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COMMUNITY GARDEN DETECTIVES RECEIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD



(above) "The Plant Detectives", Morris County master gardeners, were given The Award for Excellence at the Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey's annual conference.

A group of dedicated Morris County master gardeners called The Plant Detectives are helping to keep community gardens thriving in New Jersey, and their work was recently acknowledged with The Award for Excellence at the Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey's annual conference held in the fall.

Each week, the seven Plant Detectives scout two community gardens in Morris County — Madison and Morristown — to monitor for plant pests or diseases. Their thoroughly researched reports are ultimately distributed to nearly 2,000 individual community gardeners statewide.

The Plant Detectives are Morris County master gardeners Brian Monaghan, Diane DuBrule, Margot Sample, Jennifer Basile, Mary Albright, Mary Olin, and Sue Wiedaseck.

The Community Garden Plant Detective Committee of Rutgers Master Gardeners of Morris County are: Mary Albright, Jennifer Basile, Mary Olin, Margot Sample, Sue Wiedaseck, Diane DuBrule and Brian Monaghan.

As they check the gardens, issues that arise are thoroughly researched by the team and reviewed by Extension faculty and staff. A final report, featuring research based controls and management techniques, references and appropriate cultural practices, is distributed to the Morristown and Madison Community Gardens managers as well as the 35 member New Jersey Community Garden Association which in turn distribute it to their garden members.

In addition to the weekly reports, the Detectives also track the occurrences of insects and diseases by date and severity.

Under the leadership of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Rutgers Master Gardeners of Morris County provide assistance with home gardening questions to residents of Morris County. Rutgers Master Gardener volunteers are trained to diagnose common plant and pest problems, suggest appropriate cultural practices and advise as to the best care for the home landscape and garden.

The Rutgers Master Gardener Helpline is staffed from April through October, Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and can be reached at reehelpline@co.morris.nj.us or 973-285-8305. To learn more about the program, contact Dave Los at 973-285-8307 or email at dlos@co.morris.nj.us. Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Morris County is located at County Building 550 West Hanover Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07963. For more information logon to morris.njaes.rutgers.edu





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KIWANIS CLUB AWARDS OUTSTANDING KEY CLUB MEMBERS

Submitted by Justin Montanaro

The Kiwanis Club of the Chathams/Madison held their yearly awards ceremony, where they recognize outstanding members of the Key Club from Chatham and Madison High School.

The recipient for Madison High School was senior Nicolette Cilenti, president of the Madison High School Key Club. Nikki has been an active member of the club and a member of the Key Club executive board throughout high school. She engages fellow members during meetings, helping build a record breaking roster of over 100 members! Always leading by example, board members look to her as the heart and soul of the Key Club. Her projects have included the Students Change Hunger food drive, which has directly impacted 3,000 people in need in the community. She has also helped gather



(above) Nicolette Cilenti, a senior at Madison High School and president of the Madison High School Key Club, received recognition from the Kiwanis Club.

donations for the Covenant House, socks for the homeless, and roses for the Valerie Fund on Valentine's Day. Breakfast with Santa, Red Cross Blood Drives, and UNICEF fundraising are just a few other of her countless projects with the club. Her ability to do this on top of her full course load, varsity sports, and other extracurricular activities are what has lead to her being a recipient of this great award.

The recipient for Chatham High School was Will O'Neil, president of the Chatham High School Key Club. His organization, responsiveness, and leadership has helped land him his role, as well as the outstanding Key Club Member award. He continues to provide innovative ideas, helping brainstorm with club members various fundraising and charitable ideas. Most significantly the great success of meeting, and exceeding, the Outreach Program's meal packing goals.

As always, the Kiwanis Club is honored to present these awards to our local high school Key Club Members. We look forward to a bright future of working together to help the community. Happy Holidays to all!



(above) Will O'Neil, president of the Chatham High School Key Club, received an outstanding Key Club Member award.



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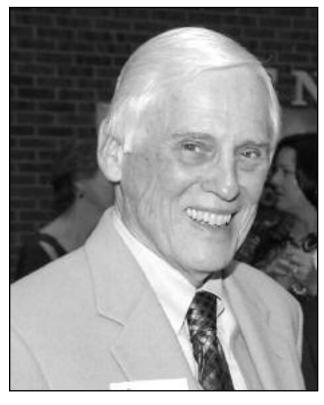


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FRIENDS OF THE MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY GALA FUND RAISING EVENT

Submitted by Kathy Trombacco

The Friends of the Madison Public Library, a nonprofit organization, will honor Madison resident Tom Bintinger, President of the Library Board of Trustees, at its annual Gala Benefit to



(above) March 28, 2020 Gala honoree, Tom Bintinger, long term President of the Library Board of Trustees.

be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, variety of delicious hors d'oeuvres prepared by March 28, at the library at 39 Keep Street.

"Tom cares deeply about the library and its mission to service the community, is supportive of innovation and offers us visionary management of library funds for current and future sustainability," said Lynn Favreau, Library Director during several years of Bintinger's tenure as President.

"I have always been impressed with the dedication, loyalty and professionalism of Tom Friends of the Madison Public Library and Bintinger," said Sylvia Luber, Chair of the Friends. "He has served the board for fifteen years, ten as its president. In that time he has provided us with guidance on numerous occasions; his advice was always thoughtful and sound. When the founder of the minicourses had resigned after 24 years of volunteer service, Tom joined our committee meetings and gave us good suggestions as to how we might proceed. His reports each year at our Annual Meetings and March Gala Benefit informed us of the direction of the library and trustees. It's always been a pleasure working with Tom because of his calm, encouraging and optimistic attitude. The library, Friends and community are most fortunate to have his commitment and enthusiasm as President of the Library Trustees."

All are cordially invited to attend the March 28 Gala Benefit at the library. Wine and beer, and a Library, visit friendsmadisonnjlibrary.org.

the Catering Department of the Thursday Morning Club will be served.

Invitations have been mailed to library patrons and are also available at the front desk of the library. Tickets for a fund-raising event with cash prizes are also available at the front desk. Reservations can also be made online at friendsmadisonnjlibrary.org. Admission is \$50 per person. Checks should be made payable to mailed to 39 Keep Street, Madison, NJ 07940 along with the RSVP card. Cancelled checks will serve as a receipt; no tickets will be mailed.

Proceeds from the annual Gala Benefit will be used to support special library programs for children, teens and adults, and to expand the book and media collections. The Friends also fund museum passes as part of the library's popular Museum Pass Program. Adult education programs sponsored by the Friends include minicourses, crafts, lectures, "Tech Tuesdays" and the Summer Seminar Series that is cosponsored with the Madison Senior Center. Music, movies, app parties, "games day", and workshops are among the popular family events also made possible by the Friends.

For information about the Gala Benefit on March 28 or the Friends of the Madison Public



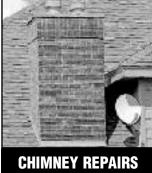






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ANNOUNCING THE 2020 TASTE OF MADISON

Submitted by Karen Giambra

The 19th annual Taste of Madison will be held on Monday, March 23, 2020, organizers say, and they are seeking corporate sponsors at several levels of support.

A festive fundraising extravaganza that benefits several local non-profit programs, the 2020 Taste of Madison is a special event for lovers of fine food and drink.

Chefs from thirty of Madison's finest restaurants will serve samples of their best dishes on March 23. Gary's Wine & Marketplace, the event's longtime presenting sponsor, will provide Taste guests with delicious wine, beer and spirits.

"In its previous eighteen editions, the Taste of Madison has raised more than \$590,000 and entertained more than 9,000 guests," said David Morozoff, one of three Taste co-chairs. "The Taste is a celebration of the very best restaurants."

Brooklake Country Club, of 139 Brooklake Road in Florham Park, will be the venue for the Taste for the third year in a row, organizers said.

hospitality," said Karen Giambra, a Taste cochair. "Brooklake Country Club is a beautiful venue and a wonderful home for our celebration."

"Taste proceeds do important work by funding charitable causes, civic improvements and business development in Madison," said Michael Pellessier, a Taste co-chair. "Corporate sponsorships are vital to our efforts."

For information about Taste corporate sponsorships, advertising opportunities, or discounted ticket packages, contact Karen Giambra at madisonchamber@gmail.com and 973-214-7014. Or contact Michael Pellessier at mpellessier93@gmail.com and 360-581-2910.

The Taste of Madison Organizing Committee is a volunteer, non-profit partnership between the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce, the Madison Downtown Development Commission and the Rotary Club of Madison.

Along with the three co-chairs, the organizing committee includes Madison Mayor Bob Conley,

"Brooklake is renowned for its outstanding Lisa Ellis, Jim Hollenbach, John Morris, Michael Odell and Anna Riker. Dave Thompson is the Gary's Wine & Marketplace representative to the committee.

> The Taste of Madison's silent auction and tricky tray events are some of the best in northern New Jersey. The businesses of Madison and the friends of Madison donate merchandise and services to the cause. To make a donation, contact Jim Hollenbach at jimhollenbach@gmail.com.

> The Taste also offers a 50/50 raffle drawing during the night of the event.

> Gary's Wine & Marketplace sells Taste tickets online at TasteOfMadison.org and in its Madison store. Tickets must be purchased in advance due to state regulations.

> Taste guests must be at least 21 years old. The recommended attire is business casual. VIP Admission (early entry at 6 p.m.) is \$100.00 each. General Admission (entry at 7 p.m.) is \$65.00 each. The event ends at 9:30 p.m.

> The slogan for the 2020 event is "What are you doing March 23? Meet Me @ The Taste."

ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER WITH THE AUXILIARY

Submitted by Maryann Doherty

As American Legion Auxiliary Unit #43 completes its project of collecting art supplies for the Recreation Therapy Department at the VA Hospital at Lyons to celebrate "A Salute to our Veterans" during February, it is preparing to carry on a tradition which began close to 60 years ago.

The Auxiliary will sponsor its Annual St. Patrick's Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on Sunday, March 15 from 1-5 p.m. at the Madison-Florham American Legion Post #43, 20 Ridgedale Avenue in Florham Park. The cost of a complete dinner including "home baked" Irish Soda Bread and dessert will be \$15.00; for children under 12 the cost will be \$5.00. A Corned Beef Sandwich with side and dessert will be \$10.00. Take out will be available.

Chairperson Frances Derin of Florham Park invites all residents of the area to join Auxiliary members for dinner on March 15 to show support for the volunteer and financial support they provide in the area. The annual fundraiser has made it possible over the years to sponsor the following: local high school girls to Girls State, an annual leadership development program; provide gifts and monetary assistance to the Valerie Fund that provides support and assistance to children with cancer; Family Promise, providing help for the homeless in Morris County; Special Olympics and supporting college scholarships at various levels of the organization for children and grandchildren of veterans.

President Marybeth Valentino looks forward to welcoming you on March 15.



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"The ingredients are very fresh and absolutely delicious. We've since been back.. three times." -- Andrew M.

The food is delicious....PERFECT for date night. BYOB and the service is great. The PESTO POMODORO pizza was the BEST pizza I've had in a while. I'm definitely coming back!" — Chela L.



"Amazing Pizza! And awesome Sandwiches! The Eggplant Pizza is one of the best pizzas I have had in my life! So good! Also the Polpette sandwich was awesome too!" -- William F.

"Honestly, I can't say I was excited for another pizza place in Madison. Let the record state, I was wrong. Tino's is a very welcome addition to the Madison family of restaurants!"



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MASTER SWIMMERS CELEBRATE AFTER SWIMMING TO AUSTRALIA!

Submitted by Barbara Rushman

While it is obvious that they didn't actually swim from New Jersey to Australia, 58 dedicated Madison area Masters Swimmers did amass sufficient "pool yards" in 2019 (22.9 million yards, or 13,025 miles) to swim the distance to Melbourne, Australia- with 3,000 miles to spare!

The Madison Area Masters is a friendly group that swims together at Drew University, the Madison YMCA, and other locations throughout the year. This is the sixteenth year that the swimmers have tracked their yardage.

The Masters group celebrated the impressive results recently at its 16th anniversary annual awards breakfast, with record participation. Hosted by longtime swimmers Bob Nissen and Joe Donohue at the Harding Township Library, the group celebrated not just its collective performance, but also team yardage (4 teams were established), and numerous outstanding individual achievements. During the year, many of the swimmers also compete in various Masters' swim meets, "open water" ocean races, and even triathlons, often winning medals and leading their age groups in performance.

Throughout 2019, each swimmer submitted his or her swim yardage on a monthly basis. The results were then tracked on a user friendly web site, so that swimmers could track total yardage and see how each was measuring up within the group. At the end of the year, the swimmer with the most yards is awarded the coveted "Doug Clark Championship Yardstick", named in honor of Doug Clark, a Yardstick program leader and

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elite swimmer who sadly passed away from a team total of more than 6.1 million yards. cancer in December, 2016. Every other swimmer in turn received a portion of a yardstick based on his or her performance as a percentage of the swimmer with the most yards.

This year's winner of the prestigious Yardstick for the second year in a row was Kim Plewa of Rahway, with an amazing total of 1,271,346 yards- or 722 miles! Others who exceeded the exceptional one-million yard level included Jennifer Bauman of Parsippany and Katheleen Coffey of Rockaway Township. All swimmers qualified for some piece of the yardstick. The Yardstick awards ceremony was the highlight of the breakfast.

The team competition was one of our closest ever and went down to the last month before a winner could be determined. Captain Debbie Goulian led the team "Got H2O?" to victory with

In addition to the Yardstick award and team competition, one swimmer was named "Bold Performer" of the year, for demonstrating improved performance, exceptional effort and a special commitment to the swimming program. This year's winner was Elizabeth Jennison of Morris Township.

The group is logging most of its yards at Drew University and the Madison YMCA but some swimmers use other local pools. Adult swimmers of all levels from beginners to experts are welcome to the Masters programs. Workouts are tailored to individual ability. Coaching is also available during some of the workouts.

By adding more swimmers this year and increasing individual yardage, we plan to go even further- maybe someday around the world! We hope we will "see you at the pool."



(above) Row 1: Bill Sulllivan, Cande Olsen, Joe Donohue, Bob Nissen, Yardstick Winner Kim Plewa, Lauren Wester-Garcia; Row 2: Juli Harpell-Elam, Debbie Goulian, , Nancy Wagner, Jim Sullivan, Diane Dinsmore, Richard Clew, Barbara Rushman; Row 3: Matt Gann, Kathleen Coffey, Barry Lass, Chachi Sabatino, Marcia Postallian, Melissa Griffe; Row 4: Bill Sjovoll. Bob Franks, Alan Vorhees, Barbara Wattenbach, , Irene Fisher, Dillard Kirby, Mike Iuzzolino, Deborah Fennelly, Jen Bauman, and Sarah Sangree.



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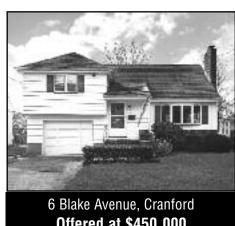
















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Fred Astaire, An American Icon

Tuesday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.

The presentation will discuss the legendary Astaire's life and work with illustration and film footage.

Irish Concert with Ian Gallagher Band

Saturday, March 7, 12:00 p.m. In honor of the holiday we will have an Irish band performing authentic Irish tunes!

Health Brain Aging

Tuesday, March 10, 3:00 p.m. Come learn what is considered to be normal aging. This lecture highlights the eight pillars that supports brain health and reduces the risk of cognitive decline as you age. Specific

strategies and activities will be discussed. **Introduction to Memoir Writing**

Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 p.m.

Join Creative License Publishing as they share the critical elements that make any memoir a "must read."

Women's Suffrage and the War

Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 p.m. In honor of Women's History Month, local author Carol Simon Levin, will present an indepth lecture on women's suffrage and their role in the war service.

Coffee 101: Journey From Seed to Cup Monday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.

A presentation on coffee's origins and journey from seed to cup followed by a tasting of 4 unique coffees from around the world!

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL **Pain and Glory**

Wednesday, March 18, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 19, 1:00 p.m. Pain and Glory tells of a series of reencounters experienced by Salvador Mallo, a film director in physical decline.

New Jersey Makers Day

Saturday, March 21, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. We will be showcasing some of the wonderful organizations and enrichment programs in Madison.

19th-Amendment -100th Anniversary

Monday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.

2020 marks the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guaranteed women the right to vote.

Wanted Dead or Alive: The Emerald Ash Borer Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive insect, is expected to kill 25 million ash trees in New Jersey alone.

ABCs of Organic Lawn Care

Monday, March 30, 7:00 p.m.

Switching to organic lawn care is safer for children and pets—and it saves homeowners time and money.

THURSDAY MORNING CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

Submitted by Cathy Gotliffe

The G.F.W.C. Thursday Morning Club (TMC) will be accepting scholarship applications from Madison High School seniors who will be graduating in June 2020. The TMC/MCH George Burroughs Scholarship was started back in 1986 to recognize the importance of volunteerism, good character and academic achievement. The primary focus is on volunteerism, over and above required volunteer service hours for church and school. The applications are reviewed by the Madison Community House Management Committee and are awarded at the Madison High School Senior Awards night.

The scholarship is a one time payment and the amount of the scholarship may vary. The applications must be completed by March 23, 2020 and returned to the Madison High School Guidance Office. An essay of up to 250 words in length on why you chose to volunteer and what you have gained from this experience is required. A letter from the primary volunteer supervisor, as well as your high school transcript is also required in order to have the application processed.

For additional information and questions, please call the Thursday Morning Club's Madison Community House at 973-377-0244 or email tmc@tmcmch.org.







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THURSDAY MORNING CLUB INVITES COMMUNITY TO PROGRAM ON COCO CHANEL IN MARCH

Submitted by Anne C. Meyer

General public, members and guests are welcome to join the Thursday Morning Club for a program and lunch following their March General Membership Meeting. Thursday morning, March 5 at 10:30 a.m. the program, "Coco Chanel: Milliner and Fashion Designer" will be presented by Monika Stebbins. The club's Catering Committee will offer a buffet lunch after the presentation for a cost of \$20 per person, payable at the door. The Thursday Morning Club is located at 25 Cook Ave., Madison, N.J.

The name Chanel has been synonymous with French couture for over 100 years. From her humble beginnings before the turn of the 19th century, her start in fashion as a milliner, through two world wars, scandal, espionage and to the rebirth of her brand, Coco Chanel has fascinated the world.

Monika Stebbins is a resident of Madison and the owner of Hat Shop Madison, now in its fifth

year. As a hat designer with classical millinery training, she loves creating art for the head as well as finding just the right hat for each head. Her interest in the history of millinery led her to her work as a co-curator for the Museum of Early Trades and Craft exhibit, "The Milliner's Tale: The Craft of Hat Making". She enjoys time with her family and friends, her pets, music and theatre, cooking, knitting, reading, and travel. She has been a fan of the fashion of Chanel for as long as she can remember.

Proceeds from the program will benefit the Madison Community House which is owned and operated by the Thursday Morning Club with its Community House PreSchool, Before and After School Child Care. Organized in 1896, the club is a member of the New Jersey State and General Federation of Women's Clubs.

For information about the Thursday Morning Club or membership, call the Community House at 973-377-0244 or visit TMCMCH.org.



(above) Monika Stebbins of Hat Shop Madison will present, "Coco Chanel: Milliner and Fashion Designer" on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at the Thursday Morning Club, 25 Cook Ave., Madison, N.J.

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For questions or additional information, contact Barry Kroll, Membership Development Chair, at

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