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Issue 75 • December 2021

RESCUE SQUAD'S 2021 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE IS UNDERWAY

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad has recently mailed out its fund drive letter which emphasizes the importance of the services the organization provides. Scotch Plains residents have relied on this squad for emergency medical services for more than 84 years. Its volunteers respond to calls on a 24-hour basis, despite holidays and inclement weather. Help us continue to help you, your family, and your neighbors.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

- We are a 100% volunteer emergency medical service. Not one of our over 90 members is paid. We work for pride, not pay.
- For 84 years, we have been providing free emergency medical care and transportation.
- We are certified Emergency Medical Technicians
- We use 100% of your tax deductible donation to keep our ambulances fully stocked with the most innovative equipment. We are also hoping to buy a new ambulance in 2022. In addition, we provide ongoing training and uniforms at no cost to our members.
- Between March 2020 and March 2021, when COVID-19 was ravaging our state, the Rescue Squad never wavered in its commitment, answering over 1150 calls for help. The need to purchase protective equipment in order to ensure the safety of our members and patients meant spending an additional, and unexpected, \$26,000. Your donation will help recoup these costs and allow us to continue our life-saving mission
- We don't use professional outside fundraisers, so please help us get the word out to your family, friends, and even your employers (who will often match contributions).

• Those of you who have needed our services in the past know all too well how valuable and necessary the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is to the township.

Please mail in your vocation today to the below or donate online address at securepayment.link/scotchplainsrescuesquad/.

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is also always looking for new members. We need people aged 16 years and older who are willing to dedicate some time to helping their neighbors.

If interested in volunteering, please fill out the form below, stop by our building to pick up an application, or complete an application at scotchplainsrescuesquad.com. All training is provided and free of charge.

Thank you for your continued interest, support and generosity.

Sincerely,

Officers and Members of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad

PO Box 325, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

Note: Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation may be obtained from the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey by calling 201- 504-6125.

NJ 07076 ECRWSSEDDM * * *

POSTAL SCOTCH





May your holidays be joyful and bright.



Nelson Espeland, LUTCF 908-233-6300

look forward to serving you in 2022.

Enjoy all the good moments that come with the season. Your



Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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Scotch Plains Monthly is published by Renna Media. 9,600 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in the Scotch Plains.

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SEND US YOUR NEWS

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (accomplishment, honor, award, etc.). Then send us your news!

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



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HOLIDAY CARDS FOR VETERANS

Junior members of The Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield recently made holiday greeting cards for the veterans at the Lyons Hospital in Basking Ridge NJ. The cards will be placed in the175 Holiday Gift Bags, that the club members will prepare and donate to the hospital in early December.

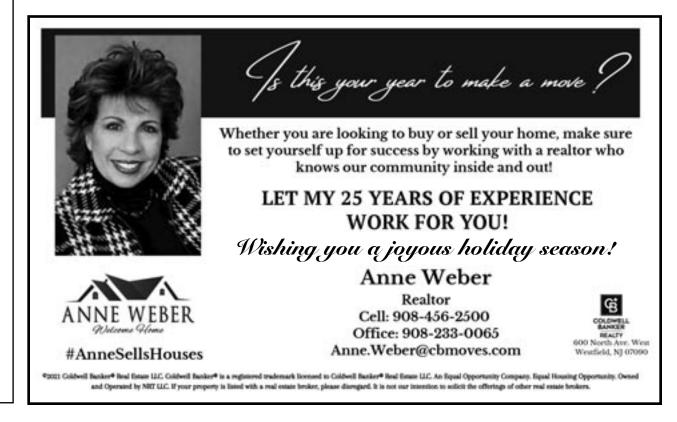
These gift bags and handmade cards are designed to bring holiday cheer to the veterans who have served our country and are now deserving of our thanks and well wishes. To learn more about the services Lyons Veterans Medical Center provides and volunteer opportunities to support our military heroes, please call 908-647-0189 or visit:

newjersey.va.gov/locations/lyons_campus.asp

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Club, Inc. The club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club. The Juniors, ranging from kindergarten through high school students, meet monthly, after school during the school year to work on projects focused on flower design, gardening, and community service. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns. For more information, call Sharon Shiraga (908) 228-2865 or visit the club's website, (rakeandhoegc.org) or Facebook page.



(above, l-r) Front row: Sophia Poeschl, Riley Dupuis, Arline Bound; Back row: Arabella Morabito, Lila Spadaro, Brynn O'Grady, Hannah Lee.



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We bring the restaurant experience to you. Try exclusive menus from top chefs like Bobby Flay, Nancy Silverton, Michael Symon, and more, brought to you straight from our mobile kitchen. It's dining in like you've never tasted before.

JUST A FEW OF OUR RESTAURANT PARTNERS:

Bobby Flay Steak	Fred's Meat & Bread	SriPraPhai
Di Fara Pizza	The Mainstay by Marc Murphy	Maydān
Bar Nakazawa	JBird by Jonathan Waxman	Barrio Café



JOIN THE WAITLIST

wonder

Scotch Plains Monthly • Page 4 • December 2021 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

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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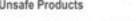
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Irene Rossmer, MD, FACS

ATLANTIC SURGICAL ONCOLOGY AT CLARK WELCOMES CANCER SPECIALIST DR. IRENE ROSSMER

Irene Rossmer, MD, FACS, is a fellowship trained, Board-Certified surgical oncologist skilled in the surgical treatment of cancers of the gastrointestinal tract, liver and pancreas, skin and soft tissue, and breast. Now she's brought her extensive expertise to Clark. After receiving her medical degree from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, she returned to her alma mater Columbia University and completed her surgical residency at the New York Presbyterian Columbia Campus. She then went on to complete a highly competitive 2-year fellowship in surgical oncology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Following her training, she built a robust surgical oncology practice at NYU-Long Island, and we have been extremely fortunate to recruit her to join our world-class surgical oncology team. The recipient of multiple awards and honors for her clinical work and research, Dr. Rossmer is now treating cancer patients right here in our own backyard.

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RESIDENTS PITCH IN TO CLEAN UP PARK

Local residents and members of the Scotch Plains Environmental Commission and Green Team recently volunteered their time on a Saturday morning. They hauled away more than a dozen bags of trash from the Route 22 baseball field off Union Avenue. The region-wide effort was organized by the newly-established Mayor's Alliance for a Clean Green Brook, which includes a group of mayors from nearby municipalities.



Photos by Scotch Plains Township

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 allvolunteer 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.



Scotch Plains Monthly • Page 7 • December 2021

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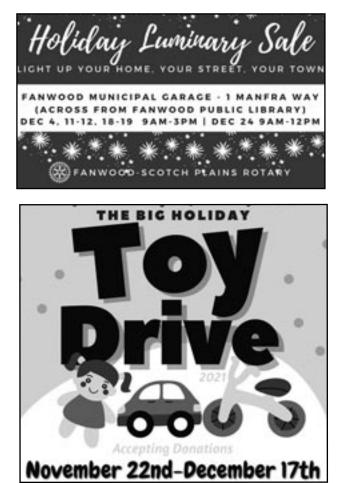
Precautions are being taken by the hotel and the show host to minimize health risks as a result of COVID-19. Please refer to the COVID-19 Safety Notice online when you RSVP.

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INVITA

LIGHT UP YOUR HOME, YOUR STREET, 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 December 4th, December 11–12, and December 18–19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. as well as December 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. Some neighborhoods in the area get together and buy hundreds of kits to create an amazing display.

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 has been serving the community since 1938. The 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 Fanwood-Scotch Plains 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 signup 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.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH a worshiping and serving community of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 524 South Street, New Providence, NJ 07974 908-464-5177 • family.faith@verizon.net www.famfaith.org • The Rev. Jane McCready, Pastor

Sunday Mornings Liturgies with Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

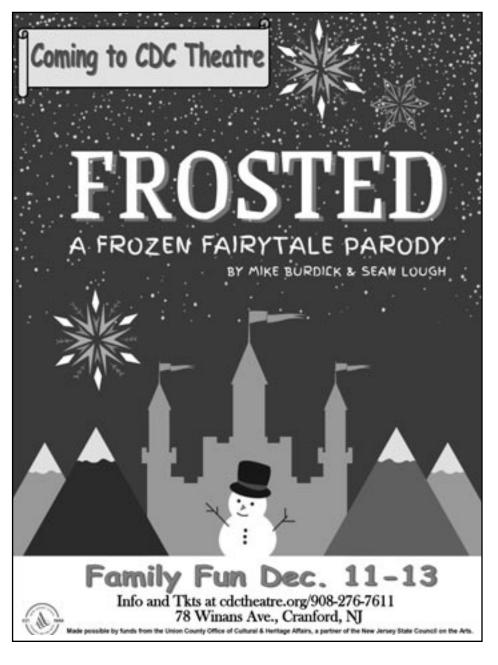
> Midweek Advent Liturgy Followed by Organ Recital Wednesdays at 12 noon December 1, 8, and 15

Christmas Eve Friday, December 24 Family Service at 4:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist at 6:00 p.m.

Services of Lessons, Carols and Eucharist Saturday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, December 26 at 10:00 a.m.

Services with limited seating and regular livestream. Visit our website at www.famfaith.org or find us on Facebook at Faith Lutheran, New Providence.

We practice an open Communion table. All are welcome!







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-ion-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,

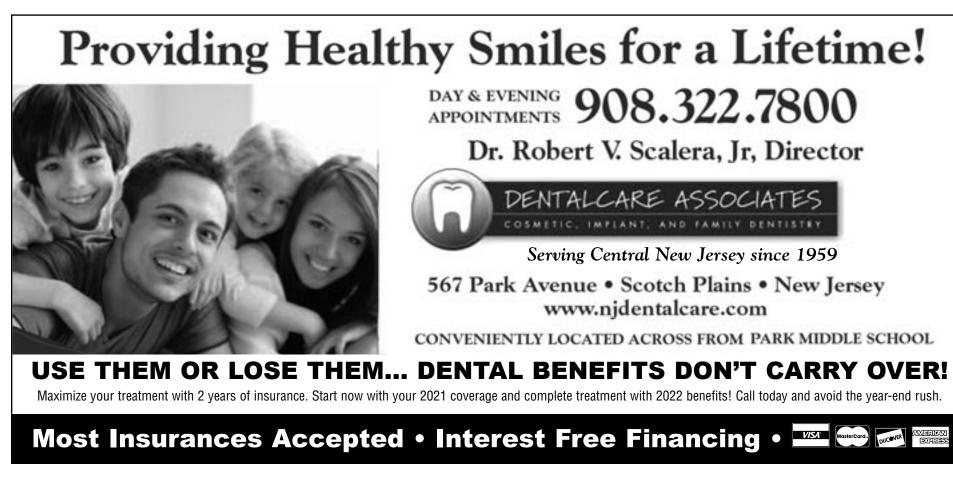
antique house that transports you back to early Colonial America in Scotch Plains. Come see our colonial gardens, beehive oven, period antiques, and seasonally changing antique clothing displays.

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 historicalsocietyspfnj.org.

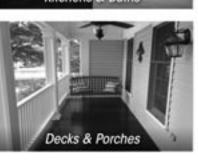


(above) The Osborn Cannonball House Museum will present a "Victorian Christmas" display on December 5, 2021 from 2 – 4 p.m. This exhibit will feature opulent and authentic holiday clothing from the late 1800's. It will also include a Victorian era tree, holiday decorations, antique toys, and more.



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IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE FOR A KID TO LEARN HOW TO RUN FASTER?

Retired San Francisco 49ers QB Joe Montana, is arguably one of the greatest NFL players that has ever played football...when his son started playing football it would have made sense for him to help his son learn how to play Quarterback.

But that's not how it went. Joe Montana had to hire a quarterback coach to help his son be a better football player. Here's possibly the greatest NFL QB of all time, needing to hire someone else to help his son. It was not that Joe Montana was not equipped for the job...it was that his son needed a second voice to help him get to the next level.

Many parents who have much less knowledge, experience, and skills than Joe Montana are in the same boat in regards to helping their kids get stronger, faster, and more confident.

Most parents we've come across want their kids to eat healthier, be more active, and have a stronger mindset. But many have told us they need help.

Even with the constant reminders of telling their kids to eat more vegetables, get outside instead of watching TV, practice their sport more, get to bed earlier...they find that sometimes the message falls on deaf ears...and some backup would be helpful toward their vision of helping their kid be the best they can be.

Parents have told us that having us(the Grit Athlete Performance Coaches) as a second voice to help reinforce the habits they want for their kids...is changing the game.

Further...Our Grit Athlete Founder has over 20 years experience with training athletes himself...and certainly knows a LOT more about getting stronger and faster than the average parent...But has all 3 of his children(9,8 and 6) enrolled in Grit year round....because he knows the power of that second voice.

And after they come through our program, parents tell how it's turbocharging their parenting. Here are some real-life examples that have been reported...

Before, parents struggled with getting kids to eat vegetables...now their kids are asking for more.

Before, parents struggled with getting their kids to get enough sleep....now their kids are getting to bed earlier on their own.

Before, parents struggled with getting their kids to watch less TV or play video games...now they are limiting these activities because they've learned they don't really help them become better athletes.

Before, parents struggled with helping their kids have more confidence...now their kids are doing things out of their comfort zone more often which is helping them believe in themselves which further improves self-esteem.

Before, parents had no clue how to help their kid get faster...now they are faster because they've learned that speed is a skill, and a few simple tweaks can make a kid faster immediately.

Before, parents could not get their kids to make their beds...now their kid makes their

bed each morning on their own because they learned that making their bed in the morning helps them have a better day.

Before, parents struggled with getting their kids to do even one good push-up...now they catch them in their room practicing on their own.

Before, parents wanted their kids to have more determination and grit when training new things...now they are staying calm under pressure and seeking out challenges instead of avoiding them.

Many times it's not about telling your kid to eat more vegetables or stop watching TV...but rather finding the right environment for them to be more successful.

Right in your backyard, there's a team of great coaches waiting to be second voices for your kids...so that all the things you're teaching as parents will be reinforced. But most importantly, the results you're after for your kids will actually become a reality. The Grit Athlete winter Sports Performance session starts on December 13th in Berkeley Heights NJ, visit www.gritathletes.com to fill out an application for your child.

Grit Athlete Performance is a Sports Performance Training Company located in Berkeley Heights that helps kids ages 6-18 get strong, fast, and confident so they can have a bigger and better future. They have just released the dates for their winter program that starts on December 3rd. Visit www.gritathletes.com to register for their winter session...or see below for more details...

SPORTS PERFORMANCE TRAINING FOR KIDS AGES 6-18 STARTS DECEMBER 13 (17 SPACES REMAINING)



Warning: The Winter session is the most popular session of the year and always sells out before it starts. We strongly encourage you to scan the QR code today and enter your information to make sure your child doesn't get locked out of the winter session.

Attention Parents of Kids Ages 6-18 **UPDATE: THE GRIT ATHLETE PERFORMANCE WINTER PROGRAM HAS ONLY 17 SPACES REMAINING** Give us 12 weeks with your kids and we'll have them stronger, faster, and more confident...guaranteed.

Here's what parents can expect to happen:

• They will get stronger which means when they show up to their sport they'll be able to perform better than ever.

- They will run faster and jump higher so they can show up to their next season and people will start asking what the heck have they been doing.
- They'll become more coordinated and improve agility which means they'll pick up new skills their coaches teach them faster.
- Your children will start to eat better because we'll be educating them daily on what's good and what they should avoid ...don't be surprised if they start asking you to buy more vegetables.
- **Confidence will skyrocket.** When kids get stronger, faster and more fit...their confidence will rise...so will their self-esteem which means their performance in every aspect of life will get better.
- Their mindset will improve. We're going equip your child with very specific mindset skills that'll help them learn how to transform how they think about mistakes and failures.

HAPPY PARENTS TALKING ABOUT THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL TRANSFORMATION OF THEIR KIDS...

• "When my son started Grit he was quiet, shy, and had some difficulty with movements...Now he is confident in himself, has become more vocal, and is mastering the exercise he struggled with in the past."

- Jen O'Brien, Grit Athlete Parent

• "My son is more disciplined and confident in himself"

- Steve Hughes, Grit Athlete Parent

• "I have watched my children become more confident and vocal."

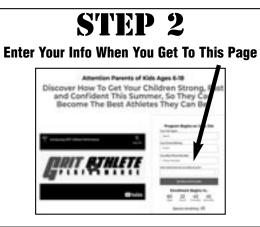
- Christine Stramandinoli, Grit Athlete Parent

• "His confidence has shot up in the last few months...and has carried forward to the way he approaches other activities like sports and schoolwork. My son is now making his bed daily and exercising every day."

- Catherine Solfaro, Grit Athlete Parent

STARTS DECEMBER 13TH (Only 17 Spaces Remaining)







Warning: The Winter session is the most popular session of the year and always sells out before it starts. We strongly encourage you to scan the QR code today and enter your information to make sure your child doesn't get locked out of the winter session.

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



Sunday, December 19 Central Presbyterian Church at 2 PM.

For additional info, contact: pipesofchristmas@gmail.com Clan Currie Society Facebook page: /ClanCurrieSociety Concert Facebook page: /ThePipesofChristmas



NEW POLICY AT SCOTCH PLAINS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Scotch Plains Public Library is happy to families." announce that, effective immediately, overdue fines will no longer be charged for most library materials. Eliminating these fines, while still requiring materials to be returned on time, will allow more people to enjoy materials for education, enrichment, and inspiration.

"The mission of the Scotch Plains Public Library is to be our community's center for lifelong learning, not keep people away," says Michelle Willis, Library Director. "Fines tend to keep patrons away. The vast majority of library patrons return materials promptly when finished so that others may enjoy them. We do not anticipate this practice to change. We want to avoid penalizing busy individuals or families who might accidentally miss a due date. We want everyone in our community to feel encouraged to check out library materials for themselves or their

The new policy, approved by the Board of Trustees, applies to items owned by the Scotch Plains Public Library only. If items are overdue, they will need to be returned before additional items may be borrowed, and fines will be assessed on certain materials, such as highdemand items, literacy kits, and technology equipment. The complete policy can be found on the library website scotlib.org/updates-news.

Existing fines for overdue items will be forgiven to ensure that everyone can start a new chapter at their now fine-free library. The Library encourages anyone who may have overdue items to bring them to the Circulation Desk, so their account can be cleared. Fees for lost or damaged items will remain. Anyone experiencing unusual difficulty in returning library materials or paying fines/fees should contact the Library Director.

BAND SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

back and is seeking new members to join the band! "Musicians of all ages are welcome," says director Howard Toplansky. "If you are a high school musician looking for extra practice or a retired professional who wants to get back into music, the municipal band is a perfect fit." The band is looking for new members who play any instrument. Out of towners are welcome.

The Township of Union Municipal Band rehearses on Monday evenings at Hannah Caldwell School. The band performs ten

The Township of Union Municipal Band is concerts throughout the year, including special concerts at Ehrhart Gardens and Putnam Manor.

> Mr. Toplansky believes the municipal band contributes to the culture of the township, sharing that "the municipal band is one of Union's oldest traditions and is a great way to introduce members of the community to timehonored musical styles and compositions."

> Musicians who are interested in joining the band should contact the Township of Union Recreation Department at 908-686-4200.

DECEMBER LIBRARY ADULT PROGRAMS

Phone: 908-322-5007 Visit: http://www.scotlib.org/ 1927 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 The library will be closed December 24, 25, 31 and January 1

Balance Awareness with Yasmin Ofek.

Fridays, 10 a.m. All you need are a chair and sneakers to experience this gentle but effective approach to moving confidently throughout the lifespan. No class on December 24 & 31.

Hypertension Clinic

Friday, December 3, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. with a nurse from the Union County Office of Health Management. This is an in-person program, no registration required.

Bagels & Books

Monday, December 6, 10 a.m. an informal discussion of what participants have recently read and enjoyed. **DNA Tests**

Tuesday, December 7, 6:30 p.m. Making Sense of Genealogy DNA Tests with librarian April Earle.

Evening Book Club

Monday, December 13, 7 p.m. Of Women and Salt by Gabriela Garcia. Friends of the Library meeting. Monday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.

Afternoon Book Club

Tuesday, December 21, 1 p.m. An Enemy of the People by Henrik Ibsen.



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 Epiphanes, who forbade the Jewish people to study their scriptures, keep their calendar, observe their holidays or offer sacrifices in the



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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!

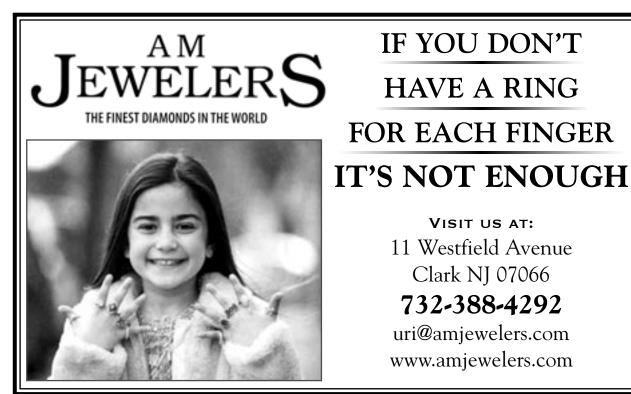
But I also think the story of Hanukah teaches and shares important lessons for our friends and neighbors of other faiths about religious faith and belief. To me, Hanukah represents the first victory in human history of religious freedom. In a certain sense, Hanukah is a universal holiday of religious 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.



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



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







GRIEF SUPPORT FACILITATORS NEEDED

of life.

support they need.

walks of life and no special background is

required, other than, a willingness to listen, a heart inclined to serve, and the ability to be with

children and adults in grief without trying to fix,

solve, or give advice. No prior experience is

necessary, but volunteers must be 18 years or

older. Bilingual (Spanish-speaking) volunteers

are needed as well. Volunteers serve as

companions and caring listeners for those who

are grieving to help create a safe space where

participants can share tears and embrace the joys

planning to offer virtual facilitator training

December 10–12th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each

day. For information on joining Imagine's team

of volunteers, please contact Imagine's Program

Manager, Veronica Ortiz, by emailing

veronica@imaginenj.org, or by calling 908-264-

3100. Please help us address the growing need

for children's grief support and ensure that no

grieving child is required to wait to receive the

We are hoping to fill our upcoming training with lots of wonderful new volunteers! We are

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for children's grief support programs has never been greater. Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss, a non-profit organization based in Mountainside and Newark, exists to support children in New Jersey who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, or close family member. Imagine offers free peer support groups for children ages 3-18, young adults 19-30, and the parents and guardians of the children in the program. Groups for Spanish-speaking bereaved adults are also available. Currently, all groups are being held virtually, however, there are plans to transition some groups to in-person as soon as it feels safe to do so.

Imagine's support groups are only possible because of our amazing team of volunteers who facilitate the groups. Imagine currently has a wait list of families looking to join our support groups. We are unable to offer them support at this time because we do not have enough volunteers to begin another Night of Support. We need your help!

Imagine's volunteer facilitators come from all

THE GIVING TREE

Please help St. Joseph's Social Service Center make the holidays special. We have over 400 households registered for our Giving Tree program and would appreciate your support to make this happen!

The easiest way to help is to donate \$25 gift cards (preferably Visa, American Express, or Walmart), supermarket gift cards of any amount (preferably Shoprite or Stop and Shop), or make a financial donation by visiting: www.sjeliz.org/donate - please mention Giving Tree in the "note" section.

To make a donation by mail: Send your gift card or check to:

St. Joseph Social Service Center,

118 Division St., Elizabeth, NJ 07201-2736.

Since 1983, St. Joseph's has served the materially poor and homeless community of greater Elizabeth, New Jersey, by providing basic human needs such as food, clothing and medications, as well as a wide range of services and programs to help them acquire the material goods and social services they need to live with integrity. St. Joseph's is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. To view our Form 990, visit www.sjeliz.org/about-us.html.





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 93% 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 opportanity 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 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, osteconthritis, 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 elsewhere 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 fluoros copy 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 whatwoever. 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."



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.



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



ELF THE MUSICAL JR. TO SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Community Access Unlimited

A triumphant musical returning this December promises holiday cheer, a lot of laughs, and possibly too much sugar.

Tickets for Elf the Musical Jr. are now available for showings on December 10, 11, and 12th. All shows are streaming virtually at 7:00 p.m. for audiences to enjoy at home. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased on line at: www.showtix4u.com/event-details/57483

The CAU Community Players are an inclusive

group of performers with and without disabilities who collaborate to stage incredible musical performances, including past productions of Hairspray and Aladdin. Community Access Unlimited (CAU) is a Union County-based, statewide nonprofit that works to integrate people with disabilities and youth at-risk into the community through comprehensive ways.

The cast of the show is thrilled to return to the stage after months of virtual rehearsals and preparation. Performers used clear masks to



(above, l-r) Zoe Rivera and Tyler O'Neill perform as Jovie and Buddy in Elf the Musical Jr. with other CAU Community Players.

group of performers with and without disabilities interact safely while allowing the audience to who collaborate to stage incredible musical enjoy their expressions.

"The point of the show is to fill everyone with Christmas spirit," said Tyler O'Neill, who plays Buddy. "I'm discovering a side I never thought I had and a lot of joy. And like Buddy, I too enjoy a good hug every now and again."

Adam Fleissner, who plays Buddy's cantankerous father, Walter, said he is excited for everyone's hard work to pay off in the final production after a hiatus last year, due to the pandemic.

"It's the first time doing a CAU play since the shutdown and I just love seeing everyone again," said Fleissner.

Proceeds from the play support CAU's comprehensive services for people with disabilities and youth at-risk, which include housing, education, employment, support coordination, and life skills training.

This adaptation of the hilarious, hit film is sure to warm hearts as we prepare for the holiday season.

"I want people to get tickets so they can laugh hard," said cast member Ernie Smalls.

ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED:

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), who is celebrating 42 years in 2021, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voices to adults and the youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization, and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. CAU currently serves more than 3,000 individuals and families, with the number growing each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, online at caunj.org, or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ, 07202.





UNICO CELEBRATES ITALIAN HERITAGE Scotch Plains Monthly • Page 21 • December 2021

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, firstgeneration 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,

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of NICO held their annual Columbus Day elebration on October 9, 2021 at Alan M. agustine Village Green Park in Scotch Plains. In 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.

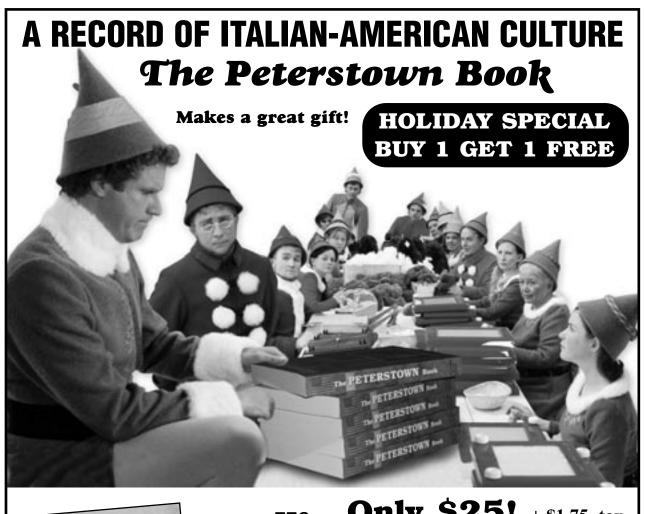
If you would like to join the chapter for these events next year, contact spfunico@gmail.com and request to be placed on our mailing list.

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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- Email inquiries to: RayRal joerenna@rennamedia.com





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

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SCOUT EXECUTIVE SPEAKS TO ROTARY CLUB

Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart

Marc Andreo, the Scout Executive and CEO of the Patriot's Path Council, Boy Scouts of America spoke to the Rotary Club of Westfield on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. His topic was to update the club on the state of the local Scouting. The pandemic has decreased the scouting program somewhat, but it is still going strong, and they are planning to rebuild it to where it was before the shutdown. Paul Harris, the man who started Rotary International in 1905, was great friends with James E. West who started the Boy Scouts of America in 1910. Paul gave advice on how to spread the program throughout the US, mirroring the way Rotary clubs were spreading. Both organizations have a lot of similarities, including an ethical code, teaching leadership skills, being community based and service oriented. Rotary clubs currently charter 1,000



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scout units across the US.

The Patriot's Path Council, BSA consists of 5 counties in northern New Jersey with more than 10,000 scouts and 4,000 adult volunteers. They are in the counties of Sussex, Morris, Somerset, Union and northern Middlesex. The headquarters in Cedar Knolls has only 25 fulltime staff. There are two scout shops one in Cedar Knolls, and one in Mountainside.

The Council offers three Day Camps: at Watchung Reservation; Johnson Park, New Brunswick; and Camp Wheeler at Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation. The Council offers four overnight camping opportunities: Winnebago Scout Reservation in Rockaway, NJ; Mt. Allamuchy in Byram Township; Sabattis Adventure Camp in Long Lake NY, and the four national high adventure bases: The Summit in West Virginia; Northern Tier in Minnesota, Sea Base in the Florida Keys, and Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Recent changes to the Scouts include welcoming girls to the Cub Scout and the legacy Boy Scout programs three years ago. The purpose was to include entire families in the activities. To accommodate this change, the "Boy Scout" program for ages 5th grade through age 18 was renamed the "Scouts BSA". The name of the parent organization remains the Boy Scouts of America. The Cub Scout program is for children from K through 5th grade; Scouts BSA is for children 5th grade through age 18. Other programs have been coed for many decades, including Explorers - who explore career opportunities, Venture Crews - who go on high adventure trips, Sea Scouts who learn mariner skills, and a relatively new program -STEM- in which students explore science related careers. These last four programs welcome boys and girls from ages 14 to 21.

Cub Scout Dens may be all boy and all girl, or coed. Scouts BSA Troops are either all girl or all boy. This year there are 250,000 young women in the scouts, and 1,000 girls were the first graduating class of female Eagle Scouts. Only 4% of all scouts ever achieve the rank of Eagle, making it a mark of distinction.

The residents of Westfield are enthusiastic supporters of Scouting. There are 12 units: 7 Cub Scout Packs and 5 Scout Troops, with nearly 500 youth, which is double the national average. Last year the Patriots' Path Council recognized 315 Eagle Scouts and Scouts collectively earned more than 6,200 merit badges. The Rotary Club of Westfield has been a long time supporter of the Scouts. Several members are Eagle Scouts, and many of the children of Rotarians are in the Scouting program, and a number have earned the rank of Eagle. The club likes to support Eagle Service projects financially.

Scout Executive Marc Andreo asked the Rotarians to help spread the word about local Scouting. With units and camps open again, they are seeking more youth to join the local programs. Please visit beascout.org to locate a unit near you!



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