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MOUNTAINSIDE COMMUNITY RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Submitted by Jack McCurdy

Approximately 40 congregants from the Mountainside Community Presbyterian Church (CPC) were joined by Boy Scouts from local Troop 177, their leaders and other Mountainside residents, to participate in the "Rise Against Hunger" food program held in September. CPC's Interim pastor, Rev. Leigh Gillis, had participated in 4 previous events and arranged this one at CPC.

The Rise Against Hunger leaders explained the process by which approximately 10,000 bags of food would eventually be filled, sealed, labeled and boxed for shipment. The process was simple, very well organized and highly productive; after 1-1/2 hours this very happy group filled, sealed, labeled and boxed 10,127 bags of food, each consisting of a vitamin pack, vegetable mix, soybean and rice!

This output will eventually provide 25,000 meals to the hungry in a country determined by Rise Against Hunger!



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MOUNTAINSIDE VIEW

Mountainside View is published by Renna Media. 2,800 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Mountainside.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

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

Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email: editor@rennamedia.com

Mountainside View is online at www.rennamedia.com like us on facebook.com/ Mountainside View



MOBILE MEALS MOVING FORWARD INTO ITS SECOND HALF CENTURY

Since 1968. Mobile Meals of Westfield, a ABOUT OUR MEALS voluntary, 501(c)3 non-profit program, has provided home-delivered meals serving those who are unable to shop and prepare their own meals on either a temporary or permanent basis because of age, illness or disability. Our purpose is to serve members of our community in need of help to ensure that they are provided with nutritious meals on a regular basis. We serve the residents of Westfield, Mountainside, Fanwood, Garwood, Scotch Plains, Clark and Cranford, New Jersey.

We are supported by our members and donations from charitable social services organizations such as the Westfield United Fund.

We are able to accept donations on our Facebook page, 'Mobile Meals of Westfield NJ'. As client meal fees only cover 50% of the organization costs, donations are welcome and appreciated year-round.

Change has been in the air at Mobile Meals of Westfield. At the beginning of the year, longtime President of the Board, Nancy Otchy, retired from the organization. Nancy had served as a Mobile Meals board member for over 20 years and after taking the reigns as president steered the organization up until its 50th anniversary in 2018. The board honored Nancy for her extensive dedication and commitment at their June 2019 board meeting.

Attempting to fill these big shoes as the new Board President is Ruth Maloney. Ruth has been a volunteer driver for Mobile Meals for 20 years and joined the board in 2018 after her youngest graduated high school.

Mobile Meals also has a new chef, Karen Waldorf, who has over 20 years of experience as a private caterer. She's passionate about cooking and is delighted to be associated with Mobile Meals.

Our meals are reasonably priced, and unlike other meal delivery services, Mobile Meals has no financial need requirements. Our customers come from all walks of life and financial situations. If you know of anyone who could benefit from receiving daily meals and personal contact, or if you have any interest in volunteering, please contact Mobile Meals of Westfield at (908) 233-6146.

We operate 5 days a week, Monday through Friday. All our meals are prepared by a trained cook and packaged and delivered by volunteers. Our well-balanced menus change daily.

Mobile Meals serves a hot meal and an optional cold meal. The hot meal consists of soup and crackers, an entree of meat or fish, a vegetable and a starch, bread and butter, a dessert and a beverage (milk or juice). The cold meals consist of a sandwich, a dessert and a beverage.

Our meals are low salt and we will take dietary requirements into consideration as much as we can. We offer sugar-free products, as well. Our food is delicious, never frozen, and attractively presented in microwavable trays. All containers are easily disposable.

PRICING

Hot dinner: \$6.50 per day Hot dinner plus cold lunch: \$8.95 per day Minimum delivery of 2 days per week.

Anyone may apply directly for Mobile Meals, or may be referred by a relative, friend, clergyman, physician, nurse or other interested consultants, or through any welfare department, health agency, social agency or hospital. Our customers come from all walks of life and financial situations.

For more information call (908) 233-6146 or visit mobilemealsofwestfield.org.



(above, l-r) Longtime Board President Nancy Otchy was recently honored by the current Mobile Meals Board: Mary Doyle, Josephine Walsh, Linda Johnson, Kit Laudati, Doug Lynch, Fran Lemberg, Kim Englese, Cherie Parker, Ruth Maloney and Marie Sloan.

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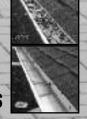
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MOUNTAINSIDE ACTIVE RETIREES TRAVEL TO TOMASELLO WINERY

Submitted by Kenny I.

Members and guests of The Mountainside Active Retirees traveled to the Tomasello Winery in Hammonton, New Jersey this fall. Members were able to individually choose and taste from a list of over 30 wines including whites, reds, specialty wines and fruit wines. After the tastings a delicious lunch was served, accompanied with wine, of course! On the way

shopping and strolling before returning to Mountainside.

The club has only one meeting in December, on December 10, before breaking for the holidays. It is the 3rd annual 3-B's & E meeting. The 3-B's stand for Bake them or Buy them and Bring them. The E stands for Eat them. In other words, an old fashion cookie swap. There will

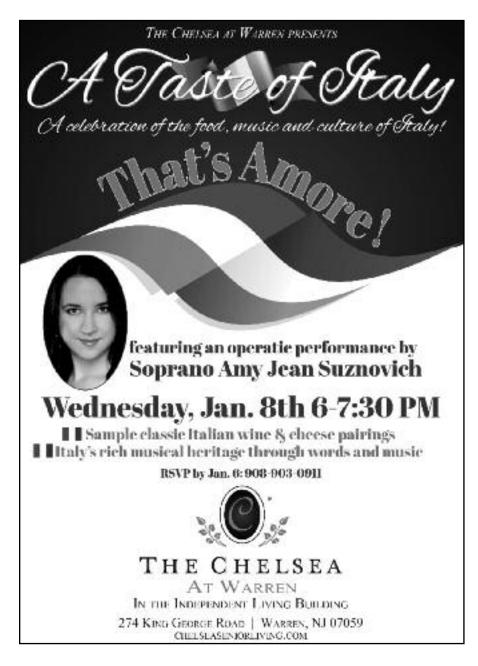
home a stop was made at Historic Smithville for also be live entertainment by Pamm & Steve, a musical duo.

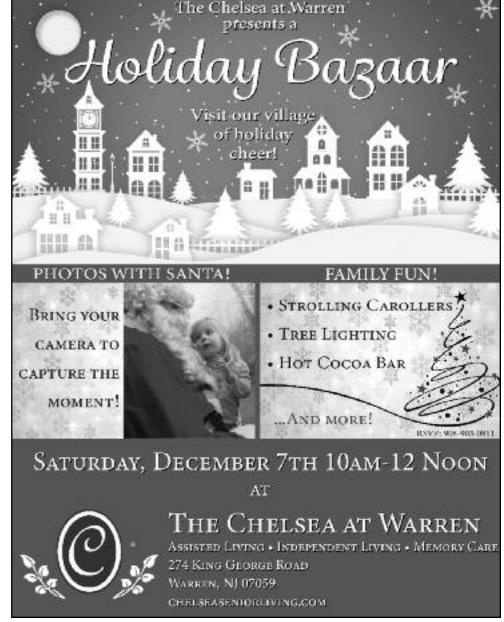
> Meetings, as always, are held in the 2nd floor Community Room at Borough Hall starting at 10 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

> Mountainside residents 55+ are always welcomed. Come visit, you'll like what you see and hear.



(above) The Mountainside Active Retirees on a recent trip to the Tomasello Winery in Hammonton, New Jersey.





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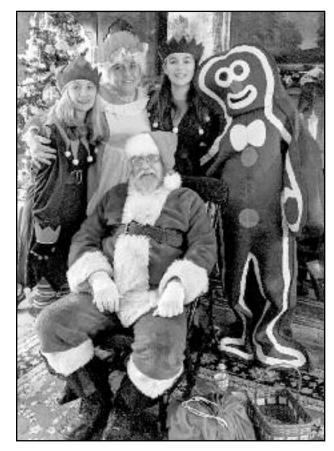
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MOUNTAINSIDE'S HETFIELD HOUSE GINGERBREAD OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND



(above) Mountainside Historic Committee members and volunteers enjoy the Wine & Cheese reception during the Adult Gingerbread Open House to be held from 2-4pm on Saturday, Dec. 14 (wine & cheese for adults).

On Sunday, Dec. 15 from 1-4pm the Gingerbread Open House will take place(for families at the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House.

For a fun-filled afternoon that's sure to put everyone in the Holiday spirit, make sure to visit the Hetfield House (located on Constitution Plaza near the Mountainside Library) on Saturday, Dec. 14 (adults) and Sun., Dec. 15 (families). A donation of \$5 per person is suggested and proceeds will go toward the continued restoration of the Levi Cory House and maintenance of the Hetfield House.

The spirit of the holidays, present and past, will be celebrated during the Gingerbread Open House at Mountainside's Hetfield House the weekend of Dec. 14-15. On Saturday, Dec. 14, the house will be open for adults only for Wine & Cheese; and on Sunday, December 15, the house will be open for families. Capturing the celebration of the holidays, the Hetfield House will exude the warmth and holiday spirit of those bygone days. The Hetfield House is decorated inside and out and from top to bottom and shouldn't be missed.

Adult Wine & Cheese Open House – Sat., Dec. 14 from 2-4pm

There will be light refreshments including wine, cheese/crackers, baked goods and beverages. The event will kick-off at 2:00 p.m. with a visit from jolly old St. Nick. Guests will enjoy, music and plenty of holiday cheer. Stop by for a short visit or stay for a while.

Family Gingerbread Open House – Sunday, Dec. 15 from 1-4pm

Enjoy many interactive events and projects including gingerbread ornaments to craft, mini holiday arrangements to make, guessing contest, mulled apple cider and baked goods to enjoy - all surrounded by festive holiday décor and live music by the Bagpipe Players from Governor Livingston High School (1:00 pm); Deerfield Middle School Instrumental Music students (1:30 pm); and Our Lady of Lourdes Children's Choir (2:30 pm). Despite their busy work preparing for the holiday, Mr. & Mrs. Claus promise to visit the children and share holiday cheer. Bring your cameras/phones for pictures.

On both days, the "Village Shop" boutique will be open in the Levi Cory House, next door, featuring Holiday décor items, ornaments, jewelry, gifts, crafts and other curiosities – both new and vintage.

The Deacon Andrew Hetfield House is located at Constitution Plaza (Watchung Ave., off Birch Hill Rd.) adjacent to the Mountainside Library. The Mountainside Restoration Committee is a 501 (c)(3) charity and a committee of volunteers whose purpose is to maintain the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House, restore the Levi Cory House and collect and save historic information and items from destruction.

For further information, please call (908)789-9420;

or, go to: www.mountainsidehistory.org







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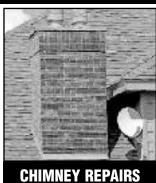
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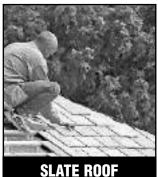




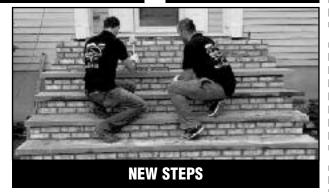
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HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS WITH BACKPACKS FOR LIFE

Submitted by Michael Boll, New Jersey Veterans Network

For the last few years our charity racing team, lives of veterans. Operation Rebound, has been sponsored by Backpacks for Life (BFL). This amazing charity is responsible for providing thousands of homeless veterans backpacks full of essential toiletries and personal items. Also, the BFL will seek out veterans in need and help them with housing, food, employment and any other service that will help them live a better life.

The founder of the BFL, Brett D'Alessandro, is a United States Marine Corps veteran and started this outstanding charity shortly after he returned home from his tour of duty in Afghanistan. Brett recalls living out of a backpack during the war and felt a backpack can be a life-saving tool. In just a few years, Brett and the BFL are responsible for making thousands of backpacks for our homeless veterans.

The BFL doesn't just do backpacks, they are committed with helping our disabled veterans with providing them with the necessary resources and life-saving services by participating in various health fairs and PTSD groups. The BFL estimates about 350 disabled veterans have benefited from their resources and outreach. The BFL feels it's easy for a veteran to feel lost in the system. There are amazing resources out there, but it can be overwhelming trying to navigate it alone, so the BFL is there to help and guide the veteran through this agonizing process. What makes the BFL special is they invite veterans into their home and help with filling out paperwork, draft resumes, apply for housing, or whatever else is needed to help the veteran.

The future looks bright for the BFL. They're excited to expand their backpacks distribution and reach even more homeless veterans. As they connect with more veterans' organizations across the country, they will equip even more communities with backpacks.

Their mentorship and coaching process will soon be accessible online. In this exciting development, veterans from across the country will be able to utilize the organization despite their location. Through this growth, the BFL focus remains on bringing hope back into the

The BFL is out there every day making a difference and the Operation Rebound Racing Team is lucky to be a part of this incredible charity.

If you are interested with helping the Backpacks for Life please visit their website backpacksforlife.org.

For more information about New Jersey Veterans Network visit njvn.org.

ABOUT OPERATION REBOUND

Operation Rebound is a mobile outreach team of mentors who help at-risk veterans and first responders to live a better life. For the last two years, our 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 with joining the Operation Rebound Racing Team please feel free to contact Michael Boll at mdbollio@optonline.net or call 973-332-1556.



(above) Brett D'Alessandro, Founder of Backpacks for Life





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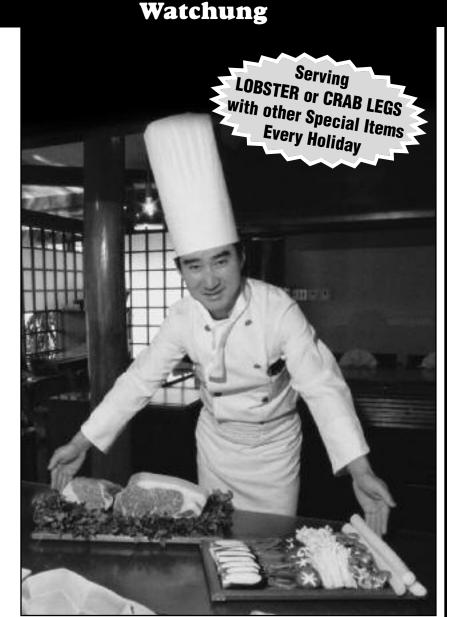
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HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES SET FOR DEC 7TH

MOUNTAINSIDE TREE LIGHTING - DEC 7 - 4:30 P.M.

The decorating of the tree and the annual ceremony are organized and funded by community volunteers from the Mountainside Beautification Committee. The Mayor will officially light the tree, and the Scouts will sing carols. The Mountainside Historical Committee will sell hot chocolate and cookies.

Proceeds from the sale will go toward the restoration of the Levi Cory House. The rain date is Sunday, Dec. 8th.

FAMILY ICE SKATING NIGHT, 6:30 - 8 P.M.

Complete this festive day with Family Ice Skating Night, an evening of free ice skating at Union Sports Arena. The Recreation Department has reserved the rink exclusively for Mountainside residents and their guests from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

BOY SCOUTS

Mountainside Boy Scout Troop #177 has been busy working on many fun scout activities, including a weekend-long canoeing trip, and participating in the Jersey Jamboree scouting event. For more information about Boy Scout Troop #177, please contact Jeff Healy, jeffhealy8@gmail.com.



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BRIGHTEN YOUR HOLIDAYS WITH SEASONS OF LIGHT AT THE KEAN UNIVERSITY PLANETARIUM

members of the community to enjoy Seasons of Light, a breathtaking light show that combines astronomy with winter celebrations from around the world.

Experience the magic of Seasons of Light from 3:30-4:15 p.m. on Thursday, December 5; and Mondays, December 2 and December 9, 2019. The Planetarium is located in Kean's Science Building, 3rd Floor, at 1000 Morris Ave. in Union, N.J. Admission is free.

"Our Seasons of Light planetarium show is an amazing way for the Kean University campus and neighboring communities to get into the holiday spirit," said William Heyniger, lecturer in Kean's School of Environmental and Sustainability Sciences. "The dynamic show explores the history of using lights during the winter season in a variety of religious and cultural traditions, including the many adaptations of Ole St. Nick."

Seasons of Light, produced by Loch Ness explores Productions, the traditions

The Kean University Planetarium invites all celebrated around the world during the darkest time of the year. The light show features classic holiday music and illustrates the importance of illumination behind the winter season and celebrations. The presentation also highlights constellations, as well as astronomical phenomena including comets, meteors, novas, supernovas and planetary conjunctions that occur during the holiday season.

> The Kean University Planetarium is a 30-foot hemispheric dome with a 180-degree sky view that utilizes Starlab®, a state-of-the-art digital projection system, for an immersive and educational experience of topics ranging from astronomy, astrophysics, earth science, interstellar distances, math, earth and space geology, and meteorological and spatial applications. The Planetarium is wheelchair accessible.

> For more information, contact William Heyniger at planetarium@kean.edu or call (908) 737-3660.



(above) The Kean University Planetarium invites you to experience Seasons of Light, a spectacular light show that combines luminous holiday lights and astronomical astrology.

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IMAGINE'S MARY ROBINSON SELECTED TOP TEN CNN HERO OF THE YEAR

Submitted by Val Stierhoff

Imagine Founder and Executive Director Mary Robinson has been selected this year as a Top Ten CNN Hero by CNN Executives. While Imagine made it to the Top Ten CNN Hero category, they can use your vote to make it to the Hero of the Year which would result in a donation of \$100,000 for Imagine and a global spotlight on the need and importance of supporting grieving youth. You can vote ten times a day every day for Mary at cnnheroes.com. Voting ends Dec. 3.

"We are thrilled but not surprised Mary has been selected," said Imagine Board Chair John Toriello. "Having served on the board since Imagine's inception in 2011, I know Mary is an outstanding and dedicated leader who makes and has made an enormous contribution in helping grieving children and families. We are very proud of her."

"This award means we are able to shine an even bigger spotlight on our mission of supporting children, teens, young adults, and their families, who are coping with loss due to death or illness," said Mary. "In NJ alone there are currently over 114,000 bereaved youth who have had a parent die. Nationally the number is over 4.9 million. At Imagine over 430 children and adults from 59 towns across New Jersey attend our support groups every two weeks in Mountainside and Newark. However, serving 430 people at our centers is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of youth needing support. Therefore, our mission also includes a focus on

education, to make sure wherever a grieving child or teen turns in their life, there is an adult who pays attention and understands the need to provide support and to listen. Our goal is to create grief-informed communities, school districts, agencies, workplaces, and neighborhoods in New Jersey and nationally.

"Volunteering and working in the field of Children's Grief Support since 1997, I am so honored to receive this award," said Robinson.



(above) Imagine's Executive Director, Mary Robinson was recently nominated as a top ten CNN Hero. In order to become CNN's number one hero and earn \$100,000 for Imagine's programs, Mary needs to receive votes at the CNN Hero website.

ABOUT IMAGINE

Imagine offers free year-round grief support groups for children age 3-18 who have had a parent or brother or sister die, and for families caring for a family member living with a lifealtering physical illness. Concurrent groups are available for parents and guardians, and young adults 18-30. Support groups meet on weekday nights for an hour and a half. Dinner is provided prior to the group meeting. To schedule an orientation for yourself or your family or for more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.







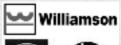
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THE ARC RAISES MORE THAN \$60,000 IN HONOR OF 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Along with more than 200 families and community supporters, The Arc of Union County celebrated 70 years of service to the community on Thursday, October 10, 2019. Supporters and vendors from throughout Union County together raised more than \$60,000, which will be invested in programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Attendees enjoyed raffles donated by more than 50 vendors throughout the county, including a wine pull raffle, a cash prize 50/50 raffle and a Bermuda cruise giveaway, along with unlimited food and drinks. A favorite local band, TreeOh!. performed decade favorites that highlighted the 70 years of our past, while a lively and enthusiastic crowd danced and celebrated a successful seven decades of service.

At the event, Executive Director of The Arc of Union County, Frank X. Caragher, spoke of the importance of the "lifespan of services provided by the agency," and the "longevity that families

of The Arc have come to rely on for seven involved in this community has made an impact decades." More stories of families and staff of The Arc of Union County were shared through video throughout the evening. Highlights of these stories can be viewed on The Arc's YouTube Channel. The mission of providing services to individuals and families of those with special needs has become a mission that our community embraces together. A supportive community helps individuals with special needs to be empowered to live their best life, while being included in opportunities for employment, building greater independence in their residential homes and neighborhoods, accessing education, recreational and social opportunities, and being supported in realizing a full, productive and enhanced life.

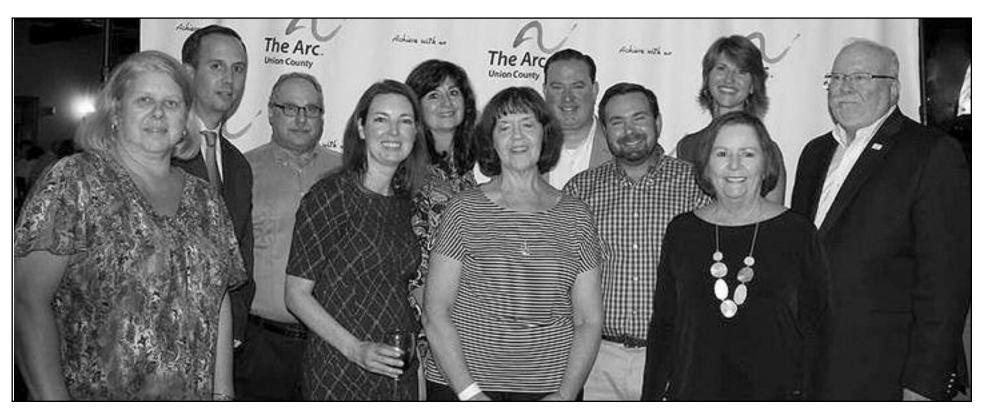
David Light, Board member of The Arc of Union County, shared a message about the importance of getting involved in the mission, what it means to his family and how getting

on his life. He highlighted the fact that The Arc has grown to support more than 1,000 families throughout Union County and surrounding areas each year.

Thank you to all of the sponsors and supporters who helped make this event an unprecedented success, especially Presenting Sponsor, Investors Bank and Investors Foundation. Thank you to the community and families of The Arc for your continued support and making this evening a celebration to remember.

ABOUT THE ARC OF UNION COUNTY

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



(above) The Arc of Union County celebrated 70 years of service to the community and raised more than \$60,000, which will be invested in programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.





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MOUNTAINSIDE ROTARY CLUB



MOUNTAINSIDE HONORS VETERANS

On Mountainside Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10136 conducted its annual Veterans Day Memorial. A lunch immediately followed at the

Monday, November 11, 2019, Hatfield House, hosted by the Mountainside Historic Committee.

Editor's note: An attempt was made to Ceremony at the Mountainside Veterans photograph every veteran in attendance. We sincerely apologize for any omission.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Mountainside View page on facebook.com - Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."

































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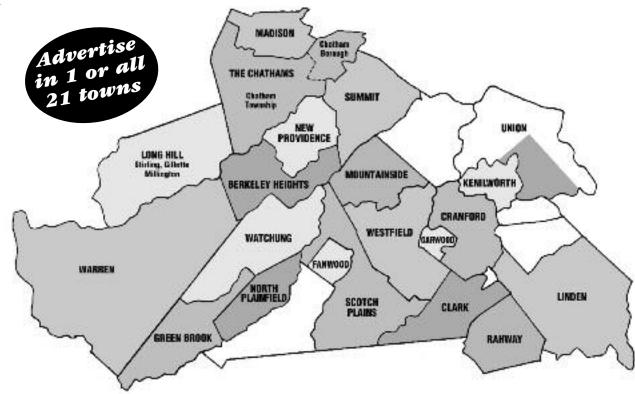


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TICKETS ON SALE FOR SHINING STARS GALA, CHRISTMAS SHOW

Shining Stars Network, a non profit providing opportunities in the performing arts, 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 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 45minute performance from the amazing and talented Shining Stars cast, along with a 50/50 raffle and auction items.

"This is a night we've been dreaming of having for quite some time," noted Shining Stars Network co-founder and President Mike Curci. "As we continue to expand our mission of we felt a gala would be a wonderful way to introduce our special stars to the corporate community and other donors while raising funds that will allow us to grow our programs."

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.

"It's an exciting time for our organization and we continue to receive requests from those who want to join our cast," said Curci. "We know there's a need for what we are providing and our goal is to continue our mission of creating even more opportunities to be on stage in the future."

"Being on stage builds self-confidence and self-esteem, which is something our stars take into their everyday lives," noted Shining Stars Network co-founder and co-director Sally Curci. "Friendships are built between cast members and our volunteer 'buddies' and these long-lasting bonds are just as important as the performing. Our goal is to provide more opportunities as possible for the special needs community."

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

"We are incredibly thankful to our gala committee members for their time and dedication," added Mike Curci. "We could not do this without them. And we cannot say enough thank you's to the local community for their continued support in helping our stars shine over these past eight years."

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.

"UCPAC has been our home for the past two "Evening of Shining Stars" shows, which drew an audience of more than 1,000 each year," said Curci. "We are thrilled to take our Christmas show to this iconic stage and look forward to presenting another magical night for our audience."

Tickets for the Shining Stars "Christmas Spectacular" are on sale now 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.

"Our stars continue to inspire us every day with their passion, dedication and talents," said co-director Nicole Greene. "We can't wait to see them shine on stage again."

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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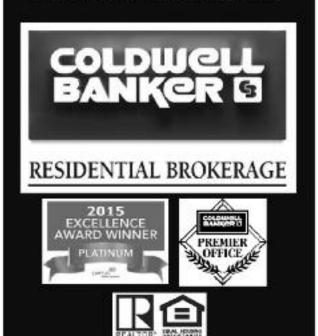


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