

Watchung Post

Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

NJ

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TREE OF LIGHTS DEDICATED TO EDUCATORS

Submitted by Katrina Dumapit, President & William Wu, Member, Watchung Rescue Squad

The Watchung Rescue Squad 2021 Tree of Lights honors the educators of Watchung. From one seemingly thankless profession to another, our frontline responders have noticed the struggles of our teachers. The past two years have been a challenge for everyone but

especially for our educators. Through this pandemic, they alone have navigated unconventional teaching conditions while shaping the minds of our youths.

This year the Watchung Rescue Squad lauded the efforts of these dedicated educators and expressed thanks for the past guidance which many members received as past students. Honorary representatives were chosen from The Giving Nest, Bayberry Elementary School, Valley View Middle School, Watchung Hills Regional High School, and Mt. Saint Mary's Academy.

The representatives had close ties to current members of the squad and played significant roles in their education.

As the representative of Valley View Middle School, former baseball coach, and the captain of the rescue squad, Mr. Matt Buglovsky gave a speech sharing his perspective as an educator. He spoke not only of the challenges imposed by the pandemic but also the undeniable reward and thanks educators receive from the relationships built with their students. The efforts and contributions of Watchung's schools have shaped and strengthened our community in the face of the pandemic. For that, they deserve our gratitude and respect.



Photo by Jake Feldman

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Watchung Post

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Watchung Post

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SING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FREE WORKSHOPS!

Love singing? Come sing with the Hickory Tree Chorus on Wednesday evenings in January from 7 to 9 p.m. The Chorus hosts singing workshops via Zoom or in-person for fully vaccinated members and guests as covid safety protocols permit. Participants will learn more about chord-ringing, fun-filled, four-part harmony. Broadway, Beatles, and more!

Hickory Tree is an award-winning women's chorus singing four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style. We are passionate about

music, performance, fun and friendship. We believe every voice counts and encourage women singers of all ages, colors, ethnicities, and orientations to visit us and share our joy of music.

Please register for Sing in the New Year by email info@hickorytreechorus.org or call 908-377-1399. More information at hickorytreechorus.org. Watch the promo video on the Hickory Tree Chorus YouTube channel: youtu.be/mcvYYvPV4rQ.



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Nathan Weiser

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Spring Grove is by far the best rehab center I have ever been to. The staff are kind and caring and have gone above and beyond my expectations. The building is kept extremely clean and the new renovations are very nice.

Thank you Spring Grove for a wonderful and pleasant stay.



Charles Sherrick

★★★★★

I have been at Spring Grove for a few weeks now, they have exceptional service and excellent staff. All the nurses have been professional and attentive to all my needs. I never thought a rehab center can have such a beautiful layout and well put together. The newly renovated room I have stayed in, is up to date and extremely clean. The therapy staff have gone above my expectations with their expertise and getting me to where I am today. Alyssa the social worker has gone above and beyond with all her assignments.

Thank you Spring Grove.



Chrissy Sloan

★★★★★

The nursing staff and administration is professional, patient, attentive and understanding. The facilities are very clean and well maintained. My parents room is always clean and tidy. Although it was a difficult decision to make relocating my folks from a home environment to a senior living facility, Spring Grove made my decision easy.

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(above) Grace Lin, Author of *Bringing In the New Year*, will speak about the Lunar New Year during a virtual program on January 25th from 4:30 p.m. to 5:20 p.m.

CELEBRATE LUNAR NEW YEAR WITH SCLSNJ

On February 1st, the Lunar New Year will be celebrated around the world. Welcome the Year of the Tiger with award-winning and New York Times bestselling author and illustrator, Grace Lin, and the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) during a virtual program on January 25th at 4:30 p.m.

During the program, students in grades K-3 will digitally connect with Lin as she shares samples of her works, explains customs and stories around the Lunar New Year commemoration, as well as leads participants in an interactive drawing demonstration and Q&A session.

From illustrating to writing, the author of over a dozen children's books, has loved creating books since she was a child. Lin realized she "wanted to be an author and illustrator forever," after winning fourth place in a national book making competition when she was in the seventh grade.

"There is something about stories and storytelling, and the need to communicate and share that is inherent in all humans," said Lin. "Reading a book takes a concept that might seem foreign, and makes it familiar. When you use a book as a shared experience, it takes what is unfamiliar and makes it familiar."

The author, an advocate for diversity, aspires

to encourage children to embrace their own unique identities and cultures, as well as explore others.

"I hope kids who read my books realize that heritage is something really wonderful and something to treasure," she said. "I hope it gives kids a glimpse into how wonderful and how magical it can be to see and experience things from other points of view and other identities. Reading books are magical and wonderful windows into other cultures."

In 2021, Lin won the Children's Literature Association Phoenix Picture Book Award for her 2001 release, *Dim Sum for Everyone!*. The award recognizes a work first published 20 years earlier "that did not win a major award at the time of its publication, but from the perspective of time, is deemed worthy of special attention."

The book tells the story of a young girl visiting a bustling restaurant in Chinatown with her family, where they share and enjoy variations of traditional Chinese dumplings, buns, and small snacks known as dim sum.

Attendees are encouraged to read Lin's books, *The Year of the Dog* and/or *Bringing in the New Year*, prior to the program.

For more information or to register for the virtual program, visit: clsj.libnet.info/event/5663371.

HALL OF FAME SEEKING NOMINATIONS

Watchung Hills Regional High School

The Watchung Hills Regional High School Hall of Fame Committee is now accepting nominations for The Class of 2022 Hall of Fame. The deadline for nominations is January 15, 2022. Nomination forms may be found on the school website whrhs.org, under the Community heading. Forms may also be picked up in person at the WHRHS, 108 Stirling Road, Warren.

The Hall of Fame was set up to recognize individuals who have achieved distinction either during their high school days and/or in their professional or community life thereafter, as well as those who have served, with diligence and devotion, as Watchung Hills educators, coaches,

board of education members, volunteers, and so on. Alumni nominees must have graduated at least 10 years ago.

To date, 69 individuals have entered the Hall of Fame in a wide variety of different fields, including education, athletics, humanities, the arts, medicine and volunteerism. Those selected to the Class of 2022 will be honored at a ceremony to be held in May of 2022. Those not selected will still be considered for future classes.

For more information, please feel free to contact Ms. Laurie Grafer, Administrative Assistant to the Principal at 908-647-4800 ext. 4870 or e-mail her at lgrafer@whrhs.org.

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON CARRIE BROOKNER

CASA SHaW

Our Volunteer Spotlight this month highlights one of our CASA volunteers who has been an amazing CASA volunteer for some time now: Carrie Brookner!

Carrie has been married to her husband, Jeffrey, for 27 years. They have two amazing children, Dennis and Jessica. Dennis is 24 and in graduate school and Jessica is 19 and a rising college sophomore.

When Carrie is not engaging her CASA case, she enjoys spending time with her family and traveling when possible. At home, she enjoys playing mahjongg with her girlfriends and working on home improvement projects with her husband. She also recently enrolled in a graduate certificate program in Medical Device Regulatory Affairs. Her coursework is keeping her busy!

How did Carrie come to CASA SHaW? Well, she had spent many years as an active volunteer in her children's schools, serving as PTO president and chairing a variety of events. As her children became more independent and their schools needed less parental support, she was looking for a way to make a difference in the broader community. She recently said, "when I

learned about CASA, I knew this was a great way to make a difference in the life of a child who was facing trauma or other challenges. I had the time and love to give and I feel strongly that every child deserves a trusted adult in their life who puts their needs first. It's heartbreaking to hear some of the children's stories, and I want to make sure each child has a dedicated advocate."

We also asked Carrie what she's gotten out of the "CASA experience" thus far. She said, "I have learned a lot by being a CASA advocate. The training program educated me in so many ways and further motivated me to stay involved. I have seen how truly important the 'little things' are to the children in our cases, just like they are to all kids. These children are in difficult situations through no fault of their own and they need unconditional love and support."

Carrie's current CASA child is 15 months old and she has been on her case since she was a newborn. At first this case seemed very straightforward, and it was not always clear that her involvement was making a difference in the life of a baby. However, in the last few months the case has become more complicated and demonstrated how important an independent CASA voice has been. Adoption may end up being the best for her particular case.

We asked Carrie what the most gratifying part of being a CASA volunteer has been. She said, "knowing that I really made a difference in a child's life and was able to make sure her home was safe before she returned. Hearing the law guardian often quote my reports in court, I knew my findings were taken seriously and had an impact. My CASA child really needed someone in her corner, and I am happy I was able to do that for her."

We are thrilled and happy that Carrie has been able to do that for her CASA child as well! As we are with all of our CASA volunteers, we truly are grateful for all that Carrie has done and will continue to do in the future for abused and neglected children in our region.

CASA of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties is part of a statewide network of community-based, non-profit programs that recruit, screen, train and supervise volunteers to "Speak Up for a Child" removed from home due to abuse or neglect. CASA is the only program in New Jersey that uses trained volunteers to work one-on-one with children, ensuring that each one gets the services needed and achieves permanency in a safe, nurturing home. To learn more visit casaofnj.org.



(above) Carrie Brookner

INICA KOTASTHANE NATIONAL ESSAY WINNER



(above) Inica Kotasthane is a national winner of the 2021 Washington Congressional Seminar Essay Contest for high school students

Submitted by Barbara Lang

The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of New Jersey is pleased to announce that Inica Kotasthane, a junior at Watchung Hills Regional High School in Warren, New Jersey, has been selected as a national winner of the Washington Congressional Seminar Essay Contest for high school students. This award entitles Inica to a fully funded week in our nation's capital, Washington D.C., where the goal of the essay contest is to teach and stimulate an awareness of US citizenship — its privileges, opportunities, and responsibilities. Daily meetings with US Senators and Representatives, visits to the National Mall, Mount Vernon, The Pentagon, as well as many memorials and monuments are just some of the planned events and activities.

This essay contest is a major project of The NSCDA held under the auspices of the Washington Workshops Foundation, a private nonprofit educational program in American government for high school students.

Inica serves proudly as Editor in Chief of her school newspaper and Co-Editor in Chief of the blog for Next Generation Politics, a youth-led organization dedicated to promoting civic engagement. She co-chairs the Social Media Committee of her local League of Women Voters chapter, is in the Youth Leadership Program for Somerset County, and will be a Girls State delegate this summer. Inica plans on pursuing her interests in Political Science and writing through public policy, as well as hopes to continue to raise awareness and change for social issues affecting the world today. In addition to all of those responsibilities, Inica volunteers for a local nonprofit, Knit Crochet with Love, to knit caps for cancer patients, helps coach the speech and debate team of her middle school, and is working towards her second-degree black belt in Taekwondo.

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HELP US SAVE A VET!!

Michael D. Boll, Director, New Jersey Veterans Network

For the last few years the New Jersey Veterans Network and its mobile outreach team has been aggressively seeking out veterans in need and providing them resources to have a better way of life. This is only possible because of our volunteers' commitment and dedication with helping our veteran community. Donations are wonderful and help us purchase food, clothing, medical equipment and other life changing items, however someone's time is what makes an enormous difference.

During our charity's existence, we have provided meals for thousands of veterans and servicemen, dropped off PPE and clothing to veterans, provided medical equipment for disabled veterans, had 30 cars donated to disabled veterans, and most importantly we successfully saved the lives of veterans who were in some type of a dangerous crisis.

Every day we lose approximately 22 veterans to suicide and unfortunately this number hasn't changed over the years. Depression, PTSD and trauma run extremely high among our veterans and their family members. There are countless lifesaving programs out there for veterans, however it's a difficult task to get veterans to trust others and go get the help they need to live a better life.

The New Jersey Veterans Network also has a program called Operation Rebound that consists of a mobile outreach team that helps to train veterans for events like races, hiking, and other athletic activities. The goal of Operation Rebound is to do athletic events from 5k races to long distance Iron Man competitions in order to empower the veterans and show the public how people can do amazing things with the proper support. It is truly incredible to see the veterans go from no physical activity to completing these

tremendous athletic challenges.

Our charity has been able to work alongside other amazing charities that always put veterans first and are capable of rapidly providing them with essential resources. Recently, we formed a veteran anti-suicide and PTSD awareness coalition, called Uniformed Heroes, that will provide peer support sponsors for any veteran in need. Our peer support sponsors will be trained by the VA and Penn Med and our goal is to have volunteers statewide to help veterans in need.

To make this upcoming Uniformed Heroes campaign successful, we are in desperate need of volunteers from both the veteran and civilian communities. There are numerous events and daily tasks that our charity could use assistance

with and we are always looking to have more volunteers willing to help us reach veterans in need.

Our goal is to provide all veterans in need with a peer support sponsor that will do whatever they can to help veterans with obtaining the resources needed to live a better life. This is not an easy thing to do, but the New Jersey Veterans Network has already been able to make a huge difference because of the team's volunteers and its strong partnerships with other charities.

If you are interested in joining the team, please send us an email at NJVN1775@gmail.com and provide your name, email, and phone number. Also, if you have any questions, and concerns please feel free to contact us at 973-332-1556.



(above) Knights of Columbus Tank Pull

Photos by New Jersey Veterans Network



(above) Memorial Day Murph Event

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IN-BRANCH PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, TWEENS, AND TEENS

Baby/Toddler Storytime - Tiny Tots
(ages birth - 3 years and caregivers)

January 4, 10:30-11 a.m.

Teen Leadership Committee (grades 6-12)

January 4, 6-7 p.m.

Family Storytime - Twilight Tales
(families with children)

January 5, 6:30-7 p.m.

Preschool Storytime - Miss June's Room
(ages 3-5 and caregivers)

January 6, 4-4:30 p.m.

Bingo With Miss June (ages 4 and up)

January 7, 4-4:30 p.m.

Music With Miss Donna
(ages birth - 5 years and caregivers)

January 10, 10:30-11 a.m.

STEAM - Paper Towel Art (grades K-5)

January 11, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

LEGO® Club (grades K-5)

January 18, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Read to a Therapy Dog (grades K-4)

January 25, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

IN-BRANCH PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

**Book Discussion - "Child of the Jungle" by
Sabine Kuegler**

January 13, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

VIRTUAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Recipe Club — Your Favorite Recipe (adults)

January 12th at 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5720232

**Special Storytime With Author Aleksandra —
Starling Healthy Habits (families)**

January 13th at 4:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5661699

**Meet Martin Luther King Jr. — Reenacted by
The American Historical Theater (adults)**

January 13th at 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Register now:

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**Unpacking Hemingway — What Was the
Hemingway Myth? (adults)**

January 20th at 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5054244

**Meet the Author: The Lunar New Year With
Author Grace Lin (grades K-3)**

January 25th at 4:30 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5663371

The Watchung Arts Center is delighted and honored to present two outstanding performers, each at the top of his field, on Sunday, January 23 at 3 p.m. Tony Trischka, "known as the father of modern bluegrass" by The New York Times, and Bruce Molsky, "one of the world's premier Appalachian-style fiddlers" from Bloomberg News, will join together in this very special performance. There's some virtuosic and joy provoking common ground in the fusion of Tony Trischka's bluegrass banjo worldview and Bruce Molsky's new, but true to tradition, old time, southern mountain fiddling and singing. Their new and old songs as well as tunes showcase the best of each, and hearing them together is always a wonderful visit between old friends.

Tony Trischka is the man who made the banjo bigger, jazzier, and more worldly! Some musicians open up whole new realms. In the world of the banjo, the music that marked the change came from Tony. Up out of bluegrass and country, then all over to roots in Africa and to heights of jazz, banjo, unbound, and Trischka set it free. "...the great banjo liberationist...", said Tom Ashbrook from National Public Radio (NPR). Trischka embraced all manners of possibilities, while keeping one foot firmly planted in the traditional bluegrass roots, which first inspired him to make music.

Mr. Trischka has, over the past half-century, garnered a reputation as one of the most influential figures in roots music. As a banjoist, he set new standards for genre-bending virtuosity, inspiring legions of younger players, among them Béla Fleck. Through his tireless efforts as an educator as well as working on such divergent projects, for example, his collaborations with his friend and fellow banjoist, Steve Martin, he's helped to elevate and transform his chosen instrument's profile within American culture. His album, *This Favored Land*, is a visionary exploration of Civil War history featuring an all-star cast. Tony's newest release, *Shall We Hope*, is a work of historical fiction that tells tales of love, loss, and hope, drawn from our nation's fraught history. The narrative is told through brilliant songwriting and stellar musicianship, with a gathering of artists that includes Michael Daves, Guy Davis, Phoebe Hunt, John Lithgow, Maura O'Connell, and Catherine Russell.

Bruce Molsky is one of the most revered "multi-hyphenated career" ambassadors for America's old-time mountain music. His authentic feel for the repertoire transports audiences to another time and place. His collaborations range from classic old-time



(above) Tony Trischka and Bruce Molsky will perform at the Watchung Arts Center on Sunday, January 23th at 3 p.m.

fiddling to Andy Irvine's world fusion ensemble Mozaik. For decades, Bruce has been a globetrotting performer and educator, a recording artist with an expansive discography including seven solo albums, well over a dozen collaborations, and two Grammy-nominations. His live and recorded work has not only drawn raves from his fellow musicians, but also the media. No Depression calls Molsky "an absolute master," while Mother Jones calls him "easily one of the nation's most talented fiddlers...he transports you, geographically, historically, and most of all emotionally". NPR says, "his playing is mesmerizing, transporting, and best experienced live."

"Performing and teaching traditional music is the biggest thing in my world," concludes Molsky. "For me, being a musician isn't a standalone thing; it informs everything I do in my life. It's always been about being creative and being a part of something much bigger than myself, a link in the musical chain and part of the community of people who play it and love it."

Tickets are \$20 per person and must be purchased in advance. Tickets will not be sold at the door. To purchase tickets online, visit, watchungartscenter.eventbrite.com. All in-house events and performances will require masking as well as proof of vaccination or a negative PCR test taken within 36 hours.

The Watchung Arts Center, located at 18 Stirling Road, Watchung, NJ, on the Watchung Circle, is a multi-disciplinary arts facility serving Watchung, the surrounding communities, and the Tri-State Area. To obtain more information about upcoming performances, classes and workshops, as well as monthly art exhibitions, please visit WatchungArts.org, call 908-753-0190, or email wacenter@optonline.net.



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SCLSNJ

From fantastical journeys to Westeros in “Game of Thrones” and the Upside Down in “Stranger Things,” to relatable experiences in Stars Hollow with the “Gilmore Girls” and Pawnee, Indiana with the crew from “Parks and Recreation,” many of us took the opportunity to “quaran-stream” a variety of binge-worthy adventures during the pandemic.

Now it’s time to turn off the tube, and explore new sights and destinations with the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey’s (SCLSNJ) recently relaunched Cultural Adventure Pass program.

“The relaunching of the Cultural Adventure Pass program shows SCLSNJ inching ever-closer to a return to our full complement of public services,” said Christopher Korenowsky, director of public services. “Twenty-twenty was a tough year for everyone and we are pleased to reintroduce this very popular service.”

“The careful reopening of many of our partner locations has led us to relaunch our Cultural Adventure Pass program, and seeing the pieces come into place has been a rewarding process,” said Darryl Voorhees, manager of adult services programming and collaborations, public services. We are working up to an eventual 10 locations, but currently, there are four destinations available to discover: The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), IMAGINE THAT!!!®, Eastern State Penitentiary, and Morris Museum. SCLSNJ wishes everyone enjoyable adventures in our re-emerging world.”

By reserving a Cultural Adventure Pass, Library customers will have the opportunity to explore history at the African American Museum and Eastern State Penitentiary; to connect with nature at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Morven Museum and Garden; to discover contemporary and classic art at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA); and share educational, playful family experiences at IMAGINE THAT!!!®.

“Play is an important practice of early literacy and early childhood development,” said Christine Jansen, manager of youth services programming and collaborations, public services. “SCLSNJ is very excited to add IMAGINE THAT!!!® as a destination to our Cultural Adventure Pass offerings. By participating in dramatic play, children can explore language, engage in opportunities for social and emotional development, build their motor skills, and learn about the world they live in.”

When considering your next adventure, SCLSNJ’s collection features a selection of books that complement the 10 locations available through the Cultural Adventure Pass program. Youth and adults alike can enrich their knowledge of the exhibits, collections, and/or tours as they venture off to their next excursion by checking out a book from SCLSNJ’s librarian-curated booklist.

Discover your next read based on your destination:

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF DREXEL UNIVERSITY

- Adults: “The Story of the Dinosaurs in 25 Discoveries: Amazing Fossils and the People Who Found Them” by Donald R. Prothero
- Youth: “The Age of Dinosaurs: The Rise and Fall of the World’s Most Remarkable Animals” by Stephen Brusatte

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

- Adults: “William Still: The Underground Railroad and the Angel at Philadelphia” by William C. Kashatus
- Youth: “The ABCs of Black History” by Rio Cortez

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

- Adults: “Crystal Palaces: Garden Conservatories of the United States” by Anne S. Cunningham
- Youth: “The Kid’s Guide to Exploring Nature” by Marilyn Smith

EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY

- Adults: “Eastern State Penitentiary: A History” by Paul Kahan
- Youth: “World’s Scariest Prisons” by Emma Carlson Berne

IMAGINE THAT!!!®

- Adults: “Play to Progress: Lead Your Child to Success Using the Power of Sensory Play” by Allie Ticktin
- Youth: “Anywhere Artist” by Nikki Slade Robinson

INTREPID SEA, AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

- Adults: “Carrier: A Century of First-Hand Accounts of Naval Operations in War and Peace” edited by Jean Hood
- Youth: “What’s Inside? Battleships” by Peter Mavrikis

MORRIS MUSEUM

- Adults: “Musical Machines and Living Dolls: The Murtogh D. Guinness Collection of Mechanical Musical Instruments and Automata” by Ellen M. Snyder-Grenier
- Youth: “Robotics: From Automats to the Roomba” by Racquel Foran

MORVEN MUSEUM AND GARDEN

- Adults: “A House Called Morven: Its Role in American History” by Alfred Hoyt Bill
- Youth: “The Signers: The 56 Stories Behind the Declaration of Independence” by Dennis Brindell Fradin

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART (MOMA)

- Adults: “The Museum of Modern Love” by Heather Rose
- Youth: “Modern Art Adventures: 36 Creative, Hands-On Projects Inspired by Artists From Monet to Banksy” by Maja Pitamic

SOLOMON R. GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM

- Adults: “Peggy Guggenheim: The Shock of the Modern” by Francine Prose
 - Youth: “The Guggenheim Mystery” by Robin Stevens
- Due to the pandemic, some locations may require proof of vaccination and/or negative COVID-19 test results; have time restrictions and/or limited guest capacity; and/or other potential barriers. For the most up-to-date information regarding the location’s guidelines, visit their websites (as noted above).

SCLSNJ’s Cultural Adventure Pass program allows Library customers to check out passes for free admission and special discounts at select locations in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Reservations must be made in advance and passes are valid for three days. For more information or to reserve your Cultural Adventure Pass: [SCLSNJ.org/culturaladventure](https://sclsnj.org/culturaladventure).

For general questions about the program, contact Darryl Voorhees: dvoorhees@sclibnj.org.

ABOUT SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM OF NEW JERSEY

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit [SCLSNJ.org](https://sclsnj.org).



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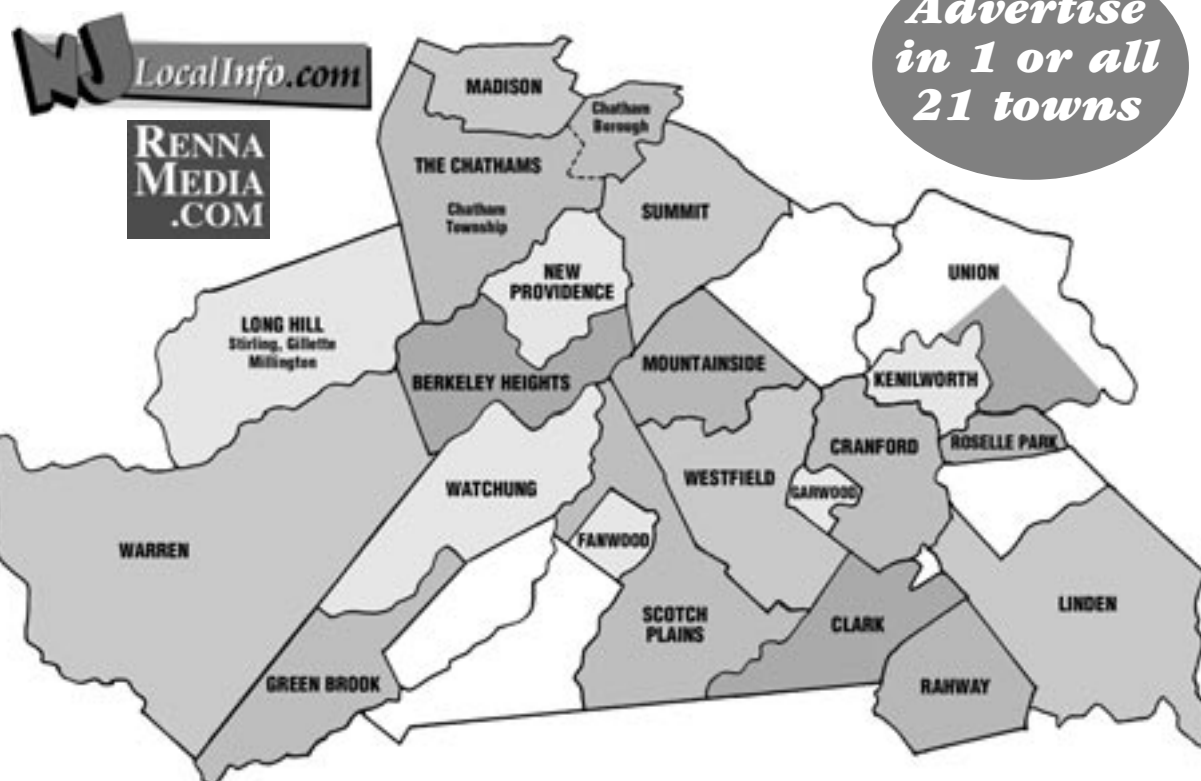
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KENILWORTH CHESS CLUB IS BACK ON BOARD

The Kenilworth Chess Club resumed meeting on November 11, 2021, after twenty months of being closed due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Club President Jack McCorkell of Cranford held a "Welcome Back Tournament" to celebrate. The casual unrated tournament excited members, and even some new arrivals, who were itching to play "over the board" again. The three-week tournament ended in a tie for first place between Hanna Malko of Clark and Joe Renna of Cranford.

The club was formed in 1972 amid the chess craze in America spearheaded by Bobby Fischer's march to the world championship. For 45 years the club was a force to be reckoned with as its member roster included many Master level players, including state champions.

The club has a reputation for being friendly and accommodating. It welcomes non-members with no obligation or cost. It's a place where beginners can learn in a casual setting without being intimidated. Strong players are generous with their time in analyzing and giving instruction.

The club's website, kenilworthchessclub.org, is well read and features an award-winning blog by Michael Goeller and other instructional features.

Players are welcome to just pop into the Kenilworth Chess Club with no formalities every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the Kenilworth Community Center located next to Kenilworth Borough Hall on the Boulevard and the corner of 24th Street.



(above, l-r) Brandon Verno of Kenilworth, John Moldovan of Garwood, Hannah Malko of Clark, Jack McCorkell of Cranford, Mark Shoengold and Louis Leiggi of Colonia analyze a critical position during the post mortem of Welcome Back Tournament game between Verno and Leiggi held at the Kenilworth Chess Club.

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