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ELEVEN STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

Submitted by Denis Kelly

Eleven students in the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Class of 2021 have been named National Merit Semifinalists, according to information released by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) of Evanston, Ill.

The WHRHS Semifinalists are: Michael Horzepa, Victor Hu, Elizabeth Huang, Charles Margulies, Nora Mehler, Rohil Novani, Paulina Przybylski, Wesleu Tseng, Neha Venkatesh, Valerie Wang, and Tyler Wu.

WHRHS'S 11 National Merit Semifinalists this year are the latest of the 63 WHRHS students who have qualified as National Merit Semifinalists during the most recent seven school years. The year-to-year totals have been: Class of 2015 – 11; Class of 2016 – 6; Class of 2017 – 10; Class of 2018 – 15; Class of 2019 – 6; and Class of 2020 – 4, and Class of 2021 – 11.

As part of NMSC's annual national announcement, about 16,000 Semifinalists have been named in high schools across the country, and that from that number, about 15,000 are expected to be named National Merit Finalists in February.

Students who qualified as Semifinalists did so by taking the 2019 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in the Fall of 2019. The annual PSAT/NMSQT serves as an initial screening of program entrants.

"The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state," the NMSC's release states. "The number of Semifinalists is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors."

The release continues, "To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application in which they provide detailed information about the Semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, and write an essay."

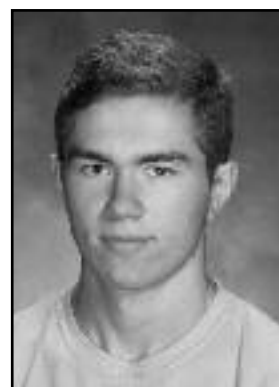
Semifinalists have the potential to compete for National Merit Scholarship awards, corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards, and college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards.



Nora Mehler



Wesley Tseng



Michael Horzepa



Neha Venkatesh



Charles Margulies



Elizabeth Huang



Paulina Przybylski



Rohil Navani



Tyler Wu



Valerie Wang



Victor Hu



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HOME SAFETY REPAIR PROGRAM TO HELP PEOPLE IN-NEED LIVE SAFELY

For many low-to-moderate income homeowners in Somerset and Hunterdon Counties, resolving critical home safety repairs is financially impossible. There are a significant number of residents who are living with water leaks and cold drafts due to failing roofs, doors and windows. Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity (RVHFH) has developed a new Home Safety and Repair Program with these residents in mind. RVHFH is actively seeking qualified Somerset and Hunterdon County homeowners in need of home safety repairs to apply for this program.

This program focuses on helping local homeowners to continue to live independently, safely and comfortably in their homes. RVHFH's Home Safety and Repair Program serves low-to-moderate income homeowners of any age including veterans, people with disabilities and seniors. The program also assists non-profit organizations that offer permanent or temporary shelter.

Program projects have included: leaky roof repairs, weatherizing and increasing security of aging doors and windows, and home modifications and ramp installations for people with disabilities. One homeowner served by the program in Somerset says, "A volunteer installed a screen door and fixed the lock on my front door. Now my home is secure and water no longer comes in. I am so grateful and finally warm in my home."

Ramp installations are a crucial part of what RVHFH does for the safety of those in wheelchairs. A recent program recipient was a local non-profit organization that needed a ramp built for the people they serve. The Executive Director there commented, "We truly appreciate the professional work of Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity. They built a beautiful ramp to make our building accessible for all clients."

Other program services help senior residents "age in place." Most seniors want to stay in their homes but many need to make costly repairs or improvements in order to do this. According to a family served by our program, "The Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity team who came out



to install grab bars for my mom were like angels sent from heaven."

"We truly appreciate the support we've received for this important program from volunteers and donors in our community, particularly Provident Bank Foundation and NJM Insurance Group, and look forward to expanding our impact in helping more people to have a decent place to live in Somerset and Hunterdon Counties," says Jan Holmstrup, Executive Director of RVHFH.

If you or someone you know is low-to-moderate income and in need of home safety repairs, RVHFH's website has specific income qualification criteria to review and a program application to fill out, at the following link: rvhabitat.org/projects-programs/home-safety-repair/. Interested program applicants can also leave a message at 908-704-0016, ext. 12 and a trained program volunteer will return the call.

This program and others like it could not exist without the support of people in the community. To make a donation to RVHFH, please visit rvhabitat.org or write a check payable to Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity and send to P.O. Box 6275, Bridgewater, NJ 08807.

Seeking to put God's love into action, Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity (RVHFH) brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. In 29 years, RVHFH has built 53 homes in Hunterdon and Somerset counties. The affiliate also operates a Habitat ReStore in Manville, which is a store that sells gently used household goods to benefit the building and repair of more homes in our community. To learn more, visit rvhabitat.org or call 908-704-0016.

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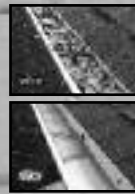
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RETIRING WHRHS STAFFERS THANKED FOR THEIR SERVICE



(above) According to a resolution adopted by the WHRHS Board of Education, for the past 28 years, Front Office Support Staffer Elaine Azar has provided WHRHS students "attentive assistance, always with a smile on her face," interacted with parents and the community "in a positive, engaging, and supportive, manner," and has earned the respect and admiration of others for her "empathy, thoughtfulness, and emotional intelligence."



(above) WHRHS Mathematics Teacher Laurie Shoemaker started working at WHRHS in September 1982. "She has been noted for her commitment to education, strong bonds with students and staff, unmatched passion for mathematical instruction, and sense of humor," according to the board's resolution. Continuing, the resolution states, "because of her expertise as a learner, her knowledge of Mathematics, and her ability to motivate all levels of students, she has been invaluable to the school as a whole;" and "she is a life-long learner whose ability to continue both her and her students' knowledge of technology, mathematics, and the art of learning."



(above) Marianne Sales, the WHRHS Director of Special Services, is retiring this year after a 36-year career in education, including 31 at WHRHS. "During my tenure at Watchung Hills, I have had the great pleasure to participate in the educational program in a number of roles: Director of Special Services, Transition Coordinator, Supervisor of Special Services, Special Education Teacher, Marching Band Marching Front Advisor, All School Council Advisor, and Grade Level Advisor," she said.



(above) Barbara "Bobbi" Vargo, who was first employed by WHRHS in August 1991, and who has served the school district as attendance clerk and secretary to the vice principal, "has been a highly effective professional whose trustworthiness, commitment, and institutional knowledge have been the cornerstones of her career at Watchung Hills," according to the board. She retired in December.



(left) Susan Jaslove was first employed by WHRHS in October 2010 as a Culinary Arts teacher. The resolution calculates, "her expertise and passion for children have influenced more than 2,000 students and spanned more than 14,000 class lessons over 10 years."

Photos by WHRHS

Submitted by Denis Kelly

The Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Board of Education acknowledged the retirement of several staffers with resolutions adopted at its meeting on Tuesday, June 16.

Among them are: Front Office Support Staffer Eliana Azar, Culinary Arts Teacher Susan Jaslove, Director of Special Services Marianne Sales, School Bus Driver Herbert Schulz Jr., Mathematics Teacher Laurie Shoemaker, and Attendance Clerk and Secretary to a Vice Principal Barbara Vargo.

Not picture is Herbert Schulz, who was first

employed by WHRHS in September 1994, and for the past 29 years he has served professionally as a school bus driver, according to the board's proclamation. "He has garnered the respect and admiration of those who interacted with him for his loyalty to our students and staff; and he has had an impeccable driving record," the resolution notes. Schulz has "demonstrated his commitment to our students by providing transportation for clubs, sports and field trips. His dedication to our district has been outstanding and he has served with honesty and integrity."

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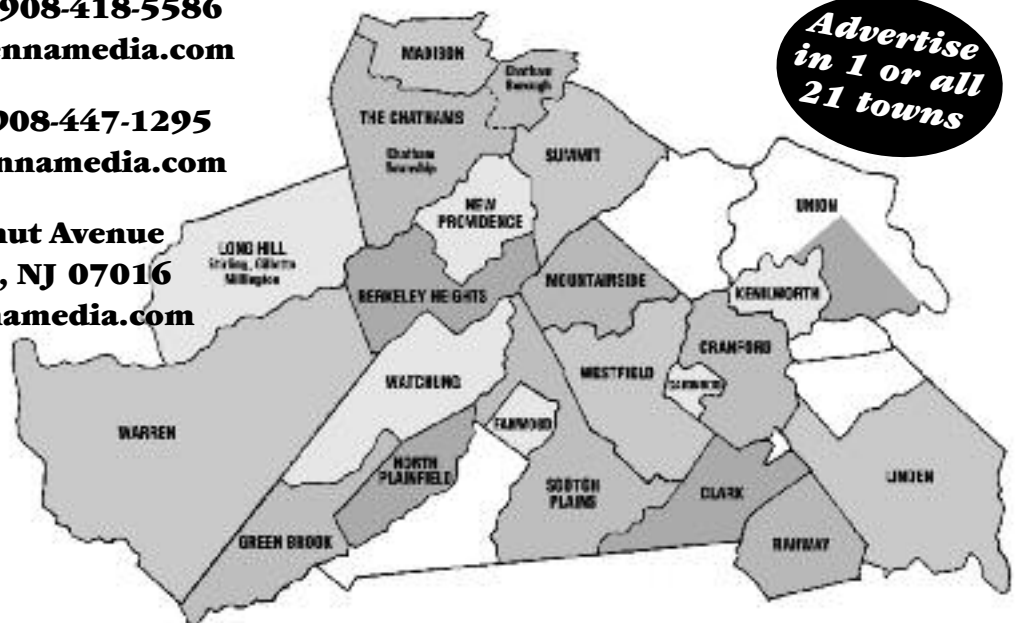
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All programs listed are free. Registration is required unless otherwise indicated. Programs are subject to change. All programs are virtual unless otherwise indicated. Visit sclsnj.libnet.info/events.org for SCLSNJ's complete calendar of events. For questions contact SCLSNJ staff at ask@sclsnj.org.

ALL AGES AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

Rutgers Afro-Cuban Ensemble - A Virtual Concert (all ages): October 2, 6-7 p.m. This program was made possible by funds from the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the New Jersey Historical Commission. For more: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4481062.

Trekking Through Mexico (families)

October 5, 7-7:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4478507.

Family Night (families with children)

Book Page Leaves: October 15,
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4490866.

Graham Cracker Haunted Houses

October 29, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4497237.

CHILDREN AND TEENS

Baby and Toddler Storytime

(ages birth - 3 years and parents/caregivers)

October 1, 10-10:30 a.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4475925.

Storytime With a Leader - Gandhi (families)

October 3, 11-11:45 a.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4500591.

The Sorcerer's Apprentice (grades 3-8)

October 3, 1-1:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4303640.

Music With Miss Donna

(ages birth - 5 years and caregivers)

10:30-11 a.m. Register now:

October 6: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4362951.

October 20: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4362957.

American Sign Language Storytime

(ages birth - 5 years and caregivers)

October 9, 10:30-11 a.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4362980.

Kids Chat: Family History (families)

October 12, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4489944.

Explore Art - Hispanic Heritage Month

Letters of La Palma (grades 1-5)

October 13, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4503712.

Teen Paint Night - Watercolor Spooky Tree

(grades 6-12)

October 14, 7-8:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4490108.

English-Spanish Bilingual Storytime

(ages 3-7 years and parents/caregivers)

October 21, 5:30-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4493895.

Young Adult Crossover Club - "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen (grades 6-12)

October 27, 6-7 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4495306.

Skeleton X-Ray (grades 3-4)

October 28, 4-4:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4497210.

ADULTS

Creating a Dynamic Job Portfolio - Presented by Jan Goodman

October 1, 7-8:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4498376.

Virtual Book Salon - Traditionally hosted at the North Plainfield branch

October 7, 2-3 p.m.

"The Hound of Baskervilles

by Arthur Conan Doyle

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4520463.

Virtual Book Salon - Traditionally hosted at the Warren Twp. branch

October 8, 1:30-3 p.m.

"Rules of Civility" by Amor Towles

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Business Databases -

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October 13, 2-3 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4497313.

Remember the Ladies:

A Brief History of Our First Ladies

October 14, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4376208.

Halloween's Haunted History -

Presented by Kevin Woyce

October 19, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4382780.

Job Skills Needed Today

October 21, 2-3 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4501311.

The Psychological Control of Superstitions - Presented by Carlotta Holton

October 21, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4421543.

Making Sense of Fake News -

Presented by William Westhoven

October 22, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4436473.

The Origins of Halloween and Witches -

Presented by Jeff Kampf

October 27, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4479143.

Hail to the Chief -

A Brief History of the American Presidents

October 29, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4376225.



(above) Cyprian and Blaise Gallic, safely checked out their library materials while wearing masks. The Gallic family of Warren Twp. recently visited the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Watchung Library branch. During their visit the family explored the Library's collections, connected with SCLSNJ staff, and discovered contact-free checkout stations. Even though the Library's doors are open, if you prefer to travel digitally and #BeSafeAtHome, explore SCLSNJ's digital collections, resources, and more: sclsnj.org/besafeathome.



(above) Theodore Gallic holding a picture book while sporting a mask.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATE TRAINING – VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

A 40-Hour Domestic Violence Advocate training for Safe+Sound Somerset volunteers provides an understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse, options available to individuals who experience abuse, and a philosophy of empowering survivors. Safe+Sound Somerset

offers this training in the Spring and Fall of each year. Our fully remote Fall session will begin in October and run for ten weeks. To apply for Fall 2020 or Spring 2021, please complete a volunteer interest form at safe-sound.org/volunteer.

Safe+Sound Somerset is the lead domestic

violence agency in Somerset County. Our mission is to prevent domestic violence and empower victims by providing protection, education, and resources. All services for victims are confidential and free of charge. For more information call 908-359-0003.

Thank you to all my clients who continue to refer me to their family and friends.
It is truly my pleasure and honor to have represented so many Green Brook residents throughout my career and I look forward to helping many more.
I do not measure success through awards and designations, but through the satisfaction of my clients. I believe that if you have not received superior customer service, then I haven't done my job. Whether you are downsizing, moving up or moving out of the area, I can help you.
Feel free to call me anytime for a no-obligation, confidential conversation.

 **BEST OF ZILLOW**

Roseann reached her 100th 5-Star review!



**Roseann
OKeefe**
Realtor-
Associate®

Total expert in the market, she knows the whole area inside out and has an amazing network to solve problems and move the deal on.

- Matt W. sold in Green Brook

Roseann's level of professionalism, expertise, knowledge and responsiveness are simply outstanding. She is a remarkable agent, with extensive market knowledge, always there to respond to texts regardless the time of day or being 1 step ahead in ensuring that the process is smooth and progressing on schedule. She is simply amazing at what she does and would highly recommend her to family and friends.

- Maria M. sold in Green Brook & purchased in Freehold

I had the sincere pleasure of working with Roseann on the sale of my home. She made herself available day and night and was very helpful every step of the way. I'm so grateful to her and her staff for their hard work. Would definitely use her again.

- Nancy C. sold in Green Brook

Direct: 908.720.9205
Office: 908.325.5000
Email: RO@RoseannOKeefe.com
RoseannOKeefe.com

Roseann is a true professional who has a caring, knowledgeable approach to her work. She goes the extra mile to help clients with the often tough process of buying and/or selling a home.

- Bobby L. sold & purchased in Green Brook

To see all my reviews: [Zillow.com/profile/roek/#reviews](https://www.zillow.com/profile/roek/#reviews)



**102 TOWN CENTER DRIVE
WARREN, NJ 07059**



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1 Bayview Terrace, Green Brook
New kitchen and all hardwood floors
4 Beds / 3.1 Baths / \$799,000



1 Bradley Ct, Green Brook
Prime location w/sunset views
4 Beds / 4 Baths / \$849,900



60 Ridge Road, Green Brook
Meticulously updated colonial w/ in-law suite
6 Beds / 4.1 Baths / 3 Car Garage / \$905,000



3 Oak Lane, Green Brook
Resort-like w/spectacular view and Gunite pool
5 Beds / 5.2 Baths / \$1,425,000

*Each office is independently owned and operated. If your home is listed with another broker, this is not intended as a solicitation. All above reported transactions are located in Green Brook, NJ