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NJ

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ISSUE 75 • DECEMBER 2019

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## SANTA CAN VISIT YOUR HOME ON A REAL FIRE ENGINE

Santa Claus can visit your home on a real fire engine and deliver a special present to your child(ren) on Saturday, December 14, 2019 making an unforgettable and treasured memory for your child and everyone in your family.

This is an annual fund raiser for the Stirling Volunteer Fire Dept. and supports them in paying for training, equipment, etc. A \$40 per household donation is required and you must drop off your wrapped gift at the Stirling Firehouse (321 Somerset St., Stirling) on Dec. 12 or 13 between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Your \$40 donation is requested when you drop off your gift. Please make your check payable to the Stirling Vol. Fire Co.

Upon arrival at your home Santa will visit with your child(ren) and you may take as many photos with Santa as you wish, and get one with the whole family and Santa. He'll also be accompanied by firefighter Santa's elves, which will make this an event that your child(ren) and your family will cherish for years. Children love Santa and they love fire engines so what can be better than having Santa arrive on a real fire engine to visit you?

To sign-up for Santa's exciting personal visit or get additional details, please email Firefighter Santa at [stirlingfirecompany@gmail.com](mailto:stirlingfirecompany@gmail.com) and leave your name and phone number. A firefighter Santa's helper will return your email with additional information on how to make this Christmas one of the most memorable ever.



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Phone: 908-447-1295, Fax: 908-709-9209

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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.

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# NEW JERSEY NATIVE ENTERS CLASS OF 2023 PLEBE SUMMER AT THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – John Robert Trombetta a graduate of Morristown – Beard School in Morristown, NJ was inducted into the Naval Academy Class of 2023 Thursday, June 27, and will begin six challenging weeks of basic midshipman training as part of Plebe Summer.

Approximately 1,200 candidates are selected each year for the Academy's "plebe" or freshman class, and each student is required to participate in Plebe Summer. Last year the Naval Academy received over 16,000 applications for the Class of 2022.

During this time, plebes have no access to television, movies, the internet or music, and restricted access to cell phones. They are only permitted to make three calls during the six weeks of Plebe Summer.

The pressure and rigor of Plebe Summer is carefully designed to help plebes prepare for their first academic year at the Naval Academy and the four years of challenge, which awaits them.

As the summer progresses, the new midshipmen rapidly assimilate basic skills in seamanship, navigation, damage control, sailing, and handling yard patrol craft. Plebes also learn infantry drill and how to shoot 9 mm pistols and M-16 rifles.

Other daily training sessions involve moral, mental, physical or professional development and team-building skills. Activities include swimming, martial arts, basic rock climbing, obstacle, endurance and confidence courses designed to develop physical, mental and team-building skills. Forty hours are devoted to the instruction of infantry drill and five formal parades.

Founded in 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy today is a prestigious four-year service academy that prepares midshipmen morally, mentally and physically to be professional officers in the naval service. More than 4,400 men and women representing every state in the U.S. and several foreign countries make up the student body, known as the Brigade of Midshipmen. U.S.

News and World Reports has recognized the Naval Academy as a top five undergraduate engineering school and a top 20 best liberal arts college. Midshipmen learn from military and civilian instructors and participate in intercollegiate varsity sports and extracurricular activities. They also study subjects such as leadership, ethics, small arms, drill, seamanship and navigation, tactics, naval engineering and weapons, and military law. Upon graduation, midshipmen earn a Bachelor of Science degree in a choice of 25 different subject majors and go on to serve at least five years of exciting and rewarding service as commissioned officers in the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps.

The Brigade of Midshipmen is comprised of approximately 4,400 students from every state in the union and a handful of international students. Each year, approximately 1,200 young men and women are admitted to the Naval Academy's incoming class.



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## GINGERBREAD WONDERLAND AND CRAFT SHOW STARTS DEC 6

Beginning Friday, December 6 through Sunday, December 15, 2019, kick off the holiday season at the Gingerbread Wonderland and Craft Show at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morris Township.

Join Morris County's most popular holiday event featuring 150+ edible masterpieces, now in its 28th year! Marvel at the creativity and skill displayed by local schools, scout troops, families and individuals. Explore the sweet, candy-filled room, and vote for your favorite creation. With past creations from Hogwarts to enchanted gardens, and pirate ships to Santa's Workshop, this is a must see for all ages.

On Saturdays and Sundays, December 7, 8, 14 and 15, complete your holiday shopping with ease at the 9th Annual Gingerbread Wonderland Craft Show. Check out local artists and crafters' beautiful and affordable handmade creations,

perfect for that special person on your list.

Gingerbread Wonderland is open daily 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Fridays until 7:30 p.m. The Craft Show is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This event is sponsored by The Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Admission is \$2 per person, and gains entry to both Gingerbread Wonderland and the Craft Show. Children under age 2 are free. Groups of 8 or more must make a

reservation by calling 973-326-7601. For more information and directions to The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, visit [arboretumfriends.org](http://arboretumfriends.org).

The Morris County Park Commission features one of the region's best park systems in the state of New Jersey. It currently protects and maintains 20,197 acres at 38 distinct sites plus offers a year-round calendar of events and activities for all to enjoy!



(above) The Gingerbread Wonderland and Craft Show will feature over 150 edible masterpieces.



(above) All ages enjoy seeing the edible creations.

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## FAMILIES RUN THE GIRALDA FARMS 10K

On November 10, 2019, four Long Hill families embraced the cold by participating in the Giralda Farms races in Madison, NJ. All four

moms ran the 10K first, while their children participated in a half mile race afterwards. In total, they ran just shy of 30 miles.



(above) Abby Hansen, Leah Hansen, Timmy Hansen, Serena Hansen, Jackie Hurley, Dylan Hurley, Dean Hurley, Jody O'Connor, Townes O'Connor, Fox O'Connor, Judy Dias, Caden Dias,



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Kids 3-6 .....\$4.29	Kids 3-6 .....\$6.29
2 & Under.....FREE!	2 & Under.....FREE!

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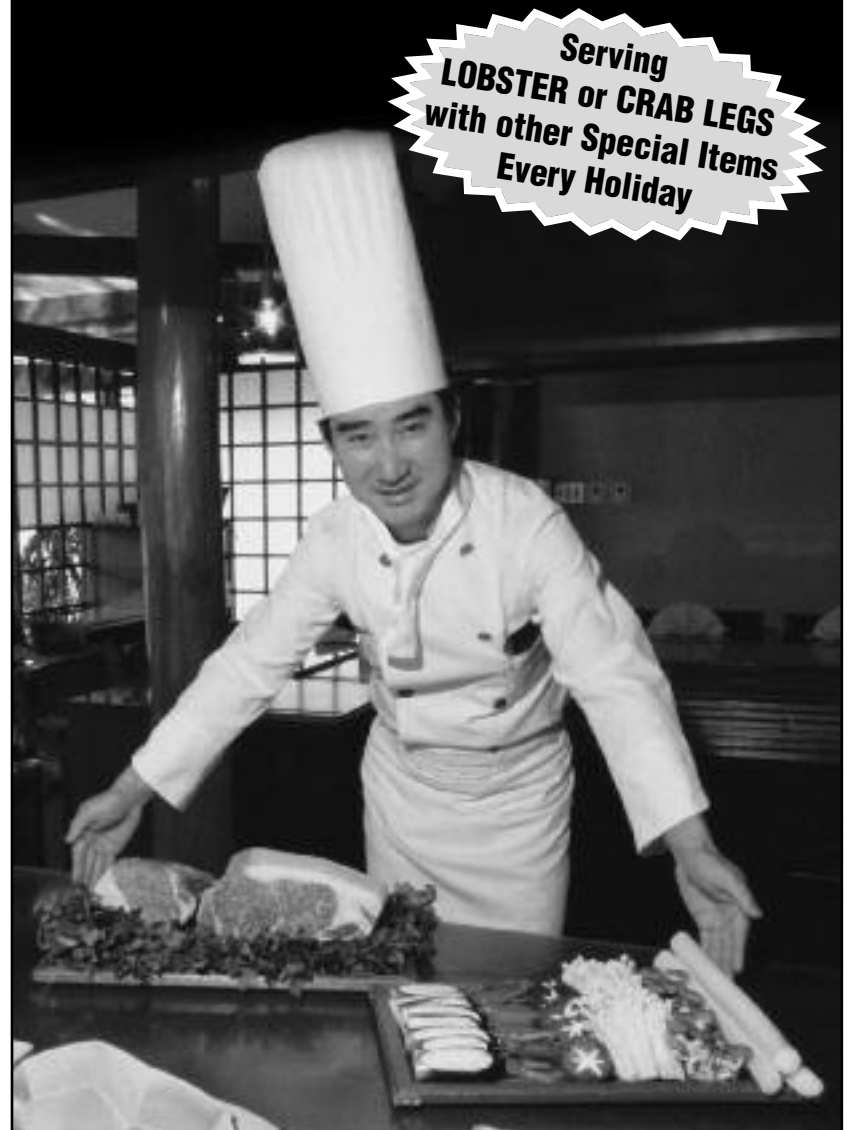
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Adult .....\$8.59	Adult .....\$12.59
Kids 7-10 .....\$6.29	Kids 7-10 .....\$7.79
Kids 3-6 .....\$4.29	Kids 3-6 .....\$6.29
2 & Under.....FREE!	2 & Under.....FREE!

### SUNDAY ALL DAY DINNER

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Kids 7-10 .....\$7.79
Kids 3-6 .....\$6.29
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## 79 WHRHS STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Some 79 students were honored at the 41st Induction Ceremony of the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). The Induction Ceremony was held on Thursday, October 24, in the school's Performing Arts Center (PAC).

This year's inducted students are: Cassandra Apuzzo, Amanda Aschoff, Laura Baeyens, Bryan Bartnick, Claire Beck, Jagdeep Bhatia, Zachary Bokhari, Kimberly Briceno, Haley Burton, Catherine Cai, Nyna Chacko, Michelle Chavanne, Vivian Chou, Eden DePekary, Ally

Devico, Phillip Ding, Giovanna DiSanto, Marilyn Du, John Dwyer, Lauren Eknoian, Mary Elias, Owen Furlong, Abigail Gallant, Melissa Gallic, Tamara Hadzic, Kristen Hamilton, Jenna Hansen, Nicole Harris, Christopher Iannella, Lilli Iannella, Deepa Irakam, Roopa Irakam, Niharika Iyer, Apurva Joshi, Dave Ki, Abigail Kotar, Emma Kotar, Rachel Krouk, Jacob Lesser, Sana Mamtaney, Miah Manning, Aaron Marmolejos, Hannah Marszalek, Mario Martino, Olivia Matlosz, Matthew McCracken, Jacqueline Mills,

Alexandria Minetti, Samantha Moran, James Narayanan, Ngocthy Nguyen, Claudia O'Reilly, Adam Orzepowski, Victor Osoliniec, Cayla Park, Apsara Rangarajan, Zachary Rieger, Scott Romankow, Teresa Rotolo, Julia Rubin, Cristina Sarrico, Kyle Schlingloff, Leslie Sena, Pramity Shah, Kevin Shen, Alexander Siegel, Ji Yoon Sim, Ariadna Sosa, Eliana Sussner, Katie Tan, Christine Tanko, Emily Thompson, Jack White, Elizabeth Wilcenski, Michael Wong, Jessica Young, Sarah Young, Maya Zhang, and Vivian Zhang.

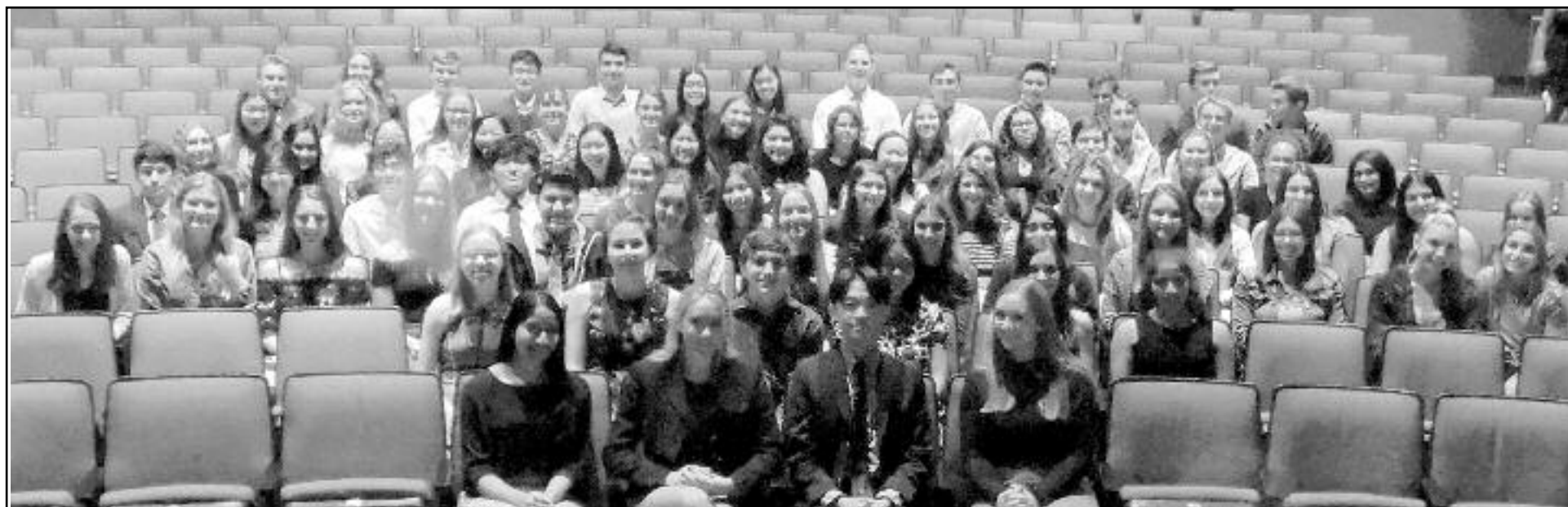


Photo by WHRHS



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• Sunday, December 22 •

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### CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christmas Eve • Tuesday, December 24

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Candlelight Eucharist

with Soloists at 6:00 p.m.

Candlelight Eucharist with Sanctuary Choir and

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Christmas Day • Wednesday, December 25

Nativity Eucharist and Carols at 10:00 a.m.

• Sunday, December 29 •

Eucharist, Lessons and Carols at 10:00 a.m.

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## ACTOR NEILL HARTLEY PORTRAYS FDR IN "AN ARSENAL FOR DEMOCRACY"

Actor Neill Hartley wowed Long Hill Township as Ichabod Crane with the Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Now Neill is back at the Long Hill Township Library on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at noon, this time as Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in the captivating one-man show set against the background World War II.

See, hear, and experience FDR as he prepares to address the nation: The date is December 29, 1940. Franklin Delano Roosevelt has just been re-elected to an unprecedented third term in office. But the world is in a crisis. Nazi Germany has blazed a path of destruction across Europe, and America may soon be drawn into war. Watch this famous moment come to life, as you meet with the President just prior to his delivery of the famous Arsenal of Democracy speech. Learn what President Roosevelt was thinking, and listen to his plea for the support of our Allies. Neill Hartley is Franklin Delano Roosevelt in this fully staged historical presentation that will entertain and educate audiences from school age to adult. Following the presentation, there will be time for comments and questions with one of the most influential presidents of all time.

Actor, director, and teacher, Neill Hartley earned a Master of Fine Arts from Temple University in Acting and was a faculty member there from 1989-2000. Since 1994 he has been teaching Speech & Voice at the University of the Arts and is a speech and dialect coach for several professional theaters. As an actor Neill has performed with Arden Theater, InterAct Theatre, and the Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival, among others.

Mr. Hartley won a Barrymore Award for Ensemble for 1812 Productions' Batboy, The Musical. Neill is also a busy director for theaters which include Philadelphia Young Playwrights, University of the Arts, University of Pennsylvania, Arcadia University, Isis Productions, the Brick Theater and the Luna Theater.

This program is funded by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. It is free and open to the public. Join us at the Long Hill Township Library on Saturday, December 7 at Noon. Registration is requested by stopping by the library or calling 908-647-2088. The library is located at 917 Valley Road, Gillette, NJ.



(above) See Neill Hartley portray Franklin Delano Roosevelt at the Long Hill Township Library on Saturday, December 7 at Noon.

## BRIAN DIDONNA GRADUATES FROM FIRE ACADEMY

*Submitted by Frank Reilly*

The Stirling Volunteer Fire Co. has a new fully accredited firefighter, Brian DiDonna of Millington, who graduated from the County Fire Academy in early October. At the fire company's monthly meeting he was congratulated by his fellow firefighters for his achievement and Fire Chief Al Gallo presented him with his new personal helmet shield that displays his official firefighter number, #138. His parents were there to witness the shield presentation ceremony and share in coffee and cake along with the taking of numerous photos. They are very proud of their son.

The Firefighter I course is almost 200 hours and provides certified and extensive training to volunteer and paid firefighters together. The training helps participants become experts on firefighting equipment and techniques, handling hazardous materials situations, effective firefighting teamwork, firefighter and civilian safety, and communications.

A strict dress code was maintained for Firefighter I training, additionally if the student missed just one class, he would fail the course automatically. He also had to pass grueling

physical and written tests.

The Stirling Volunteer Fire Co. is 100% comprised of Long Hill Township residents who have given freely of their time 24/7 every day of the year since 1913.



(above) Stirling Fire Chief Al Gallo and Brian DiDonna

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## WHRHS CLASS OF 2020 HOMECOMING COURT

Students of the Class of 2020 at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) selected Trevor Schmidt and Sarah Young as King and Queen of this year's Homecoming Court during Halftime of the annual WHRHS Homecoming Football Game, Friday, October 3, 2019, at Tozier Stadium. The 10 students selected for the Homecoming Court are: From left, Vincent DiGeronimo; Cayla Park, Christopher Iannello, Meghan Francesco, King Trevor Schmidt, Queen Sarah Young, Roopa Irakam, Scott Romankow, Christine Tanko, and Jack White.

Photo by WHRHS



## ST VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Come have breakfast with Santa on Saturday December 7th at St Vincent de Paul Parish 249 Bebout Ave, Stirling. Pancakes, Sausage and eggs will be served followed by a visit from Santa. Tickets are \$12 for 10 and older, \$7 for ages 2-9, free under age 2 (family Maximum =\$40) This annual fundraiser benefits St Vincent de Paul Parish Food Pantry, Catholic Charities, St. Agnes Church, and Bridges Outreach. Please visit stvincentschurch.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

## SANTA ARRIVES AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER - DEC 8TH

The Long Hill Community Center invites all Long Hill children and their families to their 25th Annual Kids Holiday Party on Sunday, December 8th, 2019, 1-3 p.m. at the Center located on S. Warren Ave. (across from Jaeger Lumber), Stirling. This event is free to all LHT children and their families. The party will commence outside at 1:00 p.m. Central Middle School 6th Grade Blue & Gold Band will entertain the crowd while waiting for Santa's arrival via a fire truck provided by the Stirling Fire Department. Then the party moves inside with Santa and the countdown to light the beautiful tree, donated by the Beneduce Family from the Great Swamp Greenhouse. Children can then share their wish list with Santa and receive a complimentary gift and candy. The party is also outside with complementary mule-drawn festive redcovered wagon rides and also a petting zoo.

Again this year, the Community Center will be co-sponsoring a Toy Drive in cooperation with The Long Hill Twps. PBA #322 and the Long Hill Twps. PTO. We ask all who attend the party to please bring a new, unwrapped toy for ages newborn through teen. They will be distributed to sick or injured children hospitalized during the holidays and throughout the year.

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## WHRHS 'SCRIPT AND CUE' DRAMA STUDENTS PRESENT ANNUAL 'CABARET NIGHT'

Some 18 Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) students entertained an audience of friends, family members, faculty members and fans, singing 14 songs and

performing a comedy routine at the 2019 Script and Cue sponsored Cabaret, Wednesday, October 23, 2019, on the stage of the Performing Arts Center (PAC).

Photo by WHRHS



## PIANIST ANNA KEISERMAN DEBUTS IN STIRLING ON DECEMBER 8

On December 8, 2019 at 2:00 p.m., the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling welcomes classical pianist Anna Keiserma. Russian-born and New York-based pianist Anna Keiserma is known for her creative programming, expressive freedom and singular vision. As a soloist Anna has performed concerti by Rachmaninoff, Haydn, Beethoven and Arensky with the Volgograd Symphony Orchestra, and also toured through Italy and Russia. Among Dr. Keiserma's awards are top prizes in two international piano competitions in Russia: one based in Volgograd, the other in Saratov. Recently Anna was awarded 3rd place in the "American Prize in Piano Performance" competition. With a focus on actively engaging audiences, Anna created several custom programs for the Salmagundi Art Club. With her "American Music 1917-18," "Sounding Palettes," and "New York Lights," Anna invited audiences to explore surprising repertoire in a variety of cultural contexts. Other performance credits include Le Poisson Rouge, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, and performing for the Fête de La Musique at the invitation of the French-American Piano Society, Big Hall of the Volgograd Conservatory, Volgograd, Russia.

In 2017 Anna received the "Culture and Art" award from the New Russia Cultural Center (Rensselaer, NY) for her dedication to promoting arts and culture in the community. In the summer 2019 Anna embarked on a concert tour in Spain premiering the Sonata "Cerdanyenca" for cello and piano by Marc Migó Cortes. Future engagements of 2020 include recording the solo piano works of the living Catalan composer Jordi Cervelló in Barcelona, Spain and Midwest concert tour with renowned saxophonist Paul Cohen. Anna Keiserma has served as faculty at the NYU Steinhardt School of the Arts, at the Rutgers University Extension Division, and at William Paterson University. Having earned



(above) Pianist Anna Keiserma will play at the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling on December 8, at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome.

degrees from the Gnessin Russian Academy of Music in Moscow and the University of Minnesota, Dr. Keiserma recently completed her Doctorate of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from Rutgers University in January 2019 and received the Elizabeth Wyckoff Durham Award for academic distinction and excellence in piano performance.

The afternoon's program will include Rachmaninoff's "Etudes-Tableaux op.33 », Alexander Krein's "Two Poems op. 11", Marc Migó's "Four Preludes", and 4 selections from Rodion Shchedrin: "A la Albeniz, Troika, Two-part Invention, and Basso Ostinato.

This will be the third concert in the Church's concert series for the 2019 – 2020 season. Admission, as always, is free. A short reception will follow the concert at which attendees may meet the performer. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, go to [fpcestirling.org](http://fpcestirling.org) or call the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling at 908-647-1033.

## LOCALS JOIN HARVEST FEST & WELLNESS DAY

Submitted by Iris D Alston

Every October, as the leaves on the trees begin to change colors, residents and volunteers from all over Somerset County begin to get excited about the Watchung Hills Regional Municipal Alliance (WHRMA) Great Pumpkin Certified 5K Run/Family Fun Walk.

This year, WHRMA, which serves Warren, Green Brook, Watchung and Long Hill Townships, decided to collaborate with the Watchung Twp Recreation Department's Harvest Festival. The event was held on October 19, 2019 at Watchung Twp's Mobus Field and it was a great success. More than 700 residents attended. It was a great opportunity to raise awareness to WHRMA mission and programs.

The WHRMA is a non profit grassroots community organization that receives funding from the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the Freeholders of Somerset and Morris Counties. WHRMA identifies community needs through surveys and key informant interviews local data received from local government and funds intervention programs that serve Warren, Green Brook, Watchung and Long Hill Townships. Outcomes from the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Report June 2018 states that "agencies and organizations including schools and youth friendly health care providers can help facilitate access to critically important education, health care and high impact evidence based intervention programs".

The WHRMA committee meetings are held at Watchung Hills Regional High School on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. except in July and August and all meetings are open to the public. The committee sponsors film screenings, author led book discussions, community events and panel discussions on the topics of drug, alcohol, tobacco and vaping prevention in all the schools in the towns they serve as well as mental health first aid training and suicide prevention throughout the year. According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Summary and Trends Report 2007–2017 "Improving the health of adolescents and, subsequently, their health in adulthood will require our collective action at the family, school, and community levels". Parents of all school age children are strongly encouraged to get out and support WHRMA events on a regular basis.



(above, l-r) Gabrielle and Chairperson Cindy Webster at the WHRMA event table.

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