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"We appreciate everything you do for the community," said Officer Elliott Bernard, who supervises Fanwood's crossing guards, as he presented a Dunkin gift card to each while on their post.

Those visited were June Hansen on Martine Ave. and Trenton Rd, Steve Smith on Willoughby Rd., Erin Bulger at Midway and Tillotson, Ed Frame, Alan Krey at Brunner Elementary and LeRoy Pohlman at the high school. Also acknowledged was guard Connie Mruczinski, who was off on the day of the visits.



(above) Guard June Hansen with Off. Bernard, Lt. Kranz, Off. Mike Rusin, Off. Tyler Flowers and Sgt. Kevin Stomber

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(above, left-right) Guard Steve Smith, Guard Ed Frame, and Guard Erin Bulger receives a gift card from Off. Bernard



(left) Guard Alan Krey with Off. Elliott Bernard and Lt. Dan Kranz



(right) Guard LeRoy Pohlman with Off. Bernard, Lt. Kranz and Off. Flowers

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Fanwood Post

Tina Renna: 908-418-5586

tinarena@rennamedia.com

Joe Renna: 908-447-1295

joerenna@rennamedia.com

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HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE OFFERS GIFTS FOR THE SEASON

It's the most wonderful time of the year at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Thrift Shop! Starting Tuesday, December 7th, the shelves will be stocked with brand new merchandise that is perfect for holiday gift-giving. Members of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League, an all-volunteer organization, have been setting aside new items to generously donate to the shop all year just for this occasion.

The Holiday Boutique is a great opportunity to find presents for under the tree, to stuff in stockings, to mark Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, or even to re-donate to your favorite charities. There is a wide assortment of new candles, lotions, frames, plates, and holiday décor, in addition to, the regularly replenished clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac, linens, household goods, toys, games, books, and DVDs consistently on the shop's shelves.

An added bonus at the Thrift Shop is that a gift bought has twice the impact, one to your recipient, and another to the community, since all store proceeds outside of operating expenses are provided to local non-profit organizations or used for student scholarships.

The store is located at 1741 East Second Street, Scotch Plains, NJ and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. To protect our volunteer staff and other store patrons, face masks are required of everyone entering the store. Children are welcome, provided they are accompanied by an adult.

Please note that the store will be closed for the holidays from Thursday, December 24, 2021 to Monday, January 3, 2022. To learn more about the Service League and types of donations accepted, call the store during Thrift Shop business hours at 908-322-5420.



(above) Cozy up with brand-new slippers, blankets, scented candles, and a touch of elegant décor, all for sale at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Thrift Shop Holiday Boutique.

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HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AND TREE LIGHTING

Come down to the North Avenue Train Station on Sunday, December 5th, 3–5 p.m. as Fanwood welcomes in the holiday season with an afternoon of holiday music, free refreshments, ice sculptures, contests, prizes, gifts and... Santa Claus! (To schedule a visit with Santa, you need to preregister. Go to fanwoodrecreation.org for more information. Space is limited.) The celebration concludes with the lighting of the Tree, across from the train station, at 5 p.m.

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A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS AT OSBORN HOUSE

The Osborn Cannonball House Museum, located at 1840 Front Street in Scotch Plains, will be celebrating Christmas this year with a “Victorian Christmas” display on December 5, 2021 from 2 - 4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. This exhibit will feature opulent and authentic holiday clothing from the late 1800’s. It will also include a Victorian era tree, holiday decorations and antique toys.

Visit this rare 18th century museum this holiday season. Hear how this house has been witness to history for over 260 years. During The Battle of The Short Hills in Scotch Plains in 1777, as our local colonial militia fled to the Watchung Mountains, the British chased them down Park Avenue. It was during that battle that the house was struck by a 2 ½ inch cannonball causing locals thereafter to call it by the name “Cannonball House.”

The Osborn Cannonball Museum is one of the most unique historical structures in downtown Scotch Plains. Its first residents, Jonathan and Abigail Osborn, were prominent and respected residents of Scotch Plains. Jonathan was a local merchant, innkeeper, tailor, and farmer, who owned a tavern on Front Street. Two of Jonathan Osborn’s sons fought in the American Revolution. One of his younger sons, David Osborn, became Town Clerk of Westfield and then later the first Postmaster General of Scotch Plains. Jonathan’s daughter-in-law, Mary Darby, is said to have aided battle-weary troops in great need of supplies and provisions during the American Revolution by giving them all the provisions she could from her own home.

The Osborn family continued to live in the house until 1844 when it was sold to Levi Hetfield, owner of the Darby & Holingsworth Fur Mill located at the intersection of Park Avenue and Route 22. The Hetfield family lived in the house until 1856. Other noteworthy owners lived there until 1972 when the Town bought the house, and it became a museum and the home of the Historical Society of Scotch Plains/Fanwood.

When you visit, you will find a unique, quaint,

antique house that transports you back to early Colonial America in Scotch Plains. Come see our colonial gardens, beehive oven, period antiques, and seasonally changing antique clothing displays.

Experience local history in its most authentic form. Be proud of your Scotch Plains heritage, and remember, it happened right here!

We are open on the first Sunday of every month (except Jan. & Feb.) with tours by costumed historical interpreters. We also open for special events. School tours and group tours are by appointment. Please call (908) 322-6700 (Ext. 230) and weekends (908) 757-1885 or historicalsocietyofscotchplainsnj.org.



(above) The Osborn Cannonball House Museum will present a “Victorian Christmas” display on December 5, 2021 from 2 – 4 p.m. This exhibit will feature opulent and authentic holiday clothing from the late 1800’s. It will also include a Victorian era tree, holiday decorations, antique toys, and more.

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100 YEARS OF WOMEN VOTING PROGRAM

Kenilworth Historical Society

Residents from Scotch Plains and Fanwood were among those in Union County who attended a Victorian Pink Tea hosted in November by the Kenilworth Historical Society at the Kenilworth Veterans Center. Author Joanne Hamilton Rajoppi, Clerk of Union County, was guest speaker. Her topic was "Marching to Victory: Women's Suffrage."

Ms. Rajoppi traced the evolution of women's voting and presented numerous "women's firsts" from the founding of the United States in 1776 to the present day. In addition to the struggle for the ratification of the 19th Amendment granting the right to vote to women in 1920, Ms. Rajoppi highlighted dozens of women for outstanding accomplishments and many firsts for women in the United States, in New Jersey, and in Union County including many firsts as judges, cabinet

members, elected and appointed officials, and for outstanding achievements. Ms. Rajoppi, herself, holds many firsts as a woman – mayor of Springfield, New Jersey assistant secretary of state, freeholder board chairwoman, and county clerk.

Among those present were Scotch Plains and Fanwood Historical Society members from the Osborn Cannonball House Museum. They were Connie Klock, Renate Maroney, Gloria

Broderson, Darleen Palombo, and Judy Terry. Each was dressed in women's attire of the late 1800s and early 1900s when women struggled for voting rights. Former Scotch Plains Councilwoman Pamela Boright attended and was recognized for numbers of firsts in politics.

Shirley Maxwell Boyden, president of the Kenilworth Historical Society, emceed the program. She thanked the many residents from Union County for their attendance and support.



(above) Former Scotch Plains councilwoman Pamela Boright, Joanne Rajoppi, and Walter Boright, historian.



(above, l-r) Connie Klock, Renate Maroney, Joanne Rajoppi, Gloria Broderson, Darlene Palombo, and Judy Terry.

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PUMPKINS, DONUTS, AND CHARM

Fanwood Post • Page 7 • December 2021

Borough of Fanwood

A Pumpkins and Police event was held recently at Forest Road Park, hosted by the Fanwood Police Department and the Joint Committee for Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT).

Police officers helped the kids decorate pumpkins and treated them to donuts and cookies while their parents had coffee and chatted. Sgt. Dan Piccola and Officers Kathy Case and Chris Pineiro assisted with decorating. Lt. Dan Kranz conducted police vehicle tours. Special Officer Jack Ross mingled with the masses. Mayor Colleen Mahr and Councilwoman Trisha Walsh, dressed as a witch, chatted with visitors, along

with Gina Berry, Deserie Foster and Stephanie Suriani, members of the Police Subcommittee of our local TRHT Committee.

Following a year-long listening tour, the TRHT Committee, made up of grassroots volunteers and community leaders in Fanwood and Scotch Plains, concluded that ongoing good relationships between police and the community were vital to keep communications open.

"We've heard from our residents that they desire a closer relationship with the police, to get to know them better as people and not just enforcement officers," said Mayor Mahr. "Our police and the TRHT are working continuously to do just that."



(above, l-r) Sgt. Dan Piccola; Councilwoman Trisha Walsh; Officer Chris Pineiro; Gina Berry, Stephanie Suriani and Deserie Foster of the TRHT Committee; Lt. Dan Kranz (behind them); Officer Kathy Case; Officer Jack Ross; Mayor Colleen Mahr

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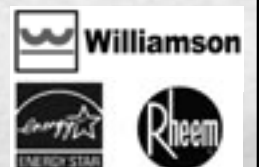
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LIGHT UP YOUR HOME, YOUR STREET, AND YOUR TOWN

During the month of December, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club will sell luminaries at the Fanwood Department of Public Works, located on Manfra Way, off of North Avenue, and across from the Fanwood Public Library. The sale dates are Dec. 4th, Dec. 11-12, and Dec. 18-19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. as well as Dec. 24th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The luminary kits cost \$1 per kit, available in all quantities, and include paper bags, candles, and sand. Customers are encouraged to bring buckets, boxes, or plastic bags to transport the sand. Further, payments can be made by cash, check, or Venmo. Contactless pickup will also be available so customers can call the number listed on the whiteboard to place orders or pick up orders.

Pre-orders placed prior to December 5th will be discounted to \$0.75 a kit. For additional information regarding online purchases, visit the Rotary Club's Facebook page, facebook.com/fsprotary, or their website, fsprotary.org.

Luminaries are traditionally used to illuminate the streets on Christmas Eve. A candle is nestled in sand at the bottom of a paper bag and placed along sidewalks to create a beautiful walkway. The candles are then lit at dusk on Christmas Eve.

All proceeds from the sale will be used to fund the various charitable

and humanitarian projects the Rotary Club supports, both locally and internationally.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club meets on Wednesdays at noon at the Stage House Tavern. On the last Wednesday of the month, the club meets in the evening at 6:30 p.m. Guests are invited to attend and learn about the good the Rotary Club is doing worldwide. For further information about the Rotary Club, go to fsprotary.org, or visit their Facebook page, Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club.

ROTARY & UNICO TOY DRIVE

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club and UNICO, who share the mission of "Service Above Self" are sponsoring a Holiday Toy Drive. Deanna Dell-Bene has managed the Toy Drive for the past 15 years. In the past, toys were collected for Children's Specialized Hospital. This year, the goal is to make the holiday special for families in our community who might be struggling. The Board of Education has been able to identify families in need, who will remain anonymous. Residents of Fanwood and Scotch Plains are asked to consider signing up for an item requested by one of these families. Monetary donations and Venmo payments will also be accepted. A sign-up genius has been set up: www.signupgenius.com, and the toy drive will run through December 17th.

All unwrapped gifts, gift cards, or cash donations can be dropped off at drop locations: Bella Bronze, Darby Road, Fanwood Bagel, Grano, Grillestone, Sheelens Crossing, The Fanwood Larder, Theatrical Artists Prep, Nunzio's, Soul Bowls.

Call Deanna Dell-Bene at 908-463-6538 for additional information.

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F-SP COLLEGE CLUB RAFFLE DRAWINGS

Submitted by Bernadette Hoyer

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains held raffle drawings on October 3 at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains. The drawings awarded a \$500 Shop Rite gift card and three monetary prizes from a 50/50 raffle. Raffle ticket proceeds benefitted the club's scholarship fund and appreciation is extended by the College Club to all who participated in this fundraiser.

The \$500 Shop Rite gift card was donated by Michael Culley of Cloverleaf Farm, which produces The Farmer Hen's Eggs. Due to the generosity of the Culley family \$2,405 was raised for the scholarship fund from the Shop Rite ticket sales.

Three monetary prizes were awarded from the 50/50 raffle adding approximately \$1,700 for scholarships.

In spite of having to curtail fund raising events due to COVID concerns, the College Club was able to award \$31,500 in scholarships to local young women for the 2021-22 academic year.

The College Club of F-SP remains united with the community in its mission to empower young women through educational programs and scholarships. Together we are stronger means coming together and facing the challenges that physically and emotionally impact not only the

club's membership but also the entire community.

Additional information about the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains can be found on the club's website: fspcollegeclub.org.



(above, l-r) Dorothy Lusk, College Club Co-President and Sue Spirko, raffle Chairperson, drew the winning tickets at Brookside Park, Scotch Plains.

A FOCUS ON GIVING, GOOD HEALTH, AND SAFETY

JA Coles PTA

It has been an exciting time at JA Coles Elementary, as students return in-person for a "close-to-normal" school year. And while the transition back to the classrooms is a big change from last year, what hasn't changed is the students' commitment to the longstanding values of the school, several of which were the focus of some recent activities: supporting others in our community and making healthy and safe choices.

SUPPORTING LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

Students carried on the tradition of the Sharing Lunches Program, in which students prepare and share lunches with local families in need. In partnership with the Salvation Army, 167 lunches were donated by students to feed children and families. Sharing Lunches is a cornerstone of the Coles Kids Care effort and is an easy way to engage even the youngest of students in giving back to our local community.

Coles students also got into the Halloween Spirit with a Halloween Costume Drive, and donated around 100 new or gently used costumes to be distributed to local children in need via the Salvation Army of Plainfield. Another Coles Kids Care program, the Halloween Costume Drive is a reminder of how holidays are an important time to give, and to help others enjoy and participate in holiday fun.

HEALTHY & SAFE CHOICES AT COLES

In early October, many Coles students and their families put on their walking shoes or readied their bikes to participate in the Coles Walk to School Day. Accompanied by Fanwood Mayor Mahr and Scotch Plains Mayor Losardo,

as well as many Community Heroes from the towns' Fire Departments, Coles families walked throughout the school's neighborhood, arriving safely and on time for the start of the day. This event is part of the International Walk to School Day campaign, which aims to empower communities to make walking and biking to school a safe and appealing option.

Safe and healthy choices continued as a theme for the start of the school year, as Coles students also participated in Healthy Snack Day. Healthy Snack Day reminds students how healthy food choices are important and can also be very enjoyable – an important reminder for us all as we head into year-end holiday festivities!

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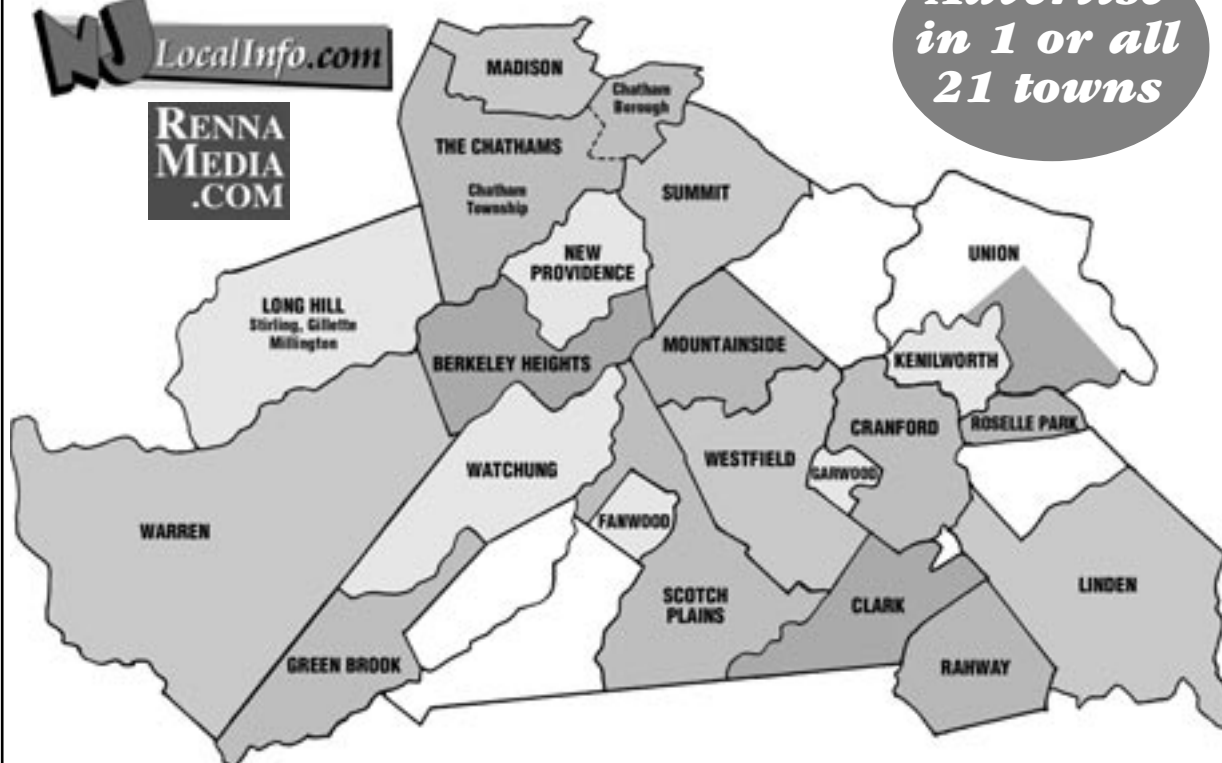
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The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO held their annual Columbus Day Celebration on October 9, 2021 at Alan M. Augustine Village Green Park in Scotch Plains. This year, Daniela Nizzardo Sellinger, first-generation American and lifelong Scotch Plains resident, shared the story of her family's voyage from Italy to the United States. Scotch Plains is a sister city with Montazzoli, Italy, the village from where Daniela's family immigrated. Her grandfather, Nicola DiFiore, survived the sinking of two Italian military ships during World War II and years later survived the sinking of the Andrea Doria in July of 1956. The family continues their family traditions such as making homemade sauce, homemade wine, homemade sausage, just to mention a few. Daniela said, "I would like to thank this amazing community for supporting our heritage. We hope that everyone never forgets the struggles and sacrifices that were made to reach the land of opportunity, and settle in Scotch Plains, New Jersey."

Other speakers included former New Jersey Governor Donald DiFrancesco, Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter President Geri Samuel, Unico National Second Vice President Anthony Bencivenga, Scotch Plains Mayor Josh Losardo,

and Scotch Plains Township Manager/Union County Commission Chairperson Al Mirabella. Chapter member Tom Donatelli was the event's master of ceremonies and Deacon Matthew Rodriguez of St. Bartholomew Church offered prayers. Mike Aromondo and the Metropolitan Italian Strolling Band performed. Members of other local UNICO chapters and many members of the community also joined the celebration.

Later in October, the organization's chapter members and guests gathered for homemade wine making at Grape Expectations wine making facilities in Bridgewater, NJ.

If you would like to join the chapter for these events next year, contact spfunico@gmail.com and request to be placed on our mailing list.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO is an Italian-American service organization. The organization's objectives are to promote the image of Italian Americans, to serve the community, and to contribute to charitable, cultural and educational organizations and projects. If you would like to become a chapter member, you must be 18 years years of age or older, an American citizen and of Italian descent or married to someone of Italian descent. See our website for more information, unicospf.org.



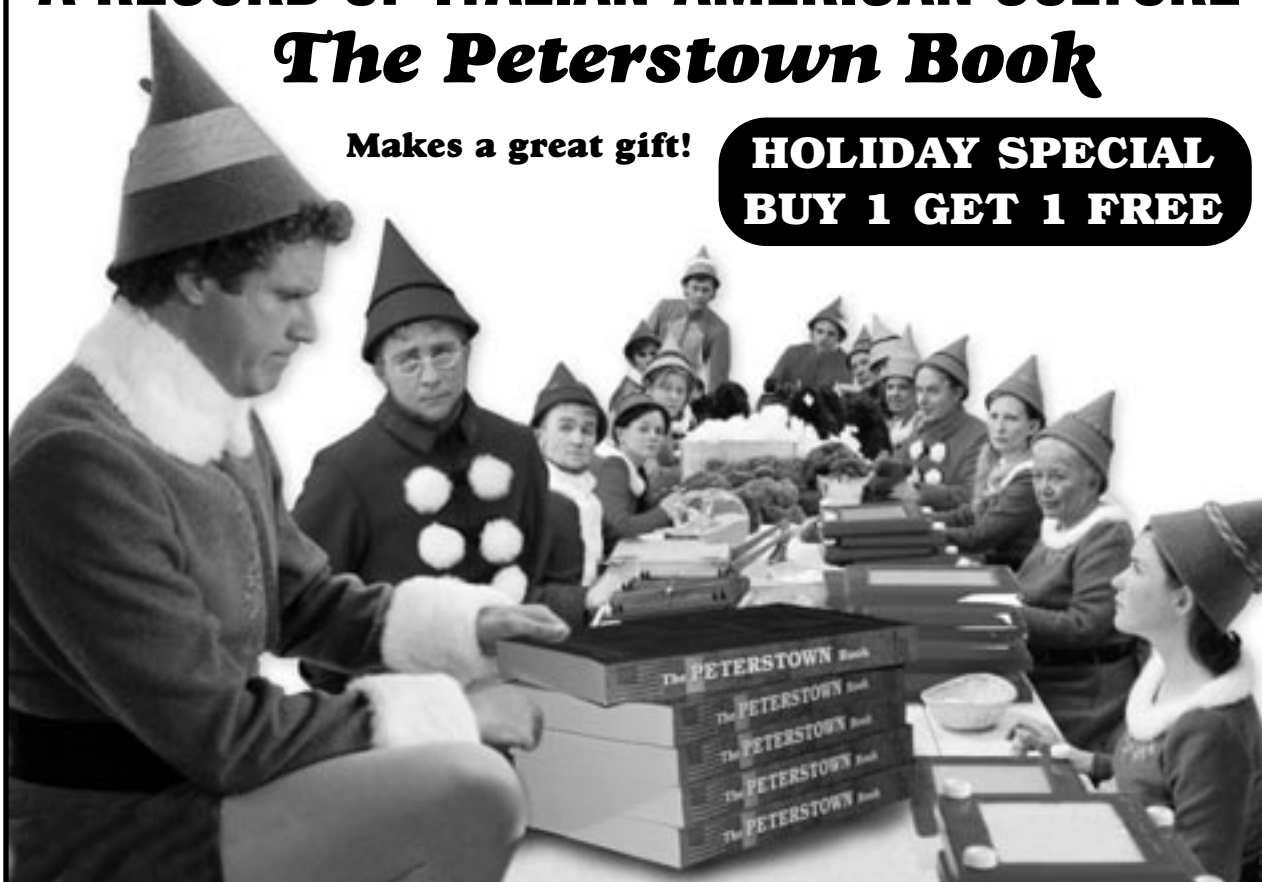
(above) During a Columbus Day celebration Daniela Nizzardo Sellinger, first-generation American and lifelong Scotch Plains resident, shared the story of her family's voyage from Italy to the United States.

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(above) UNICO chapter members and guests gathered for homemade wine making.



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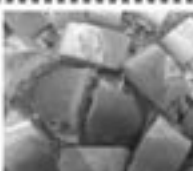
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