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Issue 25 • January 2020

SCOUT UNITS WELCOMED BY GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Submitted by Joe Basralian

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Chatham is the new Charter Organization of Boy Scout Troop 28, BSA Troop 280, and Venture Crew 28, effective January 1, 2020.

The three scouting units are delighted to be welcomed by Gloria Dei, a thriving community with beautiful facilities at 300 Shunpike Avenue, near the entrance to Cougar Fields.

"With change comes great opportunity, and we're very excited for the abundant new possibilities," said Bob Willmot, Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 28.

Troop 28 has been chartered with Stanley Congregational Church in Chatham for 83 years since the Troop's founding in 1936. Well over a thousand Scouts in that time have come through the program, which builds young people's character, capabilities, and confidence as they grow towards adulthood. Venture Crew 28 formed in 2016, and BSA Troop 280 for girls formed in early 2019. Scouts assume leadership roles in their communities and nation and learn to live by a strong moral code – including being Trustworthy, Loyal and Helpful -- throughout their lives.

Boy Scout Troop 28 consists of boys ages 11-17; BSA Troop 280 is for girls ages 11-17; and Venture Crew 28 is currently girls ages 14-20. BSA is a branding of the Boy Scouts of America.

"We are thrilled to welcome these three Scouting troops to Gloria Dei," said Council Vice President, Brian Dempsey. "The positive feedback we received from congregation members and leadership allowed the approval process to move quickly. We wanted to make sure this was a good fit for both sides and we expect the transition to be a smooth one."

As one of the nation's largest youth and service non-profits, the Boy Scouts of America work extensively in their communities and assist with some of the service projects and needs of their charter organizations. Gloria Dei will also be the units' meeting place and launching pad for their adventures, which range from wilderness camping, boating and rock climbing, to skill building across a wide variety of arenas, from



(above) Venture Crew 28 during their 100-mile high adventure hiking expedition at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico over the summer.

backwoods engineering to entrepreneurship to veterinary medicine and much more.

"Scouting has given me invaluable lessons and important life experience," said Luka Batljan, who recently achieved the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout with Troop 28.

In 2019, BSA allowed girls to form Troops, in the way boys have done in America since 1910. "Since Troop 280 formed early this year, the girls have done so many amazing things together as Scouts," said Scoutmaster Daniele Basralian. "As a parent and adult Scout leader, I can't wait to see what the future brings."

Always on the lookout for new experiences, Venture Crew 28 completed a 100-mile high adventure hiking expedition at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico over the summer. "It was a dream come true," said Kate Lama, President of the Venture Crew.

Richard Olmsted, who has been associated with Troop 28 as a Scout or Adult Leader since joining Boy Scouts in 1957, said, "We're very grateful to Stanley Congregational Church. They've always been there for us. Without the parish and its members, Troop 28 couldn't have thrived all these years."

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations, providing programs for young people that build character and skills for life.

(continues on page 2)



THE CHATHAMS • Page 2 • January 2020



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BOY SCOUTS INVITES NEW MEMBERS



Boy Scout Troop 28 meets on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. and conducts many weekend and summertime Scouting adventures. Venture Crew 28 meets one Thursday per month at 7:30 p.m. and goes on a different outdoor adventure each month. BSA Troop 280 meets 2-3 Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. during the school year and conducts many weekend and summertime Scouting adventures.

To learn more, please contact Joseph Basralian, jbbasralian@gmail.com.

(above) Troop 280 maneuvers a canoe over a fulcrum at a 2019 Jersey Jamboree obstacle course.



(above) Troop 28 is still thriving since its founding in 1936.





THE CHATHAMS • Page 4 • January 2020



(above) American Legion Commander Joseph Nester of Madison and Auxiliary President MaryBeth Valentino of Chatham prepare to cut the "Birthday" cake for the centennial anniversary of the American Legion.

UNIT #43 CELEBRATES THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

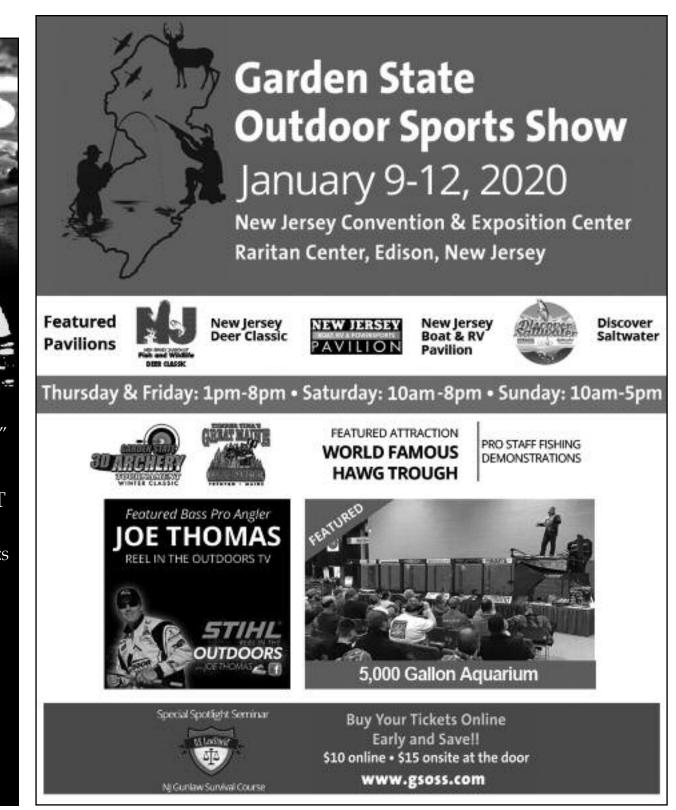
Submitted by Maryann Doherty

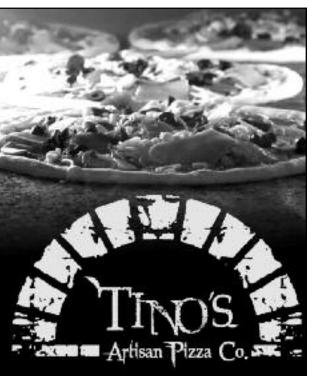
Family gathered at 20 Ridgedale Avenue, Florham Park on Sunday, November 10, 2019, to celebrate the founding of the American Legion following World War I. Florham Park Mayor Mark Taylor had recognized the Centennial Anniversary of the American Legion with a Proclamation at the October 17, 2019, Florham Park Borough Council Meeting while Mayor Robert Conley recognized the Post at the Celebration.

The Legion joined with the Auxiliary to recognize members for their years of continuous membership and service to the organization. Certificates of Appreciation were presented by the Legion to the following members: Walter C. Ness, 69 years; John A. Punola, 64 years; Louis Mantone, 59 years; Matthew H. Rankin, 55 years; Jules G. Spada, 53 years; and Thomas J. Granata, 51 years. Chris Nash of Honor Tree and Lawn Service and Carmine Toto of Carmine

Toto and Sons received Certificates of The Madison-Florham Park American Legion Appreciation for their volunteer services to the Legion over the years.

> Auxiliary members recognized with and membership Certificates of pins Appreciation included: Verna Gilley, 70 years -Past Unit President; Maryann Doherty, 60 years - Past County President and PUP; Evelyn Tobin, MaryBeth Doherty and Kathryn Doherty-Murphy each were recognized for 55 years; Clara Markovitch, and Fran Piano each with 45 years - Gold Star Mothers; Barbara Webster, 35 years; Doris Sallie, 31 years - Past County President, PUP and Yvonne Chapman 21 years, PUP. The Auxiliary also recognized Sons of the Legion members Chaz Ricci and Garry Decker with Certificates of Appreciation for providing music and entertainment at the Off Station Parties for Veterans from Lyons AV Hospital. Judy Whiting of the Madison/Florham Park Eagle accepted a Certificate of Appreciation for her help with Public Relations over the years.





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KIWANIS CLUB AWARDS OUTSTANDING KEY CLUB MEMBERS



(above, left-right) Will O'Neil, president of the Chatham High School Key Club, received an outstanding Key Club Member award and. Nicolette Cilenti, a senior at Madison High School and president of the Key Club, received recognition from the Kiwanis Club.

Submitted by Justin Montanaro

The Kiwanis Club of the Chathams/Madison held their yearly awards ceremony, where they recognize outstanding members of the Key Club from Chatham and Madison High School.

The recipient for Madison High School was senior Nicolette Cilenti, president of the Madison High School Key Club. Nikki has been an active member of the club and a member of the Key Club executive board throughout high school. She engages fellow members during meetings, helping build a record breaking roster of over 100 members! Always leading by example, board members look to her as the heart and soul of the Key Club. Her projects have included the Students Change Hunger food drive, which has directly impacted 3,000 people in need in the community. She has also helped gather donations for the Covenant House, socks for the homeless, and roses for the Valerie Fund on Valentine's Day. Breakfast with Santa, Red Cross Blood Drives, and UNICEF fundraising are just a few other of her countless projects with the club. Her ability to do this on top of her full course load, varsity sports, and other extracurricular activities are what has lead to her being a recipient of this great award.

The recipient for Chatham High School was Will O'Neil, president of the Chatham High School Key Club. His organization, responsiveness, and leadership has helped land him his role, as well as the outstanding Key Club Member award. He continues to provide innovative ideas, helping brainstorm with club members various fundraising and charitable ideas. Most significantly the great success of meeting, and exceeding, the Outreach Program's meal packing goals.

As always, the Kiwanis Club is honored to present these awards to our local high school Key Club Members. We look forward to a bright future of working together to help the community. Happy Holidays to all!

THE CHATHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM

Submitted by Marianne Ivers

It is a new age for the Chatham Historical Society as it recently opened its own Instagram account @chathamhistory. The social media outlet is the perfect place to share the rich history of the borough, which is an important part of the organization's mission statement. It also serves as a medium to reach a large number of people concerning the upcoming community events sponsored by the society.

President Helen Ann Rosenfeld started posting on Instagram in July and thus far has received a lot of positive feedback. "The most popular posts deal with the architecture of Chatham and how neighborhoods developed. I actually have a long list of houses to post, but the most difficult part is getting a good front photo of the home," she explained.

Just as interesting are posts that explore the people and events that shaped Chatham into the borough we know today.

The society invites anyone to Direct Message the account if there is something you would like to see posted. And don't forget to follow us on Instagram @chathamhistory.







(above) Avenue was named after Benjamin P. Lum who started the brick industry in Chatham about 1835. Around 1870, this neighborhood was developed by the New York Homestead Association who laid out small 50 x 65 lots. Representatives then met Irishmen, fleeing Ireland's Great Potato Famine, at the ports and invited them to buy one of the lots with the promise that jobs were available for the Irish at Lum's brickyard. The sales pitch worked and for many years the neighborhood was known as "Dublin". Some of the original houses still stand, recognizable by their front gable, returns on the eaves and rounded top window. This fine example was built about 1875. (left) The Page Felt Mill manufactured roofing paper. George S. Page owned hundreds of acres of land stretching along the Passaic River. In the background, you can see Martin's Villa, home to Chatham's other millionaire and Page's rival William Martin. To compete, Page built his own mansion that he called "Hillside" which gave the name to the avenue leading to his home.



(above) Who would demolish this mansion? "Broadview" was the most imposing home on Fairmount Avenue. It was built at the end of the 19th Century as the country estate of James

Gifford, a Newark attorney. In 1940, the mansion, with expansive grounds, was sold to Mr. and Mrs. William Hatt. The property had a frontage on Fairmount Avenue of 700 feet and a depth of over 1,000 feet, consisting of about 15 beautifully planted acres. The intention of the Hatt's was to dismantle the Gifford residence and cut a street through from Fairmount Avenue to Washington Avenue,

opening up the property for 29 building lots. Mr. Hatt died before the project was started, but his wife Beryl saw the plan through and Broadview was lost to development.

SUBURBAN CHIROPRACTIC CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Suburban Chiropractic Center, located at 301 Main Street in Chatham, New Jersey, will celebrate their 35th anniversary on January 7, 2020. Dr. Joseph J. Murphy began the center in 1985 to offer the community a natural alternative to the traditional allopathic medical facilities in the Chatham area. They owe their success to the loyal patients who have continued with them, referred their friends and family, and their efforts to provide the highest level of service possible.

Dr. Joseph J. Murphy, Director of the Center explains, "We are elated to be celebrating 35 years. We are blessed to be entering our 36th year of service to this fine community". He continues, "We have tried to give back to the community in every way and it shows through the happiness and health of our patients and their continued support."

His office manager, who is celebrating her 25th year in the practice, Mrs. Lynn Egan adds, "It gives me a great sense of satisfaction that the community has rewarded us for our dedication by their continued praise and support."

Massage Therapist and CA, Janis Piccirillo, CMT has also been a long time member of the team with 22 years of service; Flavia Vieira, 5 years and Katherine Schmitter, CA is the newest member joining in 2019. The Suburban Chiropractic Center has been the recipient of numerous awards over their 35 year history including Business of the Year and letters of praise from previous Mayors of Chatham, former State Senator Leanna Brown, Senator Walter Cavanaugh, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, Assemblyman Walter D. Gaetano, and Governors Christie, Corzine, Whitman, and Florio.

Dr. Joseph J. Murphy, Director of the Center, is Past President of the NJ Board of Chiropractic Examiners where he was appointed by Governor Christie Whitman in the year 2000. He's a former President of the New Jersey Chiropractic Society, the Morris County Chiropractic Society, and the Chatham Chamber of Commerce. He was recently re-appointed to the Chatham Mayor's Wellness Committee and has served on the Chatham Borough Historical Commission.

Dr. Murphy, Office Manager Lynn, Massage Therapist/Chiropractic Assistant Janis and Chiropractic Assistants Katherine and Flavia will be holding an open house to celebrate their anniversary in the upcoming months.

You can find out much more about the Suburban Chiropractic Center by visiting their website at drmurphy.com.

WINTER, FRIENDS N FAMILY EXHIBIT AND SOLO SHOW BY CELESTE FONDACO

Submitted by Ann Frommer

The Art League of the Chathams, Winter, Friends n Family Exhibit and Solo Show by Celeste Fondaco "Tribute to Nature" is featured in the Lundt-Glover Gallery in the Twp. of Chatham Municipal Building, 58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham.

Celeste is past president of the Art League of the Chathams and has been president of the Drew Art Association for over 10 years.

Most of her paintings are large florals and tributes to the Great Swamp. Many hang in private collections throughout the tri-state area.

Celeste enjoys the outdoors and has been a beekeeper for over 10 years. She is a member of Morris & Somerset County Beekeepers Association. Other outdoor activities included running 70 marathons and ultra marathons.

In addition to the member artists' work in the strolling gallery, the popular wall of 6x6 small pieces are for sale. This gives people an opportunity to buy a small piece of art by their favorite artist at a modest price.

The Winter Show runs through mid March 24,

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908-381-8160 janetleichtdpm.com 369 Springfield Avenue Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922 2020, during normal business hours. Art is available for sale.

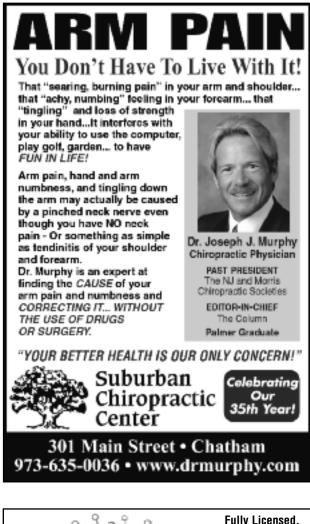
For more information, call 973-635-0845.

The building is handicapped accessible and exhibition is free and open to the public.



(above) Celeste Fondaco's solo show, "Tribute to Nature", is featured in the Lundt-Glover Gallery. Photo by Mike Kingman.







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SENIOR CENTER OF THE CHATHAMS: 2020 JANUARY EVENTS

58 Meyersville Road (Lower Level), Chatham, NJ. • 973.635.4565 • Chathamseniorcenter.Org. Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:15am-3:00pm. instagram.com/chathamseniorcenter • facebook.com/chathamseniorcenter.org • linkedin.com/in/senior-center-of-the-chathams-421a39196

Connection Winter Support Group Fridays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,

12:30 - 2:00 pm Some members of our community may be struggling with feelings of loneliness, increased stress about health concerns, or sadness over loss. If you would like to explore these feelings and receive support, compassion, and connection from other members of our community, please sign up for this support group. This session began on December 6 and runs through February 7. Facilitator: Claire Solu-Burd, MSW, LSW.

> Please call Center to sign up. **Men's Discussion Group**

Fridays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 10:30 am - Noon

A friendly and relaxed gathering for lively discussion about current events, pertinent issues, and exchange of information. Coffee, snacks, and laughter. Walk-ins welcome.

Dementia Caregivers Support Group

Wednesday, January 8, 10:30 am - Noon Moderated by Phyllis Flemming, former Executive Director of Victorian Garden Adult Day Center and experienced dementia support group leader. New members always welcome.

Generic and Branded Medications: What to Know

Monday, January 13, 12:30 pm Learn about the differences between generic and branded medications. Presented by pharmacists from RWJBarnabas Health. Sign up is required. **TED Talk: Climate Change**

Thursday, January 14, 10-11:30 am What can and should be done about climate change? Where do we begin? As insurmountable as it may seem, there are things each of us can do to help stem the tide. Share your point of view at this interactive and lively group discussion. Facilitated by Jackie Hartley. Please call Center to sign up.

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designsbycolorscapes@gmail.co Asking price is \$750,000

Blood Pressure Screening

Thursday, January 16, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm Free blood pressure screening provided by Ascend Healthcare, Rahway. Walk-ins welcome. No appointments necessary.

Fiction Book Group

Tuesday, January 21, Noon This month's selection is Summer of '69 by Elin Hilderbrand. New participants always welcome to join the discussion.

Gentle Chair Yoga

Friday, January 24, 31, 10-11 a.m. Six-class session runs through February 28. Fee: \$30 per 6 classes or \$5 per individual class

payable to Atlantic Health Systems. Please call Center to sign up.

SPA Series: Myofascial Release

Wednesday, January 22, 10:15-11:15 a.m. The next in our Series on Positive Aging (SPA). Information and demonstrations on myofascial release, a manipulative treatment that involves

applying gentle sustained pressure to connective tissues, which surround the muscles, bones, nerves, and organs of the entire body. This technique helps to release tension in the tissues due to trauma, posture, or inflammation

and can help to eliminate pain, improve

circulation and restore motion. Presenter: Donna Sue Dowton, certified group exercise

instructor and personal trainer. Please call Center to sign up.

Nonfiction Book Group

Friday, January 24, 11 a.m. This month's selection is Wesley the Owl by Stacy O'Brien. New participants always welcome to join the discussion. **Acrylic PAinting Class**

Monday, January 27, 10:30 a.m. All levels of ability welcome and all necessary supplies provided. Fee: \$17.50. Instructor: Annette Lissy. Limited class size. Please call Center for information about subject to be painted and to sign up.

Senior Scams

Friday, January 31, 10 a.m. What is identity theft? Who does it effect? Where does it happen? At this presentation, you will learn about the main types of fraud (including cyber), how to prevent and protect yourself and family, and what to do if you're a victim. Presented by Ryan Carr, Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management.

Light breakfast offered for participants.

Please call Center to sign up. **Hand and Wrist Conditions**

Monday, February 3, 12:30 p.m. Learn about the conditions that can affect the hands and wrists as we age. Presented by Fellowship Village. A light lunch will be served to participants before the presentation. Please call Center to sign up.

CHATHAM SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Submitted by Len Resto

The Chatham Senior Advisory Committee (CSAC) held its organizational meeting on November 14, 2018.

The CSAC was named by Chatham Borough Council Resolution #19-306 at a regular Council meeting on October 28, 2019. The Committee was formed to address the needs of the everincreasing population of senior citizens in Chatham. Specifically, the Resolution has tasked the Committee with:

-Establishing a strategy that engages and supports the diverse groups of seniors working and living in the Borough of Chatham.

-Identifying the various segments of our senior community and developing methods of communication to best reach them with information regarding available programs and ways they can be constructively engaged.

Borough Council the issues and opportunities related to our senior community and associated recommendations for decisions and actions.

-Designing and executing programs and projects befitting the senior community and, when appropriate, cooperating and collaborating with related organizations and governments on priority projects.

The CSAC thanks John Crouthamel of Tri-Town 55 as being the impetus in the formation of this important committee. Named to the

committee, alongside John Crouthamel, are Barbara Montague, Nelson Hunt, Bill Fuller, Joyce Martinsen, Len Resto with the Hon. Vicki Fife as Council Liaison. At the organizational meeting, Len Resto was named "interim president" with John Crouthamel as Vice-President and Barb Montague as Recording Secretary. The Committee plans to meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at Chatham Borough Hall located at 54 Fairmount Ave. and the public is welcome to attend our meetings.

Our next meeting will take place on January 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 301 at Borough Hall. If you would like to volunteer your services, have ideas or wish to get additional information, please contact Len Resto via email at lenresto@optonline.net or by phone at 973-635-5373. You do not have to be a Borough -Identifying and communicating to the resident to join. In fact, we are hoping this can become more of a regional committee because the needs are similar no matter which municipality a senior resides in. In addition, you do not have to be a senior to participate. If you are a young person with an interest in seniors or just want to help, by all means, please volunteer. If you cannot reach Len when you call, please leave a message and he will get back to you.

> The Committee is excited about the endless possibilities we can offer seniors and we hope you will consider volunteering your time.

THE LIBRARY OF THE CHATHAMS PROGRAMS

214 Main St, Chatham, NJ 07928• Tel: 973-635-0603 or visit us at www.chathamlibrary.org/ Mon to Thurs: 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friy: 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Sat: 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun: 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Vaccines for Good Health

Tuesday, January 7, 7pm Health Educator Amy Lewis from the Westfield Regional Health Department will provide an overview of new vaccine recommendations for adults. Included in this presentation will be a discussion concerning different flu vaccines.

Art and Architecture of Rome

Mondays, January 6, 13, 20 and 27, 11am to 12:30pm

Rita Keane, Associate Professor of Art History at Drew University and Peggy Kuntz, Professor of Art History at Drew University will present

a four-part course surveying the art and architecture of Rome. The course will consider the art and architecture of the city of Rome

from its origins to the seventeenth century. A fee of \$40 will be charged for the series or \$10 per individual class.

Mahjong Lessons and Club

Wednesdays, January 8, 15, 22 and 29, 1 to 3pm

Would you like to play Mahjong? Here is your chance to learn from two experienced players. Class size is limited to 8, so please register early. Mahjong sets will be provided. If you are already a Mahjong player and are looking for somewhere to play and partners to play with,

come with your own set and card and enjoy the game. You may sign up online or call the

library to register.

Gen Y and Other Job Seekers Networking Group

January 8 and 22, 7pm Gen Y Networking Group is a forum dedicated to Generation Y young adults and others interested in job search, networking, and career development.

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSES MEMBER'S BOOK: AS LONG AS IT'S PERFECT

Submitted by Lisa Tognola

On November 25, 2019, a book club that started in Chatham nearly 15 years ago gathered to discuss a book by one of its own members, Lisa Tognola. In 2007, Lisa and her husband, Chris, knocked down a house and built a new one when the U.S. was on the brink of financial collapse. Their experience, fraught with anxiety and risk, inspired some of the scenes in her debut novel As Long As It's Perfect (October, 2019, She Writes Press)-a story about one woman's obsession with perfection and how far she'll go to get what she wants, no matter the cost to herself and her family. Lisa's book deals with relatable human traits and emotions: the effects of envy and desire, the intricacies of marriage, obsession with perfection, and what that does to a person and their loved ones-topics that Lisa says

generated lively discussion at the recent book club meeting.

Lisa, an original member of the group, credits her book club with providing her the encouragement and support she needed to publish her novel, a journey she says took twelve years. "The members of our group have experienced a number of hardships, joys and sorrows over the years," says Lisa. "Life can be turbulent and unpredictable, but our book club has remained a stable force in all of our lives. We nosh, we sip wine, we chat, and we support one another. We're more than just members. We're friends."

For more information about author Lisa Tognola and her book, As Long As It's Perfect, or if you're interested in inviting her to your book club meeting, visit her website lisatognola.com



(above, l-r) Standing: Elly Silberman, Marjorie Heyman, Maria Hoberman, Dara Diamant, Sarah Kaplan, Cindy Slavin, Susanne Robinson; seated: Myra Cole, Maxine Silverman, Lisa Tognola, Lynne Whitman, and Peggy Dugan. Photo by Shayna Kaplan

Chinese Conversation Group

January 8 and 22, 7:15pm This group will help teens and young adults practice in daily conversation, learn new words, and become introduced to Chinese culture as well as crafts and games. Please register online or call the library at 973-635-0603 if you would like to attend.

Arcade Weekend

Friday, January 10, 3 to 5pm Saturday, January 11, 11:30am and 2:30pm This event is for all gamers out there—

teenagers, children and their parents. There will be many systems set up to play, from the

original Atari, Nintendo, and Sega consoles to newer systems like the Nintendo Switch. Super Smash Brothers Tournaments will take place on Saturday, January 11 with 16 players competing in each age group. Ages 10 & under starts at

11:30 a.m., and ages 11 & up starts at 2:30 p.m.Prizes, sponsored by Friends of the Library, will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place in each group. Registration is required. In Memory of Alexander Butta.

Women's Suffrage and the 19th Amendment

Tuesday, January 14, 7pm Attorney Sharon M. Hallanan, an active

member of the New Jersey State Bar Association's Speaker's Bureau, will present a lecture on voting rights and the struggle for women to obtain the right to vote in the 20th century. New Jersey's own Alice Paul, who was instrumental in advocating for the passage of the 19th Amendment, will be highlighted.

Italian Conversation Group

Tuesday, January 7, 7:15pm Friday, January 17, 1pm

Are you a bit rusty with your Italian language skills? Luciana Santoriello and Frank Foca will moderate Italian discussion groups. Join us and these fluent speakers will help you get

a conversation going.

Keep This, Toss That for a Clutter Free New Year

Wednesday, January 22, 7pm Professional organizer and author, Jamie Novak will present a workshop on getting organized this winter. You will learn simple strategies to get things together after the holidays, how to clear the closets.

ABC's of DNA: Introduction to Genetic Genealogy and Genomics

Monday, January 27, 7pm Walter Choroszewski, former educator and photographer, will discuss DNA testing and how to discover hidden information in one's DNA. As a former science teacher, Walter decodes the confusing science of DNA and translates it into common language. He compares genetic testing companies and explains how to find your genetic relatives, biological origins, and more

biological origins, and more.



THE CHATHAMS • Page 11 • January 2020 THURSDAY MORNING CLUB SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED



(above, l-r) Kathy Trombacco, Sharon Kapica, Carol Schessler, Simone Roelli, Susan Packie, Bernadette Grohol, and Kimberly Iozzi.



The Thursday Morning Club (TMC) of Madison, NJ is a non-profit organization of women dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. This year TMC created a scholarship to fund the completion of an Associate's or Bachelor's College Degree or to obtain a Certificate of Training. Eligible applicants had a high school diploma or GED and were clients participating in the Dress for Success Program (DFS), an organization that empowers women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and development tools to help women thrive in work and life. The scholarship is for education-related expenses incurred during the pursuit of a degree or certification. The scholarship is renewable.

TMC and DFS recently awarded the first annual TMC Scholarship to Simone Roelli. Ms. Roelli was born in Brazil, only spoke Portuguese as a child, and had very little formal education before coming to the United States. Once in this country, Ms. Roelli completed ESOL coursework; received her GED; completed as Associate Degree in Business Administration; and is currently a full-time student at Rutgers, Newark, where she anticipates completing her B.S. in Accounting by May 2020.

In her acceptance speech, Ms. Roelli noted the many obstacles she faced and acknowledged that she found a "village" to help her realize her dreams. Ms. Roelli thanked the Literacy Volunteers of Morris County for the tutor that they assigned her. This tutor, who still helps her to this day, helped Ms. Roelli to understand her assignments in her English-based college courses. Ms. Roelli also thanked Dress for Success. Ms. Roelli explained that through her participation in the financial theory program, attending monthly meetings and other programs, DFS gave her the confidence to set and meet realistic goals. Lastly, Ms. Roelli thanked the Thursday Morning Club. This scholarship will allow her to complete her college education and obtain the degree that she has spent many years pursuing.

The scholarship was presented by Thursday Morning Club President Susan Packie and Scholarship Committee Chair Bernadette Grohol. Also in attendance were Scholarship Committee members Kathy Trombacco, Sharon Kapica, Carol Schessler, and Dress for Success Executive Director, Kimberly Iozzi.

Organized in 1896, TMC is a member of both the New Jersey State and General Federation of Women's Clubs. The club offers programs and services to support the community, and its Community House provides a home for a number of sports, recreation, civic groups and the Madison Community House Preschool. The Thursday Morning Club is a non-profit service organization with over 260 members whose goal is to provide services for the town of Madison and neighboring communities.

For information about the Thursday Morning Club or membership, call the Community House at 973-377-0244 or visit TMCMCH.org.

THE CHATHAMS • Page 12 • January 2020



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