn more about the Woman's Club of Berkeley Heights visit our website wcbh.webs.com.

The Rotary Club of Berkeley Heights Meets the Second and Fourth Wednesdays

at 12:15pm

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CHILDREN'S STORY
TIMES AND PROGRAMS:

Good Tyme String Band:

Tuesday, November 12 at 10:30 a.m.;
sing-along songs for all ages

Paper Plate Story Time:

Tuesdays, November 5, 19, 26 at
10:30 a.m.;

story and paper plate craft for ages 3 - 5

Mother Goose Play Time:

Thursdays, November 7, 14, 21 at
9:30 a.m.;

books, music, rhymes and play for ages 0 - 24
months

Read to Daisy Dog:

Monday, November 4 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.;
for ages 3 and up

Sewing with Ellen Brown:

Thursday, November 7 from 10:30 - noon;
sign-up required

Kid Spidey Magic Show:

Friday, November 8 from 2:00 - 2:45 p.m.;
for ages 3 - 8

ADULT PROGRAMS:

Tech Help:

Sunday, November 3 from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.;
for all ages - help for your tech questions

Morning Book Group:

Friday, November 1 at 10:30 a.m.

will discuss The Masterpiece by Fiona Davis

Evening Book Group:

Tuesday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m.

will discuss The Widows of Malabar Hill by

Sujata Massey

New members are welcome; to join, please
stop by or call the Reference Desk (908-464-
9333, extension 150).

Italian Conversation Group:

Meets weekly on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Informal Italian conversation group led by a
fluent Italian speaker is for teens and adults.

Beginners welcome!

Check the library's calendar at

bhplnj.org/event-calendar for program changes

UNION MUNICIPAL BAND CONCERT NOV 11TH

Invitation for new members.

The Union Municipal Band, under the
direction Howard Toplansky will present a
concert on Monday evening, November 11,
2019. The concert will be held at Hannah
Caldwell School Auditorium, 1120 Commerce
Avenue, Union, NJ at 7:30 p.m. Admission is
free and the public is cordially invited to attend.
This autumn concert will feature music from the
Broadway stage, marches and overtures.

The concert will include the following
selections: The Star Spangled Banner, Brighton

Beach March, Amazon Overture, Gypsy
Fantasy, Variag March, Amazing Grace,
Strenuous Life Rag, The Girl From Ipanema and
Third Man Theme.

The band would like to invite musicians from
Union and the surrounding communities to join
the group.

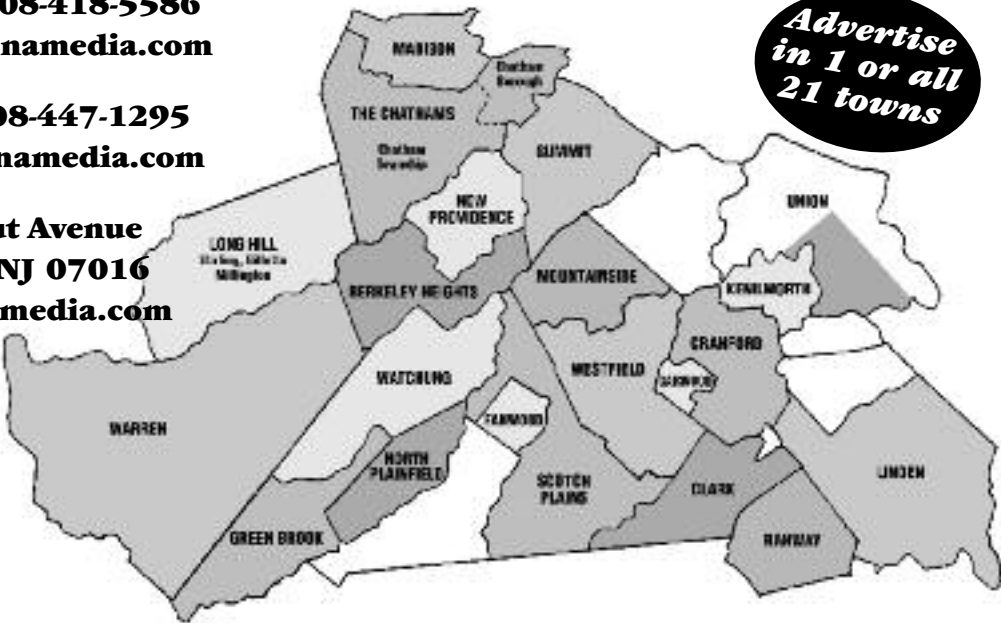
If you are interested please call the band
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TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 21ST ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 21st season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 14 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) for a 2 p.m. performance. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 15 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ with performances at 2 and 7 p.m.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as, "Highland Cathedral," Joy to the World, and Amazing Grace, all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ and brass and more. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of

Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

The 2019 production will also mark the world premiere of "Mystical Nativity," an original composition inspired by the 16th century masterpiece painted by Italian Renaissance master, Sandro Botticelli.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Featured performers include singer Maddy Kearns of Glasgow, Scotland making her concert debut, James Robinson from the film "Braveheart," New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel, champion harpist Rachel Clemente, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA among many more.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which includes the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts

Scholarship at Summit (NJ) High School as well as annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow, Scotland) the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas.

Proceeds also support the Society's sponsorship of the US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at Scotland's Royal National Mod and an annual academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Each year, concert highlights are webcast in hi-definition over the Christmas holiday to a global audience. In cooperation with HomeTowne Television, the 2018 production was the recipient of two prestigious Telly Awards for webcast excellence.

The concert is still accepting Title Sponsors as well as Program Ads. These gifts help offset production expenses and add help fund our scholarships.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through Brown Paper Tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com (be certain you select the event name and date in the search engine) or by phone at (800) 838-3006. Reserved patron seats are available at both venues.



(above) Rachel Clemente. The acclaimed composer and performer will debut the new composition, "Mystical Nativity."



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