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BRIDGEPORT ECRWSS



KATHRYN DASILVA EARNS GIRL SCOUTS GOLD AWARD

Submitted by Allison Kempe

Congratulations to Kathryn (Katy) DaSilva of Long Hill's Girl Scout Troop 82224 for achieving the highest award possible – the Girl Scout Gold Award.

For her Gold Award, Katy built a Legacy Wall, now sitting outside the child development center at The Center for Great Expectations (CGE) in Franklin, NJ. The Legacy Wall is a collection of painted tiles that were created by the residents and staff of the CGE, as well as other community members. The wall is displayed outside of "Katy's Place," the child development center at CGE.

Katy's Place is named for Katy Deitchman, Katy's beloved Auntie Katy, who died in 2003 from a rare form of cancer. The goal of Katy's project was to help raise awareness for CGE's mission of caring for homeless pregnant or parenting women and adolescents, and breaking the cycle of trauma, homelessness, abuse, and



(above) Katy DaSilva of Long Hill's Girl Scout Troop 82224, who achieved the highest award possible, the Girl Scout Gold Award.

addiction. By creating the Legacy Wall at The Center for Great Expectations, Katy gave current residents, their children, and supporters of the organization an opportunity to leave their "legacy," a permanent mark of their involvement and/or support.

Katy has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and hopes to continue her involvement with the Girl Scouts in the future. She also plans to continue her involvement at The Center for Great Expectations.



(above) Katy DaSilva with her completed project, the Legacy Wall.



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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 908-858-4012

2020 NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS AND COMMENDED STUDENTS

Submitted by Denis Kelly

Four Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) students have been named to the 2020 National Merit Semifinalist List, and another 26 WHRHS students have been named to the 2020 National Merit Commended List.

This year's WHRHS National Merit Semifinalists are: Phillip Ding, Dave Ki, Jessica Young and Vivian Zhang.

This year's WHRHS students named to the Commended List, which is the category immediately following Semifinalist, are: Laura Baeyens, Jagdeep Bhatia, Catherine Cai, Nyna Chacko, Tina Chen, Tamara Hadzic, Jenna Hansen, Nicole Harris, Roopa Irakam, Niharika Iyer, Apurva Joshi, Stephanie Ju, Abigail Kotar, Sana Mamtaney, Aaron Marmolejos, Manthan Naik, James Narayanan, Annabell Pu, Julia Rubin, Cristina Sarrico, Julia M. Schink, Mayur Sharma, Katie Tan, Sarah Young, Maya Zhang, and Kevin Zu.

The designations are based on scores by these students on the Reading Test, Writing and Language Test, and Mathematics Test for the 2018 PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test)/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) last Fall.

This year's four National Merit Semifinalists means that as many as 52 WHRHS students have qualified as National Merit Semifinalists during the most recent six years.

The year-to-year totals have been:

- Class of 2015 11; Class of 2016 6;
- Class of 2017 –10; Class of 2018 15;
- Class of 2019 6; and Class of 2020 4.

The National Merit Scholarship Program reports that the Finalists will be named later in the year. A percentage of Finalists are expected to compete for National Merit Scholarships, according to the scholarship program. Taken into account for those scholarship selections will be a variety of factors, including the student's subsequent SAT scores that confirm the score in the PSAT/NMSQT, an essay, as well as an endorsement and recommendation from the student's high school, demonstrations of leadership and participation in school and community activities.



(above, l-r) The 2020 National Merit Semifinalists from WHRHS are Phillip Ding of Green Brook Township, Jessica Young of Warren Township, Vivian Zhang of Green Brook Township, and Dave Ki of Warren Township. Photo by WHRHS



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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.



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GILLETTE SAILOR AWARDED MARMC SAILOR OF THE YEAR

Submitted by Chris Wyatt, MARMC Public Affairs Specialist

A Gillette, New Jersey, native and Watchung Hills Regional High School graduate was awarded as the Sailor of Year for Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center, on October 3, 2019.

Petty Officer 1st Class Stephanie Faenza is a machinist's mate assigned to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center (MARMC) in Norfolk, Virginia.

Petty Officer Faenza will now compete against other RMC's with a goal of reaching the finals,

which will take place in Washington D.C. If Petty Officer Faenza were to be selected as the Sailor of the Year for the Navy, she would be automatically be promoted to the rank of Chief.

MARMC is home to more than 1,500 Sailors who provide surface ship maintenance, management and oversight of private sector maintenance and fleet technical assistance to ships in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States and support the 5th and 6th fleet areas of responsibilities.



(above, l) Petty Officer 1st Class Stephanie Faenza





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STUDENTS CHEER, 'WARRIORS PRIDE' AT WHRHS FALL PEP RALLY

Submitted by Denis Kelly

Seniors wearing white shirts, Juniors wearing blue, Sophomores wearing red and Freshmen wearing green gathered in the stands of Tozier Stadium on Friday afternoon, September 13, 2019, at the annual Fall Pep Rally to cheer for the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Fall athletic teams.

Later that night, under the lights at the same Tozier Stadium, the football team won its second victory of the season, defeating Plainfield High School, 35-12.

Warrior Head Football Coach Rich Seubert, who was named The Lou Rettino High School Coach of the Week for Week 2 of the 2019 season by the New York Giants and Gatorade, and who played for 10 years for the New York Giants, including in the Giants' win in the 2007 Super Bowl, came out just before the Warrior football team charged onto the field at the Pep Rally, to lead "call-and-response" cheers.

Leading up to the football team's appearance at the Fall Pep Rally, a variety of the other

teams, representing the numerous athletic teams, entertained the students in the stands. Among those making appearances at the Pep Rally were: Boys Cross Country and Girls Cross Country teams, whose runners circled the stadium together, running a lap on the track; The Boys Soccer and Girls Soccer teams, whose players demonstrated various passing, kicking and ball control skills; Field Hockey, whose team members demonstrated their pinpoint passing and stick handling abilities; Ultimate Frisbee, whose never-stop-running boys and girls players covered the entire field, and some of the sidelines, sometimes right up to the stands, with deft Frisbee passing and spectacular catching; Tennis, whose players seized the opportunity to execute scores of soft lobs, sending tennis balls to the four corners of the stands, and to the many outstretched hands in-between, all to the delight of the students; and Gymnastics, whose competitors demonstrated their sport's array of athletic skills like cartwheels, somersaults, spins and

gravity-defying leaps.

Also represented on the field were the various elements of the Music Department's WHRHS Marching Warriors and Flag Squad. To open the Pep Rally, the Marching Band performed one of its signature pieces that audiences had heard and will hear as part of halftime performances at the 2019-2020 Warrior Football Games. The Warrior Marching Band is under the direction of Instrumental Music Teacher Paul McCullen, with assistance by Music Tech Lab Music Teacher Christopher Wyatt. Likewise, the WHRHS Cheerleaders demonstrated their various dances, formations, lifts, trust falls and cheers that are ever-present at so many WHRHS athletic and school-spirit events.

Acting as public address announcers at the Pep Rally was All School Council (ASC) Vice President Scott Romankow and ASC Parliamentarian Jed Ober in the Press Box. The annual Pep Rally was organized by the All School Council to honor all Fall Varsity Athletes.



WHRHS FALL PEP RALLY PHOTOS



(above) The members of the Boys Soccer Team and the Girls Soccer Team gathered before each team demonstrated their skills and team spirit on the Tozier Stadium Field at the Fall Pep Rally. Photos by WHRHS



(above) To open the Pep Rally, the Marching Band performed one of its signature pieces that audiences had heard and will hear as part of halftime performances at the 2019-2020 Warrior Football Games.



(above) The WHRHS Cheerleaders demonstrated their various dances, formations, lifts, trust falls and cheers that are ever-present at so many WHRHS athletic and school-spirit events.



WORKSHOP ON SUPPORTING CHILDREN, TEENS AND ADULTS COPING WITH LOSS

Submitted by Val Stierhoff

Children, teens and adults will experience different losses in life: divorce, moving, friendships ending, sports injuries or the death of a friend or family member. People of all ages can learn how to cope with loss if given the right support and education.

On November 14, 2019 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at its center in Mountainside, Imagine will offer a workshop on Supporting Children, Teens and Adults Coping with Loss for anyone who wants to learn how to support someone who is grieving. While loss due to death will be the primary focus of this seminar, the concepts that will be presented are applicable to all types of loss. It is especially important for parents and grandparents, teachers, members of community organizations, coaches, therapists, counselors and social workers to attend this program.

Those who attend will learn: definitions of loss grief and mourning, how children and adults grieve differently, how grief affects behavior, and ways to support grieving children, teens and adults. A \$20 donation is appreciated but not required. Pizza dinner will be provided at 6:15 and the program will begin at 6:30.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, November 12. To RSVP or for further information contact Connie Palmer at 908-264-3100 x102.

Imagine is a free grief support center located in Mountainside and Newark. For more information visit imaginenj.org.



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TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 21ST ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

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

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 21st more. Not only does the performance define **PROCEEDS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE** 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 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 vou 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.



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