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STUDENTS ATTEND “GIRLS SPEAK OUT” SUMMIT AT U.N.



(above) Members of the Westfield High School Girls Learn International Club visited the United Nations in New York to attend the 2019 Day of the Girl Summit, an event held annually since 2011 when the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution to declare October 11 the “International Day of the Girl.”

Photo by Westfield Public Schools

Members of the Westfield High School Girls Learn International Club recently visited the United Nations in New York to attend the 2019 Day of the Girl Summit, an event held annually since 2011 when the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution to declare October 11 the “International Day of the Girl.”

Girls from around the world attended the summit and shared inspirational stories, videos, photography, performances, artwork, and songs as part of “Girls Speak Out.” Also in attendance were representatives of the United Nations and other international organizations with all speakers addressing the needs and issues facing girls around the world.

“The mission of the day is to ‘help galvanize worldwide

enthusiasm for goals to better girls’ lives, providing an opportunity for them to show leadership and reach their full potential,” said WHS social studies teacher Hilary Haskell who, with fellow social studies teacher Elizabeth Piombino.

Topics addressed included immigration, education, leadership, and violence, as well as health and sanitation. Haskell said that one group of teenage girl performers tied these themes together by dramatizing stories relating to these issues, provided to them by other girls from around the world.

“This was a unique opportunity and learning experience for the Westfield High School Girls Learn International Club members,” Haskell added.

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"100 YEARS OF THE WOMEN'S VOTE" WITH DR. SUSAN LEDERMAN

Historical Society's March First Wednesday Luncheon series

Submitted by Carol Goggi

As part of The Westfield Historical Society's First Wednesday Luncheon series for March, which is Women's History Month and the 100th anniversary year of the 19th amendment (granting women the vote), Dr. Susan Lederman will talk on the subject of "100 Years of the Women's Vote" on March 4, 2020. Dr. Lederman will take us through significant events that have occurred since 1920 while women have had the right to vote. The event will begin with check-in at 11:45 a.m. at Ferraro's Restaurant (2nd Floor), 14 Elm Street, Westfield.

Susan Lederman is Professor Emerita of Public Administration at Kean University. She had served as Director of Kean's Master of Public Administration Program and had been on the faculty at the University since 1977. Dr. Lederman is also a past president of the League of Women Voters of the United States, and served as the president of the New Jersey League of Women Voters. She has served on a number of New Jersey and national public policy commissions, including the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission.

She is coauthor of the book, Elections in America: Control and Influence in Democratic Politics.

Susan Lederman holds an A.B. degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from Rutgers University. She was born

in Bratislava, Slovakia, and immigrated with her family to the United States in 1948.

Those wishing to attend the luncheon may make a reservation by email to westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com; or, by calling 908-654-1794, before Friday, February 28. Please advise if there are special dietary needs. The luncheon fee of \$35 (WHS members) or \$40 (non-members) includes a three-course meal, coffee/tea, and gratuity. The luncheon fee should be paid in advance (check payable to Westfield Historical Society) by mailing to Westfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 613, Westfield, NJ 07091; or, online at westfieldhistoricalsociety.org/registration.

Payments should be received by Friday prior to the luncheon. Westfield Historical Society memberships will also be available at the luncheon.

The Westfield Historical Society celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018. Since 1968, the 501(c)(3) non-profit Westfield Historical Society has worked to preserve, interpret and encourage interest in history, Westfield, and its residents through educational efforts and community outreach programs.

Ferraro's Restaurant is at 14 Elm Street, Westfield, NJ. Elevator access is available.

For more information on the Westfield Historical Society and their events, visit westfieldhistoricalsociety.org and like us on Facebook.

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The Westfield High School Dream Team hosted its popular Hot Chocolate event to promote substance abuse awareness and to encourage students to make healthy decisions.

As part of the annual event, students were given a factual statement regarding drug and alcohol abuse and prevention. The paper statement also invited them to stop by the WHS Student Center during their lunch period to read the fact aloud and receive a steaming cup of hot

chocolate.

The Hot Chocolate Holiday event is sponsored by the Westfield Municipal Alliance, which creates and supports programs for substance abuse prevention education. The Alliance also sponsors the Dream Team, a student club that encourages healthy choices and provides drug/alcohol free social events to the school community.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools



(above, l-r) Westfield Municipal Alliance coordinators Louise DeDea and Kerri Oligino join Westfield police officer Elizabeth Savnik in welcoming Westfield High School students to the annual Hot Chocolate Holiday event.



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

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

CAU started the vehicle donation program as a way to aid youth and individuals with

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

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

Unlike other car donation programs, CAU does not sell or scrap donated cars, receiving only a percentage of their value. By donating a vehicle to CAU, 100% of your donation will go to a person with transportation needs.

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

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

Learn more about donating to or volunteering with CAU at caunj.org/support-us.

For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, info@caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



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

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STUDENTS TAKE PART IN CODING DURING COMPUTER SCIENCE WEEK



(above, l-r) Franklin 1st grader Rhyan Sporer and 5th grader Hailey Latcha enjoy coding during "Hour of Code" activities as part of Computer Science Education Week.

Computer code is the basic set of instructions or rules that a computer understands. As part of Computer Science Education Week students in Westfield Public Schools took part in the "Hour of Code," a project introduced in 2013 by code.org, a non-profit organization seeking to increase student interest in programming and

other computer science-related topics.

Throughout the year, coding is woven into some lessons at the elementary and intermediate schools while, at Westfield High School, certain courses focus specifically on computer programming.

Photos by Westfield Public Schools



(above) Franklin students enjoy "Hour of Code" activities during Computer Science Education Week. On left, 5th grader Adam Siegel, 1st grader Nicholas Paterson, and 5th grader Derin Colakoglu. On right, 5th grader Laila Singh and 1st grader Atlas Pektas.



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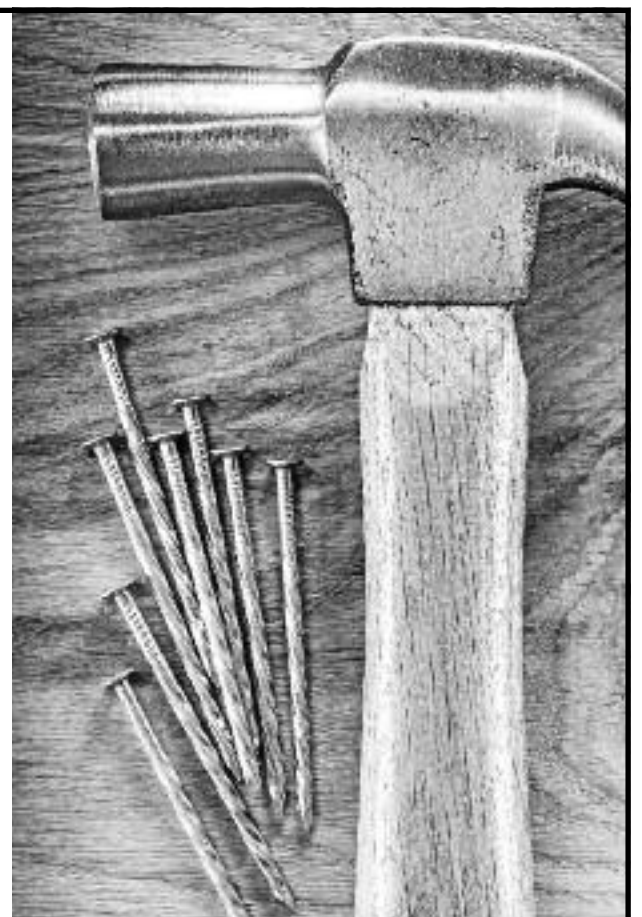
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COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

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(left top) Third graders at Jefferson School participated in "Hour of Code" activities during Computer Science Education Week with the help of code.org volunteer and Westfield resident Charlie Schafer (back left).



(left, bottom) Marisa Truselo's 5th grade class received a visit from Code Ninjas, a Westfield-based coding center for children, during Computer Science Education Week. The class worked collaboratively to create a multiplayer soccer game with a goalie and a kicker.

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(above, l-r) Rotary Club President Liz Ensslin, Police Chief Christopher Battiloro, and Program Chair (and Yankees fan) Tony LaPorta. Tony is so dedicated that he missed a playoff game to come to the Rotary meeting.

CHIEF BATILORO SPEAKS TO THE ROTARY CLUB

Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart

Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro recently spoke to the Rotary Club of Westfield. Rotarians and members of the community were in attendance. Chief Battiloro discussed the role of the Police Department in town, how to prevent crime, preparation for large events, his responsibilities, and his vision for the future.

The Chief grew up in Westfield, attended Westfield High School and Clemson University. His father was the Chief of the Westfield Fire Department and would not hire him, so he became a police officer. He worked his way up from dispatcher to patrolman to Sergeant to Chief.

Westfield has a population of approximately 30,000 people with 10,950 housing units and is increasing in population. The police department handles 46,000 calls per year for which some action needs to be taken. The Police Department has 79 employees with 61 sworn officers, and 40 vehicles, and a budget of 6.8 million dollars. Westfield has 52 locations which require crossing guards, and if the town is short of personnel, the police need to fill in.

Special event planning is a concern, especially after September 11th. Some of the events have 20,000 to 30,000 people in attendance. The Westfield Police make many behind the scenes preparations to keep us safe. The Chief is working on Accreditation to make the department more professional. He added body cameras to every police officer at no cost to the taxpayers through forfeited drug money. He has consulted with the FBI to train his department in active shooter situations. The Police plan to work with the Fire Department as a coordinated team in emergencies. Chief Battiloro feels it is important to recognize good work or life saving events, and recognizes his officers at the annual Awards Banquet. He is looking to increase diversity in the Police Department, which will give them greater abilities, including adding speakers of


other languages. The High School and both Intermediate Schools have full time police officers present in the school all day, and the elementary schools are checked on at least twice a day.

Westfield was recognized as the 15th safest city in America, which the Chief feels is primarily due to proper policing. The most pressing crime in Westfield is car theft. Last year 30 cars were stolen in town, and every car was unlocked with the keys in the car. One car thief was released on bail, and had no way to get home to East Orange, so he was caught stealing another car! Another car thief entered a house on Hillside Ave, took the car keys off the kitchen table and stole one car. No one noticed, so he was back 20 minutes later, came into the house again, took the other keys and stole the other car. Lock the doors of your house!

The cities on either side of us- Newark, Elizabeth and Plainfield have gangs, open air drug markets, and 10 to 20 homicides per year. Westfield has not had a homicide for 19 years, since May 2000- which was a kidnapping and murder- suicide of two college students. The last homicide before that was 4 years earlier in March of 1996 when an estranged wife shot her ex in the Westfield Leader newspaper office. There are very few violent crimes in Westfield. Overall, it is a very safe town. Drugs are everywhere in America, and they are also in Westfield. Marijuana use is widespread. The police officers have used Narcan to save opioid overdose victims' lives about 6 or 8 times per year.

Police Chief Battiloro says we live in a wonderful town, but be safe- do a "9 p.m. routine" - lock your cars and lock your house.

The Rotary Club of Westfield meets the first two Tuesdays of the month at Addams Tavern for lunch at 12:15 p.m. Guests are always welcome. For upcoming programs visit westfieldrotary.com or contact Dr. Michael Hart at drmhart@yahoo.com.



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CHAMPIONS SPEAK TO ROTARY CLUB

National Collegiate Wrestling Champion and Olympic hopeful Anthony Ashnault spoke to the Rotary Club of Westfield at a recent luncheon. Retired professional boxer Jerry Cooney came to support Anthony.

The Rotary Club of Westfield meets the first

and second Tuesday of each month for lunch at 12:15 p.m., and the third Tuesday at 7 p.m. Guests are always welcome. We rotate between various restaurants. For upcoming programs visit westfieldrotary.com or contact Dr. Michael Hart at drmhart@yahoo.com.



(above, l-r) Rotarian Program Chair Tony LaPorta; wrestler Anthony Ashnault; retired professional boxer Jerry Cooney.

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(above) Father and son, Al and Chris, are on every job site since 2004.

JEFFERSON ROBOTICS TEAM RECEIVES AWARD AT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



(above) Jefferson 5th grader Wilson Wright, a member of Jefferson School's Team Legorio robotics team, displays 2nd place trophy awarded to the team for "Strategy and Innovation" at the state championship of the First Lego League robotics competition on Dec. 14-15.

A team of six Jefferson School fifth graders received 2nd Place in the Strategy and Innovation category at the recent state championship of the First Lego League robotics competition.

Team Legorio, made up of Luke Jenner, Neev Nedungadi, Mahie Panjwani, Aaron Rudnick, Evan Tukaczynski and Wilson Wright, competed against 80 teams in the North New Jersey region, with the Strategy and Innovation Award based on the team's unique attachments to achieve various missions, including a spring-

loaded attachment and a forklift feature.

"The judges were also very impressed with the flowchart the team created as part of their strategy to accomplish as many missions as efficiently as possible using the same motions," says Denise Jenner, one of the parent volunteer organizers of Team Legorio.

The First Lego League is a robotics competition that has students, ages 9-14, strategizing, designing, building, programming and testing an autonomous robot while applying real-world math and science concepts.



(above) Aaron Rudnick, Luke Jenner, Mahie Panjwani, Neev Nedungadi, and Evan Tukaczynski display 2nd Place Award received in the Strategy and Innovation category at the state championship of the First Lego League robotics competition on Dec. 14-15.

Team member Wilson Wright not pictured.

Photos by Westfield Public Schools

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ATLAS-PYTHAGORAS LODGE #10

Submitted by Christopher Sands

Atlas-Pythagoras Lodge #10 Free and Accepted Masons, which meets at 1011 Central Ave., Westfield, recently held our annual Charity Night. We donated to eight worthy groups in our community.

The Masonic Services Association, which supports Veterans in the three NJ State Veterans home and both VA Veterans homes.

Tree of Hope, which the Sheriff of Union County runs, collects toys for needy children in Union County.

Keystone Community Living, which helps people with developmental disabilities to lead fulfilling lives. It runs a group home in South Plainfield.

Bonds of Courage, which supports Veterans and the 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry from the Westfield Armory.

Union County Meals on Wheels, which provides meals to the housebound or those who cannot cook for themselves.

Every 15 Minutes, from Kenilworth High School, which teaches Juniors and Seniors about the consequences of drinking and driving.

The Children's Dyslexia Center, Scotch Plains, which uses the Orton-Gillingham curriculum to help children with dyslexia read and flourish.

The George Washington Masonic Memorial, A museum which is used to tell the world about George Washington, a Mason, General of the Armies and our First President!

ABOUT FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry constitutes the world's oldest and largest fraternity. The masonic experience focuses on enlightened fellowship. It encourages members to become better citizens. The fraternal bonds formed in the lodge help foster life-long friendships among men with similar values. Virtually all occupations and professions are represented. Brothers come from diverse political ideologies, but we meet as friends. Freemasons come from varied religious beliefs and creeds and believe in a supreme being.

Atlas-Pythagoras Lodge #10 meets the first and third Fridays every month except during the summer.

If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information about Freemasonry, visit atlaspythagoras.com, or call (908) 233-7349.

KIDS FISHING SEMINAR SET FOR MARCH 3

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

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

Our monthly meetings are held at the

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

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

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

FEBRUARY 2020 EVENTS
WESTFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY
 550 East Broad Street 908.789.4090
www.wmlnj.org
 Mon- Thurs 9:30am - 9pm Fri & Sat 9:30am - 5pm
 Sunday 1:00-5pm
 Closed February 17 for Presidents' Day
 TGI! every Friday at 1:30 pm

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

2/4	1:00 pm	Adult Craft: Make Valentine Roses from Candies
2/4	7:00 pm	Trivial Pursuit for Teens and Adults (16+years)
2/5	7:00 pm	Vocalist Dan Yates
2/6	7:00 pm	Fundamentals of Tai Chi by Dr. Gang Huang
2/8	2:00 pm	Navatman South Indian Classical Music Collective
2/11	2:30 pm	How to Download Library Services to iPhone/iPad
2/11	7:00 pm	Meditation with Umesh Bhatia
2/15	2:00 pm	Spook Handy Sings the Songs of the Folk Revival
2/18	10:00 am	Learn Power Point: Basic Overview
2/19	7:00 pm	Keith Henley presents Explorer Matthew Hemon
2/22	2:00 pm	Weiss Family Jazz Series presents Swingadelic
2/29	2:00 pm	Eric Burro: Westfield's WWI Monument

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN:
CHECK WEBSITE FOR SIGN UP INFORMATION & ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.
PARENTS/CAREGIVERS STAY* WITH CHILDREN FOR MOST PROGRAMS OR STAY IN LIBRARY**

2/4, 11	10:30 am	*2's on Tuesday Storytime
2/4, 11	1:00 pm	**Craftroom Storytime 3 1/2-5yrs Parents stay in Youth Services Dept
2/6, 13	10:30 am	*3's on Thursday Storytime
2/7, 14, 21, 28	10:00 am	*Playgroup for Babies & Toddlers (0-23 months)
2/8	2:00 pm	Paws to Read-Beginning readers read to library dogs in ten-minute sessions
2/18	6:30 pm	**Evening LEGO Club (5+years)
2/19, 26	10:00 am	*Zumba Fun (2-5 years)

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WHS GUITARIST TO PERFORM WITH JAZZ BAND OF AMERICA

Westfield High School 12th grade guitarist Stephen Park has been selected to the 2020 Jazz Band of America. "Stephen will travel to Indiana in March to play in an ensemble comprised of the best high school jazz musicians in the country," says Jazz Band Director Trevor Sindorf. This national honor ensemble is selected by recorded audition.

"The Jazz Band of America is recognized as one of the top honor ensembles for young musicians in the nation, with a prestigious legacy and reputation for the highest level of excellence," according to organizers of the Music for All National Festival to be held on March 11-14, 2020. More information about the festival can be found at musicforall.org.



Photo by Mike Mullan

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A NIGHT OF LOVE SONGS TO BENEFIT WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

The Westfield High School Choir Department will perform A Night of Love Songs on Saturday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m. under the direction of choir directors John Brzozowski and Maureen Francis. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. in the WHS Cafeteria B.

While having coffee and desserts, those

attending will enjoy an evening of solo, duet, and group performances. Tickets will be sold at the door at \$5.00 per student and \$10.00 per adult.

The event is sponsored by the Westfield Choral Parents Association, with proceeds going toward choral performance opportunities for the students.

WHS Choir Presents . . .

**A Night
of Love
Songs**

An evening of solo, duet and
group performances by Choraleers, Concert Choir,
Bella Cora, and Blue Devil Treble

Desserts and Beverages will be served
Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle

Saturday, February 8, 2020

7:00 PM

Doors open at 6:30PM

Westfield High School
Cafeteria B

Donation
\$5.00 students
\$10.00 adults

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE IS COMING TO CDC THEATRE IN CRANFORD

Running from February 14th through the 22nd and winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee has charmed audiences across the country with its effortless wit and humor. Featuring a fast-paced, wildly funny and touching book by Rachel Sheinkin and a truly fresh and vibrant score by William Finn (Falsettos, A New Brain), this bee is one unforgettable experience.

An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Part of the fun of the show is that no two performances are ever the same. Audience volunteers are selected at each

show to participate onstage in scenes, songs and choreography.

The cast features some familiar faces at CDC Theatre and some new ones: Sean Lynch-Littlejohn as Chip Tolentino, E. Rachel Valovcin as Logainne Schwartzandgrubenier, Zach Mazouat as Leaf Conebear, Zach Love as William Barfee, Mallory Ann Wu as Marcy Parks, Patrina Caruana as Olive Ostrovsky, Alexa Teebo as Rona Lisa Peretti, Ian Federgreen as Vice Principle Panch and Brendan Lynch-Littlejohn as Mitch Mahoney. The show is directed by Nevil Schwartz with choreography by Michelle Massa and musical direction by John Brzozowski.

Six spellers enter: one speller leaves! They learn that winning or losing isn't everything and at least the losers get a juice box.

Links to tickets and additional information can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org.

C₃ D₂ C₃ Theatre

The 25th Annual PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Feb. 14-22 Fri/Sat 8pm 78 Winans Ave. Cranford
Feb. 16-22 2pm 908-276-7611

Visit cdctheatre.org for tickets and details.

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CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH THROUGH QUILTS

Submitted by Lisa Shepard Stewart

As the colder temperatures settle in, February is generally a great time of year to explore the art of quilting, known by some as the world's greatest indoor sport! And since February is also designated as Black History Month, celebrating African American culture through quilting makes perfect sense, beginning with a brief overview of some prominent traditions:

Underground Railroad Quilts – Quilts were stitched by the enslaved as well as abolitionists as a method of communication along the Underground Railroad routes. Specific blocks suggested the best routes, warnings, and safe houses providing food, clothing and shelter along the way. Once stitched, the coded quilts were hung from windows of slave cabins, acting as secret maps for those who escaped to make the dangerous trek northward, from slavery to freedom.

Gees Bend Quilts – The women of Gee's Bend, a small, remote, black community in Alabama, have created hundreds of quilt masterpieces dating from the early twentieth century to the present. The seven hundred or so inhabitants of this small, rural community are mostly descendants of enslaved Africans.

Quiltmakers there have produced patchwork masterpieces beginning as far back as the mid-nineteenth century, with the oldest existing examples dating from the 1920s. The overall "Gee's Bend style" can best be described as artistic and improvisational, enlivened by a visual imagination that extends the expressive boundaries of the quilt genre.

Today, African American quilting styles vary as much as the quilters themselves, from traditional blocks and fabrics to gallery-bound art quilts to mixed-media masterpieces. One of the most exciting contemporary styles to emerge recently is known as "AfroModern", rooted in part on the growing interest in African fabric prints throughout fashion and pop culture. Carole Lyles Shaw is an author, quilt artist and designer who actually coined the term. She travels the country to lecture and teach AfroModern techniques to quilting enthusiasts of all backgrounds. She will come to Rahway to teach a weekend-long Master class in May, sponsored by Cultured Expressions Sewing & Quilting Studio in Rahway.

For details call 866-MUDCLOTH (866-683-2568)

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This Week in Westfield Rotary

BREAKFAST WITH THE BANDS

Each spring the Westfield Rotary Club Foundation, fundraising partner of the Rotary Club of Westfield, hosts an open house fundraiser breakfast to help fund extensive community outreach programs, benefit youth, challenge hunger and provide grants to local non-profit social service agencies.

This year the event, Breakfast with the Bands will be held on Saturday, February 29th at Westfield High School Cafeteria from 8 a.m. to noon. According to Joe Mindak, the club's president-elect, who is chairing the breakfast, band ensembles from Westfield High School and the intermediate schools will be performing exclusively during a catered breakfast served by Rotarians with the assistance of members of the Westfield High School Interact Club.

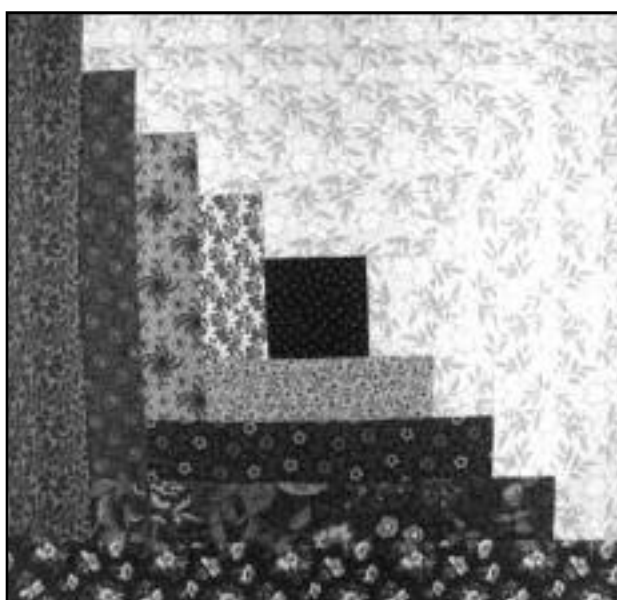
Tickets are \$10 for the breakfast and performances. They are available from members of the Rotary Club, the Interact Club and at the door on February 29th.

For more information go to www.westfieldrotary.com or Email Blake Width at bwidth@lindabury.com for information on membership.

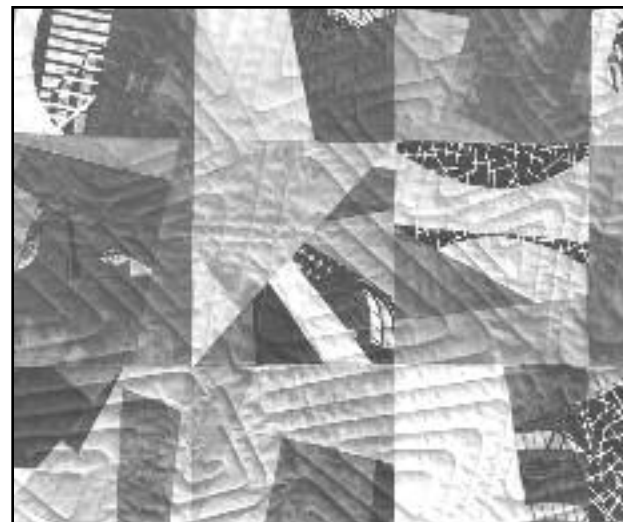
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(above) The log cabin block indicated a safe house along the Underground Railroad.



(above) AfroModern is an artistic style, the newest among African American quilting traditions.

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WESTFIELD HIGH STUDENTS CONDUCT MOCK TRIAL

Union County Superior Court Judge James Hely presided over a mock trial conducted by Westfield High School students on December 16, 2019. Students in Kimberly Leegan's Mock Trial class presented a fictitious case of a student

injured while taking a selfie after sneaking out after curfew during a school-sponsored overnight field trip.

The student legal eagles acted as prosecutors, defense attorneys, and witnesses, providing

opening and closing statements, direct and cross-examinations during presentation of the fictitious case. Eighth graders from Joseph Perrino's Mock Trial and Debate Class at Roosevelt Intermediate School also attended and served as jurors.

Photos by Westfield Public Schools



DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTES GRANTS TOTALING \$37,500

Submitted by Thomas Trezza

The Drive for Autism Foundation is pleased to announce the distribution of \$37,500 in the form of eight grants to school-based programs providing education and training to individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Each program received funds based on a "wish list."

The Drive for Autism foundation holds an annual golf outing each September, as well as several other smaller fund-raising events throughout the year. The Drive for Autism Golf Outing, which has been held since 2002, has raised and distributed over \$750,000 to local school programs. This year's grants were awarded to: Morris Union Jointure Commission (New Providence, NJ), Salt Brook School (New

Providence, NJ), AW Roberts School (New Providence), Union County Educational Services Foundation/Crossroads School (Westfield, NJ), Educational Partnership for Instructing Children, (Paramus, NJ), Eden II/Genesis Programs (Staten Island, NY), Spectrum360 formerly The Children's Institute (Verona, NJ) and Seton Foundation for Learning (Staten Island, N.Y).

Grant recipients use the money to fund health and fitness programs, social skills programs, assessment tools, educational curriculum and teacher training, a van for community trips and transportation to job training centers, laptop computers, computer touch screens, SMART boards, iPads, video projectors and educational toys and games.

ABOUT DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION

Based in New Providence, New Jersey & Staten Island, New York, The Drive for Autism Foundation, is a 501(3)(c) tax exempt public charity that was created in 2002 for the sole purpose of raising and distributing funds for educational facilities specializing in individuals with autism.

DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF OUTING 2020

The Drive for Autism XIV is scheduled for Monday September 21, 2020 at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, New Jersey. The event consists of a morning round of golf followed by lunch. Special events include golf contests, raffles and a silent auction of sports memorabilia, game tickets and golf trips.

For additional information please visit their website at DriveForAutism.org or email driveforautism@comcast.net.

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JAMES MCGLEW II HONORED AS LAWYER OF THE YEAR



(above, l-r) James McGlew II, a partner with Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C., was honored by the New Jersey State Bar Association at the NJ Commission on Professionalism in the Law annual awards luncheon as the Union County Bar Association's Professional Lawyer of the Year on October 23, 2019 at Pines Manor in Edison, NJ. Pictured are Chief Judge Freda L. Wolfson of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, Lindabury's James McGlew II, and NJSBA Chair Karol Corbin Walker.

James McGlew II, a partner with Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C., was honored by the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA) at the NJ Commission on Professionalism in the Law annual awards luncheon as the Union County Bar Association's Professional Lawyer of the Year on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, at Pines Manor in Edison, NJ.

The Professional Lawyer of the Year Awards, now in its 23rd year, are presented in cooperation with county bar associations throughout the state of New Jersey to lawyers who are respected by their colleagues for character, competence, and exemplary professional behavior. The New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law is a unique cooperative venture of the NJSBA, the state and federal judiciaries, and

New Jersey's three law schools.

"James McGlew is well-respected by his colleagues in Union County for his tremendous work and professionalism," said David R. Pierce, Lindabury's partner and president. "Our entire firm is extremely proud of him for receiving this prestigious recognition."

Mr. McGlew is the chair of the Lindabury Divorce & Family Law Practice Group with extensive experience representing individual litigants, both at the trial and appellate levels, on issues of custody, visitation, alimony and child support, equitable distribution and related issues as well as the negotiation of marital settlement and prenuptial agreements. Admitted to the New Jersey Bar, McGlew holds a J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law.

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Do you have 1.5 hours a week, every other week, or once a month, to be a volunteer driver for Mobile Meals of Westfield, delivering meals to our neighbors? Hot and cold meals prepared by our chef are delivered fresh to our clients Monday through Friday mornings starting at 10:45 a.m. Please contact us at 908-233-6146 if you can help, and for more information. We serve the residents of 7 towns: Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains, and Westfield.



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Admission includes snacks, beverages, tea, coffee & desserts



Megan Pennington was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA. Signed to a recording contract at just 19 years old, she released her first single 'Free' and watched it soar to #1 on the VRadio Nashville Top 40 chart – the biggest independent chart in the world at the time.
Megan has released four singles to date that have charted worldwide, and continues to tour the United States with international dates on the horizon.
Megan will make her headline debut at The Salem Roadhouse Cafe

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CARING CONTACT CRISIS LINE GRADUATES 96TH CLASS NEXT TRAINING TO BEGIN MARCH 17

Submitted by Mary Claire Givelber

Six residents from Westfield and Scotch Plains completed training in December 2019 to become volunteers on the Caring Contact crisis hotline. During the 52 hours of training the graduates developed the ability to listen actively, assess the needs of someone in crisis and provide empathy and support. The training included dynamic and interactive presentations by guest experts in active listening, grief recovery, mental health issues and suicide intervention. Volunteer Listener Training is taught by trainers who are long-time listeners and

nationally certified instructors in Mental Health First Aid and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training.

"I trained to become a caring contact listener in an effort to connect with those that need to feel human connection in order to cope with whatever struggles they are going through whether it be mental health, family crisis, chronic physical pain or economic hardship," stated Bisrat Mekbebe of Scotch Plains. "I am fortunate to be in a position to give back to my community through Caring Contact in this way."

When asked why he was drawn to this work, Ryan Hinderliter of Westfield said, "I wanted to

channel my love for psychology and my passion for making a difference in the community into something meaningful."

Caring Contact is an award-winning, volunteer-staffed crisis hotline and listening community that supports the Nation Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Located in Westfield, NJ, they provide active listening support and best-in-class education to central and northern New Jersey.

The next volunteer training will begin on March 17, 2020. For more information about this training call 908-301-1899 or visit caringcontact.org.



(above, l-r) Back row: Ryan Hinderliter, Amit Trivedi, Michael Coleman, Shailesh Lal, Carolyn Paznek, Derek Cooke, Marc Julius, David Burman, Charles Christophel. Middle row: Laurie Feinberg, Sarah Lindell, Sasha Singh, Ananya Jain, Kaelin Stoll, Kacie Neilson, Jaimie Radakovich, Larry Kornreich, Arlene Klemow. Front row: Bisrat Mekbebe, Jasmine Dursun, Michelle Mendoza, Pam Webb, Kate Gorelick, Payl Patel.

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AUTISM NONPROFIT RECEIVES \$1 MILLION 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 info visit AutismThinkTankNJ.org.

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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.

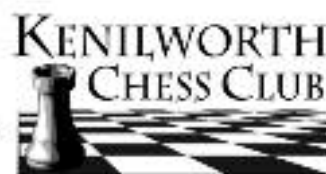
This tournament meets the 6a requirement for earning a Chess merit badge.

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

EVENT BENEFITS THE BURN CENTER AT SAINT BARNABAS AND THE NJ STATE 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 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.

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.

TRICKY TRAY FUNDRAISER & DESSERT CABARET




For 81 years, The Celebration Singers, a local multi-generational community choir, has entertained audiences within Union County and across the globe. On February 7 and 8, 2020, they will hold their Annual Tricky Tray Fundraiser & Dessert Cabaret at Union Elks Lodge 1583, 281 Chestnut Street in Union, NJ. Doors open at 7:15 p.m. and guests can immediately start placing their tricky tray tickets in for the prizes. The show, "Are We There Yet?," begins around 8 p.m. and features songs about places performed by members of its adult choir.

Artistic Director Joe Elefante, along with Collaborative Pianist, James Lubrano artfully cast the showcase which features a musical review of solos, duets, trios, as well as small and full ensemble pieces. Co-Hosts Kathy Gordon and Daniel Frieri emcee the evening. Their witty humor and playful banter are sure to bring a smile to your face and fill the room with laughter and enjoyment.

"I love singing with the choir throughout the year, especially for our Cabaret – it's a chance to feature our singers' vocal talents individually," said President Nicole Pepe. "The tricky tray and 50/50 gets bigger and bigger every year. We've had guests leave with \$1,000+ in their pockets and vacations to Florida, the Hamptons, and even tickets to a Knicks game!"


In addition to door prizes, a 50/50 raffle and exciting tricky tray baskets, homemade desserts and a cash bar will also be available. Tickets are: Adults - \$25, Seniors - \$20, and 10% discount with advanced purchases of full tables of 10.

For ticket reservations, please visit: celebration-singers.org. For questions or seating requests, please call 908-552-4656 or email celebrationsingersnewjersey@gmail.com.



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- Montclair
- Morristown
- New Brunswick
- Paterson
- Plainfield
- Rahway
- Roselle
- Trenton
- Union




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

This event sells out so get your tickets early and don't be locked out.
Call Jason Lombardi at 732-489-4665 or buy online at
www.cookedanduncorked.com

Check out the event video here at <https://youtu.be/5hqlrquVBRE>



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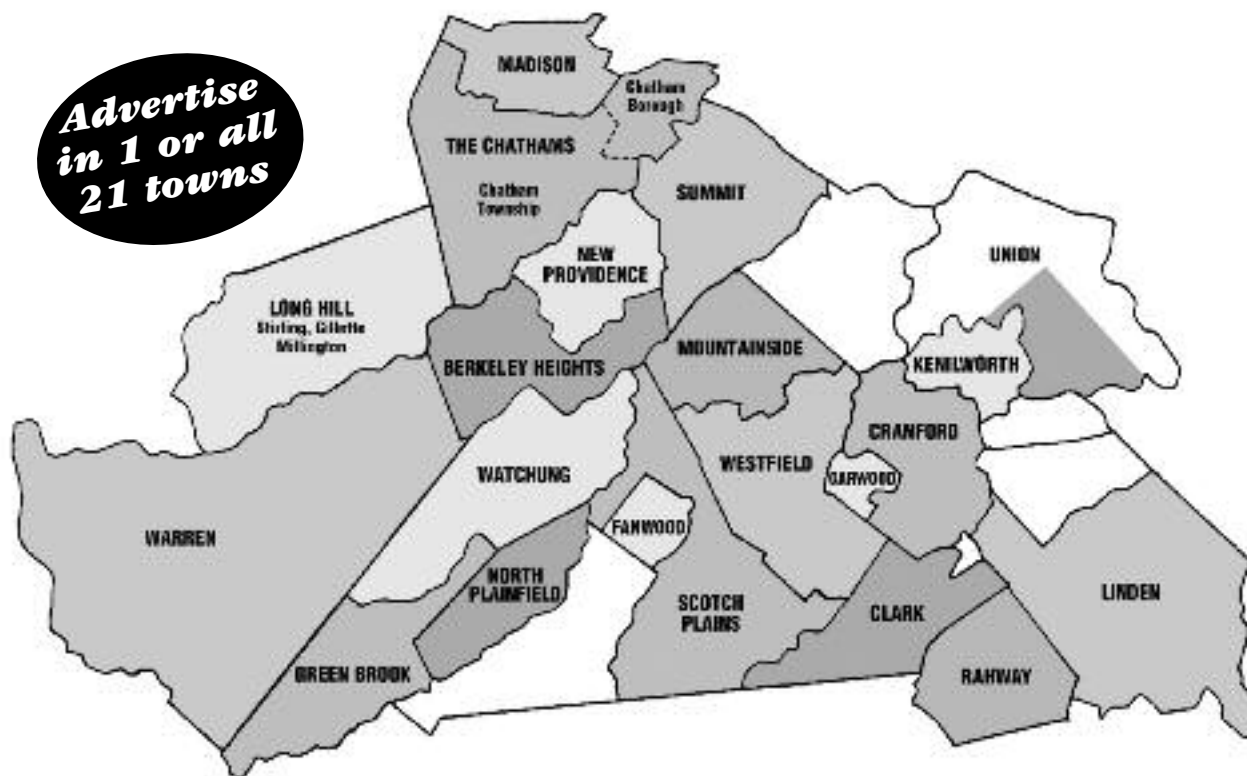
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MARY ROBINSON NAMED 2019 TOP 10 CNN HERO

Mary Robinson, Executive Director of Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss, based in Mountainside, NJ, was awarded \$10,000 and honored during the 13th annual CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute, which aired live from the American Museum of Natural History in New York City on December 8, 2019.

Robinson was introduced by Anderson Cooper, who said "My dad, Wyatt Cooper, died when I was ten. For a long time I found it difficult to speak about him, to even say his name. Too often we go through grief alone, but Mary Robinson is trying to change that, especially for kids. Imagine is a place where the language of loss is spoken and understood. It's a place where children and their parents can speak their loved one's names, where they don't have to pretend that everything is ok. They can learn coping skills, and they can see that they are not alone in their pain, none of us has to be alone."

Childhood bereavement is a serious public health issue. The death of a parent or other important person in a child's life has been noted to be one of the most commonly reported and disruptive Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs.) There are currently over 114,000 NJ youth age 0-18 who are bereaved due to the death of a parent. This doesn't include the death of a sibling which Imagine also supports along with children and caregivers living with a family member with any life-altering illness.

Currently, over 425 children and adults meet every two weeks at Imagine in their free, year-round grief support groups in Mountainside and Newark. The impact on children's lives of participating in Imagine grief support programs is immense. At Imagine children and adults make life-long friends, develop healthy coping skills and grow more resilient. By working to eradicate the potential negative effects of unresolved grief

and creating communities well equipped to cope with loss, it is Imagine's expectation that grieving children everywhere will grow up to be emotionally healthy and able to lead meaningful and productive lives.

If you'd like to support this work, please donate on CNNHeroes.com. With the \$10,000 award, Subaru's matching gift of \$50,000, and your donation, Robinson will use the funds to expand its services in their Mountainside and Newark locations.

In addition, as part of the award package, Robinson and a member of her board will also participate in a customized version of the Annenberg Alchemy program, which offers leadership development that will help strengthen Imagine for long-term success. Alchemy is offered through the Annenberg Foundation, a leading supporter of nonprofits worldwide.

"Our hope is that through this recognition more children and teens will get support, know their loss matters, and feel less alone in their grief," said Robinson. "The spotlight shown on our mission by CNN and the training from the Annenberg Foundation will be invaluable in helping us achieve our goal that some day no child will grieve alone. I believe this is now possible to achieve in my lifetime."

Since 2006, CNN has profiled more than 300 heroes and has received upward of 85,000 nominations from more than 100 countries.

ABOUT IMAGINE

Imagine offers free year-round grief support groups for children age 3-18 who have had a parent or brother or sister die, and for families caring for a family member living with a life-altering physical illness. Concurrent groups are available for parents and guardians, and young adults 18-30. Support groups meet on weekday nights for an hour and a half. Dinner is provided prior to the group meeting.

To schedule an orientation for yourself or your family or for more info please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginein.org.



(above) CNN Top Ten Hero Mary Robinson will receive a \$10,000 cash donation from CNN and a \$50,000 donation from Subaru for her organization and personalized leadership training from the Annenberg Foundation to advance the work of Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss.

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