

Watchung Post

Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

NJ

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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)

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(above) The cast of WHRHS fall performance of "Almost, Maine"

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Watchung Post

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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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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.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email

editor@rennamedia.com or call 908-418-5586

“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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WATCHUNG RESCUE SQUAD OFFICERS SWORN IN

During the Borough of Watchung's annual reorganization meeting held on January 2, 2020 Watchung Rescue Squad Captain Jeiner

Betancourt-Quintanilla, and 1st Lieutenant Denise Wilson were sworn into their positions for the year. WRS members came out to support their

incoming officers.

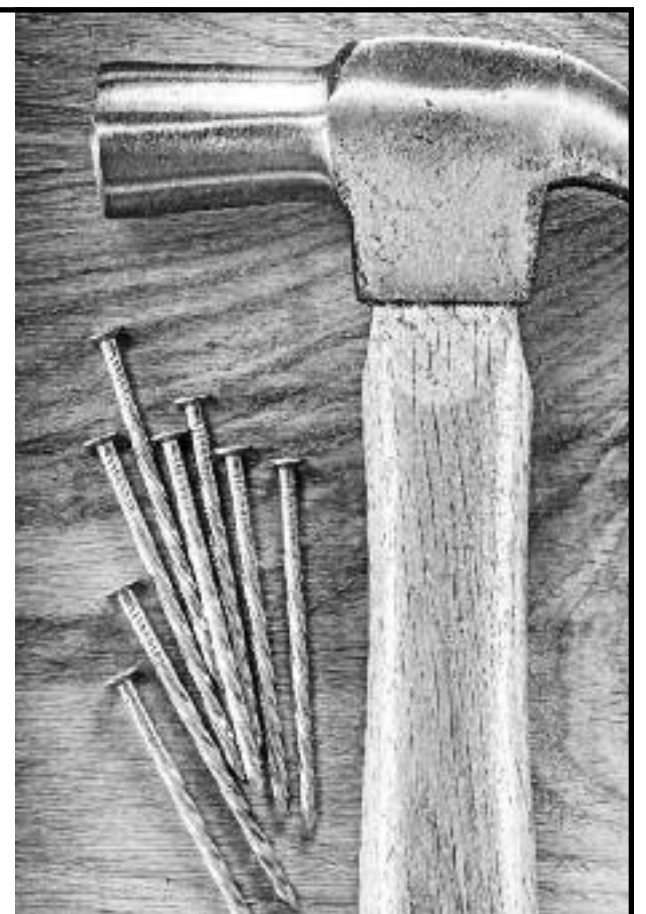
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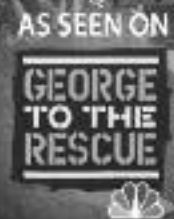
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THE GARDEN CLUB OF WATCHUNG PRESENTS

The Garden Club of Watchung will host a free presentation by Chief Park Naturalist of Hunterdon County, Tom Sheppard on the Eastern Coyote at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at St. Mary's Stony Hill Church, Murray Hall, in Watchung.

Coyotes are increasing in number and they are making their presence felt. Tom will discuss the comeback of the Eastern Coyote and the issues, concerns, and benefits that surround this species. Learn how you can adapt to coexist with this creature.

Tom has had the pleasure of working for Hunterdon County since 2000 and is a lifelong resident of the county with roots that date back to the early settlers in the county. Through the years, Tom worked for many individuals in schools, scout, and homeschool groups, offering a wide variety of interpretive and recreation programs. Mr. Sheppard offers a monthly environmental education for homeschool group

series, and welcomes inquiries about the county parks and questions regarding our wildlife.

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LIBRARY ENHANCES FREE NOTARY SERVICE

Effective January 2, 2020, the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) has enhanced the effectiveness of their free notary service program by launching appointment-based scheduling.

“Connecting with a Staff Notary before your visit will help ensure that all parties are prepared for the notarization and allow staff to determine whether SCLSNJ can meet your notarial needs,” said Civic Services Supervisor Nicole Pascoe. “These changes are in direct response to the needs of and feedback from our county residents, and will improve the service our customers receive in our branches. In the event a staff notary

is not able to fulfill a request, SCLSNJ maintains a list of comparable service offerings throughout Somerset County so we can point customers in the right direction.”

Appointment times and Staff Notary availability vary based on location schedules. For questions or to make an appointment, email notary@sclibnj.org or call your local branch and ask to connect with a Staff Notary. The Watchung branch: 908.458.8455.

To explore tips for preparing for your notary appointment and other important considerations about notary services at SCLSNJ, visit sclsnj.org/using-our-libraries/notary.

NATIONAL SABER CHAMP RICH BROWN

Watchung Borough recently honored resident Rich Brown for his latest accomplishments with a sabre. Brown has been fencing for over 15 years and in that time has accrued a number of different accolades. The US National Vet70 Sabre Champion throughout 2019 including:

- Gold - USA Fencing National Championships (Veteran +70)
- Gold - April North American Cup (Veteran +70)
- Silver - Veteran World Championships (+70)
- Bronze - Veteran World Championships (Team)



(above, l - r) Rich Brown and Watchung Borough Mayor Keith S. Balla

APPLICATIONS DUE FOR DELEEUEW SCHOLARSHIP

The time to apply is now! High school seniors wishing to apply for the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship should obtain applications now from their school guidance office. Submission deadline is Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

To date, the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship Fund, a fund of the Plainfield Foundation, has provided over 1.4 million dollars in scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 over a twenty-four year period. The awards are made in accordance with the terms of a bequest from Ms. DeLeeuw, author of 75 books, journalist and arts activist.

The Plainfield Rotary Scholarship Foundation, headed by Michael R. Townley, acts as selector for the scholarships. Eligible students are those who attend high schools in Plainfield, North

Plainfield, South Plainfield, Warren, Watchung, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Edison. Applicants must major in one of the following areas of study: art, poetry, writing, journalism or engineering, and must also be accepted to an accredited college or university. They must demonstrate the scholastic aptitude and interest in the area of study and prove financial need.

Interested students should consult their guidance counselors to obtain the necessary application information or go to the Plainfield/North Plainfield Rotary Club website at rotarypnp.org/cs-adele-deleeuw-scholarship.php. Questions may be directed to Johanna Salvemini, Scholarship Administrator, at 908-755-8098.

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FEBRUARY PROGRAMS AT SCLSNJ'S WATCHUNG LIBRARY

Somerset County Library System New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Watchung Branch, is located at 12 Stirling Road, Watchung, New Jersey. All programs listed are free.

Registration is required unless otherwise indicated and programs are subject to change; visit SCLSNJ.org or call the library at 908-458-8455 for more information and to register.

Please note the Library will be closed on February 17.

ALL AGES

Mini-Maker Art Space

February 10, 24; 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAMS

Baby/Toddler Storytime - Tiny Tots (ages birth - 3 years)

February 4, 10:30-11 a.m.

Family Storytime - Twilight Tales (families with children)

February 5, 7-7:30 p.m.

Preschool Storytime - Miss June's Room (ages 3-5)

February 6, 4-4:30 p.m.

Teen Advisory Board (grades 6-12)

February 6, 7-8 p.m.

Bingo With Miss June (ages 4 and up)

February 7, 4-4:30 p.m.

LEGO® Club (grades K-5)

February 11, 4-5 p.m.

Read to a Therapy Dog (grades K-4)

February 12, 4-5 p.m.

STEAM - Origami Frogs (grades K-5)

February 20, 4-5 p.m.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Mah Jong

February 3, 4, 10, 11, 28, 24, 25; 1-4 p.m.

Game Night

February 3, 10, 24; 6:30-8:45 p.m.

Watchung Writers Group

February 6, 13, 20, 27;

10:30 a.m -12:30 p.m.

Canasta

February 6, 13, 20, 27; 1-4 p.m.

Special Needs Social Hour

February 12, 2-3 p.m.

Great Expectations - An Overview of Charles Dickens's Life and Works

February 13, 7:30-8:45 p.m.

Meet George Washington - Presented by Dr. Michael Norris

February 29, 2-3 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.



(above) Saiprathik Prakash, 7, and Sankaran Prakash, 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

Chess Club (grades K-5) at the Warren Twp. branch

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

Register: 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

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

STEAM: Origami Frogs (grades K-5) at the Watchung branch

February 20, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Register: 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



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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 refugee 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.

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.

Photo by WHRHS



(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.

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Leap Year Celebration MASTERPIECES FOR PIANO AND CELLO

Enjoy an exquisite evening of classical music with the brilliantly talented duo of Beatrice Long and Sophie Shao at The Watchung Arts Center on Saturday, February 29 at 8 p.m. The repertoire will include works from Bach, Beethoven, Schumann and Debussy. Experience an exceptional harmony of compositions by these award winning musicians. Their melodious uplifting performance will be followed by a dessert reception and an opportunity to meet the artists.

Beatrice Long is an internationally acclaimed pianist whose notable performances includes soloist with Baltimore Symphony, Orquesta Sinfonia Estado de Mexico, National Symphony of Taiwan, Taipei Symphony Orchestra, Jura Symphony Orchestra (France) and Ensemble du Monde among others. A medalist in Cleveland International Competition, she has performed recitals in four continents at venues such as Chicago's Ravinia Festival, Festivals of Champagne and Fontainebleau (France), Kunsthalle Appenzelle (Switzerland), Phillips Gallery (Washington D.C.), and major concert halls in the US, Asia, and Central and Latin America.

Cellist Sophie Shao received an Avery Fisher Career Grant at age 19, was a major prizewinner at the 2001 Rostropovich Competition, and a laureate of the XII Tchaikovsky Competition in 2002. She has given the world premiere performances of Howard Shore's Mythic Gardens, a concerto written for her; and Richard Wilson's Concerto for Cello and Mezzo-Soprano with Leon Botstein and the American Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Shao appeared as soloist with the BBC Concert Orchestra and Keith Lockhart in performances of the Elgar and Haydn C major concertos at the Bard Music Festival.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 (\$22 for WAC members) at the door. Buying tickets in advance is strongly recommended and can be purchased securely through Eventbrite (watchungartscenter.eventbrite.com). Tickets may also be purchased by mail (please include email address) or in person during office hours.

The Watchung Arts Center, located at 18 Stirling Road in Watchung on the Watchung Circle, is a multi-disciplinary arts facility serving Watchung, the surrounding communities and the Tri-State Area. To obtain more information about upcoming performances, classes and workshops, and monthly art exhibitions, please visit WatchungArts.org or call 908-753-0190.



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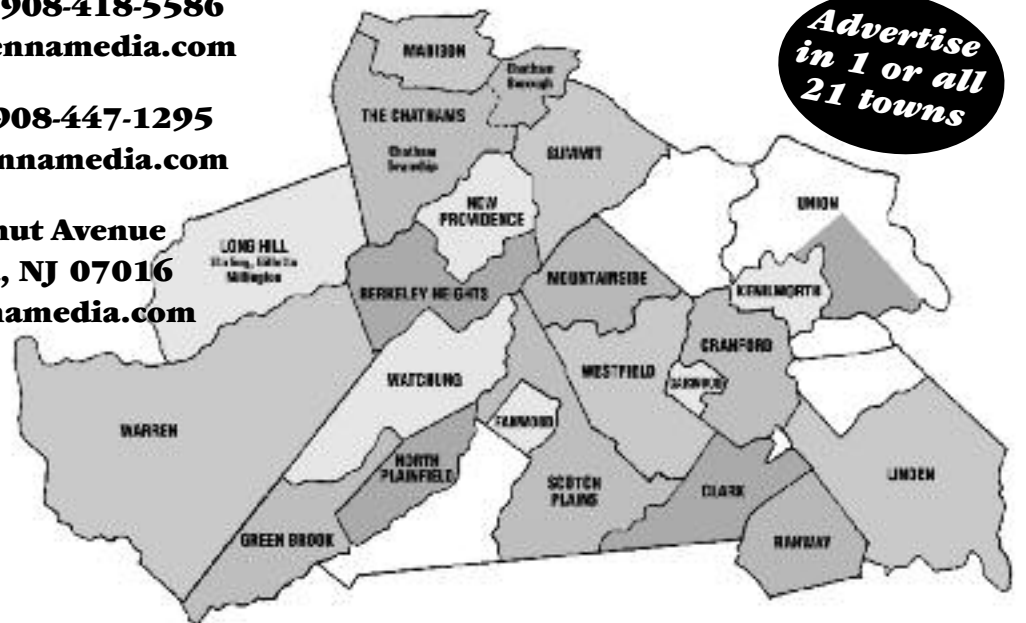
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6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
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**Munsee District
Boy Scout Chess Tournament**

Open to all registered Boy Scouts/Venturers/Explorers
Non-scouts welcomed!

Saturday, February 22, 2020

10:30 am to 3:00 pm

Sign-in/setup starts at 10:00 am

Registration Closes 2-21-20

Cranford Community Center

220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ • 908.709.7283

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lunch will be provided for all players.

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

**KENTUCKY DERBY
SENIORS BUS RIDE**

Watchung Seniors is offering a Kentucky Derby Bus Ride on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 to Ligreci's Staaten in Staten Island, NY. The trip includes hour open bar and wine hour, and a luncheon to include: salad, choice entrees, dessert, coffee/tea. There will be a band, comedian, and stick horse races. Call 908-816-0641, if interested. Wear your Derby hat!

Watchung Seniors 55+ meets the second Wednesday of every month, except July and August, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Fireman's Exempt Hall, lower level, 57 Mountain Boulevard (next to Borough Hall), handicap acceptable. Guest speakers, trips, and fun parties are planned throughout the year. For more information call 732-968-7843.

**Watchung - Warren
Rotary Club**

meets every

Tuesday at 12:00pm

**Prezzo's Restaurant
56 Mount. Bethel Road
Warren, New Jersey**

For information about the Rotary club contact Bob Aznar

908-755-8724
or email rara1055@optonline.net

**Guests & Prospective
Members Welcome**

Meeting every Thursday night starting at 8:00 pm

KENILWORTH COMMUNITY CENTER AND RECREATION BUILDING

575 Boulevard in Kenilworth, NJ at corner of 24th Street

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



www.kenilworthchessclub.org



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