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2022 ANNUAL MEYERSVILLE TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The Long Hill community came out in force to celebrate the holidays at the 29th Annual Meyersville Tree Lighting Ceremony. The event was held on Sunday, Dec. 4th, and was hosted by the Meyersville Tree Lighting Association. The ceremony featured holiday performances by the Watchung Hills Regional High School band and choir, a fireworks display, and a visit from Santa Claus.

(Continued on pages 6 and 7.)



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100-YEAR-OLD WWII VETERAN HONORED

County of Morris

Gerald "Gerry" Gemian, a World War II veteran who turned 100 years old this past summer, was honored on October 12 by the Morris County Board of County Commissioners at a celebration organized by more than two dozen friends and fellow veterans at the Montville Memorial VFW Post 5481.

Commissioner Thomas Mastrangelo presented the veteran with a special Morris County "Resolution of Honor" that recognized not only his 100th Birthday on August 25, but also his military service to the people of the United States.

"Thank you. Thank you very much. I'm honored," Mr. Gemian said, as the group sat down to a luncheon hosted by the Commissioner.

"We need to thank you, Gerry. We need to thank you and your entire generation for the sacrifices you made in defense of our nation," said Commissioner Mastrangelo. "On behalf of the County Board of Commissioners, I present

you with this resolution."

Mr. Gemian was joined by his son, Gary Gemian, a Lincoln Park councilman. The group of friends and fellow veterans also posed for photos next to a tank outside the VFW Hall.

Mr. Gemian enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and served in WWII as a combat radio operator, Staff Sergeant Technician 3rd Grade in the Central Pacific theater from 1942 to 1945 with the Joint Assault Signal Company. He was attached to the 7th, 27th and 81st U.S. Army Divisions, as well as with the 1st, 2nd and 4th U.S. Marine Divisions during his tours against Japanese forces, which included the Marshall Islands Campaign and the invasions of both the Kwajalein and Eniwetok Atoll Groups.

It was some of the bloodiest and deadliest episodes of the entire war, and Mr. Gemian's service included landings in the Mariana Islands and Palau Islands during the "Island Hopping" campaign of Admiral Chester William Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Ocean Areas. But Mr. Gemian managed to survive without being wounded.

When asked by a CBS News reporter this summer about his longevity and never being wounded, despite multiple battles, Mr. Gemian said: "One thing that always sustained me is: keep going, keep going. No matter what happens, or what the hell happened, I always managed to move somehow or another."

While transitioning out of military service, Mr. Gemian married his wife, Liz, and the couple moved in 1977 to Montville, where she later passed in 2021 at the age of 98. Mr. Gemian worked in the defense industry after the war, establishing a career at Curtis-Wright Corporation and ITT Avionics in contract administration.

The Board of County Commissioners' "Resolution of Honor" declared that Mr. Gemian's words about "keep going" should serve as an inspiration to us all. The resolution also said he must be congratulated on his longevity, commended for his distinguished military service and blessed with continued long life and happiness.



(above) Commissioner Mastrangelo talks to the gathering of veterans and friends after presenting Mr. Gemian (center) with a Morris County "Resolution of Honor."

Photos by County of Morris

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VET CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF HIS LIFE-SAVING HEART TRANSPLANT

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

"Each day that I get to travel and spend time



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

Photo courtesy of NJ Sharing Network

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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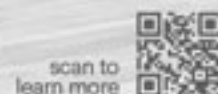

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New Jersey DAR

You can make the future brighter – and warmer - this winter by donating socks for Native American high school students at Chemawa Indian School. The students come from across America and spend 8-1/2 months of the year at the school. Socks are always in need.

“For students on rural reservations or impoverished areas, Chemawa offers the opportunity for a quality education,” said Holly Dunbar, New Jersey DAR state chairman of the American Indians committee. “By promoting the study of Native American history, and encouraging students to participate in traditional practices, they are taking an active role in preserving America’s indigenous cultures.”

Chemawa students represent more than 70 different tribes, each with their own language and traditions. At the school, located in Salem, Ore., students are encouraged to share their culture and many participate in traditional singing, dancing and drumming. The school also hosts several Native gatherings each year.

To help preserve Native folkways, Chemawa offers classes in art, beading, basket weaving, and drum making. In addition, each student is required to take coursework in Native American literature and history, and must complete a senior project focusing on their own tribal culture, tradition and history.

This sock drive is hosted by the Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Any kind of

socks, for girls or boys, are welcome and needed. The Somerset County 4-H is participating, and the members of Wattles and Snood 4-H Club will have a collection bin located at the Ted Blum 4-H Center, 310 Milltown Road in Bridgewater during the month of January.

If your organization would like to participate in the sock drive, please contact the DAR at ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com.

Chemawa Indian School is one of several schools around the country serving disadvantaged or special needs students that receive financial and material support from the DAR. The DAR is a nonprofit service organization for women 18 and over who are descended from a Revolutionary War patriot. Learn more at www.DAR.org.



(above) Chemawa Indian School is one of several schools around the country serving disadvantaged or special needs students that receive financial and material support from the DAR.

BROOK ARTS CENTER RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR!

We are ringing in 2023 with a sneak peek of our upcoming season with the announcement of our January lineup!

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JANUARY 8 AT 2 PM - ELVIS TRIBUTE

King of Rock' n' Roll's 88th birthday celebration with award-winning

Elvis Tribute Artist Jim Barone. Barone's "Elvis Through the Years" show spans the entire Presley catalog, keeping true to the sound, passion, and style that encompassed Elvis as an entertainer. Barone performs the iconic singer's career in three sets (the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970s) complete with costume changes.

JANUARY 14 AT 9 PM -

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

The Rocky Horror Picture Show with Friday Nite Specials will have you dancing, singing, and shouting! This interactive presentation of the Rocky Horror Picture Show is a must-see for Rocky fans and newbies to the cult classic. Tickets include Prop Bags.

JANUARY 27 - FEB 5TH - CABARET

Willkommen, Bienvenue, Welcome... to CABARET - the multi-Tony award-winning legendary musical. Based on Christopher Isherwood's book - Goodbye to Berlin, Cabaret tells the story of British nightclub singer Sally Bowles, American writer Cliff Bradshaw, and the decadence of 1929 Berlin. With mounting fear and uncertainty outside, the emcee lures you into the world of the Kit Kat Club where your troubles are left at the door. Cabaret opens Friday, January 27, and runs through Sunday, February 5. Friday and Saturday performances are 8 pm and Sundays at 2 pm.

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2022 ANNUAL MEYERSVILLE TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY PHOTO ALBUM



(above, l-r) Gary Gianakis, Guy Piserchia, Sandra Piserchia, Ed Gerecht, Vic Verlezza, Gianna Verlezza, Helena Tielmann, Hans Tielmann, Scott Lavender



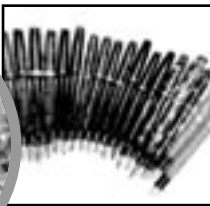
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Starting in the new year, we will host a monthly adult craft class with Blue Duck Art Studio. Classes will be on the first Thursday of the month. More information to come.

Other scheduled programs so far include:

Dr. Ian Drake Discussion

Monday, January 16 at 7 p.m. (via Zoom)

Dr. Ian Drake of Montclair State talks to us about the Supreme Court docket this session.

Cooking with Chef Suzanne Lowery

Monday, January 23 at 7 p.m. (via Zoom)

Chef Suzanne Lowery will teach us how to make something warm and tasty for the winter months.

Introduction to the Great Backyard Bird Count

Wednesday, January 25 at 7 p.m. (via Zoom)

Presented by the NJ Audubon at the Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary.

IMAGINE MARKS 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, Imagine's Executive Director, Lindsay 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.imagenenj.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@imagenenj.org.

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(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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1ST GRADE WORLD DANCE RESIDENCY AT GILLETTE SCHOOL



(above) The 1st grade students at Gillette school enjoyed a 2 week World Dance Residency led by Joanna Pang Atkins. Photos by Long Hill Public Schools

Long Hill Public Schools

The 1st grade students at Gillette school enjoyed a 2 week World Dance Residency led by Joanna Pang Atkins, a teaching artist from Morris Arts, funded by the Long Hill Twp. PTO. The classes rotated daily with each learning a specific cultural dance. The residency culminated on December 9 with a parent performance featuring the students dressed in traditional costumes provided by Ms. Atkins.

Jennifer Blajsa’s class, representing Mexico, danced the Mexican Clap Dance in colorful costumes. The students in Michele Piscioti’s class wore white to represent the white clay the dancers used to paint their bodies, performing an Australian Aboriginal dance of the Wadjign and Gagudju tribe. Stacie Holzinger’s class, representing Brazil, danced the Quadrilha folk dance performed at Festa Junina, honoring farmers and country life. Elizabeth Nusser’s class, representing the Colonial days of the United States, danced The Virginia Reel in red, white and blue costumes. The students in Tracy Pierce’s class learned an intricate foot stomping Alunelul dance, representing Romania.

This residency is a favorite among the teachers and students at Gillette school with this being Ms. Atkins' fourth visit to the school. Ms. Atkins is calling this world dance showcase her final “World Dance Tour” as she plans on retiring at the end of the school year. Darcy Riley joined Ms. Atkins daily, learning all the details involved with bringing and teaching this program to the students. Ms. Riley is excited for the future plans of hopefully taking over this residency allowing this program to continue for many years to come at Gillette School.



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Zip: 07027



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Zip: 07033



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Qty: 3,500
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Qty: 6,300
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Qty: 2,900
Zip: 07092



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Units	Size	1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS
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2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
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9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
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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@imagineenj.org.

Courtesy photo



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

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