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Upon arrival at your home Santa will visit and talk with your child(ren) and your family and you may take as many photos as you wish, as well as take some photos of your whole family with Santa. He'll also be accompanied by firefighter elves to enhance this occasion. Children love Santa and they love fire engines, so what can be better than having Santa arrive at your house on a real fire engine for a visit at Christmas time?

To sign-up for Santa's exciting visit send an email to Firefighter Santa at stirlingfirecompany@gmail.com. Leave your name and phone number.

A Firefighter Santa's helper will respond to confirm your visit.

This is an annual fund raiser for the Stirling Volunteer Fire Co. and supports them in paying for training, equipment, maintenance, etc. They request a \$50 donation for the visit. You purchase and wrap your child's gift then drop it off at the Stirling Firehouse, 321 Somerset St., Stirling either on either Dec. 14 or 15 between 5 and 8 p.m. Your \$50 donation is due when you drop off your gift. Please make your check payable to the Stirling Vol. Fire Co. If you can afford more of a donation that will be very much appreciated.

The Stirling Volunteer Fire Co. consists of Township



residents who stand ready to help every hour of every day and have done so since 1913. Your help and support will be most sincerely appreciated.

Anyone interested in becoming a Stirling firefighter should contact the Fire Co. at stirlingfirecompany@gmail.com. Training, gear, uniform are free.

RECYCLE GIFT WRAP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA) reminds county residents to recycle gift wrap this holiday season rather than put it into the trash. The only exception is real foil wrap, which should be reused or put into the garbage.

Penny Jones, former MCMUA recycling education specialist, said gift wrap, including tissue paper, is acceptable in Morris County's recycling programs. "The amount of trash that haulers collect increases dramatically during the holidays," Jones said. "Much of that is gift wrap and packaging that can be reused or recycled rather than relegated to the trash."

Jones suggested saving and reusing bows as well as bubble wrap and clean, dry polystyrene (Styrofoam®) packing peanuts. She said the packing peanuts and bubble wrap can be taken to Mail Boxes Etc., the UPS Store or similar retailers for reuse. To find the closest store, Jones said an individual can call the Plastic Loosefill Council's "Peanut" Hotline at 1-800-828-2214.

Jones said corrugated cardboard cartons, pre-holiday catalogs and gift boxes should also be recycled, as should glass bottles, plastic bottles coded 1 and 2, aluminum and steel (tin) food and beverage cans from holiday gatherings. Newspapers, magazines and junk mail - all of which are generated year round, should be recycled as well.

If cardboard boxes are too large to fit into a curbside recycling bin, they should be flattened, folded and stacked inside one cardboard box and placed next to the recycling bin, Jones said.

In addition, a number of new items are now being accepted for recycling in the communities that participate in the MCMUA's All-In-One, single-stream curbside recycling program Jones said. For more information visit MCMUA -Holiday Recycling Tips.



Long Hill LEADER

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SEEKING VETERANS OF THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

Morris County

In preparation for the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the War in Afghanistan coming up on October 7, 2026, the Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation is seeking information for its Veterans Compendium project and invites local soldiers and sailors to participate.

The basic information required is the name of the soldier/sailor, Morris County hometown and branch of service. Veterans who wish to share additional information may do so and are encouraged to mention the names of those with whom they served.

Listing on the Morris County Veterans Compendium requires that you were either born in Morris County or lived in the county for a minimum of ten years. If you meet the criteria, but relocated out of state, you are eligible for listing. The Veterans compendium is open to any branch of service and photographs are appreciated.

After a draft biography is created, it is then sent back to the submitter for review and approval. The final drafts will be posted on-line October 7, 2026, under "Moondust: Afghanistan 2001-2021".

To date the Office of Planning & Preservation has released veteran lists from the American Revolution, The War of 1812, The Spanish-American and Philippines Wars, WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. The list of veterans from the Civil War is slated to be released in April of 2024.

For more information or to submit biographies, please email Jan Williams, Cultural and Historic Resources Specialist of the Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation, at jwilliams@co.morris.nj.us

To view all historical projects, visit the Office of Planning & Preservation webpage on the Official Website of Morris County, NJ.







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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.

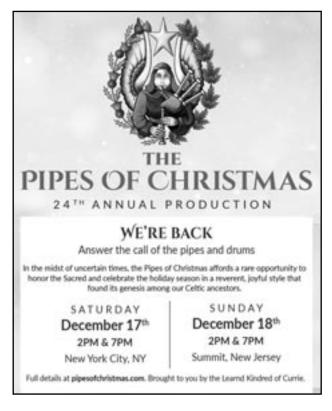
The concert has been lavished with critical acclaim. In his review for Classical New Jersey Magazine, Paul Somers wrote, "The whole evening was constructed to introduce gem after gem and still have a finale which raised the roof. In short, it was like a well-constructed fireworks show on the Glorious 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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LETTERS TO SANTA

The Long Hill Parks & Recreation Department have been authorized by Santa Claus to help gather letter to Santa from Long Hill Children and deliver them to the North Pole. Starting on Nov. 24th, letters can be dropped in the special mailbox located at Town Hall near the library entrance or can be mailed to:

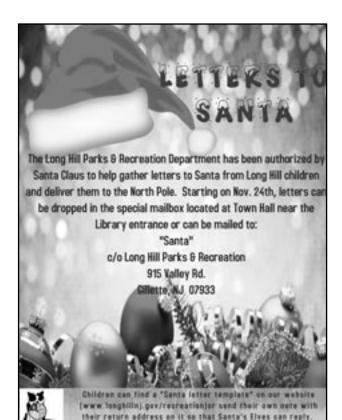
that Santa's Elves can reply. Please postmark or

drop letter in special mailbox by Dec. 11th.

"Santa" c/o Long Hill Parks & Recreation 915 Valley Rd.

Children can find a "Santa letter template" on our website longhillnj.gov/recreation, or send their own note with their return address on it so

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LIBRARY'S HOLIDAY EVENTS

917 Valley Rd. in Gillette, NJ • (908)-647-2088 • longhilllibrary.org Mon - Thur: 10am to 8pm; Fri: 10am to 5pm; Sat: 10am to 2pm; Sun: 1pm to 5pm

Long Hill Township Library, located at 917 Valley Rd. in Gillette, NJ, has many festive programs and events coming up for all ages to celebrate the holidays.

New Cookbook Club: Thanksgiving Redux.

Monday, November 27, 2023 at 6 p.m. Our new cookbook club is Thanksgiving-themed this month! Pick a cookbook recipe, cook it, then bring samples to the library to share with the group. So far we expect about 6 members but we hope you will join us as the club grows! Please bring the food ready to serve and bring serving utensils.

More details available on our website: longhilllibrary.org/events-calendar/event/newcookbook-club-thanksgiving-redux/

Sew it Workshop with Ellen Brown: Holiday 1/2 Aprons

Sunday, December 3, 2023 from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Make a sassy Holiday Half Apron in this basic machine-sewing workshop, with all supplies and machines provided. Groups are welcome to work together at one machine, though only one apron will be made. A wonderful homemade gift for a loved one or a treat for yourself! Space is limited. Sign up at the library's front desk or on our website:

longhilllibrary.org/events-calendar/event/sew-it-workshop-with-ellen-brown-holiday-1-2-aprons

Broadway Songbirds

Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. The Broadway Songbirds from Performing Arts 5678 will perform at the library in this short, 15-minute concert perfect for young audiences. They will sing and dance to carols and other holiday tunes, all cheery and bright and just what you need to get in the holiday spirit.

Creating Christmas: How a Centuries Old European Celebration Became Something Uniquely American

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 7 p.m. (ONLINE) Join historian Mickey DiCamillo as he explains how the holiday - once so rowdy it was banned by the Puritans in the 1600s - was tamed, domesticated, and transformed into something uniquely American. Thanks to the Kemmerer Library in Harding for sharing this program with us. Register using our website

Piano Concert

Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 3 p.m.
Jongsun Lee will play a lively 45-minute
program of songs by classical composers such
as Chopin and Beethoven as well as holiday
songs. Lee, who has been playing piano since
age 6, made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2014
and has won many competitions and awards in
addition to her 15 years experience teaching
piano to others.

Gingerbread Week

December 11-17, 2023

In honor of National Gingerbread House Day (December 12th) we are dedicating a whole week to gingerbread. Stop by the library to decorate a Gingerbread Man to look like your favorite book character and come enjoy seeing others' displayed creations.

In addition to our special holiday offerings, the library hosts technology help sessions on Wednesday evenings, line dancing classes, science and arts programs for kids, and much more. Take a stroll outside the library and enjoy the crisp air and our story walk!

For a full schedule of events and programs, visit our website: longhilllibrary.org/events-calendar/

KNITTING 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.



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.

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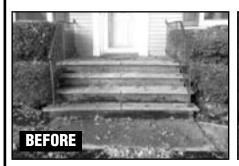




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Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24
Family Service with Eucharist at 4:00 p.m.
Candlelight Eucharist with Special Music at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25 Nativity of Our Lord Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Service of Lessons, Carols and Eucharist Sunday, December 31 at 10:00 a.m.

Livestream available
Visit our website at www.famfaith.org
Facebook at Faith Lutheran, New Providence
YouTube at FLCNJAV

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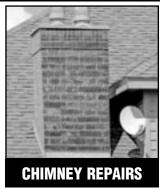










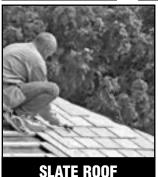




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CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH NJ FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA!

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.

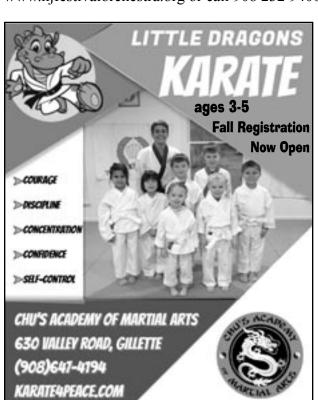
The performance will take place on Sunday, December 31 at 7pm at Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Road, Westfield.

"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 on the Arts.

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







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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









HEADACHE

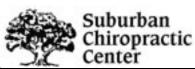
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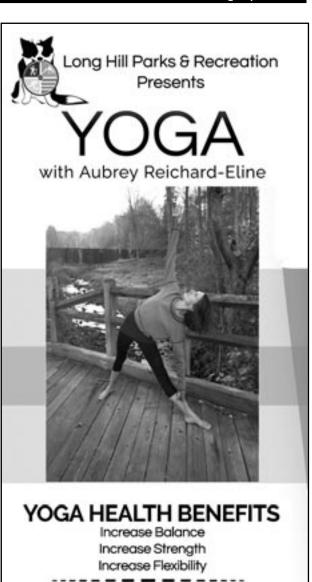
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https://longhillnj.gov/recreation/index.html 908.647.8000 x219, x267

recreation@longhillnj.gov





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



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SHINING STARS SPECTACULAR - DEC. 2ND

With cast members from all over Union the holiday season." 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," noted Shining Stars founder and show director 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

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 history.

"Shining Stars Network is not only about performing, but more importantly we're 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 of 10 or more,

email 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.





COPING WITH LOSS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

There is so much pressure to be happy in our 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

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 QR code or visit Imagine's website at imaginenj.org/education-training/community-webinars/ to register. Registration is not required for the workshop presented in Spanish.



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