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SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION HONORED BY SP COUNCIL

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation was honored at the Scotch Plains Township Council meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

Presenting the Foundation with a Resolution, the Township Council recognized the efforts of the Foundation to address the vital need for post-high school education and the increasing financial responsibility that it places on the students and their families. The Resolution highlighted many facets of the Foundation including awarding more than \$4 million in scholarships since its inception in 1966, the means in which it fundraises, as well as the Foundation's volunteers and its supporters.

In attendance were many of the Foundation's Trustees, including Foundation President Michelle Wyrwa who thanked the Township Council and shared a personal story of how impactful being a part of the Foundation has been in her life.

Wyrwa, who joined the Foundation in 2016 and first became aware of the organization when she served as PTA President at Evergreen Elementary School said, "About a decade ago I attended my first scholarship night at the high school and it became, and remains, one of my favorite nights of the year."

After becoming the Foundation President in 2019, she fostered relationships with the donors and heard their stories about the members of the community they were honoring. Wyrwa said, "I understood what scholarship night was all about, connecting our community's past with its future. It is magic!"

Wyrwa believes that the Foundation does more than provide financial assistance to the community's students, "I believe that the greatest gift we can give these students is the knowledge that their community believes in them and is cheering them on for their future success."

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation awarded 131 scholarships on May 31st at the annual Senior Scholarship Night. The Foundation is always fundraising for the students of Scotch Plains and Fanwood and accepting new scholarship opportunities. You can donate to the Foundation by visiting spfscholarshipfoundation.org/donate-2/ or, if you are interested in establishing a scholarship of your own, please contact the Foundation at

spfscholarshipfoundation@gmail.com.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION:

Since 1966, The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation has been awarding scholarship assistance to graduating seniors and current college students residing in Scotch Plains and Fanwood. To date, the Foundation has awarded over \$4 million to deserving local students. Scholarships are made possible by the Foundation's efforts during its annual Dollars for Students campaign. In addition to the Dollars for Students awards, the Foundation administers over 50 separate honorary and memorial scholarships, funded via individuals or groups from the local community and beyond. Scholarship assistance is made possible by Scotch Plains and Fanwood businesses, organizations, community members, and other contributions. For more information visit spfscholarshipfoundation.org.



(above) The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation was honored at the Scotch Plains Township Council.

Courtesy photo

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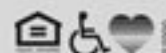
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UNICO ITALIAN FESTIVAL – SEPT. 1ST – 4TH

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO, in collaboration with St. Bartholomew's Church and St. Bartholomew's Academy, is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated return of the 49th Annual Italian Festival. This vibrant celebration of community, culture, and culinary delights is set to take place from September 1st to September 4th, 2023, at the St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church located at 2032 Westfield Ave in Scotch Plains.

The festival has been a beloved tradition since 1974, honoring San Nicola di Bari, the patron saint of the town of Montazzoli, Italy. Over the Labor Day weekend, residents from Scotch Plains, Fanwood, and surrounding communities come together to revel in the festivities, creating cherished memories that span generations.

This year's festival promises to be an unforgettable event, uniting attendees in a celebration of Italian heritage. A wide-range of attractions await guests, including captivating live music, exhilarating amusement rides, family-friendly game booths, and, of course, a tantalizing array of delectable Italian cuisine.

Beyond the excitement and entertainment, the festival serves as a means to raise funds for various local scholarships and community events organized by SPF UNICO and St. Bartholomew's. One of the festival's most anticipated fundraisers is the renowned Super 50/50 raffle, which amassed over \$63,000 last year. The winners of this raffle will be announced during the festival's grand finale on Monday, September 4th, at 8:00 p.m.

The four-day extravaganza would not be possible without the dedication and support of numerous volunteers and sponsors. From managing ticket sales to overseeing game booths and everything in between, the festival relies on the generosity and commitment of community members. Anyone interested in volunteering or sponsorships is encouraged to visit the festival's official website at sbuitalianfestival.com.

This year's festival schedule:

FRIDAY, SEPT. 1, 4:30PM-10:30PM.

- 7pm: Wolf Creek - Performing country, southern, & classic rock.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2, 4:30PM-10:30PM.

- 5pm: Italian Mass at St. Bartholomew Church.
- 6pm: Mike Aromando and the Metropolitan Italian Strolling Band
- Performing traditional Italian Music.
- 7pm: The Jersey Jukebox
- Performing hits from the 50's to 80's.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 3, 4:30PM-10:30PM.

- 7pm: The Broadcasters
- Performing classic rock.

MONDAY, SEPT 4, 3PM-8PM.

- 5pm: Jimmy and the Parrots
- Performing Jimmy Buffet's hits.
- 8pm: Super 50/50 raffle drawing.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO, St. Bartholomew's Church, and St. Bartholomew's Academy invite everyone to join in the celebration of the 49th Annual Italian Festival. Let us come together, embrace the rich heritage of Italy, raise funds for the community, and create memories that will last a lifetime.



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LEGENDARY TEACHER, COACH AND COMMUNITY ICON WILLIAM LEE DIES

Submitted by Tom Kranz

William Lee, who touched thousands of lives as a teacher, coach, volunteer and driving instructor, died on Saturday, July 22nd, 2023, at a rehab facility in Virginia. He was 88.

Learning to drive through the Lee Driving School was a rite of passage for young men and women in the Fanwood-Scotch Plains community for 38 years.

"I do have patience," he said in February. "I've had to slow them down, had them speed up or do

one thing or the other, but it worked out well."

Even before the driving school, Mr. Lee was a ubiquitous presence as a coach and physical education teacher, first at Terrill Middle School from 1968 to 1977, then at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School from 1977 until his retirement in 1993.

Coaching brought him a unique opportunity in the early 1980s when he went to Africa to coach the national basketball team of the Republic of Burundi.

"My brother-in-law had contacts in Burundi and learned they were looking for a coach for their national team," recalls Lee's wife, Josephine. "Bill went to Africa every summer, 1981 to 86, to coach them. He took them to the Central African Games in Angola."

During one trip, he met a promising player, Fiacré (pron: fee-AHK-ra), who came back to New Jersey and lived with them while he attended high school and college.

Mr. Lee was a long-time elected member of the Fanwood Democratic Committee and served as the Mayor's Designee on the Fanwood Planning Board. His family were among the original residents of Kramer Manor, a development near McGinn Elementary School created in the 1920s to provide housing for black families who might otherwise have been denied. He later moved to Terrill Road in Fanwood where he lived for many years before moving to Plainfield after retiring from the driving school in 2022. He and Mrs. Lee moved to Lancaster, Virginia in June.

Mr. Lee was honored in absentia at this year's Juneteenth celebration in Scotch Plains for his legacy as a teacher, community icon and resident of Kramer Manor. His son William Lee III was presented with a quilt commemorating his life made by local school children.

In addition to his wife Josephine, Mr. Lee is survived by daughter Debbie; son William, his wife Patrice and their children Noah, Elijah and Nia; son Daryl, his wife Jennifer and their two daughters Ella and Olivia; son Fiacré and extended family members Ira and Jennifer. Additional surviving family members are Mr. Lee's brother Robert W. Lee and his wife Shirley, his sisters Brenda Lee and Constance Mills and a host of nieces, nephews and friends. Mr. Lee was predeceased by his sisters Rose Upshaw and Patricia Craig and his son Arnold.

A memorial service will be held sometime in August in Fanwood.

Courtesy photos



(above) Bill and Josephine Lee in February 2023



(above) Mr. Lee in 1981 with members of the Burundi national basketball team

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(above) Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains to host a free spirituality seminar. Registration is required, please visit ihmparish.net/alpha.

IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

A free spirituality seminar is being offered by Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains, NJ. Most meetings are on Zoom. 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, 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, September 18, 2023, 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."

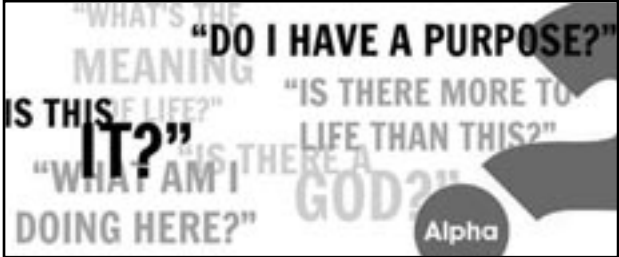
"I'm looking forward to the Alpha experience," says Lou Zappo. "It sounds like a lot of fun, and who knows, I might learn something about myself."

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

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FANWOOD-SCOTCH PLAINS ROTARY INDUCTS NEW OFFICERS

Submitted by Maria LaMorte-Wright

On Wednesday, June 7, 2023, Al Smith was inducted for his second term as President of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club (F-SP Rotary) for the 2023-2024 Rotary year. The other new officers include Susan Pastir (President-Elect), Curt Brand (Secretary) and Don Rosenberg (Treasurer). Officers and board members were sworn in by Past District Governor Ann Walko. Walko received a Paul Harris award for her dedicated service to the Rotary club, the local community and the Rotary district. She was also recently honored with the Good Scout Award from the Patriots Path Council Boy Scouts of America. District Governor Designate Jeannie Tsukomoto presented President Al Smith with a Paul Harris award for his contributions to the Rotary Foundation and Maria LaMorte-Wright was honored to receive the Fred Chemidlin Service Above Self Award.

Al Smith spoke about the Rotary club's accomplishments over the past year and plans for the new Rotary year. He will continue to focus on revitalizing the club, increasing diversity and spreading awareness about Rotary to the local community. Smith noted he is very excited to continue to lead the Rotary Club for another year, and has already introduced some changes to revitalize the club, including offering a new meeting structure. The first three meetings of the month will be held at 12:15 p.m. The first meeting is virtual and the following two are in-person at the Stage House in Scotch Plains. The fourth meeting of the month is held at 6:30 p.m. at Darby Road. Members are not required to attend meetings but are asked to volunteer and provide service to the community, per the Rotary motto "Service Above Self".

The F-SP Rotary Club contributes to the community by bringing service projects to life. They are currently focused on mental health, food insecurity, health and wellness. Annually, many volunteer hours are served by Rotary members, including support for food banks, distributing dictionaries to all third graders in the F-SP school

district, holiday toy collections, luminary sales, the restoration of the historic Frazee House, supporting at-risk girls in Uganda, and contributing to dialysis machines in India. The Rotary club also supports local youth through the annual distribution of over \$50,000 in scholarships. This year they celebrated their 85th Anniversary and received resolutions from the Borough of Fanwood and the Township of Scotch

Plains, for their service to the community.

The Rotary International Presidential theme for 2023-34 is "Create Hope in the World". The F-SP Rotary Club invites people to join them in making a difference in the community and in the world. For more information, visit the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Facebook page or the website at fsprotary.org. Or contact President Al Smith at president@fsprotary.org.



(above, l-r) Front row: District Governor Designate Jeannie Tsukomoto, PDG Ann Walko, President Al Smith, President-Elect Susan Pastir and Secretary Curt Brand.



(above) F-SP Rotary Foundation Scholarship recipients attended a dinner in their honor.

Courtesy photos

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SUMMER MOVIES UNDER THE STARS

Fanwood Recreation announces the schedule of its free Summer Movie Series

- Aug 8 Sonic the Hedgehog 2 (2022)
- Aug 15 Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (2022)

All movies will be shown in La Grande Park on Tuesday evenings, except for the movie on July 5, which is on a Wednesday. Rain dates are the following evening. The movies begin at dusk,

which is around 8:30 p.m. earlier in the summer, and closer to 8 p.m. later in the summer. The best way to enjoy watching the movies is to bring low beach chairs or a blanket to sit on.

Please check fanwoodrecreation.org/ for more details about the movie series.

MOBILE MEALS OF RECEIVES DONATION

Sheet Metal Workers' Union No. 22 recently presented Mobile Meals of Westfield a \$1,000 ShopRite gift card donation. Representing the union was Business Representative, Financial Secretary/Treasurer Jason Rooney. Accepting the donation was Mobile Meals Operations Manager Josephine Walsh.

Mobile Meals of Westfield is a non-profit organization which provides nutritious and affordable hot meals for those unable to provide meals for themselves. The organization serves the communities of Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield. For more information about the organization, visit mobilemealsofwestfield.org or call 908-233-6146.

Sheet Metal Workers' Union No. 22 serves Union, Morris, Somerset and Sussex Counties. The union members support veterans, the homeless and non-profit organizations as part of their community assistance programs. In addition, new union members, as part of their apprenticeship, provide 20 hours of community

service annually over a five-year period for a total of 100 hours. For more information on the union, visit SMWIALU22.ORG.



(above) Union representative Jason Rooney and Mobile Meals Operations Manager Josephine Walsh.

Courtesy photo

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FANWOOD PARTY IN THE PARK 2023

Borough of Fanwood

Fanwood families turned out for the Party in the Park, and there were old and new attractions this year at the event’s usual site, LaGrande Park. New was a pillow case race sponsored by Fanwood’s Shovlin Mattress Company. Owner Ron Shovlin and his staff signed up racers at their tent and ran the whole event. It was great fun for the kids, all of whom got prizes at the end.

Family Martial Arts conducted a karate demonstration and the YMCA hosted kid crafts in the park pavilion. Rides including a bounce house, obstacle course, giant slide and train provided plenty to do. Members of the Fanwood Recreation Commission, which conducted the event, dished out hot dogs and cold drinks. Commissioner Bruce Zakarin was the emcee for the evening.

The Party in the Park is the usual launch of the Fanwood summer movie series. There will be a movie scheduled outdoors in LaGrande Park every Tuesday night at dusk through August. Thanks to the Recreation Commission, Department of Public Works, Fanwood Police and Rescue Squad and Councilwoman Trisha Walsh for participating.

Photos by Tom Kranz



(above) Delaney and Beckham Richmond



(above) Friendly Weimaraner



(above) Obstacle course



(above) Giant slide



(above) Scott Sinclair cooks up hot dogs



(above) Fanwood Rescue Squad



(above) Sgt. Tom Chisholm, Officer Chris Pineiro and Lt. Dan Kranz

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OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES HONORED

Borough of Fanwood

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's amazing high school athletes took center stage at the July regular meeting of the Fanwood Mayor and Council held on Monday, July 17th, 2023.

Record setting track and field achievements by Boys' and Girls' Track-and-Field athletes were recognized by the Council which presented proclamations congratulating them on the following:

Jenai Berry for State Sectional Championship in the 800-meter race and for setting a new SPF High School record in the 800

Jenai Berry, Delaney Farley, Keira Kelly and Mia Trombetta for being named All Americans

or their performance in the 800-meter Sprint Medley Relay

Nate Rayan for one amazing achievement after another in the 110 high hurdles winning numerous meets, setting meet records and winning a spot in the upcoming U20 Pan American Games in Puerto Rico

Nate Rayan, Ameen Zubair, Justice Larkin and Ian Hopkins for their performance in the Shuttle Hurdle Relay winning Union County and National Championships

Kieran McElroy Barker and members of the Boys' Varsity Volleyball team for a 31-1 season which brought them Group Three victories and accolades for outstanding teamwork



(above, l-r) Boys' Volleyball: Councilwoman Erin McElroy Barker, Coach Brock Hor and the Councilwoman's son Kieran McElroy



(above, l-r) Boys' Track: Councilwomen Patricia Walsh and Gina Berry, Nate Rayan, Ameen Zubair, Coach Rich McGriff, Justice Larkin, Ian Hopkins and Mayor Colleen Mahr.

Photos by Tom Kranz



(above, l-r) Girls Track: Councilwomen Patricia Walsh and Gina Berry, Jenai Berry, Delaney Farley, Mia Trombetta, Kiera Kelly, Coach Jeff Koegel and Mayor Colleen Mahr

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2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains

Celebrating its 90th. Anniversary, the College Club of Fanwood Scotch Plains continues its tradition since its inception in 1933: to support the pursuit of a college education for young women in the Scotch Plains and Fanwood communities by providing scholarships. To date the College Club has awarded approximately \$780,000 in scholarships to 582 young women

This past May, the College Club of Fanwood –Scotch Plains awarded a total of \$25,500.00 in scholarships to 11 students, 5 of whom are high school seniors who graduated this June and 5 of whom are currently attending college. These awards included a special education award donated in honor of a current College Club Member, Elaine Carmen, The Academic Award of Excellence, and a memorial award in honor of a College Club Past President, Marie Walford as well as the Marie Leppert Community Service Award in honor of the Club's Past President and dedicated community leader.

The 2023 College recipients are: Tracy Ann Bagdonas, daughter of John and Jean Bagdonas, a rising junior at Fordham University; Riley Dwyer, daughter of Michael and Diane Dwyer, recipient of the Elaine Carmen Education Award who will be a sophomore at TCNJ in the fall; Katelyn Gaulin, daughter of Eric and Karyn Gaulin, a rising sophomore at TCNJ in the fall; Alexis Gutierrez daughter of German Gutierrez and Marguerite Sahaj, who will be a junior at Stony Brook University; and Chloe Howell, daughter of Philip and Holly Howell, recipient of the Marie Walford Memorial Award, wo will be a rising sophomore at The University of San Diego in the fall.

The 2023 High School recipients are: Minahal Azhar, daughter of Azhar Abbas and Tahira Parveen, who will be attending Rutgers University in the fall; Orenicia Casimiro, recipient of the Marie Leppert Community Service Award, daughter of Ciro and Jaquelin Casimiro, who will be attending the University of Pennsylvania in the fall; Jessica Gallagher, daughter of Cheryl and Brendon Gallagher, who will be attending TCNJ in the fall; Bridget Hernandez, daughter of Hans and Jennie Hernandez, who will be attending the University of Arizona in the fall; and Natasha Vega daughter of Jose Vega and Jacqueline Soto, who will be attending Case Western Reserve University in the fall.

The Academic Award of Excellence was presented to Riley Bhatia,SPFHS Class Valedictorian, daughter of Julian and Kelly Bhatia, who will be attending Kenyon College on the fall.

This is the 87th year that female students, seeking financial assistance to pursue a four-year college degree, have been helped by the club's fundraising efforts. Two of the club's largest efforts are the annual spring luncheon and clothing drive in the fall.

The High School awards were also presented at the SPFHS annual awards assembly.

The College Club hosts monthly informative programs presented by guest speakers on the third Monday of every month September—April; free and open to the public. Anyone interested in more information about the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains or would like to become a member please visit the club's website at fspcollegeclub.org.



(above, l-r) The 2023 Scholarship Recipients: Chloe Howell, Katelyn Gaulin, Alexis Gutierrez, Bridget Hernandez, Riley Bhatia, Minahal Azhar, Riley Dwyer, Natasha Vega, Jessica Gallagher and Orenicia Casimiro. Not pictured: Tracy Bagdonas

Courtesy photo

GERRY COONEY SPEAKS TO ROTARY CLUB

Gerry Cooney, former heavyweight professional boxer, was the speaker at the Rotary Club of Westfield May meeting. Mr. Cooney, a Fanwood resident, talked to the club about his professional boxing career, his triumphant battle with addiction, and his recently released autobiography "Gentleman Gerry, A Contender in the Ring, A Champion in Recovery".



(above, l-r)) Rotary Club of Westfield President Tony LaPorta and "Gentleman" Gerry Cooney.

Courtesy photo

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