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## LONG HILL GIRLS SCOUTS ANNUAL CAMPFIRE

The Long Hill Twp Girl Scout Service Unit enjoyed their annual campfire under the stars on Saturday, November 5th on the grounds of the Stirling Elks complex. It was a beautiful, warm summer like night where 80 Girl Scouts from the Daisy through the Ambassador level and their families all came together and enjoyed s'mores over the fire. The Cadette level troops hosted this fun event where each troop was encouraged to come and participate in a sing-a-long, selecting a favorite tune among their troop to sing and share with the group.

In the Girl Scout spirit of giving back all participants were asked to bring non-perishable food items, paper goods and/or cleaning supplies to donate to our local Twelve Baskets food pantry.

The Long Hill Girl Scout Service Unit would like to thank Lombardo Farms for donating use of the firewood, Shoprite for providing a giftcard towards supplies and the Stirling Elks for use of the grounds.



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## HAVE SANTA VISIT YOUR HOME ON A FIRE ENGINE

Santa on a Fire Engine, what can be better? You can have Santa Claus arrive at your home on a real fire engine and deliver a special present to your child(ren) on Saturday, December 17, making an unforgettable and treasured memory for your child and your family for years to come.

Upon arrival at your home, Santa will visit and talk with your child(ren) and your family and you may take as many photos as you wish, as well as take some photos of your whole family with Santa. He'll also be accompanied by firefighter elves to enhance this occasion. Children love Santa and they love fire engines, so what can be better than having Santa arrive at your house on a real fire engine for a visit at Christmas time?

The deadline to sign-up for Santa's exciting visit is December 14th. Send an email to Firefighter Santa at [stirlingfire.org](http://stirlingfire.org). Leave your name and phone number. A Firefighter Santa's helper will respond to confirm your visit.

This is an annual fundraiser for the Stirling Volunteer Fire Co. and supports them in paying for training, equipment, maintenance, etc. They request a \$50 donation for the visit. You purchase and wrap your child's gift then drop it off at the Stirling Firehouse, 321 Somerset St., Stirling, either on December 15 or 16 between 5 and 8 p.m. Your \$50 donation is due when you drop off your gift. Please make your check payable to the Stirling Vol. Fire Co. If you can afford more of a donation that will be very much appreciated.

The Stirling Volunteer Fire Co. consists of township residents who stand ready to help every hour of every day and have done so since 1913. Your help and support will be most sincerely appreciated.



(above) Santa and his firefighter elves will be making special visits on their fire engine on Saturday, December 17. Deadline to sign-up is December 14.

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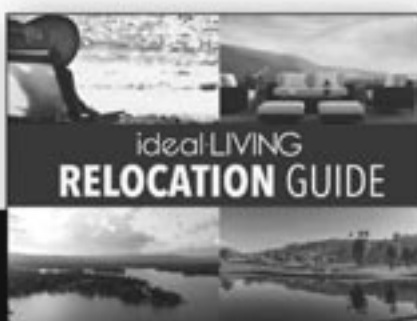
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## LOCAL KARATE STUDENTS PROMOTED

Chu's Academy of Martial Arts held a belt promotion ceremony on Thursday, November 10th for those students successfully passing to the next rank from a testing held at their Academy in Gillette two weeks prior. The testing allows for the students to show the techniques they've learned in front of their parents and the testing board, which is comprised of senior instructors. "It's really an opportunity for the students to test themselves", said instructor and co-owner Michelle Cavett. "When a student can employ what they've learned when under 'pressure' to perform, it builds their proficiency and confidence in actually being able to stay calm in stressful situations and ultimately defend themselves if needed", she said. Chu's Academy of Martial Arts has been located in Long Hill Township since 1982 and was originally founded by 8th degree blackbelt and master instructor Linda Morey under the name Hwang Karate. More information can be found at [karate4peace.com](http://karate4peace.com).



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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

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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# TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 24TH ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 24th joyous season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 17 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) for two performances at 2 and 7PM. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 18 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ also with performances at 2 and 7PM.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as, "Highland Cathedral," "Joy to the World", and "Amazing Grace", all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ and brass and more. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

According to producer Robert Currie, "We are absolutely delighted to be bringing our concert back to full force after two devastating years weathering the Covid pandemic. Supporting our GoFundMe campaign will continue to make these concerts possible."

The 2022 production marks the NYC solo debut of soprano Sharon Lyons originally from Dublin, Ireland.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. In addition to Ms. Lyons, featured performers include James Robinson from the film "Braveheart," New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel, champion harpist Rachel Clemente, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA among many more.

## PROCEEDS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which include annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow, Scotland) the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship at Summit (NJ) High School.

Proceeds also support the annual Tartan Day on Ellis Island celebration and the Society's sponsorship of the US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at Scotland's Royal National Mod, and an academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Each year, concert highlights are webcast in hi-definition over the Christmas holiday to a global audience in cooperation with HomeTowne Television. In addition to winning multiple Telly Awards for broadcast production excellence, the 2020 virtual concert was a finalist for the coveted MG Alba Trad Music Award presented annually in Scotland.

The concert is still accepting Title Sponsors as well as Program Ads. These gifts help offset production expenses and add help fund our scholarships.

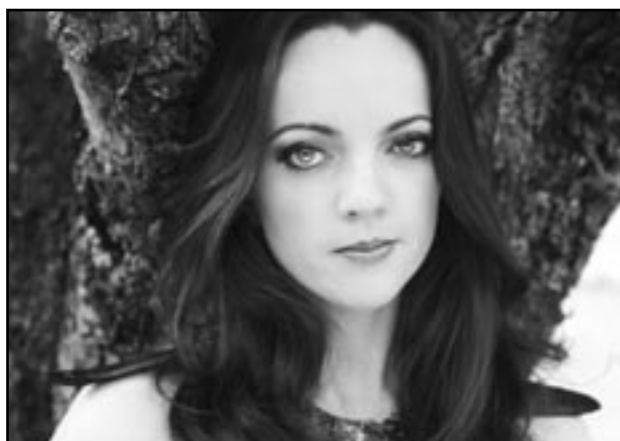
## TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through ShowTix4U at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com) (be certain you select the event name and date in the search engine). Reserved patron seats are available at both venues.

## ABOUT "THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS"

Since making its debut in 1999, The Pipes of Christmas has played to standing room only audiences. Now a cherished holiday event, the concert provides audiences with a stirring and reverent celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit. Audience-goers return year after year to experience the program, many reporting that the Pipes of Christmas has become part of their family's annual Christmas tradition.

The concert has been lavished with critical acclaim. In his review for Classical New Jersey Magazine, Paul Somers wrote, "The whole evening was constructed to introduce gem after gem and still have a finale which raised the roof. In short, it was like a well-constructed fireworks show on the Glorious Fourth. The Westfield Leader described the concert as "a unique sound of power and glory nowhere else to be found."



(above) Soprano Sharon Lyons originally from Dublin, Ireland, will make her NYC solo debut at the 2022 Pipes of Christmas concerts in NY and NJ.



(above) Pipers from the Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band are returning to the East Coast this December to join the company of the 24th annual "Pipes of Christmas" concerts.



**THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS**  
24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PRODUCTION

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SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	December 18 <sup>th</sup>
2PM & 7PM	2PM & 7PM
New York City, NY	Summit, New Jersey

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Register on Community Pass (FREE). Select Winter 2023, by Dec. 11th. Decorations must be visible from roadway (exterior decorations only). Judging will take place Dec. 12th-16th. Participants agree to have photos of their decorated homes/businesses posted on the website, social media, and in the newspapers. Registration open to all Long Hill Residents & Businesses.




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PARKS AND RECREATION

## LETTERS TO SANTA




The Long Hill Parks & Recreation Department has been authorized by Santa Claus to help gather letters to Santa from Long Hill children and deliver them to the North Pole. Starting on Nov. 27th, letters can be dropped in the special mailbox located at Town Hall near the Library entrance or can be mailed to:


**"Santa"**  
c/o Long Hill Parks & Recreation  
915 Valley Rd.  
Gillette, NJ 07933



Children can find a "Santa letter template" on our website ([www.longhillnj.gov/recreation](http://www.longhillnj.gov/recreation)) or send their own note with their return address on it so that Santa's Elves can reply. Please postmark or drop letter in special mailbox by Dec. 10th.



## ADOPT A VET FOR CHRISTMAS



Our flyer goes out this year to all the wonderful supporters who have helped the Lyons' veterans for past 5 years. We had to skip last year due to Covid. Outsiders were not allowed in the building, so we were put on hold.

However, we are excited this year to at least be able to help them in other ways.

This year's Adopt A Vet For Christmas fundraiser will be used for Christmas ... along with a full year of your support.

Your donations will be used not only to buy Christmas presents and "special food and sweets" for the other yearly holidays, but also to help stock the kitchen they use on their unit.

Many of the vets love to make their own meals (that's no surprise!), and have to contribute their own money for many of the items they need to buy.

Your donations are also used for trips to Costco, "Veteran" hats, beautiful enamel dogtags, and other military items we buy for them.

Most of these brave heroes are from the Afghan and Iraq wars. It's been especially hard for them this year, due to all that has transpired lately.

They are so appreciative of the kindness and support from all of you...who have made their stay at Lyons a bit nicer.

As you know, our volunteer list is comprised of Berkeley Heights VFW vets...and me! There are **NO** salaries, **NO** overhead, and **NO** expenses. **EVERY** dollar you donate will be used on our PTSD program at Lyons.

Please share the holidays...and your love...with our nation's heroes. They have given so much to keep us safe.

Thank you for caring about our vets!

Checks may be made to **Berkeley Heights VFW Post 6259**,  
and mailed to **JoAnn Naklicki**  
13 Brandywyne Dr. Florham Park, NJ, 07932

The Meyersville Tree Lighting Association is proud to  
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## Meyersville Tree Lighting Ceremony

*Celebrate The Holidays With Us!*

**Sunday, Dec. 4th  
5pm**

Bring your lists for Santa so he can take them to the North Pole for you!  
Please bring a tray of cookies to share.  
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- The Central School Band
- The WHRHS Choir

For more information and in case of inclement weather, please visit the township website recreation pages.  
[www.http://longhillnj.gov/recreation/index.html](http://www.longhillnj.gov/recreation/index.html)

## Santa Visits Fireworks Holiday Music



## CRAIG CLARK OF SCOTCH PLAINS CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF HIS LIFE-SAVING HEART TRANSPLANT

Craig Clark, 61, is taking time to reflect on the gift of life and the miracle of organ and tissue donation and transplantation as he recently celebrated four years since his life-saving heart transplant. With his health and strength now restored, Craig is living each day to its fullest by enjoying life's precious moments and spending time on his favorite hobbies, including home improvement projects, day trips and travel.

"Each day that I get to travel and spend time



(above) Heart transplant recipient Craig Clark of Scotch Plains recently celebrated the four-year anniversary of his life-saving transplant.

with extended family and friends or special events like our children's weddings or the birth of a grandchild, I remember that it was made possible thanks to my organ donor and the care of Susan Pardi, NP, and the amazing transplant team at NYU Langone who kept me alive through heart failure," said Craig.

Now four years post-transplant, Craig is filled with energy and spends as much time as possible with his grandchild. He is also forever mindful of his organ donor who gave him the gift of life. "The only thing that I know about my donor is that he was 51 years old when he passed," said Craig. "My donor or his family's decision to be a donor has essentially given me a new lease on life."

Craig has also made it a priority to advocate for NJ Sharing Network, the nonprofit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue in the Garden State. By sharing his story with others, Craig hopes to encourage more people to register as organ and tissue donors. "One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and enhance the lives of over 75 others," said Craig.

At the age of 17, Craig enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He earned bachelor's degrees in Criminal Justice and Art History from Seton Hall University before returning to active military duty as an Artillery Officer. At that time, doctors detected that Craig had a heart murmur, and he was soon diagnosed with cardiomyopathy. Despite his critical health challenges, Craig and

his wife, Anna, raised their three children, Adam, Rachel and Nathan, and he enjoyed a successful career in transportation and supply chain management.

As years passed, Craig's heart disease grew progressively worse. He suffered a stroke and his heart stopped beating twice in a two-week period. Craig had a defibrillator implanted, but he was later diagnosed with congestive heart failure (CHF) in 2017. He was added to the heart transplant waiting list. On August 25, 2018, while admitted at NYU Langone, Craig's prayers were answered when he received "the call" from NYU Langone cardiologist Alex Reventovich, MD that a heart was available for transplant.

"I remember answering the phone was basically the only thing that I had enough strength to do at the time," said Craig. "The next day, I had my transplant. I recovered quickly in the immediate days and weeks after transplant. I was out of the hospital in just seven days!"

Currently, there are over 100,000 Americans – nearly 4,000 of whom live in New Jersey – waiting for a life-saving transplant, according to United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). However, the generosity of those in the Garden State is providing hope for the future. Organ and tissue donor registrations in the Garden State continue to increase thanks to strong community education and outreach efforts and simplified ways to register. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit [www.NJSharingNetwork.org](http://www.NJSharingNetwork.org).

Photo courtesy of NJ Sharing Network

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**Midweek Advent Vespers on Wednesdays**  
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**Christmas Eve**  
Saturday, December 24  
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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**  
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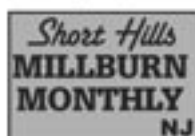
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# FLINTLOCKS SCOUTER GROUP LIVES BY THE SCOUT LAWS

The Flintlocks, BSA, Inc. are a group of retired scouters who dedicate their time and talents to building and maintaining the scout camps of the Patriot's Path Boy Scout Council in northern New Jersey.

The group includes some tradesmen, but also professionals and volunteers of every background. Most are retired, but some still work full-time, and occasionally people volunteer to help for a day here or there. It is a very friendly group with great camaraderie and a good sense of humor. When one member reached age 100, they designated a parking spot reserved for "all Flintlocks over 100 years old". Two other members are 90 years old, but they will have to wait a while before parking in that spot.

The Flintlocks met for their Fall General Meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at their workshop at Camp Winnebago in Rockaway, NJ.

They reviewed the accomplishments of the previous year and discussed future projects the Council needs to have done. Some of the future projects include installing new windows in the dining hall, building a pavilion near the trading post, collecting Toys for Tots; and making craft kits and Pinewood Derby cars for special needs children.

The Patriot's Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America encompasses 5 counties in central and northern New Jersey: Middlesex; Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Union. The Council website is ppcbsa.org. There are 11,000 scouts who use the camps in this council.

In spite of their name, the Flintlocks have nothing to do with antique firearms, although some of the old guys are considered "antiques". They meet every Thursday at Camp Winnebago, Rockaway, NJ, all year round, and guests are

always welcome. They are organized as a 501c3 nonprofit corporation. All of the members are registered with the BSA, take CPR and AED training, and are vaccinated for COVID.

More than half of the Flintlocks have been awarded the prestigious Silver Beaver Award, which is the highest National Award for a volunteer in the Scouting Program. They usually provide approximately 5,000 hours of volunteer skilled labor every year, saving the Council close to \$250,000 of labor costs.

In the past, the Flintlocks have built cabins, picnic tables, painted the dining hall, built the archery range, built all the structures at the waterfront, financed, built and equipped the STEM Lab at Allamuchy Scout Reservation, financed and built an addition to the Wink Dousa Cabin, and repaired damage to camp structures. In addition to building structures and doing repairs and maintenance, they also volunteer at many Council programs throughout the year. One popular program for Cub Scouts for which the Flintlocks volunteer is called "For the Birds". The children learn about birds and build birdhouses and bird feeders.

The Facebook Page is "Flintlocks". Guests are always welcome. For more information contact Secretary Dr. Michael Hart at [drmhart@yahoo.com](mailto:drmhart@yahoo.com).



(above) The Flintlocks BSA, Inc. members showing the signs representing the 12 points of the Scout Law. They tease one member for always being seen with a coffee cup in his hand, so they made him a sign reading "coffee". These signs will be posted at the Allamuchy Scout Reservation in Byram, NJ, located near Waterloo Village.

Courtesy photo

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