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ESCAPE THE HAUNTED LIBRARY – OCT. 30TH

The Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Watchung branch hosted a haunted library-themed escape room for teens in August. Teens were tasked with solving puzzles and clues to uncover a prize.

Back by popular demand, Escape the Room: Haunted Library for teens and tweens in grades 5-8 will return to the Watchung branch on Monday, October 30 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Registration is required. Learn more: [/sclsnj.libnet.info/event/9129679](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/9129679).

"The purpose of escape the room programs is to find clues, solve puzzles, and work together as a team to complete an objective," said Katie Salerno, youth services librarian, "It is a gaming experience that encourages participants to communicate with teammates to find solutions and overcome obstacles. Of course, some of the clues might be hidden in books - we are a Library after all!"

Take a piece of the experience home with you. Explore the librarian-curated reads from the escape room.

"The Dark" by Lemony Snicket

"Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library" by Chris Grabenstein

"The Haunted Library" by Dori Hillestad Butler

"Kooky Halloween Jokes to Tickle Your Funny Bone" by Linda Bozzo

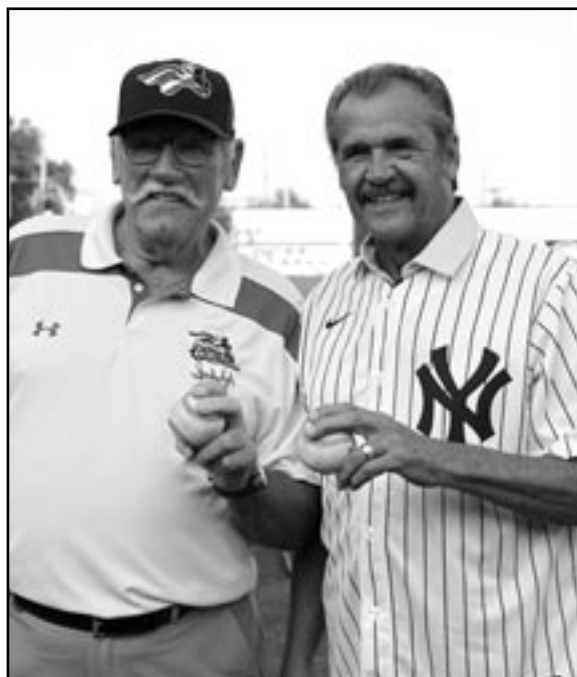
"Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark" by Alvin Schwartz

The Watchung branch is located at 12 Stirling Road in Watchung. To contact the Watchung branch, call (908) 458-8455 or email watchung@sclibnj.org. To discover all SCLSNJ has to offer, visit SCLSNJ.org or connect with SCLSNJ on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, or YouTube.



(above) Aashi Raina uses clues hidden within a book to solve the puzzle and escape SCLSNJ's haunted library.

YANKEE GREAT RON GUIDRY VISITS LIBRARY



The Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) celebrated the end of Summer Reading in collaboration with the Somerset Patriots; Yankee great Ron Guidry; Vicky - the System's seeing-eye puppy-in-training; and many dedicated readers.

The Library System had a lot to celebrate this year. Over 4,500 Library lovers participated in SCLSNJ's Summer Reading Challenge, and, cumulatively, readers read 146,533 total days.

"We could not be more grateful to the families who supported this program and to the children who stayed actively engaged this summer," said Allie Ziff, program and outreach Manager. "Our Summer Reading Challenge this year was a great success and believe us when we say, we cannot wait for next Summer!"

Courtesy photos



Ashley's Watchung Market Update

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With colder weather on the horizon, Faith Lutheran is getting ready by collecting winter coats, scarves, hats, and gloves for Market Street Mission's Annual Coat Giveaway in Morristown. Faith has gathered these vital winter necessities for Market Street Mission for the past 30 years.

The local community is invited to help. If you have a new or gently worn winter coat that you would like to donate, please bring it to Faith Lutheran at 524 South Street, New Providence during office hours Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We are also collecting new handmade or purchased warm winter hats, scarves, and winter insulated gloves and mittens.

Please note that no rain jackets, windbreakers, vests, or sweaters are needed—only coats. All sizes are requested in men's, women's and children's with a special call for women's and children's.

The coat collection at Faith Lutheran will run through October 22. After that, the coats will be on their way to Market Street Mission in time for

the big Giveaway, which is scheduled for Saturday, November 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Morristown Green. Anyone in need of a coat can come to the Giveaway.

Market Street Mission is a non-profit organization helping to fight alcoholism, drug abuse, hunger, and homelessness in Northern NJ.



(above) Faith Lutheran Church is collecting winter coats through October 22nd.



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CONSTANTINE MAROULIS AT THE SIEMINSKI THEATER - OCT 14

Constantine Maroulis, American Idol finalist and Tony Award nominee Broadway star of “Rock and Roll Man,” “Rock of Ages” and “Jekyll and Hyde,” will delight audiences with stories and songs in an incredibly special, intimate performance. From classic Sondheim to contemporary Wildhorn, classic rock jams from Rock of Ages, along with Constantine’s original songs.

Appearing for one night only at the Sieminski Theater on Saturday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m. Maroulis provides a crowd-pleasing night of unforgettable music. Get ready for a night of sing-along and dance grooves that will have you dancing in your seats!

Visit the website sieminskitheater.org for tickets or call the Box Office at 866-307-8532.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, and raised in New Jersey, Maroulis became a household name during the heyday of “American Idol.” Maroulis, a graduate of the prestigious Boston Conservatory at Berklee College of Music was fresh from touring with the musical Rent when a friend convinced him to try out for American Idol. His charisma, rock n’ roll edge, and astounding vocals entranced the judges and won the hearts of thirty million TV viewers. His triumphant performances on Idol included some of the show’s most electrifying moments on TV, including his rendition of Queen’s epic “Bohemian Rhapsody.”

Following American Idol, Rock of Ages - the jukebox musical built around ‘eighties hits from Journey, Styx, Bon Jovi, and other glam metal mainstays—brought him back to Broadway. The show enjoyed a phenomenally successful run as one of the highest-grossing Broadway shows of all time, culminating in a myriad of awards and critical acclaim for Constantine including a Tony Award nomination, and firmly establishing him as a world-class performer. Constantine received Drama League Award nominations for the Distinguished Performance Award for Rock of Ages and for his work on the show Frank Wildhorn’s Jekyll & Hyde.

In addition to his appearances on TV and in movies, Maroulis’s on-stage credits also include

The Wedding Singer, RENT, Rocktopia, Jacques Brel, Jesus Christ Superstar, Evita, The Toxic Avenger, Friend Art, Postmodern Jukebox, and many more. The Broadway revival of Spring Awakening (Deaf West) directed by Michael Arden earned Maroulis Tony & Drama League nominations as a producer. As a recording artist, Maroulis continues to create new, original music regularly and just released his newest album “Come Back” – www.constantinemaroulis.com. Constantine’s current venture is his triumphant return to the New York stage with the Broadway hit - Rock and Roll Man, in which Constantine plays the title character, Alan Freed, a Cleveland DJ who in the 1950s heard the future—and knew he had to let it sing.

“Mr. Maroulis... possesses a soulful, pure and intense voice.” - The New York Times

“Mr. Maroulis’ voice is a gorgeous, crystal-clear, unwavering, bright tenor instrument that will blow you away.” - Houston Chronicle

“It’s really a perfect performance... Long may he rock.” - The Chicago Tribune

Get your tickets now for this one-night-only performance by this amazingly talented New Jersey native! Bring the entire family ... this is one show you don’t want to miss!

Visit the website www.sieminskitheater.org for tickets or call the Box Office at 866-307-8532. For information on Group Sales and Dinner & Show packages call 866-307-8532. Follow us on Facebook for upcoming shows and promotions.

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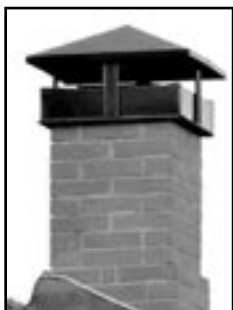
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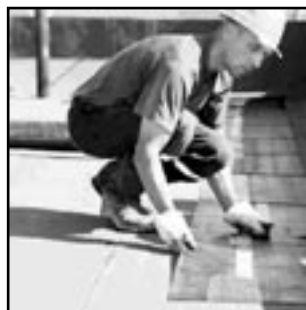
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The Friends of the Watchung Library partnered with the Library Advisory Board to host Sweet Start 2023. Bayberry and Valley View Families were invited to come to the library to get a library card, enjoy a free ice cream or fruit pop and paint a rock or two while enjoying socializing with their neighbors. Over 250 people attended this back to school community event.

The Friends of the Watchung Library thank all our volunteers, the Library Advisory Board and Council Members Gibbs, Abi Habib and Ead who came and showed their support for the library and its good works.



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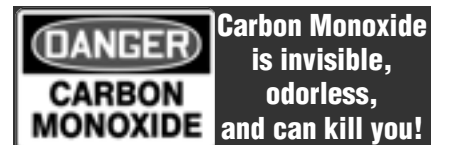
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LIBRARY OCTOBER 2023 VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

42 Mountain Boulevard, Warren Township, 07059 | 908-754-5554 | SCLSNJ.org
Program dates and times are subject to change. All programs are free and registration is required unless otherwise indicated. Visit SCLSNJ.org or call the Library for more information and to register.

Most programs require registration. Visit SCLSNJ.org. 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 each event.

For additional assistance, call (908) 845-8400. To discover all SCLSNJ has to offer, visit SCLSNJ.org or connect with SCLSNJ on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), or YouTube.

"The Catcher in the Rye"

by J. D. Salinger Presented by Vandana Walia
October 2, 7-8 p.m.

Published in 1951, "The Catcher in the Rye" was originally meant for adults, but soon became a symbol of teenage angst and rebellion. It has been found on lists of banned books time and again, for reasons ranging from use of foul language to inciting of violence. This book is now considered a modern classic. Register: event/8182625.

The Guitar in Latin America - Continuities, Changes, and Bicultural Strumming
October 4, 7-8 p.m.

Dr. Jose Manuel Lezcano presents a multimedia musical program that showcases the guitar in Latin America as an instrument that speaks many languages. Register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/8313642>.

A Visit With Mark Twain Portrayed by Bob Gleason from American Historical Theater:
October 5, 7-8 p.m.

In recognition of Banned Books Week, join a question and answer session about the life of Mark Twain. Register: event/8182495.

Somerville and the Hall-Mills Murder Mystery Presented by Author Joe Pompeo
October 9, 7-8 p.m.

Explore the critically acclaimed book, "Blood and Ink: The Scandalous Jazz Age Double Murder that Hooked America on True Crime."

Discover Somerville's connection to the investigation and eventual trial at the Somerset County courthouse. Register: 8604272.

Johannes Vermeer, His Life and Art Presented by Janet Cohen Mandel
October 12, 7-8 p.m.

This lecture will illustrate the life of Vermeer through examination of some of his most iconic works. Register: event/8124596.

From Mickey Mouse to Star Wars and Beyond - How the Disney Company Conquered the Entertainment Universe
October 16, 7-8 p.m.

Explore how the Walt Disney Company grew from a small cartoon studio in 1923 to the most powerful force in worldwide entertainment.

To Register visit: event/8124728.

Exploring the Jersey Shore Thrill Killer Presented by Author John E. O'Rourke
October 24, 7-8 p.m.

The true story of the murders that terrorized New Jersey beach towns for nearly a decade. To Register visit: event/8560840.

A Hollywood Halloween Presented by Dr. Annette Bochenek
October 25, 7-8 p.m.

From beloved classic horror films to lesser-known gems, explore the variety of classic horror films and characters as well as how the genre was developed to entertain audiences of all ages. To Register visit: event/8592561.

Where the Bodies Are Buried - A Journey Through History of Our Cemeteries:
October 26, 7-8 p.m.

Our burial grounds tell us more about ourselves than we realize. They are time capsules that preserve our art, culture, and history. Register: event/8142737.

Haunted History of New Jersey Presented by Greg Caggiano
October 30, 7-8:30 p.m.

Profiled in this presentation will be a Royal Governor's former residence, a Victorian mansion, with Revolutionary War notoriety, a cemetery, legendary road, and even a college campus. History and myth intertwine in this spooky program. Register: /event/8156029.

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