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* * ECH

EASTER EGG HUNT RETURNS, GUEST STARRING RAIN AND HAIL Borough of Fanwood spread across the playground in areas roped off by age. At the

After a two year absence due to Covid, the Easter Egg Hunt returned to Forest Road Park in Fanwood complete with the Easter Bunny, prizes, candy and an event first, hail.

This event is a massive production of the Fanwood Recreation Commission, Recreation Director Bob Budiansky, local Boy Scouts and other volunteers. More than 2,000 plastic eggs filled with prizes and candy were spread across the playground in areas roped off by age. At the word GO, the children are unleashed to grab as many eggs as they can and put them in their baskets. It takes less than a minute. After learning what prizes they won, children lined up at prize tables or at the Bunny Chute to claim them.

And while lucky winners waited in line to claim prizes, the sky opened up. It rained, then it hailed. But it didn't stop the Easter Bunny from posing for pictures and the several hundred Fanwoodians from having fun.

Photos by Tom Kranz

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(above) Milea family and friends.



(above) Rescue Squad members with Easter Bunny and companion



(above) The Rogers family of Fanwood





FREE CONSULTATION



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BULLYING IS A PART OF GROWING UP!

Submitted by Syona J.

Did you know that some adults might say that bullying is just a part of growing up? It causes problems for children who are bullied, though. They might feel bad about themselves and change the way they act just because of bullying. Bullies continue to rule schools because they think that they are the best. This needs to change. Adults need to fight bullying more. Bullying can even lead to mental health issues.

It is normal to feel lonely or unhappy or mad or frustrated or just annoyed and you are sitting in the corner. It is normal to feel that if you are getting bullied you should say... "Hey I don't like that and it is not nice to make fun of me just because okay so just stop that!" If someone is making fun of you it could just mean that they are going through a tough time. If you know how that feels then maybe ask "Hey do you need some help because I think you are going through a tough time, maybe I can help, doctors can usually help."

It isn't a good habit when you grow up to be a bully because no one will be your friend if you are a bully. When you bully it gets worse, and it is getting really worse because of social media. People are bullying online and it is not fun to get bullied specially in front of your entire social media fans/friends and your followers. I think that people should stop being a bully, remember that we are all family even if someone is rude you will always have family to talk to. Always remember that if you get bullied then just stand up for yourself, if that doesn't help then talk to someone to get rid of those negative thoughts and bring out the love for each other.



(above) Syona J, is a student at Coles Elementary School, Grade 3

Courtesy photo

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Immaculate home with beautiful kitchen overlooking family room addition. Updated bathrooms, 3 bedrooms, living room with wood burning fireplace, hardwood floors throughout and rec room in basement. A quick walk to the center of town, all schools and NYC trains! Well manicured property with a great deck for entertaining!



Another masterpiece by Elshiekh Custom Homes! This 6 bedroom, 7 bath- brand new construction will be available June 2022! Complete custom craftsmanship with four levels of fully finished space. Large family room with fireplace and a first floor expansive guest suite. State of the art eat in kitchen with center island and Cafe series appliances along with quality custom cabinetry. Master suite has a spa-like bath and walk-in closets. A third level space finishes off this home with bedroom, full bath and sitting area!

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ANTHONY ROBINSON DAY

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL - MAY 1

Scotch Plains Fanwood High School will be hosting their annual Food Truck and Craft Festival on Sunday, May 1, 2022 between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Rain or shine. The event is pet friendly and will be held in the SPFHS parking lot, located at 667 Westfield Road in Scotch Plains.

Admission on the day of event is cash only at the entrance, \$10 per person or \$30 per family (Max 6 per family).

The senior class is counting on our community to attend this fundraiser which supports their year-end activities.

Come out and show your support for local vendors and the Class of 2022's final days together before departing to their new adventures.

Some delicious FOOD TRUCKS include: What's Up Dogs, Cas'Pierogi & Kielbasa, Angry Archie's, Ms Fu's Asian Fusion, Greece Lightening, Black Drop Coffee.

Some of our favorite crafters' offerings: Homemade sauces, Clothing, Personalized Woodwork

Live music and more! You don't want to miss this event.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Palermo at foodtruckspfhs@outlook.com.

SPF High School senior Anthony Robinson was recently honored by the Fanwood Council for his many outstanding achievements including being named to the Super 100 All-State Team by the New Jersey Football Coaches Assn, the first student from Fanwood to be so named. Anthony's achievements on the football field included 1341 yards rushing, 163 yards per game and nine touchdowns. He has committed to Pace University in the fall. The Council named April 19th Anthony Robinson Day in Fanwood.

Photo by Borough of Fanwood



(above, l-r) Councilman Carter with, Anthony Robinson; Mayor Colleen Mahr; parents Amy and Eric Robinson; brother Robert Robinson





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APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY

Scotch Plains Police Department The Youth Police Academy will be held June 27 - July 8, 2022, 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m. Available to Scotch Plains-Fanwood students graduating 5th thru 8th grades.

Deadline for applications is Friday, May 13, 2022 at 4 p.m. Applications can be downloaded at: scotchplainspolice.org/sppd-youth-academy/

Fee for Academy is \$125. Checks only made payable to 'The Scotch Plains Community Policing Unit'.

Fee includes cost of uniforms, supplies and graduation ceremony at the end of the academy. Enrollment will be first come first serve. Refunds will not be issued once uniforms are ordered.

> For more information contact: Sgt. Jerry Brown: j.brown@scotchplainspd.org, or Det. Rich Hernandez: r.hernandez@scotchplainspd.org

Learn about the Scotch Plains Police Department and other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Receive basic training in police procedures, operations, criminal investigations, first aid, and more.

Demonstrations will include the following law enforcement agencies K-9, SWAT, HAZMAT, Scotch Plains Fire Department, Union County Bomb Squad and more!

THE CHECCHIO FAMILY TRUST DONATION

Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood

At its meeting held on March 22nd, the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood received a most welcome surprise. Dr. James Checchio presented the Society with a \$7,500 donation from The Checchio Family Trust. In addition to being a member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society Dr. Checchio maintains a chiropractic practice, is a

Boy Scout leader, a member of the Scotch Plains Township Planning Board, a member of the Township Historical Preservation Committee, and a member of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign.

The Historical Society wishes to thank Dr. Checchio and all donors for their financial contributions.



(above, l-r) Marie Leppert, Cathy Thek, Judy Terry, John Kozimbo, Darlene Palombo, Connie Klock, and Dr. James Checchio





FSP ROTARY THANKS THE COMMUNITY!

Two years ago, in April 2020, several members of the Rotary Club learned about the need for fabric masks and individually began sewing. They teamed up under the guidance of Rotarian Carmela Resnick and formed a sewing group to provide masks for healthcare providers, the elderly and anyone at-risk. The team was made up of Rotarians, Interactors and friends of our Rotary Club. At first, they made hundreds of fabric masks and donated them to organizations who could not get PPE (personal protective equipment).

They later began to sell the masks to friends and family and then sold them at the Scotch Plains Farmer's Market, thanks to a recommendation by another Rotarian Lisa Mohn. The fabric masks were sold for \$5 a mask, in various sizes. The Rotary Mask team decided that all proceeds should go to local food banks, because there was a great need during the pandemic. Recipients included: Immaculate Heart Church SP Fanwood Presbyterian, St. Bartholomew Church SP, Starfish Foundation in Plainfield, JFS in Elizabeth, St. Mary's Dinner Program in Plainfield, Rahway Soup Kitchen, Community Food Bank of NJ and more.

It is now 2 years later and the Rotary Mask team has raised and donated \$17,000! The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club thanks the local community and family and friends for supporting the mask sales. With the community's support, they were able to help many families in need during the worst of the pandemic.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club is now raising funds to provide urgent humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine. As of April, they donated approximately \$5,000 and raised another \$5,000 from individual Rotarians and community members. This money has been donated to Shelterbox, Rotary International Disaster Fund, and the Warsaw Rotary Club (to provide medicine and medical supplies). If you'd like to make a donation or learn more about the Rotary Club, go to fsprotary.org.



RAKE & HOE DELIVER TABLETOP CHEER TO SENIORS

(RHGC) has launched a new Community Projects initiative to provide flowers to nursing homes and assisted living centers in area towns. Members of the event committee visited The Chelsea at Fanwood on March 29th, bringing decorated pots of mini roses for the twelve tables in the dining room. Garden club members come from the towns of Mountainside, Scotch Plains, Westfield and Plainfield, and club members are presently reaching out to facilities in those towns. RHGC is known for its community projects with Mobile Meals, Jardine Academy, Lyons Veterans

The Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield Hospital, and beautification projects in four Westfield location.

> RHGC is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. The club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club. Meetings feature speakers on horticulture, floral design, floral crafts, and environmental topics. 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) Jeanie Pelikan, Richard Pelikan and Betty Gulino, Joyce Mullen, President Beth Siano, Maryfran Annese, and Joe Da Rold. Photo by RHGC



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FANWOOD POLICE WARN SENIORS ABOUT SCAMS, IDENTITY THEFT

citizens received attention at a recent meeting of the Fanwood Seniors Club. Fanwood Police Director Michael Bramhall and several police officers spoke at the meeting, warning of types of scams and what people can to do prevent becoming victims.

"There are so many types of scams towards



(above) Officer Michael Rusin at the podium flanked by Sgt. Dan Piccola (left) and officer Tyler Flowers



Rampant scams aimed at stealing from senior seniors," said Officer Michael Rusin. • Getting an unlisted phone number "Insurance scams, funeral and cemetery plot scams, telephone calls from the IRS and Social Security administration. A lot of times you won't know you're scammed until weeks later when it's too late."

> Director Bramhall said one reason seniors are targeted is because "you have money," referring to nest eggs, pension funds, IRA and 401-K funds and other sources of money that's accumulated over many years.

> "You grew up at a time when most people were assumed to be honest," said Officer Rusin. "While 90% of the population is good and decent, it's those who are dishonest you have to watch out for."

> When asked how many people in the room use the internet, most raised their hands.

> Practical tips to help avoid becoming a victim included:

- Never giving out personal information to anyone on the phone, in an email or text
- Don't respond to people claiming to be from the IRS and Social Security administration asking for payments or to "confirm" your personal information.
- Make passwords strong and don't reveal them
- Never click on links in emails or texts unless you are absolutely sure of their source
- Suspect any invitation to donate money or to purchase a gift card, then reveal the user code to someone you don't know

The Fanwood Seniors Club meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at 10:30 .m. in the Forest Road Park building.

For information on future events or joining, contact Fanwood Senior Coordinator Kathleen Holmes at kholmes@fanwoodnj.org,

or 908-322-8236, ext. 136.

Photos by Tom Kranz



(above) Seniors Club president Suzanne Jaeger; Borough Council Senior Liaison Kathy Mitchell; Seniors Club VP and secretary Ethel Paoletti; Fanwood Senior Coordinator Kathleen Holmes.

UGLY HOMES WANTED FOR TELEVISION PROGRAM **IN THIS AREA**

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SEA SCOUTS OPEN HOUSE – MAY 21

Sea Scouts from Ship 228 operate the 65' vessel Sea Dart II, one of the largest Sea Scout vessels on the east coast, along with a fleet of smaller vessels (including sailboats) from their base located in Linden, NJ. Sea Scouting (Part of the Venturing Program of the BSA – Boy Scouts of America) offers young adults the opportunity to travel and learn skills that could be useful in future careers.

Whether you're steering the vessel from the wheelhouse, learning engine room repair or visiting a new port on one of the many trips, there's something you'll enjoy in Sea Scouting. So, try something different, check us out, and prepare yourself to set sail for a real adventure.

Parents, give your son or daughter a valuable gift by encouraging them to join Sea Scouting today. The time you invest in him today will make a difference in the person he becomes tomorrow.

Sea Scouting is for boys and girls who are at least 14 years old (or 13 years of age and have completed eighth grade) and under 21 years of age. We have a Maritime Explorer Club for middle school aged youth as well. Potential adult volunteers are welcome too!

The crews of Patriots Path Sea Scouts will host their open house at the Carteret Marina, located in the Carteret Waterfront park, 200 Middlesex

Avenue, Carteret, NJ, on Saturday, May 21, 2022 council's main vessels (the 65-foot Sea Dart II from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sea Scout Ship's 228 and 243 normally operate out of their base at 4400 Tremley Point Road in Linden, NJ, which is currently undergoing a construction project. As a result, the town of Carteret has graciously offered the use of their municipal marina to host our open house this year.

The open house will include tours of the

and Sea Horse), an introduction to the Sea Scout program, and fun activities that are bound to pique a young adult's interest in boating and scouting. There will be free hamburgers and hotdogs for those who tour the vessels. No reservation required. Come down to visit and bring a friend or family member!

For more information visit ship228.com.







• Patios • Curbs



(above) Bikes collected and processed by Faith in 2021, fill the Pedals for Progress truck.

VINTAGE & CRAFT FAIR MAY 22

On Sunday, May 22, the Vintage Fair w/Arts & Crafts will feature 50+ tables selling vintage items from days gone by along with hand made items from artisans and craftspeople. Open to the public from 10 a.m. -4 p.m., this event is free to the public.

There will be two separate sections.

The Vintage Area will have vendors selling such as, antiques, collectibles, vintage, retro, repurposed items, shabby chic décor and more.

The Arts & Crafts area will have makers that will be selling, drawings, paintings, sculptures, printmaking, mixed media, photography, metal art, designer jewelry & accessories, fiber art, botanicals, dried flowers, leather, ceramics, pottery and clay designs, wax & candles, personal care products, pet-use products, specialty foods and more.

PARKING

The event is held on the south side of the station. There is parking for visitors on the north side of the train station. You can walk over to the south side with the adjoining walking bridge.

For info about sponsorships and vendor space please visit our website www.jcpromotions.info, or email events@jcpromotions.info.

NEW DEALS FOR OLD WHEELS

On Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Faith Lutheran Church, 524 South Street in New Providence, will again be collecting secondhand bikes for use by adults and children in third world countries. The collection is being conducted on behalf of Pedals for Progress, an organization which annually recycles 6,000 bicycles for persons in developing countries. Anyone with a bicycle in repairable condition is urged to donate to this worthy cause. Bikes may be dropped off at the parking lot next to the church. On that day, members of Faith will repair and process the bikes for shipment by P4P.

Since 2002, Faith Lutheran has been collecting bikes for P4P. In 2021, five hundred sixty-four bikes were collected from persons and organizations in New Providence, Berkeley Heights, Mountainside, Westfield, Chatham, Warren, Scotch Plains and Fanwood. The collection by Faith occurs throughout the year. The range of towns was aided by articles published in Renna Media publications.

Every year affluent Americans buy 22 million new bicycles and discard millions of old ones, abandoning many more in basements, sheds and

garages. Most of these end up in our already overburdened landfills.

P4P ships its reconditioned bikes to persons in need of countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. The bikes provide reliable transportation to commute to work, transport produce to market, access health care and other services. Steady employment for adults is vital to the development and success of these economies.

P4P reports that the cost of shipping bikes has increased significantly in recent years and now presents a substantial financial burden to P4P. Last year, Faith contributed \$3,000 toward the shipment of the bikes. Persons donating bikes gave \$1,273 toward shipment. P4P is asking persons to donate \$15 toward the shipping costs, if they are financially comfortable doing so. Donation or not, Faith welcomes all bikes in repairable condition.

Since 2016, the chairperson of Faith's Pedal for Progress ministry has been Casey Walsh of Bridgewater, a long-time member of the church.

The pastor of Faith is Rev. Jane McCready. Visit online at famfaith.org or call the church office at 908-464-5177. The address is 524 South Street, New Providence. Courtesv photos



2021 Pedals for Progress volunteers.

Providence, Casey Walsh of Bridgewater, Sally Reier of Union, Diana Bjorge of Berkeley Heights, Ky Luu, formerly of Fanwood, now South Carolina, Linda Fuller of Berkeley Heights.



(above, 1-r) Pedals for Progress organization; Alan and Gary, Faith; Bill Bradley of New



CASA DAY IN UNION COUNTY

recently recognized Union County Court removed from their homes due to neglect or Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), a abuse and shepherd them through the system to dedicated group of specially trained volunteers ensure they receive services and stay safe.

The Fanwood Council and Mayor Mahr who advocate for children who have been

Photo by Tom Kranz



(above, l-r) Mayor Colleen Mahr; Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan, CASA Dir. of Development & Communications; Karen Flood, CASA Advocate; Carolyn Colonna, CASA Advocate; Bela Zap, CASA intern.



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FSP ROTARY ONLINE TRIVIA NIGHT

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club's online Trivia Night will be held on Friday, May 20th, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per login and include four rounds of fun trivia. To purchase a ticket, go to fsprotary.org. You'll have an opportunity to purchase up to three mulligans - this will give the option to correct one wrong answer per round, for a maximum of three rounds. Each mulligan costs \$10. Finally, there will be great prizes, including gift cards.

A professional game organizer will keep things fun by asking all levels of questions on a variety of topics, including entertainment, sports, news and general fun. This is sure to be an exciting night!

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. There are 2 levels - 1) Event Sponsors: \$100 each - logo/information will be displayed between rounds and will be mentioned during the event and there will be LOTS of exposure. 2) One Prize Sponsor: \$350. This sponsor will be mentioned before, during, and after the event and in print for the event and will be given a brief period to speak to all attendees during the event.

For additional information about sponsorships, go to fsprotary.org or send an email to fsprotary@gmail.com. All proceeds from the event will support the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Foundation, to support local and international projects.



SHINING STARS TO PRESENT "GREATEST HITS" - MAY 14TH

The Shining Stars are back! Celebrating 10 years on the stage, the talented special needs cast will be presenting "The Greatest Hits" — covering many of the memorable performances over the past decade.

The outdoor show will take place on the campus of Woodbridge High School, located at 1 Samuel Lupo Way, Woodbridge, on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 5 p.m. There will be food trucks, a tricky tray and a 50/50 raffle.

"It's hard to believe it's been ten years, but it's been an incredible journey," noted Shining Stars Network Founder and Show Director Sally Curci. "We continue to be inspired by our performers every day. Their passion, dedication and talent is what makes our shows come to life."

The Shining Stars have performed in front of audiences of 1,000 or more, with cast members from seven different counties performing over the years. The Cranford-based organization still has many Cranford residents, but is open to anyone who wants to experience the performing arts.

"We're all about inclusion and opportunity while building self-esteem and creating friendships," said Shining Stars Network Founder and President Mike Curci. "There have been so many incredible performances over the years and we can't wait to see our stars shine on stage once again."

Tickets are available by going to ShiningStarsNetwork.org and clicking on the "purchase tickets" page. General admission tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the show. Please bring a folding chair or blanket. Seating boxes are first-come, first-served. Gates open at 4 p.m. Plenty of on-site parking is available. Rain date is May 21st. Any cancellation will be noted at ShiningStarsNetwork.org.

SHINING STARS NETWORK is a non-profit organization based in Cranford, N.J. founded by Sally and Mike Curci that shines the light on the special needs community by creating opportunities in the performing arts, with the goal of building self-confidence and self-esteem while enjoying the experience of performing on stage. In addition, their Shining Stars Ambassadors basketball team travels to play local first responders and organizations while building friendship and understanding. Now entering its 6th year, Camp Shine (for ages 10-20 years) and The Shining Stars Summer Workshop (21 and over performers) are two-week intensive programs open to everyone, including those with developmental disabilities, that will take place August 15-26, 2022. For more information on Shining Stars Network or any of their programs, please visit ShiningStarsNetwork.org or send your email to ShiningStarsNetwork@gmail.com.



FEATURING OUR TALENTED SPECIAL NEEDS CAST TICKETS \$15 - AVAILABLE AT SHININGSTARNETWORK.ORD



(above) Shining Stars, a special needs performing arts group, takes the stage on May 14th. For more information visit ShiningStarsNetwork.org.



SHEET METAL WORKERS' UNION SUPPORTS MOBILE MEALS OF WESTFIELD

Mobile Meals of Westfield \$600 in gift cards on April 14.

Mobile Meals of Westfield is a non-profit organization which provides nutritious hot meals for those unable to provide meals for themselves. The organization serves the communities of Clark, Cranford. Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside. Scotch Plains and Westfield.

For more information visit mobilemealsofwestfield.org

or call 908-233-6146.

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(above, l-r) Josephine Walsh, Mobile Meals of Westfield, and Jason Rooney Sheet Metal Workers' Union.

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LIBRARY RECONSTRUCTION

On April 18, 2022, Fanwood Library Director Dan Weiss and Borough Engineer Antonios Panagopoulos presented to the Fanwood Borough Council the final design of the new library to be built on the site of the current Fanwood Library. The \$7 million project is being financed jointly by a state grant and the Borough of Fanwood.



(above) Artist rendering

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help developing an online marketing plan.

FANWOOD'S NEWEST POLICE OFFICER

Kyle Rajcevic of Colonia, a recent graduate of the Essex County Police Academy, was sworn in during a March council meeting.

Photo by Tom Kranz



(above) Peter Rajcevic pins badge on son Kyle following his swearing in, while his sister Kayla looks on.

Joe Renna at 908-447-1295

email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com



REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS

Fanwood Recreation announces that registration is now open for the following summer programs for children: Summer Park Program, TGA Premier Junior Golf Camp, Junior Tennis Lessons, Girls Xtra Edge Lacrosse Camp, Skateboarding Camp, Squirts Multi Sports Camp. Multi Sports Camp, Senior Squirts Multi Sports, SNAG Squirts Golf Camp, Squirts Golf Camp, T-Ball Squirts, Parent & Me T-Ball Squirts, Senior Squirts Soccer, Squirts Soccer, Parent & Me Soccer Squirts, Basketball Camp, Babysitting Certification, Junior First Responders and Hip Hop Experience Summer Dance Camp.

Registration is also open for these summer programs for adults: Pickleball Lessons and Tennis Lessons.

For more info about these programs and to register, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.

FREE COMIC BOOK ART WORKSHOP

Taught by former Marvel Comics artist Bob Budiansky, the Comic Book Illustration Community Art Workshop will introduce to attendees the basics of how to draw comic books. It is open to adults and children 11 years and older. This one-night workshop will take place on Tuesday, May 10th, 7:30–9 p.m. and it is free. Preregistration is required to attend. Space is limited. For more information and to register, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org. This workshop is presented by Fanwood Recreation in partnership with the Life Drawing Studio Group.



International Master Yaacov Norowitz

- Group or private lessons
- Live or virtual options
- Classes for all Levels from beginners on up



Call or email Joe Renna: joerenna@rennamedia.com 908-447-1295 For more info about lessons.

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