# CRANFORD MONTHLYNJ

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# **CRANFORD FAMILY CARE IS GRATEFUL FOR SUPPORT**

Julie Carroll, Cranford Family Care Association

Thanksgiving is one of the most generous times for giving to Cranford Family Care. Thankfully Cranford supports its own! The local need has been tremendous this year and the community has responded generously!

Cranford Family Care was fortunate to receive multiple donations to make the 2023 holiday season special. We received so many amazing donations and some of our highlights include:

- Meals from Salt & Light Ministry St. Michael's Church
- Thanksgiving baskets from local Girl Scout troops
- Generous gift card donations for local businesses from the Knights of Columbus
- 220 Thanksgiving grocery bags for local Seniors from Cadette Girl Scout Troop 40194
   For the Third Year in a row!
- 80 Turkeys for local families from Marc Corello, owner of the Garlic Rose

The work of dozens of Volunteers helped organize and deliver delicious food for Thanksgiving Celebrations. Throughout the month of November, CFC received help from numerous individuals and organizations including:

The Thursday Club, Bloomingdale School, Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 22, United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Union County Ancient Order of Hibernians, Union county of Daughters of Ireland, Doreen Sayegh, owner of Cranford Movie Theatre, Downtown Cranford Events, Fire Department, Kings Grocery Store in Garwood, Artisan Bread, and Dryers Farm, Garwood Cares, Cranford boy and Girl Scouts held successful food drives that helped fill our pantry shelves.

Cranford Family Care and the local recipients are grateful for the continued generosity of the residents and businesses of our wonderful community.

As we all know, these are times of great economic pressure for many local families and our efforts cannot stop with holidays. Much of our work requires weekly assistance and ongoing support. Please consider donating food or



(Additional photos on page 27.)



financial support to our pantry by visiting our website: cranfordfamilycare.com/donate

Non-Perishable donations are accepted at CFC, 61 Myrtle Street Cranford, M-F 9:00-4:00 and at the Cranford Fire Department Drop Box 7 Springfield Ave Cranford.

We are so grateful for all the local support – Happy Holidays to All!



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# CRANFORD MONTHLYNJ

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#### **SEND US YOUR NEWS**

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! Email: editor@rennamedia.com

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# **COPING WITH LOSS DURING THE HOLIDAYS**

culture, especially at the holidays. We are supposed to have a Happy Thanksgiving, a "merry little Christmas" or a Happy Hanukkah. But grief doesn't take a holiday.

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss would like to offer support to those navigating the challenges of grieving during the holiday season and offer some coping strategies as well. On Thursday December 14th from 6:30-8 pm, Imagine will offer a workshop on Coping with Loss During the Holidays. The free workshop will be held at their center at 244 Sheffield Street in Mountainside and is open to adults and children grades 3 and older.

Imagine's Grief Educator, Connie Palmer, LCSW will present the workshop in English and Training and Education Director, Veronica Ortiz, LPC and Bilingual Program Manager, Sonia Nuñez will present the workshop at the same time in Spanish. Pizza dinner is available prior to the session beginning at 6:15 for those who sign up. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served as well.

If you are looking for support as you cope with a loss this holiday season, the staff at Imagine would like to help, and hope to see you at the workshop on the 14th.

Imagine is a 501c3 nonprofit that offers free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with

There is so much pressure to be happy in our a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and guardians of the children in the groups and offered in English and Spanish. Imagine also offers grief and loss education and training to the community. For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.



(above) If you're interested in attending the workshop presented in English, please scan the OR code or visit Imagine's website at imaginenj.org/education-training/communitywebinars/ to register. Registration is not required for the workshop presented in Spanish.





# SPOT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NEW YEAR?

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# Warm Wishes for a Happy Holiday!

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# **MORE THAN \$33,000 IN GRANTS AWARDED TO SCHOOLS**

The Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence (CFEE) is a non-profit, community-based philanthropic foundation, whose mission is to foster academic excellence, promote innovation, and enhance the vitality of the Cranford Public Schools by generating additional resources through community involvement. Grants are awarded to educators who will use the funding to advance this mission.

The CFEE is proud to announce they have awarded more than \$33,000 in grants to the Cranford Public Schools for the 2023-24 academic year, which the Cranford Board of Education formally accepted this past August.

Fourteen projects received funding this year across the categories of Makerspaces/Innovation Zones, Innovations in Classroom Design, Differentiation / Personalization, Technology Integration and Innovations to Support School District Goals.

Grant funding for the 2023-2024 year was generated from the 6th Annual CFEE Trivia Night fundraiser, held last February at the Kenilworth VFW and philanthropic donations throughout the year. Thanks to everyone in the community who attended, with 39 teams vying for the championship and special shout out to DJ emcee Geis, Danny Murphy, Randy photographer Christopher Gosier, guest presenter Bernie Wagenblast and Trivia Master, Brian Andrews.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Scott Rubin, for stopping by and top contributors MWT Builders, Cranford Jaycees, Brighton Air Corporation, and Lincoln Investment for their generous sponsorship of the event. Other local businesses, Cranford families and community organizations also supported the event with sponsorships ranging from \$150 to \$5000.

The Cranford Fund for Educational

CFEE would also like to thank Cranford's Excellence, relaunched in 2014, is a nonprofit, Cranford-based foundation that supports excellence and innovation in the Cranford public schools by generating resources through community involvement.

> For more information on volunteer opportunities and how you can donate, visit cranfordfund.org and follow the Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence Facebook page for news and updates.



(above) CFEE Board at the 6th Annual Trivia Night, Kenilworth VFW

Courtesy photos



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## SHINING STARS CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR — DEC. 2ND

County and beyond, the Shining Stars Network has been producing live programming for the special needs community for eleven years.

Celebrate the holiday season when the Shining Stars take the stage for their 2023 Christmas Spectacular" set for Saturday, December 2nd, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

The show will take place on the main stage at the historic Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway as this talented cast sings and dances to your holiday favorites.

This year's Christmas Spectacular marks the return of the Shining Stars to one of the most beautiful theaters in New Jersey and will feature 35 special needs cast members and their volunteer buddies from local high schools, who serve as mentors to the cast during rehearsals.

Two previous Shining Stars shows at UCPAC drew more than 1,000 audience members for each performance, and already, the buzz is building in the community.

"We're so excited to ring in the holiday season," noted Shining Stars Network founder and President Mike Curci. "Our stars are ready to share their smiles, energy and amazing talents with everyone. This will be a great way to cap off our 11th year."

"We strongly believe in creating an inclusive environment for our cast, and our buddies are an integral part of the Shining Stars experience,"

With cast members from all over Union noted Shining Stars founder and show director performing, but more importantly we're about Sally Curci. "We are so excited to bring a new show to the stage and cannot wait to connect with our incredible audience again to celebrate the holiday season."

> Shining Stars Network is wrapping up their biggest year yet, which included their annual "Evening of Shining Stars" Spring Show, their Broadway debut at the Gershwin Theatre, and their impressive main stage debut at the iconic Paper Mill Playhouse.

> The Shining Stars performed "This Is Me" on Broadway as part of the Arts for Autism concert and soon after, took the Paper Mill stage to present The Greatest Show, a history-making performance which was the first full production of performers with special needs in Paper Mill

"Shining Stars Network is not only about

building self-confidence and self-esteem," said Shining Stars co-director Nicole Greene. "Our cast members are not only talented, but inspire us every day, and we are all very excited about seeing our cast take the stage again to share another magical night with the audience."

Tickets are on sale now at UCPAC.org. For groups 10 email of or more, shiningstarsnetwork@gmail.com.

The night will also feature a Tricky Tray and 50/50 raffle. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.

Shining Stars Network is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization based in Cranford, N.J. that offers opportunities in the performing arts for the special needs community.

For more information on Shining Stars Network or to make a donation, please visit shiningstarsnetwork.org.



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# **HOLIDAY MAGIC** AT THE HOPE CHEST

The Hope Chest Thrift Store, located at 26 Prospect Street in Westfield, is outfitted for the Holidays! The store welcomes shoppers in with an array of beautiful holiday items. There will be holiday table linens, glass and dishware, serving pieces, centerpieces and wreaths. Christmas tree the store will be offering lights, garlands, and ornaments. In our book and CD section there are many options for children or adults.

For the man of the house the store maintains a wonderful selection of slacks, jeans, sweaters, sports jackets, suits, and outerwear that will outfit him for the chilly weather and perhaps that special holiday party. Women can choose anything from casual clothes to a glittering gown or dress. To accessorize there is a selection of beautiful earrings, necklaces, and bracelets. Dress and casual shoes along with boots will complete the look. Add one of our many pocketbooks and clutches and you are all set!

Be sure to check out our sales promotions which change weekly.

The Hope Chest is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and gladly accepts donations of new or gently used items on Tuesday and Saturday. The store is manned totally by volunteers and all of our profits go to support the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care in Scotch Plains. To volunteer at the store or to enquire about joining the Center for Hope Hospice Auxiliary please call the store at 908-233-9973 or stop in and speak with one of our volunteers. We always welcome new members.



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# PROGRAM FOR AUTISTIC RESIDENTS

The Blue Envelope Program is accessible to all Union County residents on the Autism Spectrum. Residents can obtain a Blue Envelope at their local police departments throughout the county.

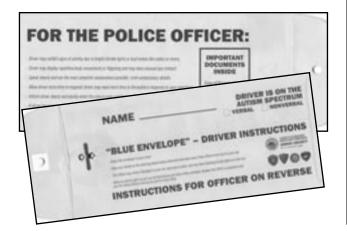
The Blue Envelope Program introduces a simple yet effective tool that contains essential information for drivers with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This includes a copy of their driver's license, vehicle registration, insurance details, and an emergency contact card. Additionally, the envelope provides clear instructions to drivers on how to navigate a traffic stop and interact with law enforcement officers in a manner that promotes clarity and safety.

Key features of the Blue Envelope Program include:

- Specialized Training: Every officer in Union County, including local officers in all 21 municipalities, will undergo specialized training to develop a deeper understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder and the best practices for engaging with individuals during traffic stops.
- Communication Facilitation: Drivers with Autism Spectrum Disorder can present the blue envelope to the officer upon being stopped, allowing officers to quickly recognize the situation and adapt their approach accordingly.
- Essential Information: The envelope includes guidance for officers to simplify requests and minimize the risk of misunderstandings or potential escalation. Additionally, officers are advised to contact the person listed on the emergency contact card for assistance if needed.
- Verbal or Nonverbal Indication: A checked-off box on the envelope indicates whether the driver is verbal or nonverbal, which aids officers in communicating effectively.

"Every single police department in Union County is proud to be a part of this initiative," said Elizabeth Police Chief Giacomo Sacca and President of the Union County Police Chief's Association. "Our officers have undergone thorough briefings and trainings to ensure they are well-versed in the proper protocols, and they are eager to put their training into action."

For information on this program in your town, contact your local Police Department's Community Outreach Unit.



# **RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN**

FDA Approved Treatment to Avoid Surgery

# DON'T BLAME THE ARROW FOR MISSING THE TARGET

Just like tens of millions of other Americans, you were looking for relief from your chronic knee pain. You thought Viscosupplementation injections might be the answer, but the results were disappointing and painful. Don't assume the treatment wasn't right. That could very well be like blaming the arrow for its path to the target when the problem might be the archer. If you didn't get the pain relief you were hoping for, chances are your injection treatment was off target. Unlike blind injections or even ultrasound targeted treatments found elsewhere.

Northeast Spine & Wellness Center uses diagnostic fluoroscopy to make sure the area that needs treated is the exact area where the injection goes. This is the most advanced method of delivering this pain relieving treatment with 95% accuracy to give you the results you're looking for. The use of Fluoroscopy guided injections sets Northeast Spine & Wellness Center apart. The end result is you living pain free from your chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the endless trial and error assortment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in those suffering from knee pain related to osteoarthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough. Call Northeast Spine & Wellness Center now for a RISK FREE consultation.



#### If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

Have you have been told you are facing knee replacement surgery? Have you been told about all the downsides you could be facing? First and foremost, there are NO guarantees that knee replacement surgery will be the answer to your pain, but let's look further:

- Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
   Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.
- With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.
- Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down that road before. Addictions to these pain medications can cause potential side effects, something you do not want to experience.
- · Rehabilitation can take years.

#### Consider This Alternative To Surgery

Northeast Spine & Wellness Center offers you a real opportunity and a painless way to say goodbye to your knee pain without any surgery. Here are just a few of the important benefits you should consider?

- Diagnostic fluoroscopy accurately targets the pain, unlike blind injections.
- · Guided fluorescopic injections are virtually pain free, unlike blind injections.
- No lost time from work or family.
- No expensive or time consuming rehabilitation.
- No potentially addictive prescription medications.
- Recovery time is almost instant, not months or years.

#### **How Does This New Treatment Work?**

Relief begins almost as fast as it takes to pronounce the treatment. It's called Viscosupplementation Therapy. To begin with, it starts with **Northeast** 

Spine & Wellness Center investing in the use of diagnostic fluoroscopy This enables them to target the exact location of your knee pain with pinpoint accuracy. What follows is a simple injection that causes little to no pain, especially when compared to what you may be living with daily. That explains what you will see on the surface of this revolutionary treatment. What's taking place below the surface is how and where the natural healing process takes place. The injection of a Hyaluronic acid called Hyalgan. This gel-like substance was approved by the FDA in 1996. Hyulgan is a natural substance that mimics the synovial fluid that is already produced by your body in your joints. Osteourthritis sufferers in particular see a reduction in this much needed synovial fluid in their knee joints. Without that cushioning layer of protection, the cartilage in your knee can begin to wear away leading to the rubbing of bone on bone. Through Viscosupplementation Therapy, this natural substance immediately goes to work reducing the swelling and inflammation in the joint and adding a coating layer of protection. Think about Dorothy taking the oil can to The Tin Man. You'll begin to feel that same kind of relief and quite possibly feel like you're ready for a dance down the yellow brick road to recovery yourself. And with a success rate of over 85% in alleviating pain associated with osteoarthritis, it's easy to see why this treatment is so readily covered by Medicare and by most major insurance providers. Diagnostic fluoroscopy to target the pain, Viscosupplementation Therapy to relieve the pain. Simple, fast

#### Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

There are a number of reasons why you developed Ostcoarthritis pain. It can develop with age or because of heredity. It could be from repetitive stress from a job or some glory days in athletics. Of course your concern is with the symptoms you face daily and how to make them end, hopefully without surgery or the use of potentially addictive medications. Northeast Spine & Wellness Center understands the symptoms you have been

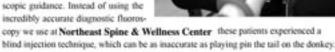
living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

- Pain Whether it's a sharp aching or maybe a burning sensation, the pain can range from irritating to debilitating.
- Swelling This can cause tenderness and soreness to the entire knee area, making walking or going up and down stairs painful, getting in and out of bed or bathtubs difficult and dangerous just name a few activities affected by swelling.
- Stiffness Getting up out of bed or after sitting for a period of time gets more and more difficult. This loss of mobility can be more than a hindrance. It can be dangerous if you need to move quickly.
- Loss of muscle strength This can lead to balance issues and the strong possibility of falling.
- · Joint deformity Not just unsightly, but painful as well.
- Creaking Joints Can be painful and a sign of more discomfort to come.
- Sleepless nights Losing sleep over your suffering is not just irritating, but potentially dangerous because of so many other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sound sleep.

#### Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthritis, osteoarthritis, sports injuries or other conditions. Many have been told that they are in need of knee replacement surgery. Other patients say they have been prescribed various prescription medications to deal with the pain.

Something else I see almost every day, are patients that have tried viscosupplementation knee injections elsewhere and found it to be a painful and ineffective experience because the injections were not administered using fluoroscopic guidance. Instead of using the inventible account discounts.



Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoros copy and the amazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are thrilled to get started They are even more thrilled when they feel the relief. Please contact Northeast Spine & Wellness Center today to schedule your RISK FREE consultation.

Call 732-827-0800

Scot Paris MD, FACS

#### Here's what our patients have to say

"I'm dancing without pain. I can move with no problem whatwoever. I can go up and down steps with no pain." - Patricia G.

"Over 85% relief for the first time in 15 years, suffering with knee pain. My life is getting hack to normal."

- Perry O.

"After only four visits, i have absolutely no pain! The staff is "top-notch."

- Quenton L.

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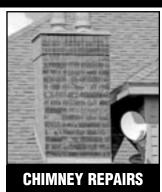
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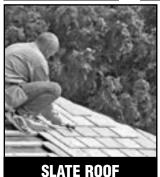




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Photo by David J. Kaplan (above) Long Hill Township Library features items made by the Gates Avenue Knitters are for sale as a fundraiser for the library.

# ASSUMPTION CHURCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Church of the Assumption in Roselle Park, in conjunction with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, is coordinating a Christmas Concert on Wednesday evening, December 6th @ 7 PM.

New Jersey's own Chris Pinnella and His Quartet will be performing an array of Christmas and Holiday Classics. Chris is a world class vocalist who has been compared to Josh Groban and Micheal Buble.

All proceeds from the concert will benefit Assumption Church and Catholic Charities.

Tickets in advance are \$20, and can be purchased via the Rectory or by visiting assumption23.givesmart.com Tickets at the door will be \$25.

Sponsorships are also available.

For more information contact Peter Ruccione @ 973-818-4060. pruccione@ccannj.org



## **KNIT A BIT AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS**

The Gates Avenue Knitters celebrated their 23-year anniversary in April. The group has been meeting at the Long Hill Township Library, located at 917 Valley Road, Gillette, every Monday from 1p.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join in.

In the month of April in the year 2000, Gates Avenue, Gillette resident Arlene Kaplan, started a knitting group along with 4 friends. Twenty-three years later the group, now called the Gates Avenue Knitters, are still knitting together, including 4 of the 5 original knitters who still live in town.

Eighteen to twenty ladies show up on any given meeting day. Their skills range from beginner to experienced knitters (and crocheters). They help each other get past problems with patterns, and they are excited and willing to teach beginners to knit.

They come from Long Hill Township and surrounding towns, including Warren, Watchung, Bridgewater, Springfield, Chatham, Madison, Summit, and Westfield. Many were introduced to the group thru friends.

Along with their own projects, the group knits for causes. They knit approximately 500 hats per year and distribute them to local charities. Beginning in November they have a display at the library and the hats are sold as a fundraiser thru the end of February for \$10 each. The group recently presented the library with \$1,300 from the proceeds of the last hat sale, which is the most funds ever raised.

The group welcomes donations of yarn and knitting and crocheting supplies.

Donations can be dropped off at the Long Hill Township Library any day during business hours.



## YOUTH TRAIN TO BECOME FACILITATORS

Imagine a Center for Coping with Loss

In the 10 years that Imagine has been offering peer support groups for children, youth facilitators have played an important role in the groups for children ages 3-12. Imagine's youth volunteers are high school age and co-facilitate with adult facilitators in support groups for younger kids. Recently, Imagine staff trained twelve young people who devoted a full Sunday to learning the companioning model of facilitation practiced at Imagine. Imagine's youth facilitators are such a valued and essential part of their support group program, and their staff are grateful for the commitment of this new group of

been supporting Imagine's kids.

Abigail Priece, Imagine's Program Supervisor ran the training along with their Bilingual Program Manager, Sonia Nuñez. Abigail said this about the new group of youth facilitators: "Imagine's Youth Facilitators are such an inspiring group of people and this training class is no exception. They are an empathic and enthusiastic group and will do an amazing job being present and supportive to our participants. We are so excited to welcome them to the Imagine community!"

Imagine's youth facilitator training program is

youth facilitators and the many others who have held once a year in September. If you are a youth who is interested in participating in the 2024 training, Imagine staff recommend you and a parent or guardian schedule a tour of Imagine's center. Tours can be scheduled by visiting Imagine's website at imaginenj.org.

> Imagine is a 501c3 nonprofit that offers free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and guardians of the children in the groups and offered in English and Spanish. Imagine also offers grief and loss education and training to the community. For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.



(above) Imagine's staff members Paul Muir, and Abigail Priece with youth facilitators Gavin LaConti, Aanya Wright, Alexis Zhang, Arissa Xiang, Elsea Reynoso, Haley Motz, Kira Goldman, Noa Goldstein, Benjamin Ooi, Robert Oi, Chloe Katz, and Jagger Cohen



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# A Company of the Comp

(above) The Cranford Woman's Club's 32nd Annual Home for the Holidays House Tour will return this year on December 3.

# Where's no place life home for the Holidays House Tour Sunday December 3, 2023 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm Proceeds Support Local Charities and Cranford Scholarships



## **HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS HOUSE TOUR**

Cranford's 32nd Annual Home for the Holidays House Tour will take place the first weekend in December. The tour will feature five beautiful homes lovingly decorated for the holidays on Sunday, December 3, 2023, from 12 to 4 p.m. Attendees will be guided through each home where volunteers share information on the special historical and decorating details of each one. Both the Green Thumb Garden Club and the Cranford Garden Club will provide festive decorations as well.

"The Cranford Woman's Club enjoys putting on this event each year. This is an important fundraiser for scholarships, Project Home, and our other philanthropic recipients. Our homeowners are incredibly generous for sharing

Cranford's 32nd Annual Home for the blidays House Tour will take place the first eekend in December. The tour will feature five autiful homes lovingly decorated for the blidays on Sunday, December 3, 2023, from 12 their homes and family stories for the tour. We greatly appreciate our homeowners and the attendees of the tour for supporting our efforts to give back to Cranford," said Kendall O'Brien, who is chairing this year's committee.

Music by Cranford High School's Madrigal singers will be featured in three homes, along with a pop-up holiday band at another. Four of the five featured historic homes have never been on the tour, and the fifth has not been on the tour in thirty years. Organized Chaos, an in-home organizing service, will also be providing service to one of the homes.

Tickets are \$35 and will be available on-line via Eventbrite beginning November 3, or they can be purchased directly at the Cranford Library.







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## **SUMMIT OLD GUARD DECEMBER SPEAKERS PROGRAM**

The Summit Old Guard was founded in 1930 and meets most Tuesdays at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave. Our motto is "Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends." Please join us. Our programs are free to the public, and we welcome you!

December speakers include Bill Freund, Mitch Erickson, and a special event featuring Joe Regan.

On December 5th, Summit Old Guard member, Bill Freund, will tell us about fleeing Nazi Germany with his family in 1936 at age 11. A refugee doesn't look for happiness, only survival. He was a shoe-shine boy, learned English, and attended school. He eventually earned a PhD from Columbia and became Chief Economist at the New York Stock Exchange. He wrote several professional books and later, two children's stories, including one about a cookie that played a central role in his life. We'll hear the remarkable life story of one of our most notable members.

On December 12th, another distinguished Old



(above) The Summit Old Guard has 19 activity and interest groups. During a Nov. 3rd fishing outing Bob Eng, along with Joe Geist, Joe Corona, and Marv Gersten all landed some sizeable striped bass for dinner and the freezer. Besides fishing, members golf weekly, play bocce followed by lunch, discuss the latest technology issues, and much more.

Courtesy photo

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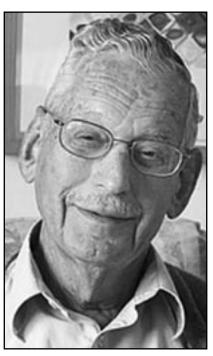
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Reg. \$2995-\$3200 per arch. Additional fees may occur for individual cases Present this ad. Not valid with other offers or PPO insurance. Exp. 3/31/24 RN Guard member, Mitch Erickson will review the a little festive. This year we will feature Joe science, biology, and environmental and social uses of water as a parable of the intersection of science, environment, policy, recreation, safety, climate change, and social justice that affects all 8 billion of us. It is important to be informed about the fundamental properties of H2O to participate in societal discussions. Mitch is an environmental chemist with a lifetime of professional experience with water. He also enjoys a variety of beverages comprised largely of water.

December 19th will be our last meeting of the year. We always try to make it a little special and Regan, a well-known cabaret singer and pianist we have always enjoyed, and he'll appear with a repertoire of popular standards and holiday songs. There will be special refreshments and decorations, and the bigger the turnout the better it will be. Join us for the music, snacks, and SOG bonhomie.

Past speakers and much more 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. most Tuesdays. "Come for the Speakers. Stay for the Friends." We look forward to meeting you.







(above, l-r) Bill Freund, Mitch Erickson, and Joe Regan

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# **GIFT & THRIFT BOUTIQUE**

The holidays are here! Come check out all our month of December we will be open Sat. 12/9 and 12/16. We will not be open Sat 12/23, our elves need a break! We will be having surprise sales throughout the Holiday Season. Bring a Friend! We have new inventory for every sale.

The 'Gift & Thrift Boutique' is open every 2nd & 4th Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Items for sale include Women's, Men's & Children's clothes, shoes, jewelry, kitchen and household items, decorations, toys, CD's, DVD's, books the above e-mail address or phone number. for all ages, seasonal & holiday décor.

The Gift & Thrift Boutique is found in The holiday décor, gift selections and clothing. The Episcopal Church of St. John The Baptist, 2018 Dewitt Terrace in Linden, NJ. Customers enter the main doors on Dewitt Terrace and follow the stairs to the store. The space is not handicap accessible. For more information, friend the Gift and Thrift Boutique on Facebook, email giftandthriftboutique@gmail.com or call the church office at 908-925-1535. Donations accepted during operating hours.

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# **BLUE CHRISTMAS PRAYER SERVICE**

The Church of the Little Flower will be hosting a Blue Christmas prayer service on Sunday, December 10 at 3 p.m. The service will be held in the Bernauer Parish Center, 290 Plainfield Avenue in Berkeley Heights.

Many of us feel down or depressed this time of year, whether due to stress, financial issues, broken relationships, death of a loved one, or may be looking for a brief respite from the hustle and bustle of the season.

The Bereavement Ministry of the Church of the Little Flower invites anyone from the parish or any faith community to attend our service where we can pray for renewed strength and hope and experience the presence of the Lord.

Light refreshments will be served afterward. For further information, you may call the parish center at 908-464-1585 and ask for Dan Grossano or email bereavement.lf@gmail.com.



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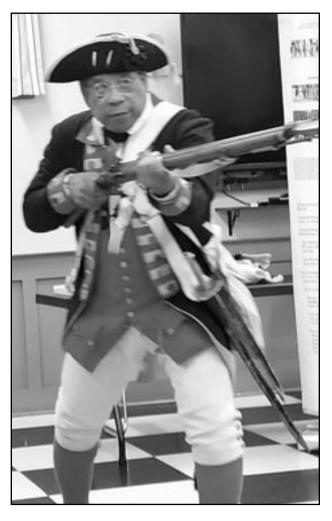
# **NATIONAL SOJOURNERS GARDEN STATE CHAPTER #438**

#### Submitted by Chris Sands

National Sojourners Garden State Chapter #348, which has members from around Union County, held their quarterly meeting at the Atlas-Pythagoras Lodge building, located on Central Ave. in Westfield, NJ, on September 14. Mr. Noah Lewis portrayed Private Edward "Ned" Hector from Colonel Proctor's 3rd PA Artillery, Continental Line. Ned discussed the role of Afro-Americans in the Revolutionary War and his heroic role in the Battle of Brandywine, where he saved arms, powder, his horses and wagon during the retreat. Ned also instructed the chapters members on the duties of a cannon crew.

The Chapter is currently fund raising to send high school sophomores and juniors to the Freedoms Foundation "Spirit of America" Youth Leadership Conference at Valley Forge, PA. We were honored to receive a \$1,500 donation from the H. Hovnanian Foundation to support this effort.

The National Sojourners are a Uniformed Services-Masonic organization that cultivates Masonic ideals, supports all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry, develops true patriotism and Americanism throughout the nation, brings together representatives of the uniformed services of the United States (past and present) in a united effort to further the military needs of national defense, and for opposing any influence whatsoever calculated to weaken the national security. For more information contact chrissands44@aol.com.



(above) Mr. Noah Lewis portrays Privates Edward "Ned" Hector of the 3rd PA Artillery, in the American Revolution.

Courtesy photo



# **KENILWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**

Celebration Featuring "An Old-Fashioned Christmas" at the Oswald J. Nitschke House (49 S. 21 Street), visitors will have an opportunity to meet and take photos with Santa from Victorian times, tour the c. 1880 home authentically decorated for the holiday, view exhibits, enjoy favorite holiday tunes sung by the Christmas Matters Holiday Carolers (dressed in Dickensstyle attire) and visit the site's Christkindlmarkt featuring handcrafted items, baked goods and other holiday treats. Tours will be offered in English and Spanish. The Kenilworth Education Association PRIDE Committee is generously the carolers' sponsoring performance. Admission to the Dec. 3 event is free. Visitors are invited to bring, for the Nitschke House Cultural Heritage Tree, an ornament labeled with their family name and heritage. Shown here from last year's holiday celebration are Victorian Santa with the Christmas Matters Carolers and Santa with some of the many children who visited the Nitschke House during

During a Sunday, Dec. 3 (12-5 p.m.) Holiday the event. Further details about this year's celebration and other events will be posted on the Kenilworth Historical Society's Website kenilworthhistoricalsociety.org and Facebook.





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# TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 24TH ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 24th joyous season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 17 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) for two performances at 2 and 7PM. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 18 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ also with performances at 2 and 7PM.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as, "Highland Cathedral," "Joy to the World", and "Amazing Grace", all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ and brass and more. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

According to producer Robert Currie, "We are absolutely delighted to be bringing our concert back to full force after two devastating years weathering the Covid pandemic. Supporting our GoFundMe campaign will continue to make these concerts possible."

The 2022 production marks the NYC solo debut of soprano Sharon Lyons originally from Dublin, Ireland.

accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. In addition to Ms. Lyons, featured performers include James Robinson from the film "Braveheart," New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel, champion harpist Rachel Clemente, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA among many more.

#### PROCEEDS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which include annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow, Scotland) the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship at Summit (NJ) High School.

Proceeds also support the annual Tartan Day on Ellis Island celebration and the Society's sponsorship of the US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at Scotland's Royal National Mod, and an academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Each year, concert highlights are webcast in hidefinition over the Christmas holiday to a global audience in cooperation with HomeTowne Television. In addition to winning multiple Telly Awards for broadcast production excellence, the 2020 virtual concert was a finalist for the coveted

The concert presents the music of Christmas MG Alba Trad Music Award presented annually in Scotland.

> The concert is still accepting Title Sponsors as well as Program Ads. These gifts help offset production expenses and add help fund our scholarships.

#### **TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW**

Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through ShowTix4U at www.showtix4u.com (be certain you select the event name and date in the search engine). Reserved patron seats are available at both venues.

#### **ABOUT "THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS"**

Since making its debut in 1999, The Pipes of Christmas has played to standing room only audiences. Now a cherished holiday event, the concert provides audiences with a stirring and reverent celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit. Audience-goers return year after year to experience the program, many reporting that the Pipes of Christmas has become part of their family's annual Christmas tradition.

The concert has been lavished with critical acclaim. In his review for Classical New Jersey Magazine, Paul Somers wrote, "The whole evening was constructed to introduce gem after gem and still have a finale which raised the roof. In short, it was like a well-constructed fireworks show on the Glorious Fourth. The Westfield Leader described the concert as "a unique sound of power and glory nowhere else to be found."

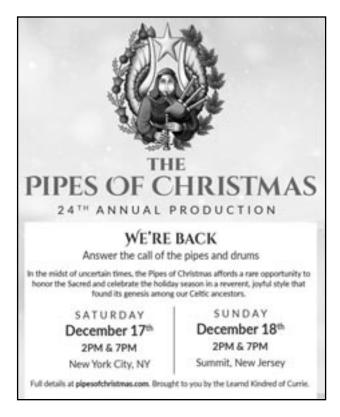


(above) Soprano Sharon Lyons originally from Dublin, Ireland, made her NYC solo debut at the 2022 Pipes of Christmas concerts NJ.



(above) Pipers from the Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band are returning to join the company of the 24th annual "Pipes of Christmas" concerts.

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## **SEE THE 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.

# **DECEMBER PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY**

224 Walnut Ave, Cranford, NJ 07016 • (908) 709-7272 • www.cranfordlibrary.org Monday - Thursday: 10 AM - 9PM; Friday, Saturday: 10 AM - 5 PM; Sunday: closed

# DECEMBER EVENTS FOR ADULTS

#### **Cookbook Club Cookie Swap**

Saturday, December 2, at 2pm
Join us for our very first cookbook club! Check
out one of our baking cookbooks and bring in
your favorite cookie recipe to share with others!
Please note: if you are signing up for this event
you are agreeing to bring 2 dozen cookies. It
would be great if you could note any potential

allergens (i.e. nuts).
Registration is required and can be done here:
eventbrite.com/e/cookbook-club-cookie-swaptickets-736727320247?aff=oddtdtcreator

#### **Movie Night**

Wednesday, December 6, at 7pm
Movies are back! Join us the first Wednesday of
the month for a screening of a recently released
DVD! Please visit our website or contact the
library for film titles.

#### **Literary Cafe**

#### Saturday, December 9, at 10:15am

Literary Café is a book chat program. The format is simple: Bring a few of your recent favorite books and tell the other members of the group what you like about them. If you don't have a copy of the book you want to talk about, that's okay, too. The books can be new or old, fiction or non-fiction, classic or contemporary. There is no required reading, and you will have the opportunity to learn about books recommended by other group members. Attend as many sessions as you'd like. Admission is free and all are welcome. Refreshments sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Patrons are welcome to join us in

# person or online. International Film

Monday, December 11, at 2pm and 7pm International films are back! Join us for an International film screening. The same film will be shown at 2pm and 7pm. Please contact the library for the film title.

#### **Readers Forum**

Monday, December 18, at 7pm
All are welcome at the Readers Forum Book
Discussion Group! This month's book is
Enduring Love by Ian McEwan.

# DECEMBER EVENTS FOR CHILDREN

#### **Family Storytime**

Friday, December 1 at 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday, December 20 at 4:00 p.m.
Families with children of all ages are invited to join us for Family Storytime. Children in Kindergarten and up are invited to a Winter Storytime on December 20. No registration is required for either event.

#### **Graphic Novel Book Club**

Monday, December 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Readers in grades 3-5 are invited to sign up for the Cranford Public Library's Graphic Novel Book Club. Visit the library's calendar to reserve a spot.

#### Read to certified therapy dogs

Tuesday, December 19 and January 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Young readers are invited to hone their skills by reading to certified therapy dogs. Dogs are a perfect, non-judgmental audience for children learning to read independently! No registration is required, but space is available on a first come, first served basis.

#### **Early Readers Book Club**

Wednesday, December 20 from 6:00-6:45 p.m.

Independent readers in grades 2-3 are invited to the library's Early Readers Book Club.We'll read the book Billy Twitters and his Blue Whale Problem together and create art inspired by the story. Registration is required online: eventbrite.com/e/747695586627?aff=oddtdtcrea

tor

#### **Lego Holiday Creations**

#### December 21st from 6:00-6:45 p.m.

Make holiday creations using Lego bricks and display them in the library! This group welcomes friends in Kindergarten and up. This is a drop-in program; no registration is required.

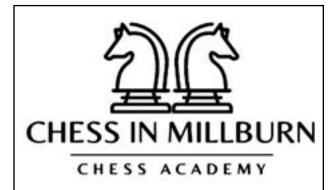
#### **Family Art**

#### Friday, December 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Create as a family at Family Art and craft some charming holiday ornaments! Registration is not required, materials are limited and available on a first come, first served basis.



(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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# **NJ INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA PRESENTS** FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY CONCERT IN - DEC 10

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra will be entertaining families on Sunday, December 10, 2023 with a free concert of seasonal holiday favorites. The concert will be from 2pm to 3pm at the Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School, 272 Morris Avenue, Summit, NJ. Families with children of all ages are invited to come and join in the fun!

NJIO's three orchestral ensembles will combine to perform music by Strauss, Mozart, Brahms, and more! The concert concludes with Leroy Anderson's exciting Sleigh Ride, with percussion accompaniment provided by the youngest members of the audience!

The concert is free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Following the concert, the famous NJIO Instrument Petting Zoo returns! Experienced NJIO musicians will guide young audience members and assist them in safely trying out the instrument of their dreams. Instruments are loaned by Elefante Music of New Providence and Scotch Plains.

**Concert Details:** Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 2 pm Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School 272 Morris Avenue Summit, NJ 07901 Admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted.

This concert is made possible by funds from: the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation; The Lillian Schenck Foundation; The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack Foundation; Investors Foundation; Standish Foundation; and many other generous supporters. NJIO is a proud participating organization in the Families First Discovery Pass Program, a program of the NJ Departments of Health and Human Services.

NJIO is committed to ensuring that its programs and concerts are accessible. For more



(above) Young audience members get to try out orchestra instruments at NJIO's Holiday Concert Instrument Petting Zoo. Instruments are loaned by Elefante Music.

information regarding the concert or to inquire about patron services, please contact NJIO at info@njio.org, or visit NJIO's website njio.org.

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra, now in its 30th season, has been nationally recognized as a leader in intergenerational excellence through its unique approach to teaching musical performance and as a model for intergenerational orchestras across the country. Depending on space availability, NJIO welcomes new members of all ages and abilities each concert period to one of its several orchestras - no auditions needed!

NJIO's 30th anniversary season will continue with two more concerts:

#### **NJIO'S WINTER CONCERT**

Sunday, February 25, 2024, 3 pm Dolan Performance Hall, Saint Elizabeth University, Morristown, NJ

#### **NJIO'S SPRING CONCERT**

followed by 30th Anniversary Celebration! Sunday, April 21, 2024, 3 pm Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, Plainfield, NJ

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# A RIVETING CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE: EARTH MAMA SCREENING

CASA of Essex County is thrilled to announce the upcoming screening of "Earth Mama." Prepare for a thought-provoking cinematic journey that delves into the complexities of the foster care system. The film unravels the heartache and resilience within the foster care system, focusing on the life of a pregnant single mother who seeks solace and strength in her Bay Area community. As she navigates the daunting challenges before her, she must make life-altering decisions that will shape the destiny of her family.

Following the screening, we are delighted to present an exclusive Q&A session with the brilliant Director and Writer, Savanah Leaf. The discussion will be expertly moderated by Michelle Miller, distinguished CBS Anchor and New York Times Best-Selling Author of

"Belonging."

Screening Details: Date: December 6th; Time: 7:00 p.m.; Venue: The Claridge, Montclair, NJ

Rating: R (Some Drug Use|Language|Sexual References|Nudity)

For more information and to secure your complimentary tickets, please visit casaearthmama.eventbrite.com.

For nearly four decades, CASA of Essex County has been dedicated to a singular mission: providing unwavering support to the young individuals placed in foster care, who, through no fault of their own, bear the weight of repeated traumas and uncertainties. Our commitment is to offer them the advocacy, guidance, and care they so desperately need to rise above adversity and carve out brighter futures.



Cranford's Boy Scout Troop 80 will kick off its annual Christmas decoration fund raiser

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# **CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH NJ FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA!**

From traditional to pops, renowned tenor fare and Broadway favorites, New Jersey Festival Orchestra's (NJFO) holiday concerts promise to fill the entire family with warmth and cheer.

They're back! Under the baton of Maestro David Wroe, the orchestra will kick off the festive season with a bang and plenty of bling as The Three Holiday Tenors join NJFO to present a family festival of traditional and contemporary holiday songs and music.

"We cannot wait to return to The Presbyterian Church at this special time of year and are thrilled to welcome back The Three Holiday Tenors - each more talented than the next - to help us celebrate the Holiday season," said Wroe.

The concert features Metropolitan Opera's internationally acclaimed tenor Errin Brooks and award winning tenors Jeremy Brauner and Mackenzie Whitney to celebrate and captivate with a dazzling selection of renowned tenor arias. Traditional carols, signature versions of familiar fare and a host of wintertime curiosities are also sure to delight.

"We believe there is something for everyone in this performance. Our holiday concert is a vessel for children, parents, grandparents and friends - indeed the entire community - come together through festive music at this unique time of the year."

The concert will take place on Saturday, December 9th at 7pm at the Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave in Westfield.

#### **RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH NJFO!**

NJFO's quintessential New Year's celebration is also back on Sunday, December 31 in Westfield with "The Great American Songbook," a superb revue of American song and dance showstoppers.

Audiences are invited celebrate the New Year and revel in the musical genius of America's great composers, outstanding vocal performers, dazzling dance numbers and a world-class professional orchestra led by Maestro David Wroe.

A cabaret style event for the whole family, the concert promises a superb review of musical theatre classics presented in glorious symphonic splendor. The concert features renowned guest singers direct from the Broadway stage and dancers from Dance Theatre of Harlem who join NJFO to swing to favorites from Broadway and beyond.

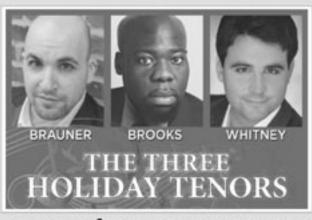
The performance will take place on Sunday, December 31 at 7pm at Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Road, Westfield.

"There is much to celebrate this holiday season," continued Wroe. "So gather your friends and family for a series of merry musical programs of song and dance for audiences of all ages!"

This seasonal stroll of timeless classics and sentimental favorites, sure to bring us together with joy, smiles, and distinctive holiday memories, has been made possible in part by support from The Westfield Foundation, a Union County H.E.A.R.T grant and The NJ State Council

For tickets and further information for both events go to www.njfestivalorchestra.org or call 908 232 9400.

# Celebrate the Holiday Season with



#### Return of THE HOLIDAY TENORS

Saturday, December 9 at 7pm The Presbyterian Church, Westfield, NJ

David Wroe conductor **Holiday Choruses** 

Sunday, December 10 at 3pm Drew University, Madison, NJ

Jeremy Bauner Errin Brooks tenor Mackenzie Whitney tenor



#### THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK

Sunday, December 31, 2023 at 7pm WHS Auditorium, Westfield, NJ Monday, January 1, 2024 at 2:30pm Sieminski Theater, Basking Ridge, NJ

David Wroe conductor **Guest Vocalists** Dancers from Dance Theater Harlem

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW www.njfestivalorchestra.org or CALL 908 232 9400





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## **RESTORING FAMILY TREASURES**

SAGE Eldercare is thrilled to announce that ABOUT RESTORATION WORKSHOP their renowned restoration workshop has restored Mr. Steven Rapkin's precious Adu Zatua, a wooden ancestor sculpture carved by the Nias people of Indonesia to honor the spirits of loved ones who have passed for providing guidance. Every statue is different and serves a different purpose. Steven's Adu Zatua, acquired on a trip to Indonesia over 25 years ago, represents fertility and prosperity.

Ten years ago, Steven had brought his Adu Zatua to SAGE for repairs due to weather damage since his statue stands in a garden braving the harsh elements. Steven was so impressed by the workshop's results, he said, "last time they put a support in the statue, and it was a much more professional and lasting job." So, when deciding where to fix his Adu Zatua a second time, Steven was sure SAGE could get the job done.

Steven had total and complete faith in SAGE Eldercare's restoration workshop, which refurbishes, repairs, and restores old or damaged furniture along with miscellaneous items like Steven's precious statue. When it was brought in for repairs, Steven's Adu Zatua was headless, and it had to be put together again. Bob, the workshop's manager, oversaw fixing the wooden sculpture by extending the central support and restructuring the head. Thanks to Bob, Steven's Adu Zatua is restored and back at its home.

Since 1961, the SAGE Eldercare Workshop has offered the public fine-quality furniture repair. The volunteers will consider repairing any piece of furniture that can be carried into the workshop. The Workshop has a reputation throughout Union County and beyond for its fine reweaving of caned and rushed chairs. Our artisans are all highly trained volunteers. Proceeds from the Workshop benefit SAGE programming. Prices are reasonable and depend upon the condition of the chair or furniture item and the materials required in the restoration process. The Workshop started out over fifty years ago as a place for older men who no longer had access to a home workshop. Dozens of women have worked in the historically male enclave. Most volunteers are former professionals including investment bankers, college professors, physicians, and scientists. Over the years, they have taught each other caning, rushing and a myriad of other techniques needed to fix the aging furniture brought to them for restoration.

The Workshop is in the basement of the SAGE building at 290 Broad Street, Summit and is easily accessible. Shop hours are Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

For more information about the service or to schedule an appointment to bring in furniture, call 908-598-5531.



(above, l-r) Steven Rapkin with his Adu Zatua, and Bob McAnally, manager of the SAGE Eldercare Workshop

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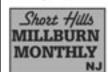
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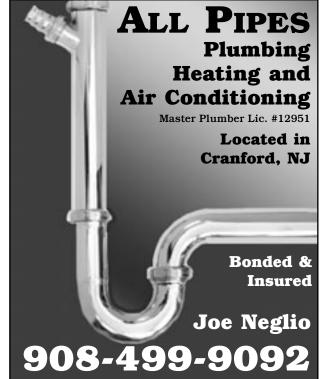




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