

# Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY

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**NJ**

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**ECRWSS**

## FLAG CONTINUES TO DELIVER COMMUNITY SERVICE

*Submitted by Nina D'Souza, President Line Appreciation Group of Millburn Short Hills( FLAG of MSH)*

FLAG of MSH (Front Line Appreciation Group of Millburn Short Hills) started as a pandemic initiative and has since grown to new heights as it continues to secure government funded grants to help so many local Millburn restaurants and food pantries. As of this writing FLAG of MSH has contributed \$643,000 to Millburn businesses.

FLAG of MSH was founded in April 2020 by the Cross and D'Souza families of Short Hills to engage the support of the local community and recognize front line workers for their efforts during the pandemic. Initially, all funding came from the generous donations of township residents and fundraising initiatives. In a few months over \$92,000 was raised that helped provide almost 10,000 meals to hospital front line workers who put their own lives at risk to help those affected during the pandemic.

Over 15 Millburn restaurants have been beneficiaries of FLAG of MSH efforts; Saigon Cafe, Cara Mia, Mariachi, Oscar's Deli, Moonshine Supper club, Rock n Joes, Vinnies Pan Pizza, Thai House, Basilicos, Brooklyn Pizza, La Strada, Playa Bowls, Goldbergs & Ms. Lin amongst others.

In addition to hospitals, FLAG fueled local organizations with hot meals including the Millburn Police Force, Millburn Short Hills Volunteer First Aid Squad, Millburn Fire Department, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Education and the teachers of Millburn Schools.

Noticing that the local restaurants still needed help, FLAG of MSH applied for the New Jersey Economic Development Association (NJEDA) Sustain and Serve Grants. Over the last 2 years FLAG of MSH received an additional \$553,480 in grant funding enabling the organization to source and deliver over 60,000 meals since inception. In total FLAG of MSH has channeled \$643,000 to help support Millburn businesses.

With this additional funding and through partnerships with MEND (Meeting Each Need with Dignity) and Table to Table Food Rescue,



FLAG of MSH has been able to support food pantries, reaching many communities and individuals with food insecurities.

True to its mission, FLAG of MSH continues to seek ways to support the Millburn Short Hills business community and food pantries. FLAG is spearheaded by Nina D'Souza, President; Kyle D'Souza, Logistics & Fund Raising and Aiden D'Souza, Database Administrator. FLAG has successfully completed 3 years of service and is going strong.

Follow FLAG of MSH on Facebook.

Courtesy photos

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MILLBURN CHESS PLAYERS  
BRING HOME NATIONAL TITLE

Millburn Public Schools

Congratulations to four chess players representing Millburn Middle School (MMS) who have once again won the National K-12 Grade Chess Team Championship held in Orlando, Florida in December, 2023.

A record-breaking number of almost 2,500 of the nation's best scholastic chess players from 45 states competed in the largest and most important chess event from December 15th to 17th.

Four MMS 7th graders, Bobby Qian, Ryan Zhu, David Zhang, and Raymond Wang went through seven rounds of intensive competitions in three days. As a team, they defeated 29 other teams from across the country and won the 7th Grade National Team Championship trophy for Millburn Middle School!

In addition, Bobby Qian won the 7th Grade National Co-Championship with the highest tournament score of 6/7! Ryan Zhu and David Zhang both achieved the 2nd highest score of 5.5/7 among all 7th grade chess players.

It is worth noting that this is the FOURTH National team championship trophy these chess players have brought back to Millburn. They have won the 5th and the 6th Grade National Chess Team Championships in previous years and the National Middle School Chess Championship in April.



(above) Bobby Qian, Ryan Zhu, David Zhang, and Raymond Wang

Courtesy photo

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**G** Garden  
Communities



# IMAGINE'S 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 [imaginej.org](http://imaginej.org) or scan the bar code below to let us know of your interest. Please reach out to Imagine's Program Supervisor, Abigail Preece, LPC at [abigail@imaginej.org](mailto:abigail@imaginej.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@imaginej.org](mailto:info@imaginej.org).



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126 Highland Ave	7	7.1	3	\$3,950,000	\$4,000,000	27
267 Dale Dr	4	4.2	2	\$2,450,000	\$2,450,000	0
18 Richard Dr	4	3.1	2	\$1,488,000	\$1,800,000	8
37 Farmstead Rd	5	3.1	2	\$1,500,000	\$1,755,000	6
161 Myrtle Ave	3	1.3	1	\$1,200,000	\$1,120,000	34
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Source: GSMLS, select properties sold 12/23/2023-1/23/2024. If your property is currently listed with another Realtor, this is not intended as a solicitation of that listing. Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Each office independently owned and operated. Equal housing opportunity. Some homes may be sold and listed by other brokers.



## MISSY RODRIGUEZ RECOGNIZED DURING THE 2024 ROSE PARADE

On New Years Day, liver transplant recipient Missy Rodriguez of Short Hills, NJ, was part of the world's most visible campaign to inspire organ and tissue donation as she served as a float rider on OneLegacy's Donate Life Rose Parade float in Pasadena, CA. Missy was selected to ride on the float by NJ Sharing Network, the federally designated non-profit organization responsible for the recovery of donated organs and tissue for transplant in the Garden State.

"Being part of the Rose Parade was an overwhelming experience. I was honored to meet countless incredible people and spread our message about the power of organ and tissue donation and transplantation," said Missy. "I felt my donor angel proudly watching from above as I rode on the float, sharing our message loud and clear. My own journey drives me to advocate for this cause. It's about giving hope to those waiting for the gift of life."

### ABOUT MISSY RODRIGUEZ

At the age of ten, Missy Rodriguez received a successful life-saving liver transplant. Today, Rodriguez is approaching the fortieth anniversary of her transplant – a milestone that will make her one of the longest liver transplant survivors in history. She thrives in her professional, social, and athletic pursuits.

Rodriguez went to great lengths to keep her medical history a secret for most of her life. However, in 2015, Rodriguez had a dramatic change of heart after she underwent emergency surgery. She decided it was "her turn to give rather than receive." Since then, Rodriguez has turned her passion into purpose as an advocate for organ donation. She serves as a mentor, priding herself as a resource for pre- and post-transplant patients.

Rodriguez is a certified volunteer for NJ Sharing Network and principal for Missy's Miracle Scholarship Fund. This Sharing Network Foundation program supports initiatives that raise awareness for organ and tissue donation and provides scholarships for high school students touched by the Foundation's life-saving mission. To date, she has raised over \$120,000.

Rodriguez is a well-recognized community volunteer and advocate for donation and transplantation. She has been featured in dozens of television and print news media spotlights and acknowledged for her charitable efforts by local neighborhood businesses, alliances, and religious institutions. Her efforts have also been publicly recognized by the Township of Millburn, NJ, with an official proclamation. Rodriguez also participates in the Sharing Network Foundation's 5K Celebration of Life and has won gold medals in tennis at the Transplant Games of America as a member of Team Liberty.

Rodriguez resides in Short Hills, NJ, with her husband, Brett, and their three sons, Jesse, Reece, and Mack.

### ABOUT ONELEGACY'S DONATE LIFE ROSE PARADE® FLOAT

For over 20 years, OneLegacy's Donate Life Rose Parade® float has inspired people worldwide to save and heal lives with the powerful message of organ and tissue donation.

The 2024 float, Woven Together: The Dance of Life, showcased the culture of the Hopi, native to the American Southwest. Transplant recipients (including Missy Rodriguez) rode on the float and living donors walked alongside it. Memorial floragraphs honoring organ and tissue donor heroes were also displayed on the float. The floragraphs were made entirely of flowers, seeds, and organic materials.

### ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK

NJ Sharing Network is the federally designated non-profit organization focused on saving and enhancing lives through the recovery of donated organs and tissue in the Garden State. NJ Sharing Network provides hope for nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents currently waiting for a life-saving organ transplant, and it is part of the national recovery system for the over 100,000 people on the national transplant waiting list. With headquarters in New Providence, NJ, the


organization has been recognized by NJBIZ as one of the state's 'Best Places to Work' for six consecutive years. To learn more, get involved, and join the National Donate Life Registry as an organ and tissue donor, visit [www.NJSharingNetwork.org](http://www.NJSharingNetwork.org).

### ABOUT THE SHARING NETWORK FOUNDATION

The Sharing Network Foundation supports the work of NJ Sharing Network, the federally designated non-profit organization responsible for the recovery of donated organs and tissue in the Garden State. The Foundation is committed to increasing the number of lives saved through clinical advancement, family support, public awareness and education about the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

For more information or to make a contribution, visit [www.SharingNetworkFoundation.org](http://www.SharingNetworkFoundation.org).

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# NJ MOM CELEBRATING 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF LIVER TRANSPLANT

### NJ Sharing Network

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

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

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



(above) Renee Reilly after her liver transplant surgery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# HOME INSTEAD OF MILLBURN WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF NURSING

By Evelyn Queen-Baron, MSW, Owner Home Instead Millburn, NJ

Home Instead of Millburn is excited to introduce our new Director of Nursing, Tara Shannon, BSN, RN. Tara has been a Nurse for nearly 24 years and has worked in a number many different settings including home care, emergency medicine, interventional cardiology, plastic surgery/aesthetics and most recently, care management. Tara joins the Home Instead team with the goal of continuing to provide excellent patient care while expanding our footprint in Essex and Union counties.

Tara earned her BSN from William Paterson University, while working part-time as a Registered Nurse for the Visiting Nurse's Association of NJ. Tara was able to successfully complete her studies while working and obtained a scholarship for academic excellence, which helped to pay for her college tuition.

Tara attributes her success to a solid work ethic in combination with the love of being able to help

people. She believes her true purpose in life is to help those who are in need, whether the need be great or small.

Tara is a very proud single Mother to her son Patrick (17) and daughter Kelsey (11). They live in New Providence. Tara's perfect day would include spending time with her kids, working out with friends, enjoying the outdoors (in warmer months – she's not a fan of the cold), reading, and cooking.

If you or a family member are interested in discussing private home care services (additional help in the home, companionship, dementia care) please feel free to contact Tara via email at [tara.shannon@homeinstead.com](mailto:tara.shannon@homeinstead.com) or via telephone (973) 379-4910.

For more information about Home Instead, contact Evelyn Queen-Baron, MSW at 973 379-4910 or go to [www.HomeInstead.com/MillburnNJ](http://www.HomeInstead.com/MillburnNJ).



Tara Shannon, BSN, RN, Director of Nursing, Home Instead of Millburn.



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**TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR 2024 WHARTON ARTS GALA ON MARCH 7**

On Thursday, March 7, 2024, Wharton Arts will honor award-winning jazz bassist, educator, and composer Rufus Reid with its Lifetime Achievement Award at its Annual Gala. An active presence in the jazz world since the 1970s, Reid has recorded over 500 albums and can be heard on recordings with Dexter Gordon, Andrew Hill, The Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Quartet, Kenny Barron, Stan Getz, J.J. Johnson, Lee Konitz, and Jack DeJohnette, among others. His reputation as an educator is equal to that of his musical achievements. Reid's book, *The Evolving Bassist*



*(above, l-r) Renowned Jazz Bassist Rufus Reid  
and The Discovery Orchestra's George  
Marriner Maull to be honored at the 2024  
Wharton Arts Gala* Courtesy photos

(Myriad Limited, 1974), remains the industry standard for double bass methodology. Reid and Dr. Martin Krivin created the Jazz Studies and Performance Bachelor of Music Program at William Paterson University, a program offering the first professional academically accredited Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies in the tri-state area.

Reid received the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and the MacDowell Colony Grant. His 2014 release, *Quiet Pride – The Elizabeth Catlett Project*, received two Grammy Nominations for Best Large Jazz Ensemble and Best Instrumental Composition.

The prestigious Wharton Arts Lifetime Achievement Award distinguishes individuals who, during their lifetime, have made creative contributions of outstanding artistic significance to the performing arts and represent a beacon of inspiration to Wharton Arts' students. Previous Wharton Arts Lifetime Achievement honorees were Jamie Bernstein, John Debney, Paul Shaffer, and Angel Blue.

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement Award, Wharton Arts will honor George Marriner Maull with its Education Award at the 2024 Gala. Today, Maull is the Artistic Director of The Discovery Orchestra and a three-time Emmy-

nominated public television personality.

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students through a range of classes and ensembles. The 5 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Chorus, an auditioned choral ensemble program for students in grades 3–12, encourage a love and appreciation of choral music while nurturing personal growth and creative development. The 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve over 500 students in grades 3–12 by audition, inspire young people to achieve musical excellence through high-level ensemble training and performance opportunities.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

Wharton Arts' Annual Gala will feature student performances and a live auction at the Westmount Country Club, 728 Rifle Camp Road in Woodland Park, NJ. To attend the gala and support Wharton Arts, including its silent auction, please visit [WhartonArtsGala.org](http://WhartonArtsGala.org).

# WHARTON ARTS ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Wharton Arts Board of Trustees has announced the appointment of Gina Caruso as its new Executive Director. Caruso was unanimously approved by Wharton Arts' Board of Trustees following a four-month nationwide candidate search.

Caruso has a rich history of leadership in the realms of education, arts, and community building. As the former Head of the New Amsterdam School in New York City, she



demonstrated her dedication to fostering an enriching, imaginative learning environment for children. She also served as the Executive Director and Deputy Director of the Creative Alliance, a prestigious contemporary arts organization in Baltimore, Maryland.

Caruso's diverse professional journey includes a five-year role as the Director of the Doris Duke Theater, a key component of the Honolulu Museum of Art. Prior to that, she served as Manager of Public Programs at the Walters Art Museum.

Beyond her leadership roles, Caruso's creative pursuits extend to her work as the Assistant Editor of Special Issues and Assistant Photography Editor of *The Washington Post Magazine*. She was also the founder and co-director of *Synesthesia*, a cohort of Baltimore-based poets and composers from the Peabody Institute of Music.

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest

independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students through a range of classes and ensembles. The 5 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Chorus, an auditioned choral ensemble program for students in grades 3–12, encourage a love and appreciation of choral music while nurturing personal growth and creative development. The 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve over 500 students in grades 3–12 by audition, inspire young people to achieve musical excellence through high-level ensemble training and performance opportunities.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

The logo for Lawrence Law Firm features a large, stylized 'L' on the left. To its right, the word 'LAWRENCE' is written in a large, serif, all-caps font. Below 'LAWRENCE', the word 'LAW' is written in a smaller, spaced-out, serif, all-caps font. A horizontal line separates this from the text 'DIVORCE & FAMILY LAWYERS' which is written in a bold, sans-serif, all-caps font. Below this is a black and white portrait of a woman with blonde hair, smiling. To the right of the portrait, the text 'Taking Charge of Your Future Starts Here' is written in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font. Below this is the phone number '(908)645-1000' in a bold, sans-serif font, and at the bottom is the website 'www.lawlawfirm.com' in a bold, sans-serif font.

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# ARJUN SAHA CHODHURY NAMED REGENERON SCHOLAR

## Millburn Public Schools

Congratulations to Millburn High School Senior, Arjun Saha Choudhury, who was named as a Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) Top 300 Scholar! The Regeneron STS, formerly known as the Intel STS (and before that the Westinghouse STS) is generally regarded as our country's oldest and most prestigious science competition. Thirteen alumni of the STS have gone on to win the Nobel Prize and two have won the Fields Medal. Entrants conduct original research and submit a research paper documenting their findings. The title of Arjun's research project was "MELODY: Exploring the Characteristics of Music That Helps Relieve Stress."

Arjun was a student in the MHS Science Research Program in 10th grade and 11th grade and was mentored by Dr. Susan Arrigoni. He is now a senior. We wish the very best to Arjun in this moment of victory--it is well-deserved and another example of how excellence continues in our schools!

# RECREATORS OF THE YEAR

## Millburn Public Schools

The Millburn Recreation Department announced the winners of the Outstanding Service Award and the Recreators of the Year Awards.

Ayaana Vinayak and Jaiden Shah are the recipients of the 2022–2023 Recreators of the Year Award. According to the Recreation Department, "Current 9th-grade students who have participated in many of our programs while showing great sportsmanship and leadership qualities (are eligible for the award). The award is given in honor of George Bauer, former

longtime Recreation Director.

Millburn High School Alum, Stephanie Dasti, was the winner of the 2023 Outstanding Service Award, recognized as a member of the community who "has shown dedication, commitment and has made a significant contribution through outstanding and distinctive service to the recreation department and recreation programs over a number of years." Dasti began working for the recreation department in 1997 and was a camp director for 24 summers.

Courtesy photos



(above) Stephanie Dasti



(above) Jaiden Shah



(above) Ayaana Vinayak

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## MILBURN LIBRARY'S FEBRUARY EVENTS

Register for Library programs by visiting [millburnlibrary.org/events](http://millburnlibrary.org/events) • 200 Glen Ave., Millburn, NJ 07041 • (973)376-1006  
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### PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS:

#### IN PERSON: CREATIVE AGING: CHAIR YOGA & MEDITATION

**Wed Feb 21, 10:30-11:15am, Auditorium**  
Come join us for a 45-minute class consisting of seated movement/poses, breathwork and guided meditation. It is open to all levels, especially seniors and those with limited mobility, or difficulty participating in floor/mat classes. Please wear comfortable clothing. This class is taught by Pamela Nixon of Peace Play. Registration required. Creative Aging programs are designed to stimulate creativity and community in people ages 50 and up.

#### VIRTUAL: ART BY AFRICAN AMERICANS: FROM THE GREAT MIGRATION TO THE AGE OF BLACK LIVES MATTER WITH JANET MANDEL

**Wed Feb 21 & Thu Feb 22, 7-8pm, Online**  
Between the two world wars, millions of African Americans set out on an odyssey known as the Great Migration. In the course of this journey, they created a new identity that would alter the landscape of modern art. Part I of this story will explore the rich contributions these pioneers made to American culture from the Harlem Renaissance through the Civil Rights Movement. Part II will continue the saga from the age of Black Power protests of the '60s through the present day. Join us as we continue the rich contributions these pioneers made to American culture that continue to astonish art lovers today.

#### HYBRID: CANVA GRAPHIC DESIGN

**Wed Feb 28, 2-3:30pm, Williamsburg Room & Online**  
Looking for a free, easy-to-use graphic design tool? Canva.com is the gold standard in creating social media posts, flyers, videos and more, plus it offers a huge collection of free-to-use design templates and images for your creations. Open to adults & teens. Registration required.

### PROGRAMS FOR KIDS:

#### MUSIC & MOVEMENT WITH MISS BEE

**Fridays, Feb 2, 16, 11-11:30am, Auditorium, Ages up to 5 with a caregiver**  
Little ones will experience the magic of music and movement through traditional and original songs, puppets, parachutes, bubbles, rhythm sticks, egg shakers and other fun instruments and props. Registration required.

#### IN PERSON: SWAHILI STORYTIME & CRAFT

**Friday Feb 9, 4-5pm, Auditorium**  
Join storyteller Sabina Wasonga-Gitau for an introduction to the Swahili language through stories followed by a craft! This is a family program for kids age 4 and up. Program will take place in the auditorium.

Registration required.

#### IN PERSON: CRAFTERNOON

**Wednesday Feb 21, 4-5pm, In Person, Auditorium For ages 4-12**  
What does crafts + afternoon equal? Why, crafternoon of course! Kids are invited to make a fun seasonal craft. Drop in.

### PROGRAMS FOR TWEENS & TEENS (AGES 12+):

#### IN PERSON: TEEN LOCK-IN

**Friday Feb 9, 6-8pm, Teen Area, Ages 12+**  
Let the ANTI-VALENTINE'S DAY celebration commence! Registration required.

#### HYBRID: COLLEGE VISITS

**Monday Feb 12, 7-8pm, Williamsburg Room & Online**  
Learn all about the role of campus visits in the college search and application process: where to visit, how to maximize time on campus, and the role these visits play in the application evaluation process.

#### IN PERSON: FOOD ADVENTURES WITH JANIS

**Tuesday Feb 27, 3:30-4:30pm, Room B**  
Hang with Miss Janis as we make (yes, you're helping!) Red Velvet Pancakes!

### RESOURCE OF THE MONTH!

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## NJ INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA FREE CONCERT - FEB 25

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) will present its 2024 Winter Concert on Sunday, February 25th at 3 pm at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ. The concert is free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted.

The concert will feature performances by three of NJIO's ensembles: Symphony Orchestra, Intermezzo Orchestra, and Prelude Ensemble. The Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Artistic Director Warren Cohen, will play Beethoven's Leonore Overture no. 1 and Mendelssohn's Symphony no. 5, composed when he was only 21

years old. Also known as the Reformation Symphony, it contains musical references to both the Dresden "Amen" and Martin Luther's chorale "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" (A Mighty Fortress is our God).

NJIO's Intermezzo Orchestra, conducted by Oliver Hagen, will perform excerpts from Beethoven's Symphony no. 5 and Symphony no. 2. The Prelude Ensemble, NJIO's entry-level group, is conducted by Elizabeth Maliszewski. Prelude will be performing La Rejouissance from Handel's Royal Fireworks Music and an arrangement of Beethoven's Greatest Hits!

In addition to playing in this beautiful performance space, this concert will be live-streamed and recorded.

### CONCERT DETAILS:

**Sunday, February 25th, 2024, at 3 pm**  
(doors open at 2:40 pm)

**Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church**  
716 Watchung Avenue  
Plainfield, NJ 07060

**Admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted.**

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](mailto:info@njio.org) or visit NJIO's website at [njio.org](http://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 varying skill levels each concert period to one of its several orchestras – no auditions needed!

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; The Lillian Schenck Foundation; The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack Foundation; a collective contribution made by the Citizens Philanthropic Foundation and the 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.

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## CHATHAM SENIOR CENTER WELCOMES AREA RESIDENTS 55+

The Senior Center of the Chathams hosted 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

protect the independence and dignity of a growing, aging population by providing a wide array of programs and services that educate, empower, and connect participants to one another. The Center enables older adults to age in place and to remain active, engaged, and contributing members of their communities while increasing their access to programs and services in the areas of wellness and fitness; enrichment; support and connection; and information and referral. All of this helps to improve their physical and emotional well-being.

The Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information about the Senior Center of the Chathams, call 973-635-4565 or visit [chathamseiorcenter.org](http://chathamseiorcenter.org).



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



*(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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in 1 or all  
24 towns



<b>Berkeley Heights</b> NJ COMMUNITY NEWS Qty: 4,700 Zip: 07922	<b>THE CHATHAMS</b> NJ Qty: 7,500 Zip: 07928	<b>Clark</b> Monthly NJ Qty: 6,700 Zip: 07066	<b>CRANFORD</b> MONTHLY NJ Qty: 9,900 Zip: 07016	<b>Elmora Hills</b> ELIZABETH, NJ Qty: 5,400 Zip: 07208	<b>Fanwood</b> Post NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07023
<b>Florham Park</b> Press NJ Qty: 5,500 Zip: 07932	<b>Garwood</b> Times NJ Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	<b>Green Brook</b> NJ Gazette Qty: 3,000 Zip: 08812	<b>BUSINESS • LIFE</b> KENILWORTH NJ Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	<b>NJ LIFE in</b> LINDEN Qty: 17,900 Zip: 07036	<b>Long Hill</b> LEADER NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980
<b>MADISON</b> MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	<b>MOUNTAIN</b> VIEW NJ Qty: 2,900 Zip: 07092	<b>New Providence</b> NEWS NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	<b>OUR TOWN</b> Rahway, NJ Qty: 13,000 Zip: 07065	<b>ROSELLE PARK</b> MONTHLY Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	<b>Scotch Plains</b> NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,400 Zip: 07076
<b>Short Hills</b> MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	<b>Summit</b> NJ & Times Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	<b>Spirit of</b> UNION NJ Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	<b>WARREN</b> MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	<b>Watchung</b> Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	<b>Westfield</b> NJ MONTHLY Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

### NEWSPAPER AD RATES

Units	Size	1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
2-PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700								
BACK PAGE	10" x 14"	\$500								
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320								
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5" x 4.5"	\$240								

Back cover, front page banner and front box reserved on first-come, first-served basis. Current advertiser has right of first refusal.

Rates are per month. Artwork included in price. Newspapers are black on white.

**PREPAY 6 MONTHS AND GET 1 MORE FREE**  
**PREPAY 12 MONTHS AND GET 3 MORE FREE**

Make Checks payable to Renna Media, 202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

## 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**

Advertising webpage includes many features including write-up, images, video, Google map, etc.

- **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.

Joe Renna at 908-447-1295

email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com

**\$10  
PER POST**

Block of 20 for \$200

Single post is \$20

RENNA  
MEDIA  
.COM

**LocalInfo.com**

## 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

Joe Renna at 908-447-1295

email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com

**FLYERS**

**\$45**

PER 1,000

**MENUS**

**\$85**

PER 1,000



## 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.**

**STARTER  
WEBSITE  
\$500**

Call Walter at 201-478-7408

email: wwwinnj@gmail.com

## 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.

**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

Call Today for a Free Estimate!  855.624.6655



AS SEEN ON  
**GEORGE TO THE RESCUE**  


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HOME REMODELING GROUP

ROOFING | SIDING | WINDOWS  
KITCHENS | BATHROOMS | BASEMENTS  
MASONRY | DECKS | PORCHES



**Payment Plans**

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KITCHENS \$389	BATHROOMS \$199
ROOFING \$249	DECKS/PATIOS \$189
SIDING \$289	PORCHES/STEPS \$185

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**Interior & Exterior Remodeling | Family Owned & Operated**

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