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BRIDGEPORT

## **HIP-HOP DANCE BRINGS COMMUNITY, POLICE TOGETHER**

Police officers tried to keep up with the children at the annual dance-off between Fanwood and Scotch Plains officers during the regular hip-hop class hosted by the Fanwood Recreation Department at Forest Road Park Tuesday, November 15, 2022.

Fanwood officer Dan Hudspith and Scotch Plains officers Willie DeJesus and Mike Baltazar boldly went where many dare not go--sliding scissors, butt spins, cyphers and posing with the children of Maria Daniel's popular Hip-Hop Experience.

"You can go to every continent and find someone who connects with the hip-hop culture," remarked Daniel. "So it's also a way of unifying the community, connecting, responding and building relationships."

Daniel, an attorney, gave up the courtroom to be a dance instructor. Though she still teaches law at Union County and Hudson County Colleges, dance is her main passion in life, one she appreciated more after a bout with Lyme disease that caused near-paralysis in her legs. During her recovery, she realized dancing was her true calling.

"I was no longer an attorney who danced. I'm a dancer who's an attorney."

The Fanwood and Scotch Plains police officers added a measure of excitement for the children in the class and their parents. Seeing the cops in full uniform attempting the sometimes daunting hip-hop moves was quite an equalizer on the dance floor. The final dance-off between Scotch Plains officer DeJesus and Fanwood officer Hudspith was a modest affair, eclipsed by the larger messages of community outreach, fun and diversity.



(above) Officer Hudspith's ending pose

Photos by Tom Kranz



(above) Group, children, officers and Maria Daniel

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#### **RESCUE SQUAD AUXILIARY HELPS VETS**

Contributing Author: Susan Baldani, a life member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad.

Plains Rescue Squad Auxiliary collected muchneeded household items for previously homeless veterans residing at Valley Brook Village on the Administrative Campus Lyons/Basking Ridge, NJ. As usual, the residents of Scotch Plains and Fanwood came through with abundance.

"The community response was extraordinary," says Lila Maxwell, who is the co-president of the Auxiliary along with Judy Sullivan. "We were very grateful that our veterans were remembered and honored for their service as demonstrated by the strong support from the community."

On Sunday, November 5, members of the Auxiliary and the Rescue Squad were onsite at Valley Brook to distribute laundry soap, dish soap, surface cleaners, toilet paper, toilet wipes, paper towels, coffee, ShopRite gift cards and other items to some of the 112 men and women residing at the independent living community.

The veterans would like to pass along their heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated. These very deserving heroes are always grateful for people giving their time and money to make their lives just a little bit easier.

Adds Lila, "On behalf of the Auxiliary, I want to extend to the community our thankfulness and appreciation for their support."

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad Auxiliary meets once a month, and its grass roots function is to assist the Squad in many capacities – from

During the month of October, the Scotch holding fundraisers and providing meals during crises to performing outreach to squad and fellow auxiliary members. Members also attend town functions, such as fairs, concerts and holiday events, in order to connect with the community and promote Squad interest.

> If interested in becoming a member of the Auxiliary, go to scotchplainsrescuesquad.com/ the-auxiliary/. For more information on helping the veterans at Valley Brook Village, contact Steve Hackenberg at 908-723-0788 or at dnea117@gmail.com.



(above) On Sunday, November 5, members of the Auxiliary and the Rescue Squad were onsite at Valley Brook to distributed donations to some of the 112 men and women residing at the independent living community.

Courtesy photo

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#### MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNA LANDS INTERNSHIP IN HOLLYWOOD



(above) Katherine Agnello of Fanwood, a Union County Magnet High School Alumna and current Senior at Temple University, was selected for the prestigious Television Academy Foundation Internship Program.

Courtesy photo

Katherine Agnello of Fanwood, has been selected for the prestigious Television Academy Foundation Internship Program. She is one of just 12 students chosen by Television Academy members from across the country for the 2022 fall program. The Foundation's annual Internship Program provides eight-week paid internships at top Hollywood studios and production companies to college students nationwide.

Agnello is a senior at Temple University studying media studies and production with a minor in screen studies. This fall she is an intern in the scripted television department at EPIX/MGM in Los Angeles, California. Relaunching as MGM+ in January 2023, the MGM-backed premium television network and streaming service provides a variety of content, including the Emmy®-winning series Godfather of Harlem and Chapelwaite, among others.

While attending Union County Magnet High School in Scotch Plains, Agnello struggled with what career path to take in college. But, encouraged by her mother, she decided to follow her passion for storytelling, moving toward a television career and leading her to where she is today.

"I love storytelling and the impact it has,

specifically on television. I'm constantly inspired by the shows I watch and want to tell stories that help people feel seen," said Agnello. "I'm most excited to learn about the entertainment industry by working with the Television Academy Foundation and am excited to learn about television production and find my place within it."

Interns become lifelong members of the Foundation's alumni family, giving them access to events and networking opportunities as they build their careers in the industry.

#### **ABOUT THE TELEVISION ACADEMY FOUNDATION**

Established in 1959 as the charitable arm of the Television Academy, the Television Academy Foundation is dedicated to preserving the legacy of television while educating and inspiring those who will shape its future. Through renowned educational and outreach programs, such as The Interviews: An Oral History of Television Project, College Television Awards and Summit, Student Internship and Fellowship Programs and the Media Educators Conference, the Foundation seeks to widen the circle of voices our industry represents and to create more opportunity for television to reflect all of society. For more information on the Foundation, please visit TelevisionAcademy.com/Foundation.

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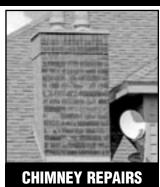
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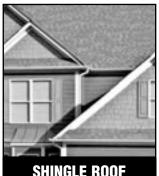






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#### **PONZIO'S CELEBRATING 109 YEARS IN BUSINESS**

Submitted by Andrew Ponzio

Ponzio's is the oldest family owned and operated business in Scotch Plains, NJ.

My great-grandfather Mateo Ponzio emigrated from Italy in the early 1900's and began operating Ponzio's at its current location, 211 Union Ave., in 1913, selling hay, feed, and firewood. He also did some hauling.

Where the florist is located today was once a general store/boarding house that sold tea, candy, tobacco and other items. A greenhouse was added. The florist began in the 1940's under my grandparents Grace and Rocco Ponzio.

My father, Carmen Ponzio worked and operated the florist for 66 years (since he was 10), until he passed away in October 2022 at the age of 76.

Currently, I own and operate the firewood, landscape, and garden center, and my mother, Arlene Ponzio now continues to operate the florist.

Ponzio's have also been selling Christmas trees, handmade grave covers, and wreaths during the holiday season for many years. We also retail plants, candles, firewood accessories, camping and fishing supplies, as well as live bait -nightcrawlers for fishing.

It's a labor of love. The best part is when customers return to share a story of Ponzio's Florist having been a part of their lives through a prom, wedding, or funeral arrangement.

(right) Mateo Ponzio emigrated from Italy in the early 1900's and began operating Ponzio's at its current location, 211 Union Ave., in 1913.





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#### HANUKAH: A HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS AND MIRACLES

#### Submitted by Rabbi Paul David Kerbel

Hanukah is a 'major' Jewish holiday. You might be surprised by that. Most rabbis and Jewish educators would say just the opposite, that Hanukah is a 'minor' Jewish holiday. From the perspective of religious Jewish law, Hanukah does not have the same religious significance of Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year), Yom Kippur (our Day of Atonement and forgiveness), Passover (our Festival of Freedom), Shavuot (the holiday where we celebrate the revelation of the Five Books of Moses), and Sukkot (our Fall festival celebrating the end of the summer harvest and our relationship with God).

Hanukah is a 'major' Jewish holiday culturally and ethnically. One of the ways we can understand any religion is not just what the religion 'teaches' but what its followers actually observe and practice. More Jews observe Hanukah than any other ritual, other than participating in a Passover Seder. Part of Hanukah's 'popularity' is that it falls in the Jewish calendar between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Hanukah represents a powerful response to the feelings of exclusion and of being a minority in the larger Christian culture of America and allows members of the Jewish community to celebrate its own traditions and be proud of the Jewish heritage even as the airwaves, malls and

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TV commercials are filled with the sounds and traditions of Christmas.

But regardless of where Hanukah falls in the calendar, I would suggest the following four reasons why Hanukah is a 'major' Jewish holiday and has lessons for both Jews and our non-Jewish neighbors to learn from share:

- 1. Hanukah represents the first victory in human history for religious freedom. Had the Jewish Maccabees not won their war with the Greek/Syrian kingdom, Judaism may have died out and Christianity and Islam, both of which have roots in Judaism, may never have developed. The Jewish people celebrate the value for all of us to celebrate our respective religious traditions.
- 2. Hanukah teaches us religious tolerance and to celebrate diversity and pluralism. As America becomes more diverse and welcomes citizens of many different religions from around the world, we learn from each other and how much we have in common.
- 3. Hanukah reinforces the ability and opportunity of each minority to teach, learn and celebrate its religious traditions and its principles and unique ethnic and religious identity while we all share and believe in the values of freedom and democracy.
- 4. Hanukah reminds us of the modern-day miracles that we have participated in: the redemption of over one million Jews from

the former Soviet Union who were not allowed to learn about their Jewish faith and practice Judaism while under Communist rule; the rescue and welcoming of over 100,000 Jews from Ethiopia and the rescue and of endangered Jews and other Jewish communities around the world. We must always be prepared to deliver the few from the many, the weak from the mighty and the righteous from the wicked.

Finally, I would like to share that the word "Hanukah" means 'dedication' and comes from the same Hebrew word as 'education.' Hanukah is about making sure that we maintain our Jewish identity, that we teach our children, the values, the history, the rich heritage which is ours to embrace and pass on to the next generation. May the lights of our Hanukah menorah symbolize our love for Judaism, our right to practice Judaism as a minority while at the same time, sharing symbols of light and the theme of miracles with those who celebrate Christmas even as all of us strive to make the world a better place. For our Jewish tradition has taught us this eternal message: "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

Happy Hanukah and Happy Holidays to all! Rabbi Paul Kerbel is the spiritual leader of Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim in Cranford and the current chair of the Cranford Clergy Council.

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#### **UNICO HOLDS COLUMBUS DAY CEREMONY**

Submitted by Daniela Sellinger

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO celebrated the voyages of Italian immigrants to America, the Italian heritage and Italian traditions during its annual Columbus Day Ceremony. The ceremony was held on October 8, 2022, at Alan M. Augustine Park In Scotch Plains, just steps from the Columbus Monument.

This year, our guest speakers were Dori Perrucci and Laura Swidersky. Both shared stories of their ancestors who immigrated to Scotch Plains, NJ, and shared their own experiences of growing up as Italian-Americans. Laura Swidersky was born and raised in Scotch Plains and still resides there today. Dori has

written a book about her grandfather Concezio Perrucci's journey from Abruzzo to America and is waiting for it to be published!

Dr. Matt Marino, a chapter member, was our Master of Ceremonies. Among those in attendance were Scotch Plains Mayor Josh Losardo, Scotch Plains Town Manager Al Mirabella, Town Council members, UNICO National Vice President Anthony Bencivenga, members from our chapter and other local chapters as well as many residents.

Thanks to all those who came out to support us. A huge thank you to our Columbus Day committee members and township staff who assisted in making this a successful event.

#### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR GRADUATING **HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS OF ITALIAN DESCENT**

UNICO, a local Italian-American service organization, is dedicated to helping local students maximize their talent and potential through educational pursuits. In the 49 years since our Chapter began, our organization has offered scholarships to graduating high school seniors. This year, our chapter will be offering four \$2,500 scholarships.

All graduating high school seniors of verifiable Italian heritage who plan to attend a post-secondary vocational, technical or trade school, a 2-year community college, or a 4-year college/university are encouraged to apply!

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of Applicants must reside in Scotch Plains or Fanwood to be considered for an award. (Exception: Children of SP-F UNICO members in good standing have no residency requirements.) Awards are based on a combination of financial need, extracurricular activity and civic involvement, and academic excellence.

Please visit our Scholarship Program page at unicospf.org for full requirements and to apply. Applications are due March 1, 2023.

Questions may be directed to our scholarship chairpersons at spfunicoscholarship@gmail.com.

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# TINY TIM FUNDRAISER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The Tiny Tim Fund is a registered New Jersey non-profit corporation 501(c)(3) that raises funds to provide financial assistance to help families pay for the medical expenses of children in Fanwood and Scotch Plains including doctors, dentists, and psychological testing. The organization has been assisting local families since 1983.

This year the Tiny Tim Fund is hosting Carol Night on December 5 during which volunteers will carol in local neighborhoods requesting donations. Since carol groups will not be able to reach all neighborhoods in Fanwood and Scotch Plains, letters requesting financial support will also be distributed to local neighborhoods during the month of December. Donations for this year's fundraiser are being requested during the current holiday season and are greatly appreciated all year long. Carol Night and the letter campaign will be the organization's sole fundraiser.

The Tiny Tim Fund is administered by a volunteer Board of Trustees which consists of Fanwood and Scotch Plains citizens from varied sections of the community. There are no administrative fees. All collected contributions are dispersed for children's needs.

Donations from local citizens as well as from civic and service organizations will enable the Tiny Tim Fund to continue supporting families in our community. The trustees are hopeful that members of the community who have generously supported the Fund in the past will make it possible for the Tiny Tim Fund to continue providing assistance to current cases as well as to accept new requests for financial assistance during the coming year.

Checks made out to The Tiny Tim Fund can be mailed to The Tiny Tim Fund, PO Box 181, Fanwood, NJ 07023.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Tiny Tim Fund at TinyTimSPF@gmail.com. Questions can also be directed to Barbara Anilo, President, at 732-259-6348

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#### **ROTARY LUMINARY SALES**

During the month of December, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary club will sell Luminaries at the Fanwood Department of Public Works on Manfra Way, off of North Avenue. The sale dates are December 3, December 10-11, December 17-18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and December 24 – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The luminary kits cost \$1 per kit in all quantities and include paper bags, candles and sand. Customers are encouraged to bring buckets, boxes or plastic bags to transport the sand. Payments can be made by cash, check or Venmo. Contact-less pickup will be available; customers can call the number listed on the whiteboard to place orders or pick up orders.

Pre-orders placed prior to December 5th will be discounted to \$0.75 a kit. See the Rotary website for additional information regarding online purchases: fsprotary.org.

Luminaries are traditionally used to illuminate the streets on Christmas Eve. A candle is nestled in sand at the bottom of a paper bag and placed along sidewalks to create a beautiful walkway. The candles are then lit at dusk on Christmas Eve. Some neighborhoods in the area get together and buy hundreds of kits to create an amazing display.

All proceeds from the sale will be used to fund

the various charitable and humanitarian projects that Rotary supports, both locally and internationally.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club has been serving the community since 1938. The club meets on Wednesdays at noon at the Stage House Restaurant. On the last Wednesday of the month, the club meets at Darby Road at 6:30 p.m. Guests are invited to attend and learn about the good that Rotary is doing worldwide. For further information about the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary club, go to fsprotary.org or visit their Facebook page: Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club.



#### **ROTARY CLUB LUNCH HONORS VETERANS**

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club hosted a Veterans Appreciation Lunch at their meeting held on November 16, 2022. 16 Veterans from Fanwood and Scotch Plains attended. They introduced themselves and stated when and

where they served. The Rotary Club is very grateful to all men and women who served the United States Armed Forces and will pay tribute to those who served, those who continue to serve and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.







#### HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE FEATURES GREAT GIFTS FOR THE SEASON

annual Holiday Boutique at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Thrift Shop, when shelves are stocked with brand new merchandise perfect for holiday gift giving. New items generously donated to the shop all year have been side aside to adorn the shelves just for this purpose.

From shirts to socks and candles to crafts, The Holiday Boutique is a great opportunity to find presents for under the tree, to stuff in stockings,

Tuesday, November 29 marks the start of the to mark Hanukkah or Kwanza, or even to re- Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Children are donate to your favorite charities. There is also a wide assortment of new and gently used holiday décor in addition to the regularly replenished clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac, linens, household goods, toys, games, books and DVDs consistently displayed.

> The Thrift Shop is located at 1741 East Second Street in Scotch Plains and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and

welcome provided they are accompanied by an adult.

Also note that a gift bought at the Thrift Shop has twice the impact—one to your recipient and another to our community, as all store proceeds outside of operating expenses are donated by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League to local non-profit organizations or used for student scholarships. What better way to spread holiday cheer and giving!

To learn more about the Service League call the store during Thrift Shop business hours: 908-322-5420.

#### **FANWOOD'S HOLIDAY CELEBRATION & TREE LIGHTING RETURNS!**

Come down to the North Avenue Train Station on Sunday, December 4th, 3–5 p.m. as Fanwood welcomes in the holiday season with an afternoon of holiday music, free refreshments, a petting zoo, contests, prizes, gifts and... Santa Claus! (To schedule a visit with Santa, you will need to preregister. Go to fanwoodrecreation.org for more information. Space is limited.) Bring the whole family! The celebration concludes with the lighting of the Fanwood Tree, across from the train station, at 5 p.m.





HAPPY HOLIDAYS! WE ARE BOOKING FOR SPRING... CALL NOW! \*AERATION & THATHING\* \*PAVERS & PATIOS\* \*DRAINAGE\*

\*MULCH \*CLEANUPS \*PLANTING 908-441-7302 SAMSLANDSCAPING.COM

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Renna Media offers a full range of marketing services, in print and online, hyperlocal to regional, for every budget and market size.

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We mail 160,000 newspapers to every home and business in 24 towns. You can advertise in any number of towns. Ads start at \$60.

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We print flyers and menus, full color, two sided, on coated stock for only \$45 per thousand.

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Qty: 5,400 Zip: 07208 Section of Elizabeth, NJ



Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07023



Qty: 5,500 Zip: 07932



Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027



Qty: 3,000 Zip: 08812



Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033



Qty: 17,900 Zip: 07036



Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980



Qty: 6,300 Zin: 07940



Qty: 2,900 Zip: 07092



Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974



Qty: 13,000 Zip: 07065



Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204



Qty: 9,400 Zip: 07076



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		9	Rates are per month. Artwork included in price. Newspapers are black on white.								
Unit	THE SECURIT PROBLEM SECTION	Size 5° x 2°	1 TOWN S60	3 TOWNS S150	6 TOWNS 5250	9 TORNS 5350	12 TORNS 5400	15 10WNS \$450	18 TOWNS \$500	21 TOWNS \$550	24 TOWNS \$600
2	Units 6.5° x 2° or 3.2	5° x 4°	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	5700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
4	Units 3.25° x 8° or 6.	5° x 4°	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6	Units 6.5° x 6.25° or 1	0° x 4°	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9	HALF PAGE 65'x 9' or 1	0° x 7°	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
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18	FULL PAGE	0° x 14°	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
2-P/	AGE SPREAD 2	1" x 14"	\$700								
BAC	CK PAGE	0° v. 14°	\$500	DDE	DAY 6	MAN	TITE A	NID CI	'T' 4 34	ODE	CHO HORD

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Regular Sunday Mornings

Liturgies with Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Education Hour at 8:45 a.m.

Advent Sundays

November 27, December 4 and 11 - Regular Schedule December 18 - One Service at 10:00 a.m.

Midweek Advent Vespers on Wednesdays

November 30, December 7 and 14 at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24
Family Service with Eucharist at 4:00 p.m.
Candlelight Eucharist with Special Music at 6:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day** 

Sunday, December 25 - One Service at 10:00 a.m.

Service of Lessons, Carols and Eucharist Sunday, January 1 - One Service at 10:00 a.m.

Livestream available.

Visit our website at **famfaith.org** or find us on Facebook at Faith Lutheran, New Providence.

We practice an open Communion table. All are welcome!



#### Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Holiday Event Schedule 2022

- ▼ Saturday December 10: Mass of Anointing at 11am
- ▼ Friday December 16: Christmas Concert featuring Choirs from St. Helen's & IHM at 7pm @ St. Helen's Church. Westfield
- ▼ <u>December 17-24</u>: **Reflections on the O Antiphons** Video Release
- ▼ Sunday December 18: Living Nativity + Hot Chocolate with Santa and Holiday Gift Shop (SPF PAL) starting at 1pm
  - ▼ Monday December 19: Penance Service at 7pm

#### Mass Schedule

Mon-Fri: 7am + 8:30am Sat: 7am, 8:30am, 5pm Sun: 8am, 10am, 12 noon

**Christmas Mass** 

12/24: 4pm, 6pm, 10:30pm 12/25: 8am, 10am, 12 noon



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237 Kimball Avenue Westfield



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