New Providence NEWS

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Issue 87 • December 2022

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The American Legion Set For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a ane hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combet the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the moster of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to pesterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devation to mutual helpfulness.



Thank you to our veterans and to everyone who helped, donated, and attended the Veterans Day event at our American Legion Post 433, especially our New Providence Lions and our very generous New Providence businesses. We owe every moment of our freedom to our Veterans!

Mayor Al Morgan

POSTAL PATRON NEW PROVIDENCE, NJ 07974



Photos by Linda Kale and Christine Morgan



New Providence NEWS

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AMERICAN LEGION POST 433 CELEBRATES 75 YEARS IN NEW PROVIDENCE

Post 433 on Thursday, October 13, with a designated exclusive parking spaces at Borough proclamation from Mayor Al Morgan recognizing their 75 years in New Providence. Mayor Morgan also presented two Veteran



(above) Pictured is American Legion Post 433 Commander Russ Davidson with Mayor Al Morgan Photos by Terrence Grossman

Veterans were honored at the American Legion parking signs, which will be placed at two Hall for "Veteran Parking Only". "We honor our Veterans and thank them for their service," Morgan shared.



(above) Mayor Al Morgan presented two Veteran Parking signs to the American Legion Post 433 that will be placed at two designated exclusive parking spaces at Borough Hall for "Veteran Parking Only".

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HOLIDAY BOOK SALE – SAT., DEC. 3

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 community. Come, shop and join in the fun!

Get into the holiday spirit with a visit to the 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

AMERICAN LEGION COOKIE WALK – DEC. 10

New Providence American Legion Post 433 invites all to their Annual Cookie Walk Fundraiser.

We returned last year after missing a year due to Covid. "We were so happy to see all of our regular customers along with many new faces" states Debbi Picorale (A.L.V.I.S.).

Our annual event will be held on Saturday, December 10th from 11:00 a.m. until cookies run out. Santa will be there to greet the little ones. It's a fun day and a great way to start the

holidays.

We are always looking for bakers. You can drop cookies off at the legion Hall located at the 357 Elkwood Avenue (next to the New Providence Library) of Friday, December 9th from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

We would prefer cookies on disposable foil or plastic trays with fitted lids. Lids should be clear plastic so cookies can be safely viewed by customers. We can't wait to see you all there.

Thank you for your support over the years.

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Are you feeling stressed and alone in trying to cope with the effects of a loved one's mental illness? Union County's Family Support Group is for family members and caregivers of persons with mental illness. The group is led by NAMItrained facilitators and is a peer support group

that allows participants to gain insight from others facing the same challenges.

Zoom sessions are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7 p.m. -8:30 p.m. To register, email Denise at: namiunioncounty@yahoo.com with your name, town, and phone number.



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COLLEEN HAS A RESTORED FAMILY HEIRLOOM – HER OWL

Colleen McKenna of Summit has fond memories of a particular owl artwork that hung in her home as a child. With age, the frame and support backing had become weak and frail. Colleen couldn't display it any longer. She had a gut-wrenching decision to make about the fate of the owl artwork. But like fashion, home décor trends tend to go in and out of style. Things we may have considered outdated a few years ago have made their way back into the spotlight. Well, that was the case with Colleen's owl. It was back in vogue. So, she decided to have it repaired and brought it to SAGE Restoration Workshop.

The workshop volunteers were able to reconstruct the original frame and put a new backing on it. The owl is now sturdy again. Renewed with vigor for many more years of appreciation.

"Thank you to the team at the SAGE workshop," said Colleen. She added, "It was a pleasure to work with them and I am happy to support our seniors." Today the owl, representing wisdom and knowledge, hangs again in her home.

ABOUT RESTORATION WORKSHOP

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 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 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 is one of only a few providers in the nation - and the only one in New Jersey to provide a full range of eldercare services under one roof. For 68 years, SAGE's mission has been to help older adults remain living in their own homes. Whether it is assisting with a Home Health Aide, helping with food insecurity, or offering a stimulating adult day medical program, SAGE can help. Their team provides referrals, caregiver support groups and free and confidential Medicare counseling. And as the unique challenges of older adults and caregivers evolve, educational programming is available every step of the way to keep you informed of best practices.

Learn more at www.sageeldercare.org. Follow us at @SAGEeldercare.





(above) Colleen McKenna of Summit with her family heirloom owl frame.

Courtesy photos



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SHINING STARS "CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR" – DEC. 9

Celebrate the holiday season when the Shining Stars take the stage for their 2022 "Christmas Spectacular" set for Friday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. The show will take place on the main stage at the historic Union County Arts Center in Rahway as this talented cast sings and dances to many of your holiday favorites.

With many cast members from all over Union County and beyond, Shining Stars Network has been producing live programming for the special needs community for ten years.

This year's Christmas Spectacular marks the return of the Shining Stars to one of the most beautiful theaters in New Jersey and will feature 35 special needs cast members and their volunteer buddies from local high schools, who serve as mentors to the cast during rehearsals.

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Two previous Shining Stars shows at UCPAC season." drew more than 1,000 audience members for each performance, and already, the buzz is building in the community.

"We're so excited to ring in the holiday season," noted Shining Stars Network co-founder and President Mike Curci. "Our stars are ready to share their smiles, energy and amazing talents with everyone. This will be a great way to cap off our 10th anniversary celebration."

"We strongly believe in creating an inclusive environment for our cast, and our buddies are an integral part of the Shining Stars experience," noted Shining Stars co-founder and director Sally Curci. "We are so excited to bring a new show to the stage and cannot wait to connect with our incredible audience again to celebrate the holiday



(above) The Shining Stars will take the stage for their 2022 "Christmas Spectacular" on Friday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Shining Stars Network is wrapping up a big year, which included their annual "Evening of Shining Stars" Spring Show, Summer Performing Arts Workshop, and their successful Paper Mill Playhouse debut performing in front of a sold-out audience at the Paper Mill Brook Side Cabaret.

"Shining Stars Network is not only about performing, but more importantly we're about building self-confidence and self-esteem," said Shining Stars co-director Nicole Greene. "Our cast members are not only talented, but inspire us every day, and we are all very excited about taking the stage again to share another magical night with the audience."

Tickets are on sale now at UCPAC.org. For groups of 10 email or more, shiningstarsnetwork@gmail.com.

The night will also feature a Tricky Tray and 50/50 raffle. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.

Shining Stars Network is a 501(c)3 not-forprofit organization based in Cranford, N.J. that offers opportunities in the performing arts for the special needs community.

Plans for the 2023 season include their 2nd "Reach for the Stars" Gale, set for March 14 at the elegant Park Chateau Estate & Gardens in East Brunswick.

For more information on Shining Stars Network or to make a donation, please visit shiningstarsnetwork.org.





A Live Radio Play

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17TH ANNUAL NATIONAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY WEEK

The Friends of the New Providence Memorial Library

The New Providence Memorial Library celebrated the 17th annual National Friends of the Library Week (October 16th - 22nd) during the whole month of October. Celebration activities included the 16th annual Craft Fair, the unveiling of the newly-renovated children's area dollhouse brand-new and dollhouse "homeowners" with a "Ribbon-Cutting ceremony by our mayor Al Morgan, a free music concert by the nationally-touring Hickory Tree Chorus Women's Acapella group, and a Sumi-e Group of New Jersey Art installation and Artists' Reception. Fans and ceramic tiles decorated with this technique were in the display cabinet. Other programming included Fit4Kids with Muscle Man Mike, a movie screening (American Underdog) and a Books & Bagels book club meeting!

The Friends of the New Providence Memorial Library were formally established as a non-profit organization in 1986, and have raised programming and capital funds for the library every year since then. New Providence community members contribute annually to the Friends each year through monetary donations and volunteer time.

"The library has always played such an important role in my life and in my family's life," said Friends President Sangeeta Prasad Benbow. "I am happy to be able to give something back and being an active member of this group is both rewarding and fun!" Other officers of the organization are: Beth Spiegel, Asst. President, Membership Chair and Art Curator; Alex Klapwald, Treasurer; Marissa Klapwald, Fundraising; Donna Zane, social media; Louise Wheeler, Lead Art Curator; Lynn Celler and Denise Moser, Art Curators; Helene Langezaal, At-Large Board member; and Craft Fair Chair Karen Golubieski. "Our library would be very different without the Friends," said library director Lisa Florio. "The funds they raise provide much of our programming and activities. I think most patrons would be surprised to learn how many of the services and programs they enjoy are supported by the Friends."

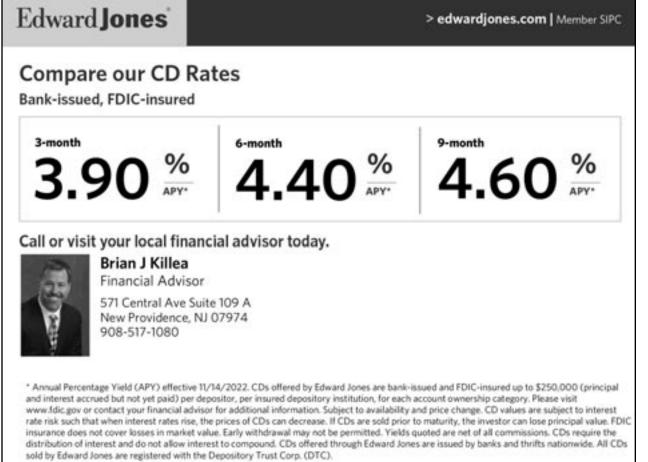
Please contact the library at 908-665-0311, or visit our website at newprovidencelibrary.org to learn more about activities, and to find out how to become a member of the Friends. We welcome new volunteers! Stop by the library to get books (of course!) and watch a movie, get a museum pass, attend a concert, or see the latest artwork. Our programming includes arts & crafts events and projects, author events, book clubs, computer language courses, and the yearly Craft Fair – all of which are supported or sponsored by the Friends!

National Friends of Libraries Week is coordinated by United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association with approximately 4,000 personal and group members representing hundreds of thousands of library supporters. United for Libraries supports those who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for libraries, and brings together library trustees, advocates, friends, and foundations into a partnership that creates a powerful force for libraries in the 21st century. For more information, visit ala.org/united.

The Friends of the New Providence Memorial Library is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to raise awareness and funds, as well as advocate for, the New Providence Memorial Library. The Friends organize free Memorial Library.

music concerts, support the library's Museum Pass program, purchase movie licenses, and fund special events and programming for all ages. The Friends curate the art spaces in the library, and we encourage area artists and crafters to inquire exhibiting about their work at npmlcurator@gmail.com. For general questions for the Friends or to inquire about joining the please email Board. us at





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Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway

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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:

- 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.



ADOPTION DAY FETES YOUTH LEAVING FOSTER CARE FOR FAMILIES

CASA of Union County

from 18 months to 18 years gathered at the Union County Courthouse surrounded by courthouse staff and judiciary, county commissioners, area organizations and more - all there to celebrate youth reaching the long-awaited end to living in foster care with adoption into a forever family. Family courts see complex issues fraught with loss or discord nearly every day, yet Adoption Day is eagerly anticipated by all, as fresh starts and ample smiles fill the courthouse.

November is National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day, celebrated the Saturday before Thanksgiving, is a national movement to raise awareness of children in foster care awaiting a family. Since its inception in 2000, more than 75,000 children have found permanency on this day. Still, more than 110,000 youth in the United States need a permanent home and the average wait is four years. More than 23,000 youth nationwide age out of the system each year and must face life on their own.

This year, Union County's celebration came

early, but no complaints; it just means children family received a ShopRite gift card made On the morning of Thursday, Nov. 10, children received permanency even sooner. After Judge Daniel Roberts performed the adoption ceremonies, the festivities began: from roving a balloon artist and CASA Volunteer Dina Gharaibeh providing face painting to a musician and more than a dozen superheroes from the Union County Sheriff's Heroes Initiative - the Batmobile even made an appearance – there was nothing but smiles to go around.

> Speakers included 17-year-old Maeve Boger-O'Bryan of Cranford and Joseph Coston of Fair Lawn. Maeve discussed her own open adoption and Joseph shared his story as an adoptive parent of eight youth from the foster system.

> CASA of Union County provided family fun baskets with donated board and card games, fleece blankets, jars of popping corn, movie candy and more from David Brearley High School's Bears that Care group, all packed into baskets donated by Cranford Girl Scout Troop 40836. The high school bear mascot also made the rounds, much to the delight of the littlest adoptees and their siblings. In addition, each

possible by a Union County Bar Association donation, as well as gifts from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Theta Phi Omega, Phi Eta Omega and Omega Psi Omega chapters.

For details on CASA of Union County and becoming an advocate for a foster youth, contact Chanel at info@casaofunioncounty.org or log on to www.casaofunioncounty.org.



(above) The Honorable Daniel Roberts, J.S. C. (Adoption Day Judge), with David Brearley High School Bears That Care





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FLINTLOCKS SCOUTER GROUP LIVES BY THE SCOUT LAWS

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

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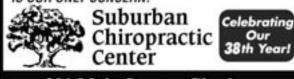
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The Flintlocks, BSA, Inc. are a group of retired Meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at their workshop at Camp Winnebago in Rockaway, NJ. They reviewed the accomplishments of the previous year and discussed future projects the Council needs to have 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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TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 24TH ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

joyous season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday music scholarship program, which include annual 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 MG Alba Trad Music Award presented annually to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

According to producer Robert Currie, "We are absolutely delighted to be bringing our concert well as Program Ads. These gifts help offset 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.

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 24th **PROCEEDS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE**

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive 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 hidefinition 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 in Scotland.

The concert is still accepting Title Sponsors as production expenses and add help fund our scholarships.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through ShowTix4U at 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 LINC PROGRAM IS WELCOMED TO NEW PROVIDENCE

LINC = Linking Initiative for Neighborhood Change

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held recently to welcome the LINC Program to New Providence. It was founded by Abigail Franco & Aidan Barth, along with high school seniors at New Providence High School.

According to LINC:

The resource pantry is located within the New Providence United Methodist Church is arguably our most impactful undertaking, yet, and it continues to grow.

The LINC Program offers food, clothes, and hygiene products to local families in need, and is run solely off of donations from local residents.

Currently we serve just under 20 families, but we will soon be supporting about 50 families soon.

We do weekly sandwich distributions, with the help of the OLP Sandwich Making Ministry, who generously donates about 100 sandwiches each week. We give them out to families with kids, along with some fresh produce or other miscellaneous goods that we receive throughout the week.

We do one full pantry distribution per month, offering about 30-40 pounds of food to each family to last them through the month, along with our collection of clothes, hygiene products, baby products, and more.



(above) LINC QR Code for how you can help.



THE MISSION OF LINC

Education

We want to spread awareness about the vast resource inequity throughout New Jersey, and how it affects a large population

SERVICE

Using our resources, time, and efforts, we are bringing action to the local problems in the community concerning resource inequity, such as the many drives and fundraisers we host, and the opening of our resource pantry.

CONNECTIVITY

We are trying to create two networks that "link" two key aspects:

PEOPLE

We bring people of all ages together, from kids to adults, promoting the message that anyone can and should get involved in their community.

We started a Community Service Club in NPHS to bring teens opportunities to volunteer constantly, and we currently have almost 100 students involved.

RESOURCES

We are creating a network of organizations throughout New Jersey, in towns and cities like South Plainfield and Newark, to support those in need with existing projects. We don't see a need to reinvent the wheel, but there is a need for more resources across the state. We run drives and fundraisers on behalf of other organizations in order to support them with resources and money.

How People Can Support LINC

All physical donations can be dropped off to our resource pantry located at the United Methodist Church at 1441 Springfield Ave, New Providence, NJ. Non-perishable items can be donated 24/7 to our large white shelf in the back parking lot of the church. Perishable donations can be dropped off on weekdays between 10am-1pm, so the secretary of the church can bring them in.

WE ACCEPT:

- All food items, as long as they are properly sealed and within their expiration dates
- Everyday hygiene products like toothpaste and deodorant, and feminine hygiene products, as long as everything is properly sealed and within the expiration dates
- Baby products, like diapers and wipes, as long as they are properly sealed
- Most clothes, as long as they are clean and have no apparent rips or tears. We do not accept used underwear.
- We accept several forms of monetary donations:
- We have a Venmo @njlinc
- We accept checks addressed to "LINC Program"
- We accept cash in envelopes labeled "LINC" or "LINC Program"
- Cash and checks can be dropped off to the church, and put in the mailslot of the church office, located to the left of the entrance in the back parking lot

OUTREACH

If you are not able to donate, please consider spreading our message. Whether this means sharing/liking our posts on social media, or telling friends and family about our efforts, anything you can do to get our name out there could mean local families are getting more of the support they need.



(above, l-r) Councilman Matt Cumiskey, Councilwoman Lisa Petrilli McKnight, Co-Dir. Project Management Tom Franklin, Co-Dir. Project Management Lynn Franklin, Mayor Al Morgan, Co-Pres. Aidan Barth, Co-Pres. Abigail "Abi" Franco, Secretary Claire Stang, Exec. Dir. Victor Franco, Councilwoman & Dir. Networking & Communications Nadine Geoffroy, and Councilwoman Diane Bilicksa Pereira



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RETIRED POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION LOCAL 3

The Retired Policemen and Firemen's Kenneth Grady (Ret) President of Local 3. Association (NJRPFA) Local 3, is comprised of members from of Union and Somerset counties. Monthly meetings are held at the Kenilworth VFW.

The NJRPFA was established in 1987 to promote and develop a friendly spirit among its members, both retired and associate members. There are over 3,000 members of the association in various county Locals in NJ, as well as Local 22 in the State of Florida. These members are retirees from State, County and Local Firefighters, Police, Sheriff, Prosecutors, and Attorney General's Office to name a few. These members reside in NJ, NY, PA, FL, VA, SC and many other states.

If you live in Union County or Somerset County, please consider joining our Local 3 to keep abreast of major issues which may impact on your retirement benefits and issues that may be of value to you. Our yearly dues are \$10. For more information visit: njrpfa.org/local3/

During our careers as police and firemen, we never ignored a call for help from the public, we were always there and always ready, and now, that we are retired, we ask that we be--- not forgotten. We have over 300 members here in Union and Somerset Counties and we keep that comradery, and spirit of friendship by supporting our retired members, their families, and the community when they need help.

A recent guest speaker at our monthly meeting was Special Agent in Charge of the NYC DEA office, Frank Tarentino. Agent Tarentino spoke to our membership along with officials from Kenilworth's Harding School. The topic of the presentation was Fentanyl Awareness and the dangers of this drug coming into our country.

Local 3 also presented a check to the Union County Police Chiefs Association. It will go towards the new construction of the "Fallen Officers Memorial" which is located in front the Police Academy in Scotch Plains. Scotch Plains Chief Ted Conley accepted the Check from Chief



(above) Retired Police Chief Kenneth Grady, President of the Retired Policemen and Firemen's Association Local 3 of Union County presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Scotch Plains Chief Ted Conley. The donation is to go towards the new construction of the "Fallen Officers Memorial" which is under construction in front of the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains.

Local 3 also participated in the National Red Ribbon week with Harding School officials. Harding School Counselor Kristen Jeans

obtained the red ribbons which were handed out at the meeting. National Red Ribbon Week is in tribute to slain DEA Agent Enrique Camarena who was killed in 1985 in Mexico.



(above) Active and retired members of Local 3 participating in National Red Ribbon Week. National Red Ribbon Week is in tribute to slain DEA Agent Enrique Camarena who was killed in 1985 in Mexico.



(above) Members of the Union County Prosecutor's Office with retired Police Chief Kenneth Grady and Special Agent in Charge of the NYC DEA Office Frank Tarentino. Special Agent Tarentino addressed the members of Local 3 on the dangers of fentanyl. Members of Harding School were also invited. The meeting was in support of National Red Ribbon Week in tribute to slain DEA Agent Enrique Camarena. Red Ribbons were handed out to the membership.



DECEMBER EVENTS AT NEW PROVIDENCE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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Tel: 908-665-0311 • Visit us at www.newprovidencelibrary.org • Follow on social media @newprovlibrary Email: rsvp@newprovidencelibrary.org • npmlchildrens@gmail.com • NPMLTeens@gmail.com

December - All Month - English as a Second Language Registration (Adults)

LiteracyNJ teaches an English as a Second Language class at the New Providence Library on Monday mornings. To sign up for ESL, go to: https://literacynj.org/union-studentapplication or contact Anita Alvarado at (908) 486-1777 ext. 402 or email: aalvarado@literacynj.org.

December - Open Gift Wrapping (All Ages) Dec 1-22: Sun 1-3PM, Tues 2-4PM, Weds

12-4PM, Thurs 12-4PM, Fri 12-2PM. Drop by the library to wrap your gifts this holiday season. We'll have donated gift wrapping supplies out for public use in the Conti Room throughout the month.

Crochet Starter Class (Adults) December 1 @ 6 PM - 8 PM

Carolyn Hanson, an instructor from the Adult School and the Blue Purl, will teach an introduction to crochet with a focus on foundation chain and single crochet. Space is limited and registration is required. To register, email RSVP@newprovidencelibrary.org.

Penguin Pointers! (Kids)

December 3 @ 12:00 (second show @ 12:30) A real African penguin from Jenkinson's Aquarium at Point Pleasant Beach will be at the library. Email NPMLChildrens@gmail.com to RSVP and reserve your tickets.

Crafterday

December 3, 17 @10 AM - 4 PM While supplies last!. Math Club (Teens)

December 4, 11, 18 @ 3:15-4:15PM Join the NP Math Club and hone your problemsolving skills while meeting with other math enthusiasts. Run by NP Teens, open to students in 6-12th grades. Email

NPMLTeens@gmail.com to register.

Knit/Crochet Night (Adults)

December 5 @ 7 PM - 8:30 PM Drop by the Conti Room with a crochet or knitting project, and chat with the group! No registration required. To sign up for an email reminder, please call the library or email rsvp@newprovidencelibrary.org.

NP Chess Club Mondays (Kids, Teens & Adults) Dec 5, 12, 19 @ 5:30-7:30PM

Learn to play chess from the NP Chess Club! In the Conti Room. Open to kids, teens and adults. Children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Register at least 1 day in advance

online at npchessclub.org. **Drop-In Play Tuesdays (Kids)**

Dec 6, 13, 20, 27 @ 11:15 AM - 8:15 PM Bring the kids to drop in and play in the Coddington room after storytime. Featuring 2-3 toys each week, including the newly refurbished dollhouse, the train table and the puppet theater!

> **Books & Bagels (Adults)** December 6 @ 10:30 AM - 12 PM

Join us for bagels & a book group with no assigned reading! To sign up for email

reminders, call the library or email RSVP@newprovidencelibrary.org.

Cookbook Club (Adults) December 6 @ 1 PM - 2 PM

Choose a recipe or cookbook from a list of suggested cookbooks to talk about with the group, or bring in one of your own recipes or cookbooks! This month's theme is cookies and holiday appetizers. To join, stop by the

> reference desk or email RSVP@newprovidencelibrary.org. **Book Group (Adults)**

December 8 @ 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM The book group will discuss "The Little Book of Hygge: Danish Secrets to Happy Living" by Meik Wiking. To join the book group, email rsvp@newprovidencelibrary.org or stop by the

reference desk. **Gift Wrapping & Holiday Movie Hangout** (Teens)

December 9 @ 2:45-4:45 PM Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to bring gifts to wrap at the library while watching holiday movies and listening to holiday music. Join us for this casual, fun hang-out event in the

library's Conti room!

Winter Gnome Craft (Adults) December 10 @ 10:30 AM

Join Leslie Corey to make a cute winter gnome to decorate your home for the holidays in this craft for adults. Registration is required. Email RSVP@newprovidencelibrary.org to register, or call (908) 665-0311 x.4.

Gingerbread Cookie Decorating (Children) December 10 @ 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

"Run, run, as fast as you can" and drop into the Coddington Room to decorate gingerbread cookies.

Holiday Concert by The Cover Girls (All Ages) December 11 @ 3 PM

Kathy and Mary of The Cover Girls, an all girl rock band from NJ, bring an innovative and refreshing flash from the past in this holidaythemed concert.

Batter Up - Let's Talk Baseball (All Ages) December 12 @ 7 PM- 9 PM

You're invited to discuss teams, players and issues of the sport with other baseball enthusiasts. To join the group, stop by the reference desk or email the library at rsvp@newprovidencelibrary.org.

Monthly Movie (Adults)

December 13 @ 1 PM - 3:40 PM "House of Gucci" will be screened in the Conti Family Room.

Knit/Crochet Night (Adults) December 15 @ 7 PM - 8:30 PM

Drop by the Conti Room with a crochet or knitting project, and chat with the group! No registration required. To sign up for an email reminder, please call the library or email

rsvp@newprovidencelibrary.org. Macrame Candle Holder Craft (4-12th graders) December 17 @ PM

Come to the library to create a beautiful

macrame candle holder mat for the holidays. Registration is required. Email NPMLTeens@gmail.com by Dec 10 to register. Please include your name and current grade in

your email. **Book Group (Adults)**

December 20 @ 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM The book group will discuss the heartwarming tale "The Christmas Escape" by Sarah Morgan. To join the book group, stop by the reference desk or email

> RSVP@newprovidencelibrary.org. **Author Storytime**

December 27 @10:30 AM - 11:00 AM "Anna, Elsa and the Enchanting Holiday" Local author Meredith Rusu will read from her

new Disney Frozen holiday book. Read to A Dog (1st - 4th graders)

December 27 @ 6:45 PM - 8:00 PM

Are you a new or developing reader? Practice your skills by reading to a therapy dog. To register for your 15- minute slot, please email NPMLChildrens@gmail.com Register early!

Holiday Movies (all ages)

December 28 @1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Enjoy Disney's Frozen and another shorter film

in the Conti Room. Holiday CRAFT (Children)

December 29 @ 11:00-12:00 PM and 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

Stop by the Coddington Room to create some noise for the New Year!

"Hello Bookstore" Documentary (Adults)

December 29 @ 2 PM-3:30 PM In the shadow of the pandemic, a small town rallies to protect a beloved local bookstore. This unrated documentary film will be in the

Conti Room.

KIDS STORYTIME AT THE LIBRARY: **Storytime with Miss Cathy**

Tuesdays @ 10:30 AM (preschool - K) Featuring stories, interactive rhymes and movement!

Bedtime Stories with Miss Debbie

Tuesday Evening @ 7:00 PM (All Ages) Subscribe to the Library's YouTube for this program. Questions? Email NPMLChildrens@gmail.com

Mother Goose Group with Miss Debbie

Wednesdays @ 10:30 AM (babies-preschool) An active storytime with songs, fingerplays, dancing and fun for babies to preschool - Older

kids are always welcome! **Storytime with Miss Anita**

Thursdays @ 10:30 AM (0 - 3 yr olds) Bring your babies and toddlers for stories, rhymes and socialization.

******Our storytime programs will take a holiday break from December 20th - January 12th. Our last storytime of 2022 will be Thursday, December 15th and the first one of 2023 will be Tuesday, January 17th.

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UNION COUNTY DAY OF PRAYER

On Thursday, October 27, over 130 people developmental disabilities and youth at risk to attended the Union County Day of Prayer organized by Community Access Unlimited (CAU) and the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council (UCICC).

It was the 8th annual "Day of Prayer" event, hosted by Temple Emanu-El in Westfield. The event featured a variety of inspirational speakers and performers from Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Sikh, and Buddhist faiths. The service included a chant from the International Society for Krishna Consciousness of Central New Jersey and musical offerings from Shimon Smith, Cantorial Soloist/Artist in Residence at Temple Emanu-El, who shared Hebrew songs with attendees.

CAU spearheaded UCICC in 2012 to build bonds in the interfaith community and encourage the respect and welcoming of others regardless of faith, sexual orientation, legal status, or ability. CAU is based in Union County and works statewide to assist people with

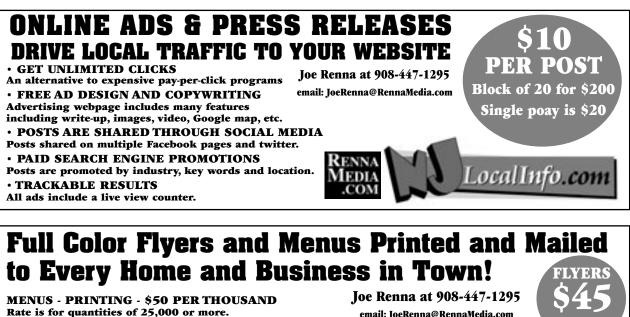
integrate into the community through support services and support coordination. CAU education, services include housing, employment services, behavioral management, advocacy and more.

Rev. LL DuBreuil, who has been a part of UCICC since the first Day of Prayer, said "I was looking for this kind of community because I believe that when we all come together in celebration...then we're already ready to be together in difficult times. UCICC does not only have these worship experiences, but we sometimes do vigils and marches and we raise money for causes. And it's because we know each other from this that we can more easily work together when times are more difficult." DuBreuil is the Interim Pastor of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, Scotch Plains.

Joyce Cargle, a longtime CAU member, said of the event, "We learned inclusion and we learned about community today."



(above) The Union County Day of Prayer was held on Thursday, October 27, with over 130 people in attendance.



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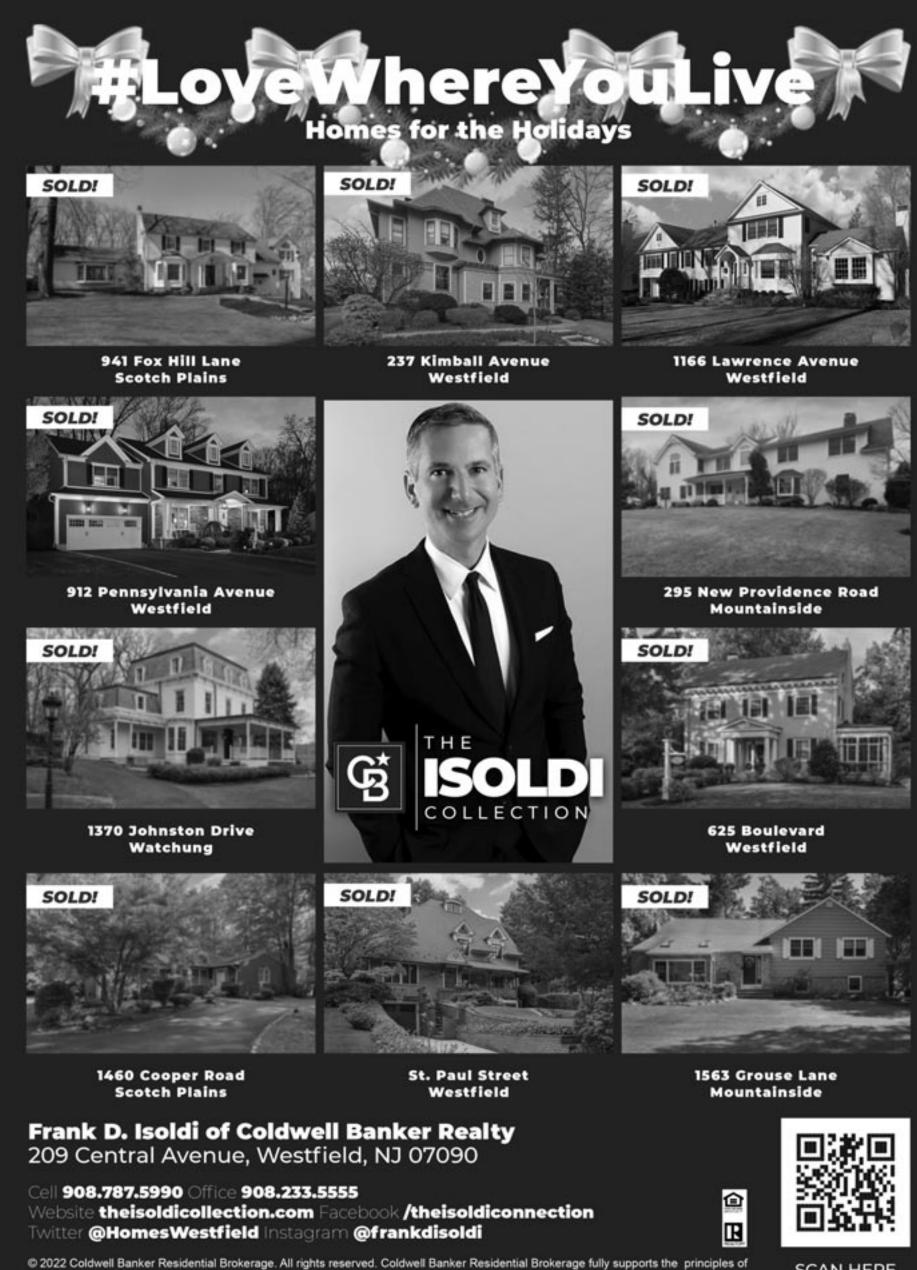
DO KNOW ABOUT NJ 211?

The 211 system is found throughout the United States and is devoted to connecting people in need to the resources that can help. While each 211 operates independently, all of the more than 200 organizations provide a network of local support that people can call on with confidence when they need help and simply don't know where to turn. In New Jersey, our motto has been: Need Help? Start Here.

NJ 211 provides live assistance 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Our services are free, confidential and multilingual. There are several ways to reach us: By phone (simply dial 2-1-1); via text (send your zip code to 898-211); email (info@nj211.org); or chat on-line: nj211.org/contact-us. Whichever method you choose, you will be communicating with a community resource specialist who has been educated about federal, state and local systems created to help people who are struggling.

NJ 211 also serves as the State Homeless Hotline and New Jersey's Utility Assistance Hotline.

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