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Issue 66 • March 2021

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SAGE'S MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM DELIVERS RECORD NUMBER OF MEALS DURING COVID-19

Submitted by Cindy Potters

As the pandemic forced businesses and services to close in 2020, the demand for SAGE's Meals on Wheels kept increasing. By the end of the year, the nonprofit delivered a record breaking 50,000 meals, an increase of 7,000 over the previous year. Family members who were unable to visit and offer support to their older adult relatives called on Meals on Wheels for help. The meal service became an increasingly important resource for food and a means for having someone check in on loved ones.

According to Marianne Kranz, Director of Meals on Wheels, she, her staff and many volunteers continued to go to the SAGE building at 290 Broad Street in Summit every day during the pandemic to pack and deliver meals. Community organizations and area residents pitched in by donating what was needed. Along with frozen meals and nonperishable food items, people dropped off toilet paper and paper towels, masks, baked goods and made monetary donations. "Our goal was to provide our clients with extra food so they wouldn't have to worry about leaving the house to get to a grocery store," said Kranz. "There were also people coming home from the hospital alone, scared and food insecure."

Meals on Wheels was there to help and continues to be a vital support to those in the community who need it. The average age of someone receiving meals is 83. Half of these clients live alone and 65% rarely see anyone other than the volunteer who brings them their meal.

If you or a family member is in need of meal assistance, call 908-273-5554. Meals on Wheels delivers to: Berkeley Heights, Chatham, New Providence, Millburn/ Short Hills, Mountainside, Summit and Springfield.

Since 1954, SAGE Eldercare has been helping make the communities it serves amazing places to age. The non-profit organization provides a wide array of information, support, and services



(above) Meals on Wheels Coordinator, Robin Handwerger sorts through donations from community organizations and area residents made during COVID-19. If you are in need of Meals on Wheels or would like to make a donation, please call 908-273-5554.

designed to help individuals lead the most independent and active lives possible. If you are in need of Meals on Wheels or would like to make a donation, please call 908-273-5550 or visit sageeldercare.org.

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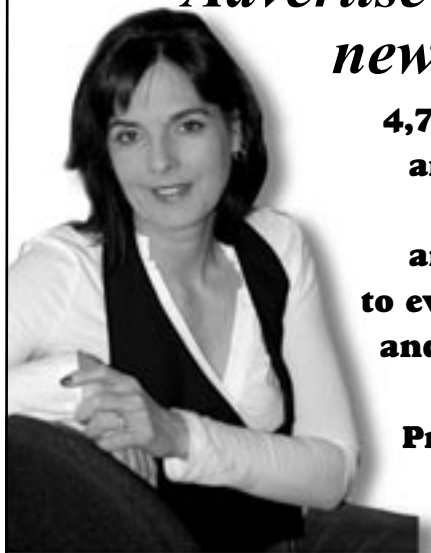
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COURSE ON DEALING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

The NAMI Family-to-Family Education Course will be offered by the Union County Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). The course will be online via Zoom starting on Thursday evening, March 4 at 7 p.m., and meet each Thursday over a consecutive 8-week period. We ask that you be able to commit to the full series of dates through April 29, and be able to attend from a computer, tablet, or smartphone and attend with some sense of privacy.

The course is offered specifically to the parents, siblings, spouses, teenage and adult children, and significant others of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. The program is not appropriate for individuals who, themselves, suffer from one of the major mental

disorders. The course is taught by NAMI members who have completed intensive training.

Curriculum topics include: schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic depression), clinical depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder etc., the clinical treatment of these illnesses and how caregivers can learn to cope more effectively. Attendees will learn about new research, medications, skills needed to successfully communicate with a relative and how to deal with critical periods.

Capacity is limited. To register, or if you have questions, contact Pat Roman at 732-382-0762 or email patroman2@aol.com.

Please include in the subject line: "F2F Course". A F2F teacher will contact you with the details.

COMMUNITY HOPE CONNECTS VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH HOUSING, SERVICES

CALL THE REFERRAL HOTLINE FOR ELIGIBILITY

Veterans and their families who are experiencing a housing crisis may be eligible for emergency assistance such as motel/hotel stays, security deposits, rent, rental arrears, groceries and utilities through Community Hope.

Community Hope's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program is currently providing assistance remotely. Urgent community-based services such as critical supplies and veteran wellness-checks are provided in person.



The increase in support services to veterans and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic is possible thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

To make a referral, please call the referral hotline at 1-855-483-8466 or email SSVF@communityhope-nj.org, or email Gema Diaz at gdiaz@communityhope-nj.org.

Community Hope is a nonprofit that helps individuals, including veterans, and their families, overcome mental illness, addiction, homelessness and poverty. Learn more at communityhope-nj.org.

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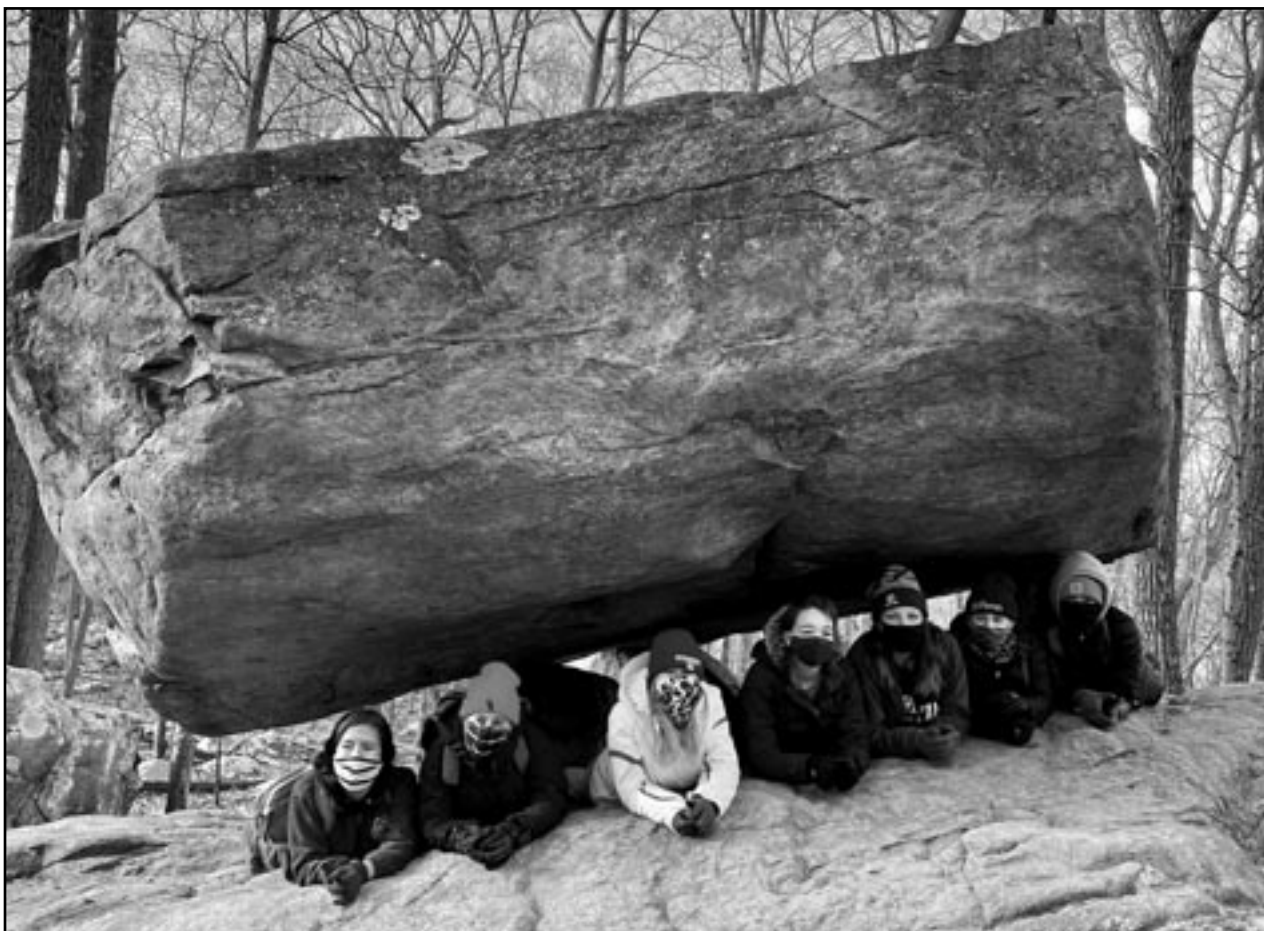
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VENTURE CREW 28 ON WINTER HIKE

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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Edward Anthony Somma, MD
Internal Medicine

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

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NJ ORGAN DONORS SAVED 222 LIVES IN 2020

Submitted by Gary Mignone

NJ Sharing Network, the nonprofit, federally-designated organization responsible for the recovery of organs and tissue donations in the state, announced the number of organ donors in a single year reached an all-time high as 222 generous individuals in New Jersey gave the gift of life in 2020, an 8% increase over last year's previous record.

This donation milestone was achieved despite the unprecedented challenges and restrictions that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on organ donation and transplantation throughout the nation, especially in New Jersey where severe hospital patient surges forced the temporary suspension of routine medical care, elective surgeries and most transplant activity in April and May 2020. In addition, deceased patients with active COVID-19 virus were absolute rule outs for organ or tissue donation in 2020. Despite these challenges, NJ Sharing

Network's clinical staff continued to put their own lives at risk on the frontlines of care providing comfort and support to donor families.

"We owe this achievement first and foremost to the generous donors who gave the gift of life, as well as their families," said Joseph Roth, President and CEO of NJ Sharing Network. "We are also deeply grateful for the extraordinary efforts of our team members and healthcare partners who have bravely worked throughout the difficult year to power our life-saving mission."

In 2020, 572 organs were transplanted thanks to donors in New Jersey, including 339 kidneys, 124 livers, 50 hearts, 45 lungs and 14 pancreases. In addition, 46,462 tissue and eye donations healed and enhanced the quality of life of those in need. Tissue donations include eye corneas, heart valves, skin grafts, and bone grafts, ligament and tendons.

NJ Sharing Network has received many accolades for its role in helping to increase organ transplantation in the Garden State by 31% over the last decade. "An increase in awareness about donation, the growth of the state's donor registry and advances in transplantation medicine have all contributed to a significant growth in lives saved by donation," said Carolyn M. Welsh, Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer, NJ Sharing Network.

In November, five New Jersey cities, including Newark, Jersey City and Edison, were among the top ten highest in the U.S. for registrations on the

National Donor Registry. NJ Sharing Network's team of professionals, volunteers and community partners helped drive this impressive growth through online promotions, including a host of daily activities on its robust social media channels, on its website and through targeted emails and mailings. An easy-to-follow video detailing the steps to register as an organ donor via the iPhone Health App has received more than 20,000 views on social media. These successful outreach activities helped generate a 14% increase in New Jersey registrations on the National Donor Registry in 2020.

In New Jersey, nearly 4,000 people are on the organ transplant waiting list and one person dies every three days waiting for a transplant. One organ donor can save eight lives, and one tissue donor can enhance the lives of over 75 people.

ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK

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



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U.S. News

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Nathan Weiser

★★★★★

Spring Grove is by far the best rehab center I have ever been to. The staff are kind and caring and have gone above and beyond my expectations. The building is kept extremely clean and the new renovations are very nice.

Thank you Spring Grove for a wonderful and pleasant stay.



Charles Sherrick

★★★★★

I have been at Spring Grove for a few weeks now, they have exceptional service and excellent staff. All the nurses have been professional and attentive to all my needs. I never thought a rehab center can have such a beautiful layout and well put together. The newly renovated room I have stayed in, is up to date and extremely clean. The therapy staff have gone above my expectations with their expertise and getting me to where I am today. Alyssa the social worker has gone above and beyond with all her assignments.

Thank you Spring Grove.



Chrissy Sloan

★★★★★

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LOCAL GYM GETS CRUSHED BY PANDEMIC

In 2007, Gabriele Fitness founder, Vince Gabriele, started a Sports Performance training business out of the back of his pick-up truck. Over the past 13 years, the Berkeley Heights based gym has worked with thousands of youth athletes between the ages of 6-18.

When the pandemic struck in March of 2020, the Sports Performance program at Gabriele Fitness was hit hard. They tried to move it on-line but had little success.

Since Covid-19 was too much they decided to put the program on the back burner. They focused on their adult personal training program which held strong due to a very loyal core membership.

It's been close to a year since they shut the Sports Performance program down, but a huge announcement was recently made.

THE HUGE ANNOUNCEMENT

Founder, Vince Gabriele, announced they are bringing the Sports Performance program back and have been behind the scenes working on a full-fledged re-brand.

The new program will be called Grit Athlete Performance. It will serve local youth athletes ages 6-18 who want to perform better at their respective sports.

Founder, Vince Gabriele, was asked why he decided to bring the program back and his answer was very inspiring.

THE STORY THAT IGNITED THE FIRE

Gabriele was sitting at his normal table at the Prestige Diner when a young man in his 20's came up to him, looked him in the eye and shook his hand.

The young man was a student in their Sports Performance program close to a decade ago. He went on to tell Gabriele how much he had learned and still uses the nutrition, fitness and life lessons today.

He entered the program as a slow, shy and awkward kid but transformed himself into a strong, confident healthy adult.

"This was the moment", Gabriele said.

"The moment I knew we needed to bring the Sports Performance program back so we could continue to help create stories like this."

A HAND-SELECTED TEAM OF TRAINERS

Gabriele went out and hand-picked a brand-new team to transform this into the premier Sports Performance training program in the area.

The full-time job of this new team will be to help athletes ages 6-18 get strong, fast and confident so they can build a bigger and better future.

Grit Athlete Performance will help kids get stronger and faster so they can perform better at their sports. The true goal is bigger than that and goes beyond their athletic career.

Grit is not something you need just in sports. Grit is a character quality that every successful human being has had in their life. When you have grit you continue to have the power. When you have grit, anything is possible.

That'll be the take home message when they launch this new program on March 15th. Grit will have 3 programs that serve the following age groups:

- 6-8 years old
- 9-13 years old
- 14+

A VIRAL RESPONSE FROM LOCAL PARENTS

Gabriele recently put a message out to his local list and on the community forum sites with the announcement. The response was overwhelming.

Well over 100 people responded with strong interest to reserve spots in the new program. The first block of training will go from March 15-June 15th. They have stated they will only be taking 50 athletes for the first run. They expect to be fully sold out by March 1st.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD

If you have a child that is in these age groups and have interest in signing your child up for their March 15th-June 15th program, please visit:

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- They need to improve their confidence and you want them to start to get better at recovering from their mistakes.
- They're doing pretty good right now but want to take their performance in their sport to a **higher level**.



Here's what parents can expect to happen:



- They will get **stronger** which means when they show up to their sport they'll be able to perform better than ever.
- They will **run faster and jump higher** so they can show up to their next season and people will start asking what the heck have they been doing.
- They'll become **more coordinated and improve agility** which means they'll pick up new skills their coaches teach them faster.
- **Your children will start to eat better** because we'll be educating them daily on what's good and what they should avoid...don't be surprised if they start asking you to buy more vegetables.
- **Confidence will skyrocket.** When kids get stronger, faster and more fit ...their confidence will rise...so will their self-esteem which means their performance in every aspect of life will get better.
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About Grit Athlete Performance (A Gabriele Fitness Company)

GRIT helps kids ages 6-18 get strong, fast and confident so they can build a bigger and better future. They are located in Berkeley Heights inside Gabriele Fitness. All Grit coaches have been handpicked via a very lengthy interview process by Gabriele Fitness founder, Vince Gabriele.


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DECORSO CENTER VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR SENIORS

The DeCorso Community Center is offering virtual and alternative programs to New Providence Senior Citizen Club members and other New Providence seniors age 65+. Please refer to the seniors page on the New Providence website newprov.org/seniors and its link to the monthly New Providence Senior Citizens Newsletter for the most current information and program details.

For additional information or to register for programs, please call 908-665-0046 or send an e-mail to DeCorsoCenter@newprov.org.

VIRTUAL EXERCISE CLASSES

Our exercise instructors have been doing a terrific job offering our exercise classes via Zoom. Ask your doctor which classes would be appropriate for you. All exercise class participants must complete a registration form with a waiver.

- Monday, In Control at 9:30a m
- Monday, Chair Yoga at 11 am
- Tuesday, Balance and Conditioning at 9:45 am
- Tuesday, Tai Chi at 1 pm
- Thursday, Strong YOU! at 9:30 am
- Friday, Zumba at 9:00 am

Along with our regularly scheduled classes, for the month of March we will also be offering "Gentle Exercise for Body and Mind" on Wednesdays at 9:30 am.

MARCH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Embracing Aging:

Finding Your Path to Aging Well

Monday, March 15 at 10:00 am

What does it mean to "Age Well?" Most people believe that the recipe for successful aging includes having a positive outlook and feeling physically healthy and socially connected with others. However, the description and meaning in each of these areas varies from person to person – the definitions are as unique as we are! Please join us to learn about how you can find your own path to aging well and resources available to help along the way.

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Mon: 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM Thu: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tue: 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM Fri: Surgery Day
Wed: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Sat: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

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"Social" Zoom With Club Friends

Wednesday, March 10 at 11:00 am

Grab a cup of coffee or tea and your device for a "social" Zoom session with friends from the Club! We're trying something different this month – a Zoom session with no presentation, just a chance to see friends and enjoy some conversation. Please join Christine Napolitano to "catch up" with Club friends. Some things to share: Binge Watching, Books, What's For Dinner, Online Goodies and Learning New Things, the Golden Globe Awards and more! Don't worry if you don't have a computer because there is a call-in option too! Please e-mail DeCorsoCenter@newprov.org by Monday, March 8 to register and receive the Zoom link.

The Dutch Golden Age

Art and History Virtual Program

Wednesday, March 24 at 12:00 p.m.

Art lecturer Michael Norris is back! Last February he taught us about Impressionism. This month, he will share with us the part of the Metropolitan Museum of Art devoted to the pictures of Jan Vermeer, Rembrandt von Rijn and Frans Hals. Along the way, learn about the Dutch Republic in its 17th-century heyday, including its tulip mania and the Flying Dutchman! Michael Norris, who spent twenty years at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Cloisters Museum in New York, will share his knowledge and enthusiasm for art with us in this virtual "Armchair Art Tour". Please email Decorsocenter@newprov.org by Monday, March 22 to register for the class and receive the Zoom link.

Call-In Bingo

Fridays at 11:00 am

Weekly Bingo call-in games will continue. Call (908) 665-0046 or email DeCorsoCenter@newprov.org in advance to register and receive the call-in information.

The NP Senior Shuttle continues to make ShopRite trips on Tuesday mornings, weather permitting, with pick-ups at about 7:00 am. – Call Monday mornings to reserve your spot.

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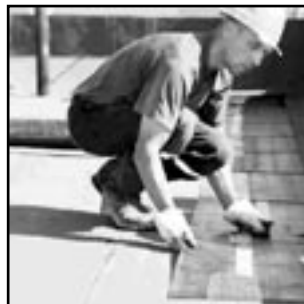
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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MARCH MEETING

March is Women's History Month. The League of Women Voters of Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Summit will be hosting Patricia Teffenhart, Executive Director of the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault at its March meeting.

On March 16, Ms. Teffenhart will speak about the "State of Sexual Violence in New Jersey: where we are and where we need to be." This will be a virtual meeting. To receive the link, please email LWVBHNPS@yahoo.com.



(above) Patricia Teffenhart, Executive Director of the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault, will speak at the League of Women Voters of Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Summit's March meeting.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

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!"

The New Providence Memorial Library is celebrating its 100th anniversary from our founding in 1921. Join us all year long as we celebrate! Visit our website and social media pages for the latest on our year-long celebration, including great events like: Roaring '20s Community Read; Birthday cards for the Library; Book Cover Bingo; Clara Wahl History (our first librarian); and more fun events to come!

Paracord Compass Teen Take & Make (Teens) March 1 at 3:00 p.m.

Come to the library foyer to grab a craft kit to make your own paracord compass bracelet so you can always find your way. For students in grades 6-12 (may be too difficult for younger children). Craft kits are first-come, first-served.

Please only take one kit per teen.

Among Us with the Library (Teens) March 4 at 5:30 p.m. - 6 PM

Who are the Imposters? Join with the NP Library for a few games of Among Us. Open to NP teens age 13-17

Declutter with Jamie: Sentimental Things (Adults) March 4 at 7 p.m.

If you have trouble letting go of your treasures, collections, and sentimental objects, this program is for you!

Pick Up March Teen Take Out Boxes (Teens) *March 8 at 3:00 p.m.

Check your email to see when yours is ready to be picked up in our library foyer. Keep the goodies, just return the library book!

Virtual Club Phoenix (Kids) March 8 at 3:30 p.m.

Club Phoenix is online! In this program kids will learn about science, engineering, and logical thinking. Videos will be posted once a month at 3:30 p.m. on the library's YouTube.

Baseball Discussion Group (All Ages) March 8 at 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Discuss teams, players and issues of the sport over Zoom with other baseball fans.

Hand Lettering Workshop with Swetha Shenoy of The Paisley Corner (Students Grades 3-6) *March 9 at 3:30-4:30p.m.

Learn the art of drawing beautiful letters and create your own hand-lettered artwork.

Virtual Read to a Dog (Kids) March 9 at 7 p.m.

Join us on Zoom and practice reading aloud to trained Seeing Eye dogs and puppies.

Hand Lettering Workshop with Swetha Shenoy of The Paisley Corner (Teens Grades 7-12) *March 10 at 3:30-4:30p.m.

Learn the art of drawing beautiful letters and create your own hand-lettered artwork.

Book Group (Adults) March 11 at 7:30 p.m.

The book group will meet over zoom to discuss "Heartland" by Sarah Smarsh.

Origami Club (Kids) March 15 at 3:30 p.m.

Learn all about origami and how to make your own creations right at home! For children in grades 3-4. Email NPMLChildrens@gmail.com to register and receive the Zoom link.

Book Group (Adults)

March 16 at 10:30 AM

The book group will discuss "The Sleeping Dictionary" by Sujata Massey over Zoom.

Pringles STEM kits and DIY smartphone speaker (Teens)

*March 17 at 3:30-4:30p.m.

Pick up a can of Pringles for a fun and tasty STEM challenge! Take pics of your best Pringles arches, then eat your experiment!

Tenafly Nature Center Presents: Remarkable Raptors (Kids)

March 18 at 3:30 p.m.

Meet a live hawk and owl and discover how amazing birds of prey are.

New Jersey Makers Day Live! (All Ages) March 19-March 20

This free livestream event will feature daily keynotes and virtual hands-on maker and STEM workshops for all ages for 3 hours a day on Saturday and Sunday.

March 22 at while supplies last - Harry Potter Surprise Book Boxes (Grades 3-8)

Complete the Google Form on our website to reserve your Harry Potter Surprise Book Box!

Virtual Timed LEGO Build (Kids)

March 23 at 3:30 p.m.

Participate in our fun LEGO build challenge over Zoom! All ages.

Grow & Glow Terrarium (Kids) March 29 at 10 a.m.

Care for your own mini ecosystem! For children grades 3-5. Only 1 kit per family.
Signup for April Teen Take Out boxes (Teens)

*March 29 at 3:00 p.m.

Teen Take Out is a monthly box of fun for NP teens in grades 6-12.

The Whys and Whens of Car Maintenance (Teens & Adults)

March 29 at 7 p.m.

This virtual class with Chaya Milchtein will answer your fundamental car ownership and maintenance questions.

VIRTUAL STORYTIME PROGRAMS:

Posted to our YouTube Channel Email npmchildrens@gmail.com to receive the link and watch any day or time!

Storytime with Ms. Sam

Every Monday at 1:00 p.m.

Storytime with Ms. Lori - 4, 5, 6 Yr Olds

Every Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Baby Storytime with Ms. Sam

Every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Pajama Storytime with Ms. Debbie

Every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Follow the Library on all of our social media platforms: [@newprovlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/newprovlibrary).

A full calendar of events including regular meetings is available at newprovidencelibrary.org. Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/NewProvLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/NewProvLibrary) for updates. All events are free and open to the public.

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. Stephan'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.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Online Midweek Lenten Liturgy
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Wednesdays at 12 noon
February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24

Online Holy Week Worship 2021
• **Passion/Palm Sunday, March 28** •
Festival Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.
• **Holy Thursday, April 1** •
Special Liturgy at 7:00 p.m.
• **Good Friday, April 2** •
Special Liturgy at 7:00 p.m.
• **Easter Celebration, April 4** •
Lighting of the Paschal Candle
Garden Liturgy at 7:00 a.m.
Festival Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

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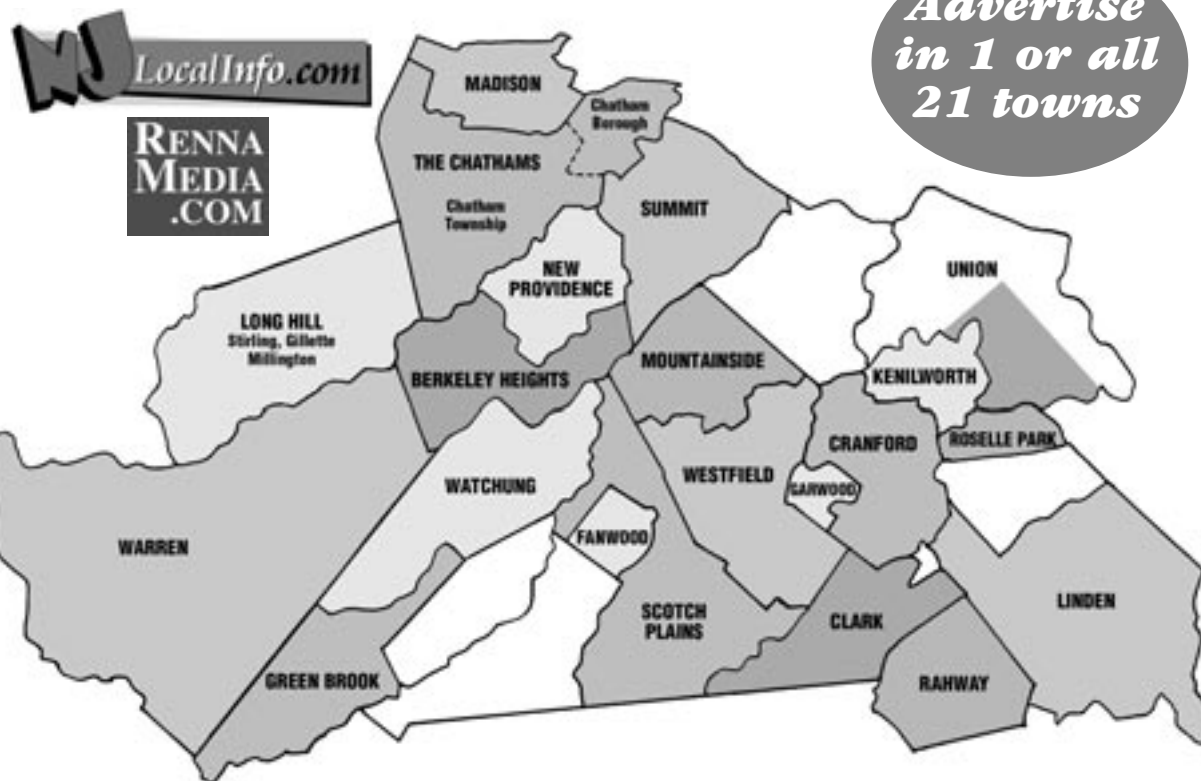
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