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MASTERS SWIMMERS CELEBRATE 17TH ANNIVERSARY

Submitted by Barbara Rushman

A group of Masters Swimmers from Madison and the surrounding areas have had the privilege of swimming together for many years at Drew University, the Madison YMCA, Madison Community Pool, the Summit YMCA and other close by locations.

Traditionally, the group tracks monthly swim yardage on a user friendly website. Because the pandemic limited the group's ability to swim regularly this year, tracking of yardage was temporarily suspended in March, and resumed in June on strictly a voluntary basis. After resumption, the monthly ranking of yards by swimmer was not published as it had been in the past, so that none of our swimmers would feel any pressure to track during this unusual year. For the first time ever, we elected not to award "Yardsticks" to swimmers at our traditional awards breakfast based on their annual yardage achievements.

But we were determined to connect with each other as a group as we do every year. So the Masters Yardstick Swimmers celebrated the group's history, strong personal relationships, and love of swimming recently at its 17th anniversary annual awards breakfast on January 9th, online for the first time ever, with record participation. Hosted by longtime swimmers Bob Nissen, Joe Donohue, and Richard Clew, the agenda of the Virtual Event picked up on highlights and photos of our past live events (thanks to group historian Barbara Rushman) and brought us together in such a way that all active members could relate to and enjoy.

One of the highlights of our past breakfasts has been an endless breakfast buffet that we all have enjoyed, with many of our swimmers preparing and bringing their own secret family specialty casseroles, deviled eggs, coffee cakes, bread puddings, and sticky buns. Since it was impossible for all of us to be together, the food selections were cleverly recreated on a virtual buffet table, visually introduced one by one thanks to swimmers submitting their suggested recipes. The buffet table was filled and was "virtually consistent" with the actual one at our past events, and provided us all "food for



(above) The Masters Swimmers gathered virtually for a Zoom brunch to celebrate 17 years of the organization.

thought" as we envisioned how good each item would be, and perhaps determining a way to recreate those favorites in our own kitchen. Not quite the real thing, but as close as you can get in the current environment. It provided an opportunity to be thankful for all of our good times in the past, and anticipated future events when we can be together and each enjoy the buffet again.

At our virtual breakfast, we also asked swimmers to submit their idea of a perfect swim in the future, when we would expect to have less restrictions than under our existing situation. Swimmers dreamed of future indoor and outdoor swims with the freedom to spend the time we wanted in swimming with our fellow swimmers, friends, and families, and optimizing our yards once again. And one dream to reality we witnessed was a picture of the new Madison YMCA pool, which is expected to be completed by the end of June, 2021. This beautiful new eight-lane modern pool will be a welcome venue for many of us who swim in the area.

Finally, we did provide a virtual ranking of all of our swimmers in yardage "clusters", starting with 1-100,000 yards, and progressive 100,000 yard clusters beyond these (thanks to our web site coordinator Barry Lass). All sixty of our swimmers fell into one of nine clusters, and were alphabetically listed to eliminate any specific ranking within a cluster. The one person in our highest cluster was Jennifer Bauman of Parsippany, achieving an annual yardage level within the 800,000-900,000 range.

At the end of the event, we took a group picture on Zoom - a screen shot - which provided yet another opportunity to connect with each other in this special way. We all had a great time and were so happy to connect online with our "swim buddies" once again.

We will continue our optional tracking for now, and we are convinced that our program will evolve and grow again over time. Most importantly, we look forward to the day when we can all say without hesitation "see you at the pool".

For more information please contact Bob Nissen at bobnissen@gmail.com.

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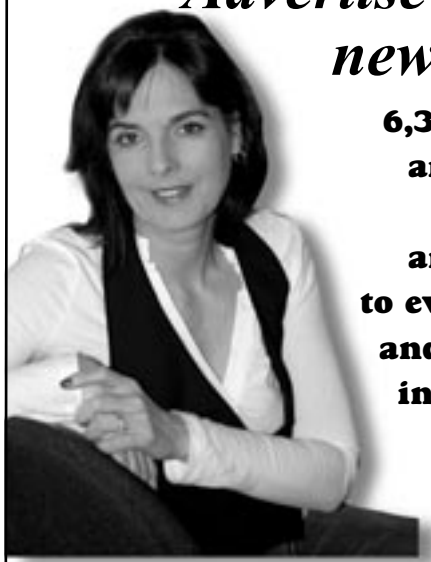
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COMMUNITY SHREDDING DAY – MARCH 27

Submitted by Carmela Moeller

As Rotary International recently named “supporting the environment” its newest area of focus, Madison Rotary is inviting the public to its biannual Community Shredding Day, joined by Habitat for Humanity’s ReStore collection truck. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, March 27, 2021 at Madison Municipal Parking Lot #1, at the corner of Prospect Street and Kings Road by the Madison Volunteer Ambulance Squad.

All are encouraged to take advantage of Morris Habitat for Humanity and Madison Rotary’s services to reclaim valuable space in their homes and offices at the same event, both by donating unneeded items and by safely destroying and recycling sensitive documents. All participants are required to wear masks and practice social distancing.

Madison Rotary has contracted Security Shredding, Inc. to provide secure destruction of sensitive documents on-site, after which the shredded papers will be recycled into other paper products. The cost is \$5 per box or grocery bag. Larger containers will be accepted and priced accordingly. Cash and checks will be accepted. All proceeds from the shredding event will be used by the Madison Rotary, a 501(c)(3)

charity, for service projects benefiting the community.

A truck from Habitat for Humanity’s ReStore will gratefully accept area residents’ new or very gently used home building materials, lighting and plumbing fixtures, hardware items in original packaging, fine art and collectibles, and furniture and other home furnishings in excellent condition. Having the ReStore truck come to Madison is a convenience for would-be donors, as the ReStore facility is located in Randolph. ReStore’s inventory is 100% donated by businesses and individuals and sold to the general public at a fraction of the retail price. Proceeds are used to build affordable homes in Morris County and surrounding areas. According to Jeannie Tsukamoto, former President of both Madison Rotary and Morris Habitat for Humanity, “donations to ReStore have built 35 homes in Morris County and have kept over 10,200 tons of reusable materials out of landfills since 2007.” Donations to ReStore are tax-deductible. A receipt will be provided for ReStore donations.

Please contact Carmela Moeller at carmoeller@aol.com for questions about the event. Please visit madisonrotarynj.org for more information about Madison Rotary.

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INDEPENDENT THRIFT SHOP HAS NEW HOURS

Starting on December 1st, the Independent Thrift Shop will be open during the following hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Come visit us at our new location at 39 Kings Road in Madison. If you have questions, we can be reached at 973-377-2450. We look forward to welcoming previous customers and newcomers as well.

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS NEEDS VOLS

The New Jersey Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) – a network of community-based, locally organized units comprised of volunteers – is looking for reinforcements, particularly those with vaccination skills. MRC volunteers are especially vital during emergencies and disasters when paid public health and emergency response assets are overwhelmed. Healthcare professionals (including recently retired individuals) having vaccination skills are especially needed now that COVID-19 vaccines are available.

In addition to skilled vaccinators, individuals with all types of skill sets (for example, security, language translation/interpretation, education and outreach, warehouse operations, clerical, counseling, and more) are needed. If you are interested in volunteering with the MRC, visit njlmn.njlincs.net and click on “Register as an Existing or New MRC Volunteer!”

INDEPENDENT THRIFT SHOP MARCH SPECIAL

As a special event for March, The Independent Thrift Shop of Madison will be having a bag sale beginning March 2. A customer can fill a bag with as many items as possible for a cost of only \$10.

The Thrift Shop, located at 39 Kings Road, is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. If you have questions or need further information, we can be reached at 973-377-2450.

VOLS NEEDED TO HELP AT BLOOD DRIVES

New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS), which supplies blood to hospitals throughout the state, is in need of volunteers to help at blood drives. The blood drive volunteer is an integral member of the blood collection team whose task it is to assist donors with registration and/or at the refreshment area. No medical background is necessary. Volunteers should have the ability to relate to the public, be able to perform different jobs as needed and have the willingness to follow the rules.

For additional information contact, Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Manager of Volunteer Services Sharon Zetts at 732-850-8906.

To apply on line as a blood drive volunteer, please go to:

nybc.org/support-us/volunteer-nybc/volunteer-application/

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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 as an Associate Professor of Medicine for their Internal Medicine program.

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VIRTUAL SPRING 2021 MINICOURSES AT MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The nonprofit Friends of the Madison Public Library have organized two virtual minicourses for the Spring 2021 semester, “The Romantic Symphony (1820-1910)” by Dr. Robert Butts, Founder and Conductor of the Baroque Orchestra of NJ and “Italian High Renaissance and Baroque Art and Architecture” by Dr. Margaret Kuntz, Professor of Art History and Chair of the Department, Drew University. These online Zoom minicourses will be held for five-weeks beginning March 3, 2021 for music and May 5

for art. Registration began February 16. The cost is \$95 per individual or couple residing at the same residence. The cost of a second minicourse by the same student is \$65. Students may either register by mail or online on our website, minicoursesmadisonlibrary.org. Checks made payable to Friends of the Madison Public Library may be mailed to: Minicourses at Madison Library, P.O. Box 1341, Madison, N.J. 07940.

Sylvia Luber, Coordinator, said that “future minicourses will most likely continue to be offered online until it’s completely safe to meet in-person.”

These virtual non-credit courses are intended for the general public with no prerequisites or examinations. For information, email minicoursesmadisonlibrary@gmail.com, or leave a voice message at 929-450-7040. The minicourses are organized by the Friends and all proceeds go to the Madison Public Library.

MINICOURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

The Romantic Symphony (1820-1910) by Dr. Robert Butts; Wednesdays, 1:30-3:00 p.m., March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2021

The Romantic period (1820-1910) was the golden age of the symphony. The new aesthetics and social changes of the 19th century impacted music in many ways, both in terms of developing the form and style as well as in terms of it

becoming the most important public aspect of orchestral creativity. The period is marked by three distinctive periods, represented by some of the most beloved composers and works. Early Romantic symphonists included Berlioz, Schumann, and Mendelssohn. Middle Romantic composers included Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, and Bruckner. The leading late Romantic symphonic composers were led by Mahler and Sibelius. Each generation developed its own definition of the symphony as well as its own meaning. In the 20th century, many composers were inspired by the aesthetics and ideas of romanticism blended with the techniques and styles of modernism.

Italian High Renaissance and Baroque Art and Architecture by Dr. Margaret Kuntz; Wednesdays, 1:30 to 3:30 pm, May 5, 12, 19, 26 and June 2, 2021

This course will focus on the art and architecture of some of the greatest Italian masters, such as Michelangelo, Leonardo, Bernini, Borromini, Caravaggio and Artemisia Gentileschi. Questions surrounding design process, function and meaning, rivalry and gender are just some of the issues Dr. Kuntz will address as she explores individual works of art and well-known urban projects of the 16th-17th centuries.



(above, left) Friends of Madison Public Library will host Dr. Robert Butts for a minicourse titled “The Romantic Symphony (1820-1910)”. (above, right) Dr. Margaret Kuntz will present the minicourse “Italian High Renaissance and Baroque Art and Architecture” this May.

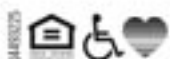
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VENTURE CREW 28 ON WINTER HIKE

Members of Chatham's Venture Crew 28 hiked Pyramid Mountain on January 23. A cold winter day did not take away from their enjoyment of the outdoors. Crew 28 is an all-female crew that focuses on outdoor adventures,

leadership, personal growth and service projects. The crew recently passed its four year anniversary.

For information about Crew 28, visit venturecrew28.com.



(above) Crew members in this picture live in Summit, Chatham, New Providence, Berkeley Heights and Millburn.

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FAITH LUTHERAN, NOT A BUILDING, BUT PERSONS HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Submitted by Larry Holt

Since the surge of the pandemic in March 2020, Faith Lutheran in New Providence has again demonstrated that it is not a church building but a servant community. Because of the contagion of COVID 19, social ministry programs have not been able to occur physically. Nonetheless, the members of Faith have overcome obstacles and continued to conduct their ministries.

Managing this persistent and tenacious initiative is Faith's pastor, Rev. Jane McCready.

The following describes the ministries, adjustments that have been required and the names of Faith's members who lead the ministries.

ST. JOHN'S SOUP KITCHEN IN NEWARK

Since March 2020; members, co-workers and friends of Faith have prepared over 36,000 sandwiches for the homeless persons served by St. John's. The sandwiches, an average of 775 per week, are delivered by Faith each Thursday morning to St. John's. Included with this delivery are fresh fruit, baked goods, snacks and toiletries. Prior to the pandemic, on the second Saturday of every month, for the past thirty-six years, Faith has prepared and served a comprehensive hot meal to the clients of St. John's.

This ministry is led by Joanne and Mike Warin of New Providence and Désirée Bouchat of Springfield.

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise is an organization of churches which hosts families and individuals who are temporarily homeless, with each church providing care for a week at a time. Faith has participated in this program about four times a year for the past three decades. The ministry changed dramatically with COVID 19. In place of hosting, Faith has made generous financial gifts, given three pre-owned cars, grocery store gift cards and clothing to Family Promise, for the people it serves.

This program is led by Kim Delatour of Berkeley Heights.

BROADWAY HOUSE FOR CONTINUING CARE

Broadway House for Continuing Care is a facility in Newark where about eighty persons suffering from HIV/AIDS live. The patients receive care from doctors, nurses, therapists and counselors. Twice a month, a small group from Faith have gone to Broadway House to do crafts and visit with the residents. In response to COVID 19, Broadway House was closed to visitors.

Wendy Naratil of Warren, the leader of the ministry, continues to send to each resident a 3D or music birthday card from Faith. Broadway House says Mrs. Naratil's card is often the only birthday greeting that a resident receives.

NEW PROVIDENCE FALL FOOD DRIVE

Each November, Faith partners with the New Providence Community Service Association (CSA) and the New Providence Cub and Boy Scouts to collect food for needy families. The food is donated to Star Fish Pantry in Plainfield and the CSA. A major part of the Drive is about 130 people gathering on a Saturday in November

to sort and pack the food. This collection of close working people could not occur in November 2020.

To substitute, members of Faith generously gave checks and gift cards to Starfish Pantry and CSA.

The chairperson for Faith is Cheryl Bock of Summit.

CROP WALK TO STOP HUNGER

The CROP Walk to Stop Hunger is a three mile walk through New Providence on a fall Sunday afternoon by members of Faith and other local churches. The purpose of the Walk is to raise money to help eradicate hunger in the United States and around the world. The members of the churches walk as a group, with many carrying signs to publicize this social issue.

In the fall of 2020, a group walk of about 100 persons could not occur. Mike Warin of Faith and New Providence, the chairperson planned and managed a group walk. Participants could choose the time, route and length of their walks. The virtual walkers achieved \$3,120 in contributions toward the reduction of hunger.

SHARING TREE

Through this ministry, members of Faith buy Christmas gifts for persons who live in social agency homes or face economic stress. COVID 19 changed past procedures. While the Sharing Tree was virtual, the gifts for recipients were real. They could choose from a warm hat/scarf/gloves set or a cozy sweatshirt sized to fit.

The leader of the Sharing Tree ministry is Joanne Berryman of Madison.

KNIT, PURL AND PRAY GROUP

The members faced a new experience in 2020. They were unable to meet together and share fellowship while doing their knitting and crocheting. Nevertheless, the group, working individually at home, made 110 hats and scarves for St. John's Soup Kitchen, 337 baby hats for University Hospital in Newark, 60 hats and scarves for St. Stephen's Grace Church in Newark, whose members are largely immigrants, five prayer shawls and four comfort hearts.

The group is led by Theresa Adamson of Warren and Joyce Brandt of Sterling.

PREVIOUSLY OWNED BIKES

In August of 2020, Faith collected 170 used bikes, repaired them and arranged for their shipment to rural Thailand. The bikes are being used by persons to travel to work, go to market and receive medical care. The bikes were collected on behalf of Pedals for Progress, an organization that recycles bikes for persons in developing countries. Faith contributed \$1,700 for the shipment of the bikes.

Casey Walsh of Bridgewater is the leader of the ministry.

TUTORING IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

Once a month about fifteen members of Faith have been tutoring Guatemalan children in English and math at St. Stephen's Grace Church in the Ironbound section of Newark. The members work with adults as well who want to improve their English. At the end of the tutoring, the entire group always plays bingo.

March 2020 changed everything. While

members of Faith could no longer go to Newark to teach the children, Faith did not forget them. Faith gave a check to Pastor Moacir of St. Stephen's Grace to help the immigrant children and their families buy food. At Christmas, the tutors gave thirty-seven sweatshirts to the children and their fathers and money for food. The above mentioned, Knit, Purl and Pray group, made hats and scarf sets for the children and their fathers.

Kim Delatour of Berkeley Heights is the leader of the tutoring program.

Each Sunday morning, Faith's 10 a.m., liturgical service, led by Pastor Jane McCready, can be seen at:

facebook.com/FaithLutheranNewProvidence/live.

The two associate pastors of Faith are Rev. Robert Kriesat of Convent Station and Rev. Lucas Vaga of Millington.

Faith is located at 524 South Street in New Providence. Visit online at famfaith.org or reach by phone at 908-464-5177.



(above) Tony of St. John's Soup Kitchen and Rev. Jane McCready with delivery of 800 sandwiches and other items.

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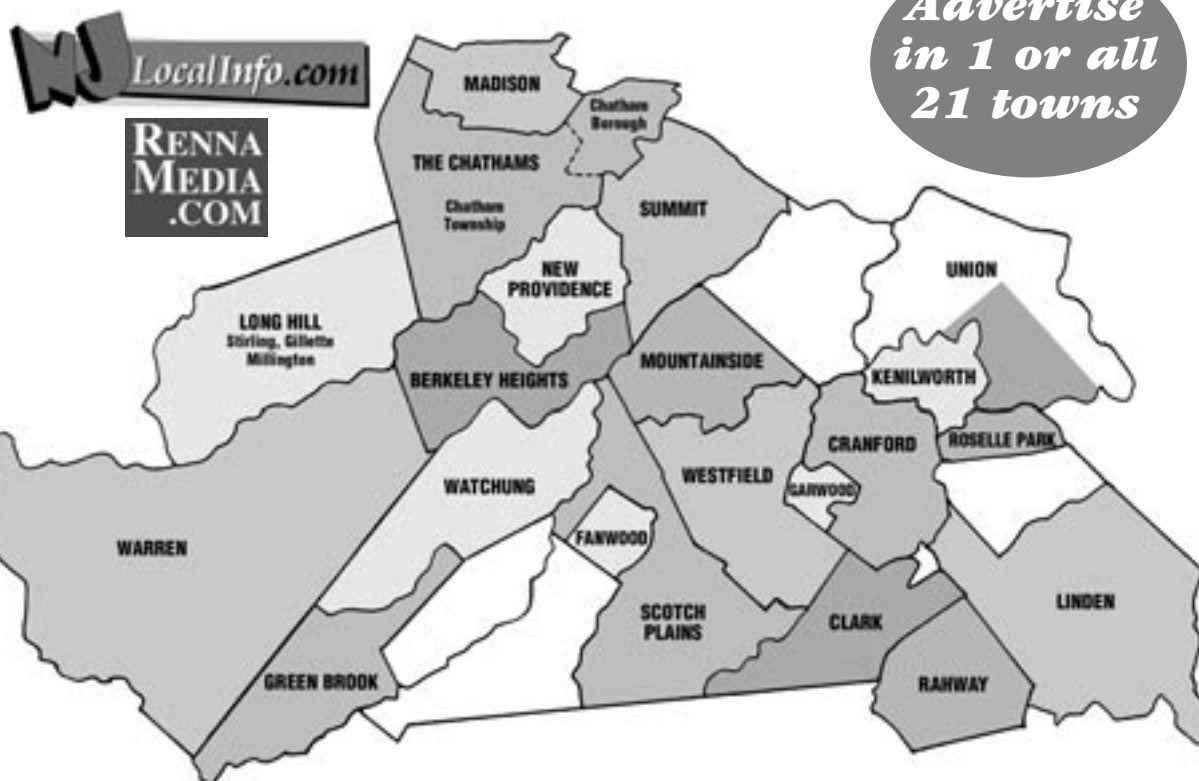
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1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000
2 PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700							
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- **See what is working and not working**

Know where your web traffic is coming from and why.

- **Eliminate / avoid costly schemes**

Evaluate the return you are getting from your online marketing costs.

- **Increase online marketing results**

Recommendations include ways to increase traffic to your website

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Call for a consultation if you do not have a website or need a new one.

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Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design

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- **SEO Services: Average cost \$1,000 - \$2,000 per month**

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WEBSITE
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