

Watchung Post

Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

NJ

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FLINTLOCKS SCOUTER GROUP LIVES BY THE SCOUT LAWS

The Flintlocks, BSA, Inc. are a group of retired scouts who dedicate their time and talents to building and maintaining the scout camps of the Patriot's Path Boy Scout Council in northern New Jersey.

The group includes some tradesmen, but also professionals and volunteers of every background. Most are retired, but some still work full-time, and occasionally people volunteer to help for a day here or there. It is a very friendly group with great camaraderie and a good sense of humor. When one member reached age 100, they designated a parking spot reserved for "all Flintlocks over 100 years old". Two other members are 90 years old, but they will have to wait a while before parking in that spot.

The Flintlocks met for their Fall General Meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at their workshop at Camp Winnebago in Rockaway, NJ. They reviewed the accomplishments of the previous year and discussed future projects the Council needs to have done. Some of the future projects include installing new windows in the dining hall, building a pavilion near the trading post, collecting Toys for Tots; and making craft kits and Pinewood Derby cars for special needs children.

The Patriot's Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America encompasses 5 counties in central and northern New Jersey: Middlesex; Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Union. The Council website is ppcbsa.org. There are 11,000 scouts who use the camps in this council.

In spite of their name, the Flintlocks have nothing to do with antique firearms, although some of the old guys are considered "antiques". They meet every Thursday at Camp Winnebago, Rockaway, NJ, all year round, and guests are always welcome. They are organized as a 501c3 nonprofit corporation. All of the members are registered with the BSA, take CPR and AED training, and are vaccinated for COVID.

More than half of the Flintlocks have been



(above) The Flintlocks BSA, Inc. members showing the signs representing the 12 points of the Scout Law. They tease one member for always being seen with a coffee cup in his hand, so they made him a sign reading "coffee". These signs will be posted at the Allamuchy Scout Reservation in Byram, NJ, located near Waterloo Village.

Courtesy photo

awarded the prestigious Silver Beaver Award, which is the highest National Award for a volunteer in the Scouting Program. They usually provide approximately 5,000 hours of volunteer skilled labor every year, saving the Council close to \$250,000 of labor costs.

In the past, the Flintlocks have built cabins, picnic tables, painted the dining hall, built the archery range, built all the structures at the waterfront, financed, built and equipped the STEM Lab at Allamuchy Scout Reservation, financed and built an addition to the Wink Dousa Cabin, and repaired damage to camp structures. In addition to building structures and doing repairs and maintenance, they also volunteer at many Council programs throughout the year. One popular program for Cub Scouts for which the Flintlocks volunteer is called "For the Birds". The children learn about birds and build birdhouses and bird feeders.

The Facebook Page is "Flintlocks". Guests are always welcome. For more information contact Secretary Dr. Michael Hart at drmhart@yahoo.com.

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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The time to apply is now! High school seniors wishing to apply for the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship should obtain applications now from their school guidance office. Submission deadline is Wednesday, March 8th, 2023.

To date, the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship Fund, a fund of the Plainfield Foundation, has provided over 1.4 million dollars in scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 over a twenty-seven year period. The awards are made in accordance with the terms of a bequest from Ms. DeLeeuw, author of 75 books, journalist and arts activist.

The Plainfield Rotary Scholarship Foundation, headed by Michael R. Townley, acts as selector for the scholarships. Eligible students are those who attend public, parochial or private high

schools in Plainfield, North Plainfield, South Plainfield, Warren, Watchung, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Edison. Applicants must major in one of the following areas of study: art, poetry, writing, journalism or engineering, and must also be accepted to an accredited college or university. They must demonstrate the scholastic aptitude and interest in the area of study and prove financial need.

Interested high school students should consult their guidance counselors to obtain the necessary application information or go to the Rotary Club of the Plainfields website at rotarypnp.org/cs-adele-deleeuw-scholarship.php. Questions may be directed to Johanna Salvemini, Scholarship Administrator, at (908) 755-8098.

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 and \$450 for the tenants.


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.

WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

The Rutgers Women's Golf Association at Rutgers University Golf Course, Piscataway, is looking for new members. The league plays 18 holes Thursday mornings from April through October.

Anyone interested in joining should contact membership chair Mary Cosgrove at maryc20@msn.com or 908-507-4562.



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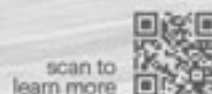



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BUTTERFLY RELEASE REFLECTS ON GRIEF AND LOSS

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.



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

Courtesy photo



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FRIENDS OF THE WATCHUNG LIBRARY

You could have heard a pin drop in the packed room at the Watchung library as Dr. Bruce Ruck, Managing Director of the New Jersey Poison Control Center, shared inside information on the thwarting of serial-killer nurse, Charles Cullen. Cullen, now serving 11 consecutive life sentences, is believed to have killed up to 400 people in hospitals and medical centers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Dr. Ruck was invited by the Friends of the Watchung Library to describe the growing suspicion around the deaths at Somerset Medical Center as 13 patients were poisoned by Cullen. It was Ruck who first told Somerset Medical management, "You have a murderer."

Ruck's fascinating, informative, and disturbing talk coincided with the opening of the movie "The Good Nurse," based on the nurse who befriended and later helped law enforcement arrest Cullen. The Friends of the Watchung Library have invited Dr. Ruck to return to the library with more stories of true crime from the Poison Center.

Follow Friends of Watchung Library on Facebook for more information and upcoming events.

Courtesy photo



(above) Dr. Bruce Ruck

LIBRARY CONTINUES DONATION TRADITION

For the twenty-fourth year, Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) staff members have collected and donated gifts for clients of Alternatives, Inc.

"It's the season of giving and it warms the heart knowing SCLSNJ staff members have, once again, fulfilled the wishes of so many deserving individuals at Alternatives, Inc.," said Jennifer McClear, co-chair of SCLSNJ's annual holiday wish list drive.

Alternatives, Inc. is a community-based, non-profit organization dedicated to assisting individuals with special needs to reach their highest level of independence and integration into the community by providing residential opportunities coupled with comprehensive support services. Learn more about Alternatives, Inc. at alternativesinc.org/somerset-county.

To learn more about the Library System, call 908-458-8400. To discover even more about SCLSNJ, visit SCLSNJ.org or connect with SCLSNJ on Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube.



(above, l-r) Pictured are SCLSNJ staffers and co-chairs of SCLSNJ's annual holiday wish list drive, Charlene Perkins and Jennifer McClear.

Photo by SCLSNJ

LIVE MUSIC AT THE BROOK ARTS CENTER

Catch these must-see live shows and concerts at the historic Brook Theater in Bound Brook! Tickets are available on the website (www.brookarts.org) or call the box office at 732-469-7700. Get your tickets early for the best prices and great seats! The "Special No Fee" offer on March Shows Only expires on January 31. The Brook Arts Center is located in downtown Bound Brook, NJ, one block from the Bound Brook Train station and minutes from Rt 28, 22, 287, and 78.

FEBRUARY 19 AT 3 PM

The Brook Orchestra, led by conductor Thomas Vacca, brings masterpieces from the 20th century to the present in this amazing concert on the historic Brook Theater stage. The Brook Orchestra has been in residence at the Brook Arts Center since 2016 with Vacca taking over the Music Director position in 2019. Since his arrival, the size of the orchestra has grown to over 70+ seventy members becoming a highly regarded regional orchestra - bringing beloved staples of the symphonic repertoire to Somerset County and beyond.

MARCH 12 AT 3 PM

An Afternoon with the Duprees" and special guests Tommy C "The Voice of Tribute" and Comedian Gina DiMaggio. The tradition and sound that made the Duprees a well-loved and successful group have echoed through time for more than 50 years. The Duprees still thrills audiences with their smooth harmonies and romantic sound as they revitalize their top hits for new generations. Tommy Petillo, Phil Granito, and Jimmy Spinelli continue to show their dedication and passion for the music that started on a Jersey City street corner and grew to something both classic and timeless.

MARCH 11 AT 8 PM

Celebrate St. Patty's day a wee bit early with The Irish Cabaret starring internationally acclaimed singer Andy Cooney and the Guinness Irish Band along with the finest in Irish entertainment showcasing the best of Ireland's music, song, comedy, and dance! With special guests Comedian Mick Thomas, Celtic Folk Singer Ciara Fox, and The Emerald Fire Irish Dancers, Cooney is one of the greatest singing sensations on the Irish Music scene today. Christened Irish America's Favorite Son by The New York Times, it is a title he richly deserves.

The Irish Cabaret

Star of Carnegie Hall
"Irish America's Favorite Son"
The New York Times

Mick Thomas
Comedian

Emerald Fire
Irish Dancers

Ciara Fox
Irish Folk Singer

Guinness Irish Band

Gina DiMaggio
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LIBRARY VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

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. Visit SCLSNJ.org.

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>.

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Bach & Forth - Discovery Orchestra

February 3 – 11 a.m.

In this 50-minute live presentation, The Discovery Orchestra staff member and violinist Michael Avagliano will explore how J.S. Bach creates a “conversation” of many voices out of a single instrument in his Sonata in G minor for Solo Violin. The presentation will include a live performance of the sonata.

Heads up! Seniors – Anna Busler-

Brain Injury Alliance of NJ

February 6 – 11 a.m.

The purpose of this workshop is to increase independence and decrease falls, along with discussing driving and pedestrian safety tips.

The workshop is fun, and interactive and designed to educate seniors on ways to be safe at home and in the community.

Brains n Games and Hand Bells

with Adrienne Graubard

February 10, 24 – 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.

Thomas Paine: Forgotten Founding Father –

Marisa Bozarth

February 15 – 11 a.m.

When we think of the Founding Fathers we often think of names like Jefferson, Adams,

Franklin, and Washington; the list goes on and on. We rarely think about Thomas Paine.

Paine's "Common Sense" inspired the idea of American independence and is one of the best-selling books of all time. Paine would go on to write several other pamphlets, some that would garner him fame and some that would leave him ostracized by the very people that praised him years earlier. This presentation will discuss Paine's early life, his many writings, his imprisonment in Europe, and why he should be remembered as a critical factor in our independence.

Stretch & Strength – Part 2

February 17 – 11 a.m.

Brandywine Living and Powerback

Rehabilitation present Fun, Fit & Fabulous: Stretch and Strength. Join us for this interactive program taught by a licensed physical therapist to improve flexibility and mobility. A great way to age without injury is to stretch and strengthen the muscles so lace up those sneakers and let's get moving!

Fire Safety with the American Red Cross

February 27 – 11 a.m.

We should all know about being prepared in the event of a fire, at home, or elsewhere. How much do you know about making your home fire-resistant and you and your family safe?

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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.



(above) Attendees sign cards for veterans at the 2021 4-H Holiday Craft Festival.

Courtesy photos

CRISIS LINE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Have you ever been told you are a good listener? Do you have a yearning to really make a difference? Caring Contact, a Westfield, NJ based crisis hotline, will be offering its 102nd volunteer crisis counselor training beginning March 14th through June 13th. The training will run once a week on Tuesdays from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. and will be a combination of in-person training and via Zoom.

Participants receive 52 hours of comprehensive training by nationally certified instructors in active listening and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Volunteers develop the ability to listen actively, assess the needs of someone in crisis and provide empathy and support.

"This training and volunteer opportunity is ideal for people of varying backgrounds - retirees, empty-nesters, stay-at-home parents, and full-time professionals" said Mary Claire Givelber, Caring Contact's executive director. "Many of our listeners were looking for something meaningful to do after they retire or their children leave home. Full-time professionals also participate finding the flexible volunteer hours work well with their work obligations."

Following training new volunteer crisis counselors are supported by seasoned listeners during 24 hours of internship before they take calls on their own. Even once a volunteer is a certified listener, Caring Contact provides a range of support and training opportunities to allow them to keep honing their skills.

Anyone interested in registering for the training should visit caringcontact.org/listener-training/ or call the Caring Contact administrative offices for more information at 908-301-1899.

Caring Contact is a volunteer-staffed crisis hotline and listening community.

If you need someone to listen, call us at 908-232-2880. If you, or someone you know, are in crisis call 988, the new access code to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. To learn more, visit caringcontact.org. You are Not Alone.

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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.



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NEW JERSEY'S OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL PLANNER OF 2022

Somerset County

Walter C. Lane, Director of Somerset County's Office of Planning, Policy, and Economic Development received the prestigious "Outstanding Professional Planner" award for 2022 from the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association.

In awarding Mr. Lane the 2022 Budd Chavooshian Award for Outstanding Professional Planner, the Association selected him from among 2,100 professional planners in New Jersey for his leadership expertise and "unwavering belief in the value of county planning."

Describing Mr. Lane as a "champion and change-maker in Somerset County for over two decades," the association credited him with leading Somerset County to become "the first county in New Jersey to be designated as an 'Age Friendly County' by the American Association of Retired Persons and the World Health Organization, and most recently, developed a comprehensive Somerset County Preservation Plan, which is the first of its kind in New Jersey coordinating all aspects of preservation programs including open space, farmland and historic."

Somerset County's new Preservation Plan, adopted in 2022, has received awards from Preservation New Jersey and the New Jersey

Planning Officials Association. A short video provides highlights of the plan, which was officially announced last September at the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum in Montgomery Township.

"Walter Lane has been an incredible asset to Somerset County throughout his entire career," said County Commissioner Paul Drake, himself a professional planner and liaison to the Somerset County Planning Board. "His foresight has helped prepare us for a strong rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensures we remain a great place to live, work, and play."

During his tenure as President of the New Jersey County Planners Association in 2020, Mr. Lane initiated a task force during the height of the pandemic to develop a long-range recovery plan entitled "Creating a Healthier, Prosperous and More Equitable Future for All New Jersey's Residents."

In its announcement of the award, the planning association looked back on a decade of achievement. "Since 2014, Mr. Lane's efforts have successfully preserved nearly 1,000 acres of open space, preserved over 820 acres of farmland, and provided over \$7.8 million in funding for historic preservation projects," the association said.



(above) Walter Lane holding his planning award, surrounded by (l-r) Somerset County Commissioner Paul Drake and staff members Erika Phillips, Jessica Paolini, Tom Boccino, Angela Knowles, and Kaitlin Bundy.

Courtesy photo

RL

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CERT MEMBERS ARE VITAL TO LOCAL DISASTER RESPONSE

Somerset County

Somerset County's Office of Emergency Management graduated another seven local residents during the November 2022 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training. These volunteers spent twenty-six hours over seven days learning how to support their community and first-responders when disasters strike through a coordinated, team effort at the municipal or county level.

"The expansion of our CERT volunteer base means that our municipalities and Somerset County will be more prepared to respond to disasters in the future, including those caused by the increasing frequency and severity of storms here in Central Jersey," said Commissioner Doug Singleterry, liaison to the Office of Emergency Management. "We all owe a debt of gratitude to these volunteers who give their time and expertise preparing our communities to respond in crisis, and being the foundation of our response when crises strike."

November's CERT class included residents of Branchburg, Manville, Bernardsville, Warren, South Bound Brook and Peapack Gladstone and are eligible to join their local CERT programs. Local CERTs train and organize teams of volunteers to assist their families, neighbors, co-workers and other community members during

emergencies when professional responders may not be immediately available to provide assistance.

Following their full week of training in Disaster Preparedness, CERT Organization, Light Search and Rescue, Disaster Psychology, Terrorism, Fire Safety, Medical Operations and Sheltering Operations each participant must complete a written exam and practical exercise to graduate. The practical excises include "cribbing" to remove a person trapped under a heavy object using leverage, and a search and rescue simulation.

Before, during, and after disasters, CERT volunteer teams perform basic response activities, including checking in on neighbors, distribution of information to the public, supporting emergency operations centers, and helping to manage traffic and crowds. The deployment of CERT volunteers to perform these activities frees up professional responders to focus efforts on more complex, essential, and often life-saving tasks. CERT volunteers also support their communities by organizing, promoting, and participating in emergency preparedness events, activities, and projects.

For more information regarding the CERT program, please utilize the following link: bit.ly/SoCoCERT



(above) Somerset County's November CERT training graduated additional volunteers ready to jump into action to protect neighbors and free up first-responders when disaster strikes their local communities.

Photo by Somerset County

DRAMA QUEENS: DARK BEAUTIES FOR YOUR GARDEN

The Garden Club of Watchung welcomes Garden Historian, Leslie Parness for a very special presentation, "Drama Queens: Dark Beauties for Your Garden", at St. Mary's Stony Hill Church, Murray Hall, Mountain Blvd., Watchung, on March 1, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

"Defined as the absence of color, black in its many hues can highlight, offset and dramatize every real color in your garden." Leslie will show how to use over 75 dark beauties to create rhythm, punctuate place, outline areas and focus the eye to add drama to your garden. Leslie will provide a useful plant list of these dark beauties that include annuals, perennials, vines, trees and shrubs.

Leslie is a member of the Herb Society of America, the Council on Horticulture and Botanical Libraries, and Garden State Gardens, a consortium of New Jersey State Gardens of which she is a founding member and past president. Her column, The Garden Historian, is featured bi-monthly in the "Gardener News". She is retired from her position as superintendent of horticulture education at the Morris Park Commission.

The Garden Club of Watchung is a non-profit organization and a donation is greatly appreciated.



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6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
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CASA SHAW ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBERS

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties (CASA SHaW) has announced the appointment of five new Board of Trustee members. The Board of Trustees oversees the general operations of CASA SHaW, a 501c3, the annual budget and staff. Each board member serves a 2-year interval for up to 6 years.

Joining the Board of Trustees are Malcolm Kaye, Kathy Tober, Kathy Finnegan, Rupal Patel, and Thomas Dilts. "These individuals embody the spirit of community and bring talent, expertise and energy to the table. We are very

fortunate to have them by our side as we continue to strengthen CASA SHaW's programming for foster children in our region," said Tracey Heisler, Executive Director.

Malcolm Kaye is a partner at a small zoning consulting firm in New York City. Kathy Tober is the Director of Operations and Administration at St. John's Nursery School in Bernardsville. Kathy Finnegan, now retired, taught AP biology, chemistry, physics, and was a temporary special education teacher for algebra and science at Delaware Valley Regional High School. Rupal Patel is the Director of Regulatory Affairs at ADC

Therapeutics. Thomas Dilts is a retired New Jersey Family Court Judge.

"CASA envisions a world where every child will have a safe, permanent home. We are blessed to have the leadership to help fulfill our mission and advance the public good," said Heisler. "That starts by bringing together talented and committed leaders who have the perspectives, backgrounds, and skill sets the organization needs at the board level. We are so excited to welcome these individuals to our Board of Trustees here at CASA SHaW."

CASA of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties is part of a statewide network of community-based, non-profit programs that recruit, screen, train and supervise volunteers to "Speak Up for a Child" removed from home due to abuse or neglect. CASA is the only program in New Jersey that uses trained volunteers to work one-on-one with children, ensuring that each one gets the services needed and achieves permanency in a safe, nurturing home. To find a local CASA program in your county, visit casaoenj.org.

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