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#### Issue 123 • December 2021

## Wishing All Our Clark Neighbors and their families a Very Safe, Happy, Healthy Holiday" From Our Family To Yours! Lisa & Jerry Scaturo JERRY & LISA SCATURO 732-259-3937 Seaturoteam freehomevalues.ne REVIEW Ist ADVANTAGE 732-382-0200 Disregard if currently listed.

**CRWSSEDDM**\*\*\*

# **CHRISTMAS TREE & MENORAH LIGHTING RINGS IN SEASON**

The 17th annual Christmas Tree & Menorah Lighting event, hosted by the Township of Clark and the Recreation Department, was held on Saturday, November 27th.

The festivities included a chance take a photo with Santa, step into a snowglobe, ride on a mechanical reindeer, ride a trackless train, a "Frozen" play center, face paiting, horse and buggy rides, ice sculpting, petting zoo, a ice skating rink and more!

Entertainment included Clark's student bands and choirs, Navasink Brass Band, strolling dickens carolers, and a DJ playing holiday music. Refreshments were also free, including hot chocolate, cookies, popcorn, pretzels roasted chestnuts, cider donuts and more!





Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Clark Monthly page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."



#### CLARK MONTHLY • Page 2 • December 2021



Renna Media LLC, Publishers

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Email: editor@rennamedia.com Online at www.rennamedia.com like us on facebook.com/ Clark Monthly Tina Renna: 908-418-5586 tinarenna@rennamedia.com Joe Renna: 908447-1295 joerenna@rennamedia.com

## JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY BUILDS LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

**Clark Public Schools** 

The National Junior Honor Society at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School in Clark, NJ recently installed multiple Little Free Libraries in front of the district's schools. NJHS students are currently taking turns each month to make sure they stay well stocked. This student-run initiative was designed to promote literacy throughout the Clark community. NJHS students were placed on teams that were responsible for contacting stores for donations, assembling the libraries, as well as

(above) NJHS Student Victoria Martino stocking the library.

designing and painting the libraries. The community is welcome to borrow a book from any one of the Little Free Libraries. National Junior Honor Society Advisor, Ms. Suzanne Hamilton, stated, "We would like to thank Mr. Grande and the Board of Education for your support of this project. The students are beyond excited to see their idea become a reality and share their love of reading with the entire community. As their advisor, I'm extremely proud of all of their hard work!"



rtino (above) NJHS Student Matthew Martino stocking the library. Photos by Clark Public Schools

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26 Rugby Rd., Colonia 52 W. Hill Rd., Colonia 309 East Lincoln Park, Cranford 29 Roselle Ave., Cranford 31 Iroquios Rd., Cranford 45 Diamond Spring Rd., Denville 92 N. Park St, East Orange 1 Glenville Rd., Edison 9 Boltin St., Edison 7 Library Place, Edison 104 Schuyler Dr., Edison 41 Queens Way, Englishtown 346 Florida St., Elizabeth 247 Fulton St., Elizabeth 27 Morrell St., Elizabeth 1035 Louisa St, Elizabeth 43 Fox Grape Rd., Flemington 299 Riviera Dr., Forked River 244 3rd Ave, Garwood 118 Willow Ave, Garwood 109 Willow Ave, Garwood 408 Hemlock St., Garwood 514 Valley Rd., Gillette 14 Braen Ave, Hawthorne 213 May St., Hawthorne 16 Dogwood Ln., Hazlet 7 Park Pl., Helmetta 299 Gemini, Hillsborough 1073 Chester St., Hillside 20 W. Francis St., Iselin 69 Highland Blvd., Keansburg 117 Woodland Dr., Keyport 220 Robbinwood Ter, Linden 546 Edgewood Rd., Linden 00 Livingston Rd., Linden 307 W Simpson Ave., Linden 400 Washington St., Linden 612 Ainsworth St., Linden 8 Lucien Pl., Linden 2616 Orchard Terr., Linden 41 Pallant Ave, Linden 915 Middlesex St., Linden 207 W 11th St., Linden 315 Lincoln St, Linden 2838 Wickwersham Ave., Linden 718 Willick Rd., Linden 829 Erudo St., Linden

206 W. Blancke St., Linden 911 Cranford Ave., Linden 434 Miner Terr., Linden 423 Gable Ln., Linden 2729 Oakwood Place, Linden 2006 Orchard Terr, Linden 345 Miltonia St., Linden 14 Furber Ave, Linden 1611 Wood Ave., Linden 613 Miltonia St., Linden 25 E. 13th St., Linden 2731 Wickersham Ave., Linden 523 Ainsworth St., Linden 556 E Curtis St, Linden 1037 Forest Dr., Linden 110 Main Street, Linden 2 Sherwood Cir. Linden 230 Marion Ave., Linden 123 Springfield Rd, Linden 1007 Walnut St., Linden 2603 Summit Ter., Linden 2713 Oakwood Pl., Linden 2201 N. Wood Ave., Linden 212 Edgewood Rd., Linden 503 Valley St., Maplewood 8 Collier Ln., Marlboro 404 Lafayette Rd., Metuchen 89 Ravine Dr., Matwan 11 Clinton Ave., New Providence 63 5th St., Newark 274-276 Meeker Ave., Newark 10 Howard St., North Plainfield 149 Dawn Ct., Old Bridge 366 Sunset Ave, Old Bridge 434 Cornell Ave, Rahway 839 Riffle Ave, Rahway 426 Stanley Pl., Rahway 1421 New Church St., Rahway 1631 Columbus Pl., Rahway 2497 St Georges Ave, Rahway 84 W Emerson Ave, Rahway 871 Apgar Ter, Rahway 667 Elm Ave., Rahway 2138 Prospect St., Rahway 2010 Rutherford St., Rahway 422 Central Ave, Rahway 1451 St. Georges Ave., Rahway

811 Midwood Dr., Rahway 661 Pierpont Street, Rahway 716 Elm Ave., Rahway 983 New Brunswick Ave., Rahway 1420 Brown Pl., Rahway 768 Audrey Dr., Rahway 2124 Evans St., Rahway 1757 Bond St., Rahway 749 Audrey Dr., Rahway 1215 Kline Pl., Rahway 2020 Rutherford St., Rahway 957 Richard Blvd., Rahway 287 Plainfield Ave., Rahway 2238 Church St., Rahway 2493 St. Georges Ave., Rahway 630 Union St., Rahway 2253 Church St. Rahway 1139 Briarcliff Dr., Rahway 782 Audrey Dr., Rahway 2314 Colonial Dr., Rahway 60 Davidson Ave., Ramsey 371 W. 3rd Ave., Roselle 32 B. Carolyn Terr., Roselle 613 Spruce Street, Roselle 1126 Chestnut St., Roselle 20 W. Clay Ave., Roselle Park 217 E. Clay Ave., Roselle Park 119 Warren Ave, Roselle Park 128 East Clay Ave, Roselle Park 1820 Murray Ave., South Plainfield 100 Dunham Ave., South Plainfield 124 Briar Hills Circle, Springfield 210 Yvonne Way, Stewartsville 302 Passaic Ave., Stirling 13 Country Ln., Tewksbury 26 Inverell Dr., Toms River 1301 Oxford Lane, Union 630 Selfmaster Pkwy., Union 899 Dona Rd., Union 941 Rosemont Ave, Union 612 Duquesne Ter, Union 2 Post Rd., Warren 229 Myrtle Ave, Westfield 206 Myrtle Ave., Westfield 669 Norman Pl., Woodbridge 143-C Beverly Hills Ter, Woodbridge 212 Metuchen Ave., Woodbridge



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### **CLARK RECREATION STREET HOCKEY**

Street Hockey is the latest program offered by Clark Recreation. Program organizer Ryan Sullivan is meeting with children every Saturday at 1:00 p.m. for one hour. The sessions will continue for as long as temperature and weather conditions permit.

The program is open to children in grades 3 through 8. Registration continues to those still wanting to join in the fun.

Go to ourclark.com/169/recreation

or email elambert@ourclark.com.

Photos by Clark Recreation



### **4-H MASTER TREE STEWARDS VISIT GIRL SCOUT JUNIOR TROOP**

to have a visit from 4-H Master Tree Stewards from Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County, Dean Talcott and Sandra Ciasco. Mr. Talcott shared his extensive knowledge of trees with the fifth grade Girl Scout Junior girls with an informative presentation that included a presentation about the trees and a walking tour on the property at girls' own school, Frank K. Hehnly Elementary school. Mrs. Ciasco brought not only her extensive knowledge of trees but also many years of Girl Scout experience being a Girl Scout troop leader herself.

During the presentation, Mr. Talcott located a swamp white oak tree on school property that measures 82 feet tall with a circumference of 11 feet 2 inches. The beautiful swamp white oak tree

Girl Scout Junior Troop 40710 was fortunate is estimated to be around 200 years old. The girls also looked at a red maple and a pin oak tree. Mrs. Ciasco helped the girls identify leaves, branches, and nuts. The girls examined a shagbark hickory nut and a "prickly ball" from a Sweetgum tree. The group also discussed how trees live and photosynthesis.

> Troop leader Danielle Fidurski said the girls learned a lot and were really intrigued by the presentation. Fidurski also said it was exciting to see the girls so enthusiastic about science and nature and is grateful to the presenters for volunteering their time. Girl Scout Junior Troop 40710 is led by Danielle Fidurski and Raquel Breece. For information about the Master Tree Steward Program please contact Jim Nichnadowicz at jnichnadowicz@ucnj.org.





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# LORI'S CLARK TRANSACTIONS FROM 1/1/20 TO PRESENT

SOLD

15 Westfield Ave. 40 Ivy St. 15 Tudor Dr. 10 Washington St., Unit 03 47 Briarwood Path 39 King St. 56 Lexington Blvd. 13 Blake Dr. 213 East Lane 1168 Lake Ave., Unit 4 45 Wendell Pl. 501 Oak Ridge Rd. 309 Oak Ridge Rd. 29 Conger Way 13 Florence Dr. 303 West Ln.

1 Rose Ter. 187 Liberty St. 11 Harding Ave. 40 John St. 77 John St. 17 Hillside Ave. 11 Avon Rd. 81 New York Ave. 42 Kenneth PI. 303 West Ln. 1 Kathryn St. 29 Hillside Ave. 9 Shetland Dr. 12 Yorktown Dr. 84 Wheatsheaf Rd. 12 Ascot Wav

301 West Lane 1119 Maurice Ave. 1 Longfellow Lane 8 Wendell Place 13 Blake Dr. 42 School St. 29 Harvey Ct. 18 Yorktown Dr. 45 Starlite Dr. 1538 Franklin St. 40 Conger Way 15 Ayers Lane 72 Dorset Dr. 5 Schmidt Lane 269 Willow Way 18 Ginesi Dr.

7 Blake Dr.
43 Willow way
95 Briarheath Ln.
18 Terhune Rd.
1 Jarvais Ter.
39 Frances Dr.
28 Gibson Blvd.
41 Largo Lane
5 Tudor Dr.
111 Westfield Ave.
14 Washington St.
118 Jupitor St.

**UNDER CONTRACT** 61 Sycamore Rd. 15 Briarheath Ln.

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS = 107, 82 ARE IN CLARK

### **VALLEY ROAD SCHOOL FALL FEST**

#### **Clark Public Schools**

The Vallev Road PTA held Fall Fest. The event included outdoor games, snacks, a blow-up obstacle course, as well as, visits from Police, EMT, and fire department vehicles. The main event was a State Police helicopter landing. Detective Brian Soos of the Clark Police arranged for the helicopter and emergency vehicles, along with the First Aid Squad and Fire Department. First grade teachers, Jen Clere and Ashley Cozzi, and Principal, Joe Beltramba, organized a game of cornhole where students played against their teachers and the winners selected prizes from a prize box. Beltramba stated, "The teachers had sore arms after tossing bean bags for hours, but they had fun." The enthusiastic teachers also encouraged the parents and students to participate in the parachute games. Beltramba continued, "It was wonderful seeing the teachers lead the parachute games as well as seeing the children with their moms and dads dancing under the uplifted parachute. Thanks goes out to the PTA for organizing this wonderful event."







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## LADY COUGARS RECOGNIZED AT COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Sal Bonaccorso and Town Council members recognized the Kumpf Lady Cougars 7th and 8th grade soccer team at the November 15 Clark Town Council meeting. The middle-schoolers had an undefeated season, holding off any opponents from scoring against them. They finished with a total of 65 goals for the year.

"What these girls have accomplished on the field under the direction of Coach Richard Hoos, is remarkable and rare," said Bonaccorso. "I expect to see great things from them on and off the field as they move forward together to high school."

Photo by Township of Clark



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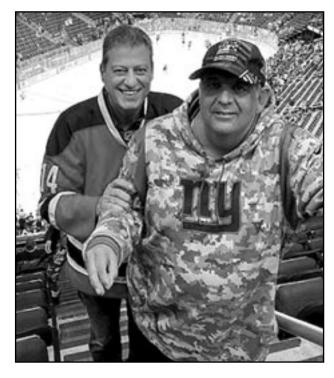
# **CLARK RECREATION'S ANNUAL FAMILY HOCKEY NIGHT**

#### Clark Township

Clark Recreation's annual family hockey night was held on Thursday, November 11th at Prudential Center. Over 100 members of the Clark community joined Recreation Director, Ralph Bernardo, for the annual game night tradition.

Fans experienced an exciting night of ice hockey watching the NY Islanders play the NJ Devils. At the conclusion of the game, Clark community members were permitted onto the ice to take pictures as a group. "It's a great annual outing we sponsor each year," said Bernardo. "It has become a great community tradition not to be missed."







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Photos by Clark Recreation



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Cajun - Cajun Chicken, Sausage, Peppers, Onions, and Marinara	\$19.95	23.95	23.95
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#### **CLARK MONTHLY** • Page 12 • December 2021

### **CLARK STUDENTS HONORED AT UNICO FEAST**

#### **Clark Public Schools**

Several students were honored as the Columbus Day Essay Contest winners at the Clark UNICO Italian-American Feast on October 10th. Winners included Makayla Pope, a fifth grader at Frank K. Hehnly School, Colleen Sullivan, a fifth grader at Valley Road School, Alesandra McFadden, a seventh grader at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School, and

## **TOYS FOR TOTS**

It's that time of year again to think of those less fortunate - Toys For Tots Bins have been set up thru the halls of the Recreation Center and Senior Fitness Center. If you can afford to purchase just one toy to brighten a child's Christmas - please donate to one of the bins - unwrapped. Unwrapped items for teenagers are needed as well. This is sponsored by Cub Scout Pack 145 of Clark. This is the 15th year the pack is participating.

Christopher Warnick, a senior at Arthur L. essay about Christopher Columbus or any other Johnson High School. Pope wrote about Alessandro Volta, Sullivan wrote about Mother Cabrini, McFadden wrote about Giada De Laurentiis, and Warnick wrote about Rita Levi-Montalcini. Students shared their essays and were presented with certificates as well as Barnes and Noble gift cards. The contest, sponsored by UNICO, asked students to write an



(above, l-r) Christopher Warnick and Colleen Sullivan reading their essays.

Photos by Clark Public Schools



weekend."



(above, l-r) Alesandra McFadden and Makayla Pope with Union County Commissioner, Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded

prominent Italian or Italian-American person.

Superintendent Edward Grande stated, "We

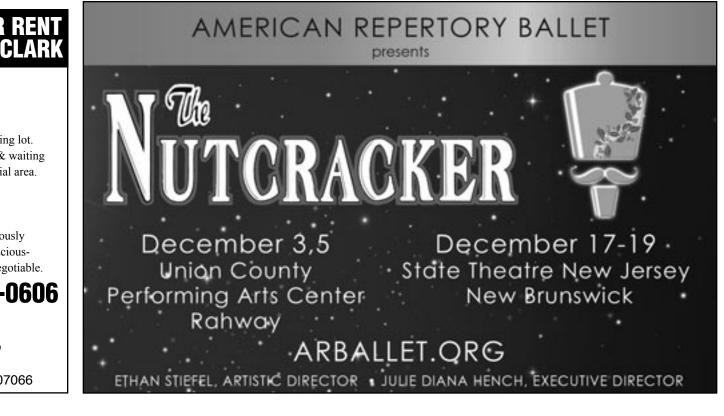
are very proud of our student award winners for

doing such a superior job at capturing the

accomplishments of their selected Italians or

Italian-Americans. Being back at the in-person

feast was also a highlight of the holiday





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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.

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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 tenderness 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 disconfort 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 else 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

"I'm 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 hack to normal." - Perry O.

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



## PARENT UNIVERSITY ART NIGHT – DEC. 7

The Clark Public School District's Parent University Program presents Art Night! Create a sock snowman with Mrs. Kerry Kennedy, Valley Road School Art Teacher! Please join us Tuesday, December 7th at 6 p.m. in the Arthur L. Johnson High School Cafeteria. Recommended for all ages.

To register for this free event, contact Christine Broski at cbroski@clarkschools.org or call 732- 574-9600 x3355 by November 18th. Open to all students attending the Clark Public Schools and their parents. All students must be accompanied by a parent. Refreshments will be served.





with VRS Art Teacher Kerry Kennedy! To register for this free event, contact Christine Broski at cbroski@clarkschools.org or call (732) 574-9600 x3355 by November 18th.

Recommended for all ages. Open to all students attending the Clark Public Schools and their parents All students must be accompanied by a parent. Refreshments will be served.



## **TATUM DOBBINS' SIGNING DAY**

Submitted by Gus Kalikas, Athletic Director

On Wednesday, November 10, 2021, various staff members and administration at Arthur L. Johnson High School participated in a signing day ceremony to honor Tatum Dobbins, a field hockey player, for her years of service to Crusader Athletics as well as to commemorate her signing her Nation Letter of Intent to play NCAA Collegiate Athletics at the University of Towson for the Tigers.

Some of her field hockey accolades include... • Four Year Varsity Gold Letter Winner

- Field Hockey Grades 09–12
- First Team All-Conference Field Hockey - Grades 10–11
- First Team All-Union County Field Hockey - Grades 10–11
- First Team All-North Jersey Field Hockey - Grades 10–11
- First Team All-State Group 1 Grade 112021 New Jersey's Top 100
- Senior Field Hockey Players Grade 12

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With many more accolades on the way for this past fall season...

With all of her time outside of field hockey, Tatum is involved in...

- Peer Leadership Grades 11–12
- Heroes and Cool Kids (high school
- middle school relations) Grades 11–12Blue Cru High School Spirit Club
- (President) Grade 12
- Boys Lacrosse Manager Grades 10–12
- "Hospital Bags for Patient Families"
- at Goryeb Children's Hospital Grade 12 • In addition to all this, she was this year's

Homecoming Queen! - Grade 12

Tatum has been an integral part of the success of our athletic programs while competing at Arthur L. Johnson High School. More importantly, she has been a model student athlete that did things the right way both on the field, in the classroom, and throughout our community. Although it will be sad to see her leave, the Crusader's loss is Towson's gain, and we look forward to following her successful collegiate athletic career over the next four years.

Crusader Athletics would like to wish the best of luck to Tatum as she culminates her wonderful career for the Crusaders this year and continues her academic and athletic success as a collegiate student athlete.



(above) Tatum Dobbins with her family at the Signing Day event.

Photo by Clark Public Schools



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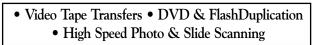
# **CLARK TRUNK OR TREAT**

Clark Recreation, together with Clark PBA, presented 'Trunk or Treat' on Saturday, October 30th. The event featured prizes for best costumes and decorated car. A haunted corn maze, pumpkin carving, and rides added to the spooktacular fun.











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# **CLARK YOUTH CRUSADER FOOTBALL DINNER**

#### Submitted by Gus Kalikas

On Wednesday, November 17, 2021, the Clark Crusader Youth Football Teams held their annual postseason awards banquet. President of CYF, Gus Kalikas, presided over the event as all athletes were honored for their athletes received awards for accomplishments this past season. The night well. culminated with the showing of the 2021 Crusader Youth Football Team's highlights. It registration, which will open soon. GO was a wonderful evening to celebrate both past Crusaders!!!

contributions to Crusader Youth Football. All and present Crusaders and to continue to keep their the tradition of Crusader Football alive and

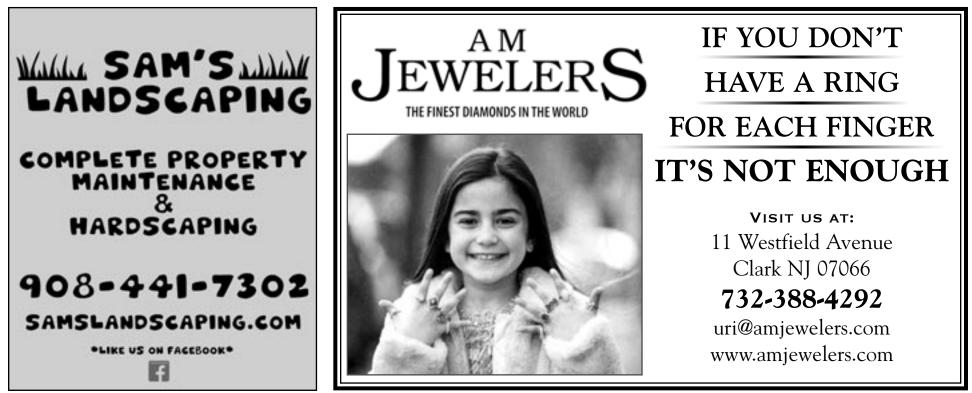
Please keep an eve out for Fall 2022



(above) 8th Grade A Level Team & CYF A Level Team (2021)

Ryan Malcolm #2, Matt Robertazzi #3, Tyler London #4, Jack Kalikas #7, John Brown #8, Lucas Spearnock #9, Jake Szarszewski #10, James Jankowski #13, Billy McCann #17, Tyler Pettenato #19, Adrian Varona #21, Chase Sullivan #22, Eric Torres #29, Frank Mentzel #34, Nicolas Carlucci #36, Nicholas Cilento #44, John Barranger #50, Mostaffa El Hady #51, Zachary Griffin #55, Devin Castro #56, Brandon Jameer #57, Erie Lugo #59, Joseph Kickey #60, Aiden Knob #64, Jack Martin Costello #69, C. J. DiBiasi #70, Dominick Papandrea #72, Joseph LoVerde #73, Albert Cosgrove #74, Robert Marasco #75, Jack Lane #77, Joaquin Nikolic #78, Andrew Giammalva #80

Photos by Clark Public Schools



## **TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 21ST ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS**

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 23rd season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 18 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) in New York City for a 2PM performance. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 19 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ with performances at 2PM.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as, Highland Cathedral, Joy to the World, and Amazing Grace, all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ and brass and more. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Featured performers include singer Margaret Kelly from Aberdeen, Scotland, James Robinson from the film "Braveheart," New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel, champion harpist Rachel Clemente, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA among many more. **TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW** 

Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through ShowTix4U. (Be certain to select "The Learned Kindred of Currie" as the organization name.)

#### LEARNED KINDRED'S ONLY FUNDRAISER

This annual concert is the Learned Kindred's only fundraiser, generating their operating budget for the year ahead. Losing the concert income is financially devastating to outreach programmes which support young people in education in Scotland, Canada and the United



States through scholarships and sponsorships.

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which includes the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship at Summit (NJ) High School as well as annual gifts to the National Piping Centre, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow, Scotland), Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Royal National Mòr and the Gaelic College in Nova Scotia, among others.

#### **ABOUT THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS**

Since making its debut in 1999, The Pipes of Christmas has played to standing room only audiences. Now a cherished holiday event, the concert provides audiences with a stirring and reverent celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit. Audience-goers return year after year to experience the program, many reporting that the Pipes of Christmas has become part of their family's annual Christmas tradition.

The concert has been lavished with critical acclaim. In his review for Classical New Jersey Magazine, Paul Somers wrote, "The whole evening was constructed to introduce gem after gem and still have a finale which raised the roof. In short, it was like a well constructed fireworks show on the Glorious Fourth. The Westfield Leader described the concert as "a unique sound of power and glory nowhere else to be found."

The Pipes of Christmas Virtual Concert, produced by The Clan Currie Society / The Learned Kindred of Currie, has been nominated for an award in the prestigious MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards (Na Trads) 2021.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert (Bob) Currie (United States) currierobert82@gmail.com, (908) 858-6357 Neil Gunn (Scotland) neil@ngwriting.com, 07493 509991

Clan Currie Society Facebook page: facebook.com/ClanCurrieSociety Concert Facebook page: facebook.com/ThePipesofChristmas



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# SOCK-TOBER SOCK DRIVE AT FRANK K. HEHNLY SCHOOL

**Clark Public Schools** 

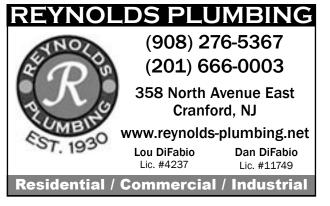
The Frank K. Hehnly Student Council partnered with Family Promise for their annual Sock-Tober Sock Drive. Family Promise, based in Cranford, is the leading national organization preventing and ending family homelessness. Together, the student council collected more than

100 pairs of new socks for local homeless children and adults. The group distributed a flyer to the school community requesting donations. Principal Shirley Bergin stated, "We are so proud of our students for organizing the event for such a worthwhile cause."



(above) FKH Student Council with their donations for Sock-Tober

Photo by Clark Public Schools







### **GOLF FOR JUNIORS**

Clark Recreation wrapped up a 4-week session of "Golf for Juniors" recently. This year brought 25 participants. Each child was instructed on the basics of the of game by local golf pros.

Golf instructors Greg and Matt worked throughout the weekly sessions to help each junior build skills and to enjoy their time outdoors at Hyatt Hills Golf Complex. The program will return in the spring.



### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

The Clark Recreation facilities have been practicing and playing volleyball. hosting Special Olympics athletes every Sunday morning. During this first fall semester, approximately 15 participants are on premises

Starting January players will switch to participating in basketball.

Photo by Township of Clark





### **SKULSKI ART GALLERY PRESENTS FIRST EXHIBIT**

The Skulski Art Gallery of the Polish Cultural Andrzej and Maria Puzon. The exhibit presents Foundation, located at 177 Broadway, Clark, New Jersey, pcfnj.org is proud to present first exhibit this year on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., featuring two polish fine sculptors,

in printed form: sculptures, reliefs, spatial forms and graphics by Andrzej and watercolors by Maria. The public is welcome, admission is free, light refreshments will be served.

Photo by Clark Township



(above) Andrezei Puzon

### **PINWHEELS SPIN FOR** PEACE AT VALLEY ROAD

#### **Clark Public Schools**

Each year, the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21st. The UN General Assembly established this day in 1981 to strengthen the ideals of peace. Valley Road students, with art teacher, Kerry Kennedy, created pinwheels for the Pinwheels for Peace project. The school joined hundreds of schools across the globe in spreading peace through art. The pinwheels were then placed on display in various locations outside the school. Kennedy stated, "Through this project, students were inspired to think creatively on how to spread a message of peace through their art." For more information on the project, visit pinwheelsforpeace.com.



(above) Pinwheels for Peace at Valley Road School

Photo by Clark Public Schools



## **DECEMBER EVENTSAT CLARK LIBRARY**

 303 Westfield Ave, Clark, NJ 07066 • Tel: 732-388-5999 x2 • Email: reference@clarklibrary.org • www2.youseemore.com/clarkpl/ Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9:30 am - 9:00 pm • Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm • Sunday: Closed
 Closed on Friday, December 24th, and Saturday, December 25th. Closed Friday, December 31st, and Saturday, January 1st.

All children's events will be outdoors when weather permits, virtual, hybrid, or indoor with masks for people over 3 years of age until further notice. Mask requirements will be re-evaluated by the library board on a monthly basis. Please register for any programs by emailing reference@clarklibrary.org and state which program you would like to attend or through the online calendar on our website at clarklibrary.org.

#### Chess Club for Adults

Thursdays, December 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 11 am-3 pm

The Chess Club meets Thursdays between 11 am-3 pm. New members welcome.

#### Thursday Afternoon Movies

Thursdays, December 2, 9 and 16 Movies are back at the library! Masks are optional and no registration is required.





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#### **Stories & More**

Fridays, December 3 and 10 at 10:00 am Join us outdoors behind the library for stories, songs, and rhymes. A take-home craft will be provided. If it rains, this event will be virtual. This program is designed for children ages 3

#### and up. Registration is required. [Adult] The Crafty Folks

Friday, Dec. 3 @ 3:30 pm Thursday, Dec. 16 @ 7:00 pm Celebrate the Winter Solstice and its Starry, Starry Nights. We are making luminaries, by decorating mason jars. This is an Adult craft but

Teens in High School are welcome to attend! Tales for Tots

#### Monday, December 6 at 10:00 am Stories and songs for active listeners. Geared toward ages 2-3 with a caregiver. Older children are welcome! Event will be held outdoors behind the library. In case of weather, the program will be held indoors and masks are required for anyone 2 and up. Masks are being monitored on a monthly basis.

Virtual Chess Club for Kids

dates TBD, please check our online calendar Children ages 6 and up are invited to attend chess club virtually! We welcome beginners and those wanting to learn new tips or wanting to hone their skills. We will be over Zoom. Participants will be able to compete against each other in breakout rooms. Chromebooks are available for Clark residents to borrow.

Registration is required for the Zoom link. **Baby Bookworms** 

Tuesday, December 7 at 10:00 am Babies and toddlers are invited to listen to some books, and learn some songs, rhymes, lap bounces, and fingerplays! The event will be held outside behind the library. In case of rain, the event will be virtual.

#### **Teen Tuesday: DIY Cricut Holiday Mug** December 7 at 3:00 pm

Learn about our Cricut machine as we decorate mugs with holiday or winter-themed Cricut vinyls of your choice. Open to grades 5-12.

#### **Totally New Tuesdays**

December 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 6:30 pm Movies are back at the library! Masks are optional and no registration is required.

#### Origami Holiday Wreath Class

Wednesday, December 8 at 11:00 am Create a holiday-themed origami wreath with instructor Joy Ann Lara. All supplies provided. This class is for adults 18 and older.

#### [Virtual] Pajama Time

Thursday, December 9 at 7:00 pm Join us in your pjs for an evening storytime session for the family on Zoom.

#### [Virtual] Adult Coloring Club

Thursdays, December 9 and 30 at 11:00 am Coloring is a great way to unwind and relieve

some stress! Pick up coloring sheets and crayons at the library or use your own and meet up on Zoom for soothing music and relaxation.

#### **Read to Sophie**

Saturday, December 11 at 10:00 am, 10:15 am, 10:30 am, or 10:45 am If you have a young, reluctant, or struggling reader, we want you to meet Sophie! Sophie is a therapy dog that will be a non-judgmental listener and furry friend to read to. Please

#### register for a time slot.

#### Krafty Kids

Wednesday, December 15 and 29 at 3:30 pm Using a few art supplies we will make a new craft each week! Program will be held outdoors, weather permitting. If indoors, masks

are required for people older than 2. Mask requirements are being re-evaluated monthly. **Tinker Tots** 

#### Thursday, December 16 at 10:00 am Come join us for a morning of fun science activities perfect for little ones. For children ages pre-k and younger. Please register.

#### Finger Painting Friday

Friday, December 17 at 10:00 am We will read a story and then make some squishy, colorful creations. Wear some old clothes! Clark residents will have priority.

#### Make a Gingerbread House for Kids

Wednesday, Dec 22 at 3:30 pm Thursday, Dec. 23 at 2:00 pm Build your own "gingerbread" house with graham crackers. For ages 4 and up. Priority registration for Clark residents.

#### Lego® Mania

Thursday, December 30 from 3:00 pm-5:00 pm We will have a themed Lego® building contest with prizes, a Lego® themed craft, and eat popcorn, while watching The Lego® Movie.

#### Winter Reading Program

Monday, December 20 Sign up and keep track of your reading at clarklibrary.beanstack.org! Kids earn prizes and all ages will earn raffle tickets.

#### **Boredom Buster for Kids**

Available beginning December 1. Each month we have a new take-home craft for kids to pick up and make at their leisure.

#### **Boredom Buster for Teens**

Beginning December 1 Pick up a holiday charm bracelet kit to make at home. Available to teens in Grades 6-12. While supplies last, no registration. Kits can be picked up at the reference desk.

#### Save the date! The Five-Week Book Club Thursday, January 6 @ 7:00 pm

#### Cookbook Brouhaha!

Share your favorite time-worn cookbook, or one that you found recently, and a favorite recipe or tip that you obtained from it. This promises to be a fun cookbook book talk!

#### Save the date! New! Inkthoughts

Thursday, January 13 @ 4:00 pm A gathering of poets and poetry lovers, this group is open to Adults and Young Adults in High School and older.

# KATIE LEDDEN COMMITS TO RHODE ISLAND

Rutgers Preparatory School in Somerset, NJ, has recently committed to play Division 1 basketball at the University of Rhode Island on a full athletic scholarship. Ledden has dreamed of playing Division 1 basketball since she was in third grade and started playing for the Clark Travel Basketball program, which she played for through 8th grade. She also played AAU basketball for Team Sharp under Coach Michele Sharp from 4th grade to 9th grade. Further, Ledden played for the Kumpf Middle School Basketball team, where she broke numerous school records, then played her freshman year at Arthur L. Johnson High School. When Ledden was a sophomore, she transferred to Rutgers Prep, which is the #2 girls basketball team in the state and #17 in the country. Last spring and summer, Ledden played in the Nike Elite Youth Basketball League for the Philadelphia Rise, where she was seen by hundreds of college coaches at various tournaments around the country. Ledden was being recruited by 32 Division 1 schools and had received 9 official Division 1 offers before deciding to spend her collegiate career at URI. Some of the other

Clark resident Katie Ledden, a junior at schools who made official offers to Ledden were, atgers Preparatory School in Somerset, NJ, has cently committed to play Division 1 basketball basketball the University of Rhode Island on a full athletic Bucknell University, to name a few.



(above) Katie Ledden has recently committed to play Division 1 basketball at the University of Rhode Island on a full athletic scholarship.

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## RECYCLING PROGRAM CHANGES

#### Submitted by: Mayor Sal Bonaccorso

I am happy to announce changes to the Clark recycling program. Starting December 1 Zone 2 will be collected and going forward recycling will be picked-up every other Wednesday yearround.

The Township's new hauler is Waste Management, a national refuse company. The program will bring more frequent and consistent pick-ups to residents.

Waste Management's collection requirements remain similar. Paper, cardboard, glass and cans are still comingled in the same recycle bins residents use now.

Some small changes include, excess cans, bottles etc.. must be put into a second container alongside the main bin. Residents are asked to put all recyclable materials curbside on Tuesday night.

Here is a general overview of the new program versus the prior:

#### WHAT IS THE SAME, WHAT IS DIFFERENT:

- Use current recycle bin Comingle glass, paper, plastic & cardboard
- No plastic bags permitted
- Zones 1 and 2 remain the same Pizza boxes go into regular garbage not
- recycling
- Place bins curbside on Tuesday night Overflow cans, bottles etc... must be placed in
- a container- NO PLASTIC BAGS permitted • Overflow cardboard should be flattened and tied
- Pick-up is every other week. No more three week waits for pick-up after a five-week month

Below are the dates for this month. Pick-up will continue to alternate by zone each week following.

DECEMBER 1 – ZONE 2 DECEMBER 8 – ZONE 1 DECEMBER 15 – ZONE 2 DECEMBER 22 – ZONE 1



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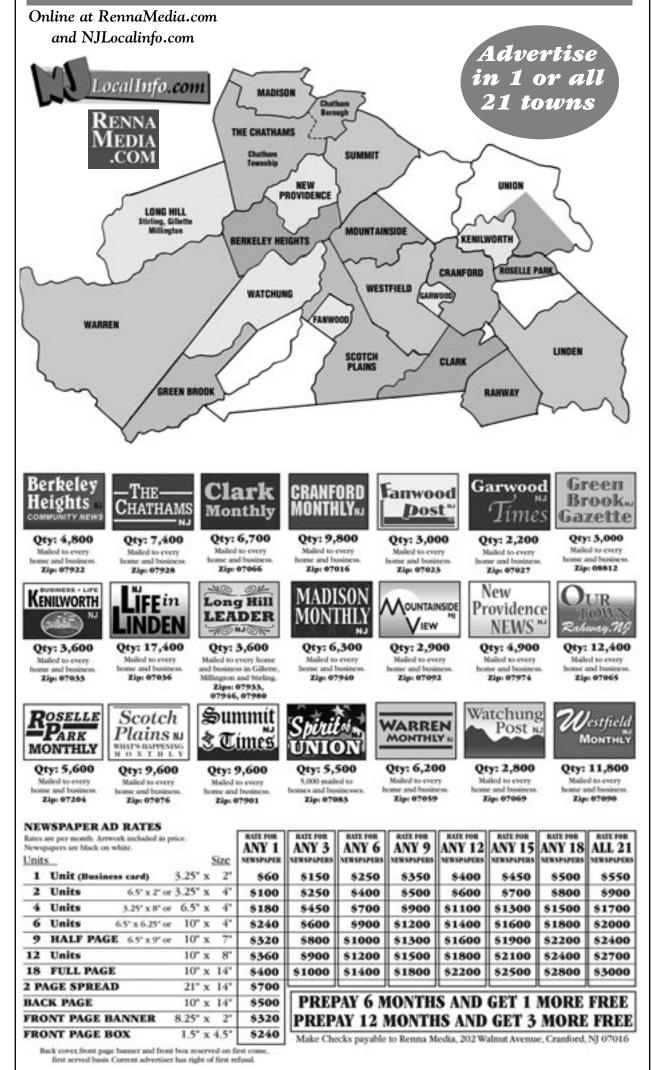
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### HANUKAH: A CELEBRATION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

By Rabbi Paul David Kerbel Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim, Cranford

Hanukah is one of the Jewish religion's most popular holidays. No doubt, part of Hanukah's popularity derives from its proximity to Christmas and the bundling of a variety of religious, ethnic and cultural holidays that occur at this time of year creating a festive holiday season.

You might be surprised to know however, that unlike Christmas, Hanukah is not one of Judaism's major holidays. That billing goes to Rosh HaShanah (the Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (the Day of Fasting and Atonement) and the Pilgrimage Festivals of Passover, Sukkot and Shavuot that are explained and discussed in The Book of Leviticus (Chapter 23).

But Hanukah is important for many reasons. In the first place, next to the Passover Seder, more Jews celebrate Hanukah than any other Jewish ritual or holiday observance. We celebrate two miracles on Hanukah: the military victory of a small, outmanned Jewish army winning out over a superior Syrian-Greek King Antiochus

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Epiphanes, who forbade the Jewish people to study their scriptures, keep their calendar, observe their holidays or offer sacrifices in the Temple. The King wanted the Jews to sacrifice to the Greek Gods and study the best of Greek culture. King Antiochus was jealous of the God of Israel and sought to eradicate distinctive Jewish practices and culture.

The second miracle of Hanukah is the story in Rabbinic tradition, that when the revolt ended and the Jewish people sought to rededicate and purify the Holy Temple in Jerusalem that had been defiled by the decree of King Antiochus by lighting the Menorah, the religious candelabrum that served as a major symbol of religious Jewish life in the Temple, that there was only enough purified olive oil to last for one day, but the lamp remained burning for eight days!

But I also think the story of Hanukah teaches and shares important lessons for our friends and neighbors of other faiths about religious faith and belief. To me, Hanukah represents the first

Joe Renna at 908-447-1295

email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com



TEBEMCE TEMPLE BETH-EL MEKOR CHAYIM

victory in human history of religious freedom. In a certain sense, Hanukah is a universal holiday of religious freedom. If the Jewish people had lost this physical and spiritual war in 164 BCE (before the common era) and 164 years before the birth of Jesus, Judaism would have died out and since Christianity and Islam emanate out of and are connected to Judaism, there would not be today any adherents of these great faiths. Judaism, Christianity and Islam exist today because of the religious faith of these defenders of Judaism to stand up for their beliefs and rights.

Hanukah also teaches religious tolerance and the celebration of pluralism. Hanukah reinforces the rights of a minority to stand up for its beliefs while living in a larger secular or religious culture of other religious faiths. Our country was built on the idea of freedom of religion and the freedom to live by and practice the customs, rituals and commandments of our respective religions. Hanukah teaches me that sometimes miracles happen in the quiet constancy of our everyday practice of our respective customs, prayers and traditions and our interaction and bonds of friendship and community responsibility with our neighbors of all religions and ethnic groups.

The most enduring symbol of both Hanukah and Christmas is the celebration of light. We light a Menorah to symbolize the miracles of our survival and the dedication of our people - for over four-thousand years even in the midst of persecution or the attempt to suppress our faith and practice – to practice our customs and traditions with hope and confidence in the future as a monotheistic ethical religion and culture.

For our Christian friends, the lights of the Christmas season represent essential religious beliefs including joy, peace, kindness and service to our fellow human beings. Even with the challenges the Covid-19 pandemic has caused, among the most difficult in our lifetimes, may the lights of our respective traditions strengthen our commitment to our respective faiths and our obligation and opportunity to make a difference in our community and in the world at large. As one great rabbi wrote: "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." Wishing all of us a meaningful holiday season!

Rabbi Paul David Kerbel is the rabbi of Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim in Cranford. He is active in the Cranford Clergy Association, the Union County Board of Rabbis, the Rabbinic Roundtable of the Jewish Federation of MetroWest, NJ and on the New Jersey Advisory Board of The Anti-Defamation League.



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