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WARREN'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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WARREN'S EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR 2020

Five teachers and five Educational Services Professionals from Warren Township Schools have been named the recipients of the Governor's Educator of the Year awards. Three additional Warren teachers have achieved the Exemplary Educator Recognition Award.

During the week of December 7, Board of Education President, Christian Bellman and Vice President, Patricia Zohn, joined Dr. Matthew Mingle, Superintendent, to visit each school for a socially distanced, surprise visit to notify each of the recipients of their award with a special congratulatory bouquet of flowers, pictures, rounds of applause, and well wishes.

The New Jersey Teacher of the Year Program and the Governor's Teacher/Educational Services Professionals Recognition Program has been integrated into the Governor's Educator of the Year Award.

This updated program highlights educational innovation, student achievement, the rewards of teaching, and important services outside the classroom environment that lead to student success.

During the 2019-2020 school year, the Warren administrative team nominated three teachers for the Exemplary Educator Recognition Program and all three were selected. The goal of this program is to identify outstanding educators for special recognition. Nominees must be individuals who exhibit strong knowledge and skills, an inspiring presence, and a positive impact on students, colleagues, and the school community.

The following is a list of Warren Township Schools staff members and their awards.

CLASSROOM TEACHER RECIPIENTS

- ALT - Brittany Leonard, Special Education Teacher
- Central - Patsy Iannacone, Kindergarten Teacher
- Mt. Horeb - Cristina Trump, Grade 5 Teacher
- Woodland - Susan Leonard, Grade 2 Teacher
- Middle - Jeannie Pang - Mandarin and Math Teacher

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL RECIPIENTS

- ALT - Elizabeth Bisson, Paraprofessional
- Central - Alyssa Pech, School Counselor
- Mt. Horeb - Doris Zanchelli, School Nurse
- Woodland - Alexandra Pranzo, School Counselor
- Middle - Linda Yu, LDTC

EXEMPLARY EDUCATOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

- Central - Julie Jagiello, Special Education Teacher
- Central/Mt. Horeb - Mark Weber, Instrumental Music Teacher
- Woodland - Amanda McGrath - Grade 3 Teacher/Librarian



Each award recipient was nominated for his/ her commitment to providing excellent education and cultivating an environment where each student is able to achieve his/her fullest potential. The district is grateful for the participation from the Warren community, students, and the many wonderful Warren staff who nominated their peers.

Superintendent Matthew Mingle says, "Warren Township Schools benefit from the dedication of talented educators day in and day out. It is wonderful to take a moment to celebrate some of our shining stars!"

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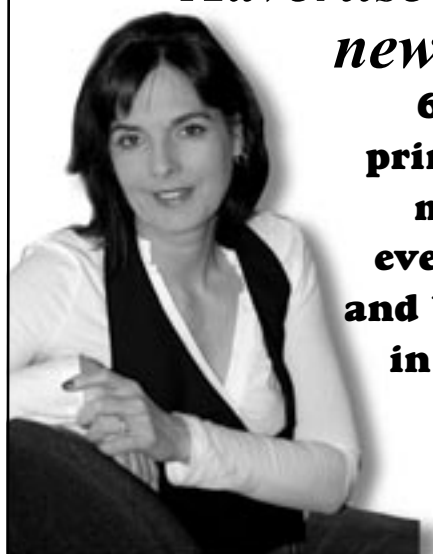
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2020 CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

Submitted by Denis Kelly

Four Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) students are among the nine named as award winners in the 2020 Congressional APP Challenge.

New Jersey U.S. Rep. Tom Malinowski, D-7, of East Amwell Township, announced the winners on Thursday, December 10. Malinowski's 7th Congressional District includes Green Brook Township, Warren Township and Watchung Borough.

Malinowski met virtually via Zoom with the First, Second and Third Place winners on Thursday, December 10, the day the winners' names were announced.

THE 2020 APP CHALLENGE WINNERS ARE:

1st Place: Sameer Surapaneni, Arjun Singh, and Jay Fu, all of Warren Township and juniors at WHRHS; their APP is named Farmnet.

2nd Place: Samantha of Brea, Calif.; and Ruoyu Liu of Montgomery Township, N.J., whose APP is named "Vocal"

3rd Place: Victor Hu of Green Brook Township, and a senior at WHRHS, Chris Gu Short Hills, Sid Srivastava of Holmdel Township, and Aman Wadhwa of Bridgewater Township.

Their APP is named "PoliticianConnect"

The students said they were pleasantly surprised to be honored for their achievement in the challenge, and enjoyed the learning experience.

WHRHS Principal William Librera said WHRHS is very proud of this achievement by all the students. He said their achievement is a testimony both to their academic abilities and their work ethic.

"Each one of the finalists demonstrated creativity and a solid understanding of the issues our country is currently facing," said Rep. Tom Malinowski. "I can't wait to see what these young people will create next. Congratulations to all."

Launched by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2015, the Congressional App Challenge is a nationwide call for participation that, "allows students to compete against their peers by creating an APP," for desktop/PC, web, tablet, mobile, or other devices," according to program notes. "Through recognizing our nation's young programming talent, Congress hopes to shine a light on the growing importance of these skills."



(above, l-r) Arjun Singh, Jay Fu, Samar Surapaneni, Victor Hu.

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(above) The special guest reader in disguise!

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WOODLAND SCHOOL KICKS OFF MASKED READER DAY

Submitted by Shannon Regan

While delivering the morning announcements on Friday, January 29, Principal Jeffrey Heaney introduced a creative and unifying activity for all Woodland students and staff to participate in together.

On the last Friday of each month, the Woodland community will engage in a new and unique activity called Masked Reader Day. Based on the American reality singing competition, The Masked Singer, this school-wide activity is meant to help students develop a love for reading with a special twist.

On Masked Reader Day each class will view a video of a staff member in disguise reading a

book. At the end of the story, the Masked Reader will reveal a few clues about themselves. Each class will have the opportunity to discuss the reading as well as their guesses as to who the surprise guest reader is.

On the following Monday, the same Masked Reader will share another story and eventually reveal their true identity. With the many safety protocols in place, Heaney is excited to see his students connect with each other through reading and learning!

In the spirit of having fun, students and staff members of all cohorts are invited to wear their PJ's on Masked Reader Day as well as the following Monday for the big reveal.



(above, l-r) Samuel Nam is super excited about the Masked Reader activity, Carlos Duran breaks for a quick picture during the Masked Reader activity, Madelyn Urban watches along during the Masked Reader activity.

Photos by Warren Township Schools

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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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THE KINDNESS CREW DELIVERS SMILES AND JOY

Submitted by Shannon Regan

Many individuals and groups throughout Warren Township have risen to the occasion to help assist their community and those around them during the COVID-19 crisis. During the month of December, a small group of Angelo L. Tomaso (ALT) students, their younger siblings, and parents formed a group called The Kindness Crew.

According to Anne E. Isedeh, the mother of crew members Leisel, Lailah, Adaline, and Malia, "The creation of the group was meant to empower children to see that they matter in their community and that they can make a difference, even if it is just a smile on someone's face and lastly, that being kind does not have to be difficult, it may take work, but it's good and rewarding work."

The Kindness Crew successfully delivered lots of smiles and joy to the residents of the Chelsea Assisted Living Facility in Warren during the holiday season. As the crew picks up steam, it has caught the attention of local media and township officials. On February 3, the Kindness Crew met over Zoom with Warren Township Police Officer and PBA President, Jeffrey Sohler.

According to Sohler, the Warren PBA is planning to support four local Warren restaurants by donating \$1,000 to each eatery which will help the restaurants to create a buy one entree get one at half price promotion.

Sohler challenged the Kindness Crew members to collaborate with the PBA by visiting Alfies, Saly G's, Prezzo Italian Restaurant, and

Bruno's Bistro to interview the head chefs of each location to learn about the restaurants' signature dishes. Sohler also asked the Crew to find out what makes each restaurant special.

During the Zoom session, Crew member Stella Ferreiro told Officer Sohler that The Kindness Crew was excited to help the local PBA. Sohler will be meeting with The Kindness Crew again to debrief their restaurant visits and to hear about what the children learned.

In addition to The Kindness Crew's growing local notoriety, and with help from the power of social media, the Kindness Crew has expanded into New York, California, and Canada. Although the challenges for each Kindness Crew branch might vary by region, the mission will remain the same - empower children to make a difference in their community.

ALT Principal Ms. Christine Smith added, "We are so proud of these children and their families! We have the pleasure of seeing their kindness in action at school each day. I'm so glad to know that the entire community is now able to witness their hearts and feel added joy because of them! As adults, we often express empathy for others, but we don't always take action. It is inspiring to watch these young people use all of their skills to see a need and do the work necessary to make the world a better place. They are wonderful examples of how anything can be done when we remain positive and work together!"

To learn more about The Kindness Crew and their journey, and how you can get involved, please visit their Facebook Page.



(above) Joe, the chef, and owner of Saly G's restaurant was recently named a winner on the show Chopped. Joe takes a quick picture after meeting with the Kindness Crew.

Photos by Anne E. Isedeh



(above) Adaline Isedeh, Rizzo (the owner of Prezzo Restaurant), then Leisel Isedeh, Malia Isedeh, Stella Ferreiro and Lailah Isedeh squeeze in for a photo.



(above) Bruno, owner of Bruno's and Lailah Isedeh, Stella Ferreiro, and Leisel Isedeh smile for the camera.



(above) Alfie, the owner of Alfie's, and Franco the chef take a moment for a picture with Lailah Isedeh, Stella Ferreiro, and Leisel

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WHRHS WINTER COLLEGE ATHLETIC SIGNINGS

Submitted by Denis Kelly

Two Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Student Athletes, Seniors Chad Martini of Warren Township and James Coslet of the Millington Section of Long Hill Township, announced their intentions to matriculate and play football next year.

The announcements were made on Thursday, February 4, at their high school's Media Center.

Martini, WHRHS Quarterback as well as WHRHS Basketball Team member, said he intends to attend and play for the Cornell University "Big Red," Ithaca, N.Y. He plans to study Economics.

Coslet, WHRHS Offensive and Defensive Lineman, said he intends to attend and play for

the Dartmouth College "Big Green," Hanover, N.H. He plans to study Political Science.

Both Martini and Coslet were among several WHRHS players who were named Captains of this year's WHRHS Football Team. Both schools, Cornell and Dartmouth, play in the Ivy League athletic conference, and are Division I Colleges.

Also attending the signing announcement ceremony were the player's parents, Chris and Christopher Martini and Jennifer and Jonathan Coslet.

Earlier in the year, on Wednesday, November 11, there were six other WHRHS Student Athletes who signed to matriculate and play intercollegiate sports: Five at Division I colleges and one at Division II colleges.



(above) Chad Martini, WHRHS Quarterback as well as WHRHS Basketball Team member, will attend and play for the Cornell University.



(above) James Coslet, WHRHS Offensive and Defensive Lineman, said he intends to attend and play for the Dartmouth College.

Photos by WHRHS

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

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March 10, 1-2 p.m.

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St. Patrick's Day Storytime With Miss Karen

March 17, 6-6:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4707028.

We Can Do It - American Women In History

March 18, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4651434.

Family Night - DIY Bird Nests

March 18, 7-7:45 p.m.

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Sensory Time - STEAM Edition

March 20, 10:30-11 a.m.

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March 3, 5-6:30 p.m.

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Spin, Pop, Boom (grades 2 and up)

March 4, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

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Girl Power - Block-Based Coding (grades 4-8)

March 8, 5-6 p.m.

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Crafting Fun - Easy Paper Kite

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March 9, 3-3:30 p.m.

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Puppet Time (ages 2-5 and caregivers)

March 10, 10-10:25 a.m.

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High School 101 - Q&A (grades 7-8)

March 10, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4693631.

Artes y Manualidades (Kids Crafts) (grado 2-4)

(grades 2-4)

March 13, 2-2:45 p.m.

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STEAM - Exploring and Constructing

Tessellations (grades 1-4)

March 15, 4-4:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4697825.

National Panda Day (grades K-3)

March 16, 3:30-4 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4670327.

Greek Gods and DC Heroes (grades 9-12)

March 17, 5-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4702497.

Math Matters - Dragons Love Tacos (ages 3-6

and caregivers)

March 18, 11-11:30 a.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4707078.

Ukrainian Egg Design (grades 3 and up)

March 19, 4-4:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4707136.

Learning Lab - Crazy Chemistry (grades K-5)

March 19, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4686787.

Hour of Code - Undersea Arcade (grades 2-5)

March 22, 4-5 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4686785.

Calligraphy - Fun With Upper Case Letters

(grades K-4)

March 24, 3-3:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4694146.

Let's Cook - Your Choice Green Smoothie

(grades 3-5)

March 26, 4:30-5 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4708759.

STEP Up Social Hour - Navigating College and

Career Resources (grades 9-12)

March 29, 4-5 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4704139.

Mystery at the Library - The Case of the

Missing Author (grades 4-8)

March 31, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4697915.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Quilting Over the Centuries -

Women's Life and History in America

March 1, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4570632.

Making Your Job Search Work For You -

Presented by Paul Grzella

March 2, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4710916.

Amelia Earhart - The Power of One

March 2, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4516004.

New Jersey Women in World War II -

Presented by Dr. Patricia Chappine

March 3, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4551443.

The Lowell Mill Girls - Organized Labor and the

First Strikes in America

March 4, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4513364.

Disability Awareness Panel Discussion

March 8, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4723786.

Lydia Darragh Quaker Spy of the Revolution -

Presented by Dr. Jack Briggs

March 9, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4515548.

Show And Share - An Event For Developmental

Disabilities Awareness Month

March 11, 2-3 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4711308.

Women at Work - Paterson Silk Strike of 1913,

Presented by the American Labor Museum

March 11, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4624414.

Meet the Author - Kathy Peiss

March 16, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4531058.

Meet the Author - Stephen Puleo

March 17, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4626775.

Meet Catherine the Great - A Woman of Her

Time, Russian Czarina of the 18th Century

March 18, 7-8 p.m.

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Becoming an Informed Investor - Presented by

Investor Advocacy Project

March 19, 2-3 p.m.

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"The Fact That I Was a Girl..." - Willa Cather's

Unconventional Life

March 22, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4564595.

Mental Wellness, It Is Easy If You Do It Smart -

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(caregivers and educators)

March 24, 5-6:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4718473.

Meet the Author - Antonia Felix

"The Unstoppable Ruth Bader Ginsburg -

American Icon:"

March 24, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4642381.

Apertura de una Empresa en Nueva Jersey

March 30, 3-4 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4710929.

Scent, Style, and Culture - Five Iconic

Fragrances of the 20th Century

March 30, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4568379.

The Military Accomplishments of Major

Alexander Hamilton

March 31, 7-8 p.m.

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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. Stephan'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
a worshipping and serving community of the
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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
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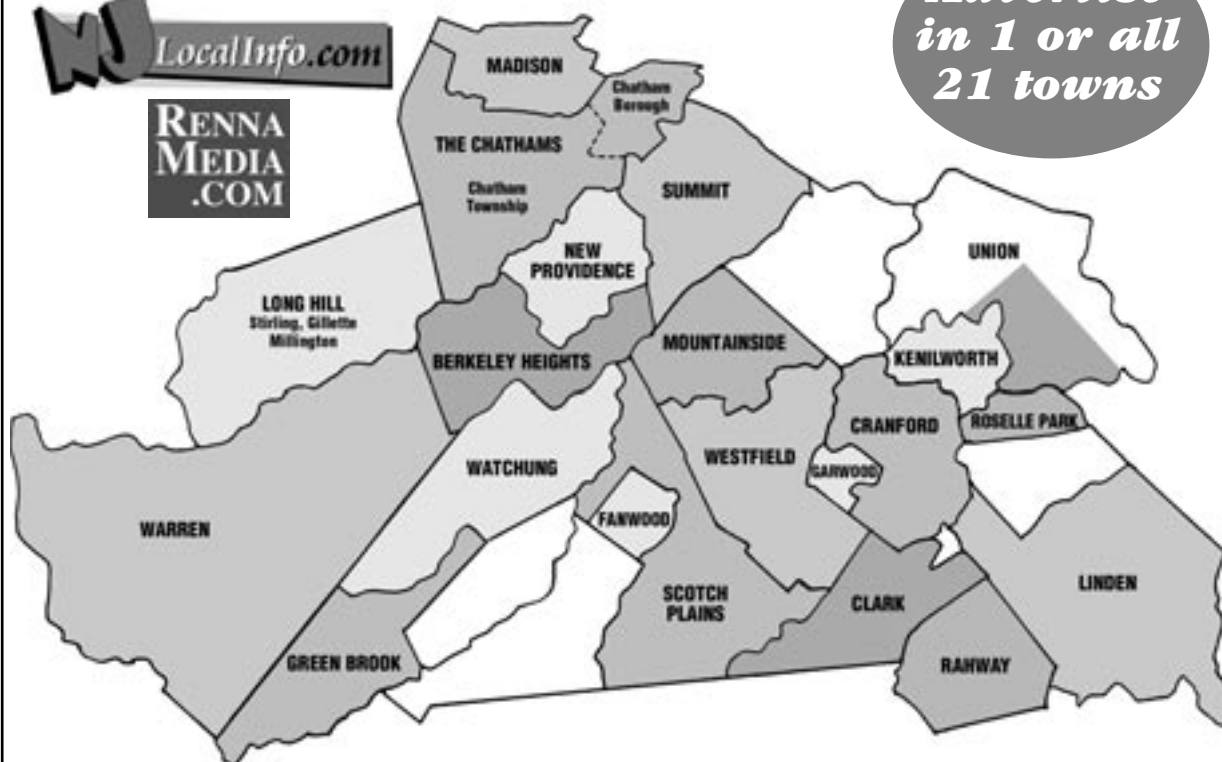
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