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Issue 73 • November 2023

# **RENEE REILLY CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF TRANSPLANT**

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#### NJ Sharing Network

Renee Reilly, a resident of Madison, NJ, is celebrating an incredible milestone as she marks the 10-year anniversary of her life-saving liver transplant. Renee, 52, has not only cherished every moment of her life since her successful transplant but is also passionate about advocating for NJ Sharing Network, the nonprofit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue for transplant in the Garden State. She actively shares her story with others to encourage more people to register as organ and tissue donors.

"I continue to feel overwhelmed, humble, and grateful," said Renee. "Giving someone a second chance as an organ and tissue donor is such a special and amazing gift of love."

Renee's journey began when she was 16 years old and was diagnosed with Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD). Her father, who also battled PKD, had received a life-saving kidney transplant that gave him an additional 35 years of life. Renee later developed Polycystic Liver Disease (PLD) after giving birth to her two boys. She was added to the liver transplant list in 2009.

"Waiting for the liver transplant phone call, I felt hopeless at times, tired, anxious, and I didn't think I would ever get 'the call," said Renee.

The pivotal moment in Renee's journey arrived unexpectedly on a day filled with emotional turmoil. Her father had been in the hospital for weeks due to complications from a previous surgery. Renee had just visited him when she received 'The Call' from the transplant center.

"I began to cry because I was filled with emotions, from joy and excitement to worry about my family and guilt about receiving such a precious gift. But my husband, John, and my sons, Ian and Brendan, served as a source of strength and kept me focused because they were excited to know that I was going to get a liver transplant," said Renee.

On August 6, 2013, Renee's liver transplant surgery was a success, giving her a new lease on life. In 2017, Renee's kidneys started to fail. Fortunately, she received a kidney transplant in 2018, sparing her from the hardships of dialysis treatments.

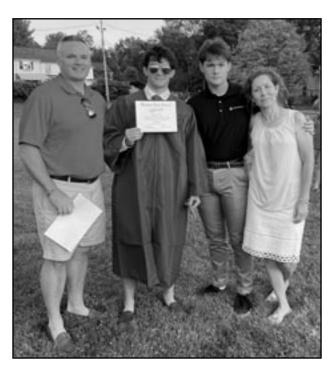
The transformation in Renee's life post-transplants has been remarkable. She now enjoys all of her favorite hobbies, including gardening, knitting/crocheting, sewing, and spending time with her family.

"Thanks to my organ donors and the miracle of transplantation, I have been there for unforgettable moments like my boys' graduations. I am now able to give hugs again without any pain," said Renee. "Now, I am focused on sharing my story to give hope for those waiting for the gift of life and inspire everyone to register as organ and tissue donors."

According to United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), there are over 100,000 Americans – nearly 4,000 of whom live in New Jersey – waiting for a life-saving transplant. One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and enhance the lives of over 75 others. To learn more, get involved, and join the National Donate Life Registry as an organ and tissue donor, visit NJSharingNetwork.org.



(above) Renee and John Reilly after Renee's life-saving liver transplant.



(abovet, l-r) The Reilly family John, Ian, Brendan, and Renee

Courtesy photos





# MADISON MONTHLY,

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# LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES! A CELEBRATION IN SONG

The magical music of the movies comes alive on stage! Hickory Tree Chorus will perform songs from Disney, Broadway, holiday songs and more, all sung in ringing four-part harmony at their annual show. Let's Go To The Movies! is on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Drew University Concert Hall, located in the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts, 36 Madison Avenue, Madison, NJ. Come hear favorites like What I Did for Love, Weekend in New England, Seasons of Love, Beauty and the Beast, On the Road Again, and many more. The Maplewood Glee

The magical music of the movies comes alive a stage! Hickory Tree Chorus will perform ngs from Disney, Broadway, holiday songs and ore, all sung in ringing four-part harmony at eir annual show. Let's Go To The Movies! is on turday, November 11, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Drew

> The Hickory Tree Chorus, an award-winning chapter of Sweet Adelines International, performs fun-filled popular music, barbershop style. Founded in 1968 in Chatham Township, NJ, HTC currently rehearses in Stirling, NJ. Find more info at hickorytreechorus.org.



(above) Hickory Tree Chorus

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# **LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

#### The Life and Times of Catherine "The Great"

Monday, November 6th @7pm She came to Russia, only speaking her native German tongue, yet when she went on to change Russia in to an even greater and more enlightened world power. This lecture will explain Catherine in the context of the European Enlightenment and the typical politics

of eighteenth-century Europe. This is presented by Professor Alexander Clemente.Alexander is a Professor of History at the County College of Morris.

#### Adult Open Craft Night

Thursday, November 9th 6:00pm-8:00pm. Held at Madison Community Art Center, 10 Kings Road

Have no time or space to finish up all those craft projects? Take n Makes waiting to be assembled? You are not alone! Join us for some quiet time away from the kids and the dirty dishes. Relax with friends and fellow crafters. Bring along anything you want to work on or enjoy doing the craft I will provide, just in case. **The Life and Times of Catherine "The Great"** 

Monday, November 13th @7pm Born in militaristic Prussia during the height of the European Enlightenment, this monarch embodied the ideal of "Enlightened Absolutism." We will consider why Immanuel Kant claimed that Frederick was indeed, the "model ruler." In the process, we will also become better acquainted with Prussian culture and history of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries.

This is presented by Professor Alexander Clemente.Alexander is a Professor of History at the County College of Morris and has taught at William Patterson and Montclair State University.

#### Author Talk with Shelby Van Pelt Thursday, November 16th @7pm

Join us with other MAIN libraries as we chat with bestselling author Shelby Van Pelt about her debut hit novel Remarkably Bright Creatures.



# **LIBRARY 2023 ANNUAL APPEAL**

#### Friends of the Madison Library

Each year in November, the Friends of the Madison Library, a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization, reach out to the community to ask their support for our library. Generous contributions are responsible for funding programs and materials that are not covered by the annual Borough of Madison Library budget.

The Library and its patrons continue to rely on the support provided by contributions to the Friends for supplemental funding. Gifts will enable the Friends to support 100% of budgeted funding for the Library's collection of books, videos and streaming services. Popular items, such as recently digitized passes to 14 New York-New Jersey area museums and special programs and events for children and adults, are fully funded by contributions.

With the Library in the midst of planned construction changes, the renovated building will feature reconfigured spacing, work stations, and seating to increase flexibility and meet varying usage demands. The Friends have pledged to assist with expenditures related to the acquisition of new furniture and equipment for 2024.

At the end of a year marked by many changes and the start of the Annual Appeal, a donation can be made by visiting the Friends website madisonnjlibrary.org and making a secure online donation. Checks may be made out to "Friends of the Madison Library" and mailed to 39 Keep Street, Madison, New Jersey 07940.



(above, l-r) Gloria Cracovia - Friends Treasurer, Kathy Trombacco - Friends Chair and Lynn Favreau Library Director.

Photo by Gigi Collins





# Third Quarter Review

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60 Green Ave	5	3.1	2	\$1,699,000	\$1,554,000	132
2 Pine Tree Ter	5	3.1	1	\$1,300,000	\$1,400,000	9
10 Loantaka Ter	3	2.0	1	\$825,000	\$853,000	n
10 Valevue Rd	3	2.0	1	\$679,000	\$800,000	13
6 Oak Ct	3	2.0	2	\$699,000	\$796,000	15

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# **SENIOR CENTER EVENTS**

Sign up is necessary for these events. Please call the Senior Center at 973-635-4565, Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. to register.

#### **Fundamentals of Drawing Workshop**

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 10:00 AM Learn "Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain" exercises and how to draw an apple using charcoal. No experience necessary. Fee: \$10

#### **Veterans Day Patriotic Celebration**

Thursday, Nov. 9, Noon Celebrate veterans with lunch and a patriotic music performance by the Pettit Sisters. Lunch at noon; concert at 12:30 PM. Limited seating.

**AARP Safe Driver Course** Two Tuesdays, Nov. 14 & Nov. 21, 9:30 AM Learn proven driving techniques to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the road, and you may become eligible for a multi-year discount on your car insurance. Fee is \$20 for

AARP members, \$25 for non-members. Attendance at both sessions is required.

#### **Classical Music Concert**

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 1:00 PM The Suburban Music Club of the Chatham United Methodist Church will perform a recital of classical songs and opera arias, popular music, and theater tunes.

#### Town & Country Garden Club: **Floral Holiday Arrangement**

Friday, Nov. 17, Noon Town & Country Garden Club members will teach attendees how to make a fresh floral holiday arrangement. Limited number of spots

#### **Celebrating Women Before**, **During & After the American Revolution**

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 1:00 PM Learn about famous women in our country in times prior to, during, and following the American Revolution. Presented by Joel Farkas.

#### **Morris County D.A. Presentation: Senior Fraud Prevention**

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 11:00 AM Representatives of the Morris County District Attorney's Office will talk about how to recognize and prevent fraudulent activities that target older adults.

# **THURSDAY MORNING CLUB'S 'LE BAZAR DE NOEL' HOLIDAY MARKET**

#### LE BAZAR DE NOEL – NOV. 10 - 11

Just in time for holiday shopping, special items will be abundant for everyone on your shopping list and yourself at the Thursday Morning Club's festive 'Le Bazar de Noel', a two-day Holiday Market from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, November 10; and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 11, at the Madison Community House, 25 Cook Avenue.

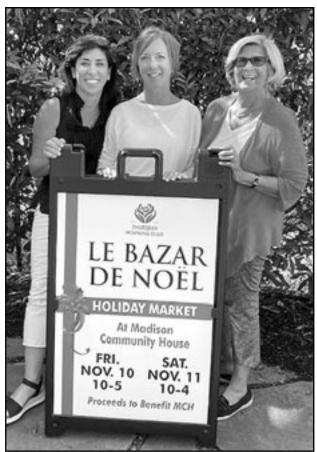
The Bazar will feature many unique vendors offering Gourmet items & Treats. Jewelry. Children/Teens items, Clothing & Bags, Home Accessories & Gifts along with Tricky Tray Baskets, 50/50 raffle and a member's homemade craft table. It is the Club's major fundraising event of the year and proceeds provide funds for the Madison Community House, which is owned and operated by The Thursday Morning Club.

La Patisserie will sell delicious quiches, cakes, breads, cookies, and homemade pies, perfect for your Thanksgiving celebration. The Catering Department will offer a variety of frozen homemade soups and meatballs to stock your freezer for the winter months.

Admission to the 'Le Bazar de Noel' is free. For information please call (973) 377-0244 or email TMCMCH.org.

Organized in 1896, the Thursday Morning Club (TMC) is a member of both the New Jersey State and General Federation of Women's Clubs. The Club offers programs and services to support the community including BASCC (Before and After School Childcare) at the elementary schools, and its Madison Community House

provides a home for a number of clubs, sports, recreation, and civic groups. If you would like to serve the community, make new friends, enjoy programs and activities, consider joining the Thursday Morning Club. For information, call the Community House at (973) 377-0244 or visit TMCMCH.org.



(above) Tricia Armstong, Julie Trapp, and Sharon Silver prepare for the Le Bazar de Noel

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# ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE, THERE MAY BE A FORGOTTEN STORY

#### **County of Morris**

From Disdain for the Devil to Powerbrokers Building Legacies, The Tales Behind Morris County Street Names Are Many.

Did you know Buddy Lane in Mendham Township was named for the first Seeing Eye Dog? And whatever happened to Devil's Punchbowl Road in Morristown and Florham Park?

There are histories, legends and mysteries surrounding the names given to the streets where we live in Morris County. Who still recalls that Shunpike Road in Chatham Township was sonamed because it was an alternate route to toll roads, otherwise known as pikes? Thrifty travelers would "shun" them.

The history of street names is easily forgotten, and the paved lanes often are renamed as new people move into towns. The reasons for the original monikers fade or name changes become necessary.

"History and local folklore, as well as memorials and tributes to local citizens, lay behind the names affixed atop of street poles and stone markers, yet the stories are often overlooked and lost through time," said Jan Williams, a historian at the Morris County Office of Planning and Preservation.

She has initiated the Morris County "Street Histories Project," hoping to keep alive the stories behind street names by inviting everyone to share what they may know. The office is developing what historians call a "crowdsourced" history project, asking residents or anyone else to send contributions to an everevolving public document designed to collect the histories.

The project's is an evolving webpage listed at Planning & Preservation Street Histories Project. SHARE A STORY

You do not have to be a historian to share a street name story. That is the point of a "crowdsourced" history project. Just contribute a street name and a narrative. Submit what you know and it may jog someone else's memory and lead Morris County to more information.



(above) Pvt. Edward Sloan Honor Plaque located on Shunpike Road

Start by sending an email to Jan Williams at: jwilliams@co.morris.nj.us

Needed are the street name, the town, the story or legend and, when possible, please submit a photo of the street sign.

#### MYSTERIES

The project would like to learn more about many other streets, including:

Featherbed Lane in Harding Township. That cannot be by accident.

Collegan Lane in Mine Hill. The street no longer exists, but it is noted on old maps. Some evidence suggests it was named for W. Collegan, who may have been a miner.

Kossuth Street in Wharton is probably named after a long-gone establishment known as Kossuth Hall, which was the meeting place of a Hungarian group called the Lajos Kossuth Society, named in honor of the leader of the Hungarian Revolution. However, the "Street Histories Project" would love to learn more. After all, the street runs parallel to Wharton's nod to a hero of the American Revolution - Washington Street. Was that coincidental?

Washington Street, Lane, Court, Avenue or Boulevard in any town.

The "Street Histories Project" would like a photo of every street named for George Washington in every town in Morris County, where the General headquartered during the Revolution. The idea is to collect one photograph representing each street.

Notable Streets in Madison, NJ "The Rose City" listed to date: Brittin Street, Community Place, Coursen Way, Madison Ave., Main Street, Rose Avenue, Rosewood Drive, Shunpike Road **ROSE AVENUE** 

Although Madison at the turn-of-the-20th century was one of the largest rose suppliers in the United States, the avenue was not named for the industry. Rose Avenue runs through the former Lenox S. Rose estate, a wealthy leather manufacturer in Newark and an early financial partner in Nation Cash Register Corporation. His estate also funded the Rose Memorial Library at Drew University. The Rose Wing at the Madison Community House is named for Lenox's wife, Nellie L. Rose.

#### **ROSEWOOD DRIVE**

Rosewood Drive runs through the former Lenox S. Rose estate, a wealthy leather manufacturer in Newark and an early financial partner in National Cash Register Corporation. His estate also funded the Rose Memorial Library at Drew University. The Rose Wing at the Madison Community House is named for Lenox's wife, Nellie L. Rose.

Thank you, former Madison Mayor Mary Anna Holden for relaying this history, November 18, 2014.

#### **SHUNPIKE ROAD**

Honor Plaque to Pvt. Edward Sloan United States Army 47th Inf Reg 9th Inf Div was Killed in Action, March 9, 1945

Morris County WWII Veterans



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### AAUW MADISON AREA BRANCH TO HOST "HOW DID I GET HERE?" PROGRAM - NOV 6

Submitted by Susan Mennella

On Monday, November 6, 2023, at 7 p.m. nonprofit AAUW (American Association of University Women) Madison Area Branch will host a program entitled, "How Did I Get Here?" The speaker is AAUW Madison Area Branch President, Ann Huber from Madison. The event will be held at Florham Park Library, Akhoury Meeting Room, 107 Ridgedale Avenue, Florham Park. The program is free and open to the public and advance reservations are not needed.

Ann will discuss her memoir, Lost and Found, Surviving Displacement, Finding Love, Uncovering Secrets. She will talk about her journey from one country to another, learning new languages and adapting to different cultures, while struggling to figure out where she fits in. The book can be purchased online and copies are available thru the MAIN Library system. Reading the book is suggested but not required to attend and enjoy the program.

Born in war-torn Romania shortly after WWII, the author fled to Israel along with her family, and then they abruptly moved to Canada. She moved to the US at 19, another uprooting in her young life. When she meets the love of her life at a young age, she learns that his family's history of displacement and survival during the Holocaust parallels her own. As she matures, has children, and her ambitions grow, the author finds an inner strength. Even a shocking family secret learned late in life that might have shattered another person's worldview, only strengthens her resolve to remain true to herself. Her extraordinary life of dealing with losses and secrets, and finding love, is the subject of this moving memoir.

Ann & her husband are residents of Madison, having moved here 18 years ago after raising 3 daughters and 5 dogs in Randolph Township. Ann is a retired Deputy Attorney General, following her trial work of Termination of Parental Rights trials and appeals. She is a graduate of Rutgers University (New Brunswick) and Rutgers Law School (Newark). Never happy to sit still, she has always been



(above) Ann Huber is the current President of the AAUW Madison Area Branch

Courtesy photo

involved in volunteer work and politics, starting with the Red Cross and Leaders' Corps in High School, Pres. of Morristown Jewish Center Sisterhood, Pres. Randolph Chamber of Commerce and member of Rotary, then held elected office as Councilwoman and Mayor in Randolph. Ann has been president of the AAUW Madison Area Branch since June 2022. She thinks she fits in here pretty well.

AAUW has been transforming women's lives for more than a century. Our Madison area branch continues to support education with grants, programs that expose teen girls to STEM, topical monthly programs, and member special interest groups such as a book club, a mahjong game, book sales and more. Join us to find purpose, community, and friendship at madisonareaaauw.org/

#### **MAHJONGG TOURN - NOV. 15**

The nonprofit AAUW Madison Area Branch is hosting its next Mahjongg Tournament on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, between 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Community Arts Center, 10 Kings Road in Madison. Please join us for 4 rounds of games, door prize and 50/50 drawings, lunch, and free parking. All proceeds benefit education for women and STEM programs for middle school girls. Cost is \$55 pp.

Register at: aauwmadisonnj.square.site/ mahjongg-tournament





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# **ROTARY CLUBS BAN TOGETHER TO HELP HOMELESS VETERANS**

#### Westfield Rotary Club

On Saturday, Oct 14, 2023, the representatives of six Rotary clubs, including Madison, Westfield, Watchung, Somerset Hills, Hillsborough, and Morristown, delivered needed supplies to the homeless veterans living at Lyons VA Administration, building 53, in Lyons, NJ. This Rotary program was designed to help homeless military veterans by Westfield Rotarian Burim Regjaj, and has been running for 4 years.

Rotary International President Gordon McInally has made addressing mental health a priority for Rotary Clubs this year. Past District Governor Dr. Michael Hart feels that as a society we have an obligation to take care of our veterans whose health has been damaged by their service. These men and women put their lives at risk to protect our freedom. More than that, they put their health at risk, and now may be damaged mentally with PTSD.

Eighteen American military veterans commit suicide every day. That's 6,570 suicides per year. More than four times as many than we lost in all the wars since September 11th, 2001. In that time period, the US has lost 7,057 soldiers fighting wars; and 30,177 soldiers to suicide.

Veterans who are damaged with PTSD may turn to drugs and/or alcohol, lose their jobs, then their house, their family, and everything, until they hit rock bottom. Some commit suicide at this point. The VA will dry them out, help them recover, provide psychological counselling, provide help with designing a resume, and provide career counselling. The VA Administration provides the veterans with a bed and meals for 9 months, but then they are either moved to low-cost long-term housing, or just put out of the hospital, back onto the street.

Right now, there are 71 veterans living at the Lyons VA Building 53, including 6 women, and another 162 veterans living at Valley Brook Village next door. Valley Brook Village is basically a dormitory for low-cost, long-term housing.

Since the hospital does not provide the veterans with most clothing or toiletries, Rotary fills the gap. The most requested item is socks. Rotary provides underwear, socks, long underwear, T-shirts, boots, winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, a "Thank You for Your Service" card from the Ronkonkoma, Long Island Rotary Club, and a rugged duffle bag to keep everything in.

Rotarians recently delivered 71 duffle bags to the veterans. They plan to deliver Bomber jackets



at the end of October, pillows and pillow cases in November, and Winter coats in December.

At the Holiday time, they plan to distribute pajamas, and winter hats, gloves, and scarves.

An important part of the project is to talk to the veterans as we are giving out the supplies, to let them know that someone cares about them, and thank them for their service, to help instill hope.

The consortium of six Rotary clubs purchases the supplies and clothing from a charity on Long Island called General Needs, Inc. which buys the materials wholesale. This 501c3 was started by Rotarians Lonnie and Susan Sherman, who are members of the Ronkonkoma Rotary Club, and are seen in the photos. They drive 2 hours each way from Long Island to Lyons, NJ to deliver the supplies which the New Jersey Rotarians purchase. Every Wednesday special education students from Commack High School, Long Island, volunteer at the General Needs, Inc. storage facility to help assemble the duffle bags. The kids are learning skills, and helping the veterans at the same time.

In December, the Rotarians host a Holiday party and give out wrapped gift boxes which include hats, gloves and scarves. High School students wrap the presents, and elementary school students make holiday cards

This is such a wonderful project that the Rotary Clubs pool our funds in the Rotary District 7475 Foundation.

For information about this effort visit www.rotary7475foundation.org, or contact Westfield Rotary Club secretary Dr. D. Michael Hart by email at drmhart@yahoo.com.



(above, l-r) Lonnie Sherman, Susan Sherman, Burim Regjaj, Past District Governor Dr. D. Michael Hart. They are displaying some of the 71 duffle bags which were delivered recently.

Courtesy photos



MADISON MONTHLY • Page 13 • November 2023



# Marketing Toolbox

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