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## **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE ACADEMIC RECOGNITIONS**

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### 9 Quine Street, Cranford, NJ



Submitted by Mary Ann McGann

Westfield High School students continue to be recognized for academic excellence in a number of different areas. The district recently announced seniors Grace Endy, Samantha Salz, and Maxwell Scialabba as National Merit Semifinalists, as well as nine 12th graders recognized for their exceptional academic promise as Commended Students in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program: Kyle Azzaretto, Karan Chulliparambil, Olivia Ebel, Jonathan Keenan, Mira Mehta, Sophia Nazzaro, Aprina Wang, Benjamin Zakharenko, and Kailey Zhao.

Additionally, Westfield High School senior Mira Mehta recently earned the Academic All American Award from the National Speech and Debate Association. Fewer than 1% of the more than 141,000 student members of the association earn this prestigious award every year. The award recognizes academic rigor, competitive speech and debate success, and personal excellence.

Westfield High School students also performed well on the August 29 SAT, earning perfect scores in the following subject areas:

- Conor Daly, 11th grade Math
- Vijay Sreenivasan, 11th grade Math
- Justin Shen, 12th grade Math Level 2
- Lillian Qin, 11th grade Biology-M and Chemistry





(above) Senior Mira Mehta earned the Academic All American Award from the National Speech and Debate Association.



(above) 11th grader Lillian Qin earned a perfect score on the Biology-M and Chemistry subject tests of the August 29 SAT.

<sup>2</sup>hotos by Westfield Public Schools





(above) Westfield High School 11th grader Vijay Sreenivasan (left) earned a perfect score on the August 29 SAT on the math subject test and 12th grader Justin Shen received a perfect score on the Math Level 2 subject test.





(above, l-r) Senior Grace Endy, a 2021 National Merit Semifinalist and 11th grader Conor Daly who received a perfect score on the Math subject test of the August 29 SAT.



(above, l-r) Westfield High School seniors Samantha Salz and Maxwell Scialabba are 2021 National Merit Semifinalists.



Westfield MONTHLY • Page 2 • November 2020



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## WSL EXPRESSES GRATITUDE FOR GRANT FROM THE WESTFIELD FOUNDATION

On behalf of the Westfield Service League, we wish to publicly thank the Westfield Foundation for funding our roof grant request earlier this year. We were honored and thrilled that the Foundation selected our project, especially during these fiscally challenging times when there is such a tremendous community need.

Without a stable roof, our shops could not open and we could not fulfill our mission to the community. The grant amount allowed for our entire roof replacement and ensures the safety of our house and business for many years to come.

The Westfield Service League offers a three-

fold service opportunity to the community: discounted merchandise for our shoppers, grants for local non-profit organizations, and a volunteer opportunity for residents in and around Westfield. We determined our roof was in dire need of repair.

Thank you for allowing us to continue to give back to our Westfield and Union County agencies.

Thank you for all you do for our community! With gratitude,

Linda Heroux and Rosann LiVolsi WSL, Co-Presidents

## **CASA TO CELEBRATE WESTFIELD UNITED FUND**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County, the nonprofit that serves as extra eyes and ears for judges in family court cases involving abused, neglected and abandoned children removed from home and placed in foster care, will hold their annual Foster the Dream Gala on Saturday, Nov. 14.

This year's event – the single-largest fundraiser responsible for the lion's share of the organization's funding – has gone virtual due to Covid-19. Traditionally an affair with cocktail attire, dinner, dancing, and live and silent auctions, this year's gala will be special in its own right, and all are invited to attend from the comfort of their own couch. Plans include surprise celebrity appearances, auction items, award presentations, a former Union County foster youth sharing her story, and more.

This year's Honorable Jo-Anne B. Spatola Dream-Maker Award will go to Westfield United Fund, a grassroots organization fueled, like CASA, by volunteers. For more than 80 years its focus has been helping vulnerable neighbors as well as small-but-mighty nonprofits working in the trenches. Thanks to Westfield United Fund and other longtime supporters, CASA of Union County's growth continues, with expanded trainings and implementation of a model that vastly increased the number of youth served without impacting staff size.

For details on how to attend and to participate virtually, log on to www.fosterthedream.org.





# **ROTARY CLUB OF WESTFIELD AWARDS PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS**

#### Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart

The Rotary Club of Westfield honored two club members at their first in-person meeting since March at the Deutscher Club in Clark on September 24. Rotarians Burim Regjaj and Joe Mindak were each awarded with a Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of exemplifying Rotary's motto of "Service above Self." Burim recently joined Rotary and has already jumped in by heading up Westfield Rotary's service project helping the homeless vets at Community Hope Shelter at Lyons VA. Burim is owner of Outta Hand Pizza on South Avenue and offers a free slice and drink to any vet who visits the pizza shop. Since the beginning of the pandemic Burim has been busy preparing and delivering meals to



(above) Paul Harris Fellow award recipients Joe Mindak and Burim Regjaj pictured with his daughter

frontline workers at Overlook Hospital and area hospitals and medical facilities. He was also instrumental in delivering meals to area families who relied on Rotary for assistance during the quarantine. In the Westfield Club, Joe serves on the board of directors and oversees publicity for the club. Last year he launched the club's first sponsorship program and is also responsible for launching the Annual Art Auction fundraiser for the club. His

Burim came to the US in 1992 after escaping the war in former Yugoslavia and considers himself lucky to be an example of the "American success story." According to Burim, "Only in America can a foreigner with learning disabilities be accepted as an equal in their community, given the chance and the help necessary to become a productive member of society."

Joe Mindak has been a Rotarian since 2010, joining Rotary in Hoboken where he used to live and serving two times as president of the Hoboken club. Joe joined the Westfield Rotary club when he and his family moved here in 2017. Joe considers that his biggest accomplishment as a Rotarian happened during his 2nd year as club president of Hoboken Rotary when they took on the challenge of redeveloping a broken down American Legion Hall. Under his leadership, they were able to raise \$1 million and persuade the city to donate land to build what is now a brand new American Legion with 6 units of housing for homeless veterans. "This is the first of its kind for the American Legion in the country," says Joe. "My goal is to take this model out to other Rotary clubs so we can help those who have served our country and provide them with housing."

In the Westfield Club, Joe serves on the board of directors and oversees publicity for the club. Last year he launched the club's first sponsorship program and is also responsible for launching the Annual Art Auction fundraiser for the club. His latest fundraising program, painted pallets of American flags, peace signs, and motivational messaging has raised over \$6,500 for Westfield Rotary and over \$14,000 for the local businesses in Westfield, which provided financial assistance during the quarantine.

Paul Harris founded Rotary in 1905 with the idea to create a network of local business people to support each other's business while also providing service to the community. Today Rotary is a worldwide service organization with over 1.2 million members. "To receive a Paul Harris is a great honor for a Rotarian," says club president Liz Ensslin. "Both Burim and Joe have made great contributions to our club in the short time they have been members. They both exemplify what being a Rotarian is all about caring for others, their community and a commitment to improving the world in which we live. They are most deserving of being recognized for all they do for our club and greater community."

To learn more about Westfield Rotary, please visit westfieldrotary.com and visit us on Facebook at Rotary Club of Westfield, NJ. If you are interested in joining Rotary, please email membership from our website.





After graduating from medical school, Dr Somma served his internship in Internal Medicine at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. He then completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Seton Hall Post Graduate School of Medicine, where he was elected Chief Resident of Internal Medicine in his final year.

Dr. Somma has been in practice in Union and Middlesex counties for over 20 years, with an emphasis on excellence and compassion for his patients. He has served as the physician for the Elizabeth Fire Department, the Board of Health of Hillside and has served the Board of Education for Woodbridge NJ. He was granted the Humanitarian of the Year Award by Trinitas Health Foundation in May 2014, for his dedication to the community and his outstanding service to the goals of the Foundation.

Dr. Somma has special interests in various fields of Internal Medicine, including diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases and arthritis/rheumatology. He has represented to major pharmaceutical companies, such as Schering-Plough and Pfizer, in a consulting and educational role for his peers. Dr. Somma has been a clinical educator for Seton Hall's Physician Assistant Program and is an Associate Professor of Medicine for their Internal Medicine program.



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# WESTFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING WELCOMES WESTFIELD POLICE

Submitted by Carezza Motley

The Westfield Police Department's newlyestablished Juvenile/Community Policing Bureau, operating under the direction of Detective Sergeant Lauren Maloney, has commenced its "Coffee with the Cops" tour at Westfield Senior Housing. Westfield Senior Citizens Housing was delighted to welcome the Westfield Police Department to engage with our seniors in a socially distanced setting. The Westfield Police officers brought coffee, donuts and a variety of safety items.

The Westfield Police Department's Juvenile/Community Policing Bureau was established by Chief Christopher Battiloro on August 1, 2020. It seeks to focus its efforts on ensuring the safety and well-being of not just juveniles, but all of Westfield's most vulnerable

populations – to include senior citizens and those with special needs. It also endeavors to build strong working relationships and community.

Elizabeth Fennik, Executive Director of Westfield Senior Citizens Housing, was pleased that this event was a success. "Our organization was happy that the Westfield Police were finally able to visit us this Fall. This event at our location was a joint effort of the Westfield Police Department, Lifelong Westfield (the Mayor's Seniors Advisory Council), and Westfield Senior Citizens Housing. It was a wonderful opportunity for our seniors to have a 'meet and greet' with the officers and receive valuable information in regards to their safety."

Brad Chananie from Lifelong Westfield said,

"Our Council looks forward to assisting the WPD in any way that we can."

Westfield Senior Citizens Housing, located at partnerships with all segments of the Westfield 1133 Boynton Avenue, Westfield, NJ, was planned and built by the Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corporation (non-profit). The facility was under discussion and planned for over ten years, and evolved from efforts by several Westfield churches and a series of study committees appointed by and reporting to Mayors of the Town. Construction of the 172 unit complex commenced in September of 1976.

> Second Westfield Senior Citizens Housing opened in October 1995 and was developed under the Westfield Senior Citizens Urban Renewal Partnership. It is comprised of 131 rental units.



(above, l-r) Elizabeth Fennik, Exec. Dir. WSCHC; Det. Elizabeth Savnik; Chief Christopher Battiloro; Officer Tiffany Kenny; Officer Ricardo Johnson; Det. Sgt. Lauren Maloney; Brad Chananie, Lifelong Westfield.



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# THANK TEACHERS WITH LAWN SIGNS

Submitted by Tamra Feldman

The Westfield Education Fund (WEF), a nonprofit that aims to be a driver for innovation in the Westfield Public Schools, is encouraging families to display lawn signs as a public thank you to teachers and students for being true heroes in this challenging year. With timing anchored around Thanksgiving, the WEF is hoping to spread a positive sentiment throughout the community at a trying time.

"We see the incredible energy and dedication teachers are committing to make this challenging year an effective one, and wanted to find a way to publicly recognize these efforts," said Nicole Breslow, President of the WEF. "We see it as a double win to have created a vehicle to allow the community to applaud teachers while simultaneously giving back to our schools. It will be so touching and meaningful to see this common sentiment of thanks spread throughout our town."



Signs are two-sided: "THANKFUL for our teachers!" on one side and "Support our Westfield Schools" on the other. Local mom and Westfield resident Tracey Edelstein designed the signs. Signs are \$30 each. All proceeds fund innovation for the schools. Signs are available for purchase at: westfieldedfund.org/lawn-signs.

With the proceeds from the sale of these signs, the WEF will fund grants to strengthen and enrich students' academic experience. For instance, during 2020-2021, WEF is funding nearly \$40,000 to sponsor the Racial Literacy Initiative, impacting all schools in the district. In 2019-2020, WEF funded improvements to the design and engineering classrooms at each of the intermediate schools. Historically, a significant portion of grant making has focused on funding various technology tools to integrate into instruction. Schools across the district have received Makerspace materials, Chromebooks, iPads, computers, printers, interactive projectors, document cameras, and camcorders to support student learning, all funded by WEF.

#### ABOUT WESTFIELD EDUCATION FUND (WEF)

WEF is run by a Board of Directors comprised of Westfield parent volunteers and was established in 1991 by community members, in partnership with the school district and Board of Education. It supports innovative projects that strengthen and enrich students' academic experience but fall beyond the school district budget. Visit westfieldedfund.org to learn more about the WEF and its mission "to promote a culture of innovation and enrich students' academic and social emotional learning". WEF is a non-profit and relies completely on donations from the community to fund such initiatives.



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Westfield MONTHLY • Page 9 • November 2020



# **COLLEGE WOMAN'S CLUB OF WESTFIELD AWARDS 2020 SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### Submitted by Ingrid McKinley

The College Woman's Club of Westfield awarded \$40,000 in Scholarships at its Annual Meeting via a live teleconference event. The awards were presented to six young women from Westfield to help them pursue their college education. The recipients were selected based on academic achievement, community service, and financial need.

#### THE CLASS OF 2020 RECIPIENTS:

Annabella Cerria received both the Past Presidents' Scholarship and a College Woman's Club Scholarship totaling \$8,000. Ms. Ceria plans on studying Classics or Political Science at The University of St. Andrews, in St. Andrews, Scotland.

Emily Ensslin received the College Woman's Club Scholarship for \$11,000. Ms. Ensslin will attend Northeastern University in Boston to study nursing.

Emma Karp received the College Woman's Club Scholarship for \$11,000. Ms. Karp plans to study entrepreneurship at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

Theresa Lizzo received both the Eva Wiley Scholarship and the College Woman's Club of Westfield Scholarship totaling \$5,000. Ms. Lizzo will major in Speech Pathology/Communications Sciences and Disorders at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Remi Shendell received the Freshman Grant in Memory of Katherine Jaruzelski for \$2,000. Ms. Shendell plans to major in Biology and will be attending Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

Julia Singer received the Freshman Grant in Memory of Jane Orto for \$3,000. Ms. Singer will be attending Villanova University in Philadelphia in the fall.

The College Woman's Club of Westfield has awarded over \$1M in scholarships since 1995. The CWC is proud to acknowledge this outstanding group of young women as well as our past recipients. Applications for the scholarship are available through the Westfield High School guidance department in February of each year and are evaluated by a committee of CWC members each spring. Funds for the scholarships come from community donations, membership dues, interest on investments and legacies from our members.

Pictures from the Scholarship teleconference event, as well as more information about who we are and what we do, is available on our website, cwclubwestfield.org, or our Facebook page, College Woman's Club of Westfield. Feel free to contact the College Woman's Club directly by email at: cwc.westfield@gmail.com.

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## **HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR MEETS LMA STUDENTS**

#### Submitted by Eugene Bell

Holocaust survivor Peter Stein recently met with the students and faculty of Westfield's Lamberts Mill Academy (LMA) to share his experiences about living through the Holocaust. Mr. Stein spoke of his struggles and loss of family growing up as a young boy in German occupied Czechoslovakia. As he told his story the students were captivated by his recollections. He was born to parents of a mixed marriage - his father Jewish and his mother Catholic. As the terror grew, he identified with his mother to find some level of protection. Frequently his father was taken to do hard labor at Terezin without any notice. Most of his father's family were murdered there during the war.

He shared his fear on the days that Germany moved in to occupy – how their country and his life went from carefree to fearful. His childhood images were filled with the sight of soldiers and equipment constantly moving around the city. He told of the affirmations he was meant to give every day at school to Adolph Hitler and the propaganda rallies they had to attend on a weekly basis to boost German morale. He spoke of the class bully who targeted him by calling him a dirty Jew and his fear that this might reveal his true background.

Mr. Stein also spoke of hope as he talked about the spirit of his people and their aspirations for a better future. He also highlighted other parts of his childhood – his meals with his Catholic grandparents where food was plentiful while at home there was rationing and a struggle to have enough to eat. He also told of the times that they secretly listened to the BBC on Sunday nights despite the German's radio jamming. He said this always gave them hope as the Allies moved closer.

After his presentation, several students and faculty asked questions. These ranged from his

levels of fear, what it was like to survive a bombing, and if he still believed in God. He noted that he was among the lucky as he and his mother were able to immigrate to the US after the war and establish a life in a free country. He emphasized several times how lucky we are to live in the US where we are free. Two students told Mr. Stein he was a hero for living through the terror and sharing his feelings with young people.

The assembly was part of the school's history program that brings history to life for its students. Lamberts Mill Academy is one of five special needs schools sponsored by the Union County Educational Services Commission, a public-school district headquartered in Westfield, NJ, to serve the needs of students in Union County and nearby towns.

Further details about LMA or the other schools may be gathered by calling their offices at 908-233-9317.



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#### Westfield MONTHLY • Page 14 • November 2020



## **VISION LOSS ALLIANCE OFFERS FREE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS**

able to offer FREE virtual wellness classes, peer support groups and technology-focused offerings over Zoom thanks to a grant from the Grotta Fund for Senior Care. Anyone who has low vision in New Jersey, as well as out-of-state residents, can participate.

VLANJ offers virtual classes in managing grocery shopping, yoga, Zen, meditation and mindfulness. Additionally, their tech talk classes help people understand their tech devices and how to use them to connect to online events. The classes have been a hit, helping people with vision loss stay active, learn skills and connect socially.

Vision Loss Alliance of New Jersey is a nonprofit organization serving people who are blind or have low vision. Through the group's

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Vision Loss Alliance of New Jersey will be programs, participants learn skills that allow them to manage their lives, and create a welcoming community in which they feel safe and supported.

The Grotta Fund provides its grantees with opportunities for technical assistance, learning, and networking with other non-profits. In turn, grantees are encouraged to promote the results of their grant, leverage funding, and sustain programs which have been funded by Grotta. The fund is administered through the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater MetroWest NJ.

То Register for Classes visit https://www.vlanj.org/programs/

The post Vision Loss Alliance's Virtual Classes Get a Boost from Grotta Fund first appeared on Morris County, NJ.



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chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the endless trial and error assertment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in these suffering from knee prin related to esteenthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough. Call Northeast Spine & Wellness Center now far a RISK FREE consultation.

#### If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

Have you have been told you are facing knee replacement surgery? Have you been told about all the downsides you could be facing? First and foremost, there are NO guarantees that knee replacement surgery will be the answer to your pain, tut let's look further.

Surgery is easily, regardless of the percentage of services covereil by insurance. Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of reliabilitation and medications.

With surgery, there is always a risk for anwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.

Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down their most before. Addictions to these pirm medications can cause potential side effects, something you do not want to experience.

Rehabilitation can take years.

#### Consider This Alternative To Surgery Northeast Spine & Wellness Center offers you a real opportunity

and a painless way to say geodbye to your knee pain without any surgery. Here are just a few of the important benefits you should consider?

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There are a number of rensons why you developed Oscoarihmis pain. It can develop with age or because of heredity. It could be from repetitive stress from a job or some glory days in athletics. Of course your concern is with the symptoms you face daily and how to make them end, hopefully without surgery or the use of potentially addictive medications. Northeast Spine & Wellness Center understands the symptoms you have been

living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

+ Pain - Whether it's a sharp aching or maybe a burning sensation, the pain can range from irritating to debilitating.

· Swelling - This can cause tenderness and soreness to the entire knee area, making walling or going up and down stairs painful, getting in and out of bed or bathtubs. difficult and dangerous just name a few activities affected by sweiting.

· Stiffness - Getting up out of hed or after sitting for a period of time gets more and more difficult. This loss of mobility can be more than a hindrance. It can be dangerous if you need to move quickly.

. Loss of muscle strength - This can lead to balance issues and the strong possibility of failing.

· Joint deformity - Not just unsightly, but painful as well. · Creaking Joints - Can be prinfid and a sign of more disconfert to come

· Sleepless nights - Losing sleep over your suffering is not just irritating, but prientially dangerous because of somany other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sourid sleep.



How Does This New Treatment Work? Relief begins almost as first as it takes to pronounce the treatment, it's called Viscosupplementation Therapy. To begin with, it starts with Northeast

Spine & Wellness Center investing in the use of diagnostic fluoroscopy. This enables them to target the exact location of your knee pain with pinpoint accuracy. What follows is a simple injection that causes little to no pain. especially when compared to what you may be living with duily. That explains, what you will see on the surface of this revolutionary treatment. What's taking place below the surface is how and where the natural healing process takes place. The injection of a Hyaharonic acid called Hyalgan. This gel-like substance was approved by the FDA in 1996. Hyalgan is a natural substance that mimics the synovial fluid that is already produced by your body in your joints. Osteoanhritis sufferent in particular see a reduction in this much needed synovial fluid in their knee joints. Without that cushioning layer of protection, the cartilage in your latee can begin to wear away leading to the rubbing of bone on bone. Through Viscosurplementation Therapy, this natural substance immediately goes to work reducing the wrelling and inflammation in the joint and adding a coating layer of protection. Think about Dorothy taking the oil can to The Tin Man. You'll begin to feel that same kind of relief and quite possibly feel like you're ready for a dance down the yellow brick road to recovery yourself. And with a success rate of over 85% in alleviating pain associated with osteoanlicitis, it's easy to see why this treatment is so readily covered by Medicate and by most major insurance providers. Disgnostic fluoroscopy to target the pain. Viscosopplementation Therapy to relieve the pain. Simple, first and no surgery!

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Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthridis, ostenaethridis, spans injuries or other conditions Many have been told that they are inneed of knee replacement surgery. Other patients say they have been prescribed various prescription medications to deal with the pain.

Something else I see almost every day. are patients that have tried viscoscipplementation linee injections elsewhere and found it to be a painful and ineffective experience because the injections were not administered using fluotoscopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnomic fluores-

copy we use at Northeast Spine & Wellness Center these patients experienced a blind injection technique, which can be as inaccurate as playing pin the tail on the donkey

Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoros copy and the antazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are theiled to get started They are even more thrilled when they feel the relief. Please contact Northeast Spine & Wellness Center today to schedule your RISK FREE consultation. Call 732-827-0800

Scot Paris MD, FACS

#### Here's what our patients have to say

"Per deneug without pain Lean more with no problem abatimente Lean go up and dawn stene will no pass." - Pansing G.

"Over 85% rolled for the first slove in 15 years, suffering with have pain. My life is getting lack to normal. Perry O.

"After only four visits, I have absolutely no point The staff is "top-notek." - Quantum I.



## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLDS WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION**

Submitted by Carol Goggi

On Saturday, October 10, the Westfield Historical Society held its first ever Wine & Cheese Reception on the grounds of their Reeve House headquarters. The event featured wonderful cheese and charcuterie in paper cones, tortellini in pesto in paper boats and individual servings of sweets for guests to enjoy in a safe, socially-distanced manner. Wine, beer and other beverages were also enjoyed by attendees.

Guests enjoyed a presentation by Ron MacCloskey, an expert on Charles Addams, who humorously spoke about the life of Charles Addams and hosted a fun Addams Q&A "game show". Masked guests were able to enter the Reeve House in small groups to view Charles Addams' 1920s drawing of "Dudley the Skeleton", on loan from the Town of Westfield, which was removed as part of the wall of a Dudley Avenue home's carriage house. A video showing the careful removal of the drawing was shown as well. A special fundraising Silent Auction sent high bidders home with great prizes, and one creative guest was awarded the mostcreative face mask prize.

Greg Blasi, Westfield Historical Society President, states that "With the success of this outdoor reception, we will definitely hold more events and programs like this in the future." Proceeds from these events raise funds to support the operations of the Westfield Historical Society and the designated historic 1875 Reeve House. The Society thanks the many individuals and businesses who helped make this event successful including: Echo Lake Country Club, Ferraro's Restaurant, Limani Restaurant, Joseph Capone, the Lukas, the Town of Westfield for the loan of "Dudley", the Westfield Police Department for traffic control, the Westfield DPW; and, all the volunteers who helped plan, prepare and run the event.

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.

For further information on the Westfield Historical Society and its activities; or, to become a member, volunteer or donate, call 908-654-1794 or visit westfieldhistoricalsociety.org. Please like on facebook and follow on Instagram.



(above) Guests enjoying a presentation by Ron MacCloskey, an expert on Charles Addams.

#### Submitted by Ingrid McKinley

The Westfield Foundation recently granted \$250,000 to the YWCA Union County, who is celebrating their centennial year, for the construction of their new building in Elizabeth, which will function as a central hub for all programs. The building is in close proximity to the Union County Prosecutor and the Courthouse Offices. The grant was distributed from the Bertha Bogaert fund, a legacy fund established in 2016.

For 45 years, the Westfield Foundation has provided funding support in the areas of the arts, health, aging, historic preservation, social services and civic projects. The Foundation has granted \$7,200,000 to over one hundred local organizations in and around Westfield.

For the third quarter of 2020, the Foundation granted \$73,012 from their general fund to 7 organizations. These funds supported capital improvements such as replacement of flooring, roof and window repair. Funds will also provide PPE for volunteers, and offer programs for the community, including career counseling, financial management and adult enrichment. Recipients include: Caring Contact, Youth & Family Counseling Service of NJ, Our House Foundation, Jewish Family Service of Central NJ, JCC of Central NJ, CASA of Union County and the Westfield Neighborhood Council.

In addition to supporting capital projects of established social service agencies such as the YWCA Union County, the Westfield Foundation has also been an important resource of 'seed money' for smaller organizations and emerging needs. Programs started with seed money include: IMAGINE, Roots & Wings, Westfield Symphony Orchestra (now the NJ Festival Orchestra), the WHS Ice Hockey team, and the WHS Rowing Club. The Foundation also established the Foundation Park for the Westfield community.

Creating a Westfield Foundation Donor-Advised Fund is one way for your family to leave a legacy to the Westfield community. By creating a family fund, you make it possible to leave a

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permanent legacy for your philanthropic interest. thewestfieldfoundation.com. Donate today to Money to support the Foundation's mission and grant distribution has been and continues to be provided by concerned and caring citizens of Westfield.

To learn more about the Westfield Foundation and how you can help, please go to: 908-233-9788.

help others in need. Secure donations can be made directly here: thewestfieldfoundation.com/.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Betsy Chance, via email, at foundation@westfieldnj.com or by phone at



(above, l-r) The groundbreaking of the YWCA Union County occurred on September 23, 2020. Pictured are Darielle Walsh (Westfield Foundation Board member), Betsy Chance (Executive Director at the Westfield Foundation), Janice Lillien (CEO, YWCA Union County Board of Directors), Jennifer Vriens (Dir. of Development of the YWCA Union County), and Tina Earley (President, YWCA Union County Board of Directors).



Westfield MONTHLY • Page 17 • November 2020

## **ORGAN DONOR ENROLLMENT DAY**

On October 8, NJ Sharing Network and its many healthcare partners and volunteers throughout the state worked together to register organ and tissue donors in celebration of Organ Donor Enrollment Day. The non-profit, federally designated organ procurement organization set a goal of amassing at least 2,020 new donor registrations on 2020 Organ Donor Enrollment Day. The 2,020 goal helps create a positive spin on the number '2020' as opposed to the negative '2020' references seen virtually everywhere due to the challenges faced this year.

Currently, there are nearly 110,000 Americans – nearly 4,000 of whom live in New Jersey – waiting for a life-saving transplant. You can register to be a donor at any time by visiting njsharingnetwork.org/register.

"Organ Donor Enrollment Day is about taking action and inspiring others to learn more about how they can save lives through organ and tissue donation," said Joseph S. Roth, president and chief executive officer of NJ Sharing Network. "One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and restore health to over 75 people."

In New Jersey, one person dies every three days waiting for an organ transplant. However, the generosity of those in the Garden State is providing hope for the future. New Jersey's organ and tissue donor registrations continue to rise thanks to strong community education and outreach efforts as well as simplified ways to register as an organ and tissue donor are also helping to save more lives. It is now easier than ever for New Jerseyans to register in any of the following options:

Online at www.NJSharingNetwork.org

Through the iPhone Health App

In person at your local Motor Vehicle Agency Another key component of Organ Donor Enrollment Day is encouraging those who register to have a conversation with their family and friends about their decision to donate.

"Donation provides comfort and healing to so many families after losing a loved one. It is so important to talk to your family and share your decision about organ donation so your gift is honored," said Carolyn M. Welsh, vice president and chief clinical officer, NJ Sharing Network. **ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK** 

Dedicated to saving lives through organ and tissue donation, NJ Sharing Network is the nonprofit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue for the nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents waiting for a life-saving transplant. With headquarters in New Providence, NJ, the organization, selected by NJBiz as one of the state's "Best Places to Work" for the third consecutive year, is also part of the national recovery system, serving the nearly 110,000 people on the national waiting list. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit NJSharingNetwork.org.



(above) Jim Rhatican of Berkeley Heights was in desperate need of a life-saving liver transplant. Thanks to the selflessness of his donor, Jim gets to enjoy precious time with his grandchildren.



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## **SUMMIT OLD GUARD NOVEMBER ZOOM EVENTS**

The Summit Old Guard's weekly Tuesday meetings have continued through the use of ZOOM, and have attracted more than 100 viewers each week. Our November meetings will prove to be informative and enlightening. There is little limitation to our dynamic presentations as the viewers have, as before the virus, chances to ask questions of the presenter at the end of the meeting. To gain access to the programs send an email to info@summitoldguard.org and check our web site summitoldguard.org for more information.

Nov. 3 - How Crisis Accelerates Technology Change - Arun Sundararajan, Harold Price Professor of Entrepreneurship and Professor of Technology Operations and Statistics, NYU Stern School of Business, will use the COVID-19 situation as an example for his topic.

Nov. 10 - Restoration of the WWII U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Lilac - Mary Habstritt, Museum Director and President of the Lilac Preservation Project, will describe the Lilac's historic and vital work of tending lighthouses and buoys from 1933 to 1972. She will describe the nonprofit preservation project's efforts to restore the Lilac and it's rare intact steam engines and review the cultural and educational programs provided by the museum.

Nov. 17 - Driverless Cars - Just in Time for Us, Maybe - Alain L. Kornhauser, Professor of **Operations Research and Financial Engineering** at Princeton University, has been researching transportation for five decades and will talk about autonomous vehicles and 'SmartDrivingCars,' that will possibly reduce crashes, costs, and energy consumption.

Nov. 24 - The Inside Story from a Federal Prosecutor - A retired assistant United States attorney will describe the Federal Court System and a Grand Jury, He will walk through a typical criminal case and provide perspectives on the rule of law and what an attorney has to do to uphold it and our democracy.

# **RUTGERS MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM**

volunteers who assist Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) Cooperative Extension in its mission to deliver horticulture programs and information to the general public. Anyone with an interest in gardening and a commitment to volunteer service can become a Rutgers Master Gardener. No previous education or training in horticulture is required.

#### **RUTGERS MASTER GARDENERS USE THEIR SKILLS IN A VARIETY OF AREAS, INCLUDING:**

- Gardening demonstrations
- Telephone Helpline and Plant Clinics
- Community and youth gardening
- Horticultural therapy
- Information booths at county fairs and other public events
- Research assistance at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
- Harvesting and packing food for the hungry The Rutgers Master Gardener Helpline is

opened to the general public and is staffed year-

Rutgers Master Gardeners are trained round. April through November hours are, Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fridays from 1 p.m. to 1 p.m. and can be reached at mastergardeners@ucnj.org or 908-654-9852. To learn more about the program visit njaes.rutgers.edu/master-gardeners/.

## **PUBLIC SCHOOLS SEEKING SUBSTITUTES**

The Westfield Public School District is seeking Substitute Teachers and School Nurses who hold appropriate credentials. The district accepts candidates with a Standard Certificate, Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS), Certificate of Eligibility (CE), or a current County Substitute Certificate.

The district is also seeking substitute paraprofessionals and secretaries. Please contact Jill Kelly in the Human Resources Department at

jkelly@westfieldnjk12.org or 908-789-4400 x4425.



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## **KEAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT-VETERAN RECEIVES K-9 SERVICE DOG**

A special ceremony was held on Kean University's Union campus as senior Jason Pryor, person in our program," Zajda said. "He has a U.S. Army veteran, introduced the K-9 service dog that he received through an on-campus fundraiser.

Pryor, a senior from Elizabeth majoring in exercise science, did tours in Iraq and Honduras and suffers from PTSD. He received the K-9, named Keen, at the start of the Fall semester as a gift from the Kean Office of Student Government.

"Being with Keen has taught me to be more patient," said Pryor, whose dog accompanies him to class. "Keen is used as a measure to help prevent me from going through the symptoms and effects of spiraling down, by me tending to his needs and having him tend to me."

Kean is ranked first in the nation among large public schools for its programs supporting student-veterans, according to the Military Friendly Schools survey.

Student Government raised nearly \$20,000 to support service dogs through Rebuilding Warriors, a volunteer non-profit organization whose mission is to provide trained service dogs to veterans. The bulk of the funds raised went toward training Pryor's dog, and the rest was donated to Rebuilding Warriors to help train other K-9 dogs.

At the ceremony held outside Miron Student from PTSD, received the K-9, named Keen, as a Center, Vito Zajda, director of Veteran Student Services at Kean and a U.S. Coast Guard veteran, called Pryor a remarkable student.

helped open our eyes about how the University can best support its vets."

Vice President of Rebuilding Warriors Jeff Mullins, also a veteran, said post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a condition that can't be seen by others. "It's invisible, stays with you your entire life, and it's not easy sometimes," he said. "Our goal is to provide veterans and first responders with a service dog to help them achieve their new normal."

The University's Veterans Day event included



(above) Jason Prvor, a U.S. Army veteran who did tours in Iraq and Honduras and suffers

gift from the Kean Office of Student

Government through an on-campus fundraiser. Photo by Kean University

"He has been a big support and influential a color guard, a performance of the national anthem by the Kean Gospel Choir, and the presentation of other honors.

> Juan Leon Torres, a senior from Spotswood also studying exercise science and a U.S. Navy veteran, received the 2019 Kean Veteran's Award for Outstanding Mentor. He develops transition opportunities and initiatives, and mentors a student-veteran each semester.

> "Being a veteran and going back to school is super hard because you go from one community to a different lifestyle," Torres said.

> Zajda noted that it is important to support veterans at all times. "The importance of Veterans Day is to recognize that it's 365 days a year, as veterans go through different highs and lows in their lives," he said.

#### **ABOUT REBUILDING WARRIORS**

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Providing Service Dogs to Veterans

Rebuilding Warriors provides highly trained and socialized Service/Companion Dogs to Veterans diagnosed as Amputees as well as those with PTSD, (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury). Most of our dogs are bred especially for this mission and have a highly sought after demeanor. We provide these dogs to Honorably Discharged Veterans from any branch of the Armed Forces or from any service era meeting our eligibility standards as well as First Responders. For more information, or to support our mission, please visit www.rebuildingwarriors.com.



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Cost: Free

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# Building or Updating Your Marketing Plan



Joe Renna has been in business since 1984 supplying businesses with a full array of marketing and advertising services. From developing business and marketing plans to multimedia production, over the years, his ad agency has worked with every size business. Since 2000 Renna Media has been publishing hyperlocal community newspapers.

Each month, over 135,000 newspapers are mailed to every home and business in 21 towns. He also offers full color printing and mailing services as well as an online presence that parallels his print publications. Through these publications, Renna Media has focused on the needs of the local business owner offering customized, affordable, advertising opportunities. Joe Renna also helps his advertisers with their marketing plans as a value-added service.

Mr. Renna's presentation will address the different aspects of building a marketing plan and tuning up existing ones. The audience will leave with the information to guide them in developing a plan that will get them the best return for their marketing budget. The presentation will encourage questions from the audience and will address specific challenges facing participating business owners.





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## **COVID-19 CREATES A CRISIS FOR RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH IN NJ**

#### Submitted by Erin Jerome

The COVID-19 pandemic is straining resources for programs serving runaway and homeless youth that were already in short supply prior to the crisis. The primary causes of homelessness among youth are family conflict or severe economic hardship, making these programs more critical than ever to ensure young people who need aid do not slip through the cracks.

Youth programs at Community Access Unlimited (CAU) transform lives and are comprehensive to meet individual needs. From emergency housing to semi-independent and supported housing, CAU ensures that members have a safe home as well as training and education to prepare them for a stable, self-reliant adulthood. Services also include crisis intervention, counseling, recreation services, and leadership and advocacy opportunities.

Natalie Flores, 18, is one Transitional Opportunities Program member who is celebrating her accomplishments this year. A 2020 graduate of Essex Valley High School, Flores was class president and salutatorian.

"Coming from a challenging environment and not having a typical support system was a struggle," Flores told her classmates. "To start high school and fail all your classes and then to graduate with a 3.6 GPA and be a member of the National Honor Society and be salutatorian is a tremendous accomplishment because I myself

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- 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

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- 3-minute spot \$1,000
- 30-minute show \$1,500
- 3-hour shoot \$2,000

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had doubts about my own success."

Flores will attend Union County College in the fall and plans to major in education to pursue her goals of teaching math to children in a juvenile correctional facility.

"I've been there and I want to make a change, I want to help another kid out," Flores said. "I want to set up my own program where I try to get kids off the streets and put them in their books. I want to help them focus in school and be ready."

"[My staff] have seen my growth and how difficult it was," she added. "They kept trying to lead me in the right direction. They were guiding me in telling me what the real world is out there. They also taught me about credit and budgeting."

Homeless youth face particular risks during this time. An average of 25 percent of youth accessing runaway and homeless youth programs have a chronic or pre-existing health condition like diabetes, asthma or HIV, according to a recent survey of programs coordinated by the Coalition for Homeless Youth. Youth living on the streets are also at high risk for victimization and assault, mental illness, substance misuse, juvenile justice system involvement, and human trafficking, all of which increases the likelihood of perpetuated homelessness in adult life.

CAU youth programs include the Transitional Opportunities Program (TOP) which provides comprehensive residential services to youth ages 13 to 21, as well as the Union County Youth Shelter and federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Basic Center Program and federal Transitional Living Programs. These programs provide safe shelter and supportive services that address the experiences and needs of these youth to mitigate their risks and put them on a better life outcomes trajectory.

Youth enrolled in the TOP day program participate in an employment training workshop, a GED program, or volunteer job practicum for a minimum of 30 hours per week. TOP members may receive 24-hour supervised residential living, community services, daily living skills training, case management, advocacy and outreach, education in accordance with the NJ Approved Life Skills Curriculum, and drug and alcohol awareness education.

Eligible youth in any county can become a TOP member through the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency, Children's System of Care, referral by local schools, community organizations or local agencies, or self-referral.

To learn more about CAU, visit caunj.org or follow the agency on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Learn more about supporting the agency and become a monthly donor at caunj.org/support-us/.

#### **ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED**

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating more than 40 years in 2020, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, online at caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

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