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Published by Renna Media

Issue 26 • February 2020



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NEW CHATHAM TRADITION IS BORN ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

Submitted by Joe Basralian

On New Year's Day, 130 residents started a new tradition in Chatham with a "First Day Walk" for Open Space. The walk raised over \$1,300 for local youth projects aimed at stewarding our open spaces, such as tree planting and trail work. BSA Troop 280 sponsored the walk and plans to host a second annual walk on January 1, 2021.

"It was a lot of fun for the Scouts and all the people who came," said Azniv Basralian, Chatham eighth grader and Senior Patrol Leader of the Troop. "It's great that we can give people in our area the money they need to do helpful work in the community."

Adults and kids paid \$10 to participate and received a handsome pin. Each year of the walk, the pin will feature the New Year and a new design. Many dogs joined their owners in the walk.

Residents from Chatham and Madison met at Loantaka Brook Park on Loantaka Way, where there is a spacious parking lot for entering the path. They then walked 2.6 miles into the park, crossed Woodland Ave, and looped around Giralda Farms Preserve. Scouts rang a chorus of bells at the start and finish of the walk.

Community members wishing to apply for a



grant for their open space stewardship project may check for instructions on the Facebook Page titled, "First Day Walk - New Year's Day."

The next First Day Walk will be January 1, 2021.

To inquire about joining the thriving BSA Troop 280, girls' troop ages 11-17, please email troop280chatham@gmail.com.



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Munsee District Boy Scout Chess Tournament

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Saturday, February 22, 2020

10:30 am to 3:00 pm

Sign-in/setup starts at 10:00 am

Registration Closes 2-21-20

Cranford Community Center

220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ • 908.709.7283

Registration is \$15 • Note: this is a non-rated tournament.

Limited to 40 players who must know how to play chess, age 11 and older.

For More Information: Email Jim Parlapiano at jim.parlapiano@hotmail.com

Or Will Adams at will.adams@scouting.org or 973-765-9322 x234

Scouts can use Patriots' Path Council Munsee District Double Knot link
to register on-line at ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2583007

Scouts can email Will Adams at Will.adams@scouting.org for more info.

Trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers.

Lunch will be provided for all players.

This tournament meets the 6a requirement for earning a Chess merit badge.

*Anthony
Paterno*

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CHATHAM TURKEY TROT RAISES MONEY FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Submitted by Steve Cavanaugh and Craig Alperowitz

On Thanksgiving morning, 2019, the 11th annual Chatham Turkey Trot was held and was the most successful yet, attracting over 1,000 participants. Chatham Turkey Trot is a non-profit organization that holds a 1 mile family fun run and a USA Track & Field certified 5K race through the scenic highlands of Chatham Township on Thanksgiving Day, with proceeds

benefiting local first responder organizations (Chatham Township Volunteer Fire Department and Chatham Emergency Squad) as well as the Diabetes Research Institute and the Barton Center for Diabetes Education.

Thanks to the success of the event, Chatham Turkey Trot President Curt Ritter presented \$1,000 to the Chatham Emergency Squad and \$10,000 to the Chatham Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Curt Ritter said, "We are pleased to present a check for \$10,000 to the Chatham Township Volunteer Fire Department to support their purchase of a state-of-the art thermal imaging camera (TIC)." TICs are used on just about every call to identify hot spots within a home's walls, search for potential victims trapped in a building or occupants that have been ejected from a motor vehicle. Put simply, they are critical to fire operations.

Said Fire Chief Matthew Lemons, "thanks Curt Ritter and everyone who came out to support the Turkey Trot."

Evan Skinner, President of the Chatham Emergency Squad, stated, "For 11 years, the Chatham Turkey Trot has been a Thanksgiving tradition which brings our community together while simultaneously supporting the volunteer organizations in Chatham. We're truly 'thankful' for this contribution which helps our organization continue to support the Chatham community."

ABOUT THE CHATHAM EMERGENCY SQUAD

The Chatham Emergency Squad is an all-volunteer organization funded nearly exclusively by donations. In 2019 the Chatham Emergency Squad responded to 1,246 emergency calls in Chatham Township and Chatham Borough and provided mutual aid to neighboring communities of New Vernon, Madison and Summit on occasion. Chatham Emergency Squad never charges for its services. The Squad provides stand-by support for community events, such as the Chatham Turkey Trot, Fishawack, and school athletic events. The Squad also provided free CPR training to more than 400 residents, teachers, coaches, school crossing guards and emergency personnel, including fire and police. To learn more, to donate or to volunteer, please visit chathamemergencysquad.org.

ABOUT THE CHATHAM TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Established in 1925, the Department is comprised entirely of volunteer members including 25 active firefighters, junior firefighters and associate members providing services 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. The department operates its headquarters on River Road and a second station on Southern Boulevard and responds to approximately 400 calls each year, both within Chatham Township and in the form of mutual aid to departments in neighboring communities.



(above) Chatham Turkey Trot President Curt Ritter (left) presents a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Chatham Emergency Squad President Evan Skinner.



(above) Curt Ritter (fourth from right) presenting check to John Robertson (President), Matthew Lemons (Chief) and Jim Connelly (Trustee), joined by members of the Fire Department.



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SENIOR CENTER OF THE CHATHAMS: 2020 FEBRUARY EVENTS

58 Meyersville Road (Lower Level), Chatham, NJ. • 973.635.4565 • ChathamSeniorCenter.Org. Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:15am-3:00pm.

Hand and Wrist Conditions

Monday, February 3, 12:30 p.m.

This program will address common conditions affecting older men and women that decrease hand function as we age. Presented by Fellowship Village Senior Living, Basking Ridge. Preceded by a light lunch at 12 p.m. Please call Center to sign up if you wish to attend and have lunch.

Memoir Writing

Wednesdays, February 5, 19, 10:30 a.m.

Do you have a story to tell—a story you have always wanted to write but didn't know how to start? Come spend Wednesday mornings with us as we break down the process of writing and learn how to begin your personal narrative. Each 90-minute session will include lessons in understanding what makes a captivating story as well as fun "small moment" writing exercises. Absolutely no previous writing experience is necessary—everyone is a writer; you just need to know where to begin.

Facilitator: Jenny Tananbaum. Please call Center to sign up.

Beginner Mah Jongg

Fridays, February 7, 14, 21, 28, 10:00 a.m.

Join in if you are new to the game and would like to learn. Instructor: Stephanie Blee.

Donations accepted. Please call to sign up.

Connections Winter Support Group

Friday, February 7, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

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 to sign up.

Gentle Chair Yoga

Fridays, February 7, 14, 20, 28

10:00-11:00 a.m.

Fee: \$5 per individual class payable to Atlantic Health Systems. Please call Center to sign up.

Men's Discussion Group

Fridays, February 7, 14, 20, 28

10:30 a.m.-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.

Nutrition Series: The Facts About Fats

Tuesday, February 11, 12:30 p.m.

Learn about the differences between the fats in our diets and how they impact health. Presented by Tory Stroker, in-store dietician, ShopRite of Chatham. Please call Center to sign up.

TED Talks: Happiness

Wednesday, February 12, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Two short videos will be shown with group discussion on what may be the most important topic in life: how to be happy? What are your views? Don't worry, be happy! Join us.

Facilitated by Rick Hartley.

Please call Center to sign up.

Dementia Caregivers Support Group

Wednesday, February 12, 10:30 a.m. - Noon.

Moderated by Phyllis Flemming, former Executive Director of Victorian Garden Adult Day Center and experienced dementia support group leader. During this meeting Mary Beth Kane, CALA/CTRS and Doreen Monks, RN, MSN, APN, BC from Arbor Terrace, Morris Plains for a special presentation of "Hear Our Voices," a program designed to educate the community and eliminate the stigma associated with dementia. New members always welcome.

Love-Themed Piano Music on Valentine's Day

Friday, February 14, 12:30 p.m.

Joe Regan, a pianist and singer, will be at the Center to play love-themed piano music on Valentine's Day. Joe plays at piano bars and cabaret rooms, has been Musical Director for individual and group cabaret shows, and has played in the pit for several off-Broadway shows. Program followed by chocolate desserts.

Sponsored by Sunrise of Summit. Must call Center to sign up.

Fiction Book Group

Tuesday, February 18, 12:00 p.m.

Please call Center for this month's title. New participants are always welcome to join.

Blood Pressure Screening

Thursday, February 20

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Free blood pressure screening provided by Pine Acres Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center, Madison. Walk-ins welcome.

Free Tech Support

Thursday, February 20, 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.

Need help with your phone, laptop or tablet? Call the Center to schedule a free appointment with a high school student volunteer.

Flights of Fancy: The History of Duck Decoys

Friday, February 21, 12:30 p.m.

Come learn about how decoys transitioned from duck hunting to fine art objects. Ruth Mirrer, a Center board member, and her family have been studying and collecting duck decoys for many years. She will make a hands-on presentation showing authentic decoys, duck prints, and memorabilia. It'll be 'just ducky' and a fun afternoon. Please call the Center to sign up.

Drum Circle

Monday, February 24, 12:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand! Have a great time celebrating rhythm in this exhilarating and unifying activity that is part of the Center's continuing series on positive aging (SPA). No prior training necessary. Drums supplied.

Facilitated by Richard Reiter, jazz musician and Emmy Award-winning composer. Free event.

Please call Center to sign up.

The Art of Decoupage

Wednesday, February 26, 10:00 a.m.

Free craft class. All materials are supplied. Must call Center to sign up. Instructor: Leigh Gardner, Savvy Seniors from Care-One Assisted Living of Livingston.

Nonfiction Book Group

Friday, February 21, 11:00 a.m.

This month's selection is A Woman of No Importance by Sonia Purnell. New participants are always welcome to join the discussion.

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Experience the entire process of maple sugaring from tree tapping to tasting the pancake-topping treat at Morris County Park Commissions Maple Sugaring Weekends. The season culminates with the Maple Sugaring Festival on March 14.

The trees will be tapped and the firewood chopped at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center in Chatham Township for hour-long, maple sugaring demonstrations in February, and March, at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., on February 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, and March 1, 7 & 8.

Watch as staff members identify and tap maple trees and collect the flowing sap. Witness syrup making over a wood-fired evaporator. Best of all, taste-test the Great Swamp's own homemade syrup.

Learn to appreciate the quality differences, and the process that is required to make this tasty treat. Demonstrations are fun for all ages!

Admission is \$4 per person. No registration is required, but space is limited. All demonstrations are held rain or shine.

The annual Maple Sugar Festival will be Saturday, March 14, from noon to 4 p.m. featuring more tree tapping, maple cream, a guided 'Hike Through Maple Sugaring History,'

and an array of supplies and instructions on how to get started at home next year. A maple sugar farmer will sell fresh syrup products. Festival admission is \$5 per person

For more information and directions to the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, visit morrisparks.net or call 973.635.6629.



(above) Discover the sweet smells, sights and tastes of maple sugaring. For more information and directions to the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, visit morrisparks.net or call 973.635.6629.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS JOHN & ABIGAIL ADAMS: A LOVE STORY

Submitted by Patricia Wells

The Chatham Township Historical Society will present John and Abigail Adams: A Love Story on February 23 at 2 p.m. at the Chatham Township Municipal Building at 58 Meyersville Road. The public is welcome to attend this free program. No registration needed. Glenn LeBoeuf, who is best known for his in-character presentations on George Washington, will tell the Adams' story.

John and Abigail were married for 54 years and suffered frequent and long separation as John dedicated himself to birthing the nation. The couple exchanged many long letters to each other which have been preserved. The letters demonstrate their love and regard for each other. They also show how John sought for and seriously considered Abigail's counsel on many subjects relating to politics, finance, and domestic life. Although women were offered only home schooling, Abigail was as well-read as John and had a fine analytical mind. Abigail did not hesitate to advise her husband and the other men of the Continental Congress, pleading

with them to, "remember the ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation."

John served in the Continental Congress while it directed the Revolution, worked as a diplomat to several European countries, was elected the first Vice President and the second President of the United States. John was a lawyer and had a powerful sense of justice like his wife. Both strongly opposed slavery and predicted that it would be a threat to the democracy of the young nation.

John and Abigail adored each other and hated being apart. But both were dedicated to the establishment and success of the United States, so they lived long periods by letter. Their story is a great love story and story of our country's birth.


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BAND SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Township of Union Municipal Band is seeking new members to join the band. "Musicians of all ages are welcome," says director Howard Toplansky. "If you are a high school musician looking for extra practice or a retired professional who wants to get back into music, the municipal band is a perfect fit." The band is looking for new members who play any

instrument, however there is an immediate need for low brass, woodwinds and percussion.

The band rehearses on Monday evenings at Hannah Caldwell School in Union, NJ and performs ten concerts throughout the year. Musicians who are interested in joining the band should contact the Township of Union Recreation Department at 908-686-4200.

KIDS FISHING SEMINAR SET FOR MARCH 3

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club was founded in 1907 and remains one of the oldest fishing clubs in the nation. We are listed on Amazon Smile and are a recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit. We provide outings to support veterans, adults and children as well as people with disabilities which focus on environmental education, fishing knowledge and practice. A complete list of our upcoming events can be found at www.nbfcc.org.

We are always looking for new members, donations, and volunteers if anyone would like to get involved.

Our monthly meetings are held at the Kenilworth VFW, located at 33 S. 21st St., Kenilworth, NJ, on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (except July and August).

Our Annual Kids Seminar will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., at the Kenilworth Veterans Center, V.F.W. 33 South 21st street Kenilworth, NJ. A Guest speaker to be announced and topics of discussion will be safety while fishing, fish identification, and practice casting. Prizes will be awarded and snacks will be served.

For more information visit www.nbfcc.org, or contact Bob Jones, BJonesJRNJ@hotmail.com, 908-272-3545.

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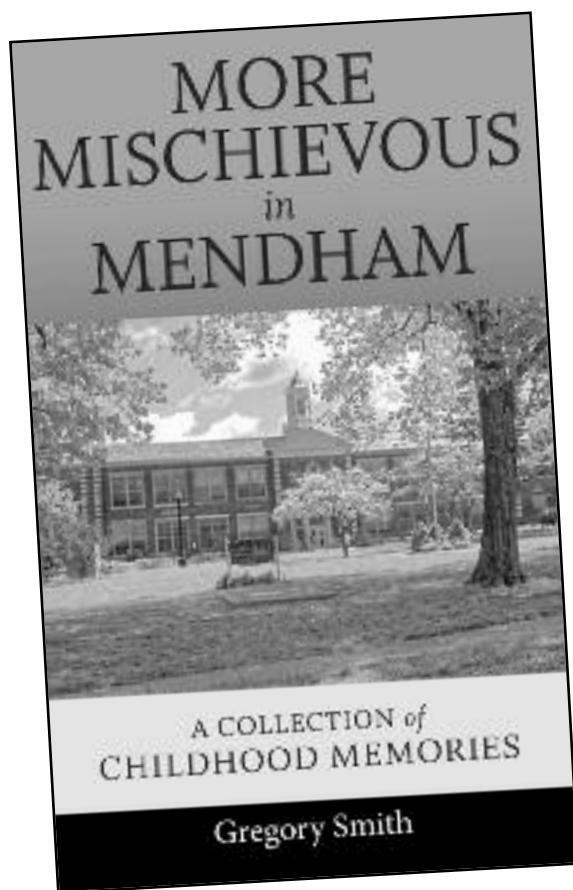
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CHATHAM AUTHOR RELEASES NEW BOOK

More Mischievous in Mendham is the follow-up to Mischievous in Mendham, an anthology of comical memoirs based on the author's childhood in Mendham, New Jersey. The Chatham author, Gregory Smith, uses his own experiences to explore growing up not only in his hometown of Mendham but the fabric of the American family in eighteen new stories. Full of wit, warmth, and nostalgia, More Mischievous in Mendham will speak to all adults with fond memories of their youth.

Using small and ordinary situations, Smith explores the difficult-to-find humor in coming of age. From getting stuck inside his parents' living room fireplace chimney in an attempt to prove Santa wouldn't fit, to lassoing the Easter Bunny, to knocking out a military communications base with his homemade ham radio, readers will delight in his experiences and even remember their own, similar moments growing up.

In the vein of Garrison Keillor, Smith sheds light on a bygone era and encourages readers to relive it with him.



(above) The cover of *More Mischievous in Mendham*, the follow-up to *Mischievous in Mendham*, by the Chatham author, Gregory Smith.

LIBRARY SEEKS BOOK SALE DONATIONS

The Friends of the Chatham Library are accepting donations of gently used books, CDs and DVDs for their annual book sale on March 14. Donations will be accepted through February 21 and should be left in the rear corridor of the library at 214 Main Street.

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THE LIBRARY OF THE CHATHAMS PROGRAMS

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Monday to Thursday, 9:30a.m. to 9:00p.m., Friday, 9:30a.m. to 6:00p.m., Saturday, 9:30a.m. to 5:00p.m., Sunday, 2:00p.m. to 5:00p.m.

Italian Conversation Group

Tuesday, February 4, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, February 21, 1:00 p.m.

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.

Income Tax Assistance

Wednesdays, February 5 - April 15,

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Please bring all your financial records from 2019, copies of your 2018 Federal and State tax returns, all printed and blank forms from the Internal Revenue Service, picture identification, and proof of Social Security for all dependents filing.

Gen Y and Other Job Seekers Networking Group

Wednesdays, February 5, 19, 7:00 p.m.

Gen Y Networking Group is a forum dedicated to Generation Y young adults and others interested in job search, networking, and career development. All are welcome to attend.

English as a Second Language

Thursdays, February 6 - February 27,

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

For those wanting to improve their English Language skills, we are continuing our next cycle of ESL classes. The program will be conducted by LEARN Associates and volunteer tutors for 8 weeks. Books and other learning materials will be provided. The program is free—all you need is a commitment to learn.

The Beatles: The Beginnings with John Groom

Friday, February 7, 7:00 p.m.

Scotch Plains resident and Liverpool native, John Groom will speak about his knowledge of the Beatles before they became famous. Mr.

Groom lived in the same village as John Lennon and George Harrison and went to the same high school as John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

Essex Water Color Club Art Show

Sunday, February 9, 2:15 to 4:00 p.m.

The Essex Water Color Club, the oldest water color club in New Jersey, will hold its annual show here through February. An opening reception, sponsored by The Friends of The Library, will be held for the artists. The public is invited to attend.

Medicare for Baby Boomers

Monday, February 10, 7:00 p.m.

Neil Berger, advisor and former educator, will discuss Medicare issues including the impact COBRA will have on Medicare, what to do if you work past retirement age, how Medicare coordinates with group health insurance, and other concerns. A question and answer session will follow the lecture. Learn how Medicare will affect you. Pre-registration is requested for this program. You may sign up online or call 973-635-0603.

Chinese Conversation Group

Wednesdays, February 12, 26, 7:15 p.m.

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.

Emily Dickinson's Gardening Life: The Plants that Inspired the Iconic Poet

Sunday, February 23, 2:30 p.m.

Marta McDowell, Chatham resident, gardener, author, and instructor of landscape history at the New York Botanical Garden, will speak about her recent book, Emily Dickinson's Gardening Life. She will describe the flowers Emily Dickinson grew at her family home in Amherst, Massachusetts and how they were an inspiration for her poetry. Please join us.

Watercolor Painting for Beginners

February 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 & 21,
10:30 am - 12 pm.

Peggy Dressel, a professional art instructor, will teach a course in watercolor painting. The class will be limited to 15 participants. The series will be 8 lessons and will cover the basics of watercolor, such as picking a palette, how to mix colors, and different watercolor techniques. You do not have to know how to draw to take this course, and a demonstration will be given in each class. A fee of \$80 will be charged for the course, and you must be able to attend all classes. In addition, students will need to purchase supplies. The list of supplies will be available on the library's website and at the library. You may pick up a registration form at the information desk at the library.

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