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## WHRHS FALL DRAMA, “ALMOST, MAINE”

Twenty student thespians in the Script and Cue Drama Program at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) tackled the fall drama, “Almost, Maine,” giving life to its charming literary script to deliver a masterful performance.

The WHRHS actors and actresses were supported by an energetic behind-the-scene team of student and professional Production Staff members. They contributed all the numerous tasks required to stage a live drama in four performances, including three evening performances and a Saturday afternoon matinee.

### THE CAST, IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

John Doucette played Pete and Kaelin Churchill played Ginette, in the scene trilogy titled, “Prologue-Interlogue-Epilogue,” at the opening, closing and Intermission of the play; Act 1: Andrew Moberly played East and Christine Tanko played Glory in a scene titled, “Her Heart”;

Lucas Melo played Jimmy, Giovanna DiSanto played Sandrine, and Sydney Waddy played Waitress in “Sad and Glad”; Ariya Blow played Marvalyn, and Jack Melillo played Steve in “This Hurts”;

and Jordan Pincus played Gayle and Nicholas Harrison played Lendall in “Getting It Back”;

Act 2: Mia Hoinis played Deena and Maddie Johnson played Shelly in “They Fell”; Matthew Mackrell played Phil

and Olivia Kider played Marci in “Where It Went”; Jack Melillo played Daniel and Catherine Quirico played Hope in “Story of Hope”;

and Andrew Moberly played Dave and Nina DiNorscio played Rhonda in “Seeing The Thing.” In addition, Paul Riedler and Christian Takleszyn portrayed Townspeople in several scenes.

### PRODUCTION

“Almost, Maine” was directed by WHRHS Drama Teacher Douglas Eaton. Chief Assistant Director was Portia Rowley. Assistant Director was Talia Hooke. Production Stage Manager was Alexander Martin. Set Designer was Douglas Eaton. Scenic Artist was Kate Griffin. Costume Designer was Gail DeCicco. Lighting Designer was Chris Valenti. Sound Designer was Rick Clark. Set Construction was Nick DiNizio. Assistant Stage Managers were Elena Celeste and Melissa Miketen. Technical Director and Set CAD Layout was Chris Valenti. Video Projections and Lighting Effects were Chris Valenti, Rick Clark and Nick DiNizio. Prop Master was Rachel Krouk. Head of Costume was Lauren Quinn. Rigging was Zayn Khalil. Sound Board was Krystyna Leski. Special Effects was Kayley Garcell. Lighting Board Operator was Cat Teo.

*(continued on page 2)*



*(above) The cast of WHRHS fall performance of “Almost, Maine”*

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Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (accomplishment, honor, award, etc.). Do you have an event that you need help publicizing? Then send **Green Brook Gazette** your news!

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## “ALMOST, MAINE” (continued)

### RUNNING CREW:

Jennifer Buser, Carolina Delvalle, Tyler Isherwood, Autumn Rodriguez, Crosby Sayan, Ally Valatare, Siya Wadhare, Jaimie Wu and Janice Wang. Props Crew were: Gregory Katchko, Virginia Paris, and Pavithra Ponnolu. Costume Crew was: Josette Sapia, Lydia Eberle; and Nora Lange. Co-heads of Hair and Makeup were: Sophia Formissano and Hannah Stevens.

Hair and Makeup Crew were: Julia Cornell Nathan Gennaro. Ushers were: Emily Dec, Maddie Leong. Erin Pinto, and Michael Wong.mScript and Cue Business Manager is Dianne Krutz.

The Program includes this note of thanks: “A special thank you to: Megan Krutz for designing the cover art; and Rachel Krouk for making the program.”

## SHERIFF’S STAFF SENDS A HEARTFELT THANKS FOR TOYS FOR TOTS CAMPAIGN

The Somerset County Sheriff’s Office collected hundreds of toys on behalf of the Toys for Tots campaign. The collection is for less fortunate children in the community who otherwise might not receive a gift for the holidays. The event is hosted by the Sheriff’s

Office, in conjunction with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation.

“I want to thank residents, employees and surrounding businesses for their generosity,” said Sheriff Provenzano. “We are so glad that we can help make children happy during the holidays.”



(above, l-r) Sheriff Frank J. Provenzano is joined by Sheriff’s Office staff in displaying some of the many toys dropped off for the annual ‘Toys for Tots’ campaign. Pictured with Sheriff Provenzano are Lt. Richard Fedora, Denise Carra, Sheriff’s Officer Sam Annuzzi, Sheriff’s Officer Joe Bialiy, Colonel Richard Borden, Colonel Roy Gandolfe, and Sue Katyan.

Photo by Somerset County government

# Anthony Paterno

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## CAR DONATION PROGRAM GIVES WHEELS TO REAL PEOPLE

What does it mean to have your own car? For longtime Community Access Unlimited (CAU) member Brian Shapiro, it means both stability and freedom. Before he had a car, Brian had to get a ride from a friend or take an Uber to his job driving a cab in Bloomfield.

"It's a lot easier," Brian said, thanks to the Volvo he received as a donation through Community Access Unlimited this fall. "I go to work and take my son places."

CAU started the vehicle donation program as a way to aid youth and individuals with disabilities who wished to complete their drivers test and gain the independence that comes with owning a vehicle. Now Brian can easily travel to the job he has had for nearly 20 years. Many have already benefited from the donation of reliable cars to get them where they need to go from work and school to social functions.

"I've known about it for a while and it finally worked out," Brian said.

Unlike other car donation programs, CAU does not sell or scrap donated cars, receiving only a percentage of their value. By donating a

vehicle to CAU, 100% of your donation will go to a person with transportation needs.

Those interested in donating a car should contact Mercedes Pagan, fundraising and event director, at 908-354-3040 x4376 or mpagan@caunj.org.

Vehicles that may qualify for donation include those that are new, gently used, or vehicles needing minor body or mechanical work. The owner of the car must have the title at the time of donation. Car donors will receive a donation letter which can serve as a charitable donation, which is tax deductible.

Learn more about donating to or volunteering with CAU at [caunj.org/support-us](http://caunj.org/support-us).

### ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 40th year in 2019, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community.

CAU gives a voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little power in society, assisting its members with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, [info@caunj.org](mailto:info@caunj.org) or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

## EXPLORE YOUR ROOTS AT THE LIBRARY

From connecting with distant relatives through social media interfaces like Facebook; celebrities sharing the journey of tracing their origins on the television series "Who Do You Think You Are?," and the popularity of DNA kits from companies such as 23andMe; it seems like everyone is digging at their roots. Did you know that your Library can help you discover who you are?

Explore your family tree with the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) and resources available through ProQuest, the distributor of the Ancestry family of databases.

"The origin story fascinates most people, and genealogy uncovers one's personal story," said Ken Kaufman, adult services librarian. "Whether it's instant access to a revealing document or finding a cousin through a DNA link, technology has leveraged the potential for learning new truths about one's family. Adding excitement to the mix is the greater ease with which discoveries can unfold through technology."

ProQuest includes three resources that each offer a variety of features to pique your curiosity: Ancestry Library, Fold3 Library Edition, and HeritageQuest Online.

Ancestry Library obtains billions of names in thousands of genealogical databases including census and vital records; birth, marriage and death notices; cemeteries, wills, and probates; immigration information; and more. This resource can be accessed on-site at any of SCLSNJ's 10 Library branches.

Fold3 Library Edition has a specific focus on U.S. military records, many of which are exclusively available on the resource. What makes Fold3 unique is not only does it provide convenient access to the stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served, but it also allows users to interact with what they find and add their own information.

HeritageQuest Online supplements this by providing in-home access to the U.S. census and city directories, digitized versions of local history books, and a wealth of other historical collections and research guides.

"At SCLSNJ we are always willing to help anyone with questions about their family lineage," said Mary Nelson, adult services librarian. "I find these patrons are always very

appreciative of anything we can tell them. Library customers are always welcome to schedule a one-on-one appointment with one of our librarians."

Schedule a one-on-one appointment and discover your genealogy with a SCLSNJ librarian:

Central Area: Ken Kaufman, at the Bridgewater branch, at [kkaufman@sclibnj.org](mailto:kkaufman@sclibnj.org); or Jenna Galley, at the Peapack & Gladstone branch, at [jgalley@sclibnj.org](mailto:jgalley@sclibnj.org).

South Area: Terri Coss, at the Hillsborough branch, at [tcoss@sclibnj.org](mailto:tcoss@sclibnj.org).

East Area: Mary Nelson, at the Bound Brook branch, at [mnelson@sclibnj.org](mailto:mnelson@sclibnj.org).

### EXPLORE GENEALOGY PROGRAMS AT SCLSNJ: Find Your Family Tree (adults)

Manville resident and genealogy enthusiast Bob Vornlocker will share his techniques to maximize your search results and help uncover your family tree.

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., at the Manville branch, located at 100 South 10th Avenue in Manville. Registration is required.

February 19: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/1997769](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/1997769).

#### Explore Your Roots (adults and teens)

Learn how to use the library's genealogy databases, including HeritageQuest and Ancestry Library. 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Peapack and Gladstone branch, located at the Municipal Complex on School Street in Peapack. Registration is required.

February 3: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3136597](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3136597).

February 10: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3136598](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3136598).

February 24: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3136599](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3136599).

### ABOUT SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM OF NEW JERSEY

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit [SCLSNJ.org](http://SCLSNJ.org).



(above) Brian Shapiro shows off his Volvo Cross Country.

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## GENOCIDE SURVIVOR SHARES HIS STORY WITH WHRHS STUDENTS

During National United Against Hate Week held in November, Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) welcomed guest speaker Kizito D. Kalima. Kalima shared with WHRHS students his story of surviving the brutal Genocide in Rwanda, Africa as a young teenager.

He spoke in the South Auditorium to a group of students from Social Studies, English and World Languages departments.

Kalima had had to flee as many as a half-dozen life and death situations in his own country on his way to eventually reaching the safety and security of the United States. He had to experience the death of his family members, relatives, neighbors and fellow countrymen, sometimes witnessing them personally. He had to see, hear, and never forget all manner of the brutality of genocide, including executions, mass graves and hearing about plans that the refuge sites -- the warehouses, the orphanages, and the safe houses where he sought temporary shelter from the carnage all around him -- would imminently be themselves torched, bombed, or shot up.

Even after having lived 10 years in the peace and relative safety of the United States, he realized slowly that he was, and had been,

suffering from PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). It was complete with many of its cruel manifestations. He suffered from depression, anxiety, panic attacks, from migraine headaches, and more.

"I was being controlled still by the people who killed my family," he shared with the WHRHS Social Studies students during his visit with them in the South Auditorium.

He needed to adopt a mindset and as a personal code, several things he never thought he would have to or could ever hope to, adopt: He needed to seek and accept help from others; and he needed to learn and to live by a belief in forgiveness and reconciliation.

Turns out, he also reclaimed his indomitable bright spirit and effervescent personality which was on full display when he interacted with the WHRHS students. It was he who suggested that a photo of him be taken surrounded by the high school students.

Kalima said he learned that the common denominator between the great advocates of forgiveness and reconciliation down through the ages, including Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) and Mother Teresa (1910-1997) in India, and Nelson Mandella (1918-2013) in South Africa was: They all forgave.

That was the philosophy he was able to learn about and embrace: "I decided to forgive," Kalima said.

Kalima is the founder and executive director of the Peace Center for Forgiveness and Reconciliation, Indianapolis, Ind. Their website is [chosetoforgive.org](http://chosetoforgive.org).

Kalima's visit was part of the variety of programs as part of the WHRHS observance of National United Against Hate Week, November 17-23. The following day, the WHRHS "Warriors Against Hate March and Rally" was held, where hundreds of students, family members, faculty and administrators and members from the community, including elected officials, marched a lap around the track in the WHRHS Tozier Football Stadium. Immediately following the march, the marchers participated in a rally in the South Auditorium featuring speeches by various students. The rally also included the sharing of songs right out of the 1960s era Civil Rights Movement, and the hearing from nationally known facilitator, Guillermo Lopez Jr. Lopez, of "Us Squared," which is an organization involved in facilitating greater awareness on social justice, equity, embracing diversity and inclusion. He was selected to help facilitate communication at the rally, at the school and in the community.



*(above) WHRHS Social Studies students and WHRHS Staff welcomed Guest Speaker Kizito D. Kalima to WHRHS South Auditorium on Thursday, November 21. Kalima is a survivor of the Genocide in 1994 in Rwanda. He escaped as many as six life and death situations during the atrocities, and eventually found refuge in the United States, but then after 10 years had to come to grips with a severe case of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), caused by the trauma from the childhood experiences. With help, he founded the Peace Center for Forgiveness and Reconciliation. He shared his still intact, indomitable bright spirit and effervescent personality, with the WHRHS students during United Against Hate Week.*

Photo by WHRHS



## SAFE+SOUND SOMERSET OFFERS SPEAK™ TEEN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

*Submitted by Joe Godby*

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, and Safe+Sound Somerset, Somerset County's designated domestic violence organization, is leading the charge locally to create well-informed peer leaders and help build communities where safety and respect can flourish.

Safe+Sound Somerset is hosting the second annual SPEAK™ Teen Leadership Conference at Raritan Valley Community College on Saturday, February 22, 2020 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The conference, which is free for high school students to attend, features educational and skill-building sessions to develop leadership abilities and acquire tools for healthy relationships. Online registration will be available through February 16. Registration is limited to 100 students.

1 in 3 American teenagers will experience physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner before high school graduation. It's not a matter of if it's happening in middle

school and high schools; it's a matter of who is it happening to, and who is an abuser. Additionally, females between the ages of 16-24 are 3 times more likely to experience intimate partner violence than at any other age. These alarming statistics apply to any and all definitions of dating: in-person or online, casual or serious. They're also completely preventable.

Abuse is a pattern of behaviors used to gain power and control over another person in a dating relationship. It can take on many forms, including physical, emotional, sexual, financial, verbal, digital, and stalking. Teens should identify their own boundaries with technological communication and know where and who to reach out to for help, whether for themselves or for a friend.

For more information about the SPEAK™ Teen Leadership Conference, contact Jessica Skultety at [jskultety@safe-sound.org](mailto:jskultety@safe-sound.org) or go to [safe-sound.org/events/speak-teen-leadership-conference-2020](http://safe-sound.org/events/speak-teen-leadership-conference-2020).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP AT BLOOD DRIVES

New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS), which supplies blood to hospitals throughout the state, is in need of volunteers to help at blood drives. The blood drive volunteer is an integral member of the blood collection team whose task it is to assist donors with registration and/or at the refreshment area. No medical background is necessary. Volunteers should have the ability to relate to the public, be able to perform different jobs as needed and have the willingness to follow the rules. For additional information contact, Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Manager of Volunteer Services Sharon Zetts at 732-850-8906.

To apply on line as a blood drive volunteer, please go to:

[nybc.org/support-us/volunteer-nybc/volunteer-application/](http://nybc.org/support-us/volunteer-nybc/volunteer-application/)

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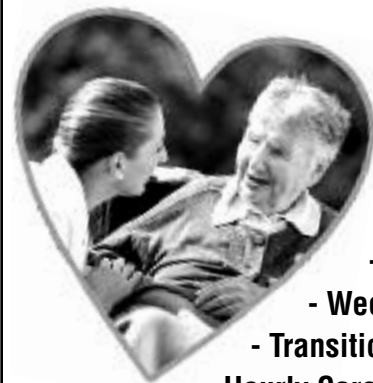
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## CHES CLUB DRAWS MEMBERS FROM FAR AND WIDE

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.



(above, r-l) 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.





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## Cranford Community Center

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Scouts can use Patriots' Path Council Munsee District Double Knot link  
to register on-line at [ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2583007](http://ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2583007)  
Scouts can email Will Adams at [Will.adams@scouting.org](mailto: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.

**Meeting every Thursday night starting at 8:00 pm**

**KENILWORTH COMMUNITY CENTER AND RECREATION BUILDING**  
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 Visitors are always welcome, beginner to master. Membership is not required to play.




**[www.kenilworthchessclub.org](http://www.kenilworthchessclub.org)**



# WATCHUNG HILLS JUNIOR RANKS 9TH IN TOKYO OLYMPICS 2020 ARCHERY TRIALS

In September, Watchung Hills Regional High School junior Valerie Wang shot at a tournament in College Station, Texas and took one large step towards her goal: to represent the United States of America in Tokyo as a Recurve Archer.

Her journey started four years ago at a local archery range, where she trained casually year-round and enjoyed modest success. She struggled heavily in 2018, though, and found herself losing confidence in her abilities. The Wang family looked for a solution. Similar to the way golfers and tennis players have a coach to help develop their swing or stroke, archers have a coach to develop their shot and to overcome the intense mental battles inherent in the sport. Wang transitioned coaches and began training under Zach Garrett, a silver medalist at the Rio 2016 Olympics. Though the range she trains at is an hour away, she still finds the time to commute and practice there nearly every day.

This change and the hard work that ensued helped her trajectory take off. In May 2019, Wang won the Gator Cup in Newberry, FL, her first major victory at an outdoor tournament, where cadets, who are archers between the ages of 14 to 17, shoot at a 122cm target from 60 meters away. That weekend, 78 out of her 138 arrows were good enough to find the center of the target - the equivalent of hitting a volleyball positioned three-quarters of a football field away. In the one-on-one tournament-style elimination matches, she defeated five opponents, winning 32 set points and losing only 13, on her way to the top of the podium. She had her goal of making the United States Female Cadet Archery Team, a recognition given to the top five female cadet archers, solidly in her sights.

Later, in August 2019, she shot her first tournament in Ohio as a Senior, the archery term for archers over 21 years old. Now shooting at a target 70 meters away and facing both strong winds and higher level competitors, Wang finished in 13th place nationally. This put her in the running to make the Olympic Shadow Squad, which takes the top 16 athletes at the conclusion

of the Olympic Trial Stage 2. At this point she had a difficult decision to make: maintain her Top 16 ranking for the Senior Olympic Trials or to defend her spot on the Cadet USAT.

When asked about her decision process, Wang said: "This choice was very difficult for me and took nearly a full month of intense deliberation before I could finally decide." If she chose to continue to compete in the Trials, she was likely to lose her position on the Cadet USAT to one of the many girls vying for the spot she held. On the other hand, if she chose to forgo the trials, she would be giving up this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Recognizing that dreams don't become reality without sacrifices, Wang decided to compete in the Olympic Trials in the adult division.

Her decision was very much worth the risk; she was officially knocked out of contention to make the Cadet USAT but qualified for the Top 16 Women in the Trials. Currently, she is ranked 9th out of all competitors, which include a five-time Olympian (Bronze in 1992), athletes training full time at the Olympic Training Center ("OTC"), collegiate athletes, as well as four other high school student-athletes just like herself. Her goal is to qualify for one of the top three spots in order to make the Olympic Team. "I know that it will be extremely difficult for me, but I still want to put as much effort as I can into making the team," Wang remarked.

The third stage of the Olympic Trials will be held in Chula Vista, California on April 8-11, 2020. She will need to advance at least one rank in order to join the top 8 athletes who will advance to the fourth and final stage in May 2020, where the Olympic team will be selected.

She recognizes that many of her competitors are training full time at the OTC and will thus pursue more intensive training throughout 2020 in order to challenge them. "I want to serve as a role model for other young athletes across the country, even WHRHS, who wish to pursue their Olympic dreams."

Photos by WHRHS



(above) Valerie Wang, a junior at Watchung Hills Regional High School, has advanced to the third stage of the Olympic Trials.

## 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](http://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](http://www.nbfcc.org), or contact Bob Jones, [BJonesJRNJ@hotmail.com](mailto:BJonesJRNJ@hotmail.com), 908-272-3545

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## WINTER EVENTS AT THE RAPTOR TRUST

The Raptor Trust is a 501c3 organization that provides free medical care to thousands of injured and orphaned wild birds each year. Located at 1390 White Bridge Road, Millington, NJ, The Raptor Trust is offering the following events this winter. To register please visit [TheRaptorTrust.org](http://TheRaptorTrust.org).

### Trivia – Animal love languages

Saturday, February 15th, 2 p.m.

This quiz-style competition will include two rounds of questions and the opportunity to meet one of our education birds. Ages 14 and up. \$10 per person.

### Great Horned Owls in Love!

Saturday, February 8th, 2 p.m.

Discover how this important and thriving NJ species gets an early start at growing families and preparing for spring during snowy winters. \$10 per person.

### Frosty Feathers

Sunday, February 23rd, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Families with children ages 3-8 are invited to huddle into our heated classroom for a warm cup of cider and a fun filled program on the fashionable fluff birds use to keep out the cold.

### Education Open Houses

Sunday, February 16th

Monday, February 17th,

Pop on in to visit the education staff inside our warm and cozy classroom full of avian artifacts, interactive games, craft projects, and informational exhibits. You may even meet a special feathered guest. No advanced registration required.

### Focus on Raptors

Saturday, March 28th, 2 p.m.

An opportunity for committed shutterbugs to take close-range photographs of our educational raptors perched in an outdoor setting. \$150 per person.

### Private group tours

Weekend and weekday availability.

Join one of our staff educators for a guided outdoor tour of the Raptor Trust's aviary trail. Learn about the Raptor Trust's mission and history, as well as the life stories of some of our resident raptors before being introduced to one of our ambassador birds. \$100 per group, Maximum 10 people per group.

Call or email Shari Stern at 908-647-1091 or [Education@theraptortrust.org](mailto:Education@theraptortrust.org) to schedule.

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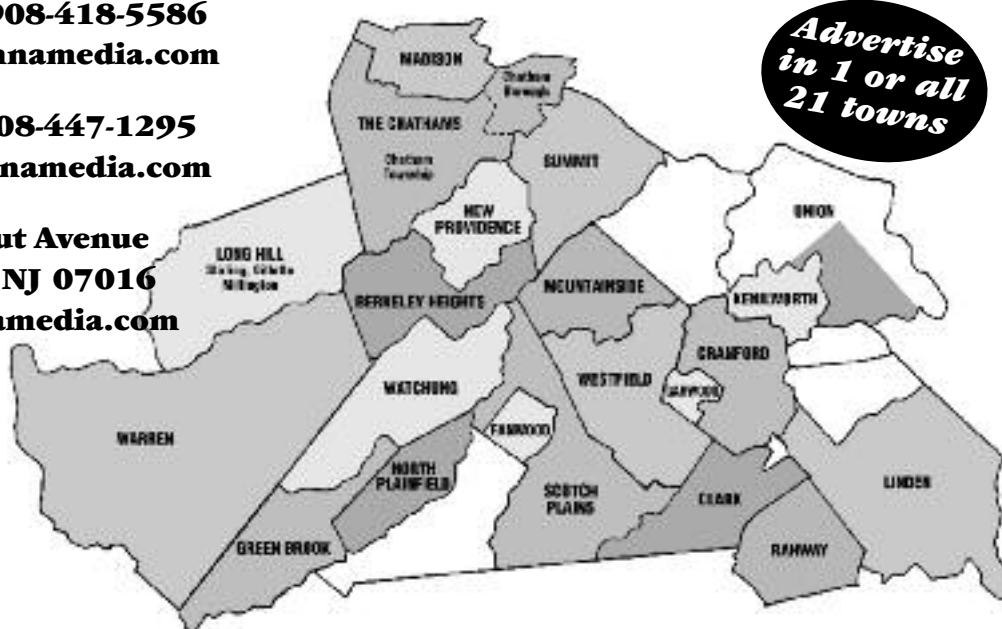
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On Monday, February 24, 2020, firefighters from around New Jersey will compete at the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival benefiting the New Jersey State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center. This event, which draws people from throughout New Jersey, will be held at The Pines Manor, 2085 Route 27, Edison, NJ from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Last year more than \$50,000 was raised from the event which was attended by more than 1000 people.

The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off will be an integral part of the evening as firefighters from 25 departments will compete in three

different categories: Gourmet, Firehouse and Dessert.

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where participants will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of more than 40 of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers and dessert shops all in one location.

If you are looking for an entertaining evening of great food and wine, don't miss this event. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$65 at the door. Visit [cookedanduncorked.com](http://cookedanduncorked.com) to order tickets, view participating restaurants and wine/spirits and for more information.

Tickets can be also be ordered by calling the NJ FMBA at 908-499-9250.



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Call Jason Lombardi at 732-489-4685 or buy online at [www.cookedanduncorked.com](http://www.cookedanduncorked.com)  
Check out the event video here at <https://youtu.be/5h6jquYB6E>

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