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CHESS MASTER PRODUCT OF ELMORA UPBRINGING

Yaacov Norowitz credits his success as an International Master Chess player to his upbringing in the Elmora Section of Elizabeth. The community was instrumental to cultivating his interest and inherent skill at playing the Royal Game. Support and encouragement came from his parents, his school principal, and especially from his dentist, Doctor Richard “Doc” Lewis.

Yaacov’s parents, Joe and Suri, moved to Elizabeth from the lower east side of Manhattan when Yaacov was 5 years old. They found a “nice, friendly Jewish community” which was led at that time by the late Rabbi Pinchas Teitz. Yaacov attended elementary and middle school at the Jewish Educational Center on 330 Elmora Avenue.

Yaacov’s dad taught him to play chess one evening when he was 9. His father played a lot as a teenager and young adult before getting married. Yaacov loved the game and played as much as he could. Around the same time, local dentist Richard Lewis started a chess club at Yaacov’s school. The 4th grade Yaacov became even more inspired.

Dr. Lewis saw the raw talent in his student and his enthusiasm to learn. He started to bring Yaacov around to chess clubs to get more experience. He was a regular at the Kenilworth Chess Club and joined a cadre of players that would meet nightly near the stadium in Warinanco Park.

Yaacov read chess books voraciously, studying from the classics, but it wasn’t until Dr. Lewis generously offered to give Yaacov private one-on-one lessons that his protegee would really excel.

Joe and Suri accepted Doc Lewis’s offer. Yaacov would go to the dentist’s office on Elmora Avenue after school for his chess lessons. Like his volunteerism at the school, Doc Lewis did not accept any compensation. The satisfaction of introducing chess to youngsters was satisfaction enough.

Yaacov continued to study with Doc Lewis at his home in Westfield. Lessons would last hours. His dad, who accompanied Yaacov to all his lessons, would sometimes doze off during the marathon sessions.

In a few years Yaacov got close to Doc’s level of play and Doc saw that his student was getting too advanced for his lessons. Doc Lewis called on a friend, a world class grandmaster named Roman Dzindzichashvili. Roman would come from New York weekly and teach Yaacov at the dentist’s office.



(above, l-r) Pictured are Yaacov Norowitz and Dr. Richard Lewis.

Yaacov’s principal, Rabbi Eleazar Meir Teitz, was always very supportive and gave him permission to leave school midday to have lessons with the world class grandmaster. Yaacov remembers that Roman would order 2 huge bagel sandwiches, one egg salad and one lox with cream cheese, from the then kosher Super Duper Bagels across the street from the office, telling Yaacov “Big bagels for a big brain.” Like Doc Lewis, Roman was generous and never asked for compensation. Yaacov suspects that the bagels and maybe some free dentistry from his good friend were enough payment.

Yaacov and his friend Mikhail Kruglyak ran programs in Elizabeth over the years, most notably Mikhail’s chess program in Bruria High School in north Elizabeth. He has given many lessons to aspiring students in places like Warinanco Park and the Dunkin’ Donuts on Elmora and Westfield Avenue.

Yaacov has a long list of accomplishments, from the first time he beat a Master at the age of 12 to achieving his International Master distinction. He has made a career of chess, traveling the world playing in tournaments and teaching. At 12, he also represented New Jersey on the All-American Pressman Chessman team. At 16 he achieved a National Master title. In 2002, at the age of 20, he came in 3rd place in the Jerusalem Championship, and won in 2003.

Yaacov secured the title of International Master (IM) in 2013 and also won the New Jersey championship that year. He is also a 5-time World Blitz Champion.

Though Yaacov moved around throughout his life he says, “I am always an Elizabethan chess player at heart and proud to represent Elizabeth in our royal game!”

More information about Yaacov can be found on his website, YaacovChess.com. Anyone interested in hiring Yaacov for chess lessons can email him at ChessRebbi24@gmail.com. He also has two video courses available on chessable.com and Facebook page.



(above, l-r) One of the 2009 Chessaholics teams competing in the United States Amateur Chess Team Championships consisted of Joe Renna, NM Yaacov Norowitz, Mikhail Kruglyak and captain Dr. Richard Lewis.

C.A.R. PROVIDES YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEADERSHIP TRAINING



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Training tomorrow's leaders to serve our country and preserve our nation's history is the mission of the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.). Members honor those who came before and paved the way for what we have today.

The nation's oldest and largest patriotic youth organization, C.A.R. offers membership to girls and boys from birth to age 22 who can prove lineal descent from a man or woman who supported the cause of American independence.

Local C.A.R. groups, known as societies, are sponsored by chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) or Sons of the American Revolution. Here in central New Jersey, Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter DAR in Green Brook sponsors the Pis-Cat-A-Qua Society C.A.R. Members may participate in state and national activities that focus on patriotism, service, and education about our

American heritage.

Harriett Lothrop, a 19th century children's author from Concord, Mass., presented the idea for a children's organization to the DAR in 1895. Organized "for the training of young people in true patriotism and love of country," C.A.R. has promoted this vision to hundreds of thousands of members over the years. These boys and girls are the leaders of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

New members are welcome. Contact Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter DAR at ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com, or learn more online at NSCAR.org.



ANCHOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

The State of New Jersey has extended the deadline for filing your ANCHOR benefit application to February 28, 2023. The Affordable New Jersey Communities for Homeowners and Renters (ANCHOR) program will provide up to \$1,500 to homeowners with 2019 gross incomes up to \$150,000, and up to \$1,000 for those with gross incomes of between \$150,000 and

\$250,000 in that year. ANCHOR is also an important program for the tenants, who can receive \$450 if their gross income was \$150,000 or less in 2019.

To apply, visit the Division of Taxation's website: nj.gov/treasury/taxation/anchor The state has also established an ANCHOR hotline at 1-888-238-1233.

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1) APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates current as of January 26, 2023. Rates are subject to change without notice. Fees could reduce earnings on the account. 2) Ultra Checking is a blended rate tiered account with dividends paid on portions of your balance falling within designated tiers: \$0.00 - \$1,000.00: 3.14% APY; \$1,000.01 - \$5,000.00: 3.14% APY; \$5,000.01 - \$10,000.00: 3.14% APY; \$10,000.01 - \$15,000.00: 3.14% - 2.09% APY; \$15,000.01 - \$25,000.00: 2.09% - 1.25% APY; \$25,000.01 - \$50,000.00: 1.25% - 0.63% APY; \$50,000.01 and above: 0.63% - 0.02% APY. \$1,000 minimum balance to open. There is a \$1,000 minimum daily balance requirement to avoid a \$15 monthly maintenance fee. Limit of one Ultra Checking account per tax identification number. 3) Ultra Savings is a blended rate tiered account with dividends paid on portions of your balance falling within designated tiers: \$0.00 - \$100,000.00: 3.45% APY; \$100,000.01 - \$250,000.00: 3.45% APY; \$250,000.01 - \$500,000.00: 3.45% APY; \$500,000.01 - \$1,000,000.00: 3.45% APY; \$1,000,000.01 - \$2,000,000.00: 3.45% - 1.72% APY; \$2,000,000.01 - \$5,000,000.00: 1.72% - 0.69% APY; \$5,000,000.01 and above: 0.69% - 0.35% APY. \$100,000 minimum balance to open. There is a \$100 monthly maintenance fee. Limit of one Ultra Savings account per tax identification number. 4) No surcharge when using an Atlantic Federal Credit Union Debit or ATM Card at ATMs in the Co-op Network. Visit <https://www.coop.org/Shared-Branch-ATM> for more information about the Co-op Network.

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NEIGHBORHOOD MATH EXPERTS SET UP SHOP IN UNION

Mathnasium Operates on Core Belief That Every Child Can Become Great at Math

Mathnasium of Union is now open for business, bringing fun and effective supplementary math programs for community children in grades K through 12. A Grand Opening Celebration is being held on Saturday February 11th, weather permitting, at 10am with light refreshments being served.

The learning center, located at 326 Chestnut St in the Five Points Shopping Center, focuses solely on math and operates on the core belief that virtually any child can excel in the subject. The Mathnasium Method™, implemented at more than 1000 Mathnasium centers in the U.S. and abroad, is a unique program that provides every student with an individualized learning plan and personal instruction in a way that makes sense to them. “Our students will work in a fun, encouraging environment to improve their number sense and computational skills, as well

as gaining an intuitive understanding of how numbers work,” said Dr. James Campora, Center Director of Mathnasium of Union.

“Our goal is simple: to teach math in a way that makes sense to kids,” Dr. Campora continued. “Mathnasium centers across the country have helped struggling students develop into ‘A’ students and ‘A’ students go on to even greater achievements. We are thrilled to be able to bring our Mathnasium Method™ to support the families of Union and the surrounding area.”

The Mathnasium experience begins with an assessment designed to pinpoint a child’s strengths and weaknesses. These results provide the foundation from which Mathnasium constructs the student’s customized learning plan. Students learn math in a friendly, productive learning environment and are taught by caring and knowledgeable instructors well-versed in

integrating Mathnasium’s techniques with the math curriculum used in Union area schools. The Mathnasium Method™ uses a unique combination of mental, verbal, visual, tactile, and written techniques to help children really understand math and has been developed over more than 40 years of practical experience with thousands of students.

Mathnasium students receive the support they need for school homework and tests while building their math foundations. “As educators, we strive to offer students a balanced math learning experience: one that fills in the gaps, keeps students on track with math taught in school, and, most importantly, makes learning math a fun and joyful experience,” Dr. Campora concluded.

Learn more: www.mathnasium.com/union

ABOUT MATHNASIUM

Mathnasium, the nation’s leading math-only learning center franchise, specializes in teaching kids’ math in a way that makes sense to them. When math makes sense, kids excel—whether they’re far behind or eager to get ahead. The proprietary Mathnasium Method™ is the result of 40+ years of hands-on instruction and research. Franchising since 2003, Mathnasium has become one of the fastest-growing educational franchises. There are over 1000 Mathnasium franchises in the U.S. and abroad.

For more information, visit www.mathnasium.com.



This is where kids come to catch up and get ahead in math.

Is your child realizing their potential in math? Results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress show an alarming decline in math scores nationwide¹ — clear evidence of the toll the pandemic has taken on students. But there’s plenty of time to turn things around, with personalized math instruction at Mathnasium. A customized learning plan will focus on what your child needs to improve their math skills and build their confidence for the rest of the school year!

Mathnasium of Union
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¹National Assessment of Educational Progress



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GIVING THANKS FOR A LIFE WELL LIVED

Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless

Mikaela Santos came into our lives in the summer of 2022. In July, we received an email from Karen Gilmour, a yoga instructor with Alluam Yoga in Cranford, telling us about a young student with a desire to give back to the community, especially homeless children. She wanted to collect backpacks full of all the necessary school supplies to start the year off right. Mikaela, together with her instructor Karen, her sister Vivienne, her mother Yesica, her Aunt Natalie, and her good friend, Marielle, started a giving tree with the backpack needs of nearly 50 children in our housing programs.

A few weeks later at the beginning of the 2022 school year Mikaela passed away. Mikaela was just 11 years old. She lived most of her life in and out of hospitals because she had childhood cancer. So briefly did we know her yet how profoundly she affected us all. She left everyone she met with a sense of love and light. And it is her story we want to share with you today.

Just days after her death, her mother, sister, aunt, and friend delivered her backpack project to the Elizabeth Coalition. We were amazed at the love and care that went into creating each individual backpack. Mikaela willed her idea into being...she really made it happen!

What made Mikaela so special was her ability to transform her experiences of pain and illness into a project for others. Mikaela was asked what inclined her to helping others when she herself was going through so much. Mikaela answered, matter of fact-ly, "I might have cancer but I also have love, a home, and my family to support me. One thing does not have to do with the other."

Karen remembers Mikaela as someone who always showed up with love...to the studio...to

her practice of yoga...to her friendships. "Every moment with Mikaela was a favorite one. I loved her little laugh and her sweet smile. Mikaela was a light in this world...and in my life."

Mikaela's mom, Yesica, recalls how knowing Mikaela made her a different person, "Mikaela was my first-born, she's the reason I became a mother and then when her sister, Vivienne, was born we were complete. Knowing Mikaela makes me feel honored and proud to be her mother." Mikaela's precious spirit burns brightly in memory for those who loved her most but also for those lives she touched so briefly with her creativity, her giving, and her compassion.

The children who received a backpack wrote notes and drew pictures to thank Mikaela. Some notes make mention of an angel, which is how they choose to remember her and her supreme act

of bravery in being a force for good in the world. To be so young and yet full of such a wise mind and kind heart, sharing her blessings with others, is a page from her remarkable story that we can all learn and grow from.

Thank you, Mikaela.

It is supporters like Mikaela that are so vital to our work. Donations and volunteers free us to offer premium case management to those who need it, allowing us to offer the care and focus on each client who comes through our door. Consistent, dedicated partnerships push our vision that one day, we will eliminate homelessness and equip each person with the support they need.

For volunteer opportunities to help our homeless brothers and sisters, and donate, visit theelizabethcoalition.org.



(above) Mikaela Santos



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SHAKESPEARE'S COMEDY TWELFTH NIGHT COMING TO CDC THEATRE

"Better a witty fool, than a foolish wit.", "If music be the food of love, play on." and "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em." are just a few of the familiar lines from William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

A talented cast is preparing to present one of the Bard's finest comedies at CDC Theatre in Cranford for seven shows running from February 10th to the 25th and is being directed by Susan Speidel. Ms., Speidel currently serves on the faculty of the Kean University Theatre Conservatory and is a lecturer for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers University. Holding a range of academic degrees, she has studied acting and directing at HB Studios in New York City and at the Globe Theater in London. She served for 20 years as Director of Education for the Tony-Award winning Paper Mill Playhouse and has directed

more than 50 plays and musicals.

"A woman, disguised as a man, falls in love with her boss, only to be pursued by the woman her boss is determined to marry. Confused?" asked Ms. Speidel recently, "You're not alone, but Twelfth Night, Shakespeare's witty look at gender confusion, invites us to put convention aside, stretch the boundaries of "acceptable" attraction, and that, in the end, love is love is love is love. The play is filled with relatable characters contending with mistaken identities, unrelenting desire, hilarious pranks, and unrequited love – not to mention cross-dressing, duels, and deception – all offered up with a generous dash of merriment!"

Twelfth Night combines love, confusion, mistaken identities and joyful discovery all while telling a story of fickle fortune, mourning, love and reunion. Set in the free-wheeling, mirror-ball world of the 1970s, the celebratory

nature of Shakespeare's play is heightened with a series of Top-Ten hits that enhance the production and move the action forward with a disco beat. Shipwrecked twins, gender-bending romance and a bumper crop of fools, from the wise to the ridiculous, guarantee a full-blown evening's entertainment.

CDC Theatre is celebrating its 104th season in Cranford, NJ at 78 Winans Ave.

For best ticket selection and prices, visit cdctheatre.org for additional information.


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CENTER FOR HOPE'S AUXILIARY YEAR-END DONATION

The Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, a community-based non-profit hospice organization in Union County, New Jersey, celebrated the season with their Auxiliary on Monday, December 5. At the party, the Center received a very generous gift: a check for \$100,000 representing the funds raised from the Auxiliary over the past year.

Marge Hussey, the Auxiliary's president, was pleased to be able to present the check to the Center. "Each year," she said, "with our many events and the Hope Chest Thrift Store, we work tirelessly to not only educate the community about the Center, but to help the Center in its mission: providing only the finest in hospice care to all those who need it regardless of an inability to pay. As I present the fruits of that work to the Center tonight, I hope you all can share the pride I feel in knowing that we're making a difference in the lives of so many each and every year."

Tom Kasper, the Chairman of the Center's

Board of Trustees, was on hand to accept the gracious donation. "This is incredible," he said. "While each and every one of us, alone, do what we can, it pales in comparison to the work that can be done when we come together as a group and work toward a goal. You all have shown that here tonight. There's simply no way the Center can properly state the gratitude we feel for the Auxiliary throughout the year."

Marge concluded by saying, "As we come together this holiday season, I want to again thank everyone for their hard work...and remind everyone that our work is not done! Next year, those in need in our community will still remain and will still need our support." She reminded the group that "we still need new members to help us do even more next year."

The Center for Hope offers hospice and palliative care in its two residences in Scotch Plains and Elizabeth, and provides hospice care to patients in the wider community where they live. For more information on the Center or the Auxiliary, visit cfhh.org.

ABOUT CENTER FOR HOPE HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE, INC.

Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care (Center for Hope) is a non-profit, community-based organization that provides terminally ill patients with hospice care, and their families or loved ones with physical, emotional, and spiritual support during their time of need. The Center actively supports the individual's right to live out the remainder of their life with dignity and in comfort, surrounded by the love of family and friends, and eased from the burdens of physical, emotional, spiritual, financial or social distress. Center for Hope welcomes all terminally ill patients, their families and loved ones without concern for race, ethnicity, religious affiliation or ability to pay. It also offers pain and symptom management for chronically ill and seriously ill patients through its palliative care program. Center for Hope operates two facilities in Scotch Plains and Elizabeth; the latter provides nearly \$3.5 million a year in charity care. For more information, visit cfhh.org.

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(above, l-r) The officers of the Center for Hope Auxiliary present a \$100,000 check to the Center for Hope's Board of Trustees Chairman. Pictured are Marge Hussey, Dolores Paruta, Ginny Comer, Thomas Kasper, Dolores Hynes, and Rosemary Burke.

Courtesy photo

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The library will be closed on February 20

Blind Date With a Book

February 1 - 14

Do you judge a book by its cover? Elmora Branch Library is playing matchmaker. These books are single and ready to mingle! Sign up by calling (908) 353-4820. Then pick up your mystery date with a rate your date slip inside.

Let us know if you enjoyed your date!

Stitch & Chat

Thursday, February 2 at 10:00am

Come stitch your clothing back up at Elmora! Just bring the article of clothing you want to mend! Assistance will be available.

Toddlers World

Friday, February 3 at 11:00am

An hour of fun songs to sing, music, and playtime.

Art Lessons

Saturday, February 4 & 18 at 2:30pm

Learn to blend colors, sketch, and many more art skills! An excellent experience for children, teens, and adults! All levels of art skills are welcome!

Zumba Gold

Monday, February 6, 13, & 27 at 8:30am

CALL 908-353-4820 to reserve a spot but walk-ins are welcome!

Crochet with Sol

Monday, February 6 & 13

and Tuesday, February 7 & 14

CALL 908-353-4820 to reserve a spot but walk-ins are welcome!

Adult Scrabble

Wednesday, February 8 at 1:30pm

Word lovers! Exercise your B-R-A-I-N (7 points) by playing scrabble with other like-minded adults.

Bubbles aRe Us

Saturday, February 11 at 1:00pm

Located on 640 3rd Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ Join Ms. Martha for songs, stories, crafts, and oh-so-much fun! This storytime will feature stories in English and Spanish for the whole family.

Stitch & Chat

Wednesday, February 15 at 3:00pm

Come stitch your clothing back up at Elmora! Just bring the article of clothing you want to mend! Assistance will be available.

Drawing for Kids

Thursday, February 16 at 3:00 pm

Join Ms. Martha for a cute storytime and learn to draw different animals!

Adult Spanish Book Club

Friday, February 17 at 2:00pm

Join us for a monthly book discussion for adults in Spanish with Martha!

Sign Language Storytime

Saturday, February 18 at 11:00am

A family storytime where everyone can learn sign language together.

Junior's Book Club

Wednesday, February 22 at 4:00pm

Tweens will share the love of reading, learn to talk about the books they're reading, and motivate kids to read.

Ages: 9-12

Coloring for Kids

Saturday, February 25 at 10:00am

Relax & color at the Elmora Branch for an hour!

All Age Lego

Saturday, February 25 at 2:30pm

It's Lego Hour at Elmora on Saturday @ 2:30. Come and build an enormous tower or make a race car; the imagination is limitless!

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DONATION OF ORANGES BRINGS FLORIDA SUNSHINE TO FOOD PANTRY

Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey

Kathy Fernandez, JFSCNJ Charlotte Shak Kosher Food Pantry Coordinator, received a surprise phone call in January, from Christopher Rueda of Truck and Go LLC of Roselle Park, that resulted in a donation of 54 cases of oranges.

Christopher contacted his company for advice when he realized he had a surplus of oranges after his final delivery that he was driving to the tri-state area from Florida. The staff at Truck and Go reached out to our food pantry to see if we would be able to accept the donation. Christopher then asked his brother, Hector Rueda, to help unload the 54 cases of oranges.

We are grateful to brothers Christopher and Hector Rueda who spent over two hours of their time and heavy lifting to unload the oranges, and to Truck and Go LLC for the generous donation.

The oranges were distributed to our Food Pantry clients and to other local food pantries in Union County.

If you would like to make a donation to the JFSCNJ Charlotte Shak Kosher Food Pantry, volunteer, or get a volunteer group food drive project together contact Kathy Fernandez, kfernandez@jfscentralnj.org, 908-352-8375. For all other volunteer opportunities, contact Danielle McLeer, JFSCNJ Director of Community Engagement, dmcleer@jfscentralnj.org, 908-352-8375.

For more information visit Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey at www.jfscentralnj.org.



(above, l-r) Christopher Rueda, Kathy Fernandez (JFSCNJ Charlotte Shak Kosher Food Pantry Coordinator), Danielle McLeer (JFSCNJ Director of Engagement) and Hector Rueda.

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YMCA DISTRIBUTES FREE COMPUTERS TO STUDENTS

The Gateway Family YMCA

On January 16, 2023, the Loyalty Foundation distributed 100 Chromebook laptops to School Age Child Care (SACC) participants in need at The Gateway Family YMCA in Elizabeth, Rahway and Union, NJ. The distribution event at the Elizabeth Branch was attended by David Neeman, Founder, Loyalty Foundation, Rahmean Pops, 211 Community Impact, and the entertainer Redman.

"It was a beautiful Martin Luther King Jr. Day and we were so pleased to collaborate with all the wonderful folks from The Gateway YMCA in Elizabeth, NJ to distribute the computers. The community and atmosphere was electric, and we can't thank the incomparable Redman and Rahmean Pops of 211 Community Impact enough for supporting our equity empowerment mission. Seeing all the smiles on the families faces and knowing how much these computers will help them, means the world to us," stated David Neeman, Founder, the Loyalty Foundation

"We are very appreciative of The Loyalty

Foundation, a strong partner to The Gateway Family YMCA and the families we serve. Access to technology is imperative to provide academic success and recovery from the learning loss experienced over these past few years. This donation opens a world of possibilities for our children," Melynda A. Disla, President/Chief Executive Officer, The Gateway Family YMCA. "It was a heartwarming event and a great collaboration. We are truly thankful to Redman for taking the time to visit with families at our YMCA and brighten the smiles of all who attended. We are thankful to Rahmean Pops of 211 Community Impact for joining the Loyalty Foundation in sharing the gift of technology with our students."

The computer donation was made possible by The Loyalty Foundation, a New York City-based 501(c)(3) Public Charity providing computers technology-based education programs to underserved K-12 youth populations across the U.S.

The Chromebooks were distributed to SACC

families on a first-come-first-serve basis at the 3 different locations of The Gateway Family YMCA: Elizabeth Branch, Five Points Branch, and Rahway Branch.

For more information about The Loyalty Foundation visit www.loyaltyfoundation.org

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA visit www.tgfymca.org.



(above) Naldy Velarde, School Age Child Care & Camp Director, The Gateway Family YMCA, Jasmine Shaw, Housing Coordinator, Redman, Earnestine Brookins, Housing Coordinator, David Neeman, Founder, The Loyalty Foundation, Colleen Clayton, Chief Membership & Development Officer, Rahmean Pops, 211 Community Impact sharing a moment with the last Elizabeth YMCA family to pick up their laptop on Monday.



(above) Elizabeth Branch family Shannah, Rashon, Jayceon and Jalani receive their laptop from the Loyalty Foundation.



(above) Chloe, Five Points Branch student smiles with her laptop, with mom and sister, Amber and Graisy. (Union)

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ALL CHILDREN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN PINEWOOD DERBY

The excitement is building for the Cub Scouts of Pack 23 as they get ready for the annual Pinewood Derby. Scouts are given a kit that includes a block of wood, plastic wheels and axles. With help from a parent or other adult, they transform those parts into a race car and then race it against their friends' cars, down a 30-foot long track. Trophies are presented to the winners.

Pack 23 would like to invite all boys and girls,

from Kindergarten to the 5th grade, to join in the fun, even if they are not in Cub Scouts! The Pinewood Derby race will be held on Friday, February 10, in Saint Genevieve's Church hall, at 7:00 p.m. Derby kits cost \$6 each and can be ordered from Cubmaster Dan Bernier at 908-451-1948.

The Scouting program at St. Genevieve's Church teaches character, citizenship and

physical fitness to the youth of Elizabeth and surrounding towns. Cub Scouting provides activities and training for boys and girls in Kindergarten through fifth grades. Boy Scouting is for boys who are at least 11 years old or graduated from the fifth grade. New members are welcome at any time, all year round. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfootroop@gmail.com.



(above) Cub Scouts from Pack 23 show off the cars they built for the 2022 Pinewood Derby.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 23 ENJOYED ITS WINTER FUN WEEKEND

Ten Scouts and 15 adult leaders participated in Boy Scout Troop 23's Winter Weekend on January 13 – 15. This annual event has been a tradition for over 50 years.

The Scouts stayed in the newly-expanded Wink Dousa Cabin at Winnebago Scout Reservation, located in Rockaway Township, NJ. With the cabin now being heated by a furnace and the troop leaders preparing four hearty meals, the Scouts were able to concentrate on just having fun!

On Saturday morning, the Scouts took a hike through the Copperas Mountains of Morris County to the base of Indian Cliffs, near the shore of Splitrock Reservoir. After lunch, they visited the camp Trading Post, then spent some time tying knots and lashings in preparation for the upcoming Pinewood Derby.

After dinner, the Scouts divided into two teams and competed in a Scout Trivia challenge, with chocolate bars and other candy awarded as prizes. During their free time, the Scouts played chess, checkers, Battleship and Jenga, and built a puzzle.

One former Scout made his annual trip from Maryland with his father and son to participate in the Winter Weekend.

Boy Scout Troop 23 meets on Wednesday nights in the hall under St. Genevieve's Church, 200 Monmouth Road, Elizabeth. New members are welcome at any time, all year round. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfootroop@gmail.com

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