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KEY CLUB MEMBERS TAKE ON HOLIDAY HUNGER

Thousands of Morris County families rely on the Interfaith Food Pantry Network to help them celebrate a holiday meal. 38 million Americans are food insecure, meaning they don't know if they have enough to feed themselves and their families. Over 650,000 live right here in New Jersey.

Over the past two years the Madison High School Key Club has received the State Champion award from the Federation of Food Banks for donating the most food and funds to help our neighbors in need. Our students are passionate about raising awareness about food insecurity and can use the help of our community to make the world a better place.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

Drop off nonperishable food items either at the front entrance of the Madison High from 2:00-2:40 p.m. on Friday's now thru January 13, 2023. These items will be delivered to Interfaith Food Pantry.

*Please consider using our fundraising link
to make a tax-deductible donation to
the Community Food Bank of NJ.*

Funds will be allocated directly to our community:

<https://give.cfbnj.org/team/45405>



(above) MHS Key Club students are hosting the annual Students Change Hunger Food Drive.

Courtesy photo

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TMC SUPPORTS CANCER FOUNDATION

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At the November 3, 2022, General Meeting of the Thursday Morning Club, Barbara Kopel of the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation (ECF) spoke about the support that ECF provides New Jersey families with a child battling cancer. As part of her presentation, she showed a moving video, "A Day in the Life", which showed how one family is facing their child's cancer and how members of ECF support each family with whatever they need, such as, travel to doctor and hospital visits, groceries, and assistance with rent/mortgage.

ECF is the current two-year special state project of the NJ State Federation of Women's Clubs, of which the TMC is a member. The most recent TMC project in support of ECF is

Children/Teens Comfort Bags, which are given to children receiving cancer treatment in the hospital to make their hospital stay brighter. The bags include items such as a small pillow, lap-size soft blanket, stuffed animal, hand-held games, and small Lego sets. The drawstring comfort bags are being decorated by the children in the TMC Before and After School Child Care Program and greeting cards for ECF are being made by the TMC Madison Community House (MCH) Pre-School. If you would like to donate items to the TMC comfort bags, you will find a full list of suggested items on the TMC website: thursdaymorningclub.org or call the MCH at 973-377-0244. Items may be dropped at the MCH through December 11.



(above) TMC Members Patty Driscoll, Barbara Berger, and Eleanor Flanigan with Barbara Kopel of ECF (second from left) with one of the Comfort Bags TMC is providing to the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation.

Courtesy photo



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THE KIWANIS CLUB OF THE CHATHAMS AND MADISON

Submitted by Stephanie Cooperman

The Kiwanis Club of the Chathams and Madison sponsors three Key Clubs and supports them in their club activities throughout the year. The members of the Kiwanis Club of the Chathams participated in several Chatham Borough remunerated street cleanups during the year. Two were done in the spring along Bowers Lane and Ogden Street, and the most recent one happened in the fall at Shepard-Kollock Park, where numerous Key Club members volunteered their time and assistance. The Chatham High


School Key Club is collecting new or gently worn warm coats and jackets from the middle of October through November.

Madison High School Key Club students are once again taking part in the Change Hunger Food Drive Feeding America, of which Community Food Bank of New Jersey is a member. Through January 13th, the collecting of nonperishable food items can be dropped off at the front entrance of the school from 2:00 - 2:40 p.m. except on Fridays. Canned and dry food can also be brought to Room A1 in the school, any day of the week. ShopRite Gift cards would also be greatly appreciated; the Key Club members are able to purchase many different kinds of canned/dried food items at the store. Additionally, donations can be done online using this link:

give.cfbnj.org/team/454075.

The members of the ECLC Key Club are collecting coupons throughout the school year. These coupons are sent to military installations for the benefit of the families stationed there. ECLC Key Club Advisor Jamie Willard reported that the members assisted with a coat drive for the Morris Mission and also made "dinners in a pan" for Livingston Philanthropy which they are planning to do again. If anyone is interested in donating money toward supplies, they would be happy to purchase and package a dinner in a pan meal for families to make at home. These meals will be dropped off at various food banks to give to families. In December, the Key Club will be collecting new gloves hats and scarves for Livingston Philanthropy.

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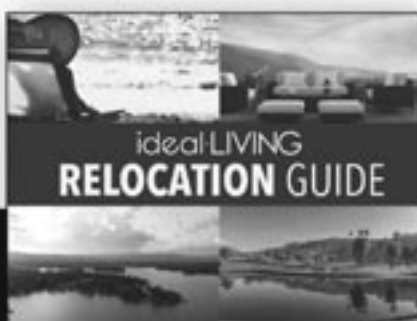
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(above) Elizabeth Hunt

FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Fairleigh Dickinson University's School of Public & Global Affairs, Feeding America and the Community Food Bank of New Jersey are sponsoring their 4th Annual Holiday Food Drive to benefit the Community FoodBank of New Jersey.

Donors can make contributions through January 4, 2023 online at cfbnj.org/holidayfooddrive.

100% of the proceeds will benefit the Community FoodBank of New Jersey.

In 2019, Fairleigh Dickinson University's School of Public & Global Affairs, Feeding America and the Community FoodBank of New Jersey (CFNNJ) partnered with local municipalities throughout New Jersey for the inaugural food drive which raised over \$11,000 and collected 1500 pounds of food. 100% of the proceeds benefited the Community FoodBank of New Jersey.

For more information, please contact cgettinger@fdu.edu or echiu@cfbnj.org.

LOCAL AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING

Submitted by Dr Barbara B Tamburro

Local author Elizabeth Hunt will be signing her newly published book, "When Life Begins and Ends: Reflections on Healing and Rising Above Loss," a collection of prose and poetry reflecting her own experiences dealing with debilitating grief and loneliness after the passing of both her parents by the age of 21, and her journey towards acceptance, healing and peace.

As a young girl, Lizzy was an avid volunteer with Halos For Angels (HFA), a Florham Park based charity that supports those who suffer a sudden tragedy, never imagining that she and her three siblings would soon become recipients of the same organization for which she volunteered. With the launch of the charity in 2010, Lizzy was among a group of children who designed the logo for Halos. She worked at the annual Fright Factor

helping as an actress/makeup artist and in various capacities at fund raising events. Upon graduation, she was the recipient of the Akhouri Foundation Scholarship presented at the annual HFA Gala.

On December 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Holy Family Church, 1 Lloyd Road, Florham Park, meet Elizabeth at her table in the auditorium during the Annual Holy Family Christmas Craft Show where she will have books for purchase. Proceeds at the signing will benefit Halos For Angels.

Her book may also be purchased on amazon at amazon.com/dp/BOB6XMWKFT. You can find Liz and her writings on Instagram at @lizunlost. Her inspirational story will warm the reader's heart. To find out more about Halos For Angels,

FOUR SATURDAYS OF CAROLING IN MADISON

For four consecutive Saturdays, between 12 and 3 p.m. there will be the sounds of Holiday Carolers on Main Street in Madison. Sponsored by the Madison Downtown Development Commission, four groups will be singing on the streets and in the stores of town.

On December 3, the Florian Schantz Brass Carolers will launch the festivities with a five-piece brass band rendition of Holiday classics. The following Saturday, Christmas Matters will bring a Victorian Christmas to town. Madison favorites, the Anthology Quartet will perform on

December 17, and on Christmas Eve the Gospel group Anointed Friends will serenade all the last-minute shoppers.

"Nothing brings life to a street like music and song," said Lisa Ellis, the Director of Business Development for the Borough of Madison. "In past years, all four of these groups have brought the spirit and joy of the Holidays to shoppers and businesses alike, and we are very happy that they could make the time to be with us. We invite everyone to come out between 12 and 3 on these Saturdays to dine, shop, and stroll."

MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY DECEMBER PROGRAMS

Andy Warhol: One Singular Sensation - online via Zoom

Tuesday, December 13 at 7 p.m.

Few American artists are as celebrated and notorious as Andy Warhol. His iconic paintings, silk screens, photography, films, and sculptures have become indelible representations of the American aesthetic, exploring the relationship between artistic expression and celebrity culture. Janet Mandel will give this fascinating presentation that will examine Warhol's life and art from his beginnings as a commercial illustrator in the 1950s, to his iconic Pop masterpieces of the early 1960s, to the avant-

garde films from the 1960s and '70s, to his innovative use of readymade abstraction in the 1980s.

You will receive Zoom instructions and online meeting information in your registration confirmation email in addition to a reminder email prior to the date of the program. Please register at madisonnjlibrary.org.

Adult Craft Club

Wednesday, December 14 at 10:30 a.m.

This program is being held in person and requires registration. Please register at madisonnjlibrary.org. Join us to make an adorable gnome friend! Supplies provided.

HOLIDAY BOOK SALE – SAT., DEC. 3

Get into the holiday spirit with a visit to the holiday book sale fundraiser from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main Street, Chatham, on Saturday, December 3. There will be a large selection of beautiful children's and adult "giftable" books with holiday themes, best sellers, DVDs, puzzles and games for all ages. You

are sure to find just the right thing for the people on your list. Masks are optional and it would be helpful if customers brought their own bags.

The sale is made possible by the Friends of the Library of the Chathams and the many generous donations from the Chatham community. Come, shop and join in the fun!

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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.



(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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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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