

# New Providence NEWS

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## HAPPY 200-YEAR-OLD DOUBLE BIRTHDAY!

*Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart*

On Sunday, February 18, 2024, Marilyn Hart (98) and brother-in-law Joe Schott (102) celebrated their joint birthdays, totaling 200 years. Marilyn had married David Hart who had the same birthday as his sister Nancy Hart, who married Joe. The two couples only had two birthdays between the four of them, so they always celebrated together. David and Nancy have since passed away.

Forty-eight friends and family held a joint birthday celebration on Sunday, Feb 18, 2024 at Lantern Hill Retirement Community in New Providence, NJ.

Dr. Marilyn McGuire Hart was valedictorian of her high school class of 1944. After high school Marilyn worked for the phone company "Ma Bell" as a service representative. She eventually married David who was a teacher in Westfield, and they settled in Mountainside. After having 3 children, Marilyn started her college education. She finished her Ph.D. in Education 20 years later. Imagine 20 years of night school! During those two decades, Marilyn was working, raising children, going to night school and volunteering in the community. She became a Full Professor, teaching Educational Psychology at Kean University, and was made Professor Emeritus upon her retirement. Her volunteer activities included serving as the Chair of the March of Dimes, Cub Scout Den Mother, Girls Softball League, Girl Scouts, and Mountainside Music Association. She was elected to the Regional High School Board of Education and served for 6 years, then subsequently ran for Mountainside Town Council and served for an additional six years. She was the first woman elected to the Council in 150

years, and eventually became the Council President. She advocated for women's rights including "equal pay for equal work" in the Township. Marilyn was married to David for 65 years. In addition to her 3 children, she has 7 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Joe Schott was stationed overseas (Londonderry) in World War II, attended the same church for over 60 years, raised five children and was married to his wife Nancy for 66 years. He is very optimistic, has a good sense of humor, and is always looking at the bright side of life.

Joe served in the Navy during WWII, outfitting ships with radar in preparation for the D-Day Normandy Invasions. Joe is active in the VFW and served as Grand Marshall of the 2019 Fanwood Memorial Day Parade. His career after the Navy was in research at Bell Labs in Berkeley Heights, NJ, where he worked for time with a Nobel Prize laureate and met three others. During his lifetime Joe has done a lot of volunteer work, including 12 years of weekly visits with young boys at Children's Specialized Hospital, the Fanwood Recycling Center, several historical restorations in Fanwood, and as an Assistant Scoutmaster for the Fanwood Boy Scout Troop. One day, driving down the shore, Joe saw a young boy drowning. He stopped the car, swam out and saved the boy's life, and received accolades from the Township of Red Bank. After departing the Labs in 1984, Joe joined a group of retired men, which volunteers to help maintain the Boy Scout camps. The Boy Scouts of America have given him many awards including Trailblazer, Silver Beaver, and Camping Hall of Fame.



*(above) Forty-eight friends and family held a joint birthday celebration for Marilyn Hart (98) and brother-in-law Joe Schott (102), on Sunday, Feb 18, 2024 at Lantern Hill Retirement Community in New Providence, NJ.*



*(above) Marilyn Hart (98) and brother-in-law Joe Schott (102) celebrated their joint birthdays, totaling 200 years.*

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# OLD GUARD APRIL SPEAKERS PROGRAM

## Summit Area Old Guard

The Summit Area Old Guard is a social, educational, and recreational organization that serves men of retirement age. We meet most Tuesdays at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave. Our dues are minimal, and members manage all aspects of the operation. Our motto is "Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends." The organization was founded in 1930.

### WE WILL HAVE FIVE PROGRAMS IN APRIL:

Our speaker on **April 2nd** will be **Laura Ekstrand**, founder, and artistic director of the Vivid Stage Company. Vivid Stage Company (formerly called Dreamcatchers) is a professional ensemble of actors. Ms. Ekstrand will discuss the Company and describe how it operates. The program will include background of the artists, discuss how various plays are chosen and the processes employed to create a production. The Company is located at the Oakes Center, 120 Morris Ave., Summit, NJ.

On **April 9th** we will offer something a little different, a presentation and concert by the musical troupe, **The Larks**, under the direction of Joanne Taubner Prussak, music director (who also plays accompanying piano). The Larks have been entertaining in and around the Summit area for about fifty years. We will learn how they organize and prepare for their shows, perhaps a little feedback on the Old Guard singing endeavors, and a few words about their parent organization, the Summit Junior League.

On **April 16th** we will be discussing saving and restoring old furniture. Our speaker will be **Bob McAnally**, Furniture Workshop Manager of the S.A.G.E. Restoration Workshop. SAGE Eldercare, an all-round senior daycare center in Summit, has a volunteer group which repairs furniture for an extremely low price. We will learn what goes on behind the scenes at this iconic Summit institution.

**Donna Goggin Patel** will be our speaker on **April 23rd**. Donna serves as Chair of the Summit Environmental Commission. She will tell us about something amazing, Summit's tiny forest. It is possible to grow a full micro-forest on as little as an acre in a few decades. Summit has such a forest. It was planted behind the Community Center several years ago and is thriving. We will learn about the importance of native species and how dense pocket reforestation can help mitigate climate. Donna can also discuss the latest sustainability efforts in Summit and other planned and ongoing environmental efforts.

Finally, on **April 30th** our own **David Dietze**, Managing Principal, Senior Portfolio Strategist at Peapack Private Wealth Management, will present. David will discuss current trends and thinking regarding inflation, economic growth, political initiatives, the federal reserve, etc., and how all these factors combine to influence the stock market. He will talk about valuation and where there is both risk and reward in equities.

## New Providence NEWS

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## A JOURNEY DOWN LEARNING LANE

Parents seeking exceptional early childhood education and afterschool care are in luck: the Berkeley Heights YMCA Learning Lane and its counterpart, Beyond the Bell, are accepting registrations for the 2024-2025 school year!

The Berkeley Heights YMCA Learning Lane, which welcomes children in preschool through Kindergarten, has undergone a number of transformations over the past few years. The nationally renowned Creative Curriculum, emphasizing the importance of hands-on learning and discovery, is now embedded into the program itself. Each day, students engage in a variety of enriching STEAM and language arts activities that set them up for academic success. To take this even further, but the learning doesn't stop there.

“As part of the larger Summit Area YMCA, we're focused on each child's overall well-being,” said Associate Executive Director Kelly McHugh. “That includes teaching our students the importance of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility, helping them learn skills that build their confidence and independence, and ensuring that they flourish socially and emotionally.”

Parents will find a host of other benefits that make the Berkeley Heights YMCA Learning Lane a special place. The teachers and caregivers introduce kids to healthy fun through weekly trips to the gymnasium, swim time at the Summit YMCA indoor pools, and nutritious daily snacks. These added features start their students on a path to a lifetime of healthy living.

“In addition to teaching our children about

health and wellness, we want them to learn about their relationship to the community at large,” said Diana Burneo Fernandez, the center's director. “Each month, we take the children on field trips around our local area. From farms to the police department, fire station and library, our students see firsthand that we are all part of one larger world and why it's so important that we help one another.”

These foundational lessons in health, wellness, and social responsibility can also be found in the Berkeley Heights YMCA afterschool program for school-age children, Beyond the Bell.

For more information, please visit [www.thesay.org/learning-lane](http://www.thesay.org/learning-lane) or contact Diana Burneo Fernandez at [diana.burneo-fernandez@thesay.org](mailto:diana.burneo-fernandez@thesay.org) or 908-464-8373 Ext. 2042.

### ABOUT THE SUMMIT AREA YMCA

In 1886, we were founded as the Young Men's Christian Association, but today, we are The Y. An association that values and is made stronger by its diverse people. We stand for youth

development, healthy living, and social responsibility — For a better us. We are committed to creating equal opportunity for all regardless of gender, age, disability, income, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation. We strive to create a welcoming and inclusive culture in which our four core values — responsibility, honesty, caring, and respect — are integral to everyday operations.

Each year, as one of the area's leading 501(c)(3) charitable organizations, the Summit Area YMCA serves more than 17,000 individuals with our free and fee-based programs and services in an area spanning the New Jersey communities of Berkeley Heights, Gillette, Millburn, New Providence, Short Hills, Springfield, Stirling, and Summit. Our history is rooted in working side-by-side with our neighbors to ensure everyone can learn, grow, and thrive. Through the generosity of our members, donors, and partners, we are able to offer financial assistance for our programs and services to those in need.

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[THE SAY.ORG/BHCP](http://THE SAY.ORG/BHCP)

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The Summit Area YMCA is one of area's leading 501(c)(3) organizations. Through the generosity of our members, donors, and partners, we are able to offer financial assistance for our programs and services to those with demonstrated need.

# Attention Parents of Kids Ages 6-18

## SUMMER ATHLETE PERFORMANCE CAMP IN BERKELEY HEIGHTS

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- **They will get stronger** which means when they show up to their sport they'll be able to perform better than ever.
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- They'll become **more coordinated and improve agility** which means they'll pick up new skills their coaches teach them faster.
- **Your children will start to eat better** because we'll be educating them daily on what's good and what they should avoid ...don't be surprised if they start asking you to buy more vegetables.
- **Confidence will skyrocket.** When kids get stronger, faster and more fit...their confidence will rise...so will their self-esteem which means their performance in every aspect of life will get better.
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*- Robert, GRIT Athlete Parent*
- “My son is more disciplined and confident in himself”  
*- Steve Hughes, Grit Athlete Parent*
- “I have watched my children become more confident and vocal.”  
*- Christine Stramandinoli, Grit Athlete Parent*
- “His confidence has shot up in the last few months...and has carried forward to the way he approaches other activities like sports and schoolwork. My son is now making his bed daily and exercising every day.”  
*- Catherine Solfaro, Grit Athlete Parent*
- “We saw a noticeable difference in his throwing - he could throw it further and faster! The training definitely paid off!”  
*- Dara, GRIT Athlete Parent*

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Spring Grove Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center in New Providence has been named among the nation's 2024 Best Nursing Homes by U.S. News & World Report, marking the fourth consecutive year it has been recognized for at least one program. The 106-bed skilled nursing facility, located at 144 Gales Drive, provides post-hospital care, short-term rehab and long-term residential care.

"Spring Grove's year-after-year recognition as one of the nation's top centers speaks to the tireless efforts of its team in providing exceptional skilled nursing care each and every day," said Kani Burgos, regional director of market development at Marquis Health Consulting Services, which supports Spring Grove. "For well over a decade, U.S. News' annual Best Nursing Homes rating has served as a credible resource for consumers, their families and caregivers. We congratulate Spring Grove on this notable achievement and are proud to support their team."

Spring Grove received its U.S. News high performance rating for long-term care. For its 2024 list, U.S. News, a global authority in health care rankings and consumer advice, evaluated more than 15,000 nursing homes. Ratings were determined by nurse staffing, patient and resident outcomes, and safety measures, among other indicators of quality.

Spring Grove's reputation for quality care and

services is well established. The facility maintains a five-star rating for quality measures from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). More information on Spring Grove can be found at [springgroverehab.com](http://springgroverehab.com).

Brick, N.J.-based Marquis Health Consulting Services provides administrative and consulting services to skilled nursing facilities and senior housing communities along the Eastern Seaboard. The organization's operational guidance enables its client facilities to overachieve their quality and customer service goals by embracing a progressive, multi-specialty approach to healthcare.



*(above) Spring Grove Named Among Nation's Best Nursing Homes for Fourth Consecutive Year. The 106-Bed Center in New Providence, N.J., earned a 2024 High Performance Rating for Long-Term Care.*

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# BOOK LOVERS, SAVE THE DATES FOR SUMMIT COLLEGE CLUB

The Summit College Club will hold its annual Book Sale from April 17th through April 21st at the American Legion Post 433 at 357 Elkwood Avenue in New Providence (next door to the library).

“We’ve held the Book Sale for over fifty years,” said Summit College Club President Lynne Rogerson. “It is one of the most significant book sales in the area and our most important annual fundraising event. Our sale offers readers a wide variety of books at low prices. All the profits we derive are used to fund college scholarships for deserving local high school students. What could be better?”

### BOOK & MEDIA DONATIONS

People wishing to donate books and other media to the sale are asked to bring them to American Legion Post 433 at 357 Elkwood Avenue in New Providence for the following four days only:

Friday, April 12th, 1 pm to 7 pm; Saturday,

April 13th, 9 am to 7 pm; Sunday, April 14th, 9 am to 7 pm; and Monday, April 15th, 9 am to 7 pm

The sale accepts books, including most types of fiction and non-fiction, and other media, including CDs, DVDs, and LPs, all in good condition. However, it does NOT accept encyclopedias, magazines, manuals, textbooks, VHS tapes, or any damaged books or media.

Before the sale, volunteers sort and arrange the donated books into many categories, from astronomy to zoology. The most popular types of books received are fiction, children’s, cookbooks, history books, and biographies. But there are also many others, including art, science, travel, and rare books.

“We are always surprised,” said Rogerson, “at the number and variety of books we receive. Our area is rich in readers.”

### BOOK SALE

The first day of the sale is Preview Day, on April 17th, from 9 am to 2 pm, with a \$25 admission charge. Preview Day customers are traditionally regional book dealers, but everyone is welcome.

The Book Sale continues with free admission from April 18th through April 21st. Sale hours on those days are: Thursday, April 18th, 9 am to 8 pm; Friday, April 19th, 9 am to 8 pm; Saturday, April 20th, 9 am to 7 pm; and Sunday, April 21st, 10 am to 4 pm (Bag Day)

During the sale, nearly all books and media will sell for 50 cents, one or two dollars. On Sunday, the final sale day, readers may fill a bag with books or media for \$5 or \$10.

The Summit College Club Book Sale profits fund scholarships for local college-bound high school seniors. Last year, the club granted \$27,000 in scholarships to students from Summit High School, New Providence High School, Governor Livingston High School, Chatham High School, Millburn High School, and Kent Place School.

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Summit College Club members would be grateful for the help of volunteers from the community to take in and sort the books before the sale, help customers and straighten the various book areas during the sale, and clean up after the sale. Anyone interested in volunteering can fill out the Volunteer With Us form on the Summit College Club website at [summitcollegeclub.org/Events/BookSale](http://summitcollegeclub.org/Events/BookSale).

Any questions about book donations, the sale, volunteering, or the Summit College Club, please email [summitcollegeclub@gmail.com](mailto:summitcollegeclub@gmail.com).

Summit College Club, a branch of the American Association of University Women, is dedicated to advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy. Learn more about Summit College Club and our scholarships at [summitcollegeclub.org](http://summitcollegeclub.org).

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The New Providence Senior Citizens Club holds weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. with special presentations, performances, or "special" bingo. For program details and a full calendar please visit [.newprov.us/278/Seniors](http://newprov.us/278/Seniors).

**"Remember the Ladies: Women in the time of the American Revolution", presentation by Joel Farkas**  
 Thursday, April 18 at 11:00am

## SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

**Legends of Liberty Hall**  
 Wednesday, April 3 at 11:00am  
 Liberty Hall Museum program  
 "Legends of Liberty Hall"  
**Public Benefits for Older Americans presented by AARP**  
 Wednesday, April 10 at 11:00am  
**New Providence Middle School Band Small Ensembles Performance**  
 Wednesday, April 17 at 11:00am

**"Pizza Bingo"**  
 Friday, April 19 at 11:00am

**Special Bingo**  
 Wednesday, April 24 at 11:00am

**Tax return assistance**  
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(above) New Providence Senior Citizens recently enjoyed arranging bouquets at a flower bar provided by Unicity Senior Advisors.

Courtesy photo

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Five-year-old Jennifer is diagnosed with autism and almost completely nonverbal. Due to excessive violence in the family home, a concerned neighbor called for help and, after investigation, Jennifer was placed in foster care. The two phrases Jennifer can say graphically depict violence witnessed at home and confirm trauma she's endured. Since entering care and being enrolled in school, it's evident Jennifer has



(above) There are currently hundreds of Union County children in need of a CASA volunteer! Plans are underway for an advocate training class. To learn more, attend an information session either Monday, April 22, at 5:30 p.m. at the Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Avenue in Clark, or Tuesday, April 30, at 10 am at the CASA office, 1143 East Jersey Street, Second Floor in Elizabeth. Register now at [casapassaicunion.org/info-session](http://casapassaicunion.org/info-session).

also experienced educational neglect. At age three, she was entitled to an Individualized Education Plan from the Department of Education to provide such intervention services as in-home speech and behavioral therapies, both helpful for future enrollment in a half-day educational program. Unfortunately, Jennifer's parents neglected to utilize these services and she is now more than two years behind her peers.

Jennifer is just one of the more than 500 children removed from home in Passaic and Union counties each year due to abuse and neglect. These children are separated from all they've ever known: parents, siblings, friends, teachers, and their belongings. For Jennifer, the road ahead is long, and she needs a caring, consistent adult in her corner to protect her best interests while in foster care. That's where Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers come in.

A CASA volunteer is trained on the ins and outs of advocating for child-victims and fully supported by CASA staff for the duration of the case. No special background in child welfare is necessary; successful CASA volunteers are dedicated community members with varied life experiences who believe abuse and neglect are non-negotiable. CASA volunteers visit the children, make unbiased observations, interview others in the child's life, and make recommendations to the judge. They often are the

only consistent adult in the life of a child involved in the child welfare system, as caseworkers, professionals, and even placements can be ever-changing. A CASA volunteer provides continuity during a time of chaos and unknowns.

There are currently hundreds of Union County children in need of a CASA volunteer! Plans are underway for an advocate training class.

To learn more, attend an information session either Monday, April 22, at 5:30 p.m. at the Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Avenue in Clark, or Tuesday, April 30, at 10 am at the CASA office, 1143 East Jersey Street, Second Floor in Elizabeth. Register now at

[casapassaicunion.org/info-session](http://casapassaicunion.org/info-session).

### ABOUT CASA OF PASSAIC AND UNION COUNTIES:

The nonprofit is court-empowered to recruit, train and support volunteer advocates to speak up for the best interests of children in foster care. Assigned by a court order that grants access to the child and all those in their lives, the CASA volunteer gathers information and makes informed recommendations to the judge deciding the child's future. Often, the CASA volunteer is the only consistent person in the child's life. For more information about CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, call 973-832-4002, e-mail [info@casapassaicunion.org](mailto:info@casapassaicunion.org) or log on to [www.casapassaicunion.org](http://www.casapassaicunion.org).

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## NEW FOOD PANTRY AND CLOTHING BUILDINGS CELEBRATED

### St. Joseph Social Service Center

The St. Joseph's community, encompassing residents from Elizabeth and volunteers and supporters from five counties in New Jersey, came together on February 24, 2024, to celebrate the opening of two new buildings on its campus. The new food pantry building is already in use, and the second building will ultimately be used for clothing distribution.

The cold weather was no match for the warm spirit of compassion and caring that animated the event and has guided the agency for the past 38 years. All in attendance toured the new buildings and participated in a moving dedication ceremony that concluded with an uplifting blessing offered by Father Anthony Randazzo of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.

The two new buildings represent the first phase of an ambitious capital improvement plan to improve and expand services to families and children in need in Elizabeth and to fulfill St. Joseph's vision to serve those experiencing homelessness and poverty with dignity. The new food pantry building will allow St. Joseph's to offer a better food pantry model – an individual choice food pantry. With this model, clients will come at an appointed time and will be able to choose their food based on their personal and cultural preferences. The new clothing building will be used as temporary program space during



the next wave of renovations and ultimately will be used to offer clothing and home goods in a more dignified environment.

"Dignity has been a core value of the agency since our founding in 1986," noted Bernadette Murphy, Executive Director. "Our goal is to help people acquire the material items they need to live with dignity. We believe that it is vital for our clients to receive food, clothing, supplies and support services in an environment that fosters dignity, where individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness are truly welcomed as sisters and brothers."

Daisy Trocan, a member of the Board of Trustees, spoke at the dedication event about what these new buildings will mean to Elizabeth residents. As a child her family relied on support from the agency during difficult times. "The love and support my family received from St. Joseph's meant so much to us," Trocan reflected.

Harold "Kess" Kessler, who has overseen the

capital improvement plan from its inception several years ago, remarked that work has already begun on the second phase of the construction plan. Over the next year, the main hall on campus will be transformed into a multipurpose space with private offices for mental health counseling and case management services, new facilities for the soup kitchen program, spaces for the Adult Learning Center and health and nutrition workshops and diagnostic testing, and a reception area where residents can obtain information about agency programs and community services. Karen Maher, President of the Board of Trustees, noted that these new spaces will "allow the agency to expand services to the community, particularly in the areas of physical and behavioral health."

Six days a week a dedicated team of 6,000 volunteers from Elizabeth, Union, Westfield, Cranford, Mountainside, and dozens of other communities, make sandwiches for the hungry in their kitchens, bring food, clothing and home goods, serve meals at the soup kitchen and help with the operations of the agency. St. Joseph's serves over 3,500 individuals annually. The organization helps Elizabeth residents access food, medicine, mental health counseling, adult education, clothing and a myriad of additional healthcare and support services.

To learn more about St. Joseph's please visit [sjeliz.org](http://sjeliz.org).



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# RUN FOR THE ROSES FUNDRAISER – MAY 4TH

The Summit Lions Club will be holding their annual Derby Fundraiser on May 4th at Delicious Heights in Berkeley Heights at 5:00 p.m.

Join us for the Run for the Roses with a live stream of the race, buffet, 50/50 cash raffle, and auction items. Tickets are \$30.00 per person and should be purchased by May 1 by visiting [summitlionsclubs.org/donate](http://summitlionsclubs.org/donate). Or you may contact Lion Stephanie Sciallero at [stephanie.sciallero@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.sciallero@gmail.com).

The Summit Lions was chartered in 1926 at the Summit Beechwood Hotel and is celebrating 98 years of service to the community. In 1925 Helen Keller challenged the Lions to become "Knights of the Blind in the crusade against darkness." Since that time, Lions have been tireless advocates for the blind and visually impaired and has expanded its challenges to six pillars of service. Diabetes, Youth, Environment, Hunger, Disaster Relief and Pediatric Cancer. Visit our website at [summitlionsclub.org](http://summitlionsclub.org). Our membership is 1.4 million worldwide. Our motto is We Serve.

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# SIEMINSKI THEATER UNVEILS SPRING SEASON

Experience a vibrant selection of shows at the Sieminski Theater, located in Fellowship Village, Basking Ridge. Whether you're looking for a romantic night out or a fun-filled day with family or friends, the Sieminski Theater is the perfect destination for an unforgettable experience. Visit [sieminskitheater.org](http://sieminskitheater.org) to discover our upcoming shows and let the allure of live entertainment enchant you.

**April 7 at 2:30 pm: David Maiocco's Rhapsody In Red, White & Blue**, a dazzling tribute by the acclaimed pianist and actor, brings Liberace's legacy to life with a performance that sparkles with the maestro's signature style. Maiocco's uncanny resemblance and incredible talent capture the heart, spirit, and charisma of the man who became "Mr. Showmanship!"

**April 13 at 2:30 pm: Mentalist Joshua Kane's Borders of the Mind** is an extraordinary journey into the realm of mental marvels and telepathic wonders. This family event beckons those with a curiosity for the mystical, providing a chance to delve into the depths of intuition and unearth hidden psychic talents. Embrace the adventure and unlock the secrets of your mind and discover your inner superhero!

**May 4 at 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm: Lisa McClowry's The Beat Goes On** is a nostalgic and vibrant odyssey through Cher's discography that will leave you feeling like you've just witnessed a Goddess of Pop concert! With eight costume changes and mesmerizing video projections, the storytelling is perfectly enhanced and promises an experience like no other.

**May 12 at 2:30pm: Kimberly Faye Greenberg's Fabulous Fanny: The Songs & Stories of Fanny Brice** is a delightful tribute to the life and humor of the Broadway legend. This acclaimed show revives the spirit of "Funny Girl," Fanny Brice and is a must-see for anyone who loves the golden age of Broadway and the enduring wit of Brice.

**June 1 at 2:30 & 7:30pm: Frankie Cirell's The Magic Of Tony Bennett** is a heartfelt tribute that captures the emotional depth and elegance of Bennett's iconic songs. Accompanied by a full

orchestra, audiences will be treated to a musical journey, from the touching "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" to the soaring melody of "Fly Me to the Moon."

**June 9th at 2:30: Tea for Three: Lady Bird, Pat & Betty** is a one-woman show that intimately portrays the lives of Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon, and Betty Ford. Elaine Bromka's heartwarming play takes place in three scenes, each focusing on one of the women as they share their hopes, fears, and loves.

**June 15 at 7:30 pm Dancing Dream: An ABBA Tribute** is a nostalgic trip to the era of disco and dazzle! The timeless music beckons fans to sway to hits like "Mamma Mia," and "Dancing Queen" Embrace the 70s' flair with platform shoes and sequins and prepare for an unforgettable night of harmonious vocals, vibrant costumes, and lively dance routines.

**Tickets for these captivating performances can be purchased at [sieminskitheater.org](http://sieminskitheater.org) or (908) 580-3892.**

Enjoy an exceptional pre-show dining experience at Wilson's Tapas Bar Lounge restaurant Located steps away from the Sieminski Theater, culinary dishes prepared by Fellowship Village's award-winning executive chef feature only the freshest ingredients and highest quality. Make a reservation by calling 908-580-3818 for 5:30 pm for the show date.

### About the Sieminski Theater:

Bringing a professional performing arts venue with a diverse lineup of entertainment to Basking Ridge and the surrounding communities makes the Sieminski Theater and Somerset County an artistic and cultural destination. We enjoy a newly expanded performance schedule from the American Theater Group, Light Opera of New Jersey, New Jersey Festival Orchestra, Trilogy Repertory, and countless national touring groups. Our intimate, award-winning non-profit venue features technical amenities that rival any Broadway theater.

Visit us at [www.sieminskitheater.org](http://www.sieminskitheater.org) to view our upcoming entertainment schedule, where any seat is the best seat in the house.

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| <p>May 12</p> <p><i>Kimberly Faye Greenberg</i><br/><b>FABULOUS FANNY</b><br/><i>The Songs &amp; Stories of Fanny Brice</i></p> | <p>June 1</p> <p><i>Frankie Cirell</i><br/><b>The Magic of Tony Bennett</b><br/><i>Performing all the hits with the all-time Orchestra</i></p> | <p>June 9</p> <p><b>TEA FOR THREE</b><br/><i>Lady Bird, Pat &amp; Betty</i></p>        |
| <p>June 15</p> <p><b>DANCING DREAM</b><br/><i>An ABBA Tribute</i></p>   |  |  |
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## 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW SHOWS GROWTH FOR LIBRARY

*Stacey Maisch, Library Director*

The New Providence Memorial Library had a fantastic year in 2023, including updates, changes, and growth. The most significant changes were marked increases in library usage by the community, reflected in over 70,000 visitors to the library, over 80,000 books borrowed, and over 10,000 attendees at library programs.

Our Library expanded access for all in 2023, improving physical access with an updated layout, removing financial barriers by going FINE FREE, and expanding our community's access to materials by joining a consortium!

Our library interior has been spruced up and spaced out, increasing mobility between collections. We have more book covers on display in all areas of the building, allowing you to enjoy browsing and find more new materials. New shelf spacing has let in more light, so you can see multiple rows at once, tempting your interests and encouraging deeper learning and discovery!

Our Fine Free and Auto Renewal policies are intended to simplify borrowing library materials without the dread of overdue fines and late returns. If no one else has a hold on your book, it will be automatically renewed for an additional 28-day period, extending your loan to almost two months. We no longer penalize readers for enjoying materials a little too long. We ask for prompt returns when you are finished, and only charge a replacement fee if a book or item is lost. It is our pleasure to remove these frustrating financial barriers, and we hope it helps you to feel more connected and welcome at your library!

As members of the MAIN Library Alliance, all

New Providence Library card holders can now place holds on materials across 50 member libraries, and have them delivered to your home library right here in New Providence. Membership in MAIN is also allowing us to explore new offerings for everyone, like free online subscriptions to the Wall Street Journal, Consumer Reports and Mango Languages, as well as affordable technology updates, including brand new public computers!

We would be remiss if we didn't gratefully acknowledge the collaboration between so many fantastic New Providence groups and organizations in 2023, too. We had great successes working with the NP School District, NP Senior Center, NP Recreation, NP

Sustainability Committee, NP Mental Health Committee, NP Diversity Committee, NP Garden Club, NP Chess Club, NP Historical Society, local preschools and daycares, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and of course, the Friends of the Library volunteers. We look forward to continuing these successful partnerships in 2024 and beyond, and offering even more wonderful FREE programs to our community!

If you weren't one of the 70,612 visitors to our library in 2023, we hope you'll come by for a visit this year and get to know YOUR library! The New Providence Memorial Library invites you to spend time in the community's living room, where you can Discover, Collaborate, and Connect.



| Statistic                    | 2023 Totals | 2022 Totals |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Visitors to the Library      | 70,612      | 57,274      |
| Website Visits               | 99,814      | 53,805      |
| Wifi Sessions                | 9,300       | 6,997       |
| Library Card Holders         | 5,548       | 4,862       |
| Books Borrowed               | 80,050      | 32,545      |
| eBooks Borrowed              | 4,177       | 5,725       |
| eAudiobooks Borrowed         | 3,380       | 1,557       |
| Reference Questions Answered | 4,412       | 3,989       |
| Print Books Added            | 3,814       | 3,851       |
| Digital Items Available      | 1,574,477   | 1,352,465   |
| Volunteers                   | 280         | 90          |
| Volunteer Hours              | 1000        | 170         |
| In-Person Programs           | 694         | 293         |
| Program Attendees            | 10,498      | 5,225       |

## APRIL EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

In April, the New Providence Friends of the Library will be hosting two concerts.

Singing, dancing and merriment by professional actors will perform at the Library on Sunday, April 14th, 1 – 4 p.m.: Light Opera of New Jersey (LONJ) will present a one-hour production of Gilbert and Sullivan's The Gondoliers by Sir Arthur Sullivan and Sir W.S. Gilbert. LONJ's Savoy Faire performers offer this entertaining operetta that is fun for the whole family! It promises to transport the audience back to Victorian England with music and humor.

The Friends of the New Providence Library closes their Spring 2024 season at the end of April with a special concert, featuring The Concord Singers. This community-based women's chorus located in Summit, provides a musical home to both novice and experienced singers. Members come from a wide range of ages, professions and backgrounds, and hail from 23 towns across NJ. Their repertoire is varied and includes secular and sacred music from composers ranging from classical to modern. Join us on Sunday, April 28 at 2 PM in the Conti Room. Please note the earlier time for this concert.

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Faith Lutheran Church supports many outreach ministries, but did you know that one ministry touches almost all of them? Handmade knitted/crochet scarves, hats, lap robes, prayer shawls, pocket hearts, baby hats, blankets, and happy octopuses are all made by our Knit, Purl & Pray group and shared with St. John's Soup Kitchen, Family Promise of Union County, University Hospital in Newark, Broadway House for Continuing Care, Imagine – A Center for Coping with Loss, and St. Stephan's Grace Community – ELCA in Newark's Ironbound.

Knit, Purl & Pray knitters work independently, using patterns and yarn that are provided. There are no regularly scheduled meetings, though we do have a very dedicated volunteer coordinator. Completed projects can be dropped off at the church whenever they are finished, year-round.

If you are a knitter who would enjoy helping with some of our knitting projects, please contact the Church Office at 908-464-5177 or famfaith@verizon.net. Share your creative gifts and make someone else feel special with a beautiful handmade symbol of love and care.

To learn more about Faith Lutheran Church, visit famfaith.org. Our phone is 908-464-5177 and our address is 524 South Street, New Providence, NJ, 07974. The pastor of Faith is Rev. Jane McCready.



## WE VALUE OUR VETERANS AWARD

Submitted by Linda Kale

During a council meeting held on March 12, 2024, the Borough of New Providence received the esteemed New Jersey Governor's "We Value Our Veterans" Award for their exceptional efforts in acknowledging and honoring the sacrifices and bravery of our service members.

Executive Director Dillon Chorba of New Jersey's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Union County Board of County Commissioners Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Geoff Smith of Union County Office of Veteran's Services presented New Providence Mayor Al Morgan and the New Providence Borough Council with the prestigious award. In attendance were members of the American Legion Post #433, ALVIS, and

Veteran supporters.

The New Jersey Governor's "We Value Our Veterans" Award is bestowed upon individuals and communities who actively acknowledge and appreciate the sacrifices, patriotism, and courage displayed by those who have served in the military. Towns are evaluated based on specific initiatives, and New Providence has taken various commendable actions to honor veterans. These initiatives include veteran-only parking spaces, a Memorial Day parade, Veterans Day event, a park honoring veterans, Flag Day flag retirement ceremony, and Hometown Hero Veterans recognition banners.

Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis was also in attendance and presented the Borough with a proclamation for their work with the Veterans.



(above) The Borough of New Providence received the esteemed New Jersey Governor's "We Value Our Veterans" Award for their exceptional efforts in acknowledging and honoring the sacrifices and bravery of our service members.

Courtesy photo

### The Summit College Club Annual Book Sale Returns!

at the American Legion Post 433  
357 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence  
(next to the New Providence Library)

#### DONATIONS

April 12 • 1pm-7pm

April 13, 14 & 15 • 9am-7pm

#### BOOK SALE

**\$25 entry fee:**

April 17 • 9am-2pm

#### Free Entry:

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April 20 • 9am-7pm

April 21 • BAG DAY • 10am-4pm

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10:00 a.m. Festival Liturgy with Eucharist

#### Holy Thursday - March 28

12 noon Spoken Liturgy with Eucharist  
7:30 p.m. Liturgy with Rite of First Holy Communion

#### Good Friday - March 29

12 noon Ecumenical Community Service  
7:30 p.m. Service of Tenebrae

#### Holy Saturday - March 30

A Day of Silence, Prayer & Reflection

#### Easter Celebration - March 31

7:00 a.m. Memorial Garden Liturgy  
8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Liturgies with Eucharist

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9:30 AM - Traditional Service

11:00 AM - Contemporary Service

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# APRIL EVENTS AT NEW PROVIDENCE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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## Knit Night (Adults)

April 1, 18 at 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Knitting or crochet project.

## NP Chess Club (Kids, Teens & Adults)

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Learn to play chess from the NP Chess Club! Instruction Lectures & Strategy from 4:30-5:30 followed by play from 5:30-6:30. Register at

## Movie Matinee: "The Holdovers" (Adults)

April 2 at 1:00 - 3:15 pm

## A History of Food and Culture (Adults)

April 2 at 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Curator Paula Johnson discusses the book Smithsonian American Table: The Foods, People, and Innovations That Feed Us via digital live stream.\*\*†

## Poetry Slam! (Kids grades 3 - 8)

April 3 at 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Recite a favorite poem (or one from our collection), create "book spine" poetry (which will be displayed in the library).

## Creative Writing Group (Adults)

April 4, 11, 18, 25 at 10:30 - 11:30 am

Connect with your creative peers in the community with Creative Writing, a one hour opportunity to hone your writing skills.

## Roma Words, Roma Worlds Book Group (Adults)

April 4 at 7:00 pm

Louise Doughty's novel Fires in the Dark.

## Board Games at the Brewery (Adults)

April 4 at 7:30 -9:30 pm

Buy yourself a beer or soda and play a board game in the back room at Untied Brewing!

## Space Science Day (All Ages)

April 6 at 1:00 - 4:00 pm

April 8 to celebrate all things Space, Science, and Makers Day! 1:00 - View the Sun through the Pearl Observatory's Telescope.

2:00 - NASA Scholars talks

3:00 - Space Crafts: Solar Eclipse Mobile, UV Bead Bracelets. Solar Eclipse Viewing glasses available April 1-8

## National Library Week (All Ages)

April 7-13

- Get a new library card
- Spin the prize wheel for giveaways
- Make your own bookmark

## Batter Up - Let's Talk Baseball (All Ages)

April 8 at 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Baseball enthusiasts are invited to discuss teams, players and issues of the sport with other baseball fans.

## Author Talk with Diane Foley & Colum McCann

April 9 at 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Adults join us for a conversation via digital live stream with National Book Award-winner Colum McCann and by Diane Foley, the inspiration behind recently published book.

## Books & Bagels (Adults)

April 9 at 10:30 - 11:30 am

Reader's advisor Sue Lipstein will share her top ten recommendations.

## Book Group: "Fatty Fatty Boom Boom" by Rabia Chaudry (Adults)

April 11 at 7:30 - 8:30 pm

The book group will discuss Fatty Fatty Boom Boom, a candid and bighearted story.

## Math Club (Kids & Teens)

April 12, 19, 26 at 3:50 - 4:45 pm

Hone your problem-solving skills! Run by NP Teens, open to students in 2-12th grades. \*\*

## SAT Math Help (Teens)

April 13, 20, 27 at 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Tutoring sessions for students who are looking for help with the math portion of the SAT. \*\*

## Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Gondoliers" (All Ages)

April 14 at 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

The Light Opera of New Jersey's Savoy Faire ensemble will perform.

## Book Group: "21 Lessons for the 21st Century" by Yuval Harari (Adults)

April 16 at 10:30 - 11:30 am

The book group will discuss 21 Lessons for the 21st Century by Yuval Harari.

## Matinee: "Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris" (Adults)

April 16 at 1:00 - 3:00 pm

## Poetry Slam! (Kids grades 3 - 8)

April 16 at 6:30 -8 pm

Recite a favorite poem (or one from our collection) using a microphone, create "book spine" poetry and decorate a poem pocket.

## Author Talk with Xochitl Gonzalez

April 17 at 8 pm - 9 pm

Chat online with award-winning and bestselling author Xochitl Gonzalez.

## Skills-Based Hiring:

### How to Position Yourself (Adults)

April 18 at 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Rework your resume, LinkedIn profile and elevator pitch to demonstrate the skills.

## Tortured Poets Department Meeting (Teens)

April 20 at 1:00 pm

Join us for a Taylor Swift party to celebrate her newest album release!\*\*

## Family Movie: "Paw Patrol:

### The Mighty Movie" (Kids & Families)

April 21 at 2:00 pm

A meteor crash landing gives the Paw Patrol pups superpowers!

## Teen Take Out Box Pickup (Teens)

April 25 at 3:00 pm

Teen Take Out Box, they will be available for pickup starting today at 3:00PM

## Virtual Author Talk with Allison Pataki (Adults)

April 25 at 7:00 pm

Main Library Alliance invites you to a virtual chat with the best-selling author Allison Pataki.

## Lotus Lantern Craft

April 27 at 2:00 pm

Make a lotus lantern to take home.

## Concord Singers Concert (Adults)

April 28 at 2:00 pm

The Concord Singers perform.

## WEEKLY STORYTIME AND PLAY

in the Coddington Room:

### Tuesday Signs, Songs & Stories with Miss Cathy

Tuesdays @ 10:30 AM (preschool - K)

Featuring stories, interactive rhymes and movement with sign language!

### Tuesday Open Play

Tuesdays @ 1 PM - 8:15 PM

(closed from 4-5 pm)

### Anytime Stories with Miss Debbie

Anytime @ 7:00 PM (all ages)

Tune in anytime to watch and hear stories from the Library's YouTube channel.

### Wednesday Mother Goose Group with Miss Debbie

Wednesdays @ 10:30 AM

(18 months - preschool)

An active storytime with songs, fingerplays, dancing and fun for babies to preschool.

### Thursday Storytime with Miss Anita

Thursdays @ 10:30 AM (0 - 3 yr olds)

Bring your babies and toddlers for stories, rhymes and socialization.

### Friday Open Play

Fridays @ 10:00 AM - 4:15 PM

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| <b>Florham Park Press</b><br>NJ<br>Qty: 5,500<br>Zip: 07932                   | <b>Garwood Times</b><br>NJ<br>Qty: 2,500<br>Zip: 07027     | <b>Green Brook Gazette</b><br>NJ<br>Qty: 3,000<br>Zip: 08812       | <b>BUSINESS + LIFE KENILWORTH</b><br>NJ<br>Qty: 3,500<br>Zip: 07033 | <b>NJ LIFE in LINDEN</b><br>Qty: 17,900<br>Zip: 07036   | <b>Long Hill LEADER</b><br>NJ<br>Qty: 3,500<br>Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980        |
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| 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   |
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# CONCERT COMMEMORATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Wharton Arts

Nearly 1,000 elementary and middle school students attended a free educational concert held at the Union County Performing Arts Center (UCPAC) on February 21, 2024. The event was presented by the New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS).

Nearly 600 students from Union County public schools and 350 students from Paterson Public Schools were bussed to UCPAC for this special event celebrating Black History Month featuring music selections by all-Black composers including Duke Ellington and William Grant Still. Led by Conductor Helen H. Cha-Pyo, the NJYS Youth Symphony was joined by guest artist and tenor saxophonist Lance Bryant for the performance.

Said Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Helen H. Cha-Pyo, "As we celebrate our 45th anniversary season, the New Jersey Youth Symphony remains dedicated to encouraging its young musicians to use music to serve and inspire others. Our NJYS Youth Symphony musicians, predominantly high school students who serve as positive role models, are committed to helping build inclusive communities and aim to ignite a passion for the arts in our younger audience members. Hosting this educational concert is central to our mission, as it celebrates the legacies of Black composers while offering an immersive experience for the children in the audience. Through creative and engaging



introductions to each section of the orchestra, we hope this concert was both memorable and educational. Opening with the singing of the Black National Anthem, Lift Every Voice and Sing, underscores our dedication to celebrating the contributions of Black artists to our cultural heritage. We are honored to share this musical experience with our community, fostering a deeper appreciation for diversity and inclusion in the arts."

Wharton Arts' mission is to offer accessible, high quality performing arts education that sparks personal growth and builds inclusive communities. Its vision is for a transformative performing arts education in an inclusive community to be accessible for everyone.

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving over 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 nearly 600 students in grades 3-12 by audition, inspire young people to achieve musical excellence through high-level ensemble training and performance opportunities. Based in Paterson, the Paterson Music Project is an El Sistema-inspired program of Wharton Arts that uses music education as a vehicle for social action by empowering and inspiring young people to achieve their full potential through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing. From Pathways classes for young children to Lifelong Learning programs for adults, the Wharton Performing Arts School has a robust musical theater and drama program and offers both private and group classes for instruments and voice for all ages and all abilities. With the belief in the positive and unifying influence of music and that performing arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay, Wharton Arts offers need-based scholarships.

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. Visit WhartonArts.org, or call 908-790-0700.

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## It's a smart financial decision.

Lantern Hill is designed so retirees like you can live well—and well within your budget. The 80% Refundable Entrance Fee\* and budget-friendly Monthly Service Package keep your finances protected and predictable. **Get all the details in our free brochure!**



Learn all that the Lantern Hill lifestyle has to offer—including priceless peace of mind.

Call **1-877-288-7001** to request your free brochure and see how your household expenses measure up to our all-inclusive lifestyle.

  
**Lantern Hill**  
BY ERICKSON SENIOR LIVING®

New Providence  
[LanternHill.com](http://LanternHill.com)



\*As per the Residence and Care Agreement.