

# WARREN MONTHLY<sub>NJ</sub>

WARREN'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## CUB SCOUT PACK 182 HOLDS ANNUAL PINEWOOD DERBY

*Submitted by Tricia Patricco*

Scouts and Families were excited to compete in Warren Cub Scout Pack 182's annual Pinewood Derby, held at Warren Middle School on Saturday, January 11th, 2020.

In the weeks leading up to the race, Cub Scouts of all ranks dreamed up, designed, and built their cars. Scouts learn to work with basic tools like coping saws, files and sandpaper to shape their car's design from a standard sized block of pine wood. They then add a finish, decorations and optimize the car's axles and wheels, then add weights to bring the car closest to the 5 ounce maximum racing weight.

The creativity and ideas the scouts come up with are impressive every year. Beyond racing for speed alone, our scouts also voted for best designs in seven categories; Most Realistic Car, Best Scout Spirit, Most Patriotic, Silliest/Craziest Car, Most Futuristic, Best Overall Design and Best Food Design. Some Siblings even joined in the fun with races in their own category.

*(continued on page 2)*

### OUR SCOUT'S CHOICE DESIGN WINNERS ARE:

- **Most Realistic Car:** Arvind Raj
- **Best Scout Spirit:** Nick Clar
- **Most Patriotic:** Robert Joki
- **Silliest/Craziest Car:** Sanjay Joshi
- **Most Futuristic:** Jett Vesuvio
- **Best Overall Design:** Tyler Shehady
- **Best Food Design:** Tyler Hayward

The top three speed winners from each Cub Scout Rank are eligible to attend the District Pinewood Derby and compete against scouts from other communities.

### THE SPEED WINNERS ARE:

- **Kindergarten -**  
Lion: Beau Carr, Ayden Mistry, Avi Bathla
  - **First Grade -**  
Tiger: Thomas Chu, Chase Sullivan, Lucas Araujo
  - **Second Grade -**  
Wolf: Alex Chibwe, Cash Bolcar, Lucas Toor
  - **Third Grade -**  
Bear: Krish Dave, Consti Bellmann, Ben Carr
  - **Fourth Grade -** Webelos:  
Drew Connolly, Ethan Hammond, Charlie Rexford
  - **Fifth Grade -** AOL (Arrow of Light): Marcello Goia, Gideon Minieri, Kayden Thursfield-Ritchie
- Top Eight Finishers in order of speed are – Marcello Gioia, Krish Dave, Constantin Bellmann, Gideon Minieri, Ben Carr, Kieran Munkegar, Thomas Chu and Brandon Bellish.



*(above) First Grade Tiger Scouts evaluating their choices for Design awards. Tyler Hayward, Rihaan Takkar, Luke Roberts, Aarav Desai & Odin Abines.*

Photos by Warren Cub Scout Pack 182



*(above) Fifth Grade Scouts Gideon Minieri & Kayden Thursfield-Ritchie.*



*(above) Third Grade Scouts Seamus Spodato, Kieran Munkegar, James Esposito & Krish Dave.*



*(above) Kindergarten Lion Scout Beau Carr receives a medal from scout leader, Tim Connolly for fastest car in his Den.*



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# WARREN MONTHLY

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Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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## CUB SCOUT PINEWOOD DERBY WINNERS



*(above) Top 8 Overall winners for speed receive trophies – Photo of winners with their parents. Brandon Bellish, Kieran Munkegar, Gideon Minieri, Krish Dave, Marcello Gioia, Constantin Bellmann, Ben Carr, Thomas Chu.*



*(above) Scout's Choice Design Winners with their parents. Tyler Shehady, Sanjay Joshi, Robert Joki, Arvind Raj, Nick Clar, Jett Vesuvio, Tyler Hayward.*



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# WARREN MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY TEAMS UP WITH VISIONS AND PATHWAYS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

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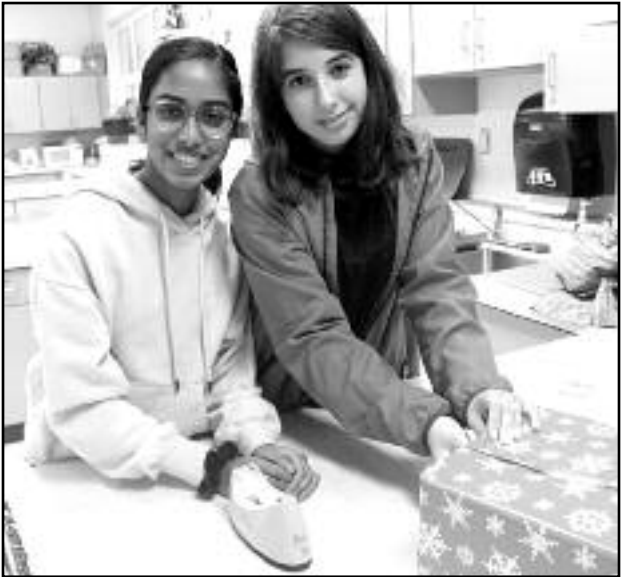
*Submitted by Shannon Regan*

Members from the Warren Middle School (WMS) Student Government Association became wrapping experts under the leadership of Mrs. Beverly MacGorman, Home Arts Teacher. The association teamed up with Visions and Pathways in Somerville, NJ to help those less fortunate this holiday season.

Visions and Pathways is an organization that

helps abused, neglected, homeless, missing and at-risk youth with housing, a stable environment, and supportive services that guide them in becoming self-sufficient.

Because of the generosity of the Warren Middle School staff members, over fifty presents were donated and wrapped with care by WMS students. The gifts were distributed to families within Somerset County.



*(above) Grade 8 students, Adithi Yellamelli and Jocelyn Ameo work together to wrap presents for Visions and Pathways.*



*(above) Grade 7 students Selina Zhan and Mia Kang work together to wrap over 50 presents that were donated to Visions and Pathways.*

Photos by Warren Township Schools

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## AUTISM NONPROFIT RECEIVES \$1M DONATION

*Submitted by Deb DeFago Turso*

Autism Think Tank can now expand their reach. After being recently given a \$1 million donation, the nonprofit launched new innovative programs on November 22, 2019. They want families who face medically complex autism that have nowhere to turn for help — no matter where they are, including rural and underserved areas — to present their cases to them. It's all done by videoconferencing with the family and local doctor, collaborating with five medical specialists throughout the country. No travel expenses or inconveniences, as many autistic children cannot travel.

The NJ-based nonprofit Think Tank is the only organization that focuses on medically complex autism. Think Tank was founded by Warren's Dr. Paul Abend, who was inspired by his son living with medically complex autism. Think Tank not only helps individuals and their families, but also educates their physicians about commonly occurring complex medical conditions, so that knowledge can trickle down from the experts to the boots on the ground to reach more individuals that are affected with medical issues that co-occur with autism.

ASD profoundly affects the entire family.

When families present their case to the Think Tank, they have the opportunity to get much-needed relief for the entire family. Did you know that families living with ASD have more health issues and that autism moms have stress hormone levels similar to that of combat soldiers?

ASD affects 1 in 35 New Jersey Children. According to the NJ Health Department Autism Registry, ASD affects 1,944 Union County residents, 1,057 Somerset County residents, and 2,537 Middlesex County residents.

Autism Think Tank does not provide direct patient care. They provide Autism Think Tank medical experts. Families get a neurologist, gastroenterologist, psychiatrist, allergy immunologist and a neuropsychologist to consult with at the same time for one hour. And, all those doctors weigh in on what's going on and advise the family's doctor who is participating in the conference call on how to treat the individual. Because local physicians report a lack of proper education when it comes to complex medical ASD, they welcome the knowledge of experts and use it in their practice with other ASD cases they see.

For more information visit  
AutismThinkTankNJ.org.

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## CLUB HEARS FROM EXPERTS IN THE FIELD

Warren Middle School students from the Science and Technology Studies (STS) afterschool club, supervised by Mr. Scott Vaglio, Spanish teacher, attended a presentation given by Yee Jao and Jennifer Arrogante from the New Jersey Society for Information Management (NJSIM).

NJSIM is an association of senior IT executives, prominent academicians, selected consultants and other IT thought leaders built on the foundation of local chapters, who come together to share and enhance their rich intellectual capital for the benefit of its members and their organizations.

The presentation began with the visitors introducing themselves and giving background information on their education and career paths. Students were encouraged to participate in the conversation and to ask questions.

Just prior to the interactive portion of the presentation, the guest speakers asked the students to share what qualities and skills they believe it takes to work in the IT field. Students responded back with answers such as; analytical abilities, problem-solving skills, creativity and programming competency. The presenters agreed and also suggested that having perseverance, excellent communication skills and the ability to work cooperatively with a team will be essential in the world of an IT Professional and also in life.

Before the presentation concluded the students were challenged to create the tallest, self-supporting tower with just one sheet of paper, 12 inches of tape and a pair of scissors, in ten minutes or less.

The students got started immediately, working

closely in small groups, brainstorming a plan before they actually started to build their tower. After 2-3 minutes, each group was off to the races and the students were working together to engineer their designs.

As each group finished before the time was up, they all continued to make small tweaks to their towers to improve their final product. The presenters applauded the students and made a point to mention how valuable it is to always reevaluate one's work. "Technology is always changing, such as machinery, computers, robotics and telecommunications. Innovations that are new today can be old tomorrow, it's important to continuously look for ways to improve." The final products were measured and all ranged between 21 to 23 inches tall!

The presentation and activity left the students energized and excited about technology. The students were encouraged to seek science, technology, engineering and math opportunities both inside and outside of school.



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Mi La's Debut school of music recently performed in Middlesex Library.

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(above, l-r) Front row: Chaityute Sair, Julianna O'Sheal, Patrick Miller; Back row: Jennifer Arrogante (presenter), Antonio DeLuca, Aaron Steinhart, Dylan Mayerchak, Avi Gupta, Vincent Glynos, Sujit Tirunahari, Jonathan Hashemi, Krish Thapar, Yee Jao(presenter); Adults in back: Celeste Ostry and Scott Vaglio.

Photo by Warren Township Public Schools

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- Infertility
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## POPULAR AUTHORS VISIT MT. HOREB SCHOOL

*Submitted by Shannon Regan*

For weeks, the students of Mt. Horeb School prepared for two very special visitors for Author's Day, Mr. Dan Gutman and Mrs. Corey Rosen Schwartz. The hallways, classrooms and library were lined with the student's artwork inspired by each of the author's books.

Gutman, an American writer who lives in New York City, boarded a train the morning of the visit. He was greeted at the local train station by the Lader family, who kindly drove him to Mt. Horeb School. Gutman is well known by the Mt. Horeb students for his 'My Weird School' books. The series describes a school in which the kids are normal but the teachers are all insane. Popular titles include 'Mr. Macky is Wacky,' 'Miss. Daisy is Crazy,' and 'Mr. Louie is Screwie!'

The students were lucky enough to hear an excerpt from Gutman's book called, 'Miss Blake is a Fake.' Because the story is unfinished the

students were left without knowing how the story ended. They all shrieked with excitement and are looking forward to the day the book becomes available.

Just down the hallway, local Warren resident, Rosen Schwartz, was introducing herself to a group of students. "My children attended Mt. Horeb School when they were your age and I'm so happy to be here with you today."

Rosen Schwartz began her presentation by explaining to the students how she develops an idea for a book. "Much of my inspiration comes from my family, or as I like to call them, 'the three knuckleheads'."

Rosen Schwartz called upon four volunteers to help her highlight the characters from her book, 'The Three Ninja Pigs,' a fractured fairy tale. Rosen Schwartz designated three students to be Pig #1, Pig #2 and Pig #3 while the 4th student played the role of the wolf. As the book was read

aloud the characters played along adding to the amusement! In the end, because of the determination of Pig #3, the wolf was run out of town.

The students smiled and clapped as Rosen Schwartz finished reading. Another special visitor came to the front of the room, Mr. Kyle Freeman, Master Instructor and owner of Freedom Martial Arts in Bridgewater, NJ.

Freeman helped the students identify the special qualities that Pig #3 demonstrated throughout the story, specifically perseverance. Freeman then asked all the students to rise to their feet and he gave them a short demo lesson on basic martial arts, Kiya!

The Mt. Horeb Parent Teacher Organization worked very closely with Mrs. Christine Burkhardt, Library Media Specialist, to provide an inspiring, fun and memorable day for the students of Mt. Horeb School.



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(above) Mrs. Christine Burkhardt, Library Media Specialist, James Carter, grade 1 student and Mr. Dan Gutman, author of the very popular, *My Weird School* series.



(above) Klaudia Maziarz, grade 2 student and Mrs. Corey Rosen Schwartz, Warren resident and popular children's author, stand together as Rosen Schwartz reads *'The Three Ninja Pigs'* to the students of Mt. Horeb School.

# WATCHUNG HILLS JR RANKS 9TH IN TOKYO OLYMPICS 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



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

Photos by WHRHS

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."

## 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.

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# STEPHANIE FAENZA AWARDED MARMC SAILOR OF THE YEAR

Submitted by Chris Wyatt, MARMC Public Affairs Specialist

A Gillette, New Jersey, native and Watchung Hills Regional High School graduate was awarded as the Sailor of Year for Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center, on October 3, 2019.

Petty Officer 1st Class Stephanie Faenza is a machinist's mate assigned to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center (MARMC) in Norfolk, Virginia.

Petty Officer Faenza will now compete against other RMC's with a goal of reaching the finals,

which will take place in Washington D.C. If Petty Officer Faenza were to be selected as the Sailor of the Year for the Navy, she would be automatically be promoted to the rank of Chief.

MARMC is home to more than 1,500 Sailors who provide surface ship maintenance, management and oversight of private sector maintenance and fleet technical assistance to ships in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States and support the 5th and 6th fleet areas of responsibilities.



(above, l) Petty Officer 1st Class Stephanie Faenza

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# 2ND ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Warren Recreation is pleased to announce our winners from our second annual photo contest. All winners are residents of Warren and a local photographer judged the photos.



(above) 1st Place:  
“Warren Rain Storms” by Alyssa Steinhart



(above) 2nd Place:  
“Net of Crystal Beads” by Haoyu Wang



(above) 3rd Place:  
“Battle in the Backyard” by Honglin Li

# FEBRUARY PROGRAMS AT SCLSNJ’S WARREN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BRANCH

42 Mountain Boulevard, Warren Township, 07059 | 908-754-5554 | SCLSNJ.org Program dates and times are subject to change. All programs are free and registration is required unless otherwise indicated. Visit SCLSNJ.org or call the Library for more information and to register. Please note the Library closes at 5 p.m. on February 17.

## ALL AGES

### Unwrap a Valentine

February 10, 11, 12, 13; 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
February 14, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAM

### Winter Family Fun Fest (families with children)

February 1, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### Baby Storytime - Story and Play (ages birth - 18 months)

February 4, 11, 18, 25; 10-10:30 a.m.

### Toddler Storytime - Story and Play (ages 18 months - 3 years)

February 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27; 10-10:30 a.m.

### Family Storytime - Pajama Time (families with children)

February 5, 12, 19, 26; 6:30-7 p.m.

### Preschool Storytime - Story and Craft (ages 3-5)

February 6, 13, 20, 27; 11-11:45 a.m.

### Tween Advisory Board (grades 4-6)

February 6, 4-5 p.m.

### Read to a Therapy Dog (grades K-4)

February 10, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

### Let's Cook - Heart-Shaped Waffle Treats (grades 3-5)

February 11, 4-5 p.m.

### Teen Leadership Academy (grades 7-12)

February 13, 7-8 p.m.

### Teen Life Hacks - Microwave and Mini Fridge Recipes (grades 6-12)

February 20, 7-8 p.m.

### Crafty Kids - Hot Chocolate Craft and Drink (grades 2-5)

February 24, 4-4:45 p.m.

### Chess Club (grades K-5)

February 25, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

### Tween STEM Challenge - Paper Airplanes (grades 4-6)

February 27, 4-5 p.m.

### Tween Night Out - Puzzle Palooza (grades 4-6)

February 28, 6-8 p.m.

### LEGO® Club (grades K-5)

February 29, 11 a.m. - Noon

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### Yarns and Threads

February 3, 10, 17, 24; 10 p.m. - Noon

### English Conversation Group

February 4, 11, 18, 25; 10-11:30 a.m.

### Special Needs Social Hour

February 4, 7-8 p.m.

### Film Discussion

February 5, 1-4 p.m.

### Friday Movie Matinee - Academy Award Nominees

February 7, 1-3:30 p.m.

### Somerset Hills Stitching Club

February 11, 7-8:30 p.m.

### Book Discussion

February 12, 7:15-8:45 p.m.

February 27, 1:30-3 p.m.

### Writers Group

February 19, 7-8:30 p.m.

### Recipe Club

February 20, 7-8:30 p.m.

### The Life, Times, and Music of Nat King Cole

February 22, 2-3 p.m.

Featuring Vocalist Stephen Fuller and Pianist Fred Fischer

### Amiable Scoundrel - Simon Cameron, Lincoln’s

Scandalous Secretary of War

February 27, 7-8 p.m.

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## EXPLORING STEAM CONCEPTS AT THE LIBRARY

On December 26, children in grades K-5 explored STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) concepts at the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Watchung Library branch. Attendees discovered the science behind spinning tops and used their creativity to construct their own paper tops.

"STEAM education has become an integral part of the curricula at local schools, as it builds a foundation for students to pursue advanced educational opportunities, and even careers, in these important fields," said Lynn Mazur, youth services department supervisor. "By offering STEAM programs at the Library, we encourage children to explore their creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving skills outside of the classroom."

Explore STEAM concepts at SCLSNJ this winter:



(above) Nesya Rethina, 3, and Rethina Pasupathy, of Bridgewater.

- LEGO® Club (grades K-5)**  
at the Watchung branch  
February 11, 4:00-5:00 p.m.  
Register: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3129952](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3129952)
- Chess Club (grades K-5)**  
at the Warren Twp. branch  
February 25, 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Register: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3115953](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3115953)
- LEGO® Club (grades K-5)**  
at the Warren Twp. branch  
February 29, 11:00 a.m. - Noon  
Register: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3118567](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3118567)
- Let's Cook: Heart-Shaped Waffle Treats (grades 3-5)** at the Warren Twp. branch  
February 11, 4:00-5:00 p.m.  
Register: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3090262](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3090262)
- STEAM: Origami Frogs (grades K-5)**  
at the Watchung branch  
February 20, 4:00-5:00 p.m.  
Register: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3130013](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3130013)
- Tween STEM Challenge: Paper Airplanes (grades 4-6)** at the Warren Twp. branch  
February 27, 4:00-5:00 p.m.  
Register: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3116096](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3116096)



(above) Saiprathik Prakash, 7, and Sankaran Prakash, of Bridgewater.

## VOLS 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](http://nybc.org)

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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 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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**Saturday, February 22, 2020**  
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 Registration Closes 2-21-20

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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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**KENILWORTH CHESS CLUB**

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

# MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE JOINS A DAY OF “HARD CONVERSATIONS”

*Submitted by Iris Alston*

A strong partnership is being established between Watchung Hills Regional Municipal Alliance (WHRMA) and faith based partner Stonecrest Church in Warren.

WHRMA first encountered The Stonecrest community when WHRMA provided anti-bullying information and activities at their Trunk or Treat Day this past October. A few weeks after the event WHRMA coordinator Alicia Carman reached out to Youth and Young Adults Pastor Nick Galluccio about participation in one of Stonecrest's upcoming events.

On Saturday, November 23, WHRMA joined Stonecrest again for “Hard Conversations” at their facility located at 11 Technology Drive in Warren. Pastor Galluccio was the coordinator and master of ceremonies of the event. “Hard Conversations” was a half day conference for parents and grandparents to gain valuable information on talking to youth about a variety of subjects from social media overload to drugs, alcohol and vaping. Twenty two parents and grandparents in total attended the conference.

WHRMA joined the event providing supplemental funding, received from the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (GCADA) and the Morris and Somerset Counties Board of Chosen Freeholders, per grant guidelines, to cover fees for the guest keynote speaker Dr. Len Kageler.

Dr. Kageler is a professor of Youth and Families Studies and Associate Dean of Faculty Development at Nyack College in New York. Dr. Kageler began his presentation by having parents take a personality test adapted from “The Two Sides of Love” by Gary Smalley and John Trent to determine whether they were a Lion, Otter, Golden Retriever or Ant type of caregiver. Dr. Kageler indicated that once you know your own personality style, you can use it to adapt your communication style with your kids for enhanced communication that's more objective rather than reactionary or dismissive.

Partnership for Drug Free NJ.com states parents who talk to their kids about their activities an average of 15 minutes per day have kids who are 67% less likely to try marijuana.

Other presenters at the conference included Josh Wolf from Pioneer Family Success Center in Somerville who gave a talk on disconnecting from digital and social media temporarily and replacing it with actual human one-to-one communication between you and yours kids.

Ricki Arvesen, a MSW student from Rutgers School of Social Work, Prevention Resources, Inc and Rutgers Center of Alcohol & Substance Use Studies, gave a powerful talk about her own substance use disorder, treatment and recovery. She then went into a discussion about why teens use alcohol, marijuana and vape, citing the media and advertising events that “normalize” these harmful trends. Ending her presentation with an alternative for teens and parents, she recommended a resource book called “A Better High” by Matt Bellace, Ph.D. “that is a positive, science-based and entertaining approach to substance use prevention.”

The last speaker of the day was Reverend Timothy Wolf, MA, Director of Pioneer Family Success Center in Somerville. Reverend Wolf shared his personal truth of dealing with anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation and how a classic holiday movie “It's a Wonderful Life” had a tremendous impact on leading him to his purpose. For over 30 years he has been nurturing people who felt hopeless and providing support to families who have lost loved ones to death by suicide. He told the audience, “the good news is that anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts are not new to God. God has seen them before and has supported many people through their struggles and he can do it for you, too.”

WHRMA also provided a table with drug prevention literature, resources for parents and staffed by vice chairperson Iris Alston to answer questions for concerned parents. A common question from parents and grandparents alike is “how do I talk about drugs and alcohol to my kids and grandkids if I'm a child of the 60's and 70's Hippie and Woodstock period?” Iris Alston, Vice Chairperson and registered pharmacist of 27 years, recommended that parents communicate that the marijuana being produced today is a highly toxic mechanized product full of contaminants and is harmful to the health and brain function of underage youth. Another way to explain to youth is to state that you also wished you hadn't used substances and include the ways your life could have been different if you never tried it. Examples include being a better athlete, less conflict at home and school, and experiencing and enjoying more positive teenage related activities like the prom, school clubs and academics and forging lifelong friendships. Parents can also use the opportunity to start the conversation to find out what your child actually knows about drugs.

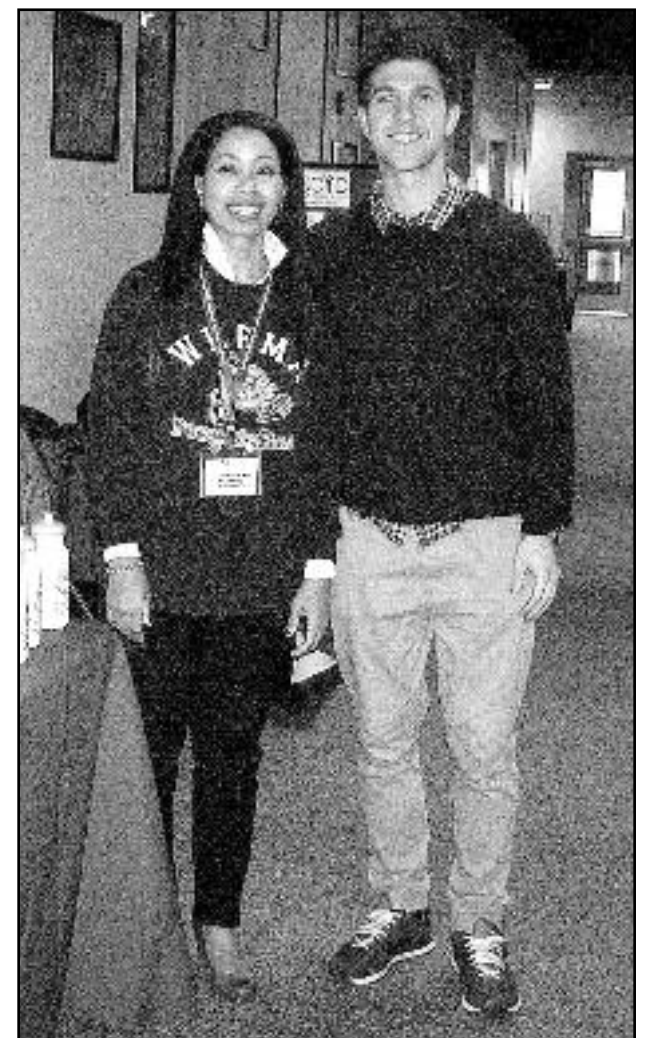
Several other community resources joined the event. The YMCA For Youth Development, For Healthy Living, For Social Responsibility shared the brochure “Talk, Connect, Prevent: A Parent's Guide To Addressing Drug Use”. Pioneer Family Success Center of Somerville shared Anxiety Tip Sheets as well as “How Do I Talk to My Teen About Marijuana” and “Vaping/What Every Parent Should Know”. Somerset County Department of Human Services and the Division of Mental Health Services were also available.

Thanks to Stonecrest Church for providing snacks and lunch to all the participants and a day of useful information to help parents get the conversation started with their kids. Pastor Nick assured the audience this program was not a one and done kind of program. There will be future ongoing conferences to make sure the conversations continue.

Prevention is continuous throughout the life cycle and the Alliance utilizes the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). SPF monitors assessment, capacity, planning, implementation, and evaluation to be successful. Science, research and evidence all confirm that prevention programs work. According to the Community

Anti- Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), “research over the last two decades has shown that drug addiction is both preventable and treatable. It is vital that prevention be a critical component of the national, state and local drug strategies because addiction is a developmental disorder that can begin in adolescence, sometimes as early as childhood and can be mitigated by preventing and increasing the age of initiation among youth”.

WHRMA looks forward to being a part of the future conversations. For more information about WHRMA and its programs email [WHRMA@warrennj.org](mailto:WHRMA@warrennj.org)



*(above, l-r) WHRMA Vice Chairperson Iris Alston and Pastor Nick Galluccio of the Youth and Young Adults Group Stonecrest Church at the “Hard Conversations” conference.*

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# WARREN RECREATION 12TH ANNUAL WINTER FESTIVAL

Submitted by Amanda Altavilla

On Saturday, January 11, 2020, Warren Township Recreation held its 12th Annual Winter Festival, Bonfire and Fireworks event. The event took place on an over 60-degree day and was attended by over 3,000 residents and neighboring communities. The focal point of the event was the bonfire and the fireworks that were managed by the Warren Fire Department. Event goers were also able to enjoy various activities such as horse and carriage rides, petting zoo, carnival rides, marshmallow roasting, an ice sculpture artist and visiting vendor booths. The Recognized Sport Groups provided carnival games and the Warren Lions Club served hot chocolate. Taxi Cab Burger, Empanada Guy, Waffle De Lys and Angry Archies were selling food at the event. Please thank our sponsors and local volunteers. Without them, we could not have had a successful event.

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Other Contributions by: Warren Blue Ridge Sportsmen Club, Bob Marino, Boy Scout Troop 228, Mike Cantone, Café Agira, Cooper Jewelers, Dave Darge, Engineering Dept., Department of Public Works, Forest Lodge, Mariusz Idasiak, OEM/CERT/Fire Police, Paul's Firewood, Somerset Equity Investors Inc., Stonecrest Community Church, Trattoria LaStrada, Wagner Farm Arboretum, Warren Baseball/Softball LLC., Warren Fire Dept./Fire Marshal, Warren Police Department, Warren Police Explorers, Warren Rescue Squad, Warren Library, Warren Township Committee, Watchung Hills Pop Warner Football, Watchung Hills Soccer Assoc., and all our dedicated volunteers.

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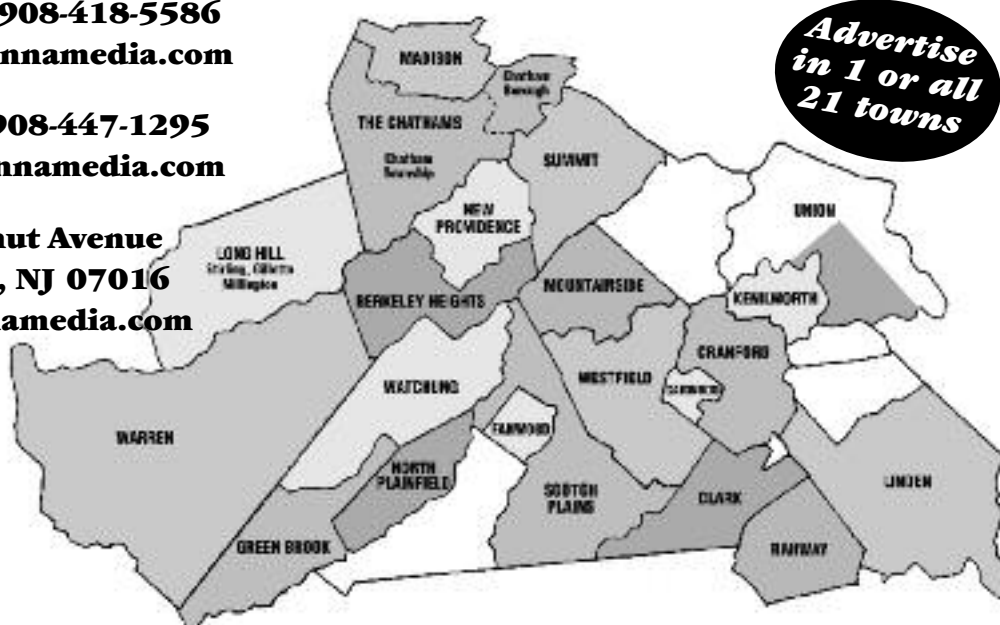
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4 Units	3.25" x 4" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000
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# 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

## SINGLES DISCUSSION GROUP

The Sunday Morning Singles Discussion Group will meet for a lively discussion on a myriad of topics February 2, 9, 16 and 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at The First Baptist Church (lower level), 170 Elm Street, Westfield.

This nondenominational group of people 55 plus, enjoy a Continental breakfast followed by engaging conversation every Sunday. \$2 donation.

Call 908-686-0563 for more information.

## 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.

## Online Marketing Made Easy

**RENNA  
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.COM**

**NJLocalInfo.com**

### AD WEB PAGE: \$30

**Block of 20 ads \$300** (\$15 per ad)

Ad gets its own indexed web page on NJLocalInfo.com

Searchable through search engines and shared on our Facebook network.

### CALENDAR EVENT: \$20

**Block of 20 events \$200** (\$10 per event)

Events get posted on RennaMedia.com calendar

and included in weekly newsletter shared on our Facebook network

### ONLINE PRESS RELEASE: \$130

**Block of 20 PRs \$1,200** (\$60 per PR)

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### DISPLAY ADS (12 months)

**Banner Ad** (300 x 100 pixels) **\$240** on RennaMedia.com

**Column Ad** (300 x 200 pixels) **\$960**

Column ad appears on all pages of on RennaMedia.com and NJLocalInfo.com

### WEBSITE / SEO SERVICES

- **Website Audit/Analysis and recommendation plan: \$250**
- **Website creation/update: \$2,400** (Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design)
- **Website Hosting: \$300 per year**  
Includes website hosting, software updates, monthly website content updates
- **SEO Services - average cost \$1,000 - \$2,000 per month**  
Custom tailored solutions: Google Ranking, Local SEO, Social Marketing
- **Blast your online ad or press release to a targeted market \$100**
- **National Press Release Distribution to 300 to 500 news outlets.**  
Budget choice from \$300 to \$500.

**CONTACT JOE FOR DETAILS 908-447-1295**

**[joerenna@rennamedia.com](mailto:joerenna@rennamedia.com)**

**Visit [RennaMedia.com](http://RennaMedia.com) or [NJLocalInfo.com](http://NJLocalInfo.com)**



**Cooked & Uncorked**  
Featuring fine food and wine

**Monday, February 24, 2020**  
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Pines Manor - Edison, New Jersey

Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$65 at the door.  
Tickets available for purchase online at [cookedanduncorked.com](http://cookedanduncorked.com)

This event sells out so get your tickets early and don't be locked out  
Call Jason Lombardi at 732-489-4885 or buy online at [www.cookedanduncorked.com](http://www.cookedanduncorked.com)  
Check out the event video here at <https://youtu.be/5hqlnqvBRE>

NJFMBA Foundation      The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center      RWJBarnabas HEALTH  
Let's be healthy together

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