

# New Providence NEWS

Published by Renna Media, LLC. On-line at [RennaMedia.com](http://RennaMedia.com)

Issue 107 • August 2024

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## WHARTON ARTS STUDENTS PERFORM AT METS GAME

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. The New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC), a program of Wharton Arts, finished the 2023-24 season on a high note by singing the National Anthem at Citi Field prior to the Mets vs Padres game on June 14th.

100 choristers from the Union County, NJ non-profit youth choral education program, in grades 3-12, descended on the ballpark to celebrate American independence, bravery, and heroism by lifting their voices in song. NJYC sings the Star-Spangled Banner at Citi Field biannually.

The young singers' performance at the Mets game rounded out a season of community engagement and performances, including singing at Radio City Music Hall in December and an April performance of Carmina Burana in Mendham, NJ. Additionally, the New Jersey Youth Chorus was recently named the recipient of the 2024 Dale Warland Singers Commission Grant presented by Chorus America and the American Composers Forum, which will support a composition to be premiered next season by the Chorus.

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.



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202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

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## SEND US YOUR NEWS

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! **Email: [editor@rennamedia.com](mailto:editor@rennamedia.com)**

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# KATE TANIS LANTERN HILL DIRECTOR OF SALES

Lantern Hill, an Erickson Senior Living-managed community in New Providence, NJ, has named Kate Tanis as Director of Sales effective May 28. She brings more than 15 years of senior living experience to this leadership position.

Before joining Lantern Hill, Tanis served as associate director of sales at Cedar Crest, an Erickson Senior Living-managed community in Pompton Plains, NJ. She began her career at Erickson Senior Living as a communication specialist. She quickly moved through the ranks, serving in diverse roles, including operations associate, volunteer coordinator, household coordinator, program manager, sales counselor, and sales manager.

"We are excited to welcome Kate to our dynamic team at Lantern Hill," said Executive Director Craig Karczmer. "Kate's leadership skills, expertise in sales, drive for excellence, and passion for creating outstanding customer experiences have us well-positioned for continued success in welcoming new residents to Lantern Hill."

Tanis holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and sociology from Ramapo College. She resides in Wantage, NJ, with her husband and two daughters.

Lantern Hill is a not-for-profit continuing care retirement community (CCRC) managed by Erickson Senior Living. Lantern Hill is situated on a scenic 26-acre campus in New Providence,



(above) Kate Tanis

New Jersey. The community, which is home to more than 540 residents, is served by over 370 employees. Lantern Hill is supported by National Senior Communities, Inc. (NSC), the largest independent board of CCRCs in the nation. NSC's purpose is to represent the financial interests of residents to promote the highest quality programs and services for the best possible value. Additional information can be found at [LanternHill.com](http://LanternHill.com).



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# BACKPACK AND SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION IN PROGRESS



## Faith Lutheran Church

For the sixteenth consecutive year, Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence is collecting new backpacks and school supplies to be shared with St. Stephan's Grace Community in Newark's Ironbound, our Mission Partner congregation, and the Second Street Youth Center in Plainfield.

The backpack collection grew from an idea at a church council meeting into a full-fledged ministry that has benefited from the community's engagement and generosity. Multiple community organizations have received backpacks from Faith's collection over the years.

Backpacks don't often last from year to year and supplies always need replenishing.

Once again, Faith invites the community to support the backpack collection. There are several ways to help.

You can purchase a new backpack of your

choice and fill it with the following school supplies: one pack of pens; one pack of pencils; one notebook; one box of 24 crayons; one package of construction paper; one pair of safety scissors; one glue stick; one ruler; one small pencil sharpener; one toothbrush; one tube of toothpaste.

You can drop off a new backpack or any of the above individual supplies and we will fill a backpack.

Items can be dropped off at Faith Lutheran in the marked bin found underneath the sheltered alcove by the doors at the bottom of the parking lot.

You can mail a financial gift made payable to Faith Lutheran Church with "backpacks" in the memo line of your check and we will shop for you.

In 2023, Faith collected and distributed 300 backpacks. The deadline for this year is Sunday, August 25th, to ensure that the collection will be distributed before school begins in September.

Faith Lutheran Church is located at 524 South Street, New Providence, NJ. The Rev. Jane McCready is the pastor. Faith Lutheran worships on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with livestreaming available on our website, Facebook, and YouTube. We practice an open Communion table, and all are welcome. For more information visit online at famfaith.org or call 908-464-5177.



(above) In 2023, Faith collected and distributed 300 backpacks. The deadline to donate for this year is Sunday, August 25th, to ensure that the collection will be distributed before school begins in September.

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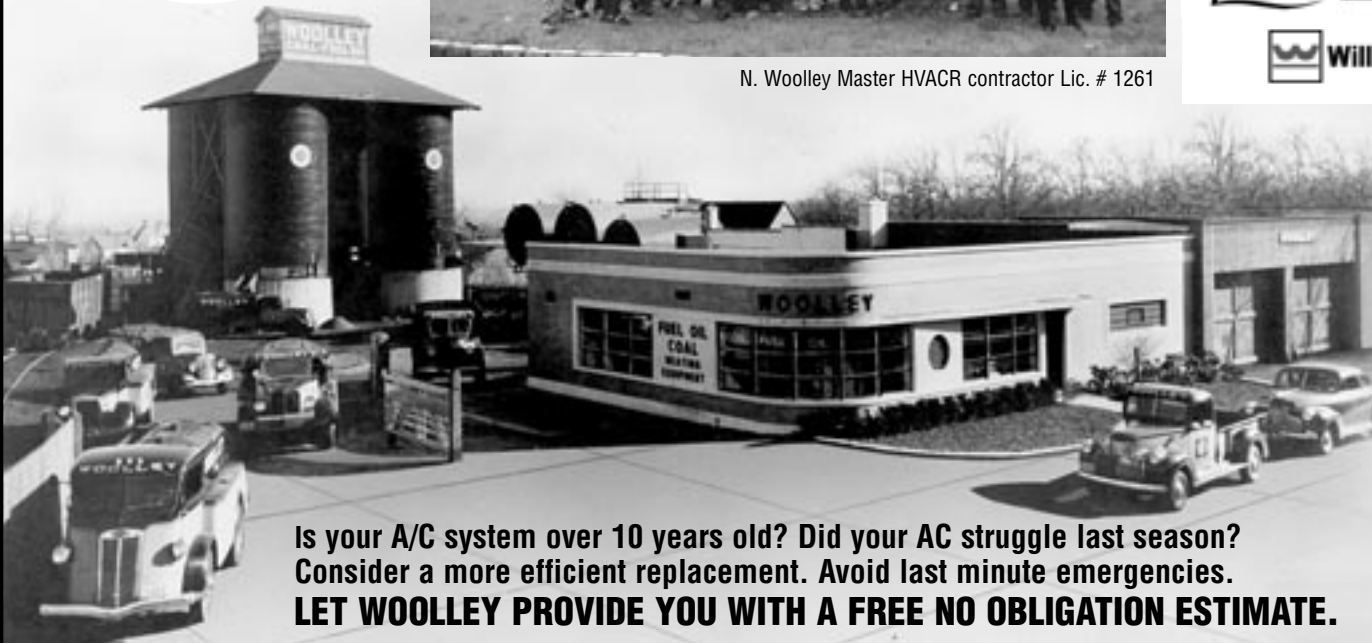
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# 23RD ANNUAL DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF EVENT

Drive for Autism Foundation

The Drive for Autism Foundation is pleased to announce that its annual golf event, Drive for Autism XXIII will be held at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ on Monday September 16, 2024.

The Drive for Autism Golf Outing, which has been held since 2002 has raised and distributed over \$855,000 to local school programs. Previous beneficiaries of grants were Morris Union Jointure Commission (New Providence, NJ), Salt Brook School (New Providence, NJ), AW Roberts School (New Providence, NJ), Union County Educational Services Foundation/Crossroads School (Westfield, NJ), Educational Partnership for Instructing Children (Paramus, NJ), Young Life (greater Summit area), Eden II/Genesis Programs (Staten Island, NY), Spectrum360 - formally The Children's Institute (Verona, NJ), and Seton Foundation/Mother Francheska Elementary School (Staten Island, NY).

Grant recipients use money to fund Health and Fitness Programs, Social Skills Programs, educational curriculum and teacher training, a van for community trips and transportation to job training centers, laptop computers, computer touch screens, iPads, video projectors and educational toys and games

The golf event is the main fundraising function for the foundation. Single golfers and foursomes

are welcome as well as, product donations and corporate sponsorships. To register online please go to: [birdease.com/DriveforAutismXXIII](http://birdease.com/DriveforAutismXXIII)

**ABOUT DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION:**

Based in New Providence, New Jersey, The Drive for Autism Foundation (EIN#20-1760417), is a 501(3)(c) tax exempt public charity that was created in the Spring of 2002 for the sole purpose of raising and distributing funds for educational facilities specializing in students with autism.

**DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF OUTING 2024**

The Drive for Autism XXIII is scheduled for Monday Sept 16, 2024, at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ. The event consists of a morning round of golf followed by a barbeque. Special events include golf contests, raffles and a silent auction of sports memorabilia, game tickets and golf trips.

To register or for additional information please visit [birdease.com/DriveForAutismXXIII](http://birdease.com/DriveForAutismXXIII), call 908-451-8033

or email [driveforautism@comcast.net](mailto:driveforautism@comcast.net).



  
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# 107TH ANNUAL ELKS PARADE

## SENIORS' PROGRAMS

The DeCorso Community Center, which serves as the home for the New Providence Senior Citizens Club, provides opportunities for senior residents to socialize, exercise and participate in programs and activities with their peers. The Center's hours are Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m. —2:30 p.m. The New Providence Senior Citizens Club holds weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 11:00am 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).

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE DECORSO COMMUNITY CENTER INCLUDE:

#### Club Meeting/Birthdays and Presentation on the Lewis & Clark Expedition

Wednesday, August 7 at 11:00am

Jennifer White Fischer, who wrote a book about her travels to the Lewis and Clark sites will share her experience and photographs.

#### Flower Bar with Allaire Health Services

Thursday, August 15 at 11:00am

Seniors will craft their own beautiful bouquets to bring home and enjoy! Please call the Center at (908) 665-0046 by Friday, August 9 to register.

#### Club Meeting and Avenues in Motion "Safe Driving, Safe Walking"

Wednesday, August 21 at 11:00am

Presentation on pedestrian safety from both the driver's perspective and the pedestrian's perspective.

#### Club Meeting and "Special" Bingo

Wednesday, August 28 at 11:00am

### Summit Elks

Summit Elks joined and marched with 1,500 New Jersey Elks in the 107th Annual Elks Parade on Saturday June 8th. Leading Summit were Esquire Lou DeSocio and Exalted Ruler Fred Honold.

Immediately following was Leading Knight Rocco DiPiano who organized two dozen Elks with Summit's 20 x 40 USA Flag. At the reviewing stand of NJ State Elk Parade Judges, Rocco called an "audible" to have Summit Elks closest to the judges stand lower our USA Flag to the ground while those furthest away raised our Grand Ol'Flag on High. The judges, went "Wild in Wildwood!" Summit was awarded 3rd place for parade honors among all 107 NJ Lodges who participated.

### BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SUMMIT ELKS

To be eligible for membership in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, you must be a citizen of the United States over the

age of 21 who believes in God. The Summit Elks Lodge #1246 has close to 3,000 members, they predominantly come from these communities: Summit, Berkeley Heights, The Chathams, Millburn - Short Hills, New Providence & Westfield.

For more information visit [summitelks1246.org](http://summitelks1246.org).

### ELKS MISSION STATEMENT

To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share.


Courtesy photos



(above) Summit Lodge #1246 Leading Knight Rocco DiPiano organizes Summit's Flag Team of 2 Dozen Strong to carry the USA Flag on High @ The NJ Elks State Convention Parade on Saturday June 6 in Wildwood. Summit won 3rd Place Honors.



(above) Summit Lodge #1246 carries the 20 x 40 Flag along the Wildwood NJ State Convention parade route in early June. Among 107 NJ Lodges, Summit Lodge won 3rd Place Honors.



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## OLD GUARD - AUGUST SPEAKERS PROGRAM

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.

### August 6th - Jerry DiFrancisco.

His topic will be the theory and practice of international law. Jerry brings extensive experience from the private sector, academia, and eleemosynary organizations to bare on the subject. He holds an MBA and Doctorate in Management and has worked as President,

Humanitarian Services for the American Red Cross, at AT&T for three decades in several senior administrative positions and currently serves as Distinguished Civic Leader in Residence at Siena College. In addition, he has served on numerous non-profit boards.

### AUGUST 13TH = GENE PASCUCCI

Owner of Empire Antiques. Gene has lived all over the world and is an expert in appraising and collecting antiques. Much of his inventory is derived from high-end estate sales and he also holds auctions from time to time at his facility. Gene will discuss a wide range of topics about antiquing and will be accompanied by an associate, Sonnie Benson, who will review some of their vast inventory.

### AUGUST 20TH - LESLIE WORKMAN

On August 20th we will learn about turning an old barn into a community Arts Center. Our speaker will be Leslie Workman, board president, Farmstead Arts in Basking Ridge. Leslie will take us through the roughly three-hundred-year history of a Basking Ridge farm and its ultimate transition into a community cultural center which features many services ranging from art classes to live theatre.

### AUGUST 27TH - SYDNEY LEVIT

Finally, our speaker for August 27th will be a 100-year-old (on July 17th), World War II combat veteran, Sydney Levit. Mr. Levit will be interviewed by Summit resident Suzanne Currie and she will ask him about his experiences before, during and after his wartime service – should be fascinating.



(above, l-r) Jerry DiFrancisco, Leslie Workman, Gene Pascucci, Sydney Levit

Courtesy photos

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## PROJECT GRADUATION 2024 SUCCESS

Submitted by Amy Lepre

Congratulations to the New Providence High School CLASS of 2024 who graduated on Friday, June 14th!

After commencement and some family time, 120 seniors headed off to Project Graduation - a drug and alcohol free, last celebration together as the NPHS Class of 2024. The destination for this overnight event was the Meadowlands YMCA in East Rutherford, NJ, featuring a huge indoor swimming pool, basketball courts and more. The space was transformed, with the help of CeCe Entertainment, into an all-night party with games, inflatables, live music, photo booth, and more.

This event was made possible by the NPHS PTSA Project Graduation team. The team worked tirelessly to secure a new venue and ensure this memorable event had something for everyone. Our solicitation team provided information to local businesses asking to help sponsor our event. Thank you to all our sponsors! A special shout out goes to our major sponsor - the NP Alliance to prevent Substance Use Disorder.

Annual fundraisers, including the Pioneer Pathway - a paver project to highlight and honor members of the NPHS community especially graduating seniors - also help defray costs.

In addition, the PTSA was able to sponsor students who were unable to afford the ticket price with the additional help of "pay-it-forward" donations by senior parents.

The NPHS PTSA wants to thank the many parents who helped throughout the year, spearheading various fundraisers, supporting efforts, volunteering time, and running various events for the Class of 2024. The support of the New Providence High School principal, administration, and custodial staff, the New Providence Board of Education, the PTSA, and multiple volunteers is invaluable to our efforts each year and deserve recognition.

The NPHS PTSA supports all students. The Senior Class committee strives to provide a memorable senior year culminating in Project Graduation - a substance free event for the entire graduating class.

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## CASA Training Program in Clark this Fall

Child Focus is seeking dedicated community members to make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children by volunteering as Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA volunteers. The next training session to become a child advocate kicks off in September at the Clark Public Library.

Each year in Union County, more than 250 children are removed from home, through no fault of their own, and placed in foster care. These children suffer a dual layer of trauma - first from the abuse and neglect that led to their placement in the child welfare system, and second from the upheaval and uncertainty that comes with being removed from the only home they've known. They need a reliable adult on their team, someone whose only agenda is speaking up for the best interests of that child.

That's where the nonprofit Child Focus' Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program comes in. A CASA volunteer ensures a child's needs are met while in care awaiting a safe, permanent home. Advocates visit the child

regularly and connect with those in the child's life, making informed, independent, evidence-based recommendations to a family court judge. As caseworkers and resource homes frequently change, the CASA volunteer is often the only consistent adult presence in the child's life, and providing continuity during a time of turmoil and unknowns is critical.

No professional experience or prior knowledge of the child welfare system is needed, as volunteers are trained on the ins and outs of advocating for child-victims, and fully supported by CASA staff. Volunteers complete a 36-hour in-person training course that covers a wide range of topics to ensure volunteers are prepared to navigate court proceedings, build trusting relationships with children, and collaborate with caseworkers and attorneys to create a comprehensive support network.

"Our CASA training program is designed to ensure that volunteers have the tools they need to succeed in this role and advocate for what's truly in the best interests of the child or sibling group," said Erica Fischer-Kaslander, Executive Director

of Child Focus. "We teach a strengths-based approach, which helps volunteers harness the potential within each child and the support network surrounding them. It's about fostering resilience and optimism for children who have experienced very difficult circumstances, and for all those involved in their journey toward a brighter future."

In addition to educating volunteers on the child welfare system and preparing court reports, the multi-disciplinary training delves into a range of issues from trauma and mental health to poverty and cultural competency. The training incorporates role-play as well as courtroom observations, the latter of which help demystify the work. Upon successful completion of training, volunteers are equipped with the tools needed to successfully advocate for local vulnerable children, and are sworn in by a Family Court judge.

Interested in securing a spot in the fall training? Attend one of these information sessions: Wednesday, August 14 at 5:30pm at the Union County Colleen Fraser Building, 300 North Avenue East in Westfield; Thursday, August 22 at 5:30pm at the Rahway Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza; and Wednesday, August 28 at 12pm at the Child Focus office at 1143 East Jersey Street, 2nd Floor in Elizabeth. Sessions at the Wayne Child Focus office, Hamburg Turnpike, Suite D2, are Tuesday, August 6 at 5:30pm, Thursday, August 15 at 12pm, and Monday, August 19 at 12pm. Register now at [casapassaicunion.org/info-session](http://casapassaicunion.org/info-session).

### ABOUT CHILD FOCUS:

Child Focus prioritizes the needs and well-being of infants, children and teens impacted by, or at risk of, abuse or neglect by amplifying their voices and working toward lasting, permanent solutions that address their unique situations and provide support needed to thrive. This critical work is accomplished through three distinct but complementary programs: CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, NJ Safe Babies Court Team, and the Open Door Store. For more information about Child Focus, log on to [childfocusnj.org](http://childfocusnj.org).



(above) A recent CASA Volunteer class during their training session at the Child Focus office.

Courtesy photo

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## SUMMER CABARET SERIES AT THE SIEMINSKI THEATER THIS AUGUST

This August, the versatile and state-of-the art Sieminski Theater in Basking Ridge will be transformed into a genuine cosmopolitan cabaret setting with table seating, light bites, and a cash bar. Doors open at 7 PM. Upon arrival, each patron receives a glass of Prosecco or a sparkling beverage, individual charcuterie, and sweets to enjoy while socializing before the show begins at 8 PM. Three very different shows are offered: a traditional jazz cabaret featuring a sextet and vocalist, a Broadway-stage caliber duo, and a “best of” Broadway Rock cabaret.

Tables accommodate up to 10 people (general seating) or private tables for 2 are available. General seating is \$85 per person.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 9TH: JAZZ TROMBONIST DION TUCKER AND HIS ENSEMBLE.

Dion has played with the Illinois Jacquet Big Band, Steve Turre & the Sancti-fied Shells, Ray Charles Big Band, and the Count Basie Band. He has been a member of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, led by Wynton Marsalis, as well as Lester Bowie and the Brass Fantasy, the Louie Armstrong Centennial Band, the Clark Terry Big Band and Frank Foster & the Loud Minority. Dion has made T.V. appearances on the Oprah Winfrey Show, the David Letterman Show, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, The View, The Today Show, and The Jimmy Fallon Show, and has traveled the world to perform in Asia, Europe, Africa, Cuba, Turkey and New Zealand, and is currently a member of the Duke Ellington Orchestra and The Harry Connick Jr. Big Band. Dion has appeared with Harry Connick Jr. at the White House for President Barack Obama and appears in Connick’s recent DVD “Live From Broadway” as well as participating in Connick’s weekday TV show Harry.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 23RD: BROADWAY’S LIZ MCCARTNEY W/ JIMMY HORAN ON PIANO.

Annie, The Phantom of the Opera, South Pacific, Mamma Mia!, Thoroughly Modern Millie, & Boy George’s Taboo are just a few of big-voiced & big-hearted LIZ MCCARTNEY’s Broadway credits. Liz has toured the country as Madame Morrible in Wicked, Marie/Fairy Godmother in Cinderella, & Ursula in The Little Mermaid. Her performance as Mrs. Lovett in Drury Lane Theatre of Chicago’s production of Sweeney Todd brought her a nomination for the coveted Joseph Jefferson Award, & she

was recently a part of New York City Center’s production of Sunday in the Park with George, opposite Jake Gyllenhaal.

Jimmy Horan is a Musical Director / Pianist / Arranger / Composer who has worked at all the Major Cabaret Venues in NYC, such as Rose Theater at Jazz at Lincoln Center, Birdland, The Duplex, Don’t Tell Mama and The Metropolitan Room. Most recently, Jimmy worked at 54 Below/Feinstein’s as Musical Director/Co-Producer of the successful Second Act Series, working with composers like Charles Strouse, John Kander, Nancy Ford, Keith Herrmann, and Michael Valenti; and artists like Jill Eikenberry (personal MD as well) Jon Cryer, Loni Ackerman, P.J. Benjamin, and The Skivvies. He has served as NYC Gay Men’s Chorus Cabaret/Special Events Musical Director and Arranger with performances at Carnegie Hall, Madison Square Garden and The Barclays Center.

### Friday, August 30th: Theatre Rock LIVE!

A soaring tribute to, and celebration of, Rock Musicals! Songs from such hit musicals as Hair, Pippin, Jesus Christ Superstar, Hamilton, Dear Evan Hanson, Tommy, Godspell and so much more! The group features the rock tenor of international recording artist Eric Scott Klein (Days Before Tomorrow), the dynamic Olivia Renteria (Mean Girls), and the magical voice of Lawrence Street (Carmen Jones, Urinetown, Mean Girls) fused with the energy a skilled rock/pop band.

### ABOUT THE SIEMINSKI THEATER:

The Sieminski Theater at Fellowship Village in Basking Ridge provides an intimate, state-of-the-art experience and offers student and senior discounts, dinner and show packages, and free ample parking, making it the perfect evening out for everyone.

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For more information, call 908-580-3892. Or 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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# BROTHERS CELEBRATE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF LIFESAVING TRANSPLANT

## NJ Sharing Network

On February 11, 2014, Jared Wohl, then 27, donated 65 percent of his liver to his younger brother, Cameron, then 24, who was battling primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC), a rare autoimmune disease impacting the bile ducts of the liver, via a living donor transplant. The successful transplant marked the beginning of a new chapter for both brothers, who continue to advocate for organ and tissue donation awareness and education.

In a heartfelt celebration of the 10th anniversary of their lifesaving liver transplant, co-founders of The Wave Set Cameron and Jared Wohl of Little Falls and Livingston, NJ, have announced a philanthropic contribution of \$10,000 to the Sharing Network Foundation. This gift will support the newly established Joseph S. Roth Simulation Center, a state-of-the-art training facility at NJ Sharing Network's (NJSN's) headquarters. The Simulation Training Center is crucial for enhancing the education and training of healthcare professionals, ensuring they are well-equipped to manage organ and tissue donors and support families, ultimately helping to save more lives.

"Contributing to the Simulation Training Center and the hands-on training it will provide in a real-world setting is our way of giving back to NJ Sharing Network and the community that has supported us throughout our transplant journey. As a former educator, and having been a living transplant donor, it means so much to be able to play a part in maximizing organ donation outcomes at NJSN and helping to save and enhance more lives through education," said Jared Wohl.

"Our contribution is not just about honoring our ten-year milestone; it's about investing in the future of organ and tissue donation and ensuring

that NJ Sharing Network's teams have the best training possible to make the biggest impact on the number of organs recovered and, ultimately, number of lives saved," said Cameron Wohl.

The Wave Set: Spreading Awareness and Educating

In 2013, leading up to the transplant, Jared and Cameron founded The Wave Set, an organization aimed at raising awareness and educating the public about the importance of organ and tissue donation, while showing the world that "We Are Vital to Each Other." Now a named fund of the Sharing Network Foundation, The Wave Set has been instrumental in promoting organ and tissue donor registration and supporting donor families. In 2016, they launched a crowdfunded documentary, "65 Percent," depicting their family's journey through the transplant experience and offering a poignant look at the impact of organ donation. The documentary can be viewed at [www.sharingnetworkfoundation.org/the-wave-set](http://www.sharingnetworkfoundation.org/the-wave-set). Since then, Jared and Cameron have planned and executed speaking engagements and fundraising events to support The Wave Set's mission.

Reflecting on Ten Years of Life and Health

"It's surreal to see how far we've come since the transplant. When I'm having a tough day, I'll occasionally think back, and it helps give much needed perspective on how fragile life is and what's really important – our health. And to see my brother and nephew, it's just incredible," said Jared. Cameron echoed these sentiments, stating, "I'm so grateful to have my health. I think of all the things I've done in the time span since my transplant – going back to school, picking up hockey again, changing careers, starting a family. It helped shape me into the person I am and the outlook I have."

## A FULL CIRCLE JOURNEY

Cameron's post-transplant journey led him to pursue a career in healthcare. After becoming a registered nurse, he worked in the operating room at University Hospital in Newark, where he had the chance to collaborate with one of the surgeons from his transplant team. Cameron now works as a Field Clinical Specialist, introducing new therapies to physicians to optimize patient outcomes, combining his passions for patient care, relationship building, and technology.

Jared works as a Senior Account Director in SAAS sales, partnering with higher education institutions to strategize ways to improve their academic offerings, fuel skill development for staff and faculty, hire top talent, and support student career-readiness. He is also a singer-songwriter and the proud father of two young boys.

## SUPPORTING THE JOSEPH S. ROTH SIMULATION CENTER

The Joseph S. Roth Simulation Training Center, named and dedicated in memory of NJSN's former President and CEO, is designed to prepare clinical teams with the best hands-on learning options available to manage organ and tissue donors and support families. The center features the same advanced technologies and equipment used in partner hospitals throughout New Jersey, including patient simulators, monitors, ventilators, and advanced video technologies.

## LOOKING AHEAD

With Cameron's primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC) in remission and the recent birth of his son, Lucas John, the Wohl family has much to celebrate. The brothers, along with their families, continue their mission of spreading awareness and educating the public about organ and tissue donation. "One way we can save more lives is to get more people to sign up as registered organ donors and consider living donation," said Jared. Cameron added, "Perhaps even more important is sharing those wishes with your family."

## ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK

NJ Sharing Network, headquartered in New Providence, NJ, is the federally designated non-profit organization focused on saving and enhancing lives through the recovery of donated organs and tissue in the Garden State. NJ Sharing Network partners with an extensive network of 54 local hospitals to provide hope for the nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents currently waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant, and it is part of the national recovery system for the over 100,000 people on the national transplant waiting list. For five consecutive years, NJ Sharing Network has reported organ donation records, and more than three million New Jerseyans are registered as organ and tissue donors, according to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC). Among the top performing OPOs in the nation, NJ Sharing Network has been recognized by NJBIZ for seven consecutive years as one of the state's 'Best Places to Work.' To learn more, get involved, and join the National Donate Life Registry as an organ and tissue donor, visit [www.NJSharingNetwork.org](http://www.NJSharingNetwork.org).



(above) Rebecca Dubowchik-Wohl, Lucas Wohl, Cameron Wohl, Janet Zanetich, Amanda Tibok, Quinn Wohl, Jared Wohl, Samantha Wohl, and Callan Wohl

Courtesy photo

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# JLS ANNOUNCES 2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Junior League of Summit (JLS) gave out \$32,000 in grants, scholarships, and awards at its General Membership Meeting at the Summit Elks Lodge in May. Additionally, the JLS presented its first ever “Friend of the Year” award to a worthy recipient.

Grants in the amount of \$22,000 were awarded to SAGE Eldercare, Empowering Kids Organization, CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, Family Promise Union County, New Providence Community Service Association, YWCA Union County, Summit Area YMCA, Vivid Stage, and Helping Hands, NJ. The JLS Community Grants Program focused on programming and projects which are meeting the emerging needs of the community arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and focusing on organizations aligned with the JLS mission. The program enables the JLS to support other nonprofit organizations creating change in the Summit area.

The Jean Hudson Gano Award was given to Sue Fieseler. Sue was honored for her extensive volunteer work in the Summit community, exemplifying dedication and outstanding leadership. This award, established in memory of Jean Hudson Gano following her passing in May 1997, recognizes individuals who, like Sue, significantly contribute to and impact various segments of the community through their volunteer efforts.

Shirley Wight Keeney Scholarships in the

amount of \$3,000 each were granted to Leigha Matter, Manaal Qureshi of Chatham and Maya Sternberg of New Providence. Each student demonstrated academic excellence and has shown significant volunteer work that aligns with the JLS mission. Shirley was a beloved member and Past President of the JLS.

The Amanda Parrish Block Grant winner was Sally Simonfay and the Help4All organization. Sally and her friends collaborate to support the most vulnerable, embodying the spirit of everyday people coming together to make a difference, one act of kindness at a time. The grant was established in 2017 in honor of JLS member Amanda Parrish Block, founder of the JLS’s most recent signature project, GRACE (Giving and Receiving Assistance for our Community’s Essentials). It is awarded annually to organizations like Help4All that demonstrate a commitment to addressing essential community demands.

Inaugural JLS Friend of the Year Award winner was John Avagliano. John is a local contractor and husband to the JLS Thrift Shop Manager. He served as an enormous helping hand over this past holiday season, quickly getting the Shop floor ready for business after the rugs on the first & second floor were replaced. John also found affordable and effective ways to make various repairs to the Shop over the years, allowing the JLS to minimize costs and maximize the amount of



(above) Rachel Zucker, JLS President 2022-2024, John Avagliano, April Montgomery, JLS Incoming President

money returned to the community. This award recognizes the businesses, organizations and individuals in the community who go the extra mile for the Junior League of Summit to help us fulfill our mission to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact. The winner receives a plaque as a thank you.

“Besides carrying out our own volunteer work, the JLS believes it can also make a real difference by supporting other nonprofits and further promoting volunteerism in the community. The Summit area is so fortunate to have amazing organizations and residents in our area that contribute significant and impactful efforts,” commented JLS 2022-2024 President Rachel Zucker. “Through our grants, scholarships and awards, the JLS has the honor of being able to help so many groups and individuals continue their good work and make even more amazing contributions to our community. We are so proud to be able to make a difference, and we can’t wait to see our recipients flourish.”

The Junior League of Summit, Inc. is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women’s leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer actions, collaboration and training. For more information about the Junior League of Summit, please visit the website at [jlssummit.org](http://jlssummit.org) or contact the office at 908-273-7349.



(above) Recipients of 2024 Grants and Scholarships as well as JLS members at May 21, 2024 General Membership meeting at Summit Elks.

Courtesy photos



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