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Issue 57 • May 2020

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DONATES TO OVERLOOK HOSPITAL

Rotary International District 7475 is donating much needed critical care equipment to Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ to help with the COVID 19 Pandemic. They have raised \$34,000 to donate one Critical Care Bed to the ICU.

Overlook Hospital is renovating two additional floors to become ICU units, and is looking for funding to help purchase the equipment. They have ordered 20 Critical Care Beds, model Hillrom Progressa Bed System. The beds can be upgraded in the future and cost \$34,000 each. Website hillrom.com The beds have technology to help patients breath including percussive and vibration therapies. The hospital does not like to transfer patients between beds, because it increases the risk of nonsocomial infections, which means getting an infection in the hospital. Therefore, these beds are designed to be used in other therapeutic modalities. They are designed to be mobile- you can wheel them down the hall to other departments. The useful life of one of these high tech beds is 12 to 15 years. Each bed could potentially save thousands of lives.

The Rotary District 7475 consists of 82 Rotary Clubs representing 2000 Rotarians in 9 counties of northern New Jersey. Rotary is a business networking and service club of successful business men and women who want to give back to their community. There are 1.2 millions Rotarians in 166 countries around the world. Most of the Rotarians in the District donate to the International Foundation, which circulates the funds back for use in our local communities. Past District Governor Dr. D. Michael Hart is the Foundation Chair for the District. He was able to write a grant proposal which was matched by The Rotary International Foundation totaling \$34,000 to purchase one bed.

Rotary Global Grants require an international partner. District 7475 has done many Global Grants, typically 10 grants per year with many clubs and districts around the world. This is one of the first few grants done in the United States in the last 20 years. For this particular grant, the Rotary Club of Berwick, Victoria Australia is our international partner. Last year our New Jersey



(above) Rotary District 7475 Foundation Committee Chairs

District raised \$20,000 to help them with their wildfires which were out of control.

Dr. D. Michael Hart stated "The rest of the world thinks Americans are rich and do not need any help. This program is a good example of how Rotary International can help people right here in a time of crisis."

Dr. Hart recently wrote two other grants totaling \$100,000 to purchase 10 ventilators for the Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth, NJ and The RWJ Barnabas Hospital in Somerset, NJ. Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas is the largest health system in New Jersey with 15 hospitals. Overlook is part of the Atlantic Health System with 5 hospitals. Hospital chains share equipment as needed, or divert patients to open hospital wards as needed, so these donations will help the two largest health systems in New Jersey.

Rotary International is one of the premier charitable institutions in the world. They have been rated 100% for 11 years in a row by Charity Navigator, an organization which rates charities. Since 1985, Rotary has been working to eradicate Polio worldwide. Rotary raises \$50 million per year for the effort, and The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matches Rotary's fundraising efforts at a rate of 2:1. In other words, Gates contributes \$100 million per year. Rotary works in conjunction with The World Health Organization which can deal with the political issues in each country; Rotarians are the "boots on the ground" actually vaccinating the children; and the CDC and UNICEF help with funding. Polio has no cure and no treatment, but it does have a vaccine. The virus only lives in humans, so once it is eradicated, it will be gone forever. It predominately strikes children under the age of 5 years old and causes paralysis. FDR had polio as a child and was paralyzed for life. He started a charity to fight this disease in 1938. After his death, in 1946, his likeness was put on a dime and the slogan and name "The March of Dimes" was started for the fight against polio. Rotary has eradicated 99.9% of the cases in the entire world since 1985.

The Fanwood Scotch Plains Rotary Club meetings are held every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. at The Stage House Restaurant, Park Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ. For more information please visit fsprotary.org or on Facebook: Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club.



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mailed free to every home and business in Fanwood.

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Fanwood Post is published by Renna Media. 3,000 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Fanwood.

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

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

Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email editor@rennamedia.com

Fanwood Post is online at www.rennamedia.com like us on facebook.com/Fanwood Post

FANWOOD SENIORS CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY

On Monday, February, 9 2020, the Fanwood Seniors Club sponsored a luncheon. Prior to lunch the seniors had a great time playing Trivial Pursuit brought to them by Blue Cross Blue Shield.

"Each month I am trying to focus on different aspects of senior health, this month my goal for the club is to focus on the importance of Brain Health." said Senior Coordinator Dianne Howarth. "In my role as the Senior Coordinator, I am trying to get more of our local seniors to attend club meetings by hosting new and different guest speakers. In addition, I would like to make sure everyone in Fanwood knows that I am available at the Fanwood Police Department daily for senior social services as well as our social club."

For more information about the Fanwood Seniors Club, or to learn about upcoming events contact diannehowarth@fanwoodpolice.org or visit fanwoodnj.org.

Photo by Fanwood Seniors Club

Attorneys At Law



(above) Fanwood seniors and guest servers Lt. Francisco Marrero of the Fanwood Police Department and volunteer Diane Schweizer.



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ROTARY CLUB FIGHTS CORONAVIRUS THROUGH COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Submitted by Maria LaMorte-Wright The Rotary motto is "Service Above Self". When the Coronavirus pandemic began to impact local communities, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club put these words into action to provide service to those in need. They identified a three-tier plan to help the community: 1) SPF Resource Central- centralized information about local resources; 2) Fabric Masks and; 3) GoFundMe for the purchase of P100 masks for Overlook and meals for healthcare providers.

The first thing they did was establish SPF Resource Central, for people needing information about resources during the Coronavirus pandemic. Led by Deanna Dell Bene, they worked with the Borough of Fanwood and Township of Scotch Plains to become a key point of contact, and immediately created a list of resources (restaurants, food pantries, shopping assistance, prescription pickup, etc). When someone requests assistance, they'll be matched with, and referred to, the best resource.

Individuals and families who need assistance during this pandemic are asked to visit the Rotary website at fsprotary.org and fill out the Assistance Request Form with as much information as possible. A member of the FSP Rotary Club will reach out to review the request and will then use the information to identify the appropriate resources. If preferred, anyone can simply call the SPF Resource Central hotline to request assistance: 908-312-0687. So far, queries have been received for donations of fabric masks; request from Overlook nurses for phone chargers, extension cords, hair ties; request for assistance with food donations for IHM food pantry. The SPF Resource Central team worked with the YMCA in Scotch Plains, where bins were set up for collection and distribution of needed items.

At the same time, several members of the Rotary Club learned about the need for fabric masks and individually began sewing. They teamed up under the guidance of Carmela Resnick and formed a sewing group to provide masks for healthcare providers, the elderly and anyone at-risk. The group worked for days when they received a large request for 200 masks for a

local home healthcare provider. They've since restaurant gift card, simply call the SPF Resource delivered masks to Ashbrook nursing home, Trinitas (children's masks), El Centro, SP Senior housing, Brandywine Senior Living, SP Post Office, Fanwood Post Office, Overlook Hospital nurses (for home use), Fanwood Presbyterian, the YMCA, local doctors' offices, as well as individual requests from people at-risk. For information about masks, contact the SPF Resource Central hotline at 908-312-0687.

Finally, the FSP Rotary Club learned that Overlook wanted to acquire approximately 500-600 P100 filtering masks at a cost of about \$10,000. They created a GoFundMe to raise funds for these masks as well as meals for healthcare workers and first responders in Fanwood and Scotch Plains. Gift Cards will be purchased from local restaurants and delivered to healthcare workers and first responders who are nominated by the community. If you'd like to support the fundraiser, go to fsprotary.org and click the Donate button below the Coronavirus information. To nominate a someone to receive a

Central hotline at 908-312-0687 to provide information (who you're nominating, contact info, why you are nominating them).

In addition to the above initiatives, the Rotary Club has donated \$1,000 toward the P100 masks for Overlook Hospital, \$1,000 to El Centro, \$1,000 to Boxes of Hope, \$500 to the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, and \$500 to the Fanwood Rescue Squad. Other contributions are in progress, as they work to assist those with food insecurity. President Wayne Zuhl has been reporting progress during weekly Zoom meetings with club members. During one of the meetings, he commented, "I have never been more proud to be a Rotarian and a member of the greatest Rotary Club in the Universe!"

The Fanwood Scotch Plains Rotary Club meetings are held every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. at The Stage House Restaurant, Park Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ. For more information please visit fsprotary.org or on Facebook: Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club.





(above) Carmela Resnick collects fabric masks left on her porch by Rotarians on the sewing team. The masks are being made for healthcare providers, and those in need.



(above) Deanna Dell Bene takes a call from someone calling in to SPF Resource Central. Deanna leads this committee.



(above) Over 200 masks which were recently donated to a home healthcare provider.



(above) The Rotary Club's GoFundMe page



CALLING ALL GEEKS, NERDS, AND GAWKERS

Renna Media is putting a call out to the Geeks among us to appear on thier podcast Mind Your Own Local Business. The show will showcase local businesses and people who are starting or growing a business, especially those in creative fields or doing something they have a passion for. Owner, Joe Renna, started his business in 1984 as a graphic designer that grew his studio into a marketing and adverting company. Now, along with his wife Tina, publishes 21 community monthly newspapers mailing out 135,000 to every home and business.

Joe says "I started my business right out of college and thought I would get a job if it didn't work out. Its been thirty five years and I never looked back. I thank all those who mentored me along the way, experienced business owners who were generous with thier time and taught me best practices in running a businesses and the pitfalls to look out for."

As a way of paying it forward, Joe offers business and advertising advice to local business. This service is the focus of a new YouTube show. Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network is the YouTube Channel of Renna Media. Mind Your Own Local Business is the prime show. Its first episode will feature Katya Stec of Clark, New Jersey who launched her production company All Ages of Geek. Katya has teamed up with Renna Media made her platform, with over 100,000 subscribers, available to Renna Media advertisers and organizations.

Renna Media is recruiting businesses to participate, If your a Geek or just Geek curious, a variety of advertising opportunities exist, from product placement to fully customized shows. All online advertisers will also be featured in the Mind Your Own Local Business column in 135,000 newspapers!

To learn more call Joe Renna at 908-447-1295 or email him at joerenna@rennamedia.com.



KATYA STEC LAUNCHES ALL AGES OF GEEK

Geek culture knows no bounds. It crosses every social barrier and unites an eclectic group of people who share specific interests. The label, which usually is thrust upon a person, is now worn with pride. Geeks who historically existed at the fringes of the pop culture are now main stream. Their ranks are filled with regular folks. And the nerds of the baby boomer generation have joined the ranks.

The internet has given rise to a secret society. The image of a nerd playing video games in his parents' basement has been shattered. Geeks are among the masses, living, working, and playing next to regular folk. All Ages of Geek is a multimedia production company that speaks to them.

Katya Stec is a self-proclaimed geek from Clark, New Jersey who formed All Ages of Geek in 2019, with the core focus of producing content in tandem with the geek culture. She has been creating videos for eight years and has over 700 episodes posted on her website and on YouTube. She now has over 100,000 subscribers clocking over 20 million views!

Katya, who is a talented voice over artist and writer, is a product of home schooling where she was able to cultivated her interests. Now, at 26 years old, she has a career, doing what she loves.

Throughout 2020 All Ages of Geek will be traveling to several geek culture events, conventions, and expos. They aim at making some of the best high-quality content. At the same time, mass awareness and promotion campaigns would be in swing to set the base for their big launch in January 2021.

Katya has built a team of talented, creative fans who work together in producing podcasts and shows. All Ages of Geek has an article section on their website titled "This Just In." Their writers, who are from all parts of the world, submit weekly articles covering geek culture events, topics and all forms of creativity. Currently, they are also producing several video series and podcasts. The company is hopeful of churning out some of the best content and gathering a good base of loyal fans that would engage with the whole community and keep sharing their content to help them amass even more views, exposure, and popularity.

Katya says "Geek culture is what brings the world together. Despite our differences in race, religion, sexuality, and background. One thing is certain about geek culture, it unites us. All Ages of Geek's mission isn't just to entertain; it's to unite the geeks of all ages as part of an interactive community."

The company has a strong interactive community on YouTube and Twitch. The sense of community is both important and powerful and it does wonders when it comes to promoting the firm in the long run.

Their content spans different genres and caters to kids and adults alike. No doubt, if their vision manages to take the due shape, they are likely to become a massive hit among people, especially anime, video games and Dungeons and Dragons fans alike who would finally feel like they too truly belong.

All Ages of Geek has plenty of free content but viewers can access a lot more features by becoming paid members on Patreon or Twicth. They have over 300 members to date with a goal of 1,000 by 2021. They offer advertising opportunities, and their production team can produce original content for businesses and organizations.

To learn more about All Ages of Geek visit: allagesofgeek.com/

Email-id: pr@allagesofgeek.com Website: https://allagesofgeek.com





(above) Katya Stec on set in her home studio in Clark, New Jersey, where she produces shows for her All Ages of Geek broadcasts. Photo by Tatiana Szewczuk.





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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND GIRL SCOUTS JOINED FOR "VOTER GIRL"

Voters (LWV) and Girl Scouts worked together to present Voter Girl. Four of these events were held at the same time in four different New Jersey locations including Plainfield, Woodland Park, Brick Township and Pitman NJ.

Over 100 League of Women Volunteers from New Jersey and 50 elected officials participated as well. Numerous volunteers from the Girl Scouts and troop leaders rounded out the group that helped to bring this event alive for the over 500 Girl Scouts who participated.

This collaborative program between the LWV and the Girl Scouts provided a one-day class for Girl Scouts of all levels to earn citizenship badges through learning about civic engagement and advocacy. League of Women volunteer workshop leaders and a variety of elected officials who North Plainfield Councilwoman; Elizabeth

On March 7, 2020 the League of Women volunteered to participate empowered Girl Scouts to act on their right to vote, engage in civil debate and learn to be counted in the 2020 census.

> An introduction piece to the event was provided, questions were asked of a variety of elected officials who volunteered to appear for the event.

> At the Plainfield location, elected officials included: Joanne Rajoppi, Union County Clerk; Nancy Munoz, New Jersey General Assembly District 21; Mayor Colleen M. Mahr, Mayor of Fanwood; Ashley Davis, Plainfield Councilwoman; Joylette Mills, Plainfield Councilwoman; April Burke, Dunellen Councilwoman; Christine Faustini, South Plainfield Councilwoman; Keiona R. Miller, North Plainfield Councilwoman; Aimee Corzo,



(above) Girls Scouts earned badges and learned about civic engagement and advocacy

Stamler, Scotch Plains Councilwoman; Lynn Anderson-Person, Plainfield Board of ED; Catherine Gural, Township Committeewoman Montgomery Township; Veronica Taylor, Superintendent of the Division Parks & Recreation; and Lynda Carter, New Jersey General Assembly District 22.

Each age level then attended a workshop where the Girl Scouts completed a Citizenship badge including Behind the Ballot, Celebrating Community, Finding Common Ground and Inside Government.

At the Plainfield location, thanks to the Union County Board of Elections, the Girl Scouts cast ballots on the actual voting machines used in Union County. The girls voted (depending on their level) on issues dealing with the most important constitutional amendment, how to increase participation on election day, the best way to arrive at a decision, and the most important branch of government. All groups voted on whether to ban single use plastic bags in grocery stores.

A variety of community service groups also set up and distributed information for general knowledge including the US Census Bureau, local historical groups and the local Board of Health.

This was a wonderful opportunity for girls and women of all ages to see women who are actively engaged in making democracy work. This coincided with the 100th Anniversary of both the League of Women Voters and the passage of the 19th Amendment.





NJ PRIMARY ELECTIONS MOVED TO TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020

Executive Order 120 postpones primary elections on Tuesday, June 2 to Tuesday, July 7 in response to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Includes primaries for President, US Senate, US House of Rep, 25th District NJ Legislature, county and municipal elections.

Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi advised voters at risk to plan ahead and use a Vote-by-Mail ballot to participate in the upcoming Primary Election, in accordance with guidance from health officials regarding the coronavirus COVID-19.

"Persons at risk are being advised to avoid crowded situations and maintain social distance," said Ms. Rajoppi. "With the outbreak of COVID-19, there is all the more reason to use a Vote-by-Mail ballot and ensure your voice is heard on Election Day."

Under New Jersey state law, any eligible voter can use a Vote-by-Mail ballot. There is no requirement to provide a reason.

"Every Vote-by-Mail ballot is counted in every election, the same as for in-person voting," Ms. Rajoppi said.

Voters are advised to use Vote-by-Mail as a matter of routine, to avoid any unforeseen circumstances that could prevent them from voting in person on Election Day.

Voters who have never used a Vote-by-Mail ballot can apply for one now, by visiting the Clerk's elections website County at unioncountyvotes.com for a downloadable version. To have an application sent by mail, call the County Clerk's Elections Division at 908-527-4996.

After the Vote-by-Mail application is approved, the voter will receive their ballot prior to Election Day. This year, the Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, June 2 in New Jersey. The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3.

For more information about all County Clerk programs and services, visit online at ucnj.org/county-clerk or call 908-527-4787.



RECREATION OFFERS ONLINE PROGRAMS

recreation buildings and traditional classroom environments, Fanwood Recreation began offering weekly online programs via the Zoom app.

For the senior community, Fanwood Recreation offers Aerobics, Yoga, Zumba and Tai Chi/Qigong. Each of these programs requires a \$15 registration fee. For children and adults,

Recently, in response to the closure of Fanwood Recreation offers Karate Beginners class and Intro to Comic Book Illustration. Although both these programs are free, participants are required to register. More programs may have been added by the time you read this article.

> For more information about these programs and to register online, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.



LATEST "MIND YOUR OWN LOCAL BUSINESS" SHOWS

on Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network on YouTube





PLACE AN AD FOR FREE ON NJLOCALINFO.COM



Businesses are suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus crisis. Many have to change the way they do business. This is an open invite to post a FREE ad or press release on NJLOCALINFO.COM.

This is an easy, DO-IT-YOURSELF website.

- Register one time for free in three easy steps. and post your ads.
- Hit like to "Create Account" in nav bar in NJLOCALINFO.COM
- 2) Enter a "User Name" (one word) and Email address
- 3) Create password as per instructions

Use "Post an Ad" link and use the user interface to create an ad page. Follow four steps to upload text and images.

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- Up to 10 key words
- Links to YouTube videos and other websites
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 Choose from dozens of search classifications. Add Google Maps link
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 Each ad includes a unique email address keeping your address private Live Tracking!

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

CONTACT JOE FOR DETAILS 908-447-1295

joerenna@rennamedia.com Visit RennaMedia.com or NJLocalInfo.com

See how businesses and organizations are getting by during the Covid-19 crisis on Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network on YouTube.

RENNA MEDIA COLLABORATES WITH ALL AGES OF GEEK

Katya Stec reached out to Joe Renna of Renna Media when she was a teen exploring opportunities to express her creativity in his newspapers. Renna Media publishes twenty-one community newspapers and has an active web presence and social media network. Through the years, Katya has developed her own online media production platform and made her service available to Renna Media's readership and advertisers.

Renna Media has been in business since 1984. The focus of its publications is to promote community service organizations to a hyperlocal market. Joe and his wife Tina deliver marketing, advertising and publishing services to local businesses and organizations, in-print and on line. They have joined forces with NJlocalinfo.com to offer website, SEO and social media services. By collaborating with All Ages of Geek they are able to offer video production and hosting.

Joe admits he has Geeky tendencies and shared "I have many Geeks among the folks I deal with on a day to day basis. The Geek culture is prevalent and is revealed when you get to know collogues on a personal level. It would be fun to showcase businesses and people in my newspaper and in video. It is a great marketing tool and an ice breaker to connect businesses to like-minded customers."

Renna Media and All Ages of Geek has developed a simple inexpensive menu of production services for businesses to make a foray into online marketing. The all inclusive packages are:

- Product placement \$250
- 30 second commercial \$500
- 3 minute spot \$1,000
- 30 minute show \$1,500
- 3 hour shoot \$2,000

All videos will also be blasted though the an extensive social media network and the business will be featured in the newspapers, driving readers to the websites. The approach follows the model of Renna Media's newspapers: Delivering hometown community service news to a hyper-local audience, at affordable rates.

Businesses or organizations who would like more information or help with their marketing plans can call Joe Renna at 908-447-1295.

Email joerenna@rennamedia.com

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