

#### Published by Renna Media

#### Issue 34 • December 2024

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#### **STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL TASTE OF ELIZABETH**

**Elizabeth Public Schools** 

The Elizabeth Rotary Club held its 17th Annual Taste of Elizabeth event at the Galloping Hill Golf Course Restaurant on October 28, 2024.

Local eateries and beverage companies are invited to the event to provide a tasting/sampling of their goods and thus advertise their businesses.

Elizabeth Public School representatives with tables at this year's event were Edison Culinary Arts Programs Foods & Bakery; and District Wide- the Rotary Interact Club, which is the student arm of the Rotary Club.

The student volunteers also assisted vendors with set up and break down plus assisted Elizabeth Rotarians with some administrative tasks for running this annual event.

Over 225 plus event ticket attendees were purchased and enjoyed the various foods and drinks.

The main purpose of the Annual TOE Event is twofold - Assisting the local community partners and businesses plus raising funds to support charitable giving campaigns and a scholarship fund throughout the year.





Photos by Elizabeth Public Schools





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### GROUNDWORK ELIZABETH NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN EVANGELISTA

Ushering in a New Era of Leadership Groundwork Elizabeth welcomes environmental advocate and youth programming leader John Evangelista as our New Executive Director.

Groundwork Elizabeth is a non-profit that promotes working at the intersection of the environment, equity, and civic engagement through various community led initiatives. Through the dedication and passion of committed community members, the organization has been able to actuate its goals into tangible impact. John Evangelista has served the cause for over a decade and hopes to expand its reach in his new role of executive director.

With roots in environmental activism, John has an extensive background in green initiatives. He owned his own landscape design and construction company for over thirty years which has provided John with meaningful and diverse experience. He began working with Groundwork Elizabeth in a voluntary capacity and after participating in agricultural demonstrations at schools in Elizabeth, he felt compelled to put his energy into the cause full-time. Over the span of five years, John assisted with bringing more than 200 community gardens to the City of Elizabeth. As Director of Operations, John directly oversaw this incredible impact and was able to ensure that every school in the City of Elizabeth had a garden to help propel the youth programs and uplift educational resources.

There are three main focus areas John is Elizabeth visit groundworkelizabeth.org.

hoping to build on: youth development, urban agriculture, and creating a climate safe Elizabeth.

John expresses his passion for working with Groundwork Elizabeth, "Watching youth join the Green Team or Mayor's youth council and seeing them firsthand develop a passion for the environment and healthier eating is mindblowing. Then they take that knowledge home and inspire their families and friends. Seeing that tangible change and breaking through to families is really the core of what we try to accomplish."

Jonathan Philips, former Executive Director, stated, "I feel honored to have been associated with Groundwork Elizabeth since 2003, which has as its goal to "change places, change lives. Groundwork is thoroughly invested in building a more sustainable community through work in urban agriculture, natural restoration projects, youth programming, and mitigation projects around climate, all working towards a safer, cleaner, and more equitable environment for all. John Evangelista is the perfect fit for continuing and adding to the progress of our organization."

John's vision for Groundwork is an ambitious and innovative approach to continue executing the mission and leading other chapters across the nation to similar success stories seen in Elizabeth. His passion and dedication for the cause runs decades deep from his roots in environmentalism and educating underserved communities.

For more information about Groundwork Elizabeth visit groundworkelizabeth.org.



(above) Ushering in a New Era of Leadership: Groundwork Elizabeth Welcomes Environmental Advocate and Youth Programming Leader John Evangelista as New Executive Director.

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### **UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESERVING HISTORY**

Obelisk recently underwent a complete restoration and cleaning at the Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church (formerly known as the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethtown) in Elizabeth thanks to the Union County Historical Society (UCHS).

UCHS President Joanne Rajoppi said, "The 179-year-old obelisk honoring Revolutionary War pastor and patriot James Caldwell and his wife Hannah, was in terrible condition: encrusted dirt from years of neglect with loose mortar and unreadable engravings. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our country, what better time to reflect, remember and honor the contributions of our patriots, especially the Caldwells, who sacrificed their lives for independence."

The Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church cemetery is one of the oldest in the state, dating to the late 1680s. More than 40 officers of the Continental Army are buried there, many of whom attended the church while Reverend Caldwell served as its pastor. Caldwell also served as General George Washington's Deputy Commissary of supplies during the war. The British placed a bounty on his head and he was murdered in 1781. His wife Hannah and mother of their nine children had been murdered the previous year by a British soldier in the aftermath of the Battle of Connecticut Farms

There are also more than 313 enslaved and free African Americans buried in the historic cemetery, often in unmarked graves: some are children, and some are likely war veterans. The 313+ Ancestors Speak Project acknowledges and commemorates their lives and burials. A monument with their names was recently erected in the cemetery.

The restoration of the Caldwell memorial was partially funded by a Union County Heart Grant, donations by the Union Township Historical Society, the NJ Society of the Sons of the



(above) The recent restoration and cleaning of the James and Hannah Caldwell Memorial Oblesik at Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth was commissioned by the Union County Historical Society.

The Hannah and James Caldwell Memorial American Revolution, (NJSAR), the West Fields ABOUT THE UNION COUNTY Chapter of SAR, American Legion Post 248, the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield and many individual contributors.

> Ms. Rajoppi said that the restoration included a workshop on how to clean gravestones.

> Volunteers, including local area Boy Scouts, the Crane's Ford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and UCHS members attended the four-hour event.

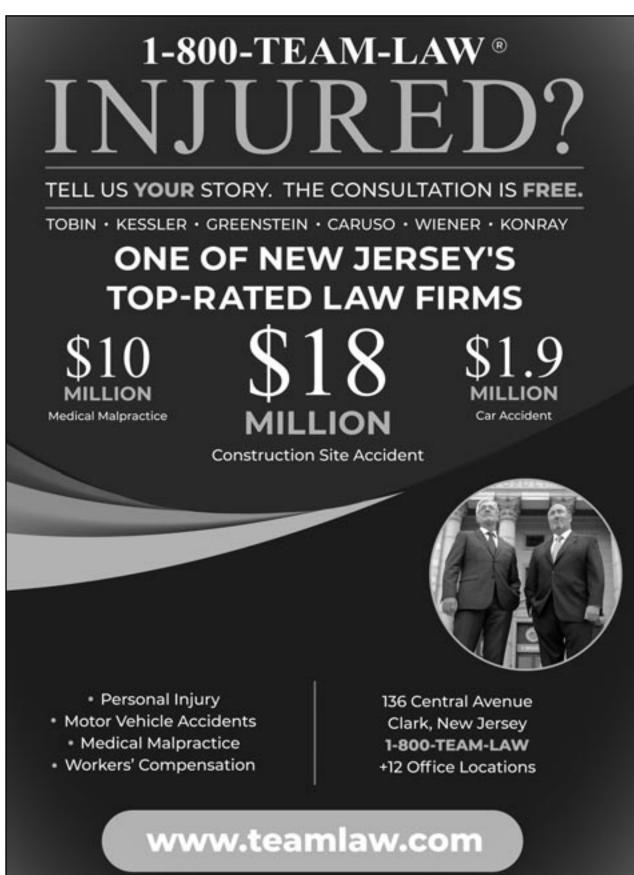
> The restoration work was completed by Richard Grubb & Associates, a full-service cultural resource management firm and one of the largest, independent archaeological and historic preservation consulting companies in the eastern United States. Their corporate headquarters are in Cranbury, New Jersey.

### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY**

The UCHS was incorporated by an Act of the 93rd Legislature of the State of New Jersey on April 1, 1869. The objective of this Society is the collection and preservation of all matter of historical relics, books, records, documents, and manuscripts, to stimulate and encourage historical research and the study of history pertaining to the territory originally embraced by Elizabethtown and the present Union County.

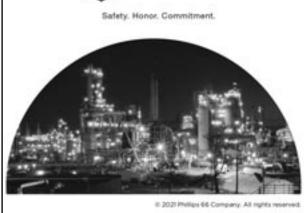
The Society exists through the help and generosity of its members. Membership is comprised of citizens who have a common interest in preserving the past. There is no paid staff. The Executive Board and Members perform all Society functions.

For more information visit unioncountyhistoricalsocietynj.org.









### K OF C DONATES TO ELIZABETH COALITION TO HOUSE THE HOMELESS

The Cranford Knights of Columbus held our 21st Annual Golf Outing in September. It was a tremendous success with 95 golfers attending at the Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth. Each year, the Council selects worthy charities to be the benefactors of the outing proceeds and this year we selected The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless for the great work that they do. The Council had a ceremonial check presentation in the Mary Garden at St. Michael's Church where we made a donation of \$5,000.

The Council would like to formally thank all of the local businesses and organizations that support our Annual Golf Outing every year and all of the volunteers that help and make this worthy event a success each and every year since its inception in 2004.

The Cranford Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Fraternal Organization dedicated to our four Core Principles: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. The Cranford Council supports many charities and civic causes locally, statewide, and nationally and we are committed to being a viable part of our community.

For information about joining the Council, please contact our Grand Knight Tom Turner at 908-884-4083 or visit the Council website at cranfordknights.org.



(above, l-r) Executive Director of The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless Linda Tober-Flores, Past Grand & Golf Outing Chair John Doolan, and Past Grand Knight Pat Forker. On the back left are Brothers Larry Guarglia, Bob Haddad, Past Grand Knight James Winter, and our Worthy Chaplain Monsignor Tim Shugrue.



#### **DECEMBER PROGRAMS AT ELMORA BRANCH LIBRARY**

740 W Grand St, Elizabeth, NJ 07202 • Phone: (908) 353-4820 • www.elizpl.org/

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 7:45 p.m. • Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. • Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. • Sunday: Closed

The library will be closed

December 24 & 25. Early closure on 12/30 at 4 p.m.

**Zumba Gold** Monday, December 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 and Thursday, December 5, 12, 19, & 26

at 9 am Add fitness to your daily routine through the

> joy of dance! Computer Class

Monday, December 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 at 10:30 am

Computer classes at Elmora Branch Library are free and no registration is required.

Crochet with Sol

Monday, December 9 & 16 and Tuesday, December 10 & 17 at 12 pm Learn the tips and tricks with Ms. Sol! She will teach you everything you need to know to get

started, from fundamental stitches to understanding gauge.

Mahiong

Monday, December 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 from 12 pm - 2 pm

Everyone who loves Mahjong is welcome to come & play at the library. Bring friends or come alone & find new partners. A minimum of 4 players are required to play the game.

> Ages: 18 & up Just Add Color

Monday, December 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 at 2 pm

Drop in for some relaxing coloring fun! Come discover the calming effects as well as meeting some good company!

Tai Chi & Qi Gong

Monday, December 2, 9, 16, & 23 at 4 pm and

Wednesday, December 4, 11, & 18 at 9 am Join Pete on Monday & Wednesday for Tai Chi, a gentle Chinese martial art that combines slow, flowing movements with deep breathing. The Book Clubbing Club

Tuesday, December 3 at 11 am Join our Book Club meeting and engage in a lively discussion about our latest book. Word Search Wednesday

Wednesday, December 4, 11, & 18 Come to Elmora Branch Library to solve a word search puzzle in your free time.

Adult Chess Club Friday, December 6, 13, 20, & 27

at 12:30 pm

Join the Adult Chess Club! Regardless of your skill level, beginners are welcome to participate. We hope to see you there!

> Junior Chess Club (ages: 7-12)

Friday, December 6, 13, 20, & 27 at 4 pm Don't miss out on our Chess Club for Kids! We welcome beginners. Join us and let's play some chess!

Stitch & Chat

Tuesday, December 10 at 10 am and

Wednesday, December 18 at 5 pm Come to Elmora to mend your clothing. Bring the article you need help with and assistance

> will be provided. Lil' Bookworms

Wednesday, December 11 at 5 pm Encouraging kids to share their love of reading, engage in book discussions, and feel eager about reading.

Bubbles aRe Us

Saturday, December 14 at 1 pm Located on 640 3rd Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ Join Ms. Martha for songs, stories, and crafts with LOADS of fun! This storytime will feature stories in English and Spanish for the

whole family. FREE PIZZA!!!

**Family Bingo** 

Saturday, December 14 at 3 pm Join us at the Elmora Branch Library for a funfilled game of BINGO.



Adult Spanish Book Club

Monday, December 16 at 2 pm Come and join Martha as she hosts a monthly book discussion for Spanish-speaking adults! Adult Scrabble

Thursday, December 19 from 2 pm - 3:30

*pm* Word lovers! Exercise your B-R-A-I-N (7 points) by playing Scrabble with other like-

minded adults. Gingerbread Man is Loose in the Library

Friday, December 20 Go on a hunt for the Gingerbread Man! Come to the Elmora Branch Library to start your scavenger hunt for the Gingerbread Man. You will have to follow the clues throughout the library. The final clue will lead you to a prize

from our treasure chest! Toddlers World

Friday, December 20 at 11 am

An hour of fun songs to sing,

music, and playtime. **Drawing for Kids** 

Tuesday, December 26 at 2 pm Come and join us for a delightful storytime where you will get to learn how to draw!





#### **MANY HAD FUN AT WEBBY'S FUN FEST**

#### Submitted by Dan Bernier

Over 70 people participated in the second annual Webby's Family Fun Fest, hosted by Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23. This family-oriented event was open to everyone free of charge, and was held at St. Genevieve's Church on Monmouth Road in Elizabeth.

Webby, the Webfoot Duck, has been the mascot of Troop 23 since 1967. He provided activities that included cornhole, mini-golf, ring toss, Connect 4, Jenga, checkers, chess, Battleship, and several other games. Outside the church hall, participants roasted marshmallows on a campfire. And, at the end of the event, everyone enjoyed an ice cream sundae.

The Scouting program instills character, good citizenship and physical fitness in youth through outdoor activities such as campouts and hikes, involvement in community activities, and just plain FUN! If you have a son or daughter, nephew or niece, grandson or granddaughter, or neighbor who is anywhere between a Kindergartener and a high school senior, please suggest they consider getting in on the fun of Scouting.

New members are welcome at any time, all year round. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfoottroop@gmail.com.



(above) Everyone had fun when Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23 hosted Webby's Family Fun Fest at St. Genevieve's Church on Friday, October 11.

Courtesv photo



## **JERSEY 360 JAMBOREE WAS AMAZING**

Submitted by Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster

The Patriots" Path Council, Boy Scouts of America held an amazing event at the Sussex County Fairgrounds on October 25-27, 2024. The Jersey 260 Jamboree was attended by over 4,000 Scouts and leaders from throughout northern New Jersey.

There was non-stop activity for the Scouts, including games, military and law enforcement displays, a Blackhawk helicopter, technology demonstrations, merit badge classes, a BMX show, a Scouting Museum, and shooting ranges. A show on Saturday evening included videos, an illusionist, and a performance by a popular New Jersey Band - The Benjamins.

Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23, both sponsored by St. Genevieve's Church in Elizabeth, camped both nights in a small city of tents and canopies. The Scouts were able to get the most fun out of the event by using an app supplied by the Council to direct them to the activities. For many of them, this event will be a highlight of their Scouting career.

For more information about the Scouting program, please contact Dan Bernier, 451-1948 Scoutmaster, (908) at or webfoottroop@gmail.com.



(above) Boy Scout Troop 23 of Elizabeth was one of hundreds of Scout troops and Cub packs camped at the Jersey 360 Jamboree on the Sussex County Fairgrounds on October 25-27, 2024.

Courtesy photo

### **SOUNDS OF THE SEASON FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT – DEC. 14**

Townley Presbyterian Church together with Church, 829 Salem Road, Union, NJ. Saturday, The Salem Roadhouse Café proudly present a December 14, 2024. Doors open 6:30 p.m. The free holiday concert, on Saturday, December 14, 2024.

This special concert will be held in the church sanctuary and will feature multiple performers in several musical genres, from rock, to classical, to jazz, pop and familiar, traditional holiday songs.

Noted performers will be classical organ by Townley's resident organist, Bill Jensen; Piano/organ duets with Jeff Manno and Bill Jensen; The Townley Church Choir; piano and vocals with Cynthia and Jeff Manno; jazz with Carrie Jackson & Radam Schwartz; blues with Robert Hill; rock/pop and original holiday tunes by Zuko, Phillips, Cohn & Starr; Kayla Richardson; Brazilian Saxophonist Gerson Galante; Rich Kubicz; and the Praising Pillars choir.

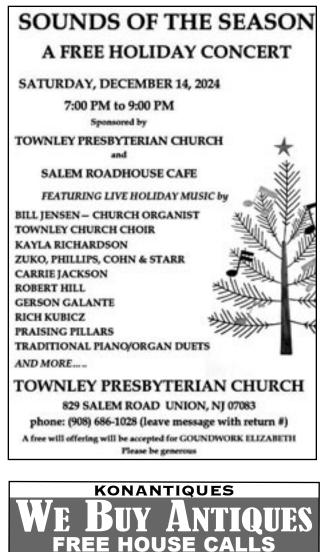
The holiday extravaganza will feature special lighting and Christmas decorations within the sanctuary.

You won't want to miss this live holiday show. All ages are welcome. It's a wholesome show, so bring the entire family!

Plan now for an evening of great music and holiday fun. Admission is free. A free will offering will be accepted for the benefit of Groundwork Elizabeth. Townley Presbyterian



show starts at 7:00 p.m.



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### **CELEBRATE WITH THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS**

The beloved Pipes of Christmas fundraising concert is delighted to be entering their second quarter century with a brand-new production.

The popular holiday event will be returning to the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in NYC on Decemebr 14, and Central Presbyterian Church in Summit, NJ on Decemebr 15.

The Pipes of Christmas brings together musicians, soloists, and performers from across America and the UK to share the magic of the holiday season through the timeless sounds of Celtic music. The show features traditional favorites and newly commissioned works performed on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, organ, brass, and more, as well as readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

Featured performers include guitarist and music director Steve Gibb from Inverness, Scotland, actor James Robinson of "A Merry Scottish Christmas," "Braveheart," and "Outlander," fiddler Caitlin Warbelow from Broadway's "Come from Away," and US Harp Champion harpist Rachel Clemente.

Audiences will thrill to the Commonwealth Pipes and Drums under the leadership of Pipe Major Adam Holdaway and the B-Line Brass Quintet led by CJ Waldrop.

In both locations, the company will include the Solid Brass ensemble and the St. Columcille United Pipe Band led by Pipe Major Cameron MacDougall.

Also making her Pipes of Christmas debut will be Madelyn Monaghan, an Irish American traditional (sean-nós) singer based in New York City. In September of this year, Madelyn was a leading performer at the Celtic World Forum in Dublin alongside the likes of Máiréad Nesbitt and Clannad's Moya Brennan and appeared in the Celtic Music Festival in Rockport, MA. Her voice can be heard via TikTok, museums, film scores, and commercials, and her album éist is available on all streaming platforms.

Proceeds Support Scholarships and Cultural Heritage Initiatives

The Pipes of Christmas is hosted by the Learned Kindred of Currie, a non-profit cultural

and educational organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Scottish and Highland heritage and the arts. As its primary fundraiser, the concert enables the Kindred's continued efforts to support the global Scottish community through initiatives such as:

- Producing Tartan Day on Ellis Island, perhaps the largest Tartan Day event in the world,
- which received 80,000 visitors in 2024 alone
  Providing scholarships to deserving students in the US, Canada, and Scotland
- Sponsoring competitions and festivals across the globe
- Commissioning of new musical and cultural works
- A global monuments initiative, which helps erect and preserve new and existing locations such as the Scottish Writers Museum and Bale nam Bàrd (the bard's home) on the Island of South Uist
- Developing a cultural heritage center in Scotland (currently in preliminary stages)

#### TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Tickets are now available via Eventbrite. Reserved VIP and general admission seating is available. Access to the global web stream of concert highlights can also be booked in advance. Tickets for Summit are \$60 general admission and \$150 VIP - reserved tickets.

#### **ABOUT "THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS"**

Since its debut, The Pipes of Christmas has played to standing-room-only audiences. Now a cherished holiday event, the concert gives audiences a stirring and reverent celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit. Audience-goers return year after year to experience the program, many reporting that the Pipes of Christmas has become part of their family's annual Christmas tradition.

The concert has been lavished with critical acclaim. In his review for Classical New Jersey Magazine, Paul Somers wrote, "The whole evening was constructed to introduce gem after gem and still have a finale which raised the roof. In short, it was like a well-constructed fireworks show on the Glorious Fourth."



(above) Madelyn Monaghan







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VISA

### **NJIO PRESENTS FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY CONCERT IN SUMMIT**

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra will be entertaining families on Sunday, December 8, 2024 with a free concert of seasonal holiday favorites. The concert will be from 2pm to 3pm at Summit High School, 125 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, NJ. Families with children of all ages are invited to come and join in the fun!

NJIO's three orchestral ensembles will combine to perform music by Corelli, Reinecke, Strauss, and more! The concert concludes with Leroy Anderson's exciting Sleigh Ride, with percussion accompaniment provided by the youngest members of the audience!

The concert is free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Following the concert, the famous NJIO Instrument Petting Zoo returns! Experienced NJIO musicians will guide young audience members and assist them in safely trying out the instrument of their dreams. Instruments are loaned by Elefante Music of New Providence and

Scotch Plains.

Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 2 pm Summit High School 125 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, NJ Admission is free;

donations are gratefully accepted.

This concert is made possible by funds from: the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation; The Lillian Schenck Foundation; The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack Foundation; Investors Foundation; Standish Foundation; and many other generous supporters. NJIO is a proud participating organization in the Families First Discovery Pass Program, a program of the NJ Departments of Health and Human Services.

NJIO is committed to ensuring that its programs and concerts are accessible. For more information regarding the concert or to inquire

about patron services, please contact NJIO at info@njio.org, or visit NJIO's website njio.org.

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra, now in its 31st season, has been nationally recognized as a leader in intergenerational excellence through its unique approach to teaching musical performance and as a model for intergenerational orchestras across the country. Depending on space availability, NJIO welcomes new members of all ages and abilities each concert period to one of its several orchestras - no auditions needed!

NJIO's Winter Concert Sunday, February 23, 2025, 3 pm – Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, Plainfield, NJ NJIO's Spring Concert Sunday, April 27, 2025, 3 pm - Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, Plainfield, NJ

We hope to see you there!



