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Issue 101 • February 2024



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# STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT ANNUAL INTERFAITH SERVICE

Westfield Public Schools

Twenty-three elementary and intermediate school students in the Westfield Public Schools received recognition for their submissions in an annual essay, poetry, and art contest sponsored by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Westfield.

The students - whose creative works addressed the organization's 2024 theme of "It Starts with Me: Positive Peace and Social Justice for All" - were welcomed at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association's 37th Annual Interfaith Service on January 15 at the First United Methodist Church.

The student award recipients are as follows:

### **INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS**

Essay: 1st Place: Adriana McAllister, 7th Grade, Edison; 2nd Place: William Di Bianca, 7th Grade, Edison; 3rd Place: James Fu, 7th Grade, Edison Poetry: 1st Place: Arianna Desai, 8th Grade, Edison; 2nd Place: Moss Paul, 8th Grade, Edison; 3rd Place: Luka Barsky, 8th Grade, Edison Art: 1st Place: Noelle Boccagna, 7th Grade, Edison;

1st Place: Cayenne Biggers, 6th Grade, Edison; 2nd Place: Emilia Radlmann, 7th Grade, Roosevelt; 2nd Place: Ella Russo, 7th Grade, Roosevelt; 3rd Place: Sophia Pilachowski, 6th Grade, Roosevelt;

3rd Place: Jaxen Kriss, 7th Grade, Roosevelt

### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

Essay: 1st Place: Taylor Goodman, 5th Grade, Tamaques; 2nd Place: Allison Reilly, 5th Grade, Jefferson; 3rd Place: Deven Lele, 5th Grade, Jefferson; Honorable Mention: Ethan Goldberg, 5th Grade, Jefferson;

Honorable Mention: Tiffany Kinyanjui, 4th Grade, McKinley Poetry: 1st Place: Claudia Taormina, 5th Grade, Franklin; 2nd Place: Marino Xanthos, 5th Grade, McKinley; 3rd Place: Cameron Akselband, 4th Grade, McKinley

Art: 1st Place: Raina Jariveja, 5th Grade, McKinley; 2nd Place: Maeve Kavanagh, 5th Grade, Franklin; 3rd Place: Leila Saad, 4th Grade, McKinley; Special Mention for First Graders at Tamaques School and their wonderful banner.



Photo by Westfield Public Schools



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# SENIOR ADVISORY COUNCIL LIFELONG MEMBERS

Mayor's Senior Advisory Council, a volunteer group that includes representatives of the Westfield Town Council, Westfield United Fund, a physician, and other volunteers. The organization aims to help residents "age in place" by serving as a centralized clearinghouse for activities and services that help seniors and their caregivers. If you would like to receive the LLW email newsletter, please send your name and email address to: westfieldnjseniors@gmail.com.

Meetings are on the second Monday of each

Lifelong Westfield is an initiative of the month. Co-Chairs are Brad Chananie and Deirdre Gelinne. David Contract is the Town Council liaison, Lauren Conrad is the Recreation Department liaison, and Jennifer Schulze is the Westfield Memorial Library liaison. Other members include Monica Bergin, Harvey Paul Davidson, Kathy Dulan, Kirti Malik, Michele Martin, Dawn Nichol-Manning, Emily Root, Bob Roth, Gerri Rothfleisch, Jennifer Schulze, Valentina Som, Pearl Weiner and Audrey Zavetz. The Westfield High School representative is Ava Contract.



(above, l-r) Lifelong Westfield Senior Advisory Council for 2024: David Contract, Monica Bergin, Michele Martin, Brad Chananie, Pearl Weiner, Harvey Paul Davidson, Kathy Dulan, Deirdre Gelinne, Jennifer Schulze, Dawn Nichol-Manning, Gerri Rothfleisch, Emily Root, Bob Roth, Valentina Som. Not pictured: Lauren Conrad, Ava Contract, Kirti Malik, and Audrey Zavetz. Courtesy photo

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# THREE STUDENTS RECEIVE LIFT WHILE YOU CLIMB AWARD

Westfield Public Schools

Three Westfield High School students have been recognized with the Lift While You Climb Award, in honor of the late WHS principal Dr. Derrick Nelson.

Nelson, who died in 2019 from complications suffered while donating bone marrow to a boy he didn't know in France, once said: "We have an obligation to our fellow human beings that if we are in a position to help someone, you do it. You lift as you climb. If you can do that, you have contributed more to society than anything your bank account can produce and, ultimately, contribute more to your own well-being."

Nominated by WHS faculty and staff for Fall

Climb Award are 12th graders Nina Chermak and Diana Houbanova, and 10th grader Mia Saco.

Letters of nomination describe Chermak as someone who "demonstrates an extremely strong character and a sense of responsibility to her schoolwork and community"; and Houbanova as having "a strong inner compass, compassion for

2023, the three recipients of the Lift While You others, and integrity in the face of social pressure." Another nominator noted that Saco is "a true upstander who is always polite and helpful and who steps up to the plate in time of need" whether or not she knows the person."

> The award is sponsored by the WHS Counseling Department twice during the academic year, in the fall and the spring.



(above, l-r) Pictured with Westfield High School Principal Mary Asfendis are Mia Saco, Diana Houbanova, and Nina Chermak, the recipients of the "Lift As You Climb" Award, in honor of the late WHS principal Dr. Derrick Nelson.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools



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# FEBRUARY 2023 | MARKET REPORT

# WESTFIELD



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640 Saint Marks Ave	5	4.1	3	\$1,649,000	\$1,700,000	69
15 Azalea Tri	4	2.2	2	\$1,399,900	\$1,450,000	6
758 Westfield Ave	4	2.2	1	\$1,195,000	\$1,260,000	7
405 Harrison Ave	5	2.2	1	\$1,045,000	\$999,000	21

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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.



# **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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# CMC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FEB. 1ST

Submitted by Barry H. Jaruzelski

The College Men's Club of Westfield (CMC) held its annual holiday reception at Echo Lake Country Club on December 20th, to honor its current four-year scholarship recipients. Also in attendance were the scholar's families, members of the CMC, and the CMC Board of Trustees.

During this final event of the CMC's 101st year, all the scholarship winners from WHS classes of 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 were introduced by Ryan Clark, CMC Scholarship Committee Chair and presented with their Spring Semester scholarship checks. Each of the students in attendance shared updates on their academic and career progress with the group. Dave Germond, CMC President, stated that "the holiday reception is the capstone of each year for the CMC as we get to learn about our twelve CMC Scholars' latest achievements."

The College Men's Club of Westfield was established in 1922 and over the past century has helped hundreds of Westfield young men by providing college tuition assistance and funding standardized test preparatory courses. Since its founding, the CMC has raised and distributed over \$1.3 million in higher education assistance to young men of the Westfield community to attend over 130 institutions of higher learning. In 2023 the CMC awarded a total of \$74,500 in four-year scholarships and one-time grants.

Scholarship applications will be available on the CMC's website as of February 1st and are due by May 1st of each year. Applications are evaluated by a committee of CMC Trustees each

Spring. Funds for scholarships are generated through fundraising events, donations, membership dues, endowment investment income, and legacy bequests. The CMC's next major event is its 21st annual "Friday Night at the Fights" fundraiser at 6:30 pm on February 2nd

and will be held at the Kenilworth Veteran's Center.

For additional information on scholarships or membership, please visit cmcwestfield.org. The web link for the CMC scholarship application portal is cmcwestfield.org/apply



(above, l-r) CMC Scholarship Committee Chair Ryan Clark, Andrew Principato, Antonio Carrero, Gabriel Dayon, Juan Diego Lara, Matt Meixner, CMC President David Germond, Sean Marner, and Brigham Luna Santamaria. Courtesy photo



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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.

# THE MUSICAL COMEDY 1940 THE MUSICAL COMEDY 1940 THE MUSICAL COMEDY 1940 THE MUSICAL COMEDY 1940 The Macad Connect Outer of 1941 is presented by a presented by 1940 The Macad Connect Outer of 1941 is presented by a presented by 1940 Fri./Sat. Feb 9-24 at 8pm cdctheatre.org 908-276-7611 78 Winans Ave Cranford, NJ Made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Aersey State Council on the Arts.

# WHS BAND AND CHORUS PERFORMANCES

Twenty-one Westfield High School student musicians were selected to perform with regional choral and band ensembles in January and February - sixteen with the Region II Chorus and five with the Region II Band.

The following choir students were accepted into the 2024 Central Jersey Music Educators Association (CJMEA) Region II Chorus:.

Giada Cammarano, Valentina Ciucci, Cara Cogan (Scored 5th in the Region for Soprano 1), Hana Forbes, Natalie Gonzalez, Alexandra Haar, Rachel Klemm, Kyra Lentzner, Olivia Marino (Scored 3rd in the Region for Soprano 1), Luella Mockbee, Mia Nuzzo, Kiran Patel (Scored 4th in the Region for Bass 1), Nadia Rego, Mia Saco, Lea Turetsky, and Ethan Young,

The following five student musicians will perform with the 2024 CJMEA Region II Band:

Aidan Crane - French Horn, Wind Ensemble and Orchestra, Brianna Crispino - French Horn, Symphonic Band, Nolan Daly - Trumpet, Symphonic Band, Charlie Hu - Oboe, Wind Ensemble and Orchestra, and Sarah Lincoln -Contrabass Clarinet, Symphonic Band

"I am not just proud of our incredible music students at Westfield High School, I'm also grateful," says K-12 Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts Shawna Longo. "Grateful for their talent, their dedication and commitment, and their passion for music. They are not only making great music; they're making memories and building a community that resonates far beyond the stage."



(above, l-r) Charlie Hu, Sarah Lincoln, Nolan Daly, Aidan Crane, and Brianna Crispino performed with the 2024 CJMEA Region II Band.

Photo by Westfield High School Band





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# **COLLEGE WOMAN'S CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS**

The College Woman's Club of Westfield annually awards up to \$10,000 in individual scholarships to young women from Westfield on the basis of academics, leadership and financial need. Any young woman from Westfield who is pursuing higher education at an accredited 4-year institution is eligible. Westfield students attending private, parochial or county schools are also invited to apply.

The 2024 scholarship application is currently available at cwclubwestfield.org and through the Westfield High School guidance department. To be considered, applications and all supporting materials must be received in the WHS Guidance Department by Monday, March 18.

In the words of one recent recipient: "Thank you so very much, on behalf of myself and my mother, as you are helping us both. I am truly honored to be recognized by women I admire and strive to be like - strong, smart, caring and working to make a difference in this community and beyond."

Founded in 1917, the College Woman's Club is a multigenerational community organization dedicated to lifelong learning and supporting higher education for women. Membership is open to all area women with a college degree and a desire to help future generations attain that goal. For additional information on scholarship or membership, please visit cwclubwestfield.org or contact cwc.westfield@gmail.com.



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# **REGISTER FOR FAMILY COURSE ON COPING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS**

Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Union County) is offering its free annual 9-week course targeted towards families coping with mental illness. The course will start on Thursday, March 7, 2024 and meet weekly from 7:00pm – 9:30pm over a consecutive 9-week period. All necessary materials are furnished at no cost. This course is offered specifically to the parents, siblings, spouses, teenage and adult children, and significant others of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. The program is not appropriate for individuals who, themselves, suffer from one of the major mental disorders.

The course is taught by NAMI members who

The Union County Chapter of The National have completed intensive training. Curriculum topics include schizophrenia, bipolar disorders (manic depression), clinical depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, etc., the clinical treatment of these illnesses and how caregivers can learn to copy more effectively. Attendees will learn about new research, medications, skills needed to successfully communicate with a relative, and how to deal with critical periods. Capacity is limited.

> To register, or if you have questions, please contact Pat Roman at (732) 397-8123 or email at patroman2@aol.com. Please include "F2F Course" in the subject line. A F2F teacher will contact you with the details.



# 45th Anniversary New Jersey Youth Symphony

Wharton ART

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# Open Rehearsals Week

# February 26 - March 3, 2024

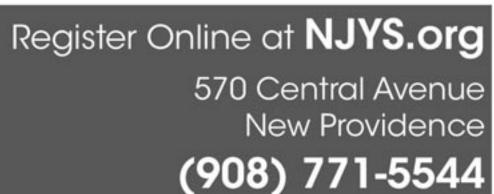
Join us for a behind-the-scenes look at any of our 15 ensembles. Meet the passionate NJYS conductors and immerse yourself in a live rehearsal. Young musicians in **Grades 2-11** are warmly welcomed! Discover the joy of making music at NJYS.















(above) Presbyterian Church

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# **BUILD WESTFIELD LEGO EVENT**

Families enjoyed recreating many of the Preservation Commission and Recreation town's best-loved buildings in Lego at the second annual "Build Westfield" event held on Saturday, January 20, 2024, in the Westfield High School cafeteria. Jointly sponsored by the Historic

(above) Overview on Map



Department, the program is designed to

encourage an appreciation of Westfield's 300-

year architectural heritage in a fun and interactive

(above) Firehouse



(above) Temple Emanu



(above) Train Station

Courtesy photos

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# **SNOW GLOBE FUN**

and families enjoyed "snow globes" created by art teacher Rebecca Davenport. Posing for pictures in the life-sized backdrops provided a fun activity for buddy classes in different grades

Franklin Elementary School students, staff, and families attending winter musical concerts. Some teachers created a writing prompt -"Trapped in a Snow Globe" - to go along with the snow globe photo op.

Photos by Westfield Public Schools



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# FRIENDS OF BRIGHTWOOD PARK **TO KICK OFF SPRING NATURE CLASSES**

Saturday, March 2nd, is a day synonymous with the joy of reading nationwide!

Why not celebrate Read Across America Day in one of our beautiful town parks this year with a storywalk hosted by Friends of Brightwood Park (FOBP). This marks the third annual Read Across America annual event at Brightwood, with four sessions led by certified teacher volunteers and members of the education committee of FOBP. Each page of the Dr. Seuss book, The Lorax, will be displayed along the Brightwood Park trail for a guided story time and related craft activity. It's literacy nature and movement all in one!

The story walk is just the beginning of monthly nature classes held in the park this year. The next class takes place on March 21 to explore signs of Spring in Brightwood.

For more information on the story walk family event and future classes in the park, please visit the Westfield Recreation Department website: secure.rec1.com/NJ/westfield-nj/catalog

# FRIENDS OF THE WESTFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Library invite you to find some fun in our February calendar. Along with the Youth Services Department, we are hosting Saturday morning Children's programs. On February 3 Rockness Music at 10:00 a.m., on February 10 Zoophoria Storytime with Animals at 10:00 a.m., and on February 17 Bubbly Beats with Miss Julie at 10:30 a.m. will energize and entertain children. Please pick up tickets for the free programs at the Children's Desk at the library the day of the program.

Space is limited, so arrive early to get your programs visit us FWMLNJ.ORG.

The Friends of the Westfield Memorial tickets. For those that like to knit and crochet, or want to learn, the Sharing the Warmth Club meets at 1:00 p.m. on February 6 and 20. During the end of February the Winter Jigsaw Puzzle Sale returns. Puzzle donations will be accepted on February 22-25. The sale will run February 28-29. This is a great time to refresh your puzzles for all ages.

> Do you have ideas for Friends programs and events? We'd love to hear from you at info@fwmlnj.org. To stay on top of all Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library events and

# **KINDERGARTEN & GRADE 1 REGISTRATION**

Online registration for kindergarten and first grade is open for the 2024-2025 school year in Westfield Public School District. Kindergarten registration is for all children who are residents of Westfield reaching the age of 5 on or before October 1, 2024. First grade registration is for all children who are residents of Westfield reaching the age of 6 on or before October 1, 2024 and have not yet attended the Westfield Public Schools.

Detailed instructions and forms are available "Student Registration" under westfieldnjk12.org. A list of school contacts is available on the Student Registration website for anyone with questions about the registration process.



(above) Online registration for kindergarten and first grade is open for the 2024-2025 school year in the Westfield Public School District.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools



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The groups will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday in March and April & 1st Thursday in May: 3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25 & 5/9 6:00-7:00 p.m.

233 Prospect Street, Westfield, NJ • The groups will run concurrently • Total cost \$50 per family

Facilitators are licensed and experienced professionals. Parents and children (6-16) participate in their own group at the same time!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE at yfcsnj.org or call YFCS (Youth & Family Counseling Service) office (908)233-2042.







# ROBERT DESIATO PROMOTED TO SERGEANT



Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro has recently announced the promotion of Detective Robert Desiato to the rank of Sergeant of Police, effective January 1, 2024.

Sergeant Robert Desiato, age 33, was appointed to the Westfield

Police Department as a Patrol Officer on July 17, 2014. He was assigned to the Detective Bureau as a Plainclothes Officer on January 9, 2020, and awarded the prestigious designation of Detective of Police on May 1, 2021.

Sergeant Desiato previously served as a Parking Enforcement Officer for the Westfield Police Department. He presently serves as the agency's designated Humane Law Enforcement Officer, as well as a member of the Union County Fire Investigation Task Force. Sergeant Desiato is the recipient of two (2) Westfield Police Department Command Citations, two (2) Unit Citations, the COVID-19 Exceptional Service Award, and a Certificate of Merit

"These newly promoted Sergeants were subject to a comprehensive evaluative process and determined to be among the best qualified and most deserving," stated Chief Battiloro. "I am extremely proud of their exceptional past performance and certain they will make outstanding supervisors," he added.

Follow Town of Westfield, NJ Police on Facebook

# **COMPLIMENTARY RETAIL CONSULTING**

The Westfield Retail Advisory Board is accepting new clients for the 2024 year.

The Westfield Retail Advisory Board supports Westfield's retail businesses by offering complimentary consulting services to retail establishments. They provide guidance to help retail businesses grow and prosper.

Members of the Retail Advisory Board are supported by the Town Council and the Mayor's Office. All members are Westfield residents with an extensive background in retail and business

management. Members are screened and sign a confidentiality agreement with the town.

New clients have the opportunity to meet the members over Zoom and discuss their business challenges prior to committing to services. To date, The Westfield Retail Advisory Board has had the pleasure of working with numerous Westfield businesses since it began in 2019.

Reach out to RAB. WestfieldNJ@gmail.com to see how this complimentary service can benefit your business.

# **CLUBS JOINT HOLIDAY FOOD GIFT CARD PROGRAM**

Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart

Members of the Rotary Club of Westfield and the Optimist Club demonstrated their commitment to community service by providing holiday food to Westfield area families and local food pantries. Due to current health and safety concerns and food restrictions, ShopRite food gift cards were distributed to families and food pantries instead of food baskets.

The Holiday Food distribution program has been an annual community service project for the Optimist Club of Westfield for the past 33 years. This project is made possible through the generosity and funding from the Optimist Club and the Rotary Club Foundation, and contributions from members and friends that sponsor food gift cards.

One hundred \$50 food gift cards were delivered to local families, the Westfield Food Pantry, Mobile Meals, Presbyterian Church Agape Food Program, Union County College Student Assistance Food Pantry, Elizabeth

Coalition and Saint Joseph's Social Service Center Food Pantry.

Thank you to members of the Rotary Club of Westfield and the Optimist Club and who attended a holiday breakfast and delivered the gift cards and special thanks to Ray Kostyack for helping with the project and securing the ShopRite cards. The President of the Rotary Club is Barbara Frantz, Esq, and the President of the Optimists Club is Darielle Walsh.

The involvement of volunteers and two local organizations ensures the success of this annual program, which reflects our mission of helping those in need and assisting members of our community.

The Rotary Club of Westfield meets the first three Tuesdays of each month for lunch at noon, at Limani Seafood Grill on North Ave. Guests are always welcome. For information check out the website westfieldrotary.com or contact club secretary Dr. D. Michael Hart by email at drmhart@yahoo.com.





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# **GARDEN CLUB OF WESTFIELD HAPPENINGS**



Club members visited Orchid Show at Rutgers University in January. The orchids were gorgeous!

The Garden Club of Westfield celebrated the New Year with a "Soup's On" lunch and program about Campbell Soup and the types of tomatoes, advertising and art that contributed to making Campbell's Tomato Soup an American icon.

For Club information visit Garden Club of Westfield on Facebook.

(right, l-r) Jane Manniello, President Margaret Allen and Kathy Grunder.









# SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL OBSERVED BY DAR

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.

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 Strohmeyer, 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.



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

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# **ROTARY ENCOURAGES HIGHER EDUCATION**

Dr. D. Michael Heart

For the past 3 years, the Westfield Rotary Club Foundation has been supporting a 501c3 named More than Bootstraps (MTB) with grant support. Long-time Westfield resident and MTB Founder Dr. Audrey Fisch spoke to the Rotary Club at their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

Fisch cited some shocking statistics: that only 9% of low-income students earn their college degree by age 24. In the community that MTB serves, Passaic, a low-income, majority Hispanic community, only 45% of Passaic Public School graduates pursue college or a vocational program and only 21% of those students return for a second year of higher education.

The educators who founded More Than Bootstraps, like Fisch, know the potential of these first-generation college students and the



(above, l-r) More Than Bootstraps Founder Audrey Fisch, Rotary Club President Barbara Frantz, Esq. Courtesy photo

challenges they face trying to pull themselves up by their bootstraps in the challenging universe of American higher education.

The program has been a success and is growing. MTB is currently looking to expand the program to other New Jersey communities.

The program matches local college students with high school students as mentors. This is called a "near peer" system. If students see that their peers, from the same town and ethnic background, can succeed, that is strongly encouraging. The curriculum has 3 parts: first, to help the students through the maze of college applications and financial aid, grant and loan programs for college; second, to grow their ambitions and professional skills by, for example, meeting first generation college graduates from the same town and learning about their journeys and careers; third, to communicate with the families about what to expect, and how to encourage and support their children.

The mentors and the students in the program receive small stipends. The high school students receive a refurbished laptop computer in their junior year. There are 2 students to each mentor, and they meet at least weekly. The program started with 11 students 4 years ago, and is now up to 43. They hope to continue to grow the program. To learn more visit morethanbootstraps.org.

The Rotary Club of Westfield meets the first three Tuesdays of each month for lunch at noon, at Limani Seafood Grill on North Ave. Guests are always welcome. For information check out the website westfieldrotary.com or contact club secretary Dr. D. Michael Hart by email at drmhart@yahoo.com.



# **MILLER-CORY HOUSE MUSEUM EVENTS**

### Vintage Valentines plus Story Time and Craft Sunday, February 11, 2024, 2 - 4 pm:

Love is in the air as the Miller-Cory House Museum presents "Vintage Valentines" on February 11, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The writing of romantic notes and letters for St. Valentine's Day was very popular in colonial America. By the mid-1800s, the first mass-produced Valentine's Day cards were sold, and an industry was born. The program features a display of vintage valentines, some dating to the 1800s, a children's Valentine's Day craft and story time. Our well-curated museum shop will also be open. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and children 13 and older, \$3.00 for children ages 3 to 12 and free under age 3.

# Keeping Warm on a 18th Century NJ Farm Feb. 25th, 2-4pm:

Keeping warm in the 1700s was a big challenge! Come learn all about it at the Miller-Cory House as we do our best to keep warm 18th century-style. The program will include a

presentation of strategies for keeping warm on the farm. There will be a craft and story time for the children as well. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and children 13 and older, \$4.00 for children ages 3 to 12 and free under age 3. No reservations necessary.

The Miller Cory House Museum is located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, NJ. Call the museum at 908-232-1776 or email millercorymuseum@gmail.com for more information.

Since 1968, the 501(c)(3) non-profit Miller Cory House Museum/Westfield Historical Society has worked to preserve, interpret and encourage interest in history, Westfield, and its residents through educational efforts and community outreach programs.

For more information on the Miller Cory House Museum/Westfield Historical Society and their events, millercoryhouse.com or westfieldhistoricalsociety.org and, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram.



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# OPTIMIST CLUB HOLIDAY FOOD DELIVERY PROJECT

Submitted by Danielle Walsh

Members of the Westfield Optimist Club and Rotary Club demonstrated their commitment to community service by providing holiday food to Westfield area families and local food pantries on December 16, 2023. Due to current health and safety concerns and food restrictions, ShopRite food gift cards were distributed to families and food pantries instead of food baskets.

The Holiday Food distribution program has been an annual community service project for the Optimist Club of Westfield for the past 33 years. This project is made possible through the generosity and funding from the Optimist Club and the Rotary Club of Westfield and contributions from members, friends and local

organizations that sponsor food gift cards.

One hundred \$50 food gift cards were delivered to local families, the Westfield Food Pantry, Mobile Meals, Presbyterian Church Agape Food Program, Union County College Student Assistance Food Pantry and Saint Joseph's Social Service Center Food Pantry.

The involvement of volunteers and local organizations ensures the success of this annual program, which reflects the mission of helping those in need and assisting members of our community. Thank you to members of the Westfield Optimist Club and Rotary Club who attended a holiday breakfast and delivered the gift cards.

For more information about the Optimist Club go to westfieldnj.com/optimist.

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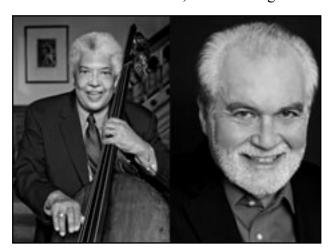
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# **TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR 2024 WHARTON ARTS GALA ON MARCH 7**

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

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 Emmynominated 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.

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