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ECRWSSEDDM * * *



(above) The Hon. Zahid N. Quarishi attended the June 15th Township Council meeting to receive a proclamation and a hearty round of applause.

Photo by Township of Scotch Plains

Allstate

The Hon. Zahid N. Quarishi, a 1993 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and a talented soccer player for championship high school teams, has been named the first Muslim American federal district court judge in the United States.

In response, the Township Council adopted a resolution that commends Judge Quarishi for his tremendous accomplishment and service to the United States.

Judge Quarishi is s 2000 graduate of Rutgers Law School in Newark, served in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, attaining the rank of captain, before being honorably discharged in 2007. During this time, Judge Quraishi was stationed in Germany, assigned to the First Infantry Division, and deployed twice to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, both in 2004 and 2006. He served as United States Magistrate Judge for the District of New Jersey in the Trenton Vicinage, appointed June 3, 2019. Of Pakistani descent, he was the first Asian-American to sit on the federal bench in New Jersey. On March 30, 2021,

President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate Judge Quraishi to serve as a United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. The Senate confirmed him June 10 by a vote of 81-16.

"We commend Judge Quraishi for his tremendous service to the United States of America and serving as a shining example for the youth of Scotch Plains," Mayor Losardo said. "He is truly a role model for all in our community to celebrate and emulate."

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Scotch Plains Monthly • Page 2 • July 2021

Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

Scotch Plains Monthly is published by Renna Media. 9,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Scotch Plains.

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations, schools and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos from recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email editor@ rennamedia.com or call 908-858-4012

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Advertise in this newspaper 9,500 papers are printed monthly and mailed to every household and business in Scotch Plains.

Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

RAKE & HOE DECORATES TRAYS FOR MOBILE MEALS

Submitted by Betty Round

Members of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club recently met at the First Baptist Church of Westfield where Mobile Meals originates and made 55 small floral arrangements to accompany the Mobile Meals delivered that day.

These colorful small arrangements are much appreciated by the clients who look forward to receiving them. One recipient told the club that she placed the arrangement on her kitchen windowsill and when she saw the arrangement every day it brought her happiness and made her realize that she was not alone and that others think of her and care. The club has performed this service twice a year in the Spring and the Fall for almost 50 years.

Mobile Meals is a voluntary, non-profit program that provides home-delivered meals to those who are unable to shop and prepare their own meals on either a temporary or permanent basis. It is available to residents of Westfield and surrounding communities including Mountainside, Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Clark, and Cranford. For more information, call 908-233-6146.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Currently, the club meets online on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. Meetings feature speakers on horticultural, flower design, floral crafts, and environmental topics. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns. For more information, call Beth Siano 908-233 4150 or visit the club's website, rakeandhoegc.org, or Facebook page.



(above, l-r) Pictured are Mary Smith, Kris Luka, Kathyrn Ciurczak, Margot Partridge, Gayle Lechner, Donna Hopkins, Mary Fran Annese, Jeanie Pelikan and Betty Gulino.





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LIONS CLUB GRANTS SCHOLARSHIP TO VALDON DANIEL III

Submitted by Jerry Kirshenbaum

Valdon Daniel III, a resident of Scotch Plains and a June graduate of Scotch Plains- Fanwood High School, was recently awarded the Grausso/Bendel Memorial Scholarship from the Scotch Plains Lions Club. The Scholarship is in memory of two former leaders of the Scotch Plains Lions Club, Norm Bendel and Tony Grausso.

This scholarship is awarded annually to a college-bound Scotch Plains- Fanwood High School senior. Preference is given to students who have demonstrated involvement in community service, especially those causes dedicated to the blind and visually impaired.

The Lions Club is the World's largest and most active service organization. It has more than 1.4 million members active in more than 43,000 Lions chapters around the world. They are dedicated to meeting a variety of their community's needs with the association's major service initiative being serving the blind and visually impaired.

Valdon has participated in many community service activities. He was a co-leader of a prison ministry at a juvenile detention center in Newark where he inspired the youth there with practical tools to better their lives. He is also involved in iDance Ministry and uses these skills to volunteer at boys' and girls' clubs, nursing homes, and to train children for the Special Olympics.

Valdon will be attending Morgan State University in the fall majoring in video game design (game and interactive media).

For more information on the Scotch Plains Lions Club or to attend a meeting, call the club's president Barbara Anilo at 908-322-4472. The Scotch Plains Lions Club welcomes new members.



(above) Valdon Daniel III was recently awarded the Grausso/Bendel Memorial Scholarship from the Scotch Plains Lions Club.

RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN FDA Approved Treatment to Avoid Surgery

DON'T BLAME THE ARROW FOR MISSING THE TARGET

Just like tens of millions of other Americans, you were looking for relief from your chronic knee pain. You thought Viscosupplementation injections might be the answer, but the results were disappointing and painful. Don't assume the treatment wasn't right. That could very well be like blanning the arrow for its path to the target when the problem might be the archer. If you didn't get the pain relief you were hoping for, chances are your injection treatment was off target. Unlike blind injections or even ultrasound targeted treatments found elsewhere,

Northeast Spine & Wellness Center uses diagnostic fluoroscopy to make sure the area that needs treated is the exact area where the injection goes. This is the most advanced method of delivering this pain relieving treatment with 95% accuracy to give you the results you're looking for. The use of Fluoroscopy guided injections sets Northeast Spine & Wellness Center apart. The end result is you living pain free from your chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the

endless trial and error assortment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in those suffering from knee pain related to osteoarthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough. Call Northeast Spine & Wellness Center now for 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, but let's look further:

 Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
 Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.

With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed 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 that road before. Addictions to these pain 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 goodbye to your knee pain without any surgery. Here

are just a few of the important benefits you should consider? • Diagnostic fluoroscopy accurately targets the pain, unlike blind injections. • Guided fluoroscopic injections are virtually pain free, unlike blind injections.

No lost time from work or family.

No expensive or time consuming rehabilitation.
 No potentially addictive prescription medications.

· Recovery time is almost instant, not months or years.

Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

There are a number of reasons why you developed Osteoarthritis 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 tendemess and soreness to the entire knee area, making walking 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 swelling.

 Stiffness - Getting up out of bed 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 falling.

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

discomfort to come.

• Sleepless nights - Losing sleep over your suffering is

not just irritating, but potentially dangerous because of so many other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sound sleep.



How Does This New Treatment Work?

Relief begins almost as fast 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 daily. 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 Hyaluronic 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. Osteoarthritis sufferers 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 knee can begin to wear away leading to the rubbing of bone on bone. Through Viscosupplementation Therapy, this natural substance immediately goes to work reducing the swelling 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 osteoarthritis, it's easy to see why this treatment is so readily covered by Medicare and by most major insurance providers. Diagnostic fluoroscopy to target the pain, Viscosupplementation Therapy to relieve the pain. Simple, fast and no surgery!

Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

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

Something che I see almost every day, are patients that have tried viscosupplementation knee injections clsewhere and found it to be a painful and ineffective experience because the injections were not administered using fluoroscopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoros-

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 fluoroscopy and the amazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are thrilled 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

"Tin dancing without pain. I can more with no problem whatwever. I can go up and down steps with no pain." - Patricia G.

"Over 85% relief for the first time in 15 years, suffering with knee pain. My life is getting back to normal." - Perry O.

"After only four visits, i have absolutely no pain? The staff is "top-notch." - Quenton L.



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LEADERS MOVE FORWARD WITH RACIAL HEALING STRATEGY

Submitted by Tom Kranz

A community-wide effort to further a dialogue on combating racism has resulted in an action plan now being carried out across the Fanwood-Scotch Plains community by groups of concerned elected and community leaders. This action plan addresses ongoing concerns about bias, especially in the areas of policing and education.

This forward movement is the result of an almost year-long listening tour during 2020, culminating in a report that codifies the concerns of citizens, students and community leaders. The report, listening tour and the ongoing discussions are conducted under the Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT) model, a national project funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and others. Our local Fanwood-Scotch Plains TRHT Committee is engaged with consultants and trainers from Rutgers University-Newark in implementation of the TRHT framework.

Recent incidents of racial bias in our schools and elsewhere in the community prompted our own non-profit group, Social Justice Matters, to recommend the TRHT model.

"This important work is being done by a grassroots committee made up of our neighbors and leaders who are heavily invested in our towns," said Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr.

The Committee's report focuses on these main conclusions:

- Top issues are policing and education
- Minority parents see their children facing the same challenges at school and in the community that they experienced in their youth
- Emphasize racial healing, improved consistency in delivery of a diverse curriculum and staffing in schools
- Improve communication with police
- · Build improved race relations in general

Since the presentation of the Committee's report in late 2020, the following actions have been taken:

- The SPF School District is implementing antibias training for administrators and educators
- The Fanwood Police Department has a more

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diverse roster and is currently undergoing a review of its policing policies and command hierarchy

- Fanwood and Scotch Plains leadership have pledged to broaden the scope of their cultural offerings
- Subcommittees composed of members of our local TRHT Committee are currently discussing these and other topics of concern towards presenting action plans

Superintendent of SPF schools, Dr. Joan Mast said, "We need to ensure all children and families have the same benefit of our excellent school system. We're committed to sustainable change in equity, curriculum, diversity and inclusion. This is the time for us to capitalize on this moment as a unified community."

The Committee also learned people love this community and are willing to work to improve

it. Residents of color wish to stay within the community and engage their children in activities. Connections are important – residents want to get to know their police.

Scotch Plains Mayor Joshua G. Losardo remarked, "I encourage members of both communities to contact Social Justice Matters and participate in upcoming programs. The more candid conversations we have with our neighbors of different backgrounds and experiences, the more we continue to learn from one another and create better understanding. I appreciate this important partnership with Fanwood, as we continue to proactively work together to improve racial equity."

If you are interested in getting involved in this work, please contact Social Justice Matters by emailing president@socialjustciematters.org or admin@socialjusticematters.org.











LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS BRING **SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH THROUGH TOWN**

took part in this year's Special Olympics Torch Run, a statewide, daylong marathon along 26 separate routes, involving 3,000 New Jersey law enforcement officers. The annual event raises funds and awareness for the Special Olympics.

Fanwood and Scotch Plains police officers This year's route took officers through downtown Fanwood along South and Martine Avenues, then into Scotch Plains up Park Avenue to Front and Terrill where they handed off the torch to the next group. Well done, officers!

Photos by Tom Kranz





New Hope for Mood Disorders

epression and mood disorders can affect an individual's ability to carry on a normal life. They can leave a person feeling unusually sad, depressed, anxious, manic and generally not able to live life to its fullest.

One of the state's largest and comprehensive hospital-based Behavioral Health programs is offering new hope to patients with life-affecting mood disorders.

The new Mood Disorders Program at Trinitas Regional Medical Center has centralized all major treatments into a single, customized delivery system – one that now includes, medication, psychotherapy, esketamine and Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT).

Let our highly skilled and compassionate staff help you or your loved one today.

Call (908) 994-7552.



225 Williamson Street Elizabeth, NJ 07202 www.TrinitasRMC.org Scotch Plains Monthly • Page 10 • July 2021







SENIOR CITIZENS PICNIC

Dozens of Scotch Plains' senior citizens enjoyed the beautiful weather and a picnic at Brookside Park on Thursday, May 27th. It was the first big event that the seniors got to enjoy together post-pandemic and the outdoor pavilion was the perfect venue for it. Township officials came out to show their support and offered a lending hand throughout the event.



Photos by Scotch Plains Township





PAT KEEFE JOINS IMAGINE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Submitted by Valerie Stierhoff

We are so pleased to welcome Pat Keefe of Scotch Plains to the Board of Trustees at Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss in Mountainside and Newark.

Pat joined Elizabethtown Gas Company in March of 1980 as a Staff Attorney in the Legal Department responsible for Rate and Regulatory matters. She was elected General Counsel of Elizabethtown in 1985 and served in various positions within the utility, ultimately serving as the Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, General Counsel and Secretary of the utility group and a member of its board of directors. She joined the Regulatory team of AGL Resources in 2004 and was responsible for regulatory matters in New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia. She was named the Managing Director of Regulatory Affairs for the Mid-Atlantic Region in 2011 and was elected Vice President Regulatory Affairs and Business Support for Elizabethtown Gas and Elkton Gas in September 2014. In July of 2016, AGL Resources was acquired by the Southern Company and she assumed the same role within that organization, as well as responsibility for regulatory compliance with all terms and conditions of the acquisition by the New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia regulatory bodies. She retired in January of 2019.

Pat has extensive experience in all aspects of utility regulation and ratemaking, having served as lead counsel in numerous base rate cases, rate franchise applications, clause filings, infrastructure replacement proceedings, energy efficiency matters, utility management audits, as well as merger and acquisition approvals.

Pat graduated with general honors from Douglass College for Women of Rutgers University in 1972 and with honors from Seton



(above) Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss welcomed Pat Keefe of Scotch Plains to the Board of Trustees.

Hall University Law Center in 1975. She was employed by the New Jersey Public Utility Commission as a hearing examiner and regulatory officer prior to joining Elizabethtown Gas Company in 1980.

She served as Chair of the New Jersey Utility Association's Board of Directors and was the first woman to serve in that capacity in the 100 year history of the organization. She was also the first woman to chair the Utility Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association. She is a member of the New Jersey Bar and is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for New Jersey and the United States Supreme Court. Pat was named to the Top 50 Women in Business by the New Jersey Biz magazine in 2012 and received the 2017 Mary Philbrook Award of the Women's Political Caucus of New Jersey for her work in the energy field. In 2019, she received

the New Jersey Utility Association's Distinguished Service Award for her leadership and commitment to the industry.

She resides in Scotch Plains and has two adult daughters and two granddaughters.

When asked about her reasons for joining Imagine's Board, Pat said: "My mother died when I was a very young child after a long battle with cancer. Her death left a huge void in our family. Imagine's promise that no child should grieve alone touches me deeply."

Imagine offers grief and loss education and training to the community and free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 who have had a parent or brother or sister die. Concurrent groups are available for parents and guardians, and young adults 18-30. For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.



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RICHARD HERNANDEZ, RECEIVES STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

Literacy New Jersey

Literacy New Jersey recently held its annual Literacy for Life Conference, a virtual conference for adult literacy practitioners. During the conference, Richard Hernandez received the Student Excellence Award from among more than 1,000 Literacy New Jersey students.

Program Director Barbara Bagger of Westfield said: "Richard is an outstanding choice for our Student Excellence Award. He is a model student and earned his high school diploma in record time. He aspires to attend college and join his brother's software business. He inspires other students to achieve their goals. We are very proud of Richard. I know that this is just the beginning for Richard."

Richard Hernandez came to Literacy New Jersey in September 2020 during the height of the pandemic. While many HSE students were discouraged from attending online classes and

using unfamiliar computer technology, and faced with closed test centers, Richard persevered. Richard has lived in Elizabeth, New Jersey all of his life. He had trouble in high school because of test anxiety and accordingly did not earn his high school diploma. However, at 27, Richard made the decision to earn his high school diploma and called Literacy New Jersey to sign up for classes. Within 3 short months, Richard was a high school graduate.

His tutor, Vivian Saito, a Literacy New Jersey tutor from Westfield, describes Richard: "From the get-go Richard Hernandez was a 'go-getter'; He was determined to earn his HSE diploma within the term allotted to do so.

"Even while taking care of family obligations, Richard made time to study his lessons and complete all practice tests for class each week. I knew Richard was bound for success in earning his diploma after reading his initial writing essay



(His was the first in the class to be submitted.). Richard's essay was like reading a page from a book and I told him so...Thank you, Richard, for allowing this tutor to feel my time spent has been so worthwhile with Literacy New Jersey and with students like you."

Math tutor Peggy Tung, a Literacy New Jersey tutor from Berkeley Heights added, "Richard has all the qualities that make every student a success. It can be summed up in three words: goal-setting, conscientiousness and hard-work.

"First, he set his goal, in this case, to get his HSE certificate. Then, he meticulously did everything he could to reach that goal. He understood that 'practice makes perfect' was a necessary condition for learning math. As a result, he made every effort to attend all classes while meeting family obligations. He was attentive in all classes, trying to understand the subject at hand and asking questions for clarification. He did all the homework assigned to the students, which required tenacious pursuit. Last but not least, to prepare for the test he did all sample tests in the TASC system and the extra review problems until he mastered them. His hard work paid off. He passed the math test in his first attempt, a reward for and a testament to his sustained and concentrated effort. As a math tutor, I cannot ask for more from a student than what Richard has been doing. His methodical approach to reaching his goal was exemplary. It has been a complete privilege to have the opportunity to be his tutor and to help him accomplish success. It is without a doubt that Richard will continue to complete whatever goal he sets for himself in his life."

Literacy New Jersey is a non-profit organization that helps adult students who struggle with reading, writing and speaking English. Programs include: English as a Second Language, Basic Literacy, High School Equivalency, Digital Literacy and citizenship classes. Classes are free to students and because of the pandemic, all classes are currently held online. Literacy New Jersey gratefully received support from the Westfield United Fund, the Westfield Foundation and the Elizabeth Public Library. If you would like to volunteer with Literacy New Jersey, you must be 18 years old and speak English. For more information, contact Barbara Bagger, Program Director at bbagger@literacynj.org.



(above) Richard Hernandez received the Student Excellence Award from Literacy New Jersey at its Literacy for Life Conference.

FANWOOD SUMMER **MOVIE SERIES**

Fanwood Recreation announces the return of its Free Summer Movie Series Under the Stars to La Grande Park! The probable schedule is:

JUNE 29: Aladdin (2019) PG JULY 6: Monsters Inc. (2001) G **JULY 13:** Frozen II (2019) PG **JULY 20:** Jumanji: The Next Level (2019) PG-13 **JULY 27:** The Croods: A New Age (2020) PG AUG. 3: Toy Story 4 (2019) G AUG. 10: Mamma Mia! (2008) PG-13 AUG. 17:

Guardians of the Galaxy (2014) PG-13 All movies are scheduled for Tuesday evenings, and will initially begin around 8:30 PM. As the summer progresses and the days get shorter the start time will gradually move up to 8 PM. The rain date for each movie is the following day. Moviegoers should bring blankets or low beach chairs to sit on.

REC ANNOUNCES CAMPS & PROGRAMS

There's still time to register for these summer camps and programs offered by Fanwood Recreation: Fashion Design Camp, Summer Park Program (day camp), Girls Lacrosse Camp, Junior Tennis Lessons, TGA Junior Golf Camp, Skateboarding Camp, Soccer Camp, Multi-Sports T-Ball, Basketball, Golf, Junior First Responders Program, Art Camp, Babysitting Certification, Yoga for Preschoolers, Summer Book Club for Middle Schoolers and Algebra Review.

For more info about these programs and to register, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.

TOWN HALL IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Following Gov. Phil Murphy's recent loosening of restrictions for public indoor gatherings, the Scotch Plains municipal building was reopened to the public on Tuesday, June 1.

The township will still enforce social distancing guidelines, as well as requiring all visitors and staff to wear masks. Residents are encouraged to schedule an appointment to help monitor the number of people that are entering throughout the business day.

The municipal building will be open Monday through Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Friday from 8:30 a.m. to noon.



FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP – **TUESDAY JULY 20, 2021**

Are you feeling stressed and alone in trying to facing the same challenges. Zoom sessions are cope with the effects of a loved one's mental illness? NAMI Union County's Family Support Group is for family members and caregivers of persons with mental illness. Join our peer-led group meetings and gain insight from others

held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

register. То email Denise at: namiunioncounty@yahoo.com with your name, town, and phone number.





SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR Scotch Plains Monthly • Page 15 • July 2021

Submitted by Christopher D Sands is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of those who fought and worked to save the Union. Hereditary membership is available to a male descendant, 14 years of age, who directly descends from a Soldier, Sailor, Marine or member of the Revenue Cutter Service between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865.

The General Phil Kearny Camp #20 meets four The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War times a year at the Abraham Clark House in Roselle, NJ. The next scheduled Camp meetings are September 11, and November 13, 2021, all Saturdays at 1 p.m. We support over 20 high schools and 2 universities with the SUVCW ROTC Medal. Our current program is to place signs where Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) posts met in North Jersey.

For more information visit suvcw.org.



(above) Colonel Stephen Harlan is inducted into the General Phil Kearny Camp 320 membership. Chaplain James O, Halloran, Secretary Clark McCullough, and Commander Peter Lindsey conduct the induction.

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(above, l-r) Alana Lamberti of Scotch Plains highlights with admiration the long line of bikes that have been donated. Alana's sister, Elyse, at the middle of the long line, signals the same admiration.



FAITH LUTHERAN THANKS COMMUNITY FOR BIKE DONATIONS

Submitted by Larry Holt

Faith Lutheran Church, 524 South Street in and other services. New Providence, gives a substantial "Thank You" to the persons who donated 402 secondhand bikes, which will be used by needy persons in rural communities of African countries.

The parking lot of Faith, on Saturday, May 8, was the setting for the 402 bike collection, which had occurred over a few months. Generous persons from the following towns contributed bikes: New Providence, Berkeley Heights, Chatham, Summit, Basking Ridge, Long Hill Township, Cranford, Westfield, Maplewood, Scotch Plains, Mountainside, Watchung, Rahway and Wayne. These towns suggest that some persons had to travel a distance to contribute their bikes. The large source of towns was mainly due to articles in the town newspapers published by Renna Media.

On that wet May 8 day and the subsequent Tuesday, May 11, members of Faith and two members of Osceola Presbyterian Church in Clark repaired and processed the bikes in Faith's parking lot. The bikes were then placed on trucks of Pedals for Progress, an organization which annually recycles bikes for persons in developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Faith's bikes will shortly be on their way to Africa.

The bikes will provide reliable transportation for men and women to commute to work, facebook.com/FaithLutheranNewProvidence/live

transport produce to market, access health care

Since 2002, Faith has been collecting bikes for Pedals for Progress. The total of 402 significantly exceeds the number in any prior year. The persons giving their bicycles also donated \$1,248 toward the international shipping costs of the bikes. Faith will contribute \$2,800 toward the shipping expense.

Faith will continue its collection of secondhand bikes. Persons may drop off their bikes at the parking lot on any day. Those who have bikes but are unable to deliver them to Faith, may call the church office at 908-464-5177 or email the office at family.faith@verizon.net. Faith graciously asks that bikes with rusted frames, handlebars or rims not be left, as they cannot be repaired or used. The bikes are to be ridden, not scrapped.

Since 2016, the chairperson of this ministry of Faith has been Casey Walsh, who is a long time member of the church. Mr. Walsh lives in Bridgewater. His daughter, Anna, and son, Casey, helped repair and process the bikes.

Faith feels much gratitude toward the many persons who have kindly donated their bikes.

The pastor of Faith is Rev. Jane McCready. Visit online at famfaith.org or reach by phone at the above number.

Sunday services are online at 10 a.m. at



(above, l-r) Wesley and Steve MacPherson of Somerville, Elyse and Alana Lamberti of Scotch Plains, Andrew Tintera and Sally Reier of Union, Anna, Casey Jr. and Casey Walsh of Bridgewater. Standing on the truck is Gary from Pedals for Progress.

FAITH LUTHERAN PEDALS FOR PROGRESS



(above, l-r) Alan of Pedals for Progress, Gary of Pedals for Progress, Bill Bradley of New Providence, Casey Walsh of Bridgewater, Sally Reier of Union, Diana Bjorge of Berkeley Heights, Ky Luu of Fanwood, Linda Fuller of Berkeley Heights.



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HONORING THE MEMORY OF A FATHER

Father's Day is a special time of year for Rajesh Karnani of Paramus, NJ. It is a time when he joins his family members to remember his father, Sham C. Karnani, who unexpectedly passed due to heart complications on March 17, 2010. Rajesh recalls how his father always spoke to family members and friends about his support for organ and tissue donation. His father's selfless decision to be an organ and tissue donor ultimately restored sight for two other people with his donated corneas.

More than a decade later, Rajesh has made it his personal mission to inspire others to register as organ and tissue donors. He actively supports NJ Sharing Network's community events, activities and fundraisers to help raise awareness for NJ Sharing Network's life-saving mission.

According to NJ Sharing Network, there are nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents currently waiting for a life-saving transplant, and one



(above) Sham C. Karnani and his son Rajesh Karnani

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person in New Jersey dies every three days of his corneas to two recipients in need. waiting for a transplant. Just one organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and enhance the lives of over 75 people. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit www.NJSharingNetwork.org.

The following was written by Rajesh to pay tribute to his father and help raise awareness about organ and tissue donation and transplantation in our local communities:

My father, Sham C. Karnani, was born in India and migrated to New York in the 1970s. He came to America to help ensure that his family has a better life, and he worked as an importer of garments shipped from India and sold to prospective buyers in the U.S.

I can talk about my father for hours - about the great businessman he was, how he supported and loved his family so much, or how he would put other people's happiness over his own. His passion in life was service to his fellow man/woman. What motivated him in life was to make sure that those around him were happy. He was always determined to pay it forward in some way.

He was (and still is) not only my role model, but an inspiration, to me and to everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. He taught me so much - how we are fortunate enough to live a good life, and so it is our responsibility to do our best to help others less fortunate do so too.

My father's major passion for the last two decades of his life was to spread the awareness of organ and tissue donation. His message to others was simple: Organ and tissue donation saves and enhances lives.

My father would often say, "When it comes down to it, we can't take our organs on our journey to heaven. We don't need them, so why not give others the opportunity to complete the rest of their journey in the present."

On March 17th, 2010, my father unexpectedly passed away while in a temple on a holy day (our Indian new year). He was dancing with the love of his life, my mother. I am proud to say that, upon his death, my father was able to donate both

My father kept a journal of his thoughts that we found after he passed away. His writings confirmed how much faith he had and how passionate he was about donation and transplantation. In the journal, he called it "recycling of organs for the benefit of mankind."

He noted that he believed that most people would want to make the selfless decision to donate their organs and tissue upon death. However, he believed that the biggest barrier is that most people do not let their family members know about their choice to donate. He noted that if only person just lets their family knows, about their wishes, countless number of lives can be saved.

My father was also a very spiritual person. He once was able to ask one a spiritual leader his thoughts on the subject of organ and tissue donation. We all remember the spark and happiness in my Dad's eyes, when this spiritual leader, declared that organ and tissue donation is "the best gift anyone can give to their fellow man or woman."

It has been difficult for us to move on without my father here. Each day, I still expect him to walk through the door. However, I feel comfort in knowing that the gift of sight my father gave helps justify the passion he had all those years on how organ and tissue donation really is the best service we can provide to others. That passion has now been passed down to me.

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 lifesaving 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.





NJ DEP# S27236

SP-F SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Distributes over \$188,150 In Scholarship Awards

Despite the unprecedented nature of the 2020-2021 school year, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation has continued to fulfill its mission of helping local students achieve their goals of a higher education by distributing over \$188,150 in scholarship aid to 115 deserving students.

Throughout the year, members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood community generously contributed to the Foundation's "Dollars for Students Campaign," which distributed \$19,500 to various high school and college students who are residents of Scotch Plains or Fanwood and have demonstrated both impressive academic achievement and financial need.

Some of these Dollars for Students awards are named in honor of board members of the Foundation (in parentheses). The high school students who received such awards are: William Felcone (Lee Stein), Sofia Dietze (Joseph Nagy), Tracy Bagdonas (Eleanor Kramps), Ethan Heifetz (Recipient Funded), Shruti Khandelwal (Henry Schweiring), and Daniel Ferrone (John Lawson). Additional high school students who received Dollars for Students awards are Ava Gelling and Jade Glassman. Recipients currently attending college who received Dollars for Students awards are: Catherine Buren, Antoinette Chango, Caroline English, Ryan Flynn, Emily Herman and Christine Vilarino.

In addition, several individuals, families and community organizations have entrusted funds to the Foundation's stewardship.

In addition, the following students have received awards new to The Foundation this year: The Coach Brez Memorial Scholarship, Ryan Eng and Sophia Lama; The Class of 1957 Alumni Scholarship, Nicolas Ruggiero; The JJ Cunningham Memorial Scholarship, Miles Roper and Juliette Ciullo; The Daidone Family Scholarship, Miles Roper; The George Kurek Memorial Scholarship, Jamie Frank; The Lyght Family Scholarship, Ryan Jones and Chloe Alce; The SPFHS Black Student Union Scholarship, Valdon Daniel, III.

The Class of 1960 Memorial Scholarship funds non-academic expenses including oncampus housing, room and board at Rutgers University for four years. This award has an approximate annual value of \$15,000. This year's recipient, Lindsey Bartley, joins previous recipients Joseph Marta (2020), Jonathan Ramos (2019) and Thomas Bruckman (2018) in receiving this generous award. The monies received for this scholarship are not included in the total dollar amount awarded listed above, as the amount to be awarded will be determined during the school year.

One of the Foundation's deepest partnerships is with the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club and the Rotary-Garbe Foundation, which funds numerous generous scholarships administered by the SPF Scholarship Foundation. The Rotary-Garbe Foundation Scholarships, awarded for four years, went to Clare McGuinness, Sabrina Ngu and Dennis Gannon (2021); John Veglia, Kyle Marquardt and Sol Casimiro (2020); Tyler Dvorin, Joshua Venick and Giancarlo Castro (2019); Rosella Cuomo, Rhiannon Leonardo, and Patrick Gannon (2018). The William Mullin Memorial Scholarship, awarded for four years, went to Alexa Vierschilling (2021), Isabella Richardson (2020), Massimo Modica (2019) and Julia Dunlap (2018). The following students received The Ethel Perkins Memorial Scholarship, awarded for four years: John Michael Cristobal (2021), Sarai Romero (2020), Saniya Dalvi (2019) and Niva Patel (2018). The David Ringle Memorial Valedictorian Award was awarded to Miles Roper, and the Salutatorian Award was awarded to Erica Schug. The Robert H. Kraus Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Alexa Mach; the Dr. Richard W. Dobyns Turn Around Award was awarded to Sam Mundle.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation began its work in 1966 with a donation from the SPFHS PTA – a partnership that flourishes to this day. Each school's PTA contributes at least two scholarships to graduates who have attended their schools. The SPF PTA Council also awards scholarships to SPFHS graduates. In addition, the Scholarship Chairperson for each PTA serves on the Foundation's Screening Committee.

The Brunner PTA scholarships this year were awarded to: Haley Cino (Dr. Albert DeSousa Memorial Scholarship), Kaitlyn Reilly (Brunner PTA Scholarship) and Kristen Adams (Brunner PTA Scholarship).

The following scholarships were awarded by the PTA to former students at J. Ackerman Coles Elementary School: Carl M. Kumpf Scholarship, Kayla Hsu; Carol Patten Scholarship, Hannah Filler; Michelle Crisafulli, Christopher Colasanti; Laurie Prusik Scholarship, Gabrielle Lancaster.

From the Evergreen Elementary School PTA, the following scholarships were awarded: Dr. Beverlee Kaminetzky Memorial Scholarship, Quinn Williamson; Kehs-Aakjer Memorial Scholarship, Eric Cunningham; Mary "Chickie" Giraud Memorial Scholarship, Ethan Berkman.

The McGinn Elementary School PTA awarded its Marianna Cassidy Excellence Awards to Natalia Nervi and Daniel Soler.

The Park Middle School PTA's McTB Scholarships were awarded to Ryan Duthie and Maura Leahy.

The PTA Council Awards: Manya Ungar Scholarship, Corinne Lyght; Dr. Margaret Hayes Scholarship, Evelyn Liang; Dr. Carol B. Choye Scholarship, Holly Nelson; Health and Wellness Scholarship, Ciara Worthey.

From the School One Elementary School PTA, the following scholarships were awarded: James V. Cerasa Scholarship, Cassandra Salot; Jeffrey Grysko Scholarship, Hadley Rose.

The SPFHS PTA awarded the Robert Adams, Jr. Scholarship to Rachel Small and the Dr. Terry K. Riegel Scholarship to Ryann Wall.

Finally, the Terrill Middle School PTA awarded the John C. Foulks Scholarships to Felicia Su and Daniela Jayinski.

For further information, please visit our website spfscholarshipfoundation.org or contact the Foundation's president, Michelle Wyrwa at spfscholarshipfoundation@gmail.com.





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SCOTCH PLAINS/FANWOOD COMMUNITY TURNS Scotch Plains Monthly • Page 21 • July 2021 OUT FOR FIRST JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Submitted by Tom Kranz

The first Juneteenth community celebration sprang to life in Scotch Plains Saturday, June 19, 2021, with a spectrum of events celebrating the end of slavery in the U.S. and a restating of racial equity goals going forward.

The mayors and councils of Scotch Plains and Fanwood took part in the dedication ceremony, capping off months of planning by the local nonprofit Social Justice Matters and a committee made up of volunteers and community leaders. The daylong program at the historic Shady Rest Country Club on Jerusalem Road featured a live martial arts demonstration, readings about black history, poetry, live music and awards for several of the young artists who won the Juneteenth art design contest. There were also tours of the Shady Rest, the first African American golf club founded in 1921. In its heyday, the Shady Rest was a hotspot of entertainment featuring headliners such as Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie and other jazz greats. Scotch Plains author Robert Constant read from his book "Hey Tuskegee," a children's story that teaches black history, at nearby Jerseyland Park.

Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr and Scotch Plains Mayor Josh Losardo, each accompanied by members of their town councils, made remarks supporting the new holiday and thanked the organizers.





(above, l-r) Juneteenth Committee Chair Tashira Wheeler introduces guests and entertainers, Author Robert Constant reads from his book, Mayor Losardo speaks.



(above) Mayor Mahr speaks



(above) A martial arts demonstration



(above) Free mini golf was enjoyed by the Robinsons of Scotch Plains



(above) Free golf lessons



(above) Local residents brought lawn chairs... and pets



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