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TREE OF LIGHTS WILL ILLUMINATE THE VILLAGE GREEN

The 29th Annual Tree of Lights will once again light up the Village Green this holiday season. Please join us for the festivities on Saturday, December 7th, 2019 starting at 5:30 p.m. (Rain/snow date December 8th).

The Rescue Squad is proud to illuminate the holiday tree, and thanks to Garden State Fireworks, the skies will light up with a spectacular fireworks show.

You can be part of the celebration by placing a red light on our tree in honor of or white in memoriam of a person, family, friends and others.

The names of honorees and remembrances will be posted on the illuminated display on the Village Green in time for the ceremony for those dedications received by November 30th. The display and our website will be continually updated

throughout the holiday season.

To place a light on the tree, please visit watchungems.org/tree-of-lights or mail a check with your tax-deductible donation of \$50.00 per light to the Watchung Rescue Squad, 10 Stirling Road, Watchung, NJ 07069.

Your contribution to the Tree of Lights is not only a symbol of your feelings of gratitude and love, but also serves to help the Watchung Volunteer Rescue Squad with major endeavors.

This year, through the generosity of the residents and businesses, the squad continues to provide high-quality, excellent Emergency Service.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and contributions.

To learn more about becoming a volunteer, please visit our website at www.watchungems.org or call us at 908-755-1297.



TREE OF LIGHTS IS DEDICATED TO THE ACTIVE LIFE MEMBER VOLUNTEERS OF THE RESCUE SQUAD AND FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Watchung Rescue Squad would like to honor active members of the Fire Department and Rescue Squad that have served their respective organizations for a designated period of time and who have achieved the status of "Life Member". They are all current members of their organizations, and have actively participated and dedicated over 15 years of service. They are integral members that have helped shape these organizations for decades, and have made the departments what they are today.

In today's society it is difficult to dedicate time and show commitment to volunteer agencies, but these individuals have gone above and beyond. They have all held multiple leadership positions and now serve as

role models for many. They have regular jobs and full time families, but are able to balance their home lives while donating time to helping others in their community. These Life Members are an inspiration to current members and an aspiration to future members and to all residents of Watchung. They are your neighbors, your friends, your first responders, and truly deserve recognition for their efforts. It is with great honor that we dedicate this year's Tree of Lights to these eleven outstanding individuals.



RESCUE SQUAD SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

We are students, nurses, contractors, realtors, engineers, social workers, coaches, business owners, scientists, doctors, teachers - the list goes on.

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Watchung Post

Watchung Post is published by Renna Media. 3,000 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and home in Watchung, NJ and the balance are distributed for free pick-up throughout town.

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Renna Media welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers put into writing and sent via fax or email to:

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Email: joerenna@rennamedia.com

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 908-418-5586*

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

HELP RESTORE HELP RESIDENTS IN NEED

The Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity Restore—the store that builds homes—and the Somerset County Food Bank Network have partnered this holiday season to help feed Somerset County Residents in need. Visitors to the Habitat ReStore will receive a \$15.00 coupon toward their purchase when they donate at least five items from the following list: hearty soups that can serve as a meal, stuffing mix, pasta sauce, canned tuna or chicken, pancake mix, pancake syrup, peanut butter or jelly.

The Habitat ReStore has a great selection of new and gently used household items, furniture and holiday decorations to help every home prepare for holiday guests. Whether there is a need for extra glassware, serving dishes or even a dining room table, shoppers will find everything they need at unbeatable prices—and

have the satisfaction of knowing the proceeds from their purchase will go toward building affordable homes and stabilizing families in Somerset and Hunterdon Counties.

The Habitat ReStore is conveniently located in the Marketplace at Manville, 110 North Main Street, Manville, New Jersey, and is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Donations are accepted at the store on Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and free pick up service for furniture, kitchen cabinets, appliances and other large items is available, and may be arranged by visiting the Donate tab at rvhabitatrestore.org.

More information can be obtained by calling (908) 458-9770.



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The Habitat ReStore is open
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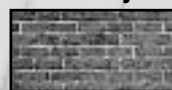
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LONG-TIME WATCHUNG VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER HONORED BY BOY SCOUTS

Submitted by Margaret Ellis

Watchung's Pietro "Pete" Martino was honored as a Good Scout at the Boy Scouts of America 2019 Watchung Hills Good Scout Awards Dinner held in Stirling, NJ in October.

The Good Scout Awards Dinner is an annual event that recognizes outstanding men and women for their good works in and for the community and beyond. Sponsored by the Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America, the event spotlights people who serve as exemplary role models for the youth in the community and the nation through their vocations or avocations and who live their lives according to the ideals of the Boy Scout Oath and Law. The dinner also serves as a fundraiser for the Boy Scouts of America programs in the Watchung area and in Patriots' Path Council.

Martino began his volunteer career in Watchung in 1981 as a junior firefighter at the age of 16. He went on to serve in the Watchung Rescue Squad and Office of Emergency Management. He served as Fire Chief in 1996-1997.

He was appointed to Plainfield Fire Division in 1995 and currently serves as a battalion fire chief. He has received many meritorious service awards including the 200 Club Award of Union County and the Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association Silver Medal of Valor.

Other volunteers honored for distinguished service along with Martino were Tom Aiken,

CEO of Countlogic, LLC; Jim Caparoso, Scoutmaster BSA Troop 56 Millington; Andrew Marion, President of Watchung Hills Pop Warner; David McCarthy, Senior Director of Global Procurement at Pfizer; and Matt Saum, Warren Police Officer, Warren Lions Club, Watchung Hills Wrestling.



(above) Watchung's Pietro "Pete" Martino received a 2019 Watchung Hills Good Scout Award in October.

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LOCALS JOIN HARVEST FESTIVAL

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) Chairperson Cindy Webster, Gabrielle Webster, and Vice Chairperson Iris Alston

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Christmas Day • Wednesday, December 25
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• Sunday, December 29 •
Eucharist, Lessons and Carols at 10:00 a.m.

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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.

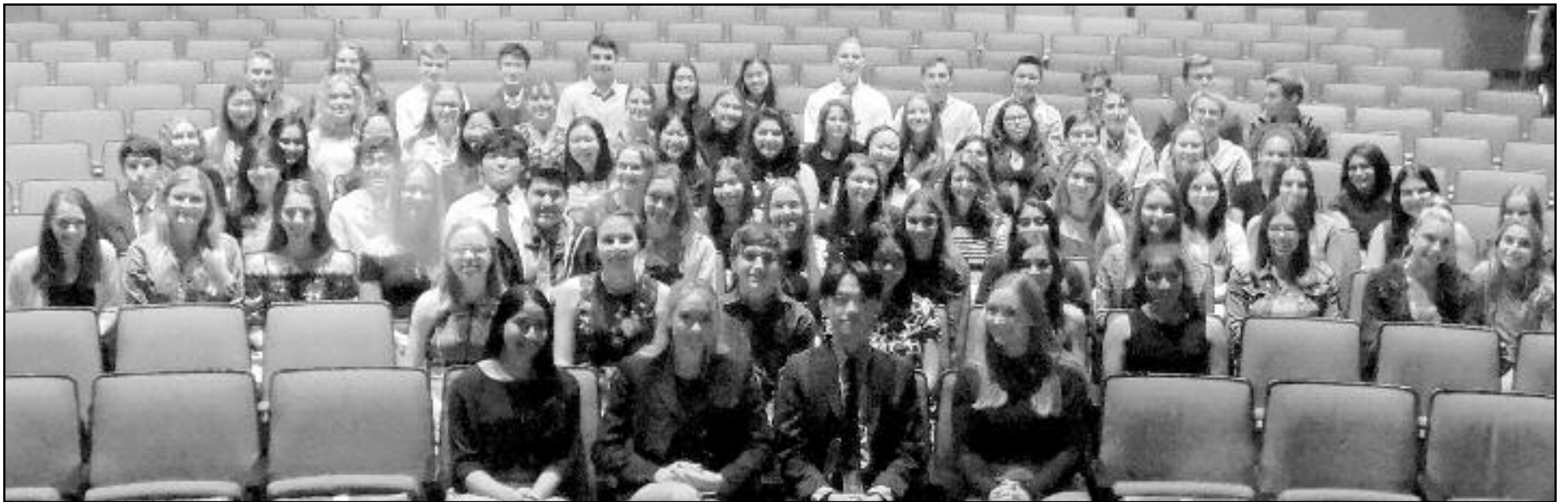


Photo by WHRHS

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(above) Volunteers cleaned the trails on October 19 as part of the second Warren Cache in Trash Out (CITO) event.

SECOND CACHE IN TRASH OUT EVENT A SUCCESS

Submitted by Amanda Altavilla

On Saturday, October 19, 2019, the second Warren Cache in Trash Out (CITO) event was held at Codington Nature Trail. CITO is an environmental initiative supported by the geocaching community. Geocaching is a real world, outdoor treasure hunting game in which you utilize a GPS-enabled device to find a geocache hidden at a specific location. Warren has geocaches hidden on different trails such as the Municipal Complex, Glenhurst, Dealaman, and East County Reserve. CITO Events have been happening twice per year since 2002.

Catherine Cooney, an avid geocacher in the area, organized the CITO event with the support of Warren Township Recreation. The event was

again a success that included a group of about 40 volunteers including Geocachers, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and town residents who cleaned the trail by pruning overhead and trailside overgrowth, removing sticks and branches off the trail, picking up trash and repainting the trail blazes.

Volunteers received a CITO event T-shirt supplied by Warren Township. CorTex Products also donated Outdoor Skin Protection Kits that were given out to volunteers.

Warren Recreation would like to thank Catherine Cooney and all the volunteers for helping to clean up Codington Nature Trail. Next year two different CITO events will happen in the spring and fall in Warren.



(above) About 40 volunteers helped with the clean up efforts, including Geocachers, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and town residents.

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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.



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Central Jersey SCORE provides in-person mentoring at a wide variety of locations and also presents seminars at local venues. In addition, the SCORE website offers tools and templates on a wide variety of topics related to organizing and managing a business and numerous online courses and webinars to assist small business owners through every aspect of business development. Services are offered free of charge.

Anyone interested in volunteering with SCORE or seeking additional information is invited to contact SCORE at centraljersey.score.org.

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DECEMBER ACTIVITIES AT WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER

The Warrenbrook Senior Center is operated by the Somerset County Office on Aging & Disability Services. It is located on the Warrenbrook Golf Course, 500 Warrenville Rd., Warren, NJ. Call 908-753-9440 for more information. Open Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

“Genealogy”
Monday, December 2, 10:30 a.m.
 by Susan Kobren, Genealogy is the study of families, family history and the tracing of their lineages. Genealogists use oral interviews, historical records, genetic analysis and other records to obtain information about a family and to demonstrate “kinship and pedigrees” of its members. Susan will give an overview of genealogy with a special emphasis on Jewish genealogy.

“Shakespeare’s Style of Writing Workshop”
Tuesday, December 3, 10:30 a.m.
 by Ellen Parker, Educational Director, Indecorous Theatre Productions. William Shakespeare has been engaging us for over 400 years. Why? Because his writing is fun, dramatic, beautiful and open to countless interpretations and styles. Join us for this interactive workshop as we creatively explore The Bard! **Made possible by funds from the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.**

“Age of Invention: Industrial Revolution NJ”
Monday, December 9, 10:30a.m.
 by Jim DelGiudice, Photographer and Educator, The Judson Lecture Series. A timeline of 19th century events that shaped the future of the state and the world. **Made possible by funds from the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey Historical Commission**

“How Fast Can You Sing?”
Monday, December 16, 10:30 a.m.
 by George Marriner Maull, Artistic Director of the Discovery Orchestra. Composer George Frederic Handel made the same technical demands on singers as those he made on instrumentalists. Nowhere is this more apparent than in some of the choruses from Handel’s Messiah. Join Maestro George Marriner Maull as he explores For Unto Us a Child is Born from Messiah with its dizzying fast choral singing.

“The Value of Records in the 1950s”
Tuesday, December 17, 10:30 a.m.
 by Ken Warmen, Jr. Do you remember using a record player and vinyl records? Using his Victrola, Ken will play tunes from the 1950s, talk about the artist’s life and will highlight, in detail, the life of Nat King Cole. Singing-a-long is encouraged.

“Moving Mind and Body”
Friday, December 20, 10:30 a.m.
 With Lara Kats, Certified Dance Educator and Instructor. Combining elements of meditation and dance, participants will be guided through some mind-body exercises. The class will start with some deep breaths and bringing awareness to the body (body scan). From there, we will progress into gentle exercise that will involve moving in time with the music and exploring some creative movement, thus utilizing each body part. Participants can either perform movements standing or sitting in a chair.

“2020 Focus on Nutrition”
Monday, December 30, 10:30 a.m.
 by Samantha Nuzio, MS, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, ShopRite of Stirling. Let’s start the new year off with a healthy outlook. Sam, from

ShopRite of Stirling, will present on how to increase the nutrients in some traditional recipes, like mac and cheese. We will sample one recipe prepared by Sam after the program’s presentation.

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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.



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

SCLSNJ'S WATCHUNG LIBRARY BRANCH

Somerset County Library System New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Watchung Branch

12 Stirling Road, Watchung, New Jersey.

All programs listed are free.

Registration is required unless otherwise indicated and programs are subject to change; visit SCLSNJ.org or call library at 908-458-8455 for more info and to register.

CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAMS

Mini-Maker Art Space (families with children):

December 2, 16, 30; 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Baby/Toddler Storytime -

Tiny Tots (ages birth - 3 years):

December 3, 10:30-11 a.m.

Family Storytime -

Twilight Tales (families with children)

December 4, 7-7:30 p.m.

Preschool Storytime -

Miss June's Room (ages 3-5)

December 5, 4-4:30 p.m.

Teen Advisory Board (grades 6-12)

December 5, 7-8 p.m.

Bingo With Miss June (ages 4 and up)

December 6, 4-4:30 p.m.

LEGO® Club (grades K-5)

December 10, 4-5 p.m.

Read to a Therapy Dog (grades K-4)

December 11, 4-5 p.m.

Gingerbread Houses (families with children)

December 18, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

STEAM - Paper Tops (grades K-5)

December 26, 4-5 p.m.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Mah Jong

December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 30; 1-4 p.m.

Game Night

December 2, 9, 16; 6:30-8:45 p.m.

Watchung Writers Group

December 5, 12, 19;

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Canasta

December 5, 12, 19, 26; 1-4 p.m.

Special Needs Social Hour

December 11, 2-3 p.m.

Book Discussion

December 12, 7:30-8:45 p.m.

"A Christmas Story"

December 12, 7:30-8:45 p.m.

by Charles Dickens

Christmas Traditions

December 14, 2-3 p.m.

Presented by Kevin Woyce

All programs listed are free. Registration is required unless otherwise indicated and programs are subject to change; visit SCLSNJ.org or call the library for more information and to register.

Please note the Library will be closed on December 24, 25, 31; and January 1.



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