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## THE STIRLING ELKS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

*Submitted by Patricia Mocarski*

On Sunday, December 8, the Stirling Elks Lodge 2392 hosted its annual Holiday party for special needs children and lodge members, children, friends and family. There were about 95 in attendance and fun was had by all. There was music by DJ Mike, a show by Andy the Clown, lots of great food, gifts and a visit from Santa Claus and his Elf. Santa brought many smiles to all at the party. Our oldest lodge member, Phil Sapienza (103) and his daughter, Linda, were also in attendance along with lodge members and their families.

The Stirling Elks Lodge is made up of men and women from Long Hill Township, Berkeley Heights, Basking Ridge and other surrounding towns who are citizens of the United States, at least 21 years old and who believe in God. The Special Children's Committee sponsors several functions a year for special needs children and adults, and there are many Elks programs that benefit special needs children. There are special needs and regular scholarships. In addition to hosting annual events for special needs children each year, the Elks sends special needs children to Elks Camp Moore in the summertime at no cost to the parents. The Elks are involved with scouting, athletic teams and youth activities. There are many veterans events and patriotic programs. Recently Stirling Elks hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for Veterans and a Christmas dinner for Veterans.

For information on the Stirling Elks, the Special Children's Committee, or Elks Camp Moore, call Pat Mocarski at 908-647-1437.



*(above) Elks Helpers and holiday party attendees.*



*(above) Andy the Clown and some of the children at the party*



*(above, l-r) Eric and Lisa Miller; Johnathan Miller; Santa, his elf helper and the twin sisters Elizabeth and Leah Rusinskaia; Alexa Nacamuli; Phil Sapienza, our oldest lodge member at 103, and his daughter, Linda.*

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## PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

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# SOPRANO NINA BERMAN AND PIANIST STEVEN BECK TO PERFORM AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

On February 9, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling will present soprano Nina Berman and pianist Steven Beck.

New York-based soprano Nina Berman returns to Stirling and has performed in a variety of settings, from vocal improvisation to opera, with a particular focus on chamber music and art song. She is active in New York, having performed as soloist and chamber musician at the city's major venues, including Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall, Alice Tully Hall, B.B. King's Blues Club, The Iridium, New York City's Town Hall, Brooklyn's Roulette, The Cutting Room, and SubCulture, as well as in numerous tristate area concert series, most often in collaboration with pianist Steve Beck. Nina also sings as member of Andrew McKenna Lee's progressive, neo-psychedelic ensemble The Knells, whose recordings have been lauded by The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Daily Beast, The New Republic, The Washington Post, and many others. Upcoming projects include a recording on New Focus Recordings of the complete soprano-piano works of Milton Babbitt with pianist Steve Beck; recitals throughout the tristate area; improvisational work with jazz trombonist Thomas Sullivan; and ongoing performances with The Knells. Nina holds both a Bachelors and Masters of Music from the Manhattan School of Music, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the CUNY Graduate Center.

Pianist Steven Beck continues to gather acclaim for his performances and recordings. Recent career highlights include performances of Beethoven's variations and bagatelles at Bargemusic, where he first performed the Beethoven sonata cycle. An experienced performer of new music, Beck has worked with Elliott Carter, Pierre Boulez, Henri Dutilleux, Charles Wuorinen, George Crumb, George Perle, and Fred Lerdahl, and has performed with ensembles such as Speculum Musicae and the New York New Music Ensemble. He is a member of the Da Capo Chamber Players, the Knights,

and the Talea Ensemble. He is also a member of Quattro Mani, a piano duo specializing in contemporary music. As an orchestral musician he has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, the New York City Ballet Orchestra, Orpheus, the Mariinsky Orchestra and many others. Mr. Beck's discography includes Peter Lieberson's third piano concerto (for Bridge Records) and a recording of Elliott Carter's "Double Concerto" on Albany Records. Mr. Beck is an esteemed Steinway Artist.

The afternoon's program will include: Quilter's Three Songs, op. 3; Rachmaninoff's Six Romances, op. 4; Chausson's Serenade Italienne, Serenade, Hebe, Le Colibri, and Les Papillons; and Schubert's Schaffers Klagelied, Fruhlingsglaube, Heidenroslein, Nachtstuck, Sei mir gegrusst, and Nacht und Träume.

For more information, visit fpcstirling.org or call the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling at 908-647-1033.

This will be the sixth in the Church's concert series for the season. Admission, as always, is free. A short reception will follow the concert at which attendees may meet the performer. Refreshments will be served.



*(above) Soprano Nina Berman  
and pianist Steven Beck will perform  
at the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling  
on February 9, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.  
as part of the Church's free concert series.*

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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](http://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](http://morrisparks.net) or call 973.635.6629.*

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# KIDS FISHING SEMINAR SET FOR MARCH 3

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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

## VFW SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

All Veterans of Foreign Wars have had similar experiences during wars....and after.

The Berkeley Heights VFW is comprised of mostly Vietnam, Korea, Iraq, and Afghanistan vets, along with a couple from WW2, but all veterans who have served in a combat zone, and have been honorably discharged, are welcome to join.

This friendly post, located at 15 Locust Ave. in Berkeley Heights, NJ, is looking for veterans who would like to become members.

You can get involved in yearly activities, stop in to watch a game, enjoy a beverage, or just chat with new friends who share similar past experiences.

The lodge features a pool table, shuffleboard, darts, and a full-service bar.

VFW members host dinners, holiday parties, a summer pig roast, cooking contests and other fun activities!

Most importantly, visits to other vets at Lyons VA Hospital and one of the local rehabilitation centers.

The facility has an upstairs hall for party rentals, which accommodates up to 70 people and is very reasonably priced. Use of the kitchen is also available for your party.

For further information:

Hall Rentals: Contact Marty Miles, at 908-337-8486, [martymiles46@gmail.com](mailto:martymiles46@gmail.com).

Membership:

If you'd like to make new friends, and become part of the Berkeley Heights VFW, please call Tom Lombardi, at 908-508-0999.

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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.

### 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.”



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

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## 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

## VOLS NEEDED TO PROVIDE BIZ MENTORING

Central Jersey SCORE, a non-profit resource partner of the Small Business Administration, is looking for volunteers to assist people looking to start a business or grow an existing small business. The organization is recruiting retired or current business owners and executives who want to share their experience and knowledge with today's up-and-coming entrepreneurs. The Central Jersey Chapter of SCORE serves Middlesex, Somerset and Hunterdon Counties.

Central Jersey SCORE provides in-person mentoring at a wide variety of locations and also

presents seminars at local venues. In addition, the SCORE website offers tools and templates on a wide variety of topics related to organizing and managing a business and numerous online courses and webinars to assist small business owners through every aspect of business development. Services are offered free of charge.

Anyone interested in volunteering with SCORE or seeking additional information is invited to contact SCORE at centraljersey.score.org.

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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 McMauliffe, Web Master John Moldovan, Trustees Ed Selling, Greg Tomkovich, Pat Mazzillo, and Joe Renna.

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# 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](mailto:jim.parlapiano@hotmail.com)  
Or Will Adams at [will.adams@scouting.org](mailto: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](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**

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Visitors are always welcome, beginner to master. Membership is not required to play.




**www.kenilworthchessclub.org**



## WHRMA PRESENTS "THE 15 MINUTE CHILD

Watchung Hills Regional Municipal Alliance (WHRMA), which serves Warren, Green Brook, Watchung and Long Hill Townships, sponsored "The 15 Minute Child Break" on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at Central Middle School in Stirling. The "15 Minute Child Break" was the 3rd in the series of events for 2019. Project Graduation was the first and National Night Out the second in the series.

Hector Quinones, representative for Partnership for a Drug Free NJ and the Morris County Alliance gave a talk to parents on topics including underage drinking, the highly toxic mechanised marijuana being produced today, harmful vaping trends in youth, misuse and abuse of prescription medicine and over the counter medicine as well as strengthening parental communication with youth.

WHRHS student volunteers also assisted the youth attending the event in an activity creating "stress balls" from balloons. The volunteers filled balloons with flour and had the youth paint personal empowering words on them for stress relief. WHRMA Vice Chairperson Iris Alston engaged the youth on topics of "Medication Safety", Bullying Prevention and positive stress relief activities. Stencils with empowering words like "relax" and "calm" were provided for the stress balls. One 5 year old student attending the event, Clarice Chang asked the Vice Chairperson to go over each word on the stencil with her. Clarice asked her to repeat some of them several times. "What does this one say again," Clarice asked, as she thought carefully

about each one. And then she pointed at one word and said "I want this one" and looked up at the Vice Chairperson for emphasis and said "peace. I want peace". This very astute 5 year old student chose peace as her empowering word to paint on her balloon.

Prevention programs sponsored by WHRMA serve to reinforce this and keep parents informed as well as assist the community in continuing to support positive behaviors and identify at risk behaviors in youth. WHRMA is a grassroots organization comprised of community volunteers who dedicate their time to develop and implement programs that are an integral part in preventing drug and alcohol use among their residents. These programs reach out to people of all ages in the areas of recreation, education, and community awareness. Our members are representatives from several sectors of the community, including (but not limited to) law enforcement, local government, school counselors and staff, parents, youth, local business, faith based organizations, and private citizens.

The event was attended by 6 parents and 4 youth. The low turnout at the event means WHRMA has more work to do connecting with the parents.

If you would like more information about WHRMA events in your area, WHRMA meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at WHRHS Room 105 at 7:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. You can email WHRMA@warrennj.org.



(above) Ariha Mehta, Maylin Zhu and Savannah Bellocin, WHRHS student volunteers fill balloons with flour for a stress relief

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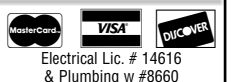
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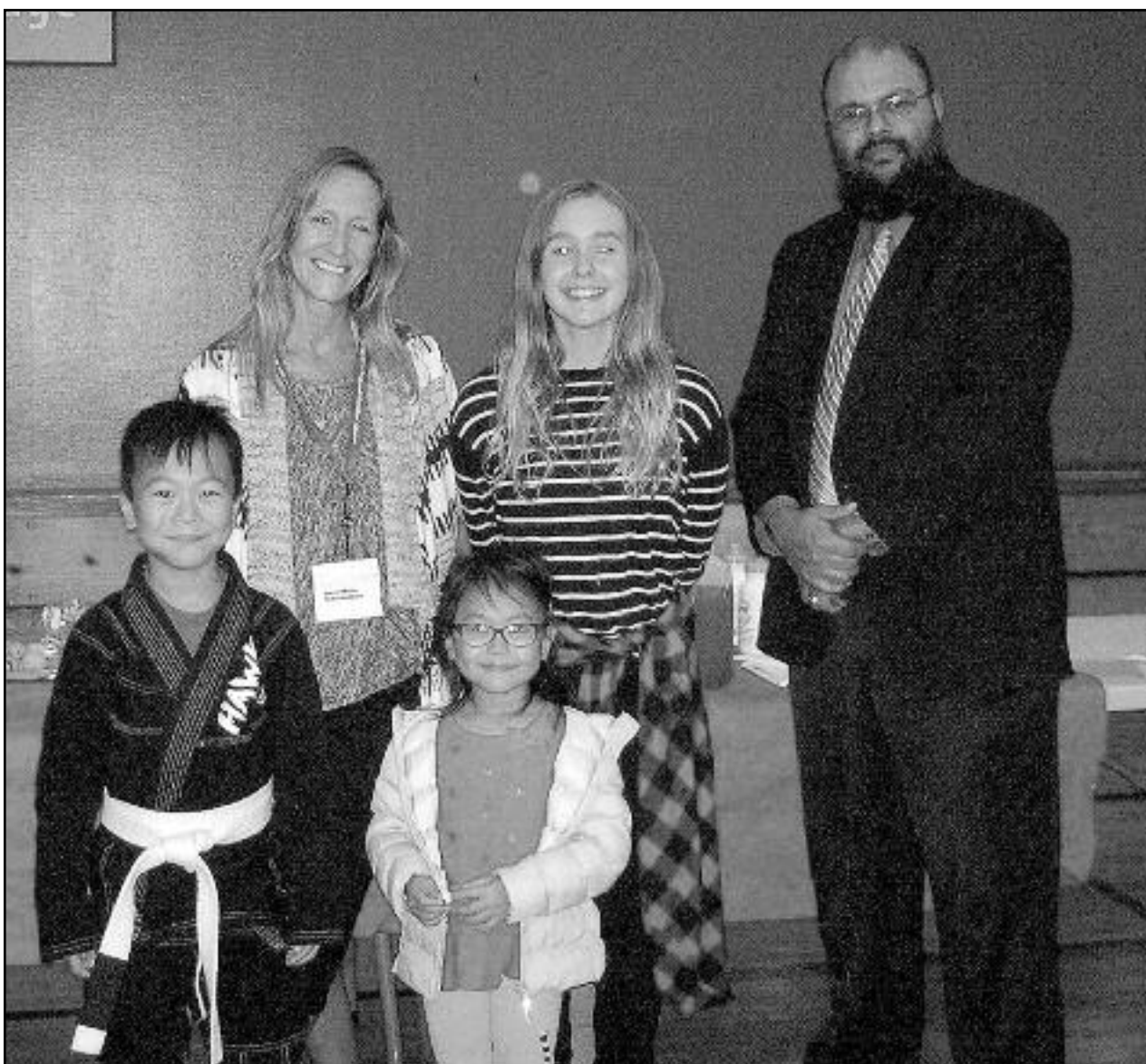
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(above, l-r) Judy Carbone, Cheyenne Carbone, Partnership for DrugFree NJ Representative Hector Quinones, Tristan Chang and Clarice Chang

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## EVENT BENEFITS BURN CENTER AND NJ FMBA

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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6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
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Tickets available for purchase online at  
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This event sells out so get your tickets early and don't be locked out!  
Call Jason Lombardi at 732-488-4885 or buy online at  
[www.cookedanduncorked.com](http://www.cookedanduncorked.com)  
Check out the event video here at <https://youtu.be/5tqkquY8RE>







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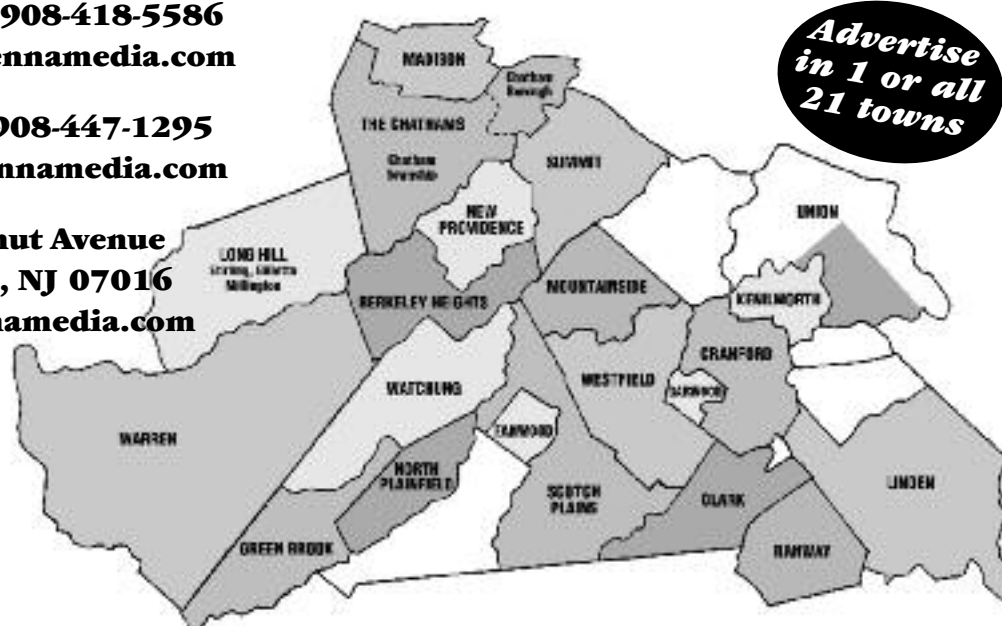
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## WINTER EVENTS AT THE RAPTOR TRUST

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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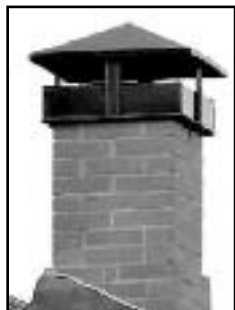
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