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# **CATHOLIC CHARITIES 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.







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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.

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## WE'RE SCOUTING FOR UNIFORMS

Do you have a Cub Scout or Boy Scout uniform hanging in your closet that is not used anymore? Please consider donating it to the uniform exchange maintained by Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23 at St. Genevieve's Church, Elizabeth.

Like everything else, the cost of Scout uniform parts has risen greatly in recent years. Through its uniform exchange, the Scouting program at St. Gen's helps to ease that burden for its member families. Scouts are often able to find a shirt, pants, belt, hat, neckerchief or neckerchief slide that has been donated by a former member, or by a current member who has outgrown the uniform.

Donations can be brought to the church hall almost any Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., or they can be placed at any time in the American flag retirement box next to Webby's Woodshed, behind the church Rectory, at 822 Livingston Road, Elizabeth.

For more details, please contact

Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfoottroop@gmail.com.

## BOY SCOUTS ARE Selling wreaths and grave blankets

The Boy Scouts of St. Genevieve's Troop 23 are again selling Christmas wreaths and grave blankets. The wreaths and grave blankets are of a good quality and are sold at a reasonable price.

The holiday items will be on sale in the St. Genevieve's Church parking lot, 822 Livingston Road, Elizabeth, from 7:30 am to 1:00 p.m. on Sundays until December 10. In addition, there is also a self-serve contactless option 7 days per week, in the parking lot.

Please support the activities of our awardwinning Scout troop, which teaches character, citizenship and physical fitness to the boys of our area. Boy Scouting is for boys who are at least 11 years old or graduated from the fifth grade. New members are welcome at any time, all year round. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfoottroop@gmail.com.



(above) Holiday wreaths and grave blankets are being sold by Boy Scout Troop 23 at St. Genevieve's Church until December 10.

# 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.



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# FAMILY FUN BEGINS AT THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA

At The Gateway Family YMCA, individuals and families find more than just a place to work out. With opportunities to connect with new people, develop new skills and explore new interests, the Y facilitates the discovery of new passions and assists in gaining a greater sense of purpose for all. For local families, The Gateway Family YMCA provides a fun and unique opportunity to support all ages, together or apart, within the same organization.

"At the Y, we have the unique opportunity, and mission, to support all. We strive to provide inclusive, equitable and innovative programming and services for all ages, and commit to supporting individuals and families throughout the 17 communities we serve in Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex County," stated Melynda A. Disla, President and CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "At our Y, everyone has a place to go where they can feel supported and receive help. We are proud to be the place where adults can find life balance; children can reach their full potential; seniors can be active and social; and families can connect and strengthen relationships."

The Gateway Family YMCA offers a variety of programs to help achieve greater health and well-being, nurture youth and inspire individuals to give back to better their community. Program information and registration is available online at tgfymca.org for programs including swimming lessons, youth sports, active older adult fitness, dance, gymnastics, Esports, WISE Community Services and chronic disease self-management programs. Through the 7th Grade Initiative and 7th Grade Leaders Club, youth are supported with a complimentary membership, leadership opportunities and special events.

The Gateway Family YMCA provides individuals and families with the opportunity to improve their health and well-being and connect with the greater community, all while participating in their favorite program or activity, either at the Y, or virtually from home. Social events, affinity clubs, family special events, programs, activities and specialized children's theme events provide the variety of activities





necessary to keep everyone engaged. No other organization provides the breadth of programming inclusive of all ages.

"Our goal is to provide a seamless opportunity to make healthy living easy and equitable for all ages," stated Rodger D. Koerber EVP, Chief Operating Officer. "We know that social and mental well-being are increasingly important for all. At the Y, neighbors from all backgrounds and walks of life can discover common ground, broaden their perspectives, and support one another. We like to say there are no strangers, only friends you haven't met yet." strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose and each other, the Y focuses on empowering young people, improving health and well-being and inspiring action in and across communities. By bringing together people from different backgrounds, perspectives and generations, the Y ensures that all have access to the opportunities, relationships, and resources necessary to learn, grow and thrive. The Gateway Family YMCA is a non-profit charitable organization serving Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex County for over 123 years. Through the Y's Annual Support Campaign, Membership For All Financial Assistance is available to those who qualify.

To learn more about The Gateway Family YMCA, visit tgfymca.org or contact the Elizabeth Branch (908-355-9622), Five Points Branch (908-688-9622), Rahway Branch (732-388-0057), or the Wellness Center Branch (908-349-9622) for more information.



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# **BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM**

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

NAME

#### 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.



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# **ELMORA BRANCH LIBRARY DECEMBER PROGRAMS**

740 W Grand St, Elizabeth, NJ 07202 • Phone: (908) 353-4820 • www.elizpl.org/

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 7:45 p.m. • Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. • Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. • Sunday: Closed \*The library will be closed on December 23, 24, 25, & 26\*

#### **Toddlers World**

Friday, December 1, 8, 22, & 29 at 11:00am An hour of fun songs to sing, music, and playtime!

#### Adult Chess Club

Friday, December 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 at 12:30pm

Join the Adult Chess Club every Friday at 12:30pm! Regardless of your skill level, beginners are welcome to participate. We hope to see you there!

#### **Family Christmas Craft & Decorations**

Saturday, December 2 at 11:00am Join us for Elmora's Craft & Decoration celebration of the holiday. All are welcome!

#### Mahjong

Monday, December 4, 11, & 18 from 1:00pm - 4:00pm Everyone who loves Mahjong is welcome to come & play at the library. Bring friends or come alone & find new partners. We'll provide the space for open play. A minimum of 4

players are required to play the game.

#### Ages: 18 & up Chess Club for Kids

Monday, December 4 & 11 at 4:00pm Come and join our Chess Club for Kids every Monday at 4pm. We welcome beginners!

#### **Grown Up Coloring**

Tuesday, December 5 at 1:00pm Drop in for some relaxing coloring fun! Come discover the calming effects as well as meeting some good company!

### Tai Chi & Qi Gong

Wednesday, December 6, 13, & 20 at 9:00am

Join Pete every Wednesday for Tai Chi and experience the refreshing benefits of

mindfulness. Contact us at (908) 353-4820 or register on our website @elizpl.org.

#### Adult Scrabble

Wednesday, December 13 at 2:00pm Word lovers! Exercise your B-R-A-I-N (7 points) by playing Scrabble with other likeminded adults.

#### Bilingual Ho Ho Ho & Cocoa Party

Wednesday, December 13 at 5:30pm Join Ms. Martha for a heartwarming Christmas story and don't forget to grab a cozy cup of hot cocoa to enjoy while you listen!

Zumba Gold

Thursday, December 14, 21, & 28 and Monday, December 18 at 8:30am CALL 908-353-4820 to reserve a spot but walkins are welcome!



5AMSLANDSCAPING.CO 908-441-7302

#### **Bubbles aRe Us**

Saturday, December 16 at 1:00pm Located on 640 3rd Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ Join Ms. Martha for songs, stories, crafts, and oh-so-much fun! This storytime will feature stories in English and Spanish for the whole family.

#### Stitch & Chat

#### Tuesday, December 19 at 10:00am

Come to Elmora to mend your clothing. Bring the article you need help with and assistance will be provided.

### Drawing for Kids

*Tuesday, December 19 at 3:00pm* Come and join Ms. Martha for a delightful storytime where you will get to learn how to

## draw various animals!

### Stitch & Chat

Wednesday, December 20 at 4:00pm Come to Elmora to mend your clothing. Bring the article you need help with and assistance will be provided.

ESL for Kids

Wednesday, December 20 at 5:30pm Join us to learn English as a Second Language with fun interactive activities. For ages 5-12

#### Adult Spanish Book Club

Thursday, December 21 at 2:00pm Come and join Martha as she hosts a monthly book discussion for Spanish-speaking adults! The Book Clubbing Club

Wednesday, December 27 at 4:30pm Become a part of our Book Club and engage in lively discussions about the latest and most intriguing book news with like-minded book lovers!



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# NJ INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT - 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.

### Free Concert

Sunday, December 10, 2023 • 2 pm LCJ Summit Middle School 272 Morris Avenue, Summit

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra

Family Holiday Concert Featuring Traditional Holiday Favorites



A Family Concert! Instrument Petting Zoo Thanks to Elefante Music Percussion play along!

Visit us at NJIO.org

Warren Cohen, Artistic Director & Symphony Conductor







Safety, Honor, Commitment

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.



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

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 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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## By L. Frank Baum

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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.

The concert presents the music of Christmas 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 companied by readings taken from the Celtic 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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# **ONLINE ADS & PRESS RELEASES** DRIVE LOCAL TRAFFIC TO YOUR WEBSITE

• GET UNLIMITED CLICKS

An alternative to expensive pay-per-click programs
• FREE AD DESIGN AND COPYWRITING

including write-up, images, video, Google map, etc.

Advertising webpage includes many features

Joe Renna at 908-447-1295 email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com

Block of 20 for \$200 Single post is \$20

LocalInfo.com

• POSTS ARE SHARED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA Posts shared on multiple Facebook pages and twitter.

• PAID SEARCH ENGINE PROMOTIONS

Posts are promoted by industry, key words and location.

• TRACKABLE RESULTS

All ads include a live view counter.

# Full Color Flyers and Menus Printed and Mailed to Every Home and Business in Town!

### FLYERS - \$45 PER THOUSAND

8.5" x 11" / Full color / 2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock Tri-fold add \$10 per thousand. Minimum order \$450

LARGE MENUS - PRINTING - \$85 PER THOUSAND For quantities more than 50,000 cost is \$55 per thousand. 11"x17" / Full color /2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock. Min. order \$850 Includes folding (quarter fold or tri-fold, with or without coupons tab) INSERTED AND MAILED TO EVERY HOME AND BUSINESS \$60 per thousand. (as low as \$30 per thousand depending on quantity.) Minimum order \$400

# WEBSITE / SEO SERVICES

• STARTER WEBSITE: \$500

Basic static site that can be developed further

• WEBSITE CREATION/UPDATE: \$2,400

Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design

• WEBSITE HOSTING: \$300 PER YEAR

Includes website hosting, software updates, monthly website content updates

• SEO SERVICES: AVERAGE COST \$1,000 - \$2,000 PER MONTH Custom tailored solutions: Google Ranking, Local SEO, Social Marketing

## Call for free a consultation if you need help developing an online marketing plan.

# WEBSITE AUDIT/ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION PLAN

SEE WHAT IS WORKING AND NOT WORKING Know where your web traffic is coming from and why.
ELIMINATE / AVOID COSTLY SCHEMES Evaluate the return you are getting from your online marketing costs.
INCREASE ONLINE MARKETING RESULTS Recommendations include ways to increase traffic to your website

• NO OBLIGATION This service is recommended even if you have an existing web management contract. Use it to tune up your marketing plan.

## Joe Renna at 908-447-1295

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STARTER

WEBSITE

Call Walter at 201-478-7408 email: wwwinnj@gmail.com

# ONE TIME FLAT FEE \$250

Call for a consultation if you do not have a website or if need a new one. Call Walter at 201-478-7408 email: wwwinnj@gmail.com



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