

# Summit NJ Times

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## JUNIOR LEAGUE ANNOUNCES 2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Junior League of Summit (JLS) gave out more than \$37,000 in grants, scholarships and awards at its Annual Dinner on June 19, 2023, at the Madison Hotel Conservatory.

Grants were awarded to St. Andrew's Haven, Bridges, GRACE, Summit Speech School, Chatham Community Food Distribution, Overlook Foundation Healthstart, Imagine and Summit First Aid Squad. The JLS Community Grants Program focused on projects which meet the emerging needs of our communities arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The program enables the JLS to support other nonprofit organizations creating change in the Summit area.

The Jean Hudson Gano Award was given to Aidan Barth and Abigail Franco of New Providence. The duo co-founded and managed the LINC Resource Pantry which provides food and household items to families in need. This award was established and named in honor of Jean after her early passing in May 1997. Jean's impact on the community was far-reaching and long-lasting - the award is given annually in her memory.

The Shirley Wight Keeney Scholarships were granted to

Madison Ryder and Eli Markowitz of Summit and Alexander Chatterjee of Chatham. Each student demonstrated academic excellence and has shown significant volunteer work that aligns with the JLS mission. Shirley was a beloved member and Past President of the JLS.

The Amanda Parrish Block Grant winner was the Summit Warm Hearts (SWH) program of the Summit Interfaith Council. SWH provided shelter and meals for individuals with nowhere else to turn during the winter months. Each year, the JLS awards this grant based on needs that arise in the community surrounding food insecurity and essential demands. The grant was established in 2017 in honor of JLS member Amanda Parrish Block, founder of Giving and Receiving Assistance for our Community's Essentials (GRACE).

The Junior League of Summit, Inc. is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer actions, collaboration and training. For more information about the Junior League of Summit, please visit the website at [www.jlsummit.org](http://www.jlsummit.org) or contact the office at 908-273-7349.

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(above) \$27,000 was awarded in grants to the JLS Community Partners.

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# POLICE OFFICER ASHLEY CORREA SWORN-IN

## City of Summit

Mayor Nora Radest performed a swearing-in ceremony for Officer Ashley Correa of the Summit Police Department on June 29th. Officer Correa grew up in Paterson, New Jersey. She is currently attending Passaic County Community College and pursuing an Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice.

Officer Correa graduated from the Bergen County Police Academy in July 2021. Before coming to the Summit Police Department, she served with the Paterson Police Department for two years. Officer Correa served as a liaison with RAPHA Healthcare where she participated in outreach to community members experiencing homelessness, addiction and substance use, mental illness, and those seeking recovery guidance. She was also a member of the Paterson Police Department's Opioid Response Team and was a Ballistic Shield Operator and a certified Crisis Intervention Team member.

When not working, Officer Correa enjoys spending time with her daughter at the park, traveling, spending time with her family trying new food establishments, and participating in outreach activities for those needing assistance. She was accompanied by her family at the swearing-in ceremony.



(above, l-r) Mayor Nora Radest, Officer Ashley Correa, and Police Chief Steven Zagorski

Photo by City of Summit

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## SAGE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SAGE Eldercare welcomes the addition of Dr. Allen Khademi and Patricia Daquila to its Board of Trustees. SAGE also recognizes Trustees Claire Toth and Sue Luehs for their contributions during their now completed terms.

“We are pleased to announce that Allen and Patricia are joining the Board of SAGE Eldercare. Their respective medical knowledge, business experience, and combined community engagement will be an asset to SAGE’s mission



(above, l-r) Dr. Allen M. Khademi of Summit  
Patricia Daquila of New Providence

Courtesy photos

to provide a comprehensive array of programs and services for older adults and caregivers, promoting independence and quality of life.” said Leslie Hardin, Board President of SAGE Eldercare “We remain forever grateful to Claire Toth and Sue Luehs for their contributions and support of our mission.”

Dr. Allen M. Khademi of Summit is currently Vice President of Medical Affairs at Christian Health Care Center in Wycoff, where he specializes in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitative Services. He was previously the Medical Director of Rehabilitative Services,

Post-Acute Care Services and Care Transitions at the Summit Medical Group (aka Summit Health). He earned his MD from Georgetown University, and his BA in Biology at Rutgers University.

Patricia Daquila of New Providence is a Managing Director and Senior Wealth Planner with Peapack Private Wealth Management. Pat is a CPA and has extensive accounting experience at Levinson, Schwartz & Co, and KPMG. She serves on the board of the Community Organization in New Providence. Pat earned an MBA in finance at Rutgers University, and a BS in Business Administration from Montclair University.

SAGE Eldercare has helped make the communities it serves amazing places to age since its founding in 1954. The organization provides a wide array of information, support, and services designed to help individuals lead the most independent and active lives possible. From helping with errands, to exercise classes, community programs, care planning, and home health care, SAGE’s expertise helps older adults remain independent in their own homes. SAGE is committed to being the leading provider of programs and services to meet the changing needs of older adults, their families, and caregivers throughout Union, Essex, Morris, and Somerset Counties.

For more information, please call 908.273.5550 or visit [www.sageeldercare.org](http://www.sageeldercare.org).



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# THE FUTURE OF REAL ESTATE

## ***GEORGE A. CASTRO IV (21) SELLS RECORD-BREAKING \$4.36 MILLION DOLLAR MANSION***

By: Abraham Friedman

**C**ASTRO - When it comes to the world of business, there is no mistaking that attaining success is anything but an effortless feat. Simply charting a clear-cut way to do so necessitates utmost tenacity and discipline, and to then realize such a goal pivots on consistency. This is precisely what can be said in regard to Real Estate, where one's expertise in communication and character must stand at the forefront of every endeavor, making it a demanding profession, regardless of age. Thus, it's nothing short of outstanding when the youngest in the industry work their way up to greatness, and in regard to those who have gone as far as to break records, look no further than George A. Castro IV of Premier Homes who, at just 21 years old, has realized unprecedented triumph in his career through a most recent transaction worth millions, making a name for himself as the true future of real estate.

Having been acclaimed time and again for his unwavering dedication and ingenuity as a businessperson, it is beyond doubt that George Castro has made impactful strides within the Real Estate industry, and the vast recognition brought about by his latest sale of a new residence is no exception. Located at 420 Ludlow Avenue in Spring Lake, New Jersey, the property was built by "AllertonFox Construction", one the biggest commercial construction and development companies in Manhattan, New York, and is but one of many multi-million dollar homes throughout the prestigious neighborhood.



As with all his previous work, George enthusiastically took this unique opportunity presented to him, procuring a contract on the property under 30 days from the original listing date. The residence was initially listed at \$3,995,000, and was ultimately sold for \$4,367,000, a whopping \$372,000 above the original listing price. While this in itself is an exceptional accomplishment, it is made even more significant by George's remarkably young age, recognized as the most ever expensive residential sale by a 21-year-old in the entirety of the United States.

Castro emphasizes the importance of his medium of both marketing and selling, a crucial variable in his mastery of Real Estate. In the case of most Realtors who are selling million-dollar properties, they often focus solely on the market and local areas surrounding a particular residence, which is considered an outdated means to advertise to affluent buyers. Meanwhile, George has been marketing luxurious properties to purchasers not only from New York but several states throughout the country and even overseas. It is exactly this which differentiates him from the majority of agents. "There are many rich and affluent purchasers in Manhattan who live in small apartments but are paying hundreds upon thousands of dollars in rent," he states. With his concentration on efficient and contemporary ways of selling, George has been able to hone into this market and grant a myriad of buyers, whether near or far, the opportunity of purchasing opulent homes in New Jersey.

With his record-breaking achievement, George Castro's eminence in the tri-state area's Real Estate scene is ever-increasing and has been actualized by the aptly named "Wonder Boy" in the short span of only 3 years, at that. First setting foot in the industry at 18, his talent in Real Estate was put to the test by the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought change to our lifestyles, and hence, the state of the business. George rose to the challenge without hesitation, honing his potential with ceaseless determination to be greater than meets the eye. "If you're looking to think at all, you might as well think big, and in the Real Estate industry, it's important to always look to have the upper hand" he says.

By virtue of his prowess and passion for Real Estate, George Castro has come to establish himself not only as a distinguished professional in an industry marked by competition but as a paragon of his age. Through 2022 and beyond, he has earned numerous commendations as a top agent in the Premier Homes company and the state of New Jersey. More than that, George is the youngest realtor to have received the 2022 Gold New Jersey Realtors Circle of Excellence Sales Award, further underscoring his ascendancy in the industry, all through skill well beyond his years.

In recent times, opportunities for prosperity have been sought out on a progressively larger scale, giving rise to new and innovative talent more so than ever before. However, it is George Castro who has proven that the scope of one's success hinges on the individual mindsets of those who strive for it. As he strongly believes "There are no limits to what you can accomplish, except the limits you place on your own thinking. Usually those who are the most competent and committed, are the ones that rise to the occasion."

## CLARA SARKISSIAN TRAVELS TO BELIZE TO WORK WITH FARM ANIMALS

### Loop Abroad

This summer, Clara Sarkissian, 22, of Summit, NJ, spent two weeks in Belize helping animals, discovering Belizean culture, and learning hands-on what it's like to be a veterinarian. Traveling with study-abroad organization CELA Belize, Clara was selected as part of a small team that volunteered at working ranches and local farms caring for horses, sheep, cattle, and pigs.

The Large Animal Veterinary Medicine program brings students to Belize for two weeks to volunteer alongside Belizean veterinarians and learn from them and from Belizean animal experts. Clara and her team took a course in the husbandry and health issues confronting farm animals in Belize so that they could be better

equipped to study and help support animals in the tropics as well at the farms where they spent their time.

Belize is only a two-hour flight from Miami, but it faces different farming and environmental challenges than the US. The nation is over fifty percent rainforest, which provides unique conservation opportunities and a chance for students to learn from the hard-working local veterinarians who help to sustain the agriculture industry in Belize.

Clara and her team provided care for the animals at working ranches and farms, including horses, sheep, cattle, and pigs. In addition, they helped to host a free small pet clinic for animals owned by locals in the area. Clara and her team were also able to explore San Ignacio, a town in the Cayo District of western Belize.

CELA Belize has animal science and veterinary programs for undergraduate and veterinary students, as well as internship programs throughout Belize.

Programs are offered in summer and winter and are two weeks long, and college credit through Iowa Wesleyan is available. Interested participants can inquire or apply at [celabelize.com](http://celabelize.com). Professors and teachers who want to travel with a group of students to Belize can work with CELA to connect their students with local conservation projects, schools, development projects, and service learning

opportunities.

By following a study abroad model instead of a voluntourism model, CELA Belize focuses on educating its students so that they can contribute and serve in meaningful ways. Students learn from the expertise of local Belizean staff. It also works with locally run animal welfare organizations so that students contribute to long-term improvement on the ground in the countries they visit. CELA has been based in Belize for over a decade, and with the help of students like Clara, continues to help support important sustainability and development projects in Belize.

The program's Managing Director Jane Stine says, "Our students come to Belize because they want to experience another culture in a way that supports and learns from the local expertise. On this program, they have the chance to see Belize from a Belizean point of view and learn from our amazing veterinary team, and we love seeing them bring that knowledge and experience home to move even further in their veterinary and conservation careers."

Of her trip, Clara says, "I have spent a month in Belize learning and working in wildlife conservation and large animal medicine. My experience has further secured my passion to become a veterinarian and helping the animals we all know and love."

Clara is a Senior at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, majoring in Animal Science.



Photos by Loop Abroad

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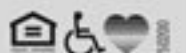
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## YOUNG SQUAD VOLUNTEERS EARN SCHOLARSHIPS



(above) Marco Flores in front of a memorial to Alice Nichols in the Squad's headquarters

### Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad

Two Junior Members of the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad have been awarded scholarships in recognition of their volunteer efforts. Both earned the NJ State Emergency Medical Technician certification while still attending high school and volunteering at the Squad.

Marco Flores-Gonzales is the winner of this year's Alice Nichols Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship was established in memory of Alice Nichols, a long-time member of the Squad, who was serving as its President when she passed away unexpectedly in 2000. Alice had also been very involved as a mentor to the Squad's junior members, and this scholarship was created to honor her legacy.

Kamari Massicott is the recipient of this year's Mike D'Ecclesis Award, which was established in 2022 to honor the volunteer career of Michael D'Ecclesis, who was among the Squad's first Junior Members himself and retired in December 2021 after more than 46 years of service to the First Aid Squad and the community. The scholarship is funded by Summit's Other Fellow First Foundation and will be awarded annually to the most outstanding member of the Junior Program's graduating class. Mike returned to the Squad where he served for so many years to congratulate Kamari personally.



(above) Kamari Macciott and Mike D'Ecclesis

The all-volunteer First Aid Squad, responds to emergency calls 24/7, is entirely funded through private donations and does not bill for service. The Squad is always looking for new volunteers to join its ranks. All needed training, uniforms and equipment is provided. For information on becoming a volunteer, or donating to the squad please call 908-277-9479, or visit their web site at: [summitems.org](http://summitems.org).

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## AREA ELKS SPONSOR PICNIC FOR MENLO PARK VETS

Submitted by Jon Joshua

On July 15, more than 20 Elks from the East Central District, consisting of Lodges in Stirling, Summit, Springfield, Mountainside, Cranford, Union, and Rahway sponsored a picnic at the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home in Edison.

With warm weather and blue skies, hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage & peppers, roasted potato, salads, and watermelon were just some of the items on the menu that was served to over 80 veterans in attendance.

Elks pledge "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will

never forget them." At Lyons VA, East Orange VA, Menlo Park Veterans Home, Paramus Veterans Home, and across the country, Elks volunteers provide direct service to Veterans in more than 330 facilities each month. And through

grants, Elks Lodges connect with veterans and military members in their communities, providing them with services where they live.

For more information about the Elks and how to join, please visit [elks.org](http://elks.org).



(above) More than 20 Elks from the East Central District sponsored a picnic at the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home in Edison. Courtesy photos



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## OBITUARY

### DR. MICHAEL GEORGE KNOWLTON

Former Summit Superintendent Michael George Knowlton was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in February, 2023. He succumbed to the disease on June 7.

Michael was born on September 1, 1946, in Binghamton, New York. He was predeceased by his parents, Richardson Drake Knowlton and Virginia Seeber Knowlton. He has one brother, Richardson Drake Knowlton, II of Guyton, Georgia.

Michael received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Government from Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio in 1968, his Master of Science Degree in Education from State University of New York, Cortland in 1975, and his Doctor of Education from Syracuse University in 1985. He held Assistant Superintendent positions in Windsor, NY, Hilton, NY, and White Plains, NY. His career led him to become a Superintendent of Schools in Valhalla, NY and Summit, NJ where he retired in 2004.

He met his wife, Lunetta Jane Bennett while attending Oberlin College. They were married December 28, 1968 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. They had two children, Michael Bennett Knowlton born in 1970 currently residing in Englewood, FL and Amy Jane Knowlton Lamb born in 1972 currently residing in St. Louis, Mo. Michael is married to Kelly Grimm Knowlton and they have one child, Windley Virginia Knowlton. Amy is married to Keith Richard Lamb and they have two children, Breuer Jane Lamb and Bodhi Knowlton Lamb. During his last months he received a great deal of pleasure from his two Havanese puppies, Isa and Henry.

After retirement from the Summit, New Jersey School District Michael and Lunetta lived in Clayton, Oklahoma for several years while building a home in Venice, Florida where they resided for over 15 years before moving to Englewood. During his retirement, he became an avid Bonsai collector and expert in the art form. His collection included as many as 125 Bonsai Trees at the peak of his involvement with the art form. He was elected President of Sho Fu Bonsai Society of Sarasota and Bonsai Societies of Florida. He also was an active member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Venice, Florida. He served as Senior Warden under 2 Rectors and was Treasurer of the Church for many years.

Michael was not only loved by his family, but by so many, whose lives he touched through his 76 years. If you wish to donate in his honor, the family asks that you consider giving to the Lustgarten Foundation, 415 Crossways Park Drive, Suite D, Woodbury, NY 11797. 100% of donations fund pancreatic cancer research. Pancreatic Cancer is called the silent killer. You don't find out you have the disease until it is too late to combat it. Alternately, a donation to Tidewell Hospice or St. Mark's Episcopal Church would be welcome.

## OLD GUARD AUGUST SPEAKERS PROGRAM

The Summit Old Guard was founded in Summit in 1930 and meets every Tuesday at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave. Our motto is "Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends." and our extensive August program arranged by member Stuart Kurtz focuses on health and science topics presented by distinguished scientists and educators. Please join us. Our programs are free to the public, and we welcome you!

On August 8th, Sheldon Landesman, a former faculty member of SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University trained in hematology, oncology, and infectious disease will discuss The Early Years of AIDS: Public Health vs. Civil Liberties in Epidemic Times. Landesman will discuss lessons learned and not yet learned.

On August 15th, Davis Haas, former principal X-ray scientist at Phillips Electronic Instruments will discuss How Society Changed on January 5, 1973, with scanning devices at airports.

On August 22nd, Harold M. Heft a retired industry executive whose academic research focused on biopsychology, the philosophy of science, and pediatric autism will speak on "Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) – Disorder or Difference?" Is ASD a neurodevelopmental disorder, or a different way of being in the world?

Winding up the month, on August 29th, AP educator Anne Soos, trained in biology at Harvard and Princeton will discuss Climate Change. Among her topics will be physical factors that determine climate, climate distinguished from weather, and carbon capture and sequestration, both natural and artificial.

Past speakers can be viewed at SummitOldGuard.org but we encourage people to drop in on our meetings which take place at the church at 10:00 a.m. every Tuesday.

The Summit Old Guard meets in New Providence and draws members from northern and central New Jersey and beyond.

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## THE SUMMIT FOUNDATION SUPPORTS VACNJ

The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey (VACNJ) was recently awarded a grant from The Summit Foundation in the amount of \$13,250 to support five of VACNJ's community programs. The grant was part of \$325,000 awarded to 28 organizations whose work focuses on civic and community needs; health and medical services; arts and culture; education; people with special needs; and older adults. The grant awarded to VACNJ will go toward funding:

### ART FROM THE HEART AT SAGE ELDERCARE

VACNJ's Art from the Heart program is offered to Summit seniors enrolled in SAGE Eldercare's Spend-A-Day adult day-care program. These seniors have mild to moderate age-related cognitive disorders, and during 48 weekly sessions, a VACNJ-trained art educator engages approximately SAGE clients in hands-on art-making projects. This sequential program is specifically designed to improve cognitive functions, enhance memory, and improve an overall sense of well-being.

### LANGUAGE AND LITERACY THROUGH ART

Language and Literacy Through Art is a partnership between VACNJ and Empowering Kids Organization (EKO) in Summit. EKO creates strategies and programs to empower under resourced, English-language learners to thrive throughout their educational journey by connecting them and their families with opportunities and resources. The program expands students' knowledge and understanding of contemporary art by utilizing art viewing and art making to engage and empower English-language learners to build skills in reading, writing, and speaking.

### SUMMIT PEP AT VACNJ

Providing Educational Possibilities (PEP) is a college access program that offers academic, social-emotional, and financial support to select, motivated Summit public school students. PEP students visit VACNJ to experience the museum, view current exhibitions, and create their own work based on the contemporary art on display.

### ART THERAPY FOR TEENS

Art Therapy for Teens is an after-school enrichment program led by VACNJ art therapist Megan Tuttle with the goal of promoting mental health by providing teens with a way to manage stress and anxiety through art. This powerful program was created in response to a call from parents, teens, and teachers to help today's teenagers manage the pressures of not only being a young adult but navigating the world after the isolation of the pandemic.

### ECLC PRIDE

VACNJ's work with the Education, Careers & Lifelong Community (ECLC) PRIDE program works with adults with developmental disabilities making choices for the next steps in their lives, giving the participants the opportunity to come to the Art Center for hands-on artmaking. These programs focus on activities that help in one of four areas: social appropriateness, independent living, work enhancement skills, and community participation.

"For several years, The Summit Foundation has provided meaningful support to the Art Center that has allowed us to serve the Summit community," said VACNJ Executive Director,

Melanie Cohn. "Their continued support in the form of this recent grant award will allow us to continue to grow our community engagement programs and serve the most vulnerable populations in Summit."

For more information on The Summit Foundation, visit [summitforever.org](http://summitforever.org).

### ABOUT VISUAL ARTS CENTER OF NEW JERSEY

For 90 years, the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, located at 68 Elm Street in Summit, NJ, has been exclusively dedicated to viewing, making, and learning about contemporary art. Recognized as a leading non-profit arts organization, the Art Center's renowned Studio School, acclaimed exhibitions, and educational outreach initiatives serve thousands of youths, families, seniors, and people with special needs every year. For more information visit [artcenternj.org](http://artcenternj.org).



## Fall 2023

Exhibitions Open August 29, 2023  
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Organized under the theme of Art and Wellness, each exhibition provides its own unique voice to further a rich discussion on the ways that art intersects with our mental, spiritual and physical health.

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Carol Mullen, "Monarch," collage, 18x3x.5 in.  
Melissa Stern, "Deflated," 2020, sculpture, 43x18x17 in.  
Lisa Ficarella-Halpern, "Joy, after Reynolds," 2023, oil on canvas, 62x38 in.  
Giants, Dragons & Unicorns: The World of Mythic Creatures is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York ([amnh.org](http://amnh.org)).

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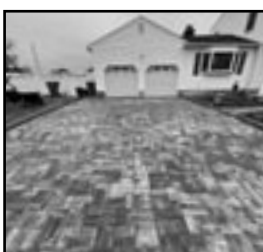
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## NEW INTERACTIVE MAP FOR SUMMIT HOMETOWN HEROES

The City of Summit has developed an interactive map tool for its popular Hometown Heroes program that allows users to locate and view banners online for each of the more than 275 program participants.

The Hometown Heroes program honors Summit residents who have served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces with banners that are displayed from Memorial Day through August 15 in downtown Summit. The banners include the names, images, dates of service, and branches of each participating service member. Banners are located on Broad Street, Deforest Avenue, Elm Street, Kent Place Boulevard, Maple Street, Morris Avenue, Springfield Avenue, Summit Avenue, and Union Place.

"The Hometown Heroes Program is a fantastic initiative that continues to honor Summit's



residents who have dedicated their lives to our nation," explains Summit Mayor Nora Radest. "This interactive map is a useful tool that will allow families and friends to easily find where the banners of their loved ones or friends and neighbors are located."

The new map functionality provides an overview of all streets where Hometown Heroes banners are hanging and includes search capability by name. A tutorial on how to

use the map is also available to assist users.

For more information about the City of Summit and the Hometown Heroes Program, please visit the city website. To make a donation to help fund replacement brackets for Hometown Heroes banners, go to [summitforever.org/donate](http://summitforever.org/donate) or mail a check payable to The Summit Foundation to Summit Hometown Heroes, PO Box 892, Summit, NJ 07902.

## AUTHOR TALKS AT THE SUMMIT LIBRARY

The Summit Free Public Library is thrilled to announce a series of four virtual author talks in August 2023. The featured authors include acclaimed journalists and New York Times bestselling authors. These talks will be held via Zoom, giving literary enthusiasts an opportunity to participate in live Q&A sessions and engage in rich discussions with acclaimed authors. "Stay cool this August while enjoying conversations with leading authors on a variety of topics," said Abby Brady, Head of Adult Services at the Summit Library.

To register for any of these virtual events, please visit the Library's website at: [www.summitlibrary.org](http://www.summitlibrary.org).

The schedule for these programs is as follows:  
Jennifer Wallace: August 8, from 7-8pm  
Journalist Jennifer Wallace will discuss her

upcoming book, "Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic -- And What We Can Do About It."

Robert Jones Jr.: August 15, from 4-5pm\*  
Author Robert Jones Jr. will speak on his New York Times bestselling book, "The Prophets."

Cassandra Clare: August 23, from 8-9pm\*  
Celebrated author Cassandra Clare will discuss her final installment in the popular "The Last Hours" series, "Chain of Thorns."

Jeff Selingo: August 30, from 2-3pm\*  
Jeff Selingo, renowned journalist and New York Times bestselling author, will talk about his latest book, "Who Gets In and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions."

\*These talks are made possible by the Friends of the Summit Free Public Library through the Library Speakers Consortium.

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## BELOVED BROKEN ITEMS REPAIRED FOR FREE

Summit Repair Cafe closes out their 2023 repair season with their fifth year of repairing. Every event since its inception in 2018 has successfully repaired an average of 67 beloved but broken items from entering the landfill.

On September 9, bring your beloved but broken items to be repaired to Summit's Repair Cafe from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Christ Church, 561 Springfield Avenue. The last items accepted for repair will be at 2:30 p.m.

Repair services available at this event will include sewing/textiles, lamps, clocks, woodworking, jewelry, computers, knife sharpening, electronics and bicycles. To allow all patrons to have the opportunity for repair, repairs are limited to 2 total items per person and 1 jewelry item per person.

Replacement parts for lamps and clocks will be available for an at-cost fee. Please only bring items that you can carry into our event unaided. No appointment is necessary, wait times may vary.

Summit Repair Cafe events are co-sponsored by the Summit Area Green Faith Circle and Repair Cafe Garden State. Visit [repaircafes.org](http://repaircafes.org) for the full schedule of all upcoming Repair Cafe events in New Jersey for the autumn season.

Repair and event (setup/check-in/clean-up)

volunteers are wanted for the September 9 event in Summit and all future events. If you would like to help please contact us via email: [summit@repaircafes.org](mailto:summit@repaircafes.org).



(above) On September 9, bring your broken items to be repaired to Summit's Repair Cafe. If you would like to help, please contact [summit@repaircafes.org](mailto:summit@repaircafes.org).

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## IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?



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

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 (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, 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](http://ihmparish.net/alpha) or call 908-889-2100. If you have questions about Alpha, please email [office@ihmparish.net](mailto:office@ihmparish.net).

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### DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF EVENT – SEPT 18TH

The Drive for Autism Foundation is pleased to announce that its annual golf event, Drive for Autism XXII will be held at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ on September 18, 2023.

The Drive for Autism Golf Outing which has been held since 2002 has raised and distributed over \$851,000 to local school programs. Previous beneficiaries of grants were Morris Union Jointure Commission (New Providence, NJ), Salt Brook School (New Providence, NJ), AW Roberts School (New Providence, NJ), Union County Educational Services Foundation/Crossroads School (Westfield, NJ), Educational Partnership for Instructing Children, Paramus, NJ, Eden II/Genesis Programs (Staten Island, NY), Spectrum360 formally The Children's Institute (Verona, NJ), ECLC (Chatham, NJ) and Seton Foundation for Learning (Staten Island, N.Y).

Grant recipients use money to fund health and fitness programs, social skills programs, educational curriculum and teacher training, a van for community trips and transportation to job training centers, laptop computers, computer touch screens, iPads, video projectors and educational toys and games

The golf event is the main fundraising

function for the foundation. Single golfers and foursomes are welcome as well as, product donations and corporate sponsorships. To register online please go to [birdease.com/DriveforAutismXXII](http://birdease.com/DriveforAutismXXII)

#### ABOUT DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION:

Based in New Providence, New Jersey, The Drive for Autism Foundation (EIN#20-1760417), is a 501(3)(c) tax exempt public charity that was created in the Spring of 2002 for the sole purpose of raising and distributing funds for educational facilities specializing in students with autism.

#### DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF OUTING 2023

The Drive for Autism XXII is scheduled for Monday Sept 18, 2023 at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, New Jersey. The event consists of a morning round of golf followed by a barbeque. Special events include golf contests, raffles and a silent auction of sports memorabilia, game tickets and golf trips.

To register or for additional information please visit [www.birdease.com/DriveForAutismXXII](http://www.birdease.com/DriveForAutismXXII), call 908-451-8033 or email [driveforautism@comcast.net](mailto:driveforautism@comcast.net).

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# EAGLE SCOUT KATELYN CANNON NAMED NJ VFW SCOUT OF THE YEAR

*Submitted by Scouts BSA Troop 19*

The annual Department of New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Convention was again held at the Wildwood Convention Center in Wildwood this June, where Eagle Scout Katelyn Cannon of Scouts BSA Troop 19, chartered at St. Rose of Lima Church, Short Hills, was honored as the New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars "Scout of the Year."

Cannon, a resident of Millburn and a recent Millburn High School graduate was selected by the VFW's Scout of the Year as New Jersey's single standout Scout who exemplifies leadership, patriotism, and love of country. State-wide applicants for this distinguished award are both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts who have earned either the Gold Award or achieved the rank of Eagle Scout respectively.

"The challenge (for the selection committee) is that there are so many worthy applicants from all the districts, but I found this year's choice to be easier than most. It's because this person, this Scout, this Eagle Scout, was just head and shoulders above her peers.", said VFW Scouting Chairman, Jim D'Arcy.

"She was in the Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts of 2021, now that is going through a glass ceiling." added D'Arcy to a round of applause.

Cannon was requested to address the statewide delegation at the convention where she requested the assembly of dominantly male veterans to close their eyes, as she walked them through a visualization as to what their childhood as Scouts may have entailed.

"Allow me to take you back to your teenage years. Think about the outdoor place that you

loved. It may have been a summer camp, or on the riverbed fishing, or even hiking the Appalachian Trail or possibly camping in the Pinelands. Think about those adventures, what did you learn? You were taught to be independent and confident, you learned critical life skills, became leaders, and made lifelong memories and friends along the way. Just think, for over 110 years, these opportunities to learn leadership, experience adventure, and master life-long skills were only open to young men. Now open your eyes. I am proud to stand before you as living proof that your daughters and granddaughters now too can have the same wonderful experience in Scouting and possibly become Eagle Scouts."

Cannon's Scouting accomplishments include being a founding member of Scouts BSA Troop 19, a former Senior Patrol Leader and current Junior Assistant Scoutmaster who has earned 83 merit badges to date, has received the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII religious awards, as well as a citizenship medal from American Legion. Furthermore, she was selected to attend 2022 New Jersey Girls State, a leadership and citizenship program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. In addition, she was recently selected as the Sons of American Revolution Eagle Scout Essay contest winner for the State of New Jersey and was national runner-up.

"Scouting and my Eagle project was such an incredible learning experience. Being involved in the program, because of the positive change, has defined my path forward in life.", said Cannon.

"It was and is a tremendous honor for our Post that Katie was selected as the Scout of the Year. We are very inspired by Katie and all that she has done for herself, the Scouting community, our


state and great country. It was especially great that our Post was able to sponsor such a well-qualified person to represent our district and state. We here at Post 6259 offer our thanks and congratulations on her terrific achievement.", shared Berkeley Heights VFW Post 6259 Commander Al Campora.

Katelyn Cannon will be embarking on a new journey this fall, studying Public Relations & Strategic Communications at Purdue University.



(above) VFW Scout of year - Eagle Scout Katelyn Cannon (center) with NJ Department of VFW Commander Jay Boxwell (right) and VFW Scouting Chairman, Jim D'Arcy (left).

Photo by Scouts BSA Troop 19, St. Rose of Lima, Short Hills NJ




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## SHINING STARS TO MAKE HISTORIC DEBUT AT PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

### Shining Stars Network

After making their successful Broadway debut recently at the Gershwin Theatre, Shining Stars Network, a regional theater group for young adults with disabilities and their typical peers, will be performing a groundbreaking show at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn, NJ on August 5, 2023. The esteemed group will perform a selection of songs and dance from Broadway, movies and more! Shining Stars Network will be the first group of performers with special needs to be featured on the main stage in Paper Mill Playhouse history. The Tony award-winning Paper Mill Playhouse has been offering a theater experience since the late 1700's and is excited to bring this unprecedented performance to their stage as part of their Theatre for Everyone program.

"We are beyond thrilled to partner with the iconic Paper Mill Playhouse to bring this show to life," noted Shining Stars Network co-founder & CEO Mike Curci. "Our cast is so excited and we can't wait for our stars to shine at such an amazing venue and to work with the talented Paper Mill team."

The Shining Stars Network cast recently

celebrated their ten-year anniversary of inclusive theater performances with the assistance of typical buddies. It all began in a local home with a karaoke machine and people with disabilities who just wanted to perform to the best of their abilities with joy and acceptance. Shining Stars Network has performed in front of large audiences at the Union County Performing Arts Center, the Paper Mill Cabaret, and most recently the Gershwin theater on Broadway in New York City. They provide a safe and enthusiastic learning experience, culminating with a professionally staged performance.

Tickets for the Paper Mill performance start at \$25 and can be purchased at: [my.papermill.org/shiningstars](http://my.papermill.org/shiningstars).

More information about Shining Stars Network can be found at [shiningstarsnetwork.org/](http://shiningstarsnetwork.org/).

"We're all about inclusion and opportunity while building self-esteem and creating friendships," noted Shining Stars co-founder and Show Director Sally Curci. "There have been so many incredible performances over the years and we can't wait to see our stars shine on the Paper Mill stage."

"Each opportunity offers our special cast members a chance to create lifetime memories," added Mike Curci. "Our ensemble just made their Broadway debut at the "Arts for Autism" concert at the Gershwin Theatre, where they received a standing ovation, and now, the amazing opportunity to perform a full show on the legendary Paper Mill stage will be another dream come true."

SHINING STARS NETWORK is a non profit organization based in Cranford, N.J. founded by Sally and Mike Curci that shines the light on the special needs community by creating opportunities in the performing arts, with the goal of building self-confidence and self-esteem while enjoying the experience of performing on stage. Now entering its 6th year, Camp Shine (for ages 10-20 years) and The Shining Stars Summer Workshop (21 and over performers) are two-week intensive programs open to everyone, including those with developmental disabilities, and will take place Aug. 14-25. To register, or for more information on Shining Stars Network or any of their programs, please visit [ShiningStarsNetwork.org](http://ShiningStarsNetwork.org) or send your email to [ShiningStarsNetwork@gmail.com](mailto:ShiningStarsNetwork@gmail.com).

Courtesy photos



(above) Performers with Special Needs take the main stage on August 5th at the Paper Mill Playhouse. Tickets start at \$25 and can be purchased at: [my.papermill.org/shiningstars](http://my.papermill.org/shiningstars). The Shining Stars Network has performed in front of large audiences, and most recently the Gershwin theater on Broadway in New York City.

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## VOLUNTEER CLASS 102 IS READY TO LISTEN

### Caring Contact Crisis Line

Residents from Summit, Florham Park, Westfield, Linden, Clark, and North Plainfield completed training in June to become volunteers on the Caring Contact crisis hotline. During the 52-hours of training the graduates developed the ability to listen actively, assess the needs of someone in crisis and provide empathy and support. The training included dynamic and interactive presentations by guest experts in active listening, grief recovery, mental health issues and suicide intervention. Volunteer Listener Training was taught by trainers who are long-time listeners and nationally certified instructors in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training.

"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 are 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 the 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.

The next volunteer crisis counselor training begins September 20th through December 13th. The training will run once a week on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and will be a combination of in-person training and via Zoom. Anyone interested in registering for the training should visit [caringcontact.org/listener-training/](http://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, providing active listening support and best-in-class training to the Central and Northern New Jersey community. More than 80 trained volunteers answered over 17,000 calls last year from people in crisis, having suicidal thoughts or simply needing someone to talk to.

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](http://caringcontact.org). You are Not Alone.



(above) Caring Contact Crisis Line Graduates Volunteer Class 102. Next training begins in September. Visit [caringcontact.org/listener-training/](http://caringcontact.org/listener-training/) or call the Caring Contact administrative offices for more information at 908-301-1899.

## SEE GOOD IN PEOPLE

Submitted by Peter DeSarno

Perhaps it is because I see today due to the generous life changing gifts of two donated corneas, I tend to become very reflective when I collect the donated glasses that are received in the Lions drop box.

When I sort the glasses and package them to be sent into the Lions Processing Center, I am reminded of the good in people who are eager to help. I look at all the glasses that were once worn on the faces of members of our community which form a beautiful mosaic representing so many different shapes, sizes, colors, glasses for the old and young...and think that this is beautiful on many levels. I then think about the people who will experience that magical moment I had when sight is restored.

The New Providence Lions Club Eyeglass collection site is in front of the New Providence Library which is located at 377 Elkwood Ave. Since January 2022 we have collected 2,165 pairs of glasses.



(above) Mosaic of some of the 2,165 pairs of glasses collected to date.



(above) The New Providence Lions Club Eyeglass collection site is in front of the New Providence Library which is located at 377 Elkwood Ave. When collected, these glasses are sorted and sterilized and are then donated to a charity and/or medical organizations that provides free eye exams and eyeglasses to needy people in the countries they serve.

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9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
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## 2023 BACKPACK COLLECTION IN PROGRESS

### Faith Lutheran Church

For the fifteenth consecutive year, Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence is collecting new backpacks and school supplies to be shared with St. Stephan's Grace in Newark's Ironbound, our Mission Partner congregation, and with school children in Plainfield through the Second Street Youth Center.

The backpack collection began as an idea brought up at a church council meeting but quickly grew into a full-fledged ministry spanning more than a decade. Multiple community organizations have received backpacks from Faith's collection over the years.

Backpacks don't often last from year to year and supplies always need replenishing. The aim of Faith Lutheran's collection is to make sure that local kids have items they need for a successful start to the 2023-2024 school year.

The community is invited to support the backpack collection. There are several ways to

help.

You can purchase a new backpack of your choice and fill it with the following school supplies: one pack pens; one pack pencils; one notebook; one box of 24 crayons; one package of construction paper; one pair of safety scissors; one glue stick; one ruler; one small pencil sharpener; one toothbrush; one tube of toothpaste.

You can drop off a new backpack, or any of the above individual supplies, and we will fill a backpack.

Items can be dropped off at Faith Lutheran in the marked green bin found underneath the sheltered alcove by the main doors at the bottom of the parking lot.

You can mail a financial gift made payable to Faith Lutheran Church with "backpacks" in the memo line of your check and we will shop for you.

The deadline for individual supply donations is August 20th, to ensure enough time to

assemble the remaining backpacks. The deadline for completed, filled backpacks is Sunday, August 27th.

In 2022, Faith collected and distributed 200 backpacks. This year, the goal is to reach 250.

To learn more about Faith Lutheran Church, visit famfaith.org. Faith Lutheran worships on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with livestreaming available on our website, Facebook, and YouTube. We practice an open Communion table, and all are welcome.

The church phone number is 908-464-5177 and the address is 524 South Street, New Providence, 07974. The pastor of Faith is Rev. Jane McCready.



(above) Our goal is to reach 250 backpacks. Items can be dropped off at Faith Lutheran, 524 South Street, New Providence, 07974, in the marked green bin found underneath the sheltered alcove by the main doors at the bottom of the parking lot. You can mail a financial gift made payable to Faith Lutheran Church with "backpacks" in the memo line of your check and we will shop for you.

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192 Summit Ave	5	4.1	2	\$1,995,000	\$2,100,000	8
61 Gloucester Rd	4	3.1	2	\$1,595,000	\$1,812,500	9
59 New England Ave Unit 1A	3	3.1	2	\$1,695,000	\$1,620,000	83
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