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## OVER 120 VOLUNTEERS HELP IN ANNUAL FOOD COLLECTION

*Submitted by Mike Koubek*

Members of the community participated in the 38th annual food collection and sorting event at Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence on Sat., November 23, 2019.

Every year, non-perishable food items are collected by the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of New Providence from locals in their "Scouting for Food" drive. These items are for the Starfish Food Pantry in Plainfield, as well as for struggling families and individuals who receive assistance from the Community Service Association of New Providence.

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts delivered grocery bags the weekend before the drive to residents' homes and then they returned on the 23rd to pick up the filled bags and brought them to Faith Lutheran Church. From 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., volunteers from Cub Scout Packs 99, 263, 363 and 368, and Boy Scout Troops 1 and 68, from both New Providence and Berkeley Heights, unloaded bags of food from a steady flow of cars of the scouting families of New Providence. More volunteers from the community then sorted, packed and prepared the donations for delivery to food pantries and to residents in need.

This year, over 120 volunteers from the parish of Faith Lutheran, the Community Service Association of New Providence, residents of Lantern Hill, residents of New Providence and Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts assisted in the event. Hundreds of bags of food were collected, valued at approximately \$53,000.

On November 30, volunteers again helped, this time to deliver the food to the Starfish Pantry and local residents in need.

As Cheryl Bock, organizer of the event for Faith Lutheran said: "It's a wonderful event my family has been involved with and to me it's just not Thanksgiving without it."

James Kwan and Cheryl Bock of Faith Lutheran Church contributed to this article.



*(above) New Providence and Berkeley Heights Boy Scout and Cub Scout volunteers from Packs 99, 263, 363, 368 and Troops 1 and 68 came together for the 38th annual food collection.*



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Library hours are Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.,  
Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m

### CHILDREN'S STORY TIMES AND PROGRAMS:

**Read with Sara the Dog**  
Monday, January 6, 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.  
For ages 3 and up

**Good Tyme String Band**  
Tuesday, January 14, 10:30 a.m.  
Sing-along songs for ages 0 and up

**Paper Plate Story Time**  
Tuesdays, January 7, 21, 28, 10:30 a.m.  
Story & paper plate craft for ages 3 - 5

**Mother Goose Play Time**  
Thursdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30, 9:30 a.m.  
Books, music, rhymes & play  
For ages 0 - 24 months

### ADULT PROGRAMS:

#### Tech Help

Sunday, January 5, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
Tech help for all ages provided by teens

#### Morning Book Group

Friday, January 3, 10:30 a.m.  
Will discuss *A Dog Called Jack*  
by Ivy Pembroke

#### Evening Book Group

Tuesday, January 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Will discuss *The Uncommon Reader*  
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## THE ARC RAISES OVER \$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 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 involved in this community has made an impact 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) organization headquartered in 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](http://arcunion.org).



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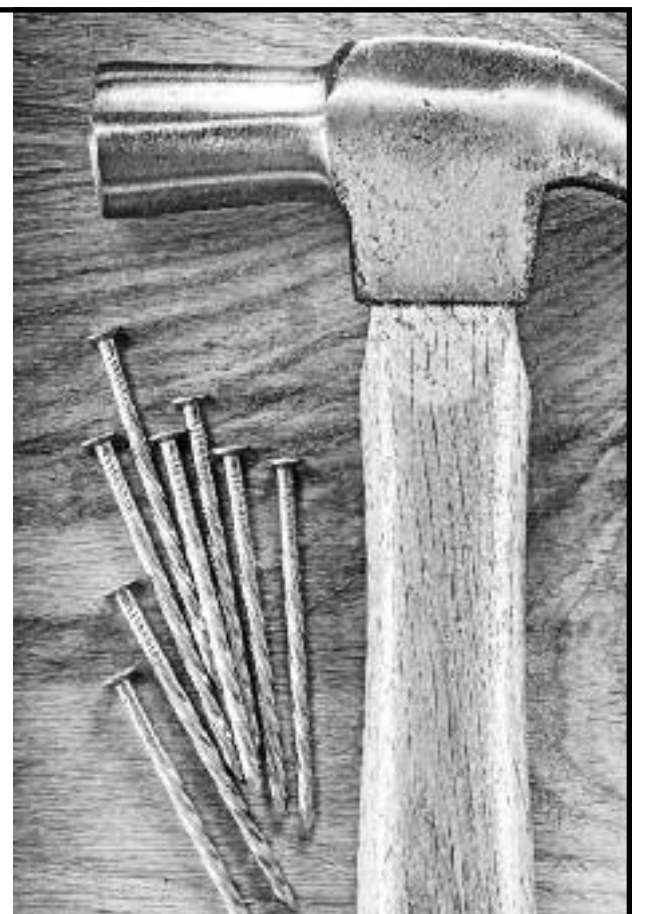
Photos from this and other events can be found online at [rennamedia.com](http://rennamedia.com) and on Berkeley Heights News page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/BerkeleyHeightsNews) Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."



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Although some Union County Post Offices like Garwood, Netherwood Station, and Scotch Plains accept walk-ins, many Post Offices offering passport services require an appointment. For appointments during regular passport processing hours, the U.S. Postal Service has made scheduling easier with the USPS Retail Customer Appointment Scheduler tool (RCAS) at [usps.com/scheduler](https://usps.com/scheduler).

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Application forms and information on the costs and how to apply for a passport can be found at [usps.com/passport](https://usps.com/passport).

The U.S. Department of State's National Passport Information Center is available to answer passport questions by phone or email in English or Spanish. If you have a question about passports you can call toll-free 1-877-487-2778 or email [NPIC@state.gov](mailto:NPIC@state.gov).

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## CHESS CLUB DRAWS MEMBERS FROM FAR AND WIDE

The Kenilworth Chess Club has kicked off its 2020 season with a new slate of officers. Jack McCorkell of Cranford is incoming President. Outgoing president Dave Lazarus of Fanwood will serve as Vice President. Treasurer Geoff McMauliffe of Dunellen and Webmaster John Moldovan of Garwood will continue in their positions. Trustees are Pat Mazzillo of Union and Greg Tomkovich and Joe Renna, both from Cranford.

The club was formed in 1972 amid the chess

craze in America, spearheaded by Bobby Fischer's march to the world championship. For 47 years the club was a force to be reckoned with as its member roster included many Master level players, including State Champions.

The club has a reputation for being friendly and accommodating. It welcomes non-members with no obligation or cost. It's a place where beginners can learn in a casual setting without being intimidated. Strong players are generous with their time in analyzing and giving

instruction.

The club's website, [kenilworthchessclub.org](http://kenilworthchessclub.org), is well read and features an award-winning blog by Michael Goeller and other instructional features.

Players are welcome to just pop into the Kenilworth Chess Club with no formalities every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the Kenilworth Community Center, located next to Borough Hall on the Boulevard and the corner of 24th Street.

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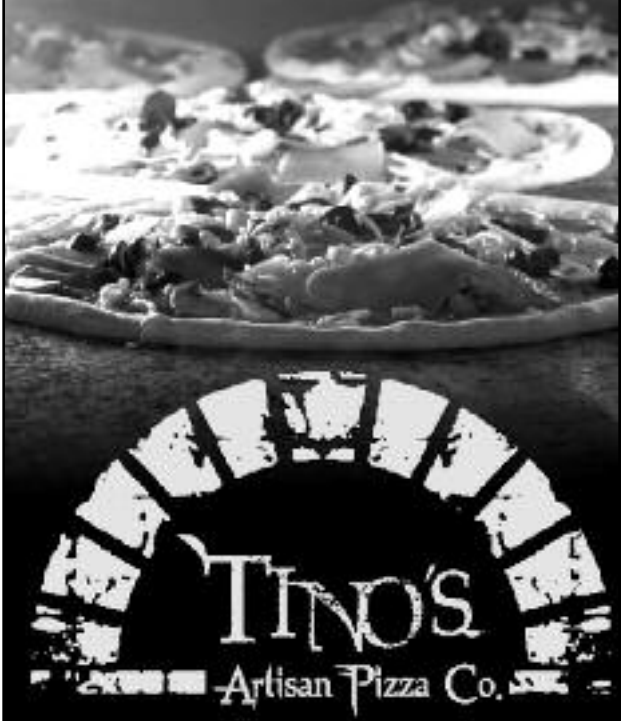
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## SENIOR TRIP TO RESORTS CASINO

There will be a senior trip to Resorts Casino on Monday, January 20, 2020. The bus leaves the parking lot at the Church of the Little Flower/library at 8:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 which includes bus transportation, a \$25 voucher for slot play, and a \$10 coupon for food.

For further information or reservations, call Ramona at 908-647-3295.



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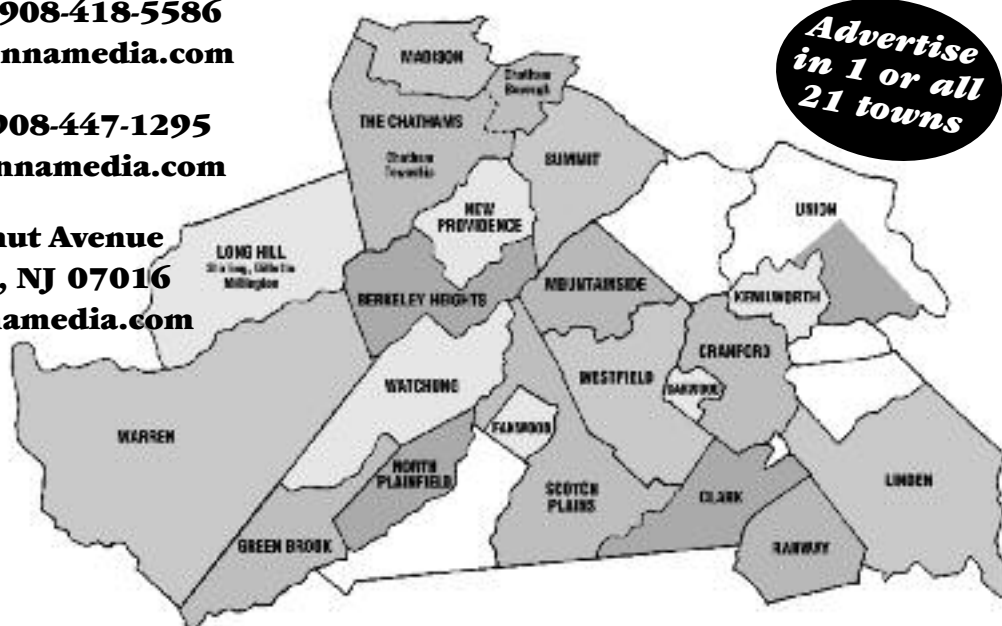
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# INTERFAITH WORSHIP SERVICE OF NEW PROVIDENCE, BERKELEY HEIGHTS

The thirteenth annual New Providence-Berkeley Heights Interfaith Thanksgiving Service occurred on Monday evening, November 25, 2019, at Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence.

The participating worship communities were Berkeley Heights churches Little Flower Roman Catholic Church, Union Village United Methodist Church, and Westminster Presbyterian Church; New Providence churches Faith Lutheran Church, Our Lady of Peace Roman Catholic Church and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church; Congregation Ohr Shalom/Summit Jewish Community Center – Summit; and the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge - Basking Ridge.

The service began with a welcome by Rev. Jane McCready of Faith Lutheran, which was followed by greetings from Mayor Al Morgan of

New Providence, who emphasized the importance of this traditional service to the community.

The Thanksgiving homily was offered by Dr. M. Ali Chaudry of the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge. He focused on the two parts of the word, Thanksgiving; saying that thanks for blessings should be expressed by giving to persons in need.

The liturgy of the service consisted of prayers, readings and hymns. The music featured a large interfaith choir, which was led by Liz Mancinelli, Music Director of Little Flower. The organist was George Moser of Faith Lutheran.

The offering was given to Community Hope for Veterans, a program that provides services to veterans at Lyons Hospital. Community Hope is supported by the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge.

An open letter from the New Providence – Berkeley Heights Interfaith Clergy to the Community was included in the program of the service that was given to all congregants. Some of the words in the letter follow:

“Let There Be More Love, Deeper Understanding and Greater Gratitude for the Blessing of Diversity in Our Community.

We believe that the ethic of love and compassion is the heart of our Jewish-Christian-Islamic-Sikh-Bha'i heritages.

We believe that each human being, as a child of God, is entitled to be treated with respect, dignity and understanding.

We pledge to realize this vision among ourselves and to help our community become more welcoming to all.”

After the service, visiting and refreshments occurred in the educational hall of Faith.



(above, l-r) Participating in the service were Mayor Al Morgan of New Providence, Dr. M. Ali Chaudry of Islamic Society of Basking Ridge, Alina Murad of Islamic Society of Basking Ridge, Rev. Matthew Dooley of Little Flower Roman Catholic Church, Maham Sharif of Islamic Society of Basking Ridge, Rev. William Mahon of Our Lady of Peace Roman Catholic Church, Rev. George Betz of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rev. Dr. Daniel Gunn of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Rabbi Avi Friedman of Congregation Ohr Shalom/Summit Jewish Community Center, Rev. Andrew Prachar of Little Flower Roman Catholic Church, Rev. Jane McCready of Faith Lutheran Church, and Rev. Rachael Phelps of Union Village United Methodist Church.

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