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ISSUE 122 • JANUARY 2023

TREE OF LIGHTS DEDICATED TO THE ORIGIN OF THE TREE LIGHTS

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The 32nd annual Tree of Lights event was held Lyrica, Aria and Caden McCumber Grandchildren, Ovarian Cancer

on Saturday, Dec 3rd on the Village Green.

The Watchung Rescue Squad 2022 Tree of Lights honors the origins of this winter tradition. Returning from vacation at Martha's Vineyard in 1990, Judie McCumber approached the Watchung Rescue Squad with a suggestion for fundraising. For every donation, a light would be placed on a tree. After some discussion, Judie eventually convinced Captain Shirley Cattabiani and President Diddy Adario of this event's potential, despite the fact that the town's Village Green or even a tree had been established! With Judie's persistence, Shirley's can-do attitude, and Diddy's direction, ground was broken, a tree was planted, and lights were strung. And thus, the Tree of Lights was born.

With Judie's suggestions, the "original tree three" created a festive winter celebration and fundraiser that has come to be known as a Watchung tradition. The event originally took place on December 7th in honor of Pearl Harbor Day and remembrance of the lives lost protecting our freedom. Out of necessity, the ceremony was gradually established on the first Saturday of December. In addition, the Watchung Rescue Squad selects an annual dedication for an individual or group that has greatly impacted the Watchung community. Holding true to the themes of this celebration, the tree is always decorated with red and white lights for honor and remembrance. Donations to the Watchung Rescue Squad make it possible to commemorate lives and memories of our loved ones.

For over three decades, the countless members of the Squad and Watchung community have sustained the Tree of Lights through their dedication and support. Once again they extend their gratitude to all participants who have helped keep this tradition alive with their contributions, attendance, and cooperation.

In Honor: Agatha and Joanna Hallock, Angela and Trevor Brunskill, Bisignano Family, Caroline Karpa, Carrol and Leroy Nunn, Elizabeth Jean Aldrich, Gordon Nelson, Jack and Elaine Weiss,

Watchung Rescue Squad

Survivors, Rick Springler, Steven and Dale Hartman, The Bitenas Family, The Braulke Family, The Cicala Family, The Del Vento Family, The Falanga Family, The Fechtner Family, The French Family, The Ginter Family, The Jubin Family, The McDonald Wholey Family, The Savatta Family, The Schlotterbeck Family, The Speeney Family, The Stiles Family, The Young-Briant Family, The Woods Family, Vera Cardinal, Watchung's 1st Responders

Business Honor: A & C Crab Seafood Distributions Inc., Angelo "C" Plumbing, Chick-fil-A, Garden State Fireworks, Gerard's Landscaping and Disposal LLC, Rich's Tree Service, Inc., San Remo Pizza Restaurant Deli, Tamke Tree Experts, Watchung Avenue Dental, Watchung Borough Hall, Watchung Fire Department, Watchung PBA, Watchung Police Department, Watchung Public Works

In Memory: Adam and Lucia Bodnar, Albert and Anna Bisignano, Albert Trabilsy, Alfred and Isabel Price, Alfred Seidel, Ann and Marshall Hoffman, Anna Bori, Annie Mitchell, Arthur and Linda Kauffman, Barbara Hess, Bill Titus, Bruno and Barbara Stahl, C.S. and Irene Loh, Carol Hayes, Carol June and Owen Nutto, Charles and Evelyn Rozzi, (List of honorees continued on page 2.)





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TREE OF LIGHTS HONOREES (Continued from page 1)

Charles R. Burke, Chris and Richard Hillman, Cody, Sam and Sugar Addario, Corinto Ferrara, Danielle Dum Stansky, David and Bill Arthur III and Lynne Hastrup, David and Mildred Smith, David Chalker, David F. O'Keefe, Dit and Wink Wheeler, Don Pannacciulli, Dr. and Mrs. W.A. Balogh, Dr. Bruce D. McCumber, Edward and Alfred Rebmann, Eileen Aylward, Elaine Kriznansky, Elvira and Charles Baculis, Ernie Rohrbach, Ettore and Mildred Scrima, Frank Pecoraro, Fred E. Diem, Fred Schaa, Fred and Sylvia Malchow, Gerome Family, Gloria Trabilsy, Grace Krajcovic, Hansbernd Cardinal, Helen J. Ruckriegel, Irene Roman, Jack Kavanagh, James and Grace McNamara, James J. Bordino Jr., Jeffrey Blackadar, Jim Patti, Jim and Anne Townsend, Joan Wesley Shuster, Joe and Frieda Juette, John and Hazel Shuster, John Blackadar, Katarina, Joseph and Ursula Cesarz, Kathleen and William Connelly, Kevin Brett, Liana Sá-Watchung EMT, Loved ones of the Pennett Family, Marion Curiazza, Mark and Rose Fogel, Martha and Milan Kriznansky, Martin C. Huska, Matthew Brown, Matthew Polito, Max P. Weber Sr., Mayor Anthony Addario, Michael Pedersen, Michael and Anne Kania, Mildred and Harry Wolford, Nancy Greeves, Paul and Debra Ianniello, Paul Schaa, Phil and Sue DeParto, Philip Confort, Philip Whitting and Mabel Geddes, Phyllis Blackadar, Ralph and Ruth Barrett, Reginald Cooper, Richard Biviano, Richard James Lubeck, Rina DiNardi, Robert

(Bob) Rotanz, Robert A. Saracen, Robert Heyward Gibson, Rusty Martinson, Sally Buccarelli, Salvatore J. Puleo, Sandra Blumberg, Simon Doyle, Stella Barnett, The Flood Family, The Santaniello Family, Thomas and Marion Cowan, Thomas L. Raftery, Tom and Mary Daly, Tom Spontak, Virginia L. Smith, William and Annette Arthur, William W. Carlough, Winnie Dworak.



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DAR DAY OF SERVICE BENEFITS VETS AND PETS

Members of Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) observed the annual DAR Day of Service with projects for hospitalized veterans and for homeless pets.

For decades, the chapter has collected donations of clothing, books, games and other items to be distributed as holiday gifts for the hospitalized veterans at Lyons V.A. Medical Center. In addition, the chapter continued a more recent tradition of collecting pet food, cleaning supplies and gift cards for the Plainfield Area Humane Society Shelter in Plainfield.

"Providing gifts for veterans sends the message that we thank them for their service and that they are not forgotten," said Chapter Regent Ashley Salsano. "A few years ago, we began another tradition by supporting the local animal shelter. Many of our members are pet owners and wanted to help."

The DAR is a nonprofit service organization open to women 18 and over who can trace their descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter, based in Green Brook, serves areas of Somerset, Middlesex and Union counties.

New members are welcome.

Contact ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com or visit DAR.org.



(above) DAR chapter officers Marti Kalko and Susan Dobrinsky deliver donations of pet supplies to the Plainfield Area Humane Society Shelter.

Courtesy photos



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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!

JANUARY 7 AT 2 PM - DISNEY'S FROZEN

Experience Disney's Frozen on the big screen! Meet Elsa and Olaf in our winter wonderland! Dress up as your favorite character for our Costume Contest! Raffles and fun for the whole family!

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.

TICKETS ARE A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT!

Advance Purchase discounted tickets are available@ at www.brookarts.org or call 732-469-7700. ADA seating, bar, concessions, and free parking are available. The Brook Arts Center is in Bound Brook, NJ, one block from the Bound Brook Train station and a few short miles from Rt 22, 287, and 78. Visit our website for information on all of our 2023 shows, directions, parking, and theater information. Keep checking our website (www.brookarts.org) and follow us on Social Media (BrookArtsCenter) for the 2023 season reveal!

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WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS

Warrenbrook Senior Center, located at 500 Warrenville Road in Warren, NJ, is one of the six county operated Senior Centers. Somerset County residents who are 60 years and older are welcome to participate in any of the programs at Warrenbrook Senior Center. They also provide a choice of 4 different meal choices during lunch that seniors can take advantage of during the weekdays. All the programs are free for the registered members. Please (908) 753-9440 for more information on how to become member of the Warrenbrook Senior Community.

Below is the highlight of some of the programs available at Warrenbrook Senior Center in January.

Musical Performance by DJ Gio

January 4 – 10:30 a.m. Let's kick off the new year to the music of DJ Gio who will share the music from Motown, Swing, Country, Top 40 and more.

Brains n Games and Hand Bells with Adrienne Graubard

January 6, 27 – 11 a.m. Did you know that solving puzzles or challenging yourself with new mind-stretching activities like learning music can stimulate the brain and enhance your creative and critical thinking processes? Join Adrienne for some mind-tingling, brain-stumping word games and a fun-filled musical workout using hand bells.

Myths about Foot & Ankle Care

January 12 - 11 a.m.

"Don't cross your eyes, they'll stay that way!" Old wives' tales and myths like that example are fun to laugh at. We believed them as children. "Step on a crack and you'll break your mother's back." But there are other myths that are no laughing matter, especially when

they involve your health. From bunions to broken toes, foot and ankle surgeon Dr. Mithun Sivadasan, DPM, AACFAS, has heard it all. He shares common myths about foot care and the realities behind them.

"I have a dream" The story behind the Speech – Marisa Bozarth

January 13 – 11 a.m.

We have all heard Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech. But do you know what was in the rest of the speech? How it came to be or what happened to the speech afterwards? Learn more about one of the most famous speeches in American history.

Casino Games with Caitlyn Campbell

January 23 – 11 a.m. Casino is a lot of fun! It's a great way to get everyone engaged, because the dealers find ways to include all ability levels and are trained to teach people how to play a variety of table games. It's stimulating and very exciting, and

truly simulates a casino experience.

Calming Stress & Anxiety (Virtual)

January 26 – 11 a.m.

Join certified Eden Energy Medicine Clinical Practitioner (EEM-CLP), Siobhan Hutchinson from Next Steps Strategies, LLC as she teaches us tools to help balance our life, relieve anxiety and stress and more.

Arthritis – RWJUH

January 30 – 11 a.m.

Arthritis cannot always be prevented. The risk of arthritis can be reduced by altering eating habits and proper exercise. If arthritis is left untreated, it can lead to serious complications such as:

• Joint damage: Joint deformities, damage to nearby tendon, etc

- Widespread inflammation: Inflammation can spread to other parts of the body like lungs, heart, and eyes
- Cardiovascular damage: People with rheumatoid arthritis are at higher risk of developing cardio vascular disease

Dr. Brandis Belt along with the residents of RWJUH will provide a presentation on Arthritis Prevention & Management.



CHARITY TAKES A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

Watchung residents Rebecca and A. Stuart Kaplan, with the support of Robert Woods Johnson Foundation have launched Caged Birds Sing Inc.

According to the increase in hotline calls and Internet search analysis, incidents of Domestic Abuse and Violence have risen by up to 40% since the stress and isolation of Covid-19 lockdowns. In a move to address this dangerous trend that threatens public safety, Caged Birds Sing Inc. (CBSI) proposes a new, more approachable narrative (storyline), referring to these events as 'Household Harm' from which no one is immune and too many of us suffer in silence.

A CBSI spokesperson suggests, "We formed this charity to let victims know they are not alone, empower them to step forward, and raise awareness to escalate this fight. Our name is based on the iconic poem by Maya Angelou that uses a Caged Bird as a metaphor for those who sing in bitter captivity while they long for freedom. Our first 'Household Harm – No Shame' PR Campaign forms a new paradigm (model) that combines Artwork, Music, and Technology, to:

Inspire and empower individual victims of abuse to seek help, and reach a wider, more diverse, highly dynamic, and untapped audience willing to take up this cause in each community, to advocate and work for change, and disrupt the unacceptably silent status quo."

CBSI's main goal is to remove the stigma of shame surrounding toxic behavior in our living spaces, like the way opioid addiction was once unspeakable and is now an open topic. By introducing the subject using the term 'Household Harm' people can more easily and openly discuss the problems and sign up concerned volunteers to deploy workable solutions. Only then can we stop the spread of these very serious, often criminal forms of aggressive behavior, including Coercive Control, Domestic Abuse, Domestic Violence, and Intimate Partner Homicide: taboo subjects shunned by family members, our media, and the public eye.

The CagedBirdsSing.org website points to the sensationalized coverage of Gabby Petito's brutal murder, the televised Johnny Depp vs. Amber Herd celebrity trial, and the grandmother at home, who became the first victim that preceded the shooting rampage at the Uvalde, Texas school. "In these recent cases, the blow-by-blow coverage largely ignored the underlying abuse and the opportunity for knowledgeable experts to educate captivated audiences about the oftendour consequences of tolerating Household Harm." On that point, a recent study shows that 66% of mass shootings are committed by domestic violence perpetrators.

CBSI applauds and promotes the work of UN Women, with their spokesperson, Nicole Kidman, in their efforts to spread the word about "The Shadow Pandemic" and also acknowledges the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and the many other organizations passionately dedicated to making a difference for each of us who are negatively affected.

The Household Harm Outreach Program will train concerned citizens in under-equipped communities. CBSI provides the methodology and support to organize, operate, and provide immediate assistance to victims currently ignored by overwhelmed mental healthcare centers, law enforcement agencies, and slowmoving family courts.

Caged Birds Sing Inc. sums this up: "It is up to us all to cast a 'we-can-do-something-aboutit' light on these dark and dangerous problems, using the 'Household Harm-No Shame' narrative to open discussions and disrupt the status quo that often sweeps this ubiquitous problem under the rug. Let's begin to win The War Against Domestic Abuse."

To support this effort, this 501(c)(3) charity requests you visit CagedBirdsSing.org, where you can read the empowering information, see the inspiring artwork, consider the innovative technology, and hear the first campaign theme song, "Do You Want It Bad?" Then please select "DONATE" or "TAKE ACTION."

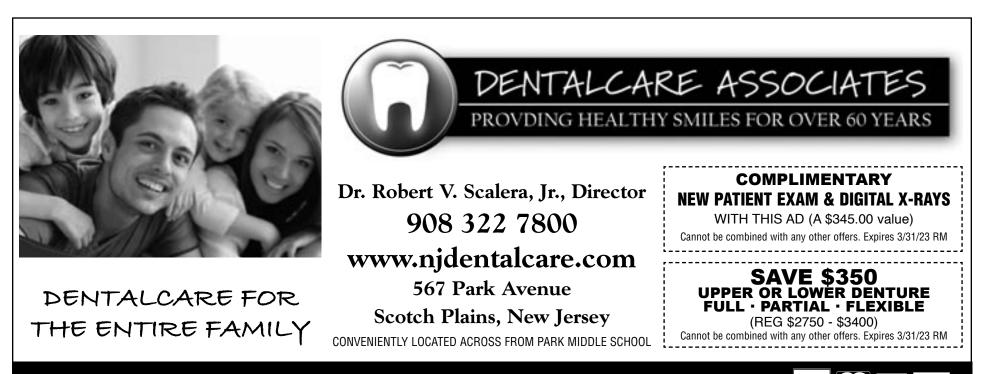


(above, l-r) Watchung residents Rebecca and A Stuart Kaplan

If anyone has made you feel invisible or less-than, write a new narrative on your heart.







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EXPLORE SCLSNJ'S VIRTUAL PROGRAMS JANUARY THROUGH FEBRUARY

All SCLSNJ branches will be closed on Sat, Dec. 24; Sun, Dec 25; and Sun, Jan 1. Warren Twp. branch will be closed on Sat, Dec 31,; Mon, Jan 16; and Mon, Feb 20. The Warren Twp. branch will be closed on Sat, Dec 10.

To join a virtual program by phone, dial 646-876-9923. After dialing, you will be prompted to enter a meeting ID, which is unique for every event. The meeting ID is the series of numbers at the end of the Zoom link posted for each event.

How The Hard Winter of 1880- 81 Became "The Long Winter" Presented by Cindy Wilson, Author of "The Beautiful Snow" January 3, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/7091288. **Reducing Food Waste at Home** January 4, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6874041. PRESENTED BY GREATER **RARITAN ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER: Overcoming Your Fear of Public Speaking** January 5, 10 a.m. - noon https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/7051462. **Defeating Unconscious Bias** February 2, 10 a.m. - noon https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/7067447. **Put Your Best Self Forward** February 21, 11 a.m. - noon https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/7154894. **Using the Power of Food -To Heal Ourselves and Our Planet** January 9, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/7040121. Hawaii - A Photo Tour of Tropical Isles January 10, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6849452. The Dressmakers of Auschwitz - The True Story of the Women who Sewed to Survive January 11, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6848139. Italian Soup with Healthy Greens January 12, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6767361. I'll Do It Later - How to Stop Procrastinating January 17, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/7040119.

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Mind Games -**The Science of Perception Deception** January 18, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6773003. **Five Daily Exercises in Gratitude** to Transform Your Life January 19, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6937295. The Big Band Era January 23, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6135502. "Why? Explaining the Holocaust" January 24, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6786696. **Shutterfly Photo Books** January 25, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/7046547. Afterlives - Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art Presented by The Jewish Museum January 26, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/7096223. Where's My Stuff? The Ins and Outs of Managing Space January 30, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/7044930. Life in the Last Frontier - Alaska January 31, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6999172. **Black Scientists We Should Know** February 1, 7-8:30 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6770636. The Most Fascinating, Obscure Figure in American History - Benjamin Lay, Abolitionist February 6, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6765075. **Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune -**The Link to our Past, Present, and Future February 7, 7-8 p.m.; https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6889393. **Bessie Coleman - Fly! Bessie, Fly! Performed by Daisy Century from American Historical Theater** February 8, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6916020.

The Legacy of Harry and Harriette Moore February 9, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6816281. **Chocolate Lover's Desserts -A Virtual Bake-Along** February 13, 7-8:30 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6963073. **Advanced Care Planning - Wills and Healthcare Proxies Made Simple** February 15, 7-8 p.m.; https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/7147236. **Motown - Music That Moved the World** February 16, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6836221. **The Harlem Renaissance -Courage, Grace and Vision** February 21, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6775462. Jesse Owens - A Life in American History February 22, 7 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6911416. **Overview of Atrial Fibrillation -February is Heart Month** February 23, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/7086590. The Food and the Folks of the Great Migration February 27, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6830532. Self-Care Advocate -7 Steps to Prevent Chronic Disease February 28, 7-8 p.m. https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/7093964. ABOUT SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM Somerset County Library System of New

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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, 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 –



(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.

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH TO HOST "ALPHA" SESSIONS

Is There More to Life Than This? In a world of isolation, anonymity, and keyboard-warriors, Alpha offers content and guidance for churches, ministries, and individuals to create a space for honest and open conversations about life's biggest questions. Everyone is welcome and no questions are off limits.

Alpha is a place to connect with other people who are open to exploring life, faith, and meaning. Alpha fosters honest, open, and judgment-free conversations for anyone to explore the Christian faith. Each session includes a time to connect with others (often over a free meal), watch a short video on an element of the Christian faith, and then a chance for each person to share thoughts and questions with the group.

"I was invited to participate in the Alpha pilot. From the initial meeting, I knew this was something that I wanted to be a part of," explains Nancy Schreck. "After completing the pilot, I joined the Alpha team to help plan for the future of Alpha at IHM. It's a wonderful opportunity for people at any level of faith to meet new people and explore new ideas."

Sessions are free to attend and are scheduled

on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. The first meeting will be live and in-person on Monday, February 13, 2022 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Nazareth Center of Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Church: 1571 S. Martine Ave. Scotch Plains. Good food and conversation will be offered to all in attendance. Most meetings after that will be hosted on Zoom. Links and directions will be provided to those who register. Participation is capped at 30 people.

"When I offered tech support for the pilot program at IHM, I had no idea what I was in for. I'm not very religious. But Alpha was an unexpected surprise!" offers Gabe Lamberty. "The program is interesting and entertaining. And it's nice to meet new folks from the community. Overall an unforgettable experience."

"I'm looking forward to the Alpha experience," says Lou Zappo. "It sounds like a lot of fun, and who knows, I might learn something about myself."

Registration is required, please go to our website at ihmparish.net/alpha or call 908-889-2100. If you have questions about Alpha, please email office@ihmparish.net.

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.



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BOARDS, COMMITTEES, & COMMISSIONS

The Borough is always looking for residents who are willing to work on our volunteer boards. Any interested volunteers should complete and submit an application to the Borough Clerk -Edith Gil no later than December 31, 2022. The application can be found at: watchungnj.gov/government/forms/clerk/238volunteer-form/file

Please complete a form to express your interest in serving and being appointed to any of the below.

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (ZONING)

Created in accordance with State requirements. This board has the powers granted by Municipal Land Use Law N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq.

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health in partnership with the Middle Brook Regional Health Commission provides for the provision of certain health services to the Borough.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

CERT helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

This Commission exists for the protection, development or use of natural resources located within the Borough. They have the power to conduct research into the use and possible use of the open land areas of the Borough and may coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes, and may advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which, in its judgment, it deems necessary for its purposes.

GREEN TEAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Green Team was established to promote efforts to ensure Watchung is a sustainable

community. Sustainable policies and practices seek the long-term viability of the borough by saving tax dollars, conserving energy, reducing the community's carbon footprint and natural resource consumption, and providing for the health and safety of residents.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

This Committee seeks to preserve and protect the history of the Borough. The Committee maintains the Texier House as a local museum containing all artifacts and material pertaining to the history of the Borough. The Committee conducts programs as necessary to educate citizens on the colorful history of this area and to encourage resident participation

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This Committee acts as a liaison between the Borough of Watchung and the Somerset County Library Commission and performs such other functions as deemed appropriate for the continuation of a public library within the Borough.

PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board is created in accordance with State requirements and has the powers granted to it by Municipal Land Use Law N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq.

RECREATION COMMISSION

This Commission is tasked with supervising all public playgrounds and recreation facilities and activities of the Borough, and may cause surveys to be made to be submitted to the Mayor and Council with recommendations for the improvement, maintenance or expansion of recreation facilities in the Borough. The Recreation Commission shall also work with the Environmental Commission, whose responsibilities also include the acquisition of property for open space, environmental or recreational purposes, and the Historical Committee, whose responsibilities also include matters pertaining to historic sites.

TRAFFIC AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

This Commission is tasked with rendering advice to the Mayor and Council concerning the planting, care and control of shade and ornamental trees, shrubbery and other landscaping upon and in the public streets, highways, public buildings and parks within the Borough. The Commission shall recruit and direct organizational and individual interest in the aesthetic improvement of the Borough.

YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

The purpose of this Commission is to bring together community representatives in government, education, law enforcement, recreation and interested citizens to serve as a planning and enabling agency for the development and coordination of youth services to at[1]risk students in the Borough of Watchung.

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Our Featured Listings



190 Knightsbridge, Watchung, NJ 7 Bed | 6 Bath | 3 Half Bath | \$3,250,000



1136 Johnston Drive, Watchung, NJ 4 Bed | 2 Bath | 1 Half Bath | \$875,000



33 Johns Road, Warren, NJ 3 Bed | 4 Bath | 1 Half Bath | \$1,125,000



20 Schmidt Circle, Watchung, NJ 3 Bed | 3 Bath | \$610,000



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