

Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

Published by Renna Media, LLC. On-line at RennaMedia.com

Issue 101 • February 2024



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HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

Submitted by Sue Baldani



(above) Squad officers were sworn in by Mayor Joshua Losardo and members were commended for their years of service.

Courtesy photo

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The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad held its annual Installation Dinner on Saturday, January 13, 2024. The all-volunteer organization has been responding to the urgent medical needs of the people of Scotch Plains and surrounding communities for 87 years.

During the dinner, several past members were remembered, including the founding members, without whom the squad would not exist. Squad officers were then sworn in by Mayor Joshua Losardo and members were commended for their years of service.

Chief Daniel Sullivan thanked the EMTs who selflessly volunteer their time to make Scotch Plains a greater and safer place to live. He also stressed that members Ride for Pride, Not Pay, and its an organization that epitomizes Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

To become a member, go to ScotchPlainsRescueSquad.com for more information.

Contributing Author: Susan Baldani, a life member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad.

SCOTCH PLAINS RESCUE SQUAD OFFICERS FOR 2024: OPERATIONAL LINE:

- Chief - Daniel Sullivan
- Deputy Chief - Robert Gurske
- Deputy Chief - Fred Thomas

ADMINISTRATIVE LINE:

- President - Joan Lozowski
- 1st VP - Jerry Handsman
- 2nd VP - Robert Foerster
- Secretary - Joanne Gurske
- Treasurer - Ranee Muirhead
- Chaplain - Robert Gurske
- Delegates - Daniel Sullivan, Joan Lozowski, Ranee Muirhead
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Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

Renna Media LLC, Publishers
202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

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Photo from left, Lantern Hill Business Office Manager Debra Vlahakis, Director of General Services Ed Zappile, and Housekeeping Manager, recently volunteered at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey in Hillside.

For more information, visit LanternHill.com.



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Fanwood Recreation

Registration is now open or will open soon for many Fanwood Recreation Spring and Summer programs. Programs include:

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Detectives, Secret Agent Lab, TGA Premier Golf, Junior Tennis Lessons, Babysitting Certification, Fashion Design, Pickleball Lessons for Adults, Junior First Responders Camp, Multi Sports Camp, Basketball Camp, Soccer Camp, Tennis Lessons for Adults. More programs are still being added!

For more information about all these programs, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.















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MESSAGE FROM POLICE CHIEF JEFF BRIEL

Sixty seconds.

That's the amount of time it would take you each night, before you go to bed, to make sure your house and property are secure. Use those 60 seconds to ensure your vehicles are locked, your ground-floor windows and doors are secure, your exterior lights are on, and your home security system is activated.

In just those 60 seconds, you can be assured you have done everything possible to join our efforts to keep Scotch Plains safe and secure.

We are very fortunate that Scotch Plains does not have a local crime problem. But we are not always immune to factors outside of our control. For example, our officers respond to calls of stolen vehicles reported from surrounding communities that end up here. Or, there are cases of people who do not live here but attempt to gain access into homes in Scotch Plains and steal cars, as part of efforts to quickly secure valuables and get back to wherever they live.

Most of this activity occurs late in the night when most of our residents are sleeping. But our officers are out patrolling local streets in those overnight hours, monitoring your home and property, responding to calls of suspicious activity, and doing all we can to apprehend offenders.

Those 60 seconds you take every night are critical in our never-ending efforts to make Scotch Plains as secure as possible. We need you to join in our efforts by not giving thieves easy opportunities to access your property. (i.e. warming up your car, leaving it unattended.)

You can also help in the ongoing effort by joining the county's "First Alert" system. It is a free service, with an easy link for you to enroll at the top of the municipal website, scotchplainsnj.gov. Again, it takes about 60 seconds to sign up.

This service allows you to receive notifications via phone calls, text messaging, e-mail and more about any potential threat to health and safety in Scotch Plains. Besides any messaging from the police department, the system sends important updates regarding severe weather, flooding, gas leaks and other issues that are of importance to our community.

While many of our residents have taken advantage of the First Alert system, many have not. Sharing information is critical, as police and the public need to serve as partners in our collective effort to keep potential criminals out of town.

Residents can also be helpful by sharing their footage from Ring cameras and similar products when asked by police conducting an investigation.

Our police officers are also working with residents who want to form street or neighborhood watches. These groups, while unaffiliated with the police, serve as important eyes and ears.

For example, they post signs around their property stating that the street is being watched by neighbors and cameras. These steps are excellent ways in which to further deter crime in our neighborhoods.

I want to reassure you that the police department continually seeks new ways in which to fight local crime, as well as secure many crime-fighting technologies, such as cameras, that have made a significant difference. We are fortunate to have the strong support of the Township Council, which recognizes that we need electronic license plate readers, vest cameras and other devices to make our community even safer.

By implementing proactive strategies, we can all enjoy a greater sense of peace and well-being. Please remember that public safety in Scotch Plains is a collective responsibility that requires active participation and cooperation from all of us.

And those 60 seconds each night can really mean the difference.



(above) Scotch Plains Police Chief Jeff Briel

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UNICO SCHOLARSHIPS DEADLINE MARCH 1

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood chapter of UNICO, America's largest Italian-American service organization, is dedicated to helping area students maximize their talent and potential through educational pursuits. Over the past 50 years since the chapter has formed, they have awarded over a quarter of a million dollars in scholarships.

This year, the chapter is offering the following six (6) scholarships to high school seniors of Italian descent living in Scotch Plains or Fanwood:

(4) \$2,500 scholarships to students who will be attending a 4-year college/university.

(1) \$1,500 scholarship to a student who will be attending a 2-year college.

(1) \$1,000 scholarship to a student who will be attending any vocational, technical or trade school.

Scholarships are awarded based on a combination of financial need, academic excellence, extracurricular activity, and civic involvement.

Visit the Scholarship Program page at unicospf.org for additional requirements and to apply by March 1, 2024.

Please direct any scholarship-related questions to spfunicoscholarship@gmail.com.

UNICO is America's largest Italian-American service organization, and the Scotch Plains Fanwood chapter is celebrating its 50th year.

For membership or event information, please visit unicospf.org or email spfunico@gmail.com.

COLLEGE CLUB SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FEB. 15

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains 2024-2025 scholarship application forms can be obtained from the SPFHSC Counseling Office or at spf12.org or fspcollegeclub.org.

This will be the 88th year that female students seeking financial assistance to pursue a four-year college degree have been helped by the club's fund-raising efforts. To date the College Club has awarded approximately \$780,000 in scholarships to approximately 582 women.

In the words of one of our recipients; From the bottom of my heart, I thank the College Club for investing in my education. It means the world to me that I have a team of female supporters who saw something in me and spent their precious

time and energy to raise the scholarship money that will allow me to further my education and pursue my dreams. I hope that one day I can return the favor and share the same generosity with future candidates.

Application materials must be postmarked on or before February 15, 2024, to be considered.

The Scholarship Committee will be ready to begin reviewing applications the first week of March. The decision to select 2024-2025 Scholarship Recipients will be finalized in mid-April.

Additional information about the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains can be obtained by sending an email to: collegeclub.fsp@gmail.com.



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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 explain how the convergence of precision medicine, advanced robotics, and specialized imaging are fostering new breakthroughs in the 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.



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The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940, an Agatha-Christie-meets-Clue parody, is full of twists, turns, red herrings and slapstick for audiences of all ages! John Bishop's 1987 comedy is a send-up of all the cliches and stereotypes from both musical theater and murder mysteries thrown together and shaken up for laughs.

The creative team responsible for a recent Broadway flop assemble for a backer's audition of their new show at the Westchester estate of a wealthy and eccentric theatre financier. However, the shadow of the team's last show hangs over the group-- Manhattan Holiday was ravaged by the "Stage Door Slasher," a mysterious killer who stabbed chorus girls. As the composer, lyricist, actors and director prepare their performance, and a blizzard cuts off any possible retreat, bodies start to drop in plain sight. It doesn't take long for everyone to figure out that one of them is The Stage Door Slasher and accusing fingers point in all directions. The bumbling police inspector, who snowshoes in to investigate, is hoping to flush out the killer from this group of suspects--but the killer has other plans. More than that, the threat of Nazi saboteurs lurks among them!

Will the Slasher be unmasked? Maybe, but not before the audience has been treated to a rollicking good time full of the author's biting, satiric and irreverent wit.

Performances are at CDC Theatre, 78 Winans Ave. in Cranford with shows on Fridays and Saturdays, February 9-24 at 8pm and on Sunday, February 18 at 2pm. For the best ticket selection and price, visit cdctheatre.org.

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ARMCHAIR ART TOUR OF EGYPTIAN ART - FEB. 12TH

Dr. Michael Norris, art historian, will be hosted by the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains on February 12th. His program will take place at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church Hall, 74 South Martine Ave., Fanwood (McDermott Street entrance) at 7:30 p.m. The program is free to all and members of the community are welcome to attend.

Dr. Norris' Armchair Art Tours focus on works from area museums as well as local and world history. His power point presentation on Feb. 12th will provide an introduction to the Egyptian galleries of the Metropolitan Museum of Art that will guide attendees from the banks of the Nile River to tombs and temples. Ancient Egyptian culture and art will be discovered through sculpture, jewelry, mummies and actual Egyptian buildings.

Dr. Norris earned his BA in classics from the University of California at San Diego and his MA in classics and his PhD in art history at the University of California at Santa Barbara. He spent 20 years working at the Cloisters Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. He has given lectures for more than 20 years and his Armchair Art Tours have taken people on trips all over the world.

Additional information about the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains can be obtained by sending an email to collegeclub.fsp@gmail.com.



(above) Dr. Michael Norris, art historian, former museum educator and NJ resident, will be hosted by the F-SP College Club on Feb. 12th.



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TINY TIM FUND RECEIVES DONATIONS FROM LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Tiny Tim Fund has recently received \$250 from The Family Investors Company in Fanwood and \$1,000 from the Fanwood Community Foundation. These generous donations will be instrumental in helping the Tiny Tim Fund to continue to assist local families to pay for the medical expenses of children in Fanwood and Scotch Plains.

The Tiny Tim Fund actively seeks donations once each year beginning with the traditional Carol Night which was held on December 6th. The second phase of the fundraising campaign is the distribution of solicitation letters that are currently being delivered to homes in Fanwood

and Scotch Plains by volunteers.

All collected contributions will be instrumental in helping the Tiny Tim Fund to continue to assist current cases as well as to accept new requests for financial assistance during the coming year. Members of the College Club of Fanwood Scotch plains and members of the congregation of All Saints Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains have generously supported the Tiny Tim Fund's fundraising efforts this year.

The Tiny Tim Fund is a registered NJ non-profit organization 501(c)(3) that raises funds to help families pay for the medical needs of children that includes doctors, dentists,

psychological testing and counseling. The organization has been assisting local families since 1983.

The Tiny Tim Fund is administered by a volunteer board of trustees from varied sections of the Fanwood and Scotch Plains community. There are no administrative fees. All collected contributions are dispersed for medical expenses.

Donations can be mailed directly to The Tiny Tim Fund, PO Box 181, Fanwood, NJ 07023.

Additional information about the Tiny Tim Fund and/or to request a referral application please contact Barbara at 732-259-6348 or Mari at 908-917-5979.



(above, l-r) Monk McDevitt, Darraugh Valli, Peter Chemidlin, Bernadette Hoyer, Mari McDevitt and Barbara Anilo.



(above, l-r) Monk McDevitt, Mari McDevitt, Peter Chemidlin, Barbara Anilo and Bernadette Hoyer.

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SCOTCH PLAINS LIBRARY PROGRAMS

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Mon, Wed, Thur: 9:30am - 9pm;

Tue, Fri, Sat: 9:30am - 5pm

Mon, Feb 19 - Library Closed

Registration is required or recommended.

Balance Awareness with Yasmin Ofek

Fridays at 10am

a gentle but effective approach to moving confidently throughout the lifespan.

Hypertension Clinic

Friday, February 2, 10am to Noon

in the Adult Room with a public health nurse from Union County. Walk-ins welcome.

Bring Your Own Book

Monday, February 5 at 10am

an informal discussion of what participants have recently read and enjoyed.

Wednesday Movies

Wednesdays at Noon

We'll show Wednesday Movies in our downstairs meeting room.

Great Backyard Bird Count

Thursday, February 8 at 7pm

SPFHS teacher Zach Rittner will share information about the Great Backyard Bird Count, including helpful apps and strategies for participating in this fun citizen science project.

Going, Going, Gone

Saturday, February 10 at 2pm

Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta will walk us down memory lane in an interactive discussion about products that have become obsolete.

Library membership meeting and Book Swap

Monday, February 12 at 7pm

The Friends of the Library membership meeting will be followed by a Book Swap. Members are encouraged to bring a book or two to swap.

Drawing with Sandra Cerchio

Tuesday, February 13 at 10am

Drop In Crafting

Tuesday, February 13 at 1pm

bring your work-in-progress and craft with company. Learn about our community project to make hats for the Overlook Cancer Center.

Evening Book Club

Thursday, February 15 at 7pm

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver.

Concert

Saturday, February 17 at 2pm

Enjoy a concert with musical collective Amani, featuring the music of Harry Belafonte.

Afternoon Book Club

Tuesday, February 20 at 1pm

will discuss Still Life by Sarah Winman.

Friends of the Library Trivia Night

Thursday, February 22 at 7pm

Help Friends support the Library at this fundraiser. Admission is \$5 per person. RSVP at spplfriends1@gmail.com.

Drop In Crafting

Thursday, February 29 at 7pm

bring your work-in-progress and craft with company. Learn about our community project to make hats for the Overlook Cancer Center.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY WINTER 2024 EVENTS

The Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Library is delighted to unveil a series of engaging and diverse events taking place throughout the winter season. These events promise to bring the community together in an atmosphere of learning, creativity, and fun.

Book Swap and Meeting

February 12, 7:00 PM

Location: Lower Level of the Scotch Plains Public Library

Bring a book (or two) to swap after the regular meeting. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow members, discover a new book, and mingle! This event is open to all, and admission is free for everyone. Attendees are encouraged to become a member of the Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Library, and donations are warmly welcomed to support future events.

Trivia Night

February 22, 7:00 PM

Location: Lower Level of the Scotch Plains Public Library

Challenge your knowledge and compete with friends at our Trivia Night. Join us for an evening of brain-teasing questions and friendly competition. This event is open to all, and admission is \$5. Attendees are encouraged to become a member of the Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Library, and donations are warmly welcomed to support future events.

Poetry Reading by Moriah Cohen, Liz Kingsley, and Robin Rosen Chang

April 8, 7:00 PM

Location: Lower Level of the Scotch Plains Public Library

Immerse yourself in the world of poetry, as Moriah Cohen, Liz Kingsley, and Robin Rosen Chang share their enchanting verses. This intimate poetry reading promises an evening of inspiration and literary exploration. Admission is free, but we encourage attendees to consider becoming a member of the Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Library and contributing to the ongoing success of our community programs. The poets will have their published works available for sale.

To RSVP, more information about these events, or to become a member of the Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Library, please visit scotlib.org/friends-of-the-library/ or contact via email spplfriends1@gmail.com.

ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE SCOTCH PLAINS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Library is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and enhancing the resources and services of the Scotch Plains Public Library. Through fundraising and community engagement, the Friends aim to create a vibrant and inclusive library experience for all.

Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Library

BOOK SWAP

February 12th
Monday, 7pm

1927 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains

Bring a new or gently used book (or several) from your collection that you love but are ready to part with and swap it out for something new to read. Light refreshments will be served.

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NJ INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA WINTER 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 or visit NJIO's website at 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.

Orchestra Concert Free Admission Sunday February 25, 2024 3 pm



New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra
WARREN COHEN | Artistic Director & Symphony Conductor

Concert Location: Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church
716 Watchung Ave, Plainfield

Featuring
Performances by
Prelude Ensemble and Intermezzo Orchestra

Symphony Orchestra
Beethoven Leonore Overture no. 1
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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. Reid's book, *The Evolving Bassist* (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



(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

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.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church is open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for shopping and receiving donations. There is a great selection of men and ladies clothing, household goods and decorative items. This week's special features puzzles and adult games.

Come and find us! We are located in the basement of the education building. The entrance is on McDermott Place. All proceeds from our sales are donated to local charities and volunteer service organizations.

MAH JONGG CLUB OF WATCHUNG

The Mah Jongg Club of Watchung meets every Monday and Thursday afternoon at the Watchung Library beginning at 1:00 p.m. New players are welcome. Knowledge of the game is mandatory. The Club has been meeting at the Watchung Library for over 10 years. Members are from Watchung and surrounding towns. For more information, email Melanie Novello at Novello1800@aol.com.

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.

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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



so many children and families currently in need 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 imagineenj.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@imagineenj.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@imagineenj.org.



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DAR HELPS STIR UP A TEMPEST WITH A TEA BAG

Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter DAR

At the 128th Anniversary luncheon of Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) held in January, the chapter reported on their first U.S. Semiquincentennial observance.



(above) Outstanding Junior Ashley Salsano (r.) pictured with DAR President General Pamela Wright at the 2023 Spring State Conference.

Members celebrated the fact that some tea supplied by the chapter was used in the 250th anniversary re-enactment of the Boston Tea Party in December. The chapter contributed a limited edition King's Coronation Tea. "It seemed appropriate," said Chapter Treasurer Barbara Pollison-Beck who donated the tea.

During the luncheon, Ashley Salsano was honored as the chapter's Outstanding Junior member. Four new chapter members were officially welcomed and Beth Kavanaugh of Oldwick was sworn in. Women observing milestone membership anniversaries were also recognized: Carol DeFilippis, Warren, 55 years; Margaret Shilay, North Plainfield, 50 years; Catherine Strohmeier, Watchung, 40 years; Patricia Sullivan, Bridgewater, 10 years.

Monthly meetings will resume on March 12 with a program on Betty Bradbury Vail and planning for a spring service project to clean and help preserve historic headstones in the area. Also on the agenda is the NJDAR State Conference in April.

The DAR is a nonprofit service organization open to women descended from an individual who aided the cause of independence during the American Revolution. New members are welcome. Contact the chapter at ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com.

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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
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14TH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Submitted by Sue Baldani

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad's 14th annual Pancake Breakfast will take place on Sunday, February 25, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at its building located at 1916 Bartle Avenue. This event is hosted by the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad Auxiliary, which raises funds for the volunteer squad.

All-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage, along with coffee and juice, will be offered for just a \$7.00 per person entry fee (children 5 and under eat free). There will also be a raffle for baskets, which are filled with gifts and goodies donated by the community and area businesses.

It's clear by the number of people who attend that it's something the community looks forward to every year. So, come out with your family and friends and enjoy a hearty, delicious breakfast along with good conversation. It's a

nice way to spend a Sunday morning and give back at the same time. And for those with mobility issues, downstairs dining will be available.

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad Auxiliary meets once a month, and its grass roots function is to assist the Squad in many capacities – from holding fundraisers and providing meals during crises to performing outreach to squad and fellow auxiliary members. Members also attend town functions, such as fairs, concerts and holiday events, in order to connect with the community and promote Squad interests.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Auxiliary, come by the Squad building one evening to pick up an application, or go to scotchplainsrescuesquad.com/the-auxiliary.

Contributing Author: Susan Baldani, a life member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad.

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