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Issue 83 • August 2022

OVER 150 SENIORS ENJOYED PROJECT GRADUATION 2022

Berkeley Heights Public Schools Governor Livingston Project Graduation 2022 was a HUGE success.

Over 150 seniors enjoyed a fun-filled night at the Branchburg Sports Complex.

The event ran from 9:30pm-2am.

There were a variety of activities available to the students including Gaga, Laser Tag, an arcade, basketball, volleyball, dodgeball, soccer, an inflatable obstacle course, a casino (with Amazon gift card prizes), BINGO (with varied gift card prizes), caricaturists, airbrush tattoos, tarot card readers, a photo booth and so much more.

Mountainside EMT Hannah Miller was on hand for the entire evening as were police officers from each town....Detective Yasinski from Mountainside and Officer Rodriguez from Berkeley Heights. A huge shout out to the EMTs and Police Officers!

Eleven event volunteers traveled by bus to and from the event; without them this event wouldn't be possible.

Those amazing volunteers were: Jordan Hyman, Tracey Gardner, Lisa Fabio, Gina Perrotta, Dana Liloia, Jill Vaidman, Rosa Fontes, Raphael Fontes, Joyce Wallen and Marie "Zoe" Cortez and on-site coordinator, Michelle Tilyou.

A team of 20 additional volunteers, led by Jennifer Doll and Amy Radick, helped with registration and bag check in the GL parking lot before the 5 busloads of seniors departed.

A huge thank you to the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, Mr. Nixon and the GL administrators, local businesses for their generous donations (including 20 dozen donuts donated from the Berkeley Heights Dunkin Donuts located on Springfield Avenue).

Freshmen, Sophomore and Junior parents, please consider getting involved with Project Graduation in the future.

Project Graduation includes many activities throughout the year including a Senior Breakfast in the fall, Prom Fashion Show in February, a









Senior Picnic on the day of the prom and finally the Project Graduation event. The Project Graduation committee is also responsible for sale of the graduation lawn signs as well as the sale of the Highlander Way pavers and seat and parking spot raffles for graduation.

Jeanie Ruban shares that it has been a pleasure being the Project Graduation Coordinator for the past 6 years.

If you would like to get involved please reach out to the new Project Graduation Coordinator, Chrissy Kiesewetter at cmkiesewetter@msn.com. (More photos on pages 10 and 11)

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on Berkeley Heights Community News page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."



Berkeley Heights News • Page 2 • August 2022

Berkeley Heights

Renna Media LLC, Publishers

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LOCAL CHORUS OFFERS FREE A CAPPELLA SINGING SESSIONS

The Hickory Tree Chorus chapter of Sweet Adelines International invites women singers to register for its free "Big Summer Sing." You can come any Wednesday, in August, 7 to 9:30 p.m. at The Shrine of St Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ for chord-ringing, fun-filled, four-part a cappella music.

Each week, guests will participate in vocal

and physical warm-ups and work on songs with the chorus. The chorus sings a variety of music, including old-fashioned love songs, Broadway, Disney, Beatles, and more.

To register for the Big Summer Sing, please email info@hickorytreechorus.org or call 908-377-1399. For more information, visit hickorytreechorus.org.



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PROGRAMMING CLUB TEAM RANKS IN THE TOP 25

Berkeley Heights Public Schools

GLHS students in the Programming Club (also known as the Coding Club) participated in the "American Computer Science League" Competition which ran from November 2021 through May 2022. During the competition, the GL team competed against over 500 teams across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia.

In the "Senior 3" Division, the GL team scored in the Top 25 of all schools, edging out competition from schools across the United States, China, Indonesia, Canada, Taiwan, and more.

In addition, three students – Juniors David Andrews and Daniel Long, and Sophomore William Ng, competed in the ACSL Invitational Finals in late May. Out of over 500 students, the team scored in the top 300, with Daniel Long finishing in 32nd place and earning Bronze medal honors.

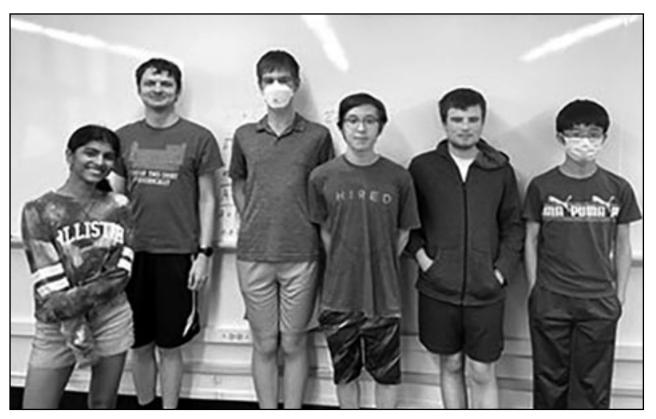
This relatively new club was formed three years ago by GLHS Juniors David Andrews and Daniel Long. The overall goal of the club is to learn coding (no experience necessary), talk about and develop projects, find resources for skill building, and explore STEM applications. The club members themselves found the ACSL competition and decided to participate in it.

According to GLHS Math Teacher and Club Advisor Justin Polce, "The students in the club are diligent, self-motivated, and very helpful when it comes to learning code, discussing cool

proud of them for the work they have done, and the foundations they have built for programming Science is a key skill to have now, and in the future, and we explore everything from Python Alex to C++ to Boolean Algebra. These students are accomplishments.

projects, and competing in the ACSL. I'm very the leaders we need to help advance the district and the community in these areas."

Congratulations to all the members of the club: at Governor Livingston High School. Computer David Andrews, Susan Gleason, Daniel Long, William Ng, Aiden Racelis, Poorva Vakaria, and Watson on these tremendous



(above, l-r) Poorva Vakaria, Alex Watson, Daniel Long, David Andrews, Sean Gleeson, William Ng

Photo by BHPS





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Berkeley Heights News • Page 6 • August 2022

SAGE WORKSHOP RENEWS LIFE FOR 20-YEAR-OLD FATHER'S DAY GIFT

bench as a Father's Day gift from his children. After years of outdoor weathering and exposure to the temperatures, it had fallen apart in a distant corner of his garden. While spring cleaning this year, Ed decided to have it refurbished at SAGE Workshop in Summit and it is now a focal point of curbside appeal for his home. "Coming into the workshop in the basement" said Ed, "is like coming into Santa's Workshop with every workstation abuzz with elves working on gifts for the holiday."

Simon Rosenstein, workshop volunteer, chose mahogany flooring to restore the bench. He measured, cut the wood planks to fit the originals, and painted the wrought iron back to its original glamour. "Repairing this bench for Ed was an honor," said Simon.

Since 1961, the SAGE Eldercare Workshop has offered the public fine-quality furniture repair. The volunteers will consider repairing any piece of furniture that can be carried into the workshop. The Workshop has a reputation throughout Union County and beyond for its fine reweaving of caned and rushed chairs. Our artisans are all highly trained volunteers. Proceeds from the Workshop benefit SAGE programming. Prices are reasonable and depend upon the condition of the chair or furniture item and the materials required in the restoration process.

The Workshop started out over fifty years ago as a place for older men who no longer had access to a home workshop. Dozens of women have worked in the historically male enclave. Most volunteers are former professionals



(above) Ed Midgley of Berkeley Heights with bench after repairs.



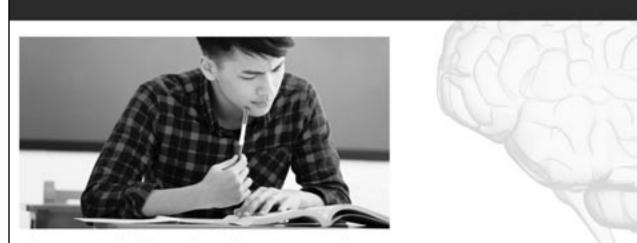
(above) Bench before repairs.

Ed Midgley of Berkeley Heights received a including investment bankers, college professors, physicians, and scientists. Over the years, they have taught each other caning, rushing and a myriad of other techniques needed to fix the aging furniture brought to them for restoration.

The Workshop is in the basement of the SAGE building located at 290 Broad Street, Summit and is easily accessible. Shop hours are Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. For more information about the service, or to schedule an appointment to bring in furniture, call 908-598-5531.

ABOUT SAGE ELDERCARE

SAGE Eldercare supports the independence, wellbeing and quality of life of older adults, their families and caregivers, through the provision of client-centered health, social and support services. Founded in 1954, SAGE is both the oldest and one of the few nonprofit eldercare agencies in the United States that offers a broad and comprehensive array of services under one roof that assist elderly, often frail, adults to remain independent in their own homes. SAGE Eldercare programs include: HomeCare; Mealson-Wheels; Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center; InfoCare free information and referral service; Fall Prevention Initiative; Chore Service; Shopping Service: Bill Paying Service: PREP caregiver support group; and SHIP(State Health Insurance Assistance Program). SAGE Eldercare serves over 5,000 older people and their families annually in Union, Essex Morris and Somerset counties. For more information, call 908.273.5550 or visit sageeldercare.org.



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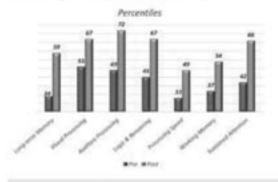
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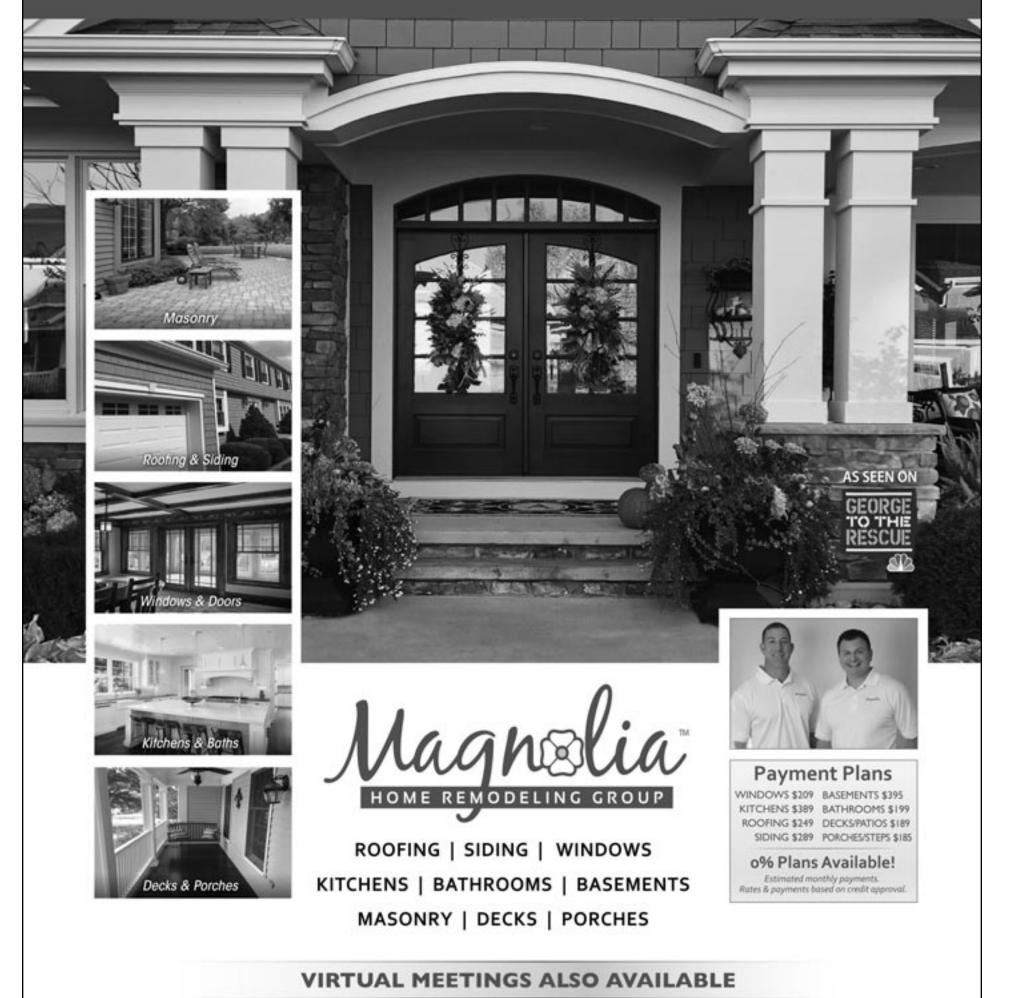


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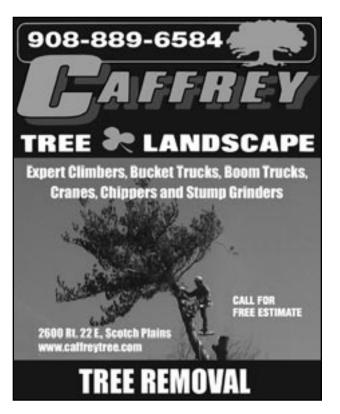


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Berkeley Heights Public Schools

In an effort to showcase our students in BHPS who have excelled in either academics, leadership, community, or have shown excellent growth in any of those areas, the district is hosting a 'Superintendent's Student of the Month''. For June, we honor senior Emily Radick.

Emily has been a member of the Class of 2022 Student Council during all four of her years at GLHS and culminates her time on Council as the Student Council Executive Board President. In addition, she is the Executive Board President of the Student Movement Against Cancer (SMAC) and is a four-year member of the GLHS Student Ambassador Team. Recently, Emily joined the GLHS Diversity Committee and worked on the newly formed district Diversity Council where she has collaborated with other students, faculty and administration to help move the school district forward towards its diversity and inclusion goals. She is also one of the founding members of the Jewish Students Action Team (JSAT) where students learn about cultural aspects important to the Jewish community. Emily has been the Manager of the Girls Varsity Spring Track and Field for four years. She is a member of both National Honor Society and Athletic Honor Society.

Outside of school, Emily has been a volunteer on Congressman Tom Malinowski's Youth Advisory Council, worked on the Alzheimer's Association Congressional Advocacy Team, and has been a Girl Scout (K-12) where she earned Bronze and Silver Awards.

Emily will be attending The College of William & Mary in the Fall. Congratulations Emily and best of luck to you!



SUPERINTENDENT'S STUDENT OF THE MONTH -

EMILY RADDICK

(above, center) Emily Radick was named Superintendent's Student of the Month in June. Emily will be attending The College of William & Mary in the Fall.



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Berkeley Heights News • Page 9 • August 2022



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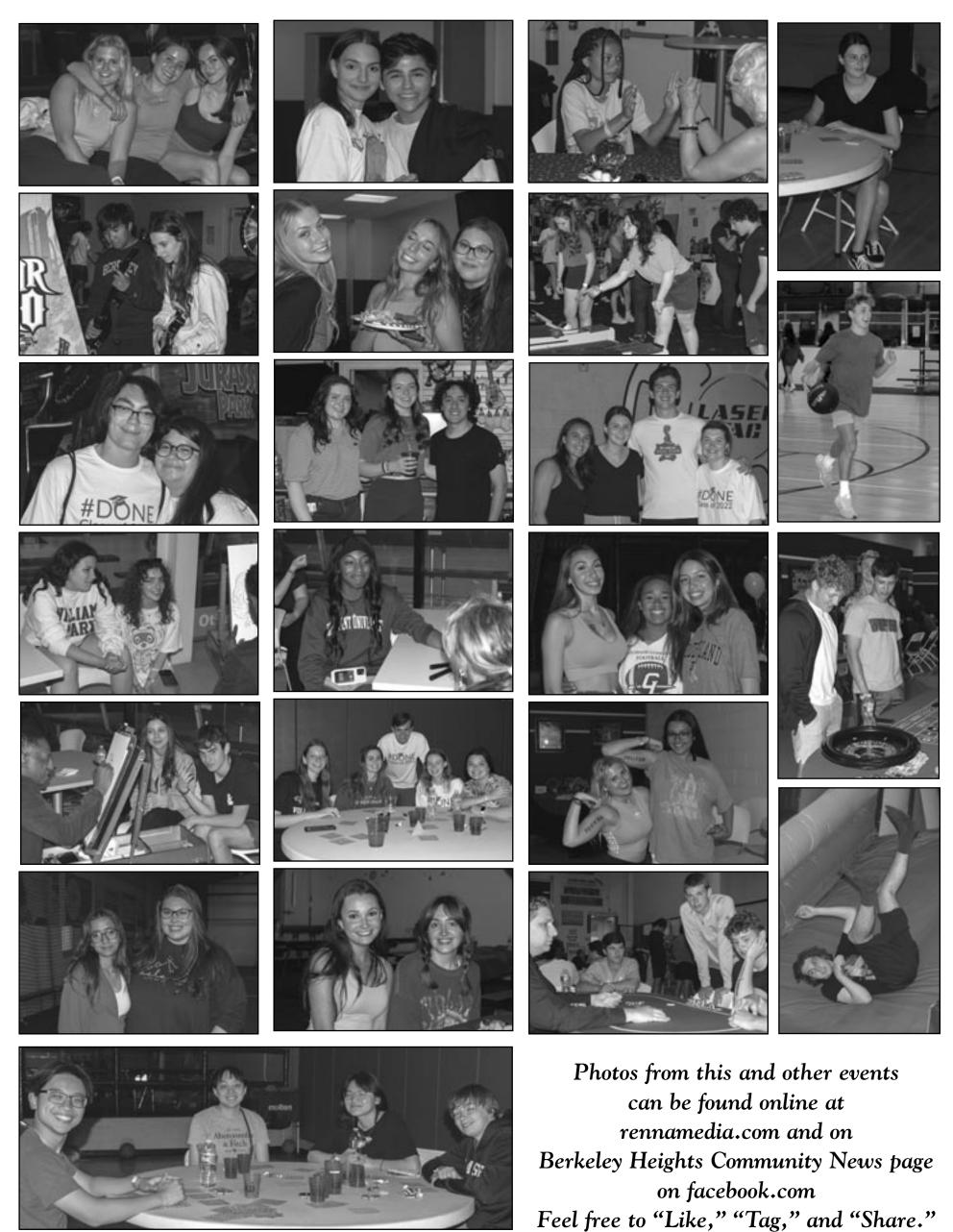
2022 PROJECT GRADUATION PHOTO ALBUM (continued from page 1)



Berkeley Heights Community News page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."

Berkeley Heights News • Page 11 • August 2022

2022 PROJECT GRADUATION PHOTO ALBUM (continued from page 10)



Berkeley Heights News • Page 12 • August 2022 CHESS FOR FUN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



Chess for Fun is a casual group of chess players who have been meeting for roughly 50 years. The group's players come from all over, and in the case of Larry Morse, as far away as Whitehouse Station. The most senior player, at 98 years old, is still playing strong.

It their earlier years the group met at the Rahway Public Library when it was located on St. Georges Avenue. In 1999 a flood destroyed the library. Chess for Fun has been meeting in

the Clark Public Library every Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. And at Max's Pizza & Bistro in Scotch plains on Monday mornings at 11 a.m.

There are no formalities to the group. It is not an established club with officers or membership. Everyone of any ability is welcome to participate. Regulars bring their own board to share so it is not necessary to bring a board, but it would be helpful if you can.



(above, standing, l-r) Players and hometowns: Larry Morse, Whitehouse Station; Mark Shoengold, Colonia; Jack Rothstein, Edison; John Foy, Scotch Plains; Bodre. (seated, l-r) David Goldstein, South Plainfield; Neil Landau, Edison; Matthew Bistis, Mountainside.





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SAGA CLUB CELEBRATES PRIDE MONTH AND MORE

Berkeley Heights Public Schools

Since March 2016, the SAGA Club (Sexuality and Gender Acceptance Club) at GLHS has worked to fulfill their primary mission to make LGBTQ+ individuals feel safe, accepted, and included at Governor Livingston High School



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The SAGA Club had a very successful 2021-2022 school year, culminating in a very busy Pride month this June.

Early in the year, SAGA Club members held a Support Zone "lunch and learn" session for staff members with the goal to raise awareness and offer suggestions on how staff can offer support to students. The Support Zone initiative is a student-led program that was launched in 2019. In addition, staff and student information sessions on LGBTQ topics were offered throughout the year on a variety of topics.

Pride Month is a global celebration held each year in June to commemorate the Stonewall Uprising and honors LGBTQ+ people and the struggle for their rights. This year, the SAGA Club planned many exciting events to celebrate. Members attended a staff meeting to talk about Pride month and was supported by GL staff with a dress-down day. Staff showed their support by wearing Pride buttons and displaying flags in their classrooms. The club additionally partnered with the Berkeley Heights YMCA and the Berkeley Heights Diversity Council for the Berkeley Heights Pride Celebration on June 16th, an annual event that began in 2017 at the suggestion of the club. It has since grown into a popular community event.

A brand new exciting and fun event was the first (and hopefully annual) GL SAGA Club Pride Dance. Over 40 students attended this colorful, fun-filled event at GLHS and enjoyed dancing, karaoke, snacks and games.

Other activities included morning announcements, sidewalk chalk art in front of the school, Pride goodie bag sales (which sold out!), and a bake sale to benefit The Trevor Project.



(above) SAGA club is composed of approximately 75 LGBTQ+ students and supporters. The faculty advisors for the club are Tracy Procaccini and Sarah Peszka.



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BERKELEY HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY AUGUST PROGRAMS

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BHPL's Summer Reading Club for all ages "Oceans of Possibilities" ends Friday, August Sign up in the library, 19th. bhplnj.readsquared.com or download the free READsquared app from the App Store or Google Play and log-in your reading!

CHILDREN'S STORY TIMES AND PROGRAMS:

Shake, Rattle & Read Mondays, August 1, 8, 15 at 10:00 am Music, movement and books for ages 2 and up **Fun with Friends Story Time**

Thursdays, August 4, 11, 18 at 9:30 am Stories and play for ages 0 - 24 months

Good Tyme String Band Tuesday, August 9 at 10:30 am Fun banjo sing-along for all ages **Mini-Minnows Fishing Game**

Wednesday, August 17 Every angler (2-4 years old) will catch a prize. Take & Make Crafts

Craft kits are ready to go or work on at the Activity Table

ADULT PROGRAMS: Book Group

Friday, August 5 at 10:30 am and Tuesday, August 9 at 7:15 pm August's book group selection is The Flight Attendant by Chris Bohjalian. Please stop by in person, call the library or email reference@bhplnj.org if you have questions or would like to join the book club.

SENIORS' DAY TRIP TO AC - AUGUST 15

The Berkeley Heights Seniors are sponsoring return at approximately 7:15 p.m. The cost is a trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Monday, August 15.

We will leave from the Berkeley Heights Town Hall on Park Avenue at 8:30 a.m. and

WALK TO END LUPUS **SET FOR SEPT. 11**

The Lupus Foundation of America, New Jersey Chapter, invites you to our 30th Annual Walk To End Lupus Now. Join us at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 11, 2022 at Nomahegan Park in Cranford, NJ as we walk for a cure and to assist people suffering from lupus.

Form a team, or walk as an individual, to raise money. To register or donate visit: givebutter.com/FNpmmK or text 53-555 and type in: WALKLUPUS22. For more information,

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Starting Memorial Day weekend, entry to all New Jersey State Parks, forests, and recreation areas will be free of charge this summer. Park entrance fees will be waived for all visitors, regardless of residency. Anyone who already purchased a 2022 annual State Park Pass will automatically receive a full refund. Other individual park fees remain in place, such as camping, interpretive programs, and mobile sport fishing permits. Discovery State of New Jersey Parks: nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/

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9U TEAM WINS QUALIFIES FOR USABL WORLD SERIES

Submitted by Carolyn Sayre

The Berkeley Heights 9U Red baseball team had their work cut out for them this season, entering the highest-level "American" division within the USABL. Despite having a flair for the dramatic during the regular season, which was peppered with walk-off homeruns, two-out rallies, and diving catches, they finished with an 7-2 record. This gave them the No. 2 seed heading into the playoffs behind the undefeated team from North Hunterdon.

In their quarterfinal game, Mikey Garcia and Josh Sayre combined to hold the Long Hill Cyclones to three runs. Leadoff hitter Andrew Futterman started a first-inning rally that ended with a bang in the form of a clutch three-run triple by Chase Samuelson to give the team a lead that

would stick. Drew Novotny and Luca Milia also Heights scored runs in every inning they came to drove in runs during the rally that sparked the team to victory. Defensively, two key plays neutralized Long Hill rallies early. In the first, after the leadoff batter reached, Novotny threw him out on a stolen base attempt. In the second, with a runner on second, Long Hill hit a single to the outfield, but Samuelson made a strong throw from right field and got the runner out at home.

Three days later, rival Cranford came to Berkeley Heights for a chance at revenge in the semifinal game, but they wouldn't find it there. Richie Adamczyk toed the rubber for the Jr. Highlanders and was brilliant, throwing a sixinning complete game (a first for the team) without a single walk in an 8-1 victory. The offense was spread out and relentless as Berkeley



(above) The full Berkeley Heights 9U Red spring roster was Richie Adamczyk, Andrew Futterman, Mikey Garcia, Nate Klacik, Gavin Klasey, Brady Kostrowski, Luca Milia, Drew Novotny, Courtesy photo



bat. Brady Kostrowski got on base four times out of the leadoff spot, including three hits, and the offensive fireworks started with RBI doubles in the first inning by Garcia and Novotny. It ended with a rally started by a Gavin Klasey walk eventually followed by a line-drive single by Futterman, powering the Jr. Highlanders to the eventual final score. The team was patient all day long as they drew 15 walks and forced Cranford to use four different pitchers. The outfield was also tested often and great catches by Kostrowski and Thomas Sanchez helped neutralize potential Cranford rallies.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Finally, on Sunday, June 12th, the Jr. Highlanders headed out west to play undefeated North Hunterdon in the Championship Game this was the site of one of Berkeley Heights' two losses just five weeks earlier.

The team knew they would need to come out of the gate strong. With two out in the top of the first inning, the team strung together five hits in a row to jump out to a 3-0 lead, including doubles by Novotny and Adamczyk and singles by Garcia, Samuelson and Milia. Another two-out rally in the fourth inning extended the lead to 8-0. It started inconspicuously with a walk by Sayre and single by Kostrowski, and it was capped by a two-run base knock by Novotny and a two-run double by Adamczyk. Berkeley Heights added two more runs later on a steal of home by Jake Stein and a bases-loaded walk by Sanchez.

But as well as the boys hit, they were equally impressive on the mound and in the field. Sayre got the start in the championship game and grinded out five innings of one-run ball, keeping the highest-scoring team in the league off-balance all day, striking out four and allowing only two hits. A big reason why there were only two hits was the defense, which was on point all game long. Samuelson made two great catches in the outfield early in the game to frustrate the North Hunterdon batters. Novotny threw another runner out at second base on a steal attempt after they got their first run on the board to end the fourth inning. Nate Klacik made two incredible scoop catches at first base on tough grounders hit to the left side of the infield to likely save a couple of runs. Kostrowski then made an impressive running catch in center field with two runners on to end the fifth inning. For the final inning, Garcia came to the mound to close the game out. He struck out the first batter he faced, and then two straight hard grounders were hit to Futterman, who fielded them smoothly at shortstop, ending the game and sending the boys to a 10-1 victory.

With the league championship, the boys have earned a qualifying spot in the USABL World Series to be played this August, which is a first for the program. Head coach Mike Garcia led this team of well-disciplined players, who truly played beyond their years of experience. Also helping on the coaching staff this season were Rich Adamczyk, Amy Futterman, Todd Klacik and Bret Sayre.

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE UNITES THOUSANDS OF ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION SUPPORTERS

NJ Sharing Network

On June 5, thousands of organ and tissue transplant recipients, donor families, living donors and dedicated volunteers participated in NJ Sharing Network's 5K Celebration of Life Walk and USATF Certified Race in New Providence, NJ. The 5K Celebration of Life, which was sponsored by Pfizer, is the largest fundraising event to support organ and tissue donation and transplantation in the United States.

Participants honored those who gave the gift of organ and/or tissue, paid tribute to those who have received a transplant, offered hope to those currently waiting for a transplant, and remembered those who passed away while waiting for the gift of life. Funds raised by 5K Celebration of Life participants, teams, sponsors, and contributors support the Sharing Network Foundation. Thus far, nearly \$1.3 million has been raised for this year's campaign.

Campaign contributions can be made until the end of August by visiting SharingNetworkFoundation.org/5K. Sharing Network is the federally designated nonprofit organization responsible for recovering donated organs and tissue in the Garden State.

"We were thrilled to come together with our community and safely reconnect in person to share stories and love, tears, and laughter. It was a healing and uplifting experience for those whose lives have been touched by organ and tissue donation and transplantation," said Elisse E. Glennon, Executive Director, Sharing Network Foundation.

According to United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), there are over 100,000 Americans – nearly 4,000 of whom live in New Jersey – waiting for a life-saving transplant. One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and enhance the lives of over 75 others. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit NJSharingNetwork.org.

ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK

Currently celebrating its 35th anniversary, NJ

Sharing Network is the federally designated nonprofit organization responsible for recovering donated organs and tissue in the Garden State. Last year, 233 generous individuals in New Jersey gave the gift of life, an all-time high for a single year. In addition, 42,112 eye and tissue donations healed and enhanced the quality of life for those in need. With headquarters in New Providence, NJ, the organization has been recognized by NJBIZ as one of the state's "Best Places to Work" for four consecutive years.

ABOUT THE SHARING NETWORK FOUNDATION

The Sharing Network Foundation is committed to increasing the number of lives saved through clinical advancement, family support, public awareness and education about the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation and transplantation. By making a contribution, you empower our efforts, bringing us a step closer to providing the greatest gift of all... the Gift of Life.



(above) Thousands of organ and tissue transplant recipients, donor families, living donors and dedicated volunteers participated in NJ Sharing Network's 5K Celebration of Life Walk and USATF Certified Race. Photo courtesy of NJ Sharing Network



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