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ROTARY CLUB PRESENTS GOLDEN WRENCH AWARD

Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart

Warren Rorden, chair of the Rotary annual bicycle and sewing machine collection, awarded the Golden Wrench Award to Rotarian Aaron Fragnito. This award is presented to the most enthusiastic worker at the annual bicycle collection. Warren was the first chair of this event and has been chair of this event continually for 23 years.

One hundred million Americans own bicycles, purchase another 21 million bikes annually, and dispose of 15 million perfectly good bikes in landfills every year.

The Rotary Club of Westfield works with a 501c3 organization called Pedals for Progress which collects used bikes and sewing machines then ships them to the third world where they are needed. Sewing machines create jobs and may lift a family out of poverty. Road bikes go to countries with paved roads; off-road bikes go to countries without paved roads. Bikes do not create any air pollution, do not consume fossil fuels, allow workers to travel farther and be more productive, increase the bike owner's income, help the country increase its GDP, and allow children to get to a school which may be farther away. This also creates jobs because now the

country needs bicycle shops to maintain them. The Americans get to clean out their garage and put their junk to good use. Recycling bicycles and sewing machines help people in the third world, and makes the Rotary Club look good.

The Rotary Club of Westfield has collected 2,400 bikes and 150 sewing machines since they started this program in 1987 with Warren Rorden as Chair and Michael Hart as president. This year they collected 100 bikes and 11 sewing machines, and received donations of \$1,800. Monetary donations are important because it costs about \$40 to ship each item overseas. The Rotary committee members include Blake Width, Bill Bonsall and Ray Kostyack.

It is such a shame to throw out 15 million perfectly good bikes when recycling them could change a person's life. This is an example of the Rotary working to make the world a better place.

The Rotary Club of Westfield meets Tuesdays for lunch at 12:15 p.m., guests are always welcome. For information contact club secretary Michael Hart drmhart@yahoo.com or visit westfieldrotary.com.



(above, l-r) Dr. Bill Bonsall; Rotary Club President Liz Ensslin; Last year's winner Blake Width, Esq; this year's winner Aaron Fragnito holding the Golden Wrench; Event Chair Warren Rorden; and Ray Kostyack. Bonsall and Kostyack are on the Rotary Bike Collections Committee.



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Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com



RAKE AND HOE GARDEN CLUB DELIVERS HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS TO VETERANS

Every year members of the Rake and Hoe please Garden Club prepare Holiday Gift Bags for the newjers Veterans at Lyons Hospital in Basking Ridge, NJ. Once again, Betty Gulino coordinated the with th collection and delivery of 140 Holiday Gift Bags donated by club members. These gift bags are designed to bring holiday cheer to the veterans who have served our country and are now Membe deserving of our thanks and well wishes.

To learn more about the services Lyons Veterans Medical Center provides and volunteer opportunities to support our military heroes,

please call 908-647-0189 or visit newjersey.va.gov/locations/lyons campus.asp.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Club, Inc. The club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns.

For more information, call Bet Siano, 908-233-4150, or visit the club's website, rakeandhoe.org, or Facebook page.



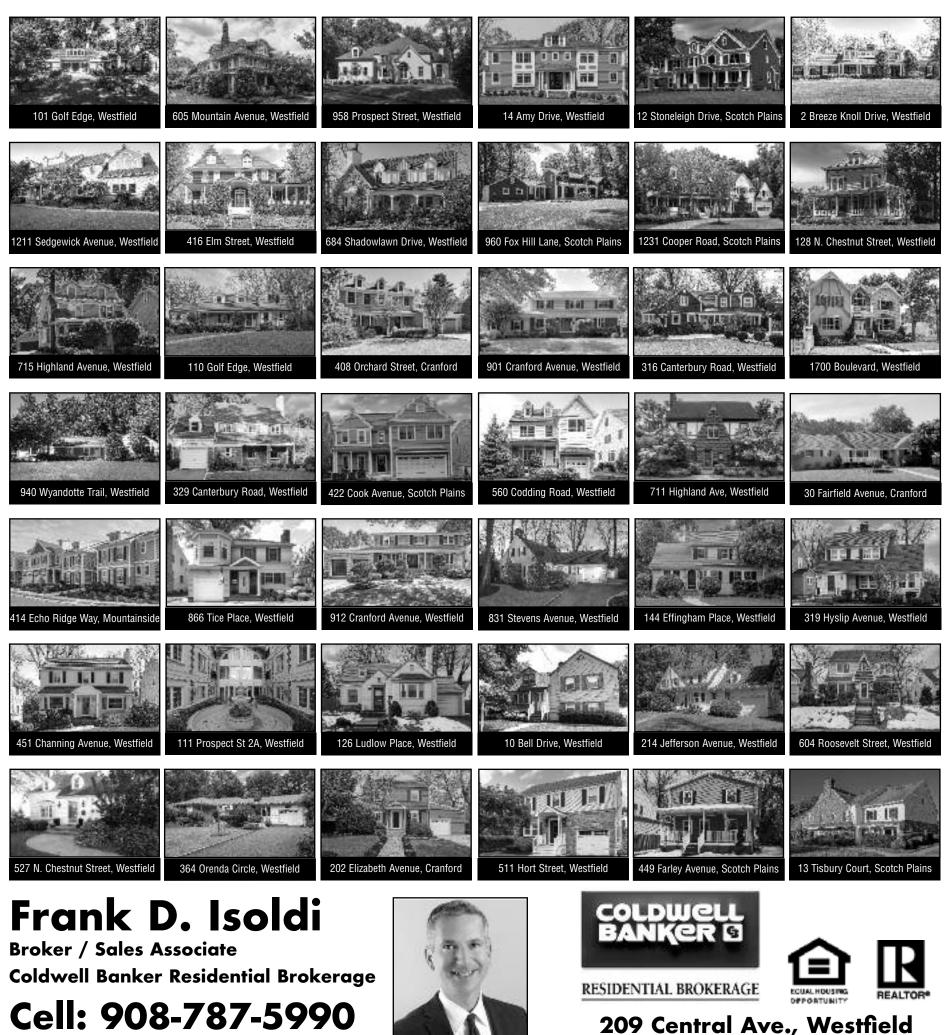
(above, l-r) Front row: Betty Gulino, Jeanie Pelikan and Joyce Mullen; back row: Marty Gulino and Richard Pelikan. Not shown: Mary Foley Smith.





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Registration is open for Winter Programs at the Westfield Recreation Department. Adults are encouraged to get out of the house and join our Tai Chi classes on Tuesday mornings at 10 - 11a.m. Zumba and More Fitness Class are offered on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Both of these classes can be tried by dropping in and paying a small fee and all levels are welcomed. The department also offers year-round Senior



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Transportation for medical and shopping for Lacrosse and Flag Football. There is a program Westfield senior residents. Register now online for every age and ability! or call the Senior hotline at 908-301-1287.

After School Enrichment programs which include: Sewing & Fashion Design (Thursdays, grades 2-12), Jr. Bakers (Mondays, grades K-5), and Cool Chemistry Lab (Fridays, grades K-5). We offer two drawing classes: Preschool drawing for Pre-K - Kindergarten on Tuesdays from 4-4:45 p.m. and Cartooning for ages 6-12 on Tuesdays from 5-6 p.m. A fun time is had by all in our LEGO Engineering Stem program for youth ages 5-10. Participants will gear up their engineering skills with tens of thousands of LEGO parts on Wednesdays, 4-5:30 p.m.

For our Preschool age participants (ages 3-5) we offer Multi Sports & Soccer classes (and Parent & Me Sports classes for ages 2-3) on Saturday and Sunday mornings. These sports classes are held indoors at the Recreation Department and have a limited number of spots. Sessions for all of these programs run from January through March.

For youth interested in sports we offer Fencing classes for grades 2-6 on Tuesdays from 3:30 -4:30 and no prior experience is needed. It's not too early to sign up for Spring sports and soccer camps and classes! Our US Sports Institute Instructors offer programs for ages 2 to 14. Classes range from soccer and multi-sports to

Do you have a teen who wants to start For school age children there is a variety of Babysitting? The Recreation Department offers the Safe Sitter Essentials Course. This is a oneday class designed to prepare teens in grades 6-9 to be safe, knowledgeable, and responsible sitters. Two classes are being offered this winter: January 11 from 9 - 3:30 p.m. and again on February 29 from 9:00 - 3:30 p.m. For those who want to learn how to be safe while they are home alone, the Rec Dept offers Safe@Home. This workshop is a 90 interactive program that teaches participants in grades 4-6 the issues and topics of being safe while they are home on their own. For more information or to register for either of these classes, call the Department or visit the web site.

CPR/First Aid certification training is being offered twice this winter: January 14 from 5:30 -10 p.m. and again on February 14 from 9 a.m. -2:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required online at westfieldnj.gov/recreation.

For additional information, please visit our website: westfieldnj.gov/recreation to view the program brochure or register for a program online at secure.rec1.com/nj/westfield-nj.

Visit our Facebook page:

FaceBook.com/WestfieldRecreation, or contact Westfield Recreation Department 425 East Broad St., Westfield, 908-789-4080 or email: recreation@westfieldnj.gov.

ANNOUNCING: THE CONNIE DWYER BREAST CENTER AT TRINITAS

Trinitas Regional Medical Center has partnered with The Connie Dwyer Breast center in Connie's name at Trinitas. The brand new \$3.4 million facility will offer a highly empathic approach to screening, diagnosis, treatment, community outreach and education to all women, regardless of financial status.



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WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL DREAM TEAM STUDENTS ACCEPT DONATION FROM MOUNTAINSIDE ELKS

Submitted by Kerri Oligino

The Mountainside Elks Lodge #1585 presented a donation to WHS Dream Team students on Sunday, November 3, 2019. The Dream Team club at Westfield High School encourages responsible decision-making, healthy choices, and a substance-free lifestyle for students. Their message is, "Confidence, Choices, Challenges, Changes."

The Westfield Municipal Alliance sponsors the WHS Dream Team activities, including annual student attendance at the NJ Elks Peer Leadership Conference in Long Branch. The 2020 conference dates are February 7-9 and it's the 12th consecutive year that Dream Team students will attend. Health educator and physical education teacher, Lauren Hauser, is the WHS Dream Team advisor. Ms. Hauser explained that membership to the WHS Dream Team club has grown exponentially in the past two years. "The Mountainside Elks' donation will assist in supporting the increased number of student registrants for the conference," said Hauser.

The Mountainside Elks invest in their communities through programs that help children grow up healthy and drug-free. The mission of the Mountainside Elks aligns with that of the Westfield Municipal Alliance to promote positive behavior, strengthen students' leadership skills, and encourage peer-mentoring.

The parent liaison for the Westfield Alliance, Kerri Oligino, explained that the leadership conference instills confidence in young leaders and inspires participants to return to their communities and take the next steps to transform lives around them. "We appreciate the generosity of the Mountainside Elks and we are thrilled to

conference instills confidence in young leaders send a greater number of students to the and inspires participants to return to their conference in February," said Oligino.

- The Mountainside Elks #1585 are located at 1193 Route 22, Mountainside, NJ.
 - For more information visit, elks.org



(above) Members of the WHS Dream Team were presented with a donation from Mountainside Elks Lodge #1585.



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STUDENTS AND STAFF TAKE PART IN "NO PLACE FOR HATE" PROGRAM

Submitted by Mary Ann McGann An advisory committee of Westfield High School students, staff, and parents recently gathered for training in the WHS library as part of the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) "No Place for Hate" Program.

"It's an amazing thing when a school decides to be proactive and cultivate a positive school culture," said program facilitator Rhetta Morgan at the start of the November 27 training session. "It starts a ripple."

The high school, along with Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate School, are among approximately 1,600 schools across the United States to be chosen to participate in the "No Place for Hate" program, which requires schools to form an advisory committee and design and implement several school-wide activities to combat bias and bullying. As part of the program, students also sign a "No Place for Hate" pledge to seek understanding of those who are different



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from themselves, to promote respect, and to speak out against prejudice and discrimination.

On November 19, all WHS students heard from Detective David D'Amico, chief investigator for the Middlesex County Department of Corrections, who speaks to schools, community groups, and law enforcement officials across New Jersey about the history of hate and the ways in which hate and bias reveal themselves. Calling the students "heroes, leaders, and role models," D'Amico encouraged them to recognize bias, respond to it and report it.

Additionally, WHS Assistant Principal Warren Hynes and six students traveled to New York City on November 21 to attend the ADL's "Never is Now" Summit, hearing from a full day of speakers about the impact of hate and the ways to combat it. "Bigotry affects us all," ADL CEO and National Director Jonathan Greenblatt told the students who represented schools from around the U.S. "No one should tolerate it. Speak up when you hear someone demeaning another person."

"I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in the "No Place for Hate" program this year," says Superintendent Dr. Margaret Dolan. "We continue to work at every level to address the climate and culture of our schools so that our students and staff feel safe and supported."



(above, l-r) Aidan Berman, Cooper Harris, Karen Abaya, Anastasia Fowler, Grace Sacco, Roselyne Garabete, and WHS Assistant Principal Warren Hynes attended the ADL "Never is Now" Summit in New York City on November 21. Photo by Westfield Public Schools



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ELVIS PERFORMS AT UNICO FUNDRAISER

Submitted by Richard Esposito

The Greater Westfield Chapter of UNICO National hosted a charitable fundraiser featuring former Westfield resident and award-winning Elvis tribute artist Jim Barone as he performed "A Tribute To Elvis Through The Years". The event was held at the Westfield Knights of Columbus.

UNICO National is the largest Italian website at unico.org.

American organization in the USA.

Our motto is "Service Above Self". Every year Chapter members across the country devote their time, energy and resources to serve their local communities, provide scholarships, support veterans and cancer research.

For more information visit our National



(above, l-r) Carmela Juliano, Jim Barone as Elvis, Joanne Larosa, Sandra Giordano and Chapter VP Stephanie Fleming during the Westfield UNICO Fundraiser.



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1/7, 14, 21, 28	1:00 pm	Crafternoon Storytime 3½-5 yrs ⁸⁸
1/7, 14, 21	3:45 pm	Afternoon LEGO Club 5+years**
1/9, 16, 23, 30	10:30 am	3's on Thursday *
1/10, 17, 24, 31	10:00 am	Playgroup Babies and Toddlers* 0-23 monthes
1711	10:30 am	When Animals Attack 4+years*
1/11	2:00 pm	Paws to Read to WML dogs
1/25	10:30 am	Mike Rose Magic Show 4+years*



(above) Washington School principal Dr. Andrew Perry, 5th grade teacher Matthew Cognetti and Superintendent Dr. Margaret Dolan accepted the award from Program Director Abba Kumi.



(left, l-r) Washington School students excitedly look on as the National Blue Ribbon Schools (NBRS) ceremony at National Harbor near Washington, D.C. is livestreamed on November 15. Washington School was one of nine schools in New Jersey and 312 public schools nationwide to receive the prestigious Blue Ribbon School designation for 2019.

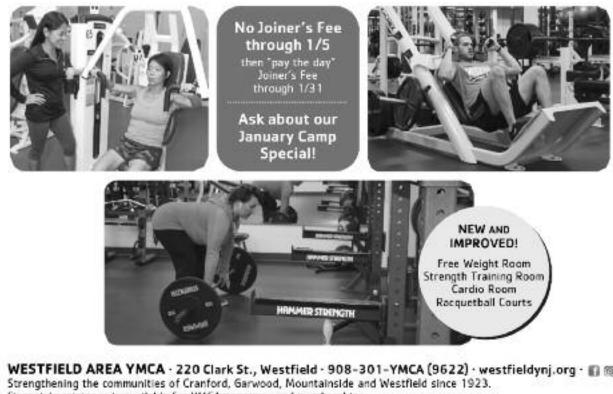
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OPTIMIST CLUB OF WESTFIELD PRESENTS YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD

Submitted by Darielle Walsh

The Optimist Club of Westfield recognized Sam Horvath, a junior at Westfield High School, as the winner of the 2019 Optimist Club Thom Hornish Youth Volunteer Award. The award is named in honor of Thom Hornish, a former Westfield High School teacher, in recognition of his dedication to youth, club service and involvement as a past president and long-time member of the Optimist Club. The award is given annually to a high school junior or senior who is a resident of Westfield and has dedicated a substantial amount of time and effort to volunteer in the community. This is the 24th year the Optimist Club of Westfield has recognized outstanding young people who distinguished themselves through volunteer service to the community. The recognition includes a cash

award presented to the recipient at the December meeting of the Optimist Club.

Many of the nominees show a long history of volunteerism through their schools, churches and the community at large and Sam is no exception. However, what set her apart from this impressive group of young people were her work ethic, dedication and leadership in local community activities.

Sam presently sings in the prestigious Choraleers and is part of the Blue Devil Treble, an all-female acapella group. She also arranges music and volunteers her time with underclassman in the program. Sam describes being guided by the Juniors and Seniors when she first joined the program and wants to give back to the group that gave her so much inspiration. She has performed with the New Jersey region

ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET PROJECT

Submitted by Darielle Walsh

On Saturday, December 14, members of the Westfield Optimist Club and Rotary Club again demonstrated their commitment to community service by providing a record number of holiday food baskets to Westfield area families and individuals in need. The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless and Saint Joseph's Social Service Agency in Elizabeth also received holiday food basket deliveries.

The Holiday Food Basket program has been an annual community service project for the Optimist Club of Westfield for the past 30 years. This project is made possible through the generosity and funding from the Optimist Club and the Rotary Club of Westfield, personal financial contributions from members and friends, support from King's Supermarket in assembling food boxes, and cookies from Delicious Orchards in Colts Neck.

The involvement of fifty volunteers from both the Optimist and Rotary organizations contribute to the success of the annual project, which reflects the goals of both organizations in helping those in need and assisting members of our community.

For information about the Optimist Club of Westfield, go to westfieldnj.com/optimist.

For information about the Rotary Club of Westfield go to westfieldrotary.com.



(above) The Westfield Optimist Club and Rotary Club joined together to create holiday food baskets to Westfield area families and individuals in need.



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and All State Choir, and most recently at NJPAC.

Despite her challenging academic and musical schedule, Sam volunteers every Friday after school at Children's Specialized Hospital. She visits and volunteers with children in the longterm care unit, forming bonds with many of them over time. Sam also had the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica and aide in building school structures and teaching local children.



(above, l-r) Janice Bryk, Junior Optimist Club Advisor and Sam Horvath.



Rotary Club of Westfield were joined by Early Act students from Jefferson School this month for a special project for Veterans. Our club is making over 75 blankets for homeless vets in transitional shelter at Lyons, VA.

We are also in need of socks, gloves and hats for the homeless and will be collecting in December and January. Two drop locations at Northfield Bank on South Ave and Columbia Bank on North Ave next to train station.

If you'd like to learn more about how you can contribute and join the Rotary Club of Westfield please join us on the first Two Tuesdays each Month at 12:15 at Addams Tavern and 3rd Tuesday in the evening at a local restuarant where we meet to discuss upcoming events, listen to great speakers and also form bonds with others in the community.

> For more information go to www.westfieldrotary.com or Email Blake Width at bwidth@lindabury.com for information on membership.

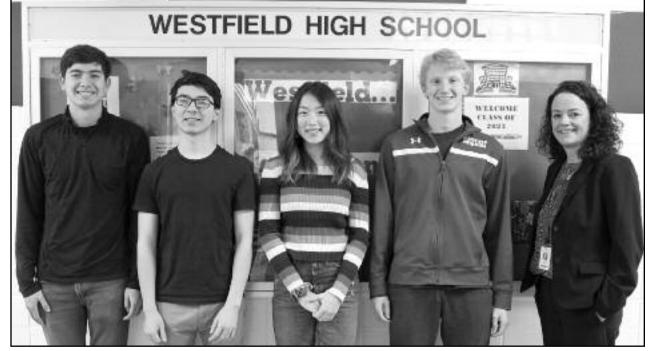
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SAT PERFECT SCORERS







Asfendis (far right) congratulates seniors Brad Hornbeck, Stephen Park, Angela Wang, and SATs.

Westfield High School principal Mary Jeremy Kronheimer for their perfect scores of 800 on the Math Level 2 portion of the October Photo by Westfield Public Schools

FOOTBALL PLAYERS SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT

Three Westfield High School football players signed Letters of Intent with colleges and

universities, in recognition of the seniors' accomplishments, academically and athletically.



(above, l-r) The following student-athletes pictured with WHS Athletic Director Sandra Mamary, Head Coach/Assistant Principal James DeSarno and Principal Mary Asfendis) will continue to play football at the college level: William (Will) Kessler, Georgetown University; Henry (Hank) Shapiro, Lehigh University; Declan McCauley, College of the Holy Cross.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools





ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT VISITS CHINA AS PART OF STEM PARTNERSHIP

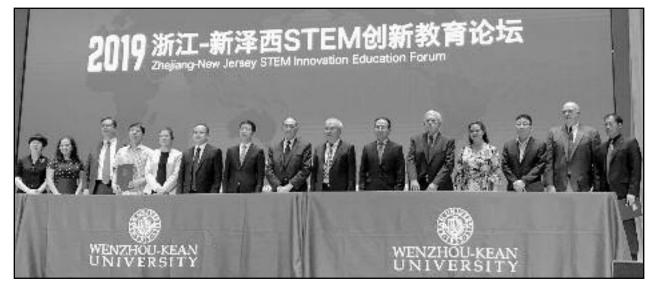
Submitted by Mary Ann McGann

A Chinese delegation of elementary school principals recently spent a week touring schools in New Jersey as part of a Kean University program that pairs elementary, middle and high schools in the Garden State with counterparts in Zheijiang Province, China.

Westfield Public Schools Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Programs Paul Pineiro joined Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning for Elizabeth Public Schools Dr. Jennifer Cedeno and other educators in welcoming the Chinese delegation at a dinner hosted by Kean University on October 24, 2019.

In June, Pineiro visited Zheijiang Province in China as part of Kean's partnership with Wenzhou-Kean University and the Zhejiang Provincial Department of Education to focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) innovation and development.

"The highlights of my trip to China included visiting the innovative Zhejiang Rui'an High School, enjoying presentations and performances at the Wenzhou Art School, and sharing STEM education presentations with our Chinese counterparts," says Pineiro who adds



(above) Paul Pineiro (third from left), Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Programs in Westfield Public Schools, joins Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning for Elizabeth Public Schools Dr. Jennifer Cedeno and members of a Chinese delegation at a dinner hosted by Kean University on October 24. The weeklong visit by the Chinese delegation of elementary school principals was part of an educational partnership that pairs elementary, middle and high schools in New Jersey with counterparts in Zhejiang Province, China.

Photos by Zhejiang-New Jersey STEM Innovation Education Forum



(above) Westfield Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Programs (third from left) attends a Kean University program in Wenzhou, China in June that pairs elementary, middle and high schools in New Jersey with counterparts in Zhejiang Province.

that Westfield was invited to attend by Dr. Keith Bostian, Kean University's Dean of the New Jersey Center of Science, Technology and Mathematics. Prior to this collaboration, Dr. Bostian worked closely with the Westfield school district to launch its popular summer STEM Camp in 2013.

Pineiro says his "biggest take-away is how similarly the U.S. and Chinese educational systems see the importance of STEM and how to approach STEM education." He added that the equipment and educational opportunities he witnessed in Chinese schools are "on par" with what is offered in Westfield schools, including the integration of traditional practical arts activities aligned with next generation engineering design practices.

"Another take-away is that both Wenzhou and New Jersey educators saw problem-solving and critical thinking as the purpose of STEM education, not just as the context for future careers in engineering," he adds. "STEM education is about learning activities for students that challenge them with authentic, real world problems. Students work collaboratively, learning and solving problems creatively."



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GWACC ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Submitted by Gene Jannotti, CEO-GWACC

The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) held its Annual Holiday Party on December 5, 2019, at the Shackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains. With 110 members and guests, the food, music and entertainment gave everyone an early Holiday Season treat.

The Board of Directors awarded plaques to long standing members of GWACC that included The Westfield Y-35 years, Evalyn Dunn's Gallery-20 years, Jay's Cycle Center-15 years and Mitch Beinhaker Law Firm-10 years. In addition, the Board gave out an award to Mitch Beinhaker for his 8 years of service on the Board of Directors, including his time as Board President. The first ever Life Time Membership Award was given to Sherry Cronin for her years of service in the DWC and her commitment to Westfield.

The event was sponsored by Clearskies Title Agency, Northfield Bank, Two River Community Bank, Spencer Savings Bank. Christopher Devine and Rabadeau Wealth Group, Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook and Cooper, Gillman Strategic Group, Town Car Wash and Hehl & Held.

For 71 years, the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce has been connecting commerce and community. The GWACC promotes the economic prosperity of businesses primarily in Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield. It is the largest association of businesses and nonprofits in our area. Members include business owners, professionals, managers and operators. Membership cultivates the opportunity to build relationships, partner, make referrals, increase business, attend lunch and learns, and support the community.

For more information about the GWACC, visit gwaccnj.com. You can also call the office at 908-233-3021 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

For any additional information regarding the GWACC Foundation, please contact the Chamber Office, located at 212 Lenox Avenue, Westfield.



(above, l-r) GWACC Board of Directors: Harold Star-VP, Jennifer DiVirgilio, Stephanie Branna, Mario Cesario, Marta Alexander, Christopher Devine, Heather Bryant, Jim Mooney, Tony Bianchino, Ron Bansky, Gene Jannotti-CEO, Barbara Murphy, Darielle Walsh-President, Carol Kearney-VP and Maria Fuentes. Missing are Jodi Weinberg, Aimee Nuzzo, Mike Martin, John Capeci, Lauren Hammer, Paul Mecca and Mitch Beinhaker.







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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 Lazaruus 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, 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.



(above, l-r) Kenilworth Chess Club President Jack McCorkell, Vice President Dave Lazarus, John Moldovan, Treasurer Geoff McAuliffe, Web Master John Moldovan, Trustees Ed Selling, Greg Tomkovich, Pat Mazzillo, and Joe Renna.



www.kenilworthchessclub.org

ADOPTION DAY: AS SIX YOUTH JOIN FAMILIES, LOVE TEEMS

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

On the morning of Friday, November 22, 2019, more than 25 youth gathered to celebrate the long-awaited end to living in foster care with adoption into a forever family.

National Adoption Day is the Saturday before Thanksgiving every year; Union County's Family Court celebrated on Friday, November 22, as six youth ranging from one to nine years old, entered the courtrooms of Superior Court Judges Richard C. Wischusen or James Hely as foster youth accompanied by their foster families and other loved ones — but left as official members of their new family. More than 20 other recent adoptees returned to participate in the program.

Adoption Day is a national movement to raise awareness of children in foster care awaiting a family. Since its inception 20 years ago, more than 75,000 children have found that permanency. Still, more than 125,000 youth in the United States need a permanent home and the average wait is four years. For more than 23,000 youth nationwide, that permanency doesn't happen before they age out of the system and must face life on their own.

The family courts see complex issues fraught with loss or discord nearly every day, yet Adoption Day is eagerly anticipated by all at Union County's Family Court, as fresh starts and ample smiles fill the courthouse. Festivities included balloon headwear creations donated by nonprofit A Birthday Wish; super-human Heroes 4 Heroes, an organization of area corrections officers in costume seeking to brighten the lives of children facing medical and other adversities; photo booth area for children to select a superhero cape and mask gifted by family court personnel, pick photo props and pose with family and their favorite superheroes. Approximately 30 students from Elizabeth's Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy A Cappella Choir performed pieces they selected especially for the occasion.

Each adoptive family received a gift basket from CASA of Union County, with collaboration from David Brearley High School's Bears that Care, The Race Matters Alliance and Peer Leadership Groups; Seton Hall Law Professor Kevin Kelly; and the Union County Bar Association. Items included board and card games, blankets, jars of popping corn, movie candy, bowling passes and WalMart gift card. In addition, every adoptee received handpicked books by Kappa Alpha Theta's Westfield Chapter and bike certificate redeemable by the Albanese family of Plainfield's Dairy Queen.

For details on CASA of Union County and becoming an advocate for a foster youth, reach Courtney at 908-293-8136 or log on to casaofunioncounty.org to learn more.



(above) The Heroes4Heroes group, a nonprofit comprised of corrections officers who dress as superheroes and visit children.



(above) The adoptees, each wearing superhero capes, ready to pose for a picture with their favorite superheroes.

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WESTFIELD LIBRARY SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT

The Westfield Memorial Library is planning for the future and seeks input from two populations for two separate focus groups.

The first group is the parents/caregivers of young children and the second is teens. Both groups will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2020: the parents/caregivers group from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., and the teen focus group from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

"Whether teens or the parents/caregivers of young children use the library frequently, infrequently, or not at all, we would like to hear their thoughts on how we could improve," said library director Phil Israel.

"You don't need to be an expert on libraries," he continued, "just willing to brainstorm ideas, no matter how crazy or visionary."

The Focus Groups will be facilitated by Library Development Solutions, a consulting company that has helped hundreds of libraries in the tri-state area plan for their future since 1991.

Founding partner Leslie Burger is the former director of the Princeton Public Library and was President of the American Library from July 2006 – June 2007.

Interested parties should email focusgroups@wmlnj.org and include "Teens" or "Parents" in the subject line, as well as their name and phone number.

Founded in 1879, the Westfield Memorial Library—the community's destination for discovery and ideas—engages minds, entertains spirits and facilitates lifelong learning for people of all ages. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday; and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information call 908.789.4090, visit the library's website at www.wmlnj.org, and sign up for the monthly e-newsletter "Library Loop."

Or stop by the library at 550 East Broad Street for a copy of the award-winning quarterly newsletter "Take Note."



WESTFIELD MONTHLY

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MADRIGAL SINGERS POST-CHRISTMAS CONCERT

music.

The Madrigal Singers will present their Our Annual "Last Chance at Christmas" Concert, "A Child is Born", on Sunday, January 5, 2020 at the United Methodist Church, 17 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, New Jersey at 4:00 p.m. General admission, available at the door, is \$15; admission for students and seniors is \$10.

The program will feature music by Melchior Franck, Jean Mouton, Tomas Luis de Victoria and many others, along with traditional favorites and Christmas Readings.

The Madrigal Singers are an a capella choral

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