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TMC HONORS PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTORS AND STAFF Submitted by Karen Jeisi, TMC Communications Chair

2024 is a landmark year for the Thursday Morning Club's Madison Community House – it celebrates 100 years of serving the Madison community.

Among the many Thursday Morning Club (TMC) service projects, one of the most enduring was the Madison Community House (MCH) Nursery/Pre School, which began in 1960 providing classes for 2, 3 and 4 year olds to prepare them for school.

One of the hallmarks of the MCH Nursery School was caring personal attention to each child, encouraging creativity. In the 21st century, the learning expanded to include STEM topics to prepare them even better for kindergarten, and the Nursery School became the MCH Pre School. Sadly, the Pre School had to close in 2023 because of declining enrollment as a result of parents working from home during and post Covid; this tough decision took a few years to make because of the attachment the TMC members had to the school and to the number of families who had sent their children to the MCH School. There was unfortunately no choice because the TMC could not afford to support the Pre-school and the Madison Community House, which provides a home for EPOCH

(Educational Programs for Handicapped Children), the Support Network, and Spotlight Kids and is used by as many as 50,000 people each year for civic meetings, classes, boy and girl scout troop meetings, recreation events, etc.

Over the 63 years of the TMC MCH Nursery/Pre School, there were many devoted directors and staff, and, in September, 2023 a special program to honor them was held. 110 members and guests attended, cheering for the special women who dedicated themselves to early education of hundreds of Madison area children.

Organized in 1896, the Thursday Morning Club (TMC) is a member of both the New Jersey State and General Federation of Women's Clubs. The Club offers programs and services to support the community including BASCC (Before and After School Childcare) at the elementary schools, and its Madison Community House provides a home for a number of clubs, sports, recreation, and civic groups. If you would like to serve the community, make new friends, enjoy programs and activities, consider joining the Thursday Morning Club. For information, call the Community House at (973) 377-0244 or visit TMCMCH.org

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(above, l-r) MCH Pre-School Directors & Long-Term Staff: Gayle Abenshoen, Jeannie Killeen, Janice Olear, Sue Hess, Nancy Monahan (former Director), Ginny Bunnell (former Director), Millie Vasto, Dorothy O'Connor, and Lucille Cecala. Not Pictured: Former Directors Sally Palland and Patty Driscoll. Courtesy photo



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MADISON MONTHLY,

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GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SEASON IS HERE

Submitted by Jen Pressman

It's that time of year—Girl Scout cookie season! What is your favorite? Adventurefuls, Lemon ups, Trefoils, Do-si-dos, Samoas, Tagalongs, Girl Scout S'mores, Toffee-tastic (gluten-free), or our forever favorite, Thin Mints (vegan)? They are all \$6 per box. The troop earns 15% of each sale to use however they choose as a whole troop, such as field trips, camping trips, and adventurous activities.

Did you know when you are buying a box of Girl Scout cookies what you are doing for the Girl Scout? You are creating opportunities for them to learn, grow, and thrive. From learning how to interact with customers, creating budgets, and taking orders, the Girl Scout cookie program teaches Girl Scouts valuable skills that they will need to succeed throughout their lives. It is also the most extensive girl-led entrepreneur program in the world.

The top five essential skills each Girl Scout learns when selling cookies are Goal Setting, Decision-Making, Money Management, People Skills, and Business Ethics.

You could buy the cookies for yourself, give them to a friend, or donate them.

There are more than 100 Madison/Harding Girl Scouts selling cookies. If you have not gotten cookies, don't fret! On March 3rd, 2024, there will be a drive-through cookie booth at the Madison Community Pool, 105 Rosedale Ave. Madison from 9 a.m. to 4pm.



(above) On March 3rd, 2024, there will be a drive-through cookie booth at the Madison Community Pool, 105 Rosedale Ave. Madison from 9 a.m. to 4p.m.





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NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK - HELP US SAVE VETS!

Michael D. Boll, Director NJVN

Everyday 22 veterans take their own lives, unfortunately this number hasn't changed over the years. Several groups and organizations have worked tirelessly to combat this horrible epidemic. The New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) is one of those groups that strives to help veterans daily to live a better way of life.

NJVN is a mobile outreach team, that aggressively seeks out veterans in need and provides them life changing and saving resources. The NJVN is a 501c3 created in 2017 and has focused its mission by always putting our veterans first. Since the NJVN started thousands of veterans and National Guardsmen have been fed, clothed, and provided with various personal items. Also, we were able to get 30 veterans newer refurbished vehicles through the Recycled Rides program. However, the NJVN most important mission is that we save lives, just in the past first years alone our team has saved over a dozen lives.

Being a network, the NJVN works with other military, veteran, and first responder groups that share the same mission. We would never have succeeded without having the support and commitment from our partners and sponsors. This is vital for the NJVN to be able to help veterans in need throughout New Jersey.

Most recently, the NJVN has stepped up recreational events and programs such as camping, hiking, movie nights, BBQs, and field trips. We are fortunate to have amazing partners and volunteers that will help transport our veterans to and from the hospitals and shelters. These events allow our veterans to feel like they are part of a unit again and are not forgotten or abandoned.

What makes the NJVN unique is its willingness to try different things and think outside the box. By asking the veterans what they want most, and how we can help them, has really made our program a huge success.

Our next initiative will be the launch of our veteran peer support/ mentoring program the "Uniformed Heroes Project". This initiative is a collaboration between the military-veteran-first responders groups and organizations. Also, it is backed by legislators and numerous charitable organizations. The NJVN is currently looking for volunteers and groups willing to help us provide our veterans with the best help possible. If you

are interested in filing the team, or would like to volunteer, please send us an email at NJVNM1775@gmail.com or call directly (973)332-1556.

ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. Help us save Vets! We are always looking for volunteers, with various skills, to join the team. If you are a veteran or family member that's in need of assistance; or are interested in volunteering, would like us to speak at your event, or contribute to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email njvn1775@gmail.com To learn more about the team please check out our website njvn.org (accomplishments). Help us save Vets!

HQM Properties, Inc. hereby announces it will open its waitlist from January 1, 2024 until March 8, 2024. The affordable housing apartments are listed below.

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Cook's Pond Senior Housing, 455 Diamond Spring Road, Denville, NJ 07834 (62+)
The Farm at Harding, 1-28 MacDougall Lane, Morristown, NJ 07960
Davenport Village, 260 Tabor Road, Morris Plains, NJ 07950

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More Information May be Found at https://www.nj.gov/njhrc/

Application Deadline March 8, 2024

Random drawing to be held on March 22nd at 2:00 PM Cook's Pond Senior Housing 455 Diamond Spring Road Denville, New Jersey 07834

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SWIMMING WITH FRIENDS FOR OVER 20 YEARS

Barbara Rushman

A group of Masters Swimmers from Madison and the surrounding areas have now had the privilege of swimming together for two decades at the Madison YMCA, the Madison Community Pool, the Summit YMCA and other close by locations. Traditionally, we track monthly swim yardage for the entire year on a user-friendly web site (with support from our web site coordinator Barry Lass). Each of our 60 swimmers has a chance to see how they rank throughout the year in total yards within the group in a monthly newsletter.

Also, as we do every year in January, the Masters Yardstick Swimmers gathered recently at our 20th anniversary annual awards breakfast on January 6th - a combined live (at the Kemmerer Library in Harding Township) and online (via Zoom) event- with strong participation (39 in person and 6 on Zoom)! Hosted by longtime swimmers Bob Nissen, Joe Donohue, and Richard Clew, the multi-media slide show and event highlighted activities of 2023 (aided by our group historian, Barbara Rushman) and brought us together in such a way that all active members could enjoy.

It began with a fascinating summary of our 20year history- how we started, how we have evolved and grown as the "Yardstick Swimmers", and what we have accomplished as a group. Since 2004, our collective swimming efforts are amazing- logging more than 371 million yardsor nearly 211,000 miles! That is equivalent to swimming "around the world" more than 8 times!

After reviewing a number of "20th Anniversary Workouts" submitted by our swimmers, we were entertained with a Surprise Video Tape and Congratulations Message from Rowdy Gaines, 3-time Olympic Gold Medal Winner in Swimming.

Many of our swimmers enjoy participating in group workouts at the Walker D. Kirby Aquatics Center in its modern eight lane pool at the Madison YMCA. For further information on the pool and swim program, please contact the main desk at the Madison YMCA at 973-822-9622.

Ultimately, we moved on to the highlight of the event- our Annual Awards. Jane Ikeda of Mendham, Diane Dinsmore of Madison, and Bob Franks of Chatham were each named "Bold Performer of the Year", for demonstrating improved performance, exceptional effort and a special commitment to the swimming program. 3 D(imension) 20th Anniversary Awards for long

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term participation and passion for swimming by 1,461,630 yards, or 830 miles! Sandra was exemplifying Commitment, Consistency, and Competitiveness were presented to Jennifer Bauman of Parsippany, Bill Sullivan of Florham Park, and Richard Clew of Harding Township.

The Team Competition was unbelievable, with our two squads each swimming more than 12 million yards in a competition that was close until the final day, when The Yardstick Rulers (led by Captain Richard Clew) bested the Yardstick Junkies (led by Captain Bill Sullivan). Finally, our top two swimmers for 2023 were runner up Cindy Viola of Chatham, and Yardstick Winner Sandra Seddon of Chatham, swimming

awarded the Doug Clark Championship Yardstick, named in memory of our former "Yardstick Swimmer".

We all had a great time and were so happy to connect with our swimming friends for this special 20th Anniversary celebration. And we will continue our monthly yard tracking in 2024, and are convinced that our program will grow in numbers! Adult swimmers of all levels from beginners to experts are welcome to the Masters programs. To learn more about our Yardstick Challenge, please contact Bob Nissen at bobnissen@gmail.com.



(above, l-r) Row 1: Yardstick Winner Sandra Seddon, Barbara Rushman, Bob Nissen, Deborah Fennelly, Joe Donohue; Row 2: Bob Franks, Bree Olivari, Nicole Sullivan, Noreen McManus, Melissa Griffie, Jane Ikeda, Nicole Bearce; Row 3: Chachi Sabatino, Bill Sjovall, Debbie Goulian, Susan Kirk, Irene Fisher, Ed Tsuzuki, Jim Sullivan; Row 4: Diane Dinsmore, Bill Sullivan, Alan Sawyer, Lynda Przedpelski, Sarah Sangree, Barry Lass, Ted Bohlman, Sam Kongsamut; Row 5: Jennifer Bauman, John Przedpelski, Richard Clew, Barbara Wattenbach, Cande Olsen

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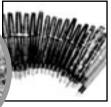
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SUMMIT OLD GUARD FEBRUARY SPEAKERS

The Summit Area 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."

February speakers include Scott Hough, Ed Oatman or Amy Wagner, Dr. Yaron Moshel, and Amy Behr-Shields. Please join us. Our programs are free to the public, and we welcome you!

Our speaker on Tuesday, February 6th will be Scott Hough, Superintendent of Schools, Summit, NJ. Scott will give us an overview of the school system and describe the impact covid had and how he dealt with it (he was appointed to his position in June 2020!). Scott will also discuss critical issues facing all school administrators, such as bullying, security and student safety. Roughly one half of Summit's annual budget goes to support the public schools, and the appeal of Summit as a great place to live is supported by its excellent schools.

Our speaker on Tuesday, February 13th will be either the manager or deputy manager of Union County, NJ. Union County has a diverse population equivalent in size to that of Wyoming and a budget of a half billion dollars. Most people are quite familiar with their own city or town, but usually know much less about their county. Ed Oatman, manager, or Amy Wagner, deputy manager, will hopefully change that for you. County operations include areas such as law enforcement/courts, parks & recreation, public works -roads and infrastructure, health care, economic development, and a lot more.

On Tuesday, February 20th, Dr. Yaron Moshel, co-director of the Gerald J. Glasser Brain Tumor Center at Atlantic Health System's Overlook Medical Center, will be our speaker. He is one of a select few surgeons who specialize in removing deep-seated brain tumors using technology that includes computer-guided navigation, awake intraoperative brain mapping, endoscopy, and microsurgery. Dr. Moshel will

Our speaker on Tuesday, February 13th will explain how the convergence of precision medicine, advanced robotics, and specialized imaging are fostering new breakthroughs in the pulation equivalent in size to that of Wyoming treatment of brain and spine tumors.

Finally, on Tuesday, February 27th, we ask the question, 'with so much information accessible online, is a public library still relevant'? Amy Behr-Shields, the Director of the Summit Free Library, will explain how the library is needed to curate reliable sources of information, and to manage the complexities of digital and non-digital media, while serving as a community center and a welcoming environment. You will also be surprised to learn how many varied programs and services the library offers.

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.

THRIFT SHOP FEBRUARY SALES

The Madison Independent Thrift Shop February sales will include glassware, china, and wristwatches at 50% off.

The Thrift Shop, located at 39 Kings Road, is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. A nonprofit group, it is operated entirely by volunteers. Proceeds received from sales during 2023 were recently distributed to charitable groups in Madison and surrounding communities.

The thrift Shop is looking for community minded volunteers to help staff the store. Anyone wanting further information, or may be interested in becoming a volunteer, is encouraged to drop by the shop, or call 973-377-2450 during business hours listed above.

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TOPIC OF MEETING

Retired Policemen and Firemen's Association, Local 3

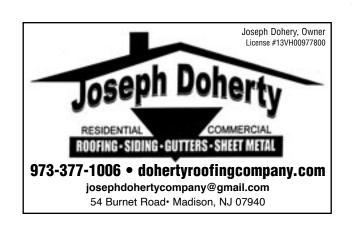
New Jersey State Police Detective Daniel Rafanan gave a 45-minute presentation on Internet Crimes Against Children, at the Retired Policemen and Firemen's Association, Local 3 meeting recently held at the Kenilworth VFW.

Detective Rafanan covered many of the issues with the Internet that lead to texting, bullying, depression, and suicide in our teens today. Detective Rafanan also covered sextortion which is an increasingly common online crime in which people are enticed into sending sexually explicit photos. Once the photos are sent, the receiver of the images threatens to share them online or with family or friends unless the victim sends money.

Detective Rafanan also explained what parents can do including, Establish rules and expectations for online behavior early on; Review your child's social media account periodically, look at comments and photos; Explain consequences for inappropriate online behavior; Review your child's friends accounts as well; and Talk about what their friends are posting.

The Internet Crimes Against Children Unit is responsible for conducting investigations of offenders that utilize computers and computer technology for the purpose of exploiting children. The unit conducts proactive and reactive investigations into endangerment of children.

This was a powerful and educational presentation that all parents and teenagers should see and hear. If anyone would like more information on this program, you can email Retired Chief Grady at rprflocal3@gmail.com for contact information.







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Alzheimer's NJ Caregiver Support Group

Thurs., Feb. 2 @ 10:30 a.m. Provides families and caregivers with support and education to better understand Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia

in loved ones.

Senior Scams & Fraud

Tues., Feb. 6 @ 11 a.m.

(Snow date: Tuesday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m.) Presentation and Q&A session by representatives from the Morris County Prosecutor's Office on efforts to scam older adults.

George Washington & the Masonic Connection

Thurs., Feb. 15, 12:30 p.m.

Presentation by Sam Davis about how freemasonry played a role throughout George Washington's life.

Get to the Heart of Health

Tues., Feb. 20 @ 1:00 p.m.

A collaboration by the Senior Center of the Chathams and the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, this presentation by Claudia Irmiere, NP, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center will teach you how to maintain a healthy heart.

AARP Foundation Free Tax Aide Program

Mon., Feb. Feb. 26 through Mon., April 15 Trained and IRS-certified AARP volunteers will provide free tax help to older adults. Appointments are mandatory. Call the Center to get signed up (973-635-4565).

Winter Birds & How to Feed Them Mon., Feb. 26, 12 p.m.

Representatives of the Friends of the Great Swamp will talk about winter birds and what to put in your yard to help feed them during the cold months.

Tech Support

Thurs., Feb. 29, 3:15 p.m.

Chatham High School students will help with iPhone, tablet, and laptop issues. Limited number of spots; advanced registration is required. Bring device.

Golf Lessons with Pro, Lou Ruina

Wednesdays, March 6-March 27, 12:30 p.m. Sign up for lessons ahead of time in February. Call Center for fee information.



IMAGINE VOLUNTEER FEBRUARY TRAINING

A recent participant in Imagine's last volunteer facilitator training shared this about her experience: "The training was truly amazing and inspiring. I am so honored to have had the opportunity to participate in it." Another shared: "The Imagine Staff are amazing. I so appreciate all the knowledge they shared and the encouragement they gave to me and the other participants."

Participants in Imagine's training programs often describe the experience as "life-changing". In addition to story sharing and the opportunity to support one another, training participants gain knowledge and skills regarding Alan Wolfelt's Companioning Model for grief support that's practiced at Imagine. Participants often walk away with a new understanding of themselves, and a new capacity for supporting the people in their lives. They bring this understanding to their role as facilitators in Imagine's peer support group program where children, youth, young adults and adults come together to share their grief experiences and receive and give support.

Imagine's volunteer facilitators come from all walks of life and no special background is required other than a willingness to listen, a heart inclined to serve, and the ability to be with children and adults in grief without trying to fix, solve or give advice. No prior experience is necessary. Volunteers must be 18 years or older. Bilingual (Spanish speaking) volunteers are needed as well. Volunteers serve as companions and loving listeners for those who are grieving and help create a space where participants can share tears and embrace the joys of life.

If you'd like to join us for Imagine's next facilitator training, it will be held Saturday, Feb. 17th through Monday, February 19th from 9 am-5 pm each day at Imagine's Newark Center at 570 Broad Street in Newark, and we ask that our new volunteers attend the entire training. Our new Newark center is located downtown in the Chase building with parking available directly behind the building. It's also close to public transportation. We're hoping those completing the training will be able to facilitate groups held every other week at our Newark center. We have

Imagine a world where no child grieves alone



of support that we're planning to launch a new Night of Support in Newark. We're also looking for a few new facilitators for our Mountainside location.

If you're interested in making a difference in the lives of grieving families and would like to participate in this transformative training experience, please visit Imagine's website at imaginenj.org or scan the bar code below to let us know of your interest. Please reach out to Imagine's Program Supervisor, Abigail Priece, LPC at abigail@imaginenj.org with any questions.

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.



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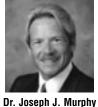
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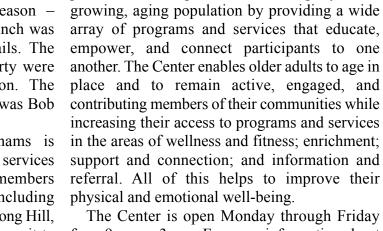


CHATHAM SENIOR CENTER WELCOMES AREA RESIDENTS 55+

The Senior Center of the Chathams hosted protect the independence and dignity of a holiday parties on two days this season -November 30th and December 7th. Lunch was served, including deserts and mocktails. The performers for the November 30th party were Eleanor and Peter "Maestro" Jackson. The entertainer for the December 7th party was Bob Marino.

The Senior Center of the Chathams is committed to offering its programs and services to a wide range of people and draws members from six counties and 70 towns, including Chatham, Madison, Berkeley Heights, Long Hill, New Providence, Florham Park, and Summit to name a few. All are welcome (55 +) at the Senior Center of the Chathams. There is no membership fee to join. Many programs are offered free of charge, while others involve only a minimal fee thanks to individual donations, fundraising events, and grants.

For 35 years, the mission of the non-profit Senior Center of the Chathams has been to



from 9 a.m. -3 p.m. For more information about the Senior Center of the Chathams, call 973-635-4565 or visit chathamseniorcenter.org.



(above) Madison residents Susan Mennella, Joanne Whitney, and Chris.



(above) The Senior Center of the Chathams hosted Holiday Parties on two days -November 30th and December 7th. Lunch was served, including deserts and mocktails.



(above) New Providence resident Bette Schmitt



(above) Sue Nixon of Long Hill & Tersa Conte of Florham Park enjoy playing picket ball together at the Center.



(above) The performers for the November 30th party were Eleanor and Peter "Maestro" Jackson.



(above) Dancing in your seats or on the dance floor



(above) Chatham residents Elenor & Peggy



(above) Berkeley Heights residents Ken & Josephine.

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9	HALF PAGE 65'x 9' or	10° x 7°	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
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SUMMIT'S REPAIR CAFÉ EVENT – MARCH 16

Join us at Summit's Repair Cafe event, where we breathe new life into your beloved but broken items, for free. Diverting an average of 421 pounds of items from landfills per event by simply repairing them, this initiative contributes significantly to both the community and the environment.

On Saturday, March 16 we invite you to Barnwell Hall at Christ Church from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., located at 561 Springfield Avenue, Summit 07901. Please note that the final items for repair will be accepted at 2:30 p.m.

Our repair services for this event encompass a wide range, including new repair services of sewing machines and watch battery replacement as well as sewing/textiles, clocks, woodworking, PC computers, knife sharpening, lamps, electronics, and bicycles. To ensure equal opportunities for everyone, each person may bring a maximum of 2 items for repair.

For lamps and clocks, replacement parts will be available at a nominal, at-cost fee. Please ensure you can carry your items unassisted when bringing them to the event. No appointments are necessary, although wait times may vary as this event is not a drop-off service.

This impacting event is co-sponsored by the Summit Area Green Faith Circle and Repair Cafe Garden State. For a comprehensive schedule of upcoming Repair Cafe events across New Jersey

ONLINE ADS & PRESS RELEASES

DRIVE LOCAL TRAFFIC TO YOUR WEBSITE

during the ongoing 2024 repair season, visit repaircafe.org.

We are actively seeking repair volunteers for the March 16 Summit event, as well as all future repair events. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to us via email at summit@repaircafegs.org.

Thank you for being part of this transformative movement that celebrates sustainability and community engagement through repair and restoration!



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LIBRARY PROGRAMS

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All lecture programs are online via Zoom unless stated otherwise. You will receive Zoom instructions and online meeting information in your registration confirmation email in addition to a reminder email prior to the date of the

Please register at madisonnilibrary.org

Adult Open Craft Night

Monday, February 5th 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Held at Madison Community Art Center, 10 Kings Road

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

An Introduction to Greek and **Roman Mythology**

Monday, February 5th @7 p.m.

The Greeks, or Hellenes, as they called themselves, had distinct beliefs in both gods and heroes. These beliefs have long been the source material for many TV programs, movies, video games, and comic books. This lecture will help us to identify their core beliefs and how it would influence the great decisions that the Greeks have made throughout

the Ancient Era.

Led by Professor Alexander Clemente, a professor of history at the County College of Morris who has taught previously at William Patterson University and Montclair State University.

Adult Craft Club

Tuesday, February 6th, 10:30 -11:30 a.m. Held at Madison Community Art Center, 10 Kings Road

Join us for some fun crafting! We are going to make a Valentines Wreath. Class is held at the Madison Community art center at 10 king Road in Madison.

Exciting Discoveries in Art History with Art Historian. Mallory Morillaro

Thursday, February 22nd @7 p.m.

Who doesn't love learning about a priceless painting found in an attic? Or a sculpture sitting for decades in a public garden, only to be found out as an Italian treasure? After finding myself in the middle of my own art history discovery when I uncovered the provenance of a Rodin sculpture sitting in New Jersey town hall, I learned just how many times this has happened before. This lecture explores the stories of several different important and valuable works of art that have been rediscovered in unexpected places. The program reviews a brief background of each piece, artist, and how the piece got to be lost, and then found.

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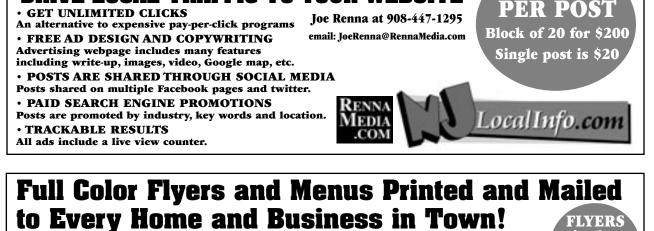
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