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GL ROBOTICS CLUB COMPETES IN FIRST TECH CHALLENGE

Submitted by Niamh Grano, BHPS

While the GL Robotics Club saw many senior members graduate last year, and the team felt they were less experienced than other clubs in the area as a result, that was truly not the case as they made it to the semi-finals of the FIRST Tech Challenge, presented by Raytheon Technologies.

This competition challenges teams to design, build, program, and operate robots to compete against each other. Every year the theme of the challenge changes. This year it was Freight Frenzy – a race against time to transport essential goods and explore the future of transportation.

The GL Robotics Club, which has about 15 members, began meeting in September to discuss the theme of the challenge. Each student brings their own set of skills from their academic and technical education classes such as electronics, woodworking, fine metal working, and robotics.

“Working together, they were able to create something

real,” said Michael Maresca, Technology Education Department at GL.

It took the club approximately two months to design, build, and program the robot for the competition. Once they tested the robot and felt it was ready, the team then brought it to four qualifying competitions.

“It was at the qualifiers that the team was exposed to many other schools and saw how their robots were programmed. They were always thinking of ways they could improve,” said Maresca. “It was truly an evolution from what the robot was at the beginning of the year to what it is today.”

Not only did the GL Robotics Club make it to the semi-finals, but they also received the Control Award. This award represents the team’s ability to program the robot to evaluate and react to its environment which is the foundation for which the robot is built on.

Courtesy photo.



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Mountainside View

THIS EARTH DAY MAKE A COMMITMENT TO "HELP SAVE OUR LOCAL TREES"

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You don't have to believe in Climate Change or Global Warming to know this is a bad thing. Increasing Carbon Dioxide levels decrease the amount of oxygen in the air. This along with other pollutants in the air, has not only been linked to climate change and Global Warming, but an array of diseases as well: Cancer, Diabetes, Premature births,.. Autism, the list goes on and on.

These problems and the severity are dramatically worse in poorer areas with more industry, diesel fumes and NO TREES. (please see "Earth Day turns 50" in the Star Ledger, it touches on what are children and their children are facing. One of the things they speak of are the "Large bodies of polluted water" we are leaving behind.

Despite these facts and my efforts: dozens of these trees, our "Oldest Residents", are killed in our local neighborhoods each year. Among the many losses: Shade, Solace the Filtering of our Air and Water, the oxygen they provided, ...they also release the Carbon they have accumulated for hundreds of years.

On June 8th, 2021, I hired a tree expert to help

save some of the trees in our area. I showed him dozens of trees in Westfield, New Providence, Summit and Scotch Plains. He used the word "disgusting" to describe what he saw. In his report he writes "that many of these trees can be saved if prompt action is taken".

HOW CAN YOU HELP SAVE THESE TREES?

Please visit our site and read all the facts defendourtrees.com See the:

- 1) "Pictorial of trees that can be saved". These are just a few of the many OLD trees being destroyed and dying in our area. If you live in the area, please write a letter (to your local mayor and town council) demanding this needless destruction of our old trees, stop immediately. Please Email a copy to defendourtrees.com
- 2) Please also read "Rooting out Problems" at my site or google it yourself.

It explains: "simple measures for saving trees during construction",

which is the biggest cause of killing our trees. Most importantly, you will recognize what will harm a tree. Make a commitment to share this information with your children and friends.

Instagram @DefendOurTreesNJ to see other sites and locations.



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GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON HS ICE HOCKEY TEAM WINS CHAMPIONSHIP



(above) Governor Livingston High School Ice Hockey Team wins State Championship for the First Time in Program History!

Photo by Berkeley Heights Public Schools

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LEVI CORY HOUSE TO REOPEN IN APRIL

Mountainside Restoration Committee

After a winter break, the Village Shop located in the Mountainside Restoration Committee's Levi Cory House announces opening hours for April and May 2022. Volunteers are looking forward to welcoming shoppers back. The Shop will be open on Fridays and Saturdays April 1, 2, 15, 16, 30; May 6, 7, 20, 21 from 11:00 a.m. to



(above) Mountainside's Levi Cory House Village Shop will open on Saturdays in April and May from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come by for unique gifts and household items displayed beautifully in this historic setting.



(above) The Mountainside Restoration Committee will hold a "Tea Party on the Porch" of the historic Levi Cory House on Saturday, April 30. Reservations are required for seatings at

Photos by Mountainside Restoration Committee

3:00 p.m.

The Levi Cory House officially opened to the public in December of 2018. The circa 1818 Levi Cory House, which was moved to Constitution Plaza in 2013, was originally located at the corner of New Providence Road and Mountain Avenue. The house was the location of the first Children's Country Home during the 1890s before expanding to its current location as the Children's Specialized Hospital. After years of repair, renovation, and restoration, the Levi Cory House now opens as a museum for children's interests and the Village Shop.

The Village Shop serves as a fund raiser for the continued restoration and maintenance of the Levi Cory House and maintenance of the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House. The Shop has been restocked with many new items for the home and

for gift-giving: home décor, jewelry, antique and vintage items, furniture, curiosities, and more. Stop by to browse and you will most likely find something that speaks to you. There is something for everyone. Purchases benefit the Mountainside Restoration Committee.

The Levi Cory House and Deacon Andrew Hetfield House are located at Constitution Plaza (Watchung Avenue, off Birch Hill Road) adjacent to the Mountainside Library. The Mountainside Restoration Committee is a 501(c)(3) charity and a committee of volunteers whose purpose is to maintain the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House, restore and maintain the Levi Cory House, and collect and save historic Mountainside information and items from destruction. For further information, please call (908)789-9420 or visit mountainsidehistory.org.

TEA PARTY ON THE PORCH – APRIL 30

The Mountainside Restoration Committee will hold a "Tea Party on the Porch" of the historic Levi Cory House. Held on Saturday, April 30, volunteers will serve tea and treats to guests on the newly restored porches of the circa 1818 Levi Cory House. Due to limited space, reservations are required for one of 3 seatings held at 1, 2, & 3 p.m. Cost per person is \$5. Each guest will take home a china teacup and saucer. To reserve, please call (908)789-9420; or email hetfieldhouse1@yahoo.com, and leave your name, phone number, preferred seating time, and number in your party. Payment can be made upon arrival on April 30th.

Thanks to funding from the Watts Mountainside Community Foundation, these 2 porches (which were removed over the centuries) were originally part of the 1818 Levi Cory House and have been recently built back onto the house. The circa 1818 Levi Cory House, which was relocated to Constitution Plaza in 2013, was originally located at the corner of New Providence Road and Mountain Avenue. The house was the location of the first Children's Country Home during the 1890s before expanding to its current location as the Children's Specialized Hospital. The Village Shop located inside the Levi Cory House will be open during the tea party.

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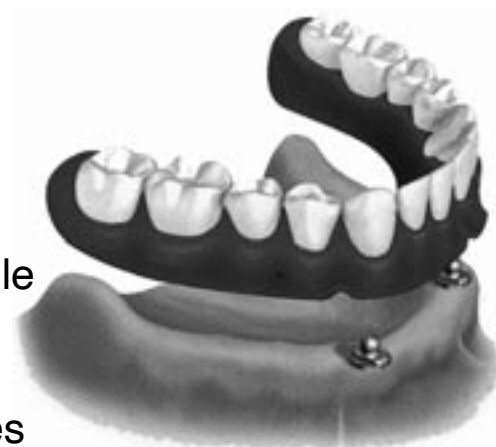
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ONLINE PROGRAMMING FOR ADULTS:

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Wednesday, April 6 at 7 p.m.

A History of the Movie Musical with Brian Rose. Register at info@mountainsidelibrary.org

Funding for programs is generously provided by the Friends of the Mountainside Library.

OPERAS ON FILM TO BE PRESENTED BY THE MOUNTAINSIDE RESCUE SQUAD

The Mountainside Rescue Squad presents Operas on Film. The selected films from famous opera houses throughout the world, will be played with subtitles on the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. Whether you are an opera buff or an opera neophyte, you are invited to join us for the following films:

Lakme by Delibes

Friday, April 8 at 1 p.m.

Starring Joan Sutherland from the Sydney Opera House (155 min.)

Un Ballo in Maschera by Verdi

Friday, May 13 at 1 p.m.

Starring Plácido Domingo from the Salzburg Opera House (145 min.)

Aida by Verdi

Friday, June 10

Starring Luciano Pavarotti from La Scala Opera House (160 min.)

For more information contact Mena Clemson at m4clemson@gmail.com.

MEMBERS NEEDED

The Mountainside Rescue Squad is in need of Mountainside residents, over the age of 18, willing to help their fellow neighbor. We pay for all training and no experience is necessary. If you or someone you know has ever considered joining please give us a call at 908-233-6338 or email us at squad@ems22.com, and we will answer any questions you may have. If you're ready to join, please fill out an application at www.ems22.com/join.



MOUNTAINSIDE COMMUNITY POOL ACCEPTING MEMBERSHIPS

Who's ready to enjoy the summer like it was 2019!!!

Located conveniently off Route 22 at 1005 Mountain Ave., Mountainside Community Pool memberships are currently available for this private gem of a facility for residents and non-residents.

Featuring three pools (50 meter, Dive/slide tank, and a zero-depth), picnic grove, snack bar, and two newly paved basketball courts, there are plenty of options for families of all sizes.

We offer swim lessons, swim team, have events throughout the year, and run a 13 & under triathlon. And all new members will receive a free 2022 tennis badge which gives you access to our six tennis courts in town.

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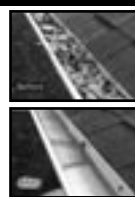
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GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON PROM FASHION SHOW 2022

Submitted by Jeanie Ruban

The Governor Livingston Project Graduation committee along with the Class of 2022 Executive Board, hosted the annual Prom Fashion Show Wednesday, February 23, 2022, in the high school cafeteria with over 50 students and teachers modeling dresses donated by David's Bridal in Watchung, and suits and tuxedos donated from Adams Fine Clothing and Tuxedo in New Providence.

The fashion show raises money for the prom as well as the Project Graduation event to be held on the night of graduation, June 21, at The Branchburg Sports Complex.

The event included a tricky tray basket raffle with over 100 baskets filled with electronics, college dorm room essentials, gift cards, merchandise from the Jets and Devils, and many other fun items and accessories. Many local families and businesses were quite generous with their donations to the event.

Seniors Abigail Biegel and Kevin Rodrigues served as emcees for the evening, introducing the models and calling the raffle prize winners. Governor Livingston High School teachers Beryl Roman, Staci Toporek, and Michelle Harpster also joined the fun of walking the runway. The senior models walked the runway in pairs and trios and had a great time doing so.



(above) Lauren Kiesewetter and Michael Labisi



(above) Emily Radick, Jimmy Ruban and Naomi Monaghan strut their stuff



(above) Danny Pupo strikes a pose with the ladies

Courtesy photos



(above) Teacher models: Ms. Roman, Ms. Toporek, and Ms. Harpster



(above) Mountainside's "Borough Boys" are runway ready

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SPRING GERANIUM & PLANT SALE

The Mountainside Restoration Committee will hold its annual Spring Geranium and Plant sale from Thursday, April 28 through Sunday, May 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

The sale will be held outdoors at the Historic Deacon Andrew Hetfield House located on Constitution Plaza adjacent to the Mountainside Library (off Birch Hill Road).

Just in time for Mother's Day, there will be a selection of colorful geraniums, hanging flower baskets, and other annuals—all for immediate planting or gift-giving. The Mountainside Restoration Committee's garden experts hand-pick each and every plant, providing you with the best available as you support this important fundraiser. Shop early for the best selection; supplies are limited.

The Mountainside Restoration Committee is a 501(c)(3) charity and a committee of volunteers whose purpose is to maintain the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House, restore and maintain the Levi Cory House, and collect and save historic Mountainside information and items from

destruction. For further information or to donate funds for historic restoration please call (908)789-9420 or visit mountainsidehistory.org.



(above) The Mountainside Restoration Committee will hold its annual Spring Geranium and Plant sale from Thursday, April 28 through Sunday, May 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at the Hetfield House.

Photo by Mountainside Restoration Committee

EASTER EGG HUNT - APRIL 9

Mountainside Rescue Squad

“After two years of postponing, the Mountainside Rescue Squad will be holding its annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 9th 2022, at our squad building located at 1399 Route 22 East in Mountainside.

We will begin promptly at noon by the sound of our ambulance sirens.

As always this event is free of charge but donations are welcome. Please contact us at 908-233-6338 if you have any questions.

Be sure to bring your Easter baskets!



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EARTH DAY RAHWAY RIVER CLEAN-UP - APRIL 23

All volunteers are invited to celebrate Earth Day 2022 with Boy Scout Troop 330, Cub Scout Pack 30 and members of the Rahway River Watershed Association in a clean-up of the Rahway River on Saturday, April 23rd (with a rain date of Sunday, April 24th). The clean-up



(above) Some interesting things have been pulled out of the river during the annual Earth Day River Clean-up events

will focus on areas upstream and downstream of the dam at Winfield Park, New Jersey throughout Rahway River Park. Please plan to stop by the parking area adjacent to the waterfall of the Rahway River by the dam at Winfield Park at 8:45 a.m. to register, pick up bags, gloves, bottled water and snacks, and receive safety information.

Teams will be encouraged to travel to any part of the river within the park where they would like to perform cleanup activities but we specifically will ask folks to always work in small groups for safety purposes with folks socially distanced.

Cleaning up a river and park area is a great way to celebrate Earth Day and if you haven't participated in an event like this before, you will find it invigorating, and you will feel good about what you have accomplished. It is also fun and educational, especially for scouts and young adults as they always find something interesting. Over the 20+ years this cleanup has occurred thousands of folks have participated, including girl scouts, cub scouts, boy scouts, fishermen, local activists and citizens, and we pulled some amazing things from the river.

The clean-up will generally be between 9a.m.

till noon, but any amount of time or effort that folks can volunteer is appreciated. There is always a large volume of floatable debris to pick up, and this year there remains substantial debris in the floodplain from Hurricane Ida last fall. The team working registration will provide suggestions on areas with large volumes of floatable debris.

All participants should wear jeans, long-sleeved shirts, gloves and boots, waders are welcome for folks who like to get a little wet. Each participant should bring a standard 5-gallon carry bucket with a handle (put your name on the bottom), this makes for easy carrying of "stuff" for transfer to the large garbage bags. A mulching rake is also a great asset to have to enable reaching out and pulling debris into shore from the river bank. When we complete the event we do a basic inventory of the "big stuff" that we removed, and within approximately 24 hours Union County Parks removes and disposes of all the trash. There is no RSVP required but if you need more information or think you will attend please let us know by e-mail at rivercleanup@comcast.net.



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VOLUNTEERS SWORN IN TO ADVOCATE FOR FOSTER YOUTH

CASA of Union County

The new class of community members to step up and train as advocates for Union County foster youth have taken their oath before Union County Superior Court Judge Lara K. DiFabrizio and become the newest volunteers with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County.

Since 2005, the nonprofit has recruited, trained, supported and supervised nearly 600 community volunteers to advocate for more than 900 such youth, protecting best interests and ensuring needs are met in the courtroom, classroom and community. As caseworkers, foster placements and schools can change frequently, CASA volunteers often are the only consistent, caring adult in a youth's corner, helping ensure already experienced trauma is not exacerbated as youth await permanency in a safe and loving home.

Judge DiFabrizio presided over the Zoom swearing-in ceremony of volunteers Lynda Sun Lee of Berkeley Heights, Katherine (Katie) Rabecki of Cranford, Dina Gharaibeh of Kearny, Lila Monroe of Roselle, Julia Dranishnikov of Scotch Plains, and Robert Mallard of Union. In commemoration with gratitude, Judge DiFabrizio noted, "Thank you all for your commitment, passion, hard work, and loyalty to these families that desperately need it. It takes a village and now you're a part of it." Each volunteer will now be matched to a foster youth or foster sibling set, and begin putting their 30-hour training into practice, ensuring their needs are met and best interests are protected while they await permanency.

Anyone passionate about making a difference

in a child's life can apply to volunteer; there is no prior experience or background needed to serve as an advocate. Each undergoes a thorough training process and is supported by CASA staff throughout their work. Successful advocates have varied life experiences and this class is no exception, as professional backgrounds include social work, education, judicial clerkship, health management, and business.

Upon being court-ordered to a case, the CASA volunteer has access to the youth's foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists, and teachers

and, through their regular child visits, identify and report to the judge any concerns and needs in order to protect the child's best interests.

As the only nonprofit serving as extra eyes and ears for Union County judges hearing cases of youth in the child welfare system, the organization regularly recruits community volunteers to serve these local child-victims from birth to age 21. To learn more about CASA of Union County, how to join a training class, and other ways to Change a Child's Story, email info@casaoofunioncounty.org.



(above l-r) Community members are sworn in as advocates for foster youth. Top row: Berkeley Heights' Lynda Sun Lee, Roselle's Lila Monroe, Cranford's Katherine Rabecki; Middle row: Union's Robert Mallard, Union County Superior Court Judge Lara K. DiFabrizio, Kearny's Dina Gharaibeh; Bottom row: Scotch Plains' Julia Dranishnikov.

Photo by CASA of Union County



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Good Friday - April 15

12 noon Ecumenical Community Service

7:30 p.m. Service of Tenebrae

Holy Saturday - April 16

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GL STUDENTS: MAKING A MARK ON THE COMMUNITY

By Niamh Grano, Governor Livingston HS

Fine Arts and Woodworking students at Governor Livingston (GL) High School are following a vision that teachers Michael Maresca, Technology Education Department, and Michelle Harpster, Fine Arts Department, wanted to bring to life.

“I drive through other towns and see how they incorporate students' works of art in a park or town center, and it's awesome,” said Maresca. “It really gives a pulse to the town and is a way to give back to the community and we wanted to do the same.”

Harpster and Maresca brainstormed projects that would link to the curriculum so the students could really take control from start to finish. They also needed to find a way to fund the project.

After careful thought and planning, and a generous grant of \$400 from the GL PTO, it was decided that the students would create a total of eight butterflies measuring three to four feet in width and height. Each butterfly will be uniquely painted and will have its own anchoring system so that it gives the illusion that it is floating.

After learning how to plan and execute the project, the GL woodworking students created a digital butterfly template and then used a Computer Numerical Control (CNC) to process the wood, meeting all the design specifications. “It can be really difficult to cut the perfect shape

when working with wood, but these programs make it really easy to produce,” added Maresca.

Once all the butterflies are completed the woodworking students will then pass them onto Harpster's art students to apply the final decoration.

Harpster's students are no strangers to creating and painting large scale works of art. Many times, when there is a need within the community for artwork, it is her students that are called on to assist. They have also been discussing in class how they can find more public venues show their work.

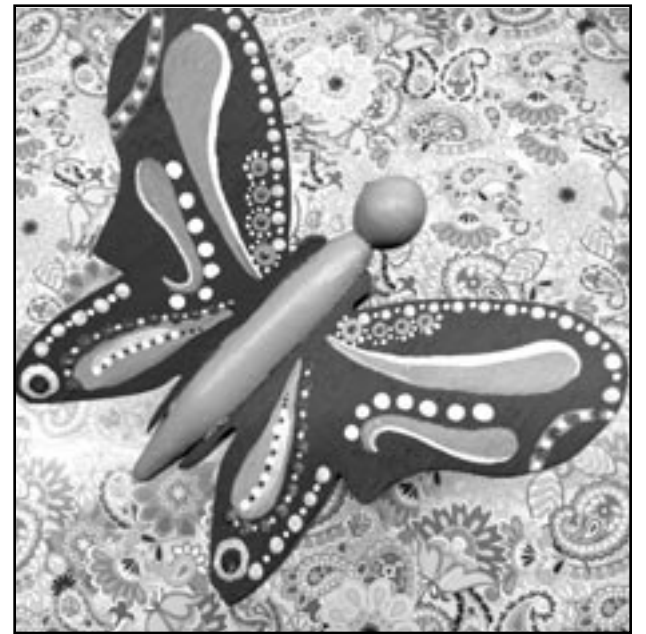
“When speaking to my students, I explained that each group could make the butterfly what they wanted it to be. It didn't necessarily have to look like one we would see in the garden. If they wanted, they could give the butterfly a theme and paint the butterfly based on that,” Harpster added.

It is taking approximately 80 students to make this project a reality and it is a project that Harpster and Maresca hope to see repeated for years to come.

“This is not something we want to see go up and then fade away. We want it to be sustainable,” said Maresca. “We are already looking forward to determining the best way to do that.”

One thing is for sure, once the snow thaws and

the temperatures get warmer, we can't wait to explore where the butterflies will be displayed and experience their beauty and uniqueness—all created by our very own GL students.



(above) A collaboration between the Technology and Fine Arts Departments gives GLHS students the opportunity to create magnificent butterflies that will grace the Berkley Heights community.

Photo by Berkley Heights Public Schools

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Josephine's Place, nonprofit center for women is dedicated to serving women in an economically poor area who often have little or no knowledge of available resources or opportunity. Josephine's Place opened in 2003, where thousands of women have passed through its doors and have made the center their second home, taking lessons in English, computers, citizenship or participating in parenting and support groups. At Josephine's Place we strive to provide the support and programs to empower all women to achieve their goals and dreams.

Sponsor, register to play or support now! "As a nonprofit we rely on fundraisers and donations to bring the services to the women. The golf outing is our second largest fundraiser. It is a great event with fun had by all," said Gail Driscoll, Josephine's Place's executive director, adding "Last year we had a sold-out event. That's my hope for this year too!" There are many ways to participate: be an event sponsor, play golf, take a chance on 50/50 tickets and raffles, donate or join us for lunch and/or dinner.

Event highlights: outdoor barbecue luncheon, shotgun golf tournament, beverages all day, outdoor cocktail reception/dinner-on-the-grill, awards, raffles and a silent auction!

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Since our creation, women have found a safe haven at Josephine's Place - a welcoming and peaceful environment where they can connect with one another and develop the skills they need to succeed for themselves, their families and their communities.

"Our drop-in center on Elizabeth Avenue has grown over the years. We are so very fortunate to have the space to offer classes and programs to meet the needs of the women. Our services are free," said Driscoll. While women continue to discover Josephine's Place, the ever-present need for volunteers is increasing. Said Driscoll, "We especially need volunteers to teach English and computer skills."

The topics span a wide variety of subjects such as computer literacy, quilting, English, arts & crafts and exercise. The center also hosts support groups for victims of domestic violence and parents of autistic children, among others. One aspect of Josephine's Place is its focus on health



and wellness, in particular physical fitness.

In its 19 years in existence, Josephine's Place has made its mark on the community and has been recognized as an asset by government officials and fellow nonprofit organizations. Established by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Josephine's Place has grown into its own independent 501c3 nonprofit organization.

Josephine's Place is located at 622 Elizabeth Avenue, Elizabeth; 908.436.0099; www.josephinesplace.org.

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