

# Scotch Plains NJ

## WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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### ROTARIANS PAY TRIBUTE TO VETERANS DURING LUNCHEON

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club hosted a Veterans Appreciation lunch at their meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2019. Veterans in the towns of Fanwood and Scotch Plains were invited to attend.

This is an annual event. The Rotary Club is very grateful to all men and women who served the United States Armed Forces and they pay tribute to those who served, those who continue to serve, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Thank you to all the Veterans who joined us for lunch!

Rotary clubs provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. Rotary is the original business networking organization.

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take

action to create change.

If you're passionate about serving your local community, are interested in working on international projects, or just want to change the world, then join the Rotary Club. First time guests are invited Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. at The Stage House on Park Avenue, Scotch Plains to enjoy a free Lunch. Visit our website at [fsprotary.org](http://fsprotary.org) or on FB: Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary, Twitter: [fsprotary](https://twitter.com/fsprotary). or call Carmela at 908-499-4782 for more info.



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Navy



*Wells Perkins*  
Army



*Brian Scizak*  
Army



*Gene Jannotti*  
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*Alex DiPace*  
Air Force



*Joseph Sanguiliano*  
Army



*Matt Chemidlin*  
Air Force



*Richard Russo*  
Army



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# Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

Scotch Plains Monthly is published by Renna Media. 9,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Scotch Plains.

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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 or call 908-858-4012

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# TINY TIM FUND NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT ON DECEMBER 4

Submitted by Bernadette Hoyer

The annual Tiny Tim Carol Night Fundraiser will take place on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. residents of Fanwood and Scotch Plains will fill local neighborhoods with song and collect donations for the Tiny Tim Fund.

The Tiny Tim Fund is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to children of Fanwood and Scotch Plains in need of medical or dental care, psychological testing, prescriptions or medical equipment and supplies. The organization is run by a volunteer board of trustees and has been assisting local families in need since 1983.

Carol Night is the organization's sole fundraiser. There is still time to volunteer by forming a group or joining an existing one to make this community service fundraiser a success. For further information contact Mary Beth at 732-616-7695, email: [mbrehrer@gmail.com](mailto:mbrehrer@gmail.com); or Mari at 908-233-6513, email: [mlwmc@aol.com](mailto:mlwmc@aol.com).

Light refreshments will be served to carolers when groups turn in their canisters at the Stage House in Scotch Plains on December 4.

Contributions can be made directly to: The Tiny Tim Fund, P.O. Box 181, Fanwood, NJ 07023.



(above, l-r) Tiny Tim Fund Trustees, Jodi Frank, Barbara Anilo, Carol Kiley, Bernadette Hoyer (seated) Mari McDevitt and Flavia Blechinger are looking forward to hearing from volunteers to make the Carol Night Fundraiser a success.

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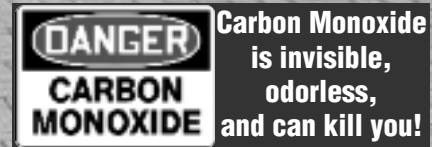
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## SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR MAGGIE LAPOLLA SIGNS LETTER OF INTENT

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District is very proud to have Maggie Lapolla sign her National Letter of Intent to play Division I Girls' Lacrosse at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Maggie has been a three-year starter for Girls' Tennis and Girls' Lacrosse as a Raider after transferring in her Sophomore year. Maggie earned First Team All-Conference Honors as a Junior last year and has been a leader on and off the field. Her leadership by example is prevalent in her play as she is a non-stop hustling athlete who motivates others by her hard work and dedication. Maggie will serve as the captain of the Girls' Lacrosse team this spring. Maggie is among the top scorers in the program's history when totaling her assists and goals and we are anticipating another great season this spring.

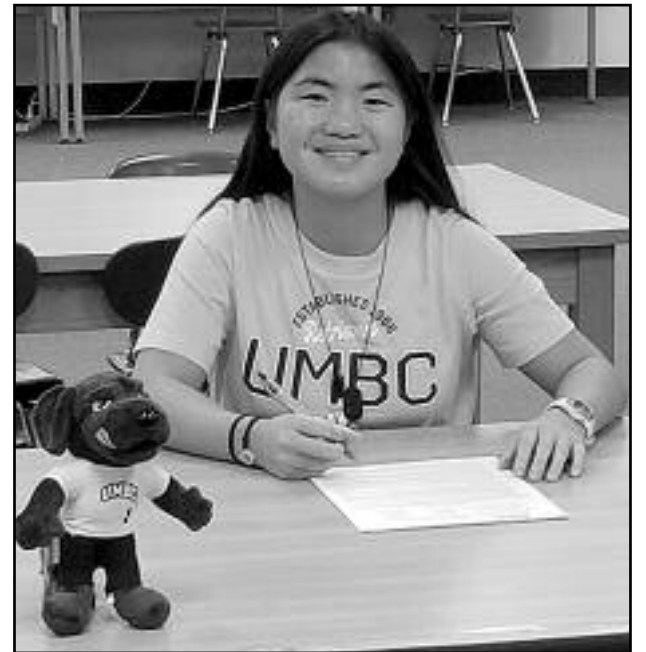


Photo by SPF Public Schools

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## ROTARY CLUB LOOKS TO LIGHT UP THE TOWN WITH HOLIDAY LUMINARY SALE

During the month of December, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary club will sell Luminaries at the Fanwood Department of Public Works on Manfra Way off of North Avenue (across from the Fanwood Public Library). The sale dates are December 7, December 14-15, December 21-22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and December 24 – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The luminary kits cost 75 cents apiece in all quantities and include paper bags, candles and sand. Customers are encouraged to bring buckets, boxes or plastic bags to transport the sand. The kits can be purchased in any quantity and payments can be made by cash or check. Quantities over 100 can also be purchased online by credit card. See the Rotary Facebook page for additional information regarding online purchases: facebook.com/fsprotary.

Luminaries are traditionally used to illuminate the streets on Christmas Eve. A candle is nestled

in sand at the bottom of a paper bag and placed along sidewalks to create a beautiful walkway. The candles are then lit at dusk on Christmas Eve. Some neighborhoods in the area get together and buy hundreds of kits to create an amazing display.

All proceeds from the sale will be used to fund the various charitable and humanitarian projects that Rotary supports, both locally and internationally.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club has been serving the community since 1938. The club meets on Wednesdays at noon at the Stage House Restaurant. On the last Wednesday of the month, the club meets in the evening at 6:30 p.m. Guests are invited to attend and learn about the good that Rotary is doing worldwide. For further information about the Rotary club, go to fsprotary.org or visit their Facebook page: Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club.

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---

**DECEMBER WORSHIP - SEASON OF ADVENT**  
 Sunday Eucharists at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday Eucharists at 12:00 and 7:30 p.m.  
 • Sunday, December 22 •  
 Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

---

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**  
**Christmas Eve • Tuesday, December 24**  
 Family Service  
 including Children's Pageant at 4:00 p.m.  
 Candlelight Eucharist  
 with Soloists at 6:00 p.m.  
 Candlelight Eucharist with Sanctuary Choir and  
 Instrumentalists at 8:00 p.m.  
**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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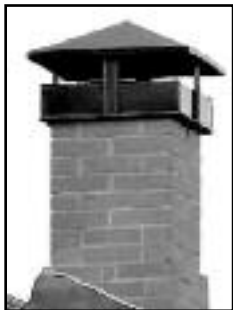
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On November 4, 2019, a Vaping Symposium took place at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. In attendance to speak with and listen to students were the Mayor of Fanwood, Colleen Mahr, the Mayor of East Brunswick, Dr. Brad Cohen, Superintendent of SPF Schools, Dr. Joan Mast, and Ms. Rayna Wasserman, Mayor Cohen's cousin and a recent victim of the effects of vaping.

and was aimed at helping students better understand the choices they are making around vaping, how to resist negative influences and how the staff and greater community can combat this growing epidemic. Ms. Wasserman shared her evocative story about her recent hospitalization from smoking and the toll it took on her life and her health.

The program, organized by SPF Student Assistant Specialist, Liz Knodel-Gordon, was attended by a cross section of SPFHS students

Jessica Stuart, from Prevention Links-Union County Efforts and NJ Helpline shared information and tips on ways students can combat vaping.

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(above, l-r) Rayna Wasserman, speaker; Liz Knodel-Gordon, SPF Student Assistant Specialist; Mayor Colleen Mahr, Mayor of Fanwood; Dr. Brad Cohen, Mayor of East Brunswick; Dr. Joan Mast, Superintendent of Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District and Jessica Stuart, Prevention Links-Union County.

Photo by SFPS Public Schools

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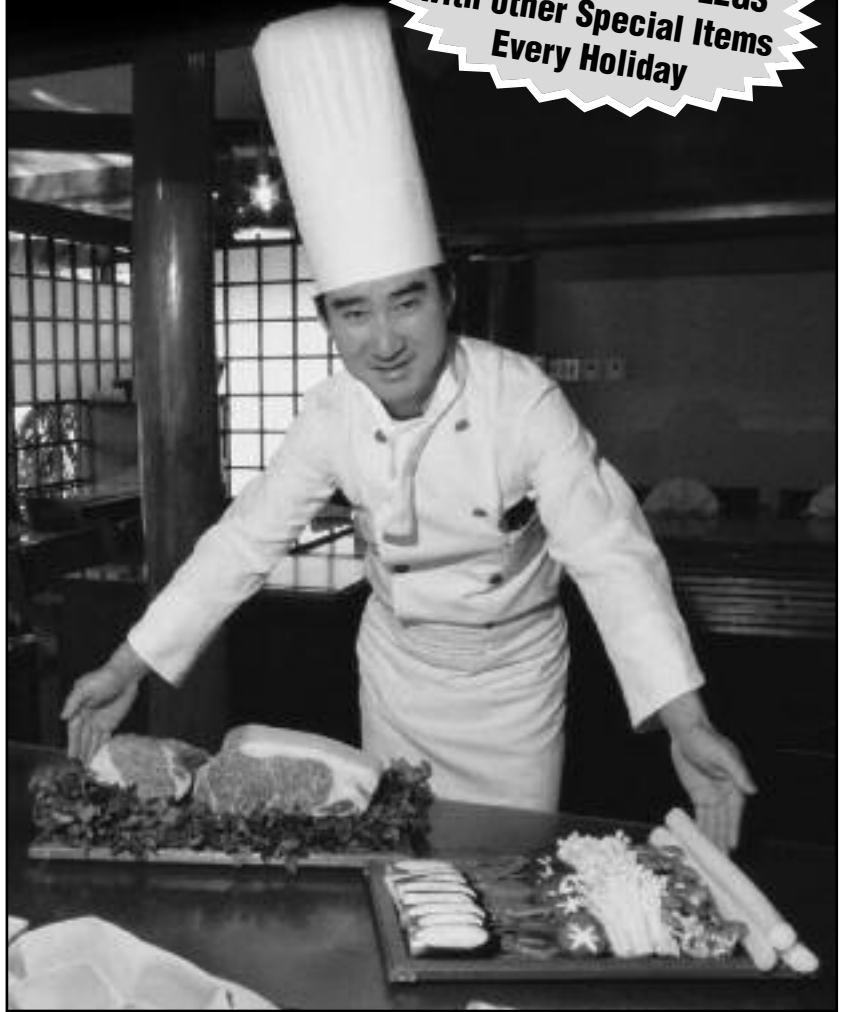
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The 2019-2020 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Girls Varsity and Junior Varsity Tennis Team had an impressive 2019 Fall Season, led by Head Coach Luke Piede and Assistant Coach Barbara Joyner.

The Girls Varsity and Junior Varsity Tennis Team closed out September with a Fifth Place Finish in the Union County Tournament at Hub Stein Field in Plainfield and advanced to the Sectional Semi Final Match against Chatham,

earning the Mountain Conference Championship. The team concluded the season with a 15-6 win loss record and compiled a perfect 11-0 record in the Mountain Conference.

The 2019-2020 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Girls Varsity and Junior Varsity Tennis Team consisted of the following members: Naa Dei Ashie, Sofia Berkman, Ariel Burman, Avery Burman, Alexa Chan, Mia Cutaia, Eve Delaney, Madison Diamond, Madison Diaz, Sophie

Drapkin, Samantha Edelman, Bella Fiore, Alexa Gingold, Anabelle Griffin, Nina Johnson, Richa Kulkarni, Maggie Lapolla, Nithyaraajitha Lokesh, Rachel Lubeck, Ava Mach, Ellora Majumdar, Shyana Nanshah, Ava Niemczyk, Alexis O'Brien, Elina Puri, Nikita Sahasrabudhe, Niyati Shah, Jion Shim, Lucy Spitzer, Anna Szczuka, Mack Trenk, and Jamie Wirth.

Photo by SFPS Public Schools



(above) The SPFHS Girls Tennis Team were recognized at the Board of Education meeting for their excellent season.

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS SPFHS GIRLS GYMNASTICS TEAM

The 2019-2020 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Girls Gymnastics Team achieved remarkable success throughout the 2019 Fall Season. On Friday, October 18, for the first time since 2003, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Girls Gymnastics Team earned the Union County Championship with a complete and total team effort, led by Head Coach Lisa Cerchio and Assistant Coach Tara Bozetarnik.

In addition, the Gymnastics Team won the Cougar Invitational, which was held at Cranford High School on October 3 led by Shaylin Farley, First Place All Around, Bars, and Floor; Elisa

Bianco and Tamyra Singletary tied for First Place in Vault; and Jordana Reisberg First Place in Beam and earned a combined Team tournament score of 109.225. On October 3, the Gymnastics Team defeated Summit by earning a school record score of 107.1.

The 2019-2020 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Girls Gymnastics Team consisted of the following members: Elisa Bianco, Ava Jacobsen, Natalia Nervi, Marin Brace, Shelby Kumpf, Sarah Paul, Nicole DeFrancesco, Ava Leonetti, Katelyn Perez, Shaylin Farley, Caitlin Maughan, Jordana Reisberg, Lenore Ferguson,

Gianna Mavilla, Tamyra Singletary, Lauren Fitzgerald, Morgan McArdle, Izzy Sutton, Jessica Gallagher, Madalyn McEvoy, Cadee Weiss, Kayla Giuffi, Ava McKenzie, Margaret Whitney, Emily Grill, Kayla Morrow, and Kelly Zimmerman.

The team competed in the State Sectional Tournament on November 3 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School, and they are proud of the accomplishments of the season which include earning the Watchung Conference Championship.

Photo by SFPS Public Schools



(above) The SPFHS Gymnastics Team were recognized at the Board of Education meeting for their successful season.

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# TENURED STAFF AND NATIONAL PRINCIPAL MONTH RECOGNIZED BY SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

On Thursday, October 17, 2019 the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools celebrated their 24 teachers and staff who received tenure this year. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joan Mast thanked everyone that gathered, recognizing that “tenure is a reflection on the districts commitment to our teachers and staff, and the teachers and staff to the district. It is a mutual

‘Yes!’ to being part of our community of learners seeking excellence together.”

Board of Education President, Dr. Karen Kulikowski read the resolution for all Tenured Teachers and staff. They are: Avery Boettcher, Reyna Martoccia, Joanne Boettcher, Lynne Cinella, Jennifer Drechsel, Cristhian Mora-Franco, Courtney Noon-Vargas, Matthew

Ritsko, Thomas Andrews, Rachel Cuzzo, Ashleigh Boyce, Swati Bulusu, Michael Hergenhan, Joshua Jordan, Kelly May, Li Salewski, Theresa Skoog, Dr. Karen Wetherell, Jaclyn Tumolo, Michael Davis, Ryan Dominguez, Darlene Kendrick, Michelle Napier, and Judi Resnicoff.

Photo by SFPS Public Schools



(above) Tenured Staff and Principals at the October 17, 2019 Board of Education meeting.



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## MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE SPONSORS MOVIE RELEASE

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Municipal Alliance teamed up with the Clark, Cranford and Westfield alliances to support and co-sponsor the release of a newly released film 'Shooting Heroin'. The film depicts the opioid epidemic in this country taking place in a small Pennsylvania town. Actor Gary Pastore

stars in the movie playing the sheriff. He is also starring in the upcoming film 'The Irishman'.

The red carpet premier was held at the newly remodeled Cranford Theater on Thursday November 14th, 2019. Producers, directors, and actors were in attendance.



(above) Clark Alliance Coordinator Ralph Bernardo, Actor Gary Pastore, Scotch Plains-Fanwood Coordinator Karyn Steele and Cranford Coordinator MaryAnne Mason.



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06	<b>JOSEPH FRAME</b> <small>LIVE INSTRUMENTAL JAZZ GUITARIST   7:00 PM</small>
14	<b>YASKO &amp; KOKONUTS HOLIDAY CONCERT</b> <small>SET IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT   7:00 PM</small>
15	<b>THEATRICAL PREP HOLIDAY OPEN MIC</b> <small>HEAR OUR LOCAL RISING STARS   1:00 PM</small>
15	<b>SANTA CLAUS 4-6PM</b> <small>POP UP SHOP VENDORS 3-6PM   4:00 PM</small>
20	<b>HOLIDAY POP UP SHOP 5:30PM-8:30PM</b> <small>IN SUPPORT OF 501 C3 INROADS TO OPPORTUNITIES   5:30 PM</small>
21	<b>HOLIDAY POP UP SHOP 8AM-4PM</b> <small>IN SUPPORT OF 501 C3 INROADS TO OPPORTUNITIES   8:00 AM</small>
22	<b>GOSPEL HOLIDAY EVENT</b> <small>TICKETS AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE   3:00 PM</small>
31	<b>NEW YEARS EVE</b> <small>TICKETS AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE   10:30 PM</small>

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

The Kean University Planetarium invites all 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 Productions, explores the traditions 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.



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## CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH THE CELEBRATION SINGERS

*Submitted by Stephanie Silvestri*

For 81 years The Celebration Singers have been entertaining the greater Union County community and audiences across the globe during international tours. Join them on December 6 and 7, 2019 at 8 p.m. for a winter concert celebrating the songs of the season.

Comprised of over 100 singers ranging in age from 9-90, this community choir's commitment to artistic excellence and its engaging and dynamic style provides its diverse singers and audiences with a compelling musical experience. Over the years, the choir membership has included families of all generations. Several current members of the Adult Choir were

previous Children's Choir members and singers in the Youth Choirs include children of Adult singers. It's a multi-generational community, which enhances the breadth of genres and cultures from which they draw upon in their programs.

"It's a unique opportunity to direct a group of singers ranging in age and ability who all come together once a week for two hours dedicated to creating beautiful music. For some, it's the only time in their busy lives when they can express themselves through art – it's a beautiful and truly meaningful opportunity." Said Joe Elefante, Artistic Director of The Celebration Singers.

Tickets for their winter concert "Let the Light Shine" are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children and seniors. Tickets can be purchased in advance at [celebration-singers.org](http://celebration-singers.org) or at the box office located at St. Michael's Church located at 40 Alden Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

For more information, follow them at [facebook.com/CelebrationSingers](https://facebook.com/CelebrationSingers) or contact them at [celebrationsingersnewjersey@gmail.com](mailto:celebrationsingersnewjersey@gmail.com) or 908-552-4656.

Funding for the Celebration Singers is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council for the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.



(above) Join the Celebration Singers for their winter concert "Let the Light Shine" on December 6 and 7, 2019 at 8 p.m.

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## MAYOR'S CHARITY GALA ANNOUNCED

The Scotch Plains Mayor's Charity Gala Committee is pleased to announce the honorees and festivities for the 29th Annual Mayor's Charity Gala to be held on Friday, December 6, 2019 at Shackamaxon Country Club.

This year's Gala will honor the following individuals for their selfless service to our community:

*Female Volunteer of the Year:*

**KELLY PRICE**

*Male Volunteer of the Year:*

**JIM CHECCHIO**

*Volunteer Organization of the Year:*

**PATRICK'S DOWNTOWN RACE  
TO SUMMER COMMITTEE**

"I am proud to know all of all our honorees and am grateful for the selfless service, commitment and dedication to our community," said Mayor Al Smith. "I have witnessed their contributions first hand and can say they are more than worthy of this honor! Jim has been an active and dedicated supporter of the renovation of the Frazee House, Kelly volunteers her time each week at our Senior Café and the Patrick's Downtown Race to Summer Committee has brought one of the most popular events we offer to our downtown while raising money for various local charities."

In depth profiles of each of the awardees will be featured in future press releases and on the official Township website and on social media in

the next few weeks.

The evening (7 p.m. – 11 p.m.) features a cocktail reception complete with open bar, passed hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and eclectic food stations, a dessert buffet and, back by popular demand, the Hot Chocolate Bar! Members of the Moonglowers, from SPFHs and DJ Mike will provide entertainment for the evening. The Silent Auction and Tricky Tray are not to be missed! There are several levels of sponsorship available to support our honorees. Or, consider donating an item to the silent auction. Please contact Gala Committee Co-Chairs, Lisa Mohn at 908-322-4999 or Margaret Heisey at 908-939-8403 if you would like to make a contribution or donation to the event.

Proceeds from the event are donated to charities chosen by each of the honorees. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Scotch Plains Municipal Alliance. MAC is an organization that is dedicated to providing substance abuse prevention programs, activities, and education in the communities of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Tickets to the Mayor's Charity Gala may be purchased online by visiting [scotchplainsnj.gov](http://scotchplainsnj.gov), clicking the "Recreation Registration" Community Pass link and selecting "2019 Mayor's Gala", or by calling the Scotch Plains Recreation Department at 908-322-6700 x223. Tickets are \$95.00 per person and tables of 10 may be reserved.



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The Scotch Plains 29th Annual

# MAYOR'S CHARITY GALA



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Tickets are \$95 and will be available to purchase from September 24th- November 27th. They may be purchased online through Community Pass or by calling the Recreation Department at 908-322-6700 x223.

# TEMPLE SHOLOM TO HOST ANNUAL CHANUKAH LEGO NIGHT ON DECEMBER 12

Temple Sholom of Scotch Plains will host its annual Chanukah Lego Night on Thursday, December 12, 2019 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Temple Sholom, 1925 Lake Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ. Back by popular demand, the event is free and open to the public. Participants are welcome to build as many Lego creations as their hearts desire, while reveling in dreidel games, enjoying Chanukah music, and indulging in donuts, latkes (potato pancakes) and plenty of chocolate gelt.

In Hebrew, the word "Chanukah" means "dedication." The name reminds us that this holiday commemorates the re-dedication of the

holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks who tried to destroy the Jewish population in 165 B.C.E. Also known as the Festival of Lights, the eight-day festival celebrates the triumph of light over darkness. "While not one of the most important Jewish holidays, Chanukah is the most anticipated – and a time when friends, family, and community come together to celebrate," said Rabbi Joel Abraham of Temple Sholom. "As Jews, we believe that it is our duty to build a better world. What better way than to start with Lego?"

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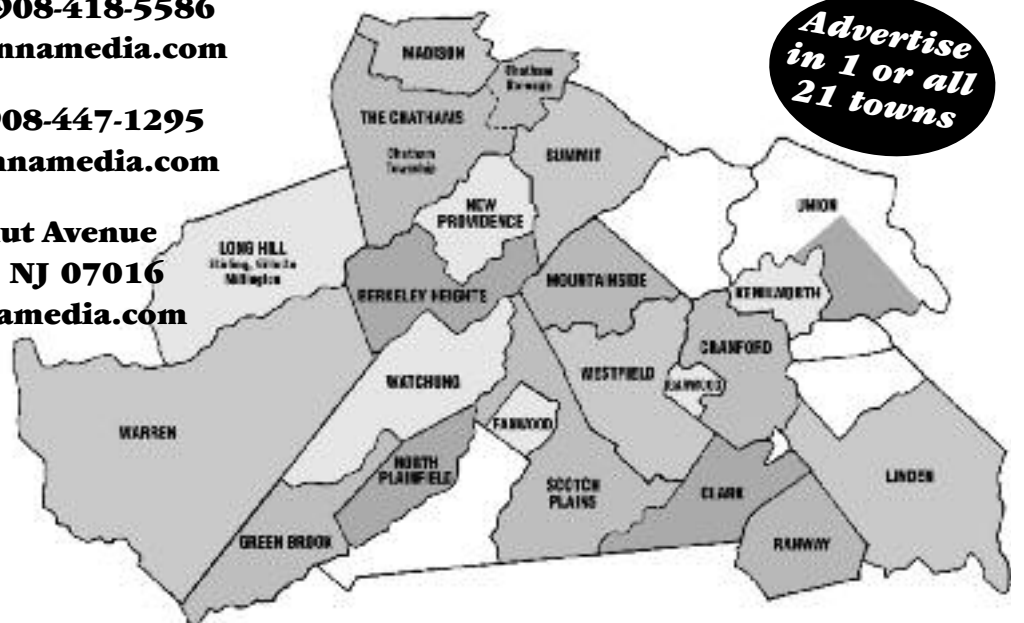
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## ROTARY CASINO NIGHT 2019 SET FOR FEB. 29

Save the date for The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club Fourth Annual Casino Night on SATURDAY February 29, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at Shackamaxon Country Club, Scotch Plains.

This has become the community social event of the year! There are various ways to support this event through sponsorships, donations and ticket sales. Tickets can be purchased at fsprotarycasino.brownpapertickets.com.

Information about sponsorships and donations can be found at fsprotary.org/events.

There will continue to be outstanding prizes such as televisions, bikes, a vacation home getaway, and much more! All proceeds from this event will support our scholarships for our graduating seniors, restoration of the historic Frazee House, those in need in local communities, our local police departments, our ongoing local Rotary projects, as well as projects in undeveloped countries throughout the world.

Last year's event was sold out! The Rotary Club is grateful for the support they received from the attendees as well as their generous sponsors listed below. They encourage you to patronize their businesses.

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