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SENIOR CENTER OF THE CHATHAMS



(above) Senior Center of the Chathams, employees, volunteers, and sponsors of the event.

For 34 years, the mission of the non-profit Senior Center of the Chathams has been to protect the independence and dignity of a growing, aging population by providing a wide array of programs and services that educate, empower, and connect participants to one another. The Center enables older adults to age in place and to remain active, engaged, and contributing members of their communities while increasing their access to programs and services in the areas of wellness and fitness; enrichment; support and connection; and information and referral. All of this helps to improve their physical and emotional well-being.

The Senior Center of the Chathams is committed to offering its programs and services to a wide range of people and draws members from six counties and 70 towns, including Chatham, Madison, Berkeley Heights, New

Providence, Florham Park, and Summit to name a few.

All are welcome at the Senior Center of the Chathams. There is no membership fee to join. Many programs are offered free of charge, while others involve only a minimal fee thanks to individual donations, fundraising events, and grants. The Center is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information about the Senior Center of the Chathams, call 973-635-4565 or visit chathamseniorcenter.org.

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS

The Senior Center of the Chathams hosted Holiday Parties on two days - December 2 and December 9. Lunch was served, including deserts and mocktails – eggnog and holiday punch. A Holiday Concert was performed by entertainer Bob Marino who is known for 'singing Italian and more'.

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



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DRY JANUARY

Submitted by Municipal Alliance Committee of the Chathams and Westfield Municipal Alliance

Alcohol has become more of a problem in our • You'll feel better in the morning. society since the COVID-19 pandemic. According to research from Massachusetts General Hospital, drinking to excess and binge people can be successful. Here are some tips for drinking increased by 21% in the U.S. during the pandemic. The CDC defines drinking in moderation by limiting intake to 2 drinks or less in a day for men or 1 drink or less in a day for women. Heavier drinking and long-term drinking can increase physical and mental problems. The concept of Dry January, wishing to cut down on your alcohol intake, or simply wanting to begin the new year with a clean slate by choosing not to drink beer, wine, or spirits for one month, appeals to someone who may have noticed a pattern that they're drinking a little bit more than they should, especially during the holidays.

THERE ARE SEVERAL BENEFITS **TO DRY JANUARY:**

- You'll get a mood boost.
- You'll sleep more soundly.
- You might feel less bloated or even drop a few pounds.
- You'll save money.
- Your skin might look brighter.
- You'll have a stronger immune system.

- You'll have a new relationship with alcohol.

A month may seem like a long time, but most a successful Dry January:

Find a substitute non-alcoholic drink. For social situations, or when you crave a cocktail after a long day, reach for alcohol-free beverages like sparkling water, soda, or virgin beverages (non-alcoholic versions of alcoholic drinks.)

Non-alcoholic beer or wine also is an option, but some brands still contain up to 0.5% alcohol by volume, so check the label.

Avoid temptations. Keep alcohol out of your house. When you are invited to someone's home, bring your non-alcoholic drinks with you.

Create a support group. Let friends and family know about your intentions and encourage them to keep you accountable. Better yet, enlist someone to do the challenge with you.

Use the Try Dry app. This free app helps you track your drinking, set personal goals, and offers motivational information like calories and money saved from not drinking. It's aimed at cutting back on or cutting out alcohol, depending on your choices.

Don't give up. If you slip up, don't feel guilty. Just begin again the next day.



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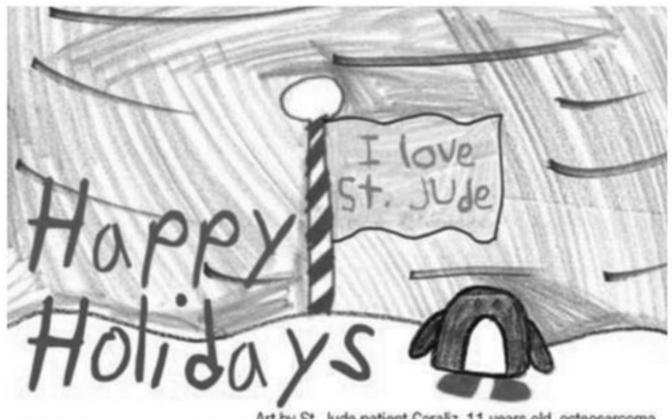
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ROSEMARY HOWLETT, LOSS TO THE CHATHAM ART WORLD

The Art League of the Chathams lost a valuable leader. Rosemary Howlett was the backbone of the Art League of the Chathams.

She was the courageous person who was at the helm to merge both Chathams, the Township and Borough's talented artist communities to become "The Art League of the Chathams".

She was a watercolorist and her interest in that medium drew her to join the Art League. A



(above) Artist Rosemary Howlett is remembered by the Art League of the

longtime fascination with Asian art led her to his or her own art exhibit without additional cost study Chinese brush painting in China. Rosemary was a former member of Essex Watercolor and the Pen and Brush Society in NYC. In 2004, one of her Chinese brush paintings won the Salmagundi Club Award.

Serving more than six years (2007-2009; 2013-2016) as its President, she took pride in the Fondaco and Frank McDonough. They League's accomplishments during that period. Aside from merging the two Chathams, she instituted the Arts Scholarship, an annual award given to a Chatham High School senior who is continuing to pursue art after graduation. The Art League scholarship will be known as "The graduated from Wayne State University in Rosemary Howlett Scholarship".

During her tenure as President, the League strengthened its financial position. The organization celebrated its 20th and 25th anniversaries during that time period, holding events that were both fun and financially successful. She included utilizing the hallway in the rear of the Township Municipal Building for solo art shows as the "Lundt-Glover" Gallery expanded. To this day, a member artist can have Chatham Township Hall.

to them.

In 2010, the Chatham Township Mayor Nicole Hagner requested a mural be painted at one of the entrances of the Township Municipal building. A committee was formed and four artists stepped forward. Rosemary Howlett, Ed Schuh, Celeste succeeded in having all walls of the entrance muraled. Over 500 hours of work was spent on the painting. Later on that year, the ALC was awarded the Morris County Arts Award.

She was born in Mt Clemens, MI and Detroit. She met her husband, John, when they both worked at AT&T in Southfield, MI. They have a son, J.P., and daughter, Amy, married to John Enright and two grandsons, Raven (12) and Ryan (9).

For the Howletts, participation in the Art League has been a family affair. Her husband John served as treasurer for many years, and both continued helping to organize the exhibits at

EMERGENCY SQUAD'S "SNOW VILLAGE"

It's the most wonderful time of the year - the Chatham Emergency Squad proudly presents the 18th annual Winter Wonderland / "Snow Village" at its Chatham Borough building, located at 31 North Passaic Avenue.

The Winter Wonderland / Snow Village will be open from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Friday, December 23rd, and Tuesday, December 27th.

The impressive display features more than 100 Department 56 model houses, cars and figurines with a working ski lift, ice skating rink and more, set amidst the backdrop of a snow-filled winter wonderland and a model train. All are invited to see the exhibit and find hidden treasures among the exhibition during the numerous open houses held at the Squad building.

The Chatham Emergency Squad is an allvolunteer organization funded almost exclusively by donations. The Squad never charges for its services. They have responded to nearly 1,100 emergency calls so far in 2021 and have continued to provide free training in CPR to teachers, coaches and emergency personnel despite COVID restrictions on class size. To learn more, to donate or to volunteer, please visit chathamemergencysquad.org.



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COUNTY SEEKING NOMINEES FOR 2023 "SEEDS OF CHANGE" AWARD

The Morris County Advisory Committee on Women is now accepting nominations for its "Seeds of Change Award," which will be presented in 2023 to a woman who has worked to improve the community, and who has been a leader and inspiration to other women in the county.

Nominations may be submitted through Jan. 6, 2023. The Morris County Advisory Committee on Women is asking that all nominations be submitted online: Visit www.morriscountynj.gov - Morris County 2023 Seeds of Change Award Nomination Page

For info, please contact Pam Bennett-Santoro at jpmp010@aol.com no later than January 6, 2023. The person selected to receive the honor will be contacted after the deadline and asked to attend the Seeds of Change Award Ceremony at a meeting of the Morris County Board of County Commissioners meeting.

The "Seeds of Change Award" was inspired by the late State Sen. Leanna Brown, who passed in 2016, and her longtime friend and colleague, the late Morris County Freeholder Patricia Maynard, who died a few months later in 2017. The honor is intended to highlight and celebrate women who build up other women, and that includes those who work at the grassroot levels in the community.

The award was first issued in April 2018 and has been bestowed only two other times since because of an interruption in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is preferred, but not required, that the recipient be linked with a cause of current interest to the Advisory Committee on Women. Current areas of interest include housing and homelessness, human trafficking, incarcerated women, women in the military, female veterans, and other areas that impact women.

Ms. Brown served on the Chatham Borough Council from 1969 to 1972. She was the first woman elected to the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders (now the Board of County Commissioners), becoming the Director in 1976. In 1978, she was named president of the New Jersey Association of Counties.

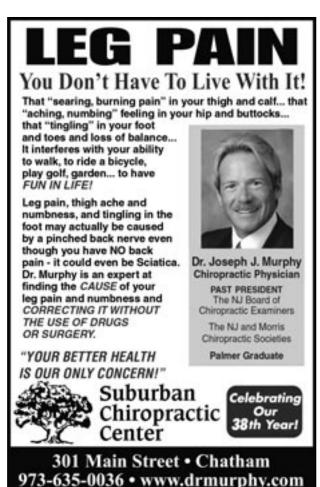
Ms. Maynard was passionate about public service and helped to maintain and improve the cultural and educational opportunities and the quality of life in her many roles in Morris County. Her activities included the Morris County 9 Memorial Committee, Morris County Library Foundation and as trustee at the Morris Museum, Ralston Cider Mill, the County College of Morris Foundation and N.J. U.S. Olympic Committee.

Prior "Seeds of Change Award" winners include: 2018 - Lila Bernstein of Mendham Township; 2019 - Phyllis Chanda of Flanders; and 2022 - Mary Ledyard of Rockaway Borough.









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MOM AND HER DAUGHTER RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

New Jersey Sharing Network

Jane Fischer and her daughter, Suzy, understand what it takes to overcome some of life's greatest challenges. As they celebrated Suzy's 48th birthday on July 18, they both took time to reflect on the gift of life and the miracle of organ and tissue donation.

On the day Suzy was born, doctors told Jane and her husband, Al, that their daughter would never be able to talk or walk or play like other children. While Suzy's special needs were great, Jane and Al kept hope alive that they would be able to persevere on the difficult journey ahead.

"Suzy proved them all wrong," said Jane. "Over the years, she has kept defying all the odds through her tenacity, courage, and strength. She surprised some of the best pediatricians and neurologists in our area by constantly working hard to develop and learn to do all the things they said she could never do."

While Suzy's life seemed to be filled with endless obstacles, she began to develop critical health issues shortly after turning 24 years old. Her kidneys began to fail, and she was soon placed on dialysis.

"It seemed like there were complications in nearly every one of her dialysis sessions," said Jane. "It took its emotional toll on Suzy and all of us, but she always did her best to keep her smile and the staff at the dialysis center loved her."

In December 2000, the Fischer family was in an airport in Jacksonville, Florida, when Jane's pager kept beeping and buzzing. "At the time, I mistakenly thought it was due to air traffic signals creating interference," said Jane. "But when we

(above, l-r) Jane and Suzy Fischer.

Photo courtesy of NJ Sharing Network

received an urgent phone call from our transplant coordinator at Saint Barnabas (Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center). They had a donated kidney for Suzy!"

Suzy received a successful kidney transplant, and the family is forever grateful to the 64-yearold woman who gave the gift of life. For 13 years, Suzy's transplanted kidney restored her health and she continued to fight through other serious health issues, including thyroid cancer that forced her to undergo a thyroidectomy.

In 2013, Suzy's transplanted kidney began to fail, and she faced another uphill struggle as dialysis loomed as the only treatment option. However, Suzy received encouraging news when another donated kidney became available for transplant. This time, her donor hero was a 24year-old man who passed away in a tragic motorcycle accident.

"Suzy definitely had a lot of survivor's guilt," said Jane. "It helped ease her pain when I explained to her that the young man would have wanted his kidney to go to her to keep his memory alive."

Today, Suzy continues to thrive and enjoy life's most precious moments thanks to her organ donor heroes. Suzy and Jane have made it a priority to support NJ Sharing Network, the nonprofit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and

arrived home in New Jersey after our flight, we tissue in the Garden State. By sharing their story with others, Suzy and Jane hope to encourage more people to register as organ and tissue donors.

> "The most important thing is to get others to understand the need for organ and tissue donation and how it saves and enhances the lives of others," said Jane. "We also want to keep hope alive for those waiting for a life-saving transplant. We want to encourage them to never give up. I do not know why Suzy's life has been so hard, but I have always believed it has been to help others and make a difference in someone else's life."

> According to United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), there are over 100,000 Americans – nearly 4,000 of whom live in New Jersey – waiting for a life-saving transplant. One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and enhance the lives of over 75 others.

> "We forever honor our donor heroes, as well as their supportive families, for their selfless decision to save and enhance the lives of others. Because of them, Suzy and all transplant recipients now have more birthdays, holidays, and special moments to share with their loved ones," said Joseph S. Roth, President and CEO of NJ Sharing Network.

> To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit

NJSharingNetwork.org.



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KEY CLUB ACTIVITIES

The Kiwanis Club of The Chathams and Madison

On Friday, November 25, 2022, accompanied by several members from the Kiwanis Club Of The Chathams and Madison, many members from the Madison High School Key Club participated in the annual Christmas Parade in Madison center. The Parade began at 6:30 p.m. and lasted for about an hour, with the tree lighting taking place when the parade ended. Celebrants dressed in holiday outfits featuring red and green hats, scarves, red mittens, jingle bells, garlands, and battery-operated lights.

The Chatham High School Key Club is selling Chatham Cougars ornaments. All proceeds will be used to fund the annual Outreach Meal-Packing Event scheduled for Spring, 2023. The ornaments come individually boxed with a gift tag that lets the recipient know that their gift funded seventeen meals for the hungry in the Chatham/Madison area.



(above) The Madison High School Key Club along with members of the Kiwanis Club Of The Chathams and Madison joined in the fun at the annual Christmas Parade in Madison.

THRIFT SHOP PREPARED FOR JANUARY SALES

The Madison Independent Thrift Shop invites shoppers to stop in during the month of January. Christmas items and anything red will be on sale at 50% off the regular tagged prices.

The Thrift Shop is happy to announce they will be donating \$45,000 in 2023 to local charities.

The Thrift Shop, located at 39 Kings Road, is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. -

3:00 p.m. It is a non-profit group operated by volunteers, with all proceeds received from sales distributed annually to charitable groups in Madison and surrounding communities. It is looking for Community minded volunteers to help staff the store. Anyone wanting further information or may be interested in becoming a volunteer is encouraged to drop by the shop or call 973-377-2450 during business hours.

APPLY FOR JEAN HUDSON GANO AWARD

The Junior League of Summit (JLS) is now accepting nominations for its Jean Hudson Gano Award program for 2023. This award recognizes special volunteer achievement by either an individual or a nonprofit organization. It is given in memory of and in tribute to Jean Hudson Gano, a JLS member who died of breast cancer in May of 1997. Jean's exemplary and extraordinary commitment to voluntarism, community service, and particularly to issues regarding women and children, was an inspiration to all those who were touched by her efforts.

Nominees from the communities of Berkeley Heights, Chatham, New Providence, and Summit are eligible for the award. Individual nominees should be of high school age or above whose dedication and excellence in leadership has served their community through their volunteer efforts, either within the preceding year or as a long-term, on-going commitment. Organizations nominated should be those that benefit women

and/or children within the past year and must supply verification of 501c3 status.

The award recipient will be honored at a future event, and the recipient's name will be displayed on a plaque at the JLS Thrift Shop. Recipients will receive a \$500 monetary award made possible by a generous gift given by Jean's father, Mr. William Hudson.

For more information, and to access the application, please visit jlsummit.org. Applications are due by February 28, 2023.

The Junior League of Summit, Inc. is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. For more information about the Junior League of Summit or to inquire about becoming a member, please visit the website at jlsummit.org or contact the office at 908-273-7349.

Those interested in donating to the League, please visit ilsummit.org/?nd=donate summary.







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OVER \$34,000 IN GRANTS AWARDED TO CHATHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Chatham Education Foundation, the leading provider of private funding to the School District of the Chathams, announced that it has distributed over \$34,000 in grants to fund six innovative and creative educational programs and special projects throughout the School District of the Chathams during the first grant application cycle of the 2022-2023 academic school year.

"The Chatham Education Foundation is pleased to have awarded these grants this Fall, which finance innovative and creative programs that would otherwise have been left unfunded and unrealized," said Suzanne David, Chair of the Grants Committee of the Chatham Education Foundation. "We look forward to evaluating and funding further grants through the school year for the benefit of our educational community."

Laura Bojanowski, President of Chatham Education Foundation, said "Thanks to the direct support and generosity of hundreds of area residents and local businesses, we are able to continue to support Chatham's great teachers, principals, and district administrators."

GRANTS AWARDED DURING THE FALL 2022 GRANT CYCLE CHATHAM HIGH SCHOOL:

Musical Exploration of Fauré's Requiem submitted by Ken Bryson and Liam Keller

This grant allows an all-encompassing study of Gabriel Fauré's Requiem in d minor, Opus 48. The Chatham High School Chamber Choir, Chatham Voices, and Chamber Orchestra will come together in study, rehearsal, and performance of the Requiem, one of Fauré's most iconic pieces. Not currently in the public domain, Mr. Bryson found and arranger and music engraver to create a version for the students. In addition, the students will benefit from a music workshop about the requiem hosted by Jose Luis Dominguez, assistant conductor of the New Jersey Symphony.

"By exposing our students to such historical pieces of musical literature we are able to significantly enrich their learning and give them a better understanding of the historical and cultural significance of the music and how it influenced the music they are performing and listening to today," wrote Mr. Bryson in his grant application.

Engineering Happiness

submitted by Erin Scheibling, Kait Sleight, Danielle Dagounis, Steve Maher

A new elective, Engineering Happiness, has been offered at Chatham High School during the 2022-2023 school year. The course has been

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designed to address student well-being and teach the science/psychology behind happiness. The grant supports designing a classroom that encourages student wellness by offering a space conducive to open dialog and shared experience. In addition to furniture, the investment includes wellness tools such as positivity posters, selfcare reflection cards, DNA Lab slow rise balls, and Crayola globbles.

"The learning environment plays an integral role in how engaged and comfortable students feel in a classroom," Ms. Scheibling writes. "Since this course, because of its unique topic, requires students to engage in ways different than those of a traditional classroom, the classroom should be one that is conducive to the type of learning that will take place."

CHATHAM HIGH, CHATHAM MIDDLE ANDLafayette Avenue Schools:

2023 District Choral Festival

submitted by Amber Griffin

After its highly successful premiere last year, the CEF is proud to again underwrite this district-wide festival fostering a community of choral excellence, the creation and continuation of the relationships within and between the choral departments at each school, and the opportunity to work with renowned guest choral clinicians to help students learn music through a diverse lens.

This year Ms. Moira Smiley, a renowned choral composer and clinician, will work with the students on some of her own musical compositions. Students will work on text expression, musical history, and vocal technique, both as individual schools and as a whole unit. In addition to working together musically, the festival will incorporate socialemotional learning through various musical and non-musical team building activities that will strengthen the choral community between the three schools. This year the festival will end with a pyramid concert that will showcase each school and end with a performance of a piece by all participating students.

Ms. Griffin writes, "Last year, our first Choral Festival exhibited first-hand how this event improved student communication, collaboration, and musicianship. CHS students paved the way for CMS students who then became role models for Lafayette students."

CHATHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Creating Collaborative & Engaging World Language Classrooms

submitted by Danielle Dagounis, Renée Marshall, Julie Friedman, and Jessica Weston

The ideal world environment should be designed to immerse students in the target language and cultures, along with providing authentic, real-world experiences for the 21st century learner. The purpose of this grant is to establish collaborative and engaging learning world language spaces for Chatham Middle School students, by transforming traditional classroom setups into collaborative spaces with dry-erase surfaces and comfortable reading environments. This will allow students to

completely immerse themselves in the target language as they explore various authentic resources. Ms. Dagounis explains in the application, "Benefits of dry / erase surfaces in a world language classroom include encouraging peer collaboration in the target language in producing culture lists, completing complex grammar exercises, and brainstorming ideas reading comprehension Additionally, interactive surfaces allow for every student to share their voice with their peers and the teacher by writing responses to pulls, thinkpair-share activities, etc."

MILTON AVENUE, SOUTHERN BOULEVARD AND WASHINGTON AVENUE SCHOOLS:

Fundations Geodes Readable Books

submitted by Heather Rocco and Lisa Kressler.

Research has shown that students learn more efficiently when they are using targeted practice, specifically reading texts that match what they have learned during word study lessons. When students have access to decodable books, they are more likely to try "tapping" out words using the letter sounds they have learned. Decodable words refer to words that contain phonetic elements and high frequency words that have been taught in the standard Fundations word study block. The Geodes library will enable the district's kindergarten students to practice what they are learning during word study and allow them the fluency and comprehension skills necessary to become strong readers.

Ms. Rocco believes that this investment in innovative color and grayscale book investment "will greatly increase students' reading achievement" at the primary grade levels.

WASHINGTON AVENUE SCHOOL: Building Fact Fluency

submitted by Nancy Volker

This pilot program is designed to help teachers assist their elementary students in building their math fact fluency. This toolkit includes professional development for teachers and resources for small group instruction as well as whole group instruction through math talks, games and problem-solving.

Chatham Education Foundation (CEF) is a privately funded organization dedicated to supporting educational excellence in the School District of the Chathams through parent and community donations. Founded more than 25 years ago, the CEF has funded over 260 grants for a total of \$1.6M. The CEF supports initiatives that would not otherwise be funded through the traditional SDOC budget, impacting students in all six SDOC schools. The CEF's charter has language learning principal focus on innovative learning spaces educator growth, student well-being and student learning. The most impactful grants have been those that help SDOC stay at the forefront of implementing new educational research and technology. The board will continue to evaluate grant applications throughout the year.

> Individuals interested in learning more about the Chatham Education Foundation, or financially supporting its efforts, are encouraged to visit chathamedfoundation.org.

IMAGINE HOSTS GALA IN HONOR OF TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On Wednesday, November 2nd, over 300 community members gathered at the Palace at Somerset Park for Imagine's 10th Anniversary Gala, honoring Imagine's 10 years of supporting children and families who are grieving in New Jersey. Looking back on this incredible event, Executive Director, Lindsay Imagine's Schambach said: "I am so honored and humbled by the outpouring of love and light from all those who attended Imagine's 10th Anniversary Gala and the hundreds of others who have reached out before or since to share their support. Imagine has an incredible community of supporters that have helped to make it everything it is today, and everything it will become over the next decade for children and families all across our state."

Ms. Schambach also expressed gratitude for the generous local businesses that sponsored the event including Compassion Sponsors—Wiss and The Palace at Somerset Park; Inspire Sponsors—Ernst and Young, Holland & Knight, Overlook Medical Center and PSE&G; Hope Sponsors—Connect One Bank and Northfield Bank; and Dream Sponsors—Bradley Funeral Homes.

Members of the Imagine community that were honored at the event included six individuals acknowledged for their visionary leadership, excellence in education and selfless service. The Dr. Gerald Glasser Award was presented to former Board Chairs Stuart Arnold, Keith Hertell and John M. Toriello for their visionary leadership. The Rabbi Earl Grollman Award for Excellence in Grief Education was presented to Constance Palmer, LCSW for her commitment to creating grief informed communities. The Mary L. Robinson Award for Ten years of Selfless Service was presented to Imagine volunteer facilitators, Lisa D'Amico and Joanne Lukowiak who have been facilitating support groups at Imagine since its inception.

Those attending had an opportunity to hear from families who participate in Imagine's free grief support groups to learn firsthand about their experience. Many of Imagine's participants expressed gratitude for a place to go where they can talk about their grief openly with others who have also experienced a loss. Children and adults alike shared that they feel less alone in their grief because of Imagine.

Imagine's staff and board members are so grateful for all those who came out to support Imagine at the Gala and invite others to join Imagine's wonderful community of donors and volunteers. To make a tax-deductible donation to support Imagine's free grief support group program, please visit our website at www.imaginenj.org.

Imagine is a 501c3 nonprofit that offers free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and guardians of the children in the groups and offered in English and Spanish. Imagine also offers grief and loss education and training to the community. For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.



(above, l-r) Lindsay Schambach, Imagine
Executive Director; Diana Miller, Imagine
Board Chair; Keith Hertell, John Toriello and
Stuart Arnold, former Imagine Board Chairs
and recipients of the Dr. Gerald Glasser Award
for leadership; and Marjorie Ticknor, Daughter
of Dr. Gerald Glasser, Imagine Visionary.



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BUTTERFLY RELEASE REFLECTS ON GRIEF AND LOSS

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss

Over 30 Imagine participants and staff gathered in the Tribute Meadow at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield held on Saturday, October 22. It's a lovely spot near the weeping willows, pond, and fountains. They came together for a Butterfly Release Ceremony arranged by Imagine staff member, Kristin Imbimbo and Sharon Rossman and Rick Ralph of Fairview Cemetery.

The ceremony included poetry, music and reflections on grief and loss followed by the

release of the butterflies. As it was a cool night, many of the butterflies chose to stay close to the warmth of the children and adults releasing them sitting on hands, shoulders and jackets as they warmed themselves before flying off. It was an intimate ceremony of remembrance and Imagine and Fairview plan to partner again in the spring to provide another opportunity for families to participate.

Imagine offers free year-round grief support

groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and guardians of the children in the groups and are offered in English and Spanish. Imagine also offers grief and loss education and training to the community. For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.

Courtesy photo



(above) Members of Imagine and Fairview Cemetery came together for a Butterfly Release Ceremony.

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