

Summit NJ Times

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Issue 111 • December 2024



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2024 DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY EVENT SCHEDULE

Thanksgiving is behind us and the holiday season has started! Don't miss the return of exciting family events including Celebrate in Summit, Carriages & Carolers, and The HillTop Elf Scavenger Hunt. The Summit VISA Gift Cards, accepted at over 150 Summit businesses city-wide, are also available this holiday season so people can support Summit businesses by giving the gift of local! More information on holiday events and Summit VISA Gift Cards can be found on summitdowntown.org.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY - NOV 30

Join us on November 30th as we shine a spotlight on the vibrant small businesses that make Summit a special place. Discover unique finds, enjoy exclusive discounts, and participate in in-store events. From cozy shops to delicious eateries, Summit's small businesses offer a diverse range of products and services. Let's come together to support our local economy and kick off the holiday season with a bang! Please visit our website for participating businesses. Shop small, support local.

THE HILLTOP ELF SCAVENGER HUNT - NOV 30 - DEC 21

A great event for adults and kids alike! The HillTop Elves are hidden within more than 100 different downtown Summit businesses or in the storefront windows; shoppers and their families are urged to wander downtown in search of the HillTop Elf! No purchase is necessary. Scavenger Hunt Forms are available at all participating businesses or can be downloaded off the SDI website. The participating businesses are listed on the form where shoppers identify where they saw the elf at each business. Completed forms must be turned in by 4PM on Saturday, December 21 to be entered to win \$500 Summit VISA Gift Card, they can be returned to any participating business. 10 runners up will also each win \$100 gift cards. The winning completed forms will be drawn on Thursday, January 2; winners will be notified by email and phone.

CELEBRATE IN SUMMIT - SATURDAY, DEC 21 - 1-4PM

Shop, dine, and celebrate right in downtown Summit this holiday season! There will be music throughout the downtown and Horse and Carriage rides from 1-4pm at Lyric Park (corner of Beechwood Road and Bank Street). New this year, an additional wagon for the day so that all may enjoy the rides. At the Promenade at 426 Springfield Ave, Jimmy's Artistic Creations will be making holiday sculptures out of ice! Come see him in the act from 1-4pm; the sculptures will be at the Promenade for as long as weather allows. We will be joined again by Soiree NJ for an afternoon with winter princesses including take home crafts for all ages, 1-4pm in

The Promenade.

All activities are free to the public.

CARRIAGES & CAROLERS - 1-4PM, NOV 30, DEC 7, 14, 21.

Take a break from your downtown shopping to enjoy holiday music, strolling carolers and brass musicians, and free Horse and Carriage rides from 1-4pm Saturdays, November 30, December 7, 14 and 21. New this year, an additional carriage the last two weekend, Saturday, December 14 & 21 so that all may enjoy rides. The boarding location will be

Lyric Park, located at the corner of Bank Street and Beechwood Road. Use 17 Beechwood Road for GPS. Please note the rides run until 4pm but the line is cut off by 3:30pm, the line may need to be cut earlier to ensure the horse leaves on time. Please keep that timing in mind and SDI very much appreciates your patience.

FREE HOLIDAY SHOPPER PARKING

Courtesy of the City of Summit and Summit Downtown, Inc., there will be FREE holiday shopper parking December 14-31 at 90-minute meters on-street (time limits will be enforced), in the Bank St. Lot, and on the 1st floor of the Tier Garage on Springfield Ave. Get all your holiday shopping done without the worry! Please note that the promotion only applies to the 90-minute street meters and lots.

Summit Downtown, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the on-going development and promotion of the business community in downtown Summit, NJ.

Celebrate in Summit

- SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY NOV 30**
KICKOFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH IN-STORE PROMOTIONS. SHOP SMALL, SUPPORT LOCAL.
- CARRIAGES & CAROLERS SATURDAYS NOV 30 - DEC 21 • 1-4PM**
HOLIDAY STREET SOUNDS WITH STROLLING BRASSES AND LIVE HOLIDAY MUSIC. HORSE AND WAGON RIDES. DJ Mr. SOCKS
- HILLTOP ELF SCAVENGER HUNT NOV 30 - DEC 21**
VISIT DOWNTOWN SUMMIT TO FIND THE HILLTOP ELF HIDDEN AT PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES. WIN SUMMIT VISA GIFT CARDS!
- CELEBRATE IN SUMMIT! DEC 21 • 1-4PM**
LIVE ICE CARVING DEMO, WINTER PRINCESSES & CRAFTS WITH SOIREE NJ, LIVE MUSIC AND DJ Mr. SOCKS

FREE PARKING! DEC 14-31
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Summit Times

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Summit Times is published by Renna Media. 9,600 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Summit, NJ. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND COOKIE WALK - DEC 7

The United Methodist Church of Summit will hold its Annual Holiday Bazaar and Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 7, 2024, from 10am - 4pm. Admission is free, and your entire family is welcome. It is a fun day and a great way to start the holidays as there will be something for everyone. Vendors so you can get an early start on your Christmas shopping; chili and hot dogs;

face painting and pictures with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus for the little ones and the young at heart; a hot chocolate station and the main event –our popular Cookie Walk. For more information, you can contact the church office at (908) 277-1700 or office@umcsummit.org. United Methodist Church of Summit is located at 17 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, NJ.



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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!

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra
 Warren Cohen, Artistic Director

HOLIDAY HARMONIES

A family-friendly orchestra concert



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Sunday December 8th, 2024
at 2 PM

Summit High School
 125 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, NJ

Instrument Petting Zoo
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More information:



www.NJIO.org
info@njio.org
 (908) 603-7691



NJIO is committed to creating an accessible concert experience for all.



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; Instrument Petting Zoo sponsor Elefante Music; and our season sponsors: the Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation, The Lillian Schenck Foundation, The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack 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.

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Midweek Advent Services with Eucharist
 Wednesdays, December 4, 11 and 18 at 12 noon
 Organ Recitals After Services on December 4 and 18

Christmas Eve
 Tuesday, December 24
 Family Service with Eucharist at 4:00 p.m.
 Candlelight Eucharist with Special Music at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
 Wednesday, December 25
 Nativity of Our Lord Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.
 Service of Lessons, Carols and Eucharist
 Sunday, December 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Mornings
 Services with Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School, Youth & Adult Forum at 8:45 a.m.

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The Summit Elks Lodge recently received a thank you including a picture from fellow Summit Elk Major James Lacey and his soldiers of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment who are deployed in Syria in Operation Inherent Resolve. They appreciated a recent shipment of snacks provided by the Lodge, and shipped to them by NJ Elks Army of Hope.



Courtesy photo

Anthony Paterno
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HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE NOW OPEN

Junior League of Summit

Do you love bargains? Have you started shopping for the holidays yet? Need a toy for a child or a gift for a hostess? Stop by the Junior League of Summit Thrift Shop located at 37

Deforest Ave., Summit, NJ.

Starting on November 30, JLS Thrift Shop invites you to its annual Holiday Boutique — a special event with even more incredible bargains on exceptional, high-quality merchandise. They sell holiday clothing, giftwares, decorations, toys, and jewelry.

Shop hours are 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

Going strong for 90 years, the JLS Thrift Shop remains the oldest retail business in downtown Summit.

Since its inception in 1934, the shop has been owned and operated by the Junior League of Summit and all items for sale are donated to the shop by League members and the local community. Over \$3,000,000 in proceeds have been returned to the community in the form of grants, projects, scholarships, and other programs.




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OLD GUARD DECEMBER 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.

IN DECEMBER, WE WILL HAVE TWO SPEAKERS:

On December 3rd, our speaker will be **Ron Brachman**, an internationally known expert in Artificial Intelligence. In 2023 he retired from his positions as the Director of the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute at Cornell Tech and Professor of Computer Science at Cornell University. He has also held research leadership positions at Yahoo, DARPA, AT&T Labs, and Bell Labs. Ron will discuss the amazing leaps forward in Artificial Intelligence over the past several years, and examine the unexpected, humanlike blunders the programs continue to make. Briefly, the algorithms, capable of constructing solutions to many complex problems, lack what is generally perceived as 'common sense'. In his talk, Ron Brachman will consider what common sense is about, what AI has tried to do about it, and what's still missing.



(above, l-r) Dr. Brachman, James Kossler

Courtesy photos

On December 10th, **James M. Kossler** will discuss the FBI versus the Cosa Nostra. Jim spent 23 years as an FBI agent and was the Coordinating Supervisor for the New York office responsible for directing the Organized Crime unit. As an expert witness he testified in numerous mob trials in New York, New Jersey, and Philadelphia. Jim was featured in the Netflix documentary "Fear City: New York vs. the Mafia." Jim will provide a brief history of Cosa Nostra (Mafia) and how they went from controlling unions and industry in New York and New Jersey, to being turned into street gangs.

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SUMMIT PUBLIC LIBRARY DECEMBER PROGRAMS

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 Monday - Thursday: 9 AM - 9 PM; Thursday - Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM; Sunday: 1 PM - 5 PM

ADULT PROGRAMS

Unless otherwise noted, registration is required, and programs are held in-person at the Summit Library

Virtual Author Talk with Jeff Post

Wednesday, 12/4, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

The emeritus curator of the Smithsonian's National Gem Collection, Dr. Jeffrey E. Post, discusses The Smithsonian National Gem Collection Unearthed: Surprising Stories Behind the Jewels. The talk will be followed by a live Q&A session. Online.

Mastering the MyHeritage DNA Test

Thursday, 12/5, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Learn how features of the MyHeritage DNA test can be used productively by genealogists, adoptees, and anyone curious about their family history or ethnic background. Online.

Concert: Ellen LaFurn

Sunday, 12/8, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Vocalist Ellen LaFurn, accompanied by Ron

Naspo on bass and Bob McHugh on piano, brings a jazz vibe to selections from The Great American Songbook. Reservation not required.

How Musicals Get to Broadway

Monday, 12/9, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

John Kenrick, a former personal assistant to six Tony Award-winning producers, offers an multimedia discussion on the journey of musicals to Broadway and the high costs of theater tickets.

Virtual Author Talk with Laura Dave

Wednesday, 12/11, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

#1 New York Times bestselling author of The Last Thing He Told Me, Laura Dave, chats about her newest book

The Night We Lost Him. The talk will be followed by a live Q&A session. Online.

GRACE Pop-Up Distribution

Friday, 12/13, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Free food distribution from GRACE (Giving & Receiving Assistance for our Community's Essentials).

Adult Craft Program

Sunday, 12/15, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Details TBA. Instructor: Marge Barkan.

Highlighted Programs for Children

Let's Celebrate Hanukkah

A Visit with Rebecca Gardyn Levington

Saturday, 12/7, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Local author Rebecca Gardyn Levington reads aloud her latest book "Little Dreidel Learns TO Spin." Kids will learn about the holiday, play dreidel, and take home their own dreidel. For Grades K-3.

Chinese Corner: Dunhuang

Sunday, 12/15, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Learn about the ancient Silk Road city of Dunhuang and create Dunhuang-style crafts.

For Grades K-5.

Cookie House Building

Monday, 12/16,

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm & 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm

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January 12 2025

3:00 p.m. **Concert**

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Guest Artists: Ranaan Meyer, Double Bass
Asi Matathias, Violin

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Conductor
NJYS Youth Symphony

NJYC Coriste: Trish Joyce, Director

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WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director & Principal Conductor



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1:30 p.m.

Pre-Concert Talk

by Luthier Avshi
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of Violins of Hope

2:00 p.m.

**Pre-Concert
Reception**



This program was made possible
in part by support from Jewish
Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ.



This event was made possible by a grant from the New
Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the
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findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this event do not
necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities
or the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

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

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NJIO is committed to creating an accessible concert experience for all.

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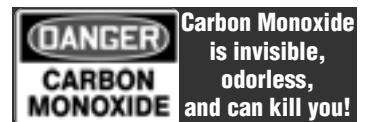
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SANTA AT TWIN MAPLES

THE FORTNIGHTLY CLUB OF SUMMIT PRESENTS



**Stories with Santa
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SAT, DEC 7 & SUN, DEC 8
TIMED ENTRY FROM 11 AM - 2 PM

TWIN MAPLES
214 SPRINGFIELD AVE, SUMMIT, NJ

ADMISSION

STORIES & COCOA WITH SANTA
\$25 for Adults | \$15 for Children

*This event is made possible by
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**TICKETS & INFO VISIT
FORTNIGHTLYCLUB.ORG**




The entire family is invited to one of the areas loveliest historic homes, Twin Maples in Summit, on Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8 to join Santa for food and fun. The weekend event is hosted by the Fortnightly Club of Summit and sponsored by the Peapack Gladstone Bank.

Festivities begin each morning at 9:30 a.m. with a delicious Holiday 'Breakfast with Santa' served in the beautifully decorated ballroom with catering by 'What a Dish.' Breakfast includes live music, family photos and stories with Santa.

For those who can't make it for breakfast, 'Stories with Santa' is available at reserved intervals between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on both days. This portion of the event gives families the opportunity to join Santa for photos, cocoa and homemade cookies, stories and sing-alongs. There even might be some gingerbread!

Tickets to Santa at Twin Maples can be purchased at <https://www.fortnightlyclub.org>.

Pricing for Breakfast with Santa is \$45 for adults and \$20 for children. Please bring booster seats for children. Highchairs are not available.

Reserved tickets for Stories with Santa are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children.

The weekend event benefits the preservation of Twin Maples, a property on the New Jersey and National Historic Registers. The house was designed by New York architect Alfred F. Norris in the Colonial Revival style, referencing the White House. The Fortnightly Club purchased the property in 1949. Today, Twin Maples serves as a clubhouse and hosts many community events and fundraisers.

The Fortnightly Club of Summit, a non-profit organization founded in 1893, offers women camaraderie and a full calendar of interesting events and volunteer opportunities. The Club supports the preservation of Twin Maples, education, the arts and humanitarian efforts. For over twenty-years the Club has awarded annual scholarships to deserving young, local women.

Fortnightly Club members are from Summit and many neighboring towns. To join or for more information, visit the Club's website at <https://www.fortnightlyclub.org>.

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CHILDREN'S PEACE FESTIVAL EXPLORES AND EXPANDS QUAKER MEETING

Amid the election buzz and global conflicts, there was a place of calm, creativity and joy at the much-expanded second annual Children's Peace Festival on Saturday afternoon, November 2, at the Chatham Summit Quaker Meeting in Chatham, New Jersey.



(above) The Peace Garden with "peace flowers" made by children from upcycled materials and planted among generously donated mums from The Farm at Green

In keeping with this year's theme of "Peace Begins with Me", there were activities for all, especially families with young children.

"The timing was perfect," said Anna Whitely, 16, about the bluebird sky for the mostly-outdoor event and the fact that folks were craving a moment of peace. Anna, who founded the Children's Peace Festival, is a junior at Summit High School and a member of the Quaker meeting. "Seeing young families so eager to learn peace-building skills gives me hope. Thank you to everyone who pitched in to make it happen and to all the young families who came. Let's do it again!"

Collaborative games were a big hit, parents and grandparents joined in, including the hilarious Freeze Dance and A Big Wind Blows.

Peace-centered arts and crafts were a big attraction, giving eager hands a chance to express themselves. Children painted peace rocks (donated by Fusco Brothers of Chatham), to take with them or leave behind on the peace path. They also made colorful meditation jars with glitter, glue and more as simple tools to help keep calm when under stress.

When not working with their hands or playing games, children and their parents were given the opportunity to slip off their shoes, enter the calm of the Quaker meeting room and explore the basics of meditation.

The voices of both children and adults could be heard throughout the festival, starting with the Hummingbirds Chorus from Kent Place School (their second year performing at the festival) and followed by young singers from Elefante Music and School for the Performing Arts.

Adding stunning color to the music-- and the day--was the Peace Garden. Students of all ages from Cornerstone School, a Summit-based preschool, Summit High School and Drew University created flowers made with recycled materials. Each crafted flower was displayed in a path of bright yellow mums donated by The Farm at Green Village.

If you would like to participate or partner with the Children's Peace Festival, please email childrenspeacefestival@gmail.com. And for more information about this year's event and announcements about the 2025 event, follow [@childrens_peace_festival](https://www.instagram.com/childrens_peace_festival) on Instagram.



(above) Children working together to build a clay pot, signifying how enduring peace so often depends on sustained mutual effort.

Courtesy photos

SUMMIT PBA #55 AND SUMMIT FMBA #54

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LIONS CLUB

The Summit Lions welcomed Mayor Elizabeth Fagan to their general meeting held October.

Mayor Fagan was greeted by over 25 Lions and spoke on current events happening in Summit. She stressed the importance of Summit service organizations and how they offer many programs and services that serve the community.

The Lions main mission is to assist the visually impaired. Helen Keller challenged the Lions in 1928 to be the Knights of the Blind. The Summit Lions Club was chartered in 1926 and is celebrating 98 years of service to the Summit Community. For more information visit summitlionsclub.org.

Courtesy photo



(above) Lions Club President Peter Twill gifts Mayor Fagan with a vintage NJ Lions pin engraved with "Engulfed in Lionism".

SUMMIT EMS ISSUES FRAUD ALERT

The Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad has several reports from people who have received text messages claiming to be from a Squad member and seeking support through a donation or gift card purchase. These messages are fraudulent.

The Summit First Aid Squad is currently running its annual fund drive which is done entirely through US Postal mail. The Squad does not solicit donations by phone, email or text message. Anyone receiving a suspicious contact from someone claiming to represent the Summit

First Aid Squad is asked to please notify the Squad at: info@summitems.org.

The all-volunteer First Aid Squad, responds to emergency calls 24/7, is entirely funded through private donations and does not bill for service. The Squad is always looking for new volunteers to join its ranks. All needed training, uniforms and equipment is provided.

For information on becoming a volunteer, or donating to the squad please call 908-277-9479, or visit their web site at: www.summitems.org.



(above) The 2024 Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad

Photo by Bill Marvin

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON – DEC. 14 FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT IN UNION, NJ

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

Join Us for the Learned Kindred of Currie's 26th Annual Production.

THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

Answer the call of the pipes and drums

NEW YORK CITY	December 14, 2024
	2:00 PM
	Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church 921 Madison Avenue, New York City
SUMMIT	December 15, 2024
	2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
	Central Presbyterian Church 70 Maple Street, Summit, New Jersey

Full details at pipesofchristmas.com

The concert is hosted by the Learned Kindred of Currie, a non-profit cultural and educational organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Celtic heritage and the arts.

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DEREK SHEN EARNS BOY SCOUT EAGLE RANK

Summit Boy Scout Troop 67

Summit Boy Scout Troop 67 member Derek Shen earned the Eagle scout rank recently, which is the highest achievement in the Boy Scouts of America's Scouts BSA program. To attain the Eagle rank, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges, fulfill leadership roles and display outdoor skills, demonstrate by example the Scout Oath and Law, and complete a comprehensive service project in the community.

Derek feels that scouting has taught him the importance of community service. From participating in the St. Teresa Annual Loaves & Fishes Food Drive, working on the Summit College Club's annual book sale, supporting

scholarships for women in need, to the Bonds of Courage food drive for overseas soldiers, he realized how small efforts can make a big impact.

His Eagle Scout community service project is focused on creating a STEM lab for underserved school districts in partnership with the nonprofit organization Students 2 Science. The project aimed to provide students from disadvantaged backgrounds with access to hands-on STEM education, helping to inspire the next generation of innovators and leaders.

Derek's dedication to the project was evident from start to finish. "I wanted to make sure students who might not have access to quality STEM programs had the opportunity to explore

fields like science, technology, engineering, and math. Also, watching these students get excited about STEM was one of the most rewarding experiences of my Scouting journey," he shared.

The success of the project was not just in the physical lab setup, but also in its lasting impact. According to Derek many students who participated in the program expressed newfound interest in pursuing STEM careers, a testament to the effectiveness of the initiative.

As Derek embarks on the next chapter of his life, including his role as a United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Youth Ambassador, he remains committed to the ideals of Scouting. "Scouting has taught me that true success is measured by the positive impact we have on the world," he said.

Derek mentions that "My six-year journey through Scouting, from the first day I put on the uniform to culminating in the achievement of Eagle Scout rank, has profoundly impacted my life, influencing my decisions, actions, and contributions to society".



(above, l-r) Troop 67 Committee Chair Jonathan Betz, Derek Shen and Scoutmaster Robert Rydzewski.

Courtesy photo

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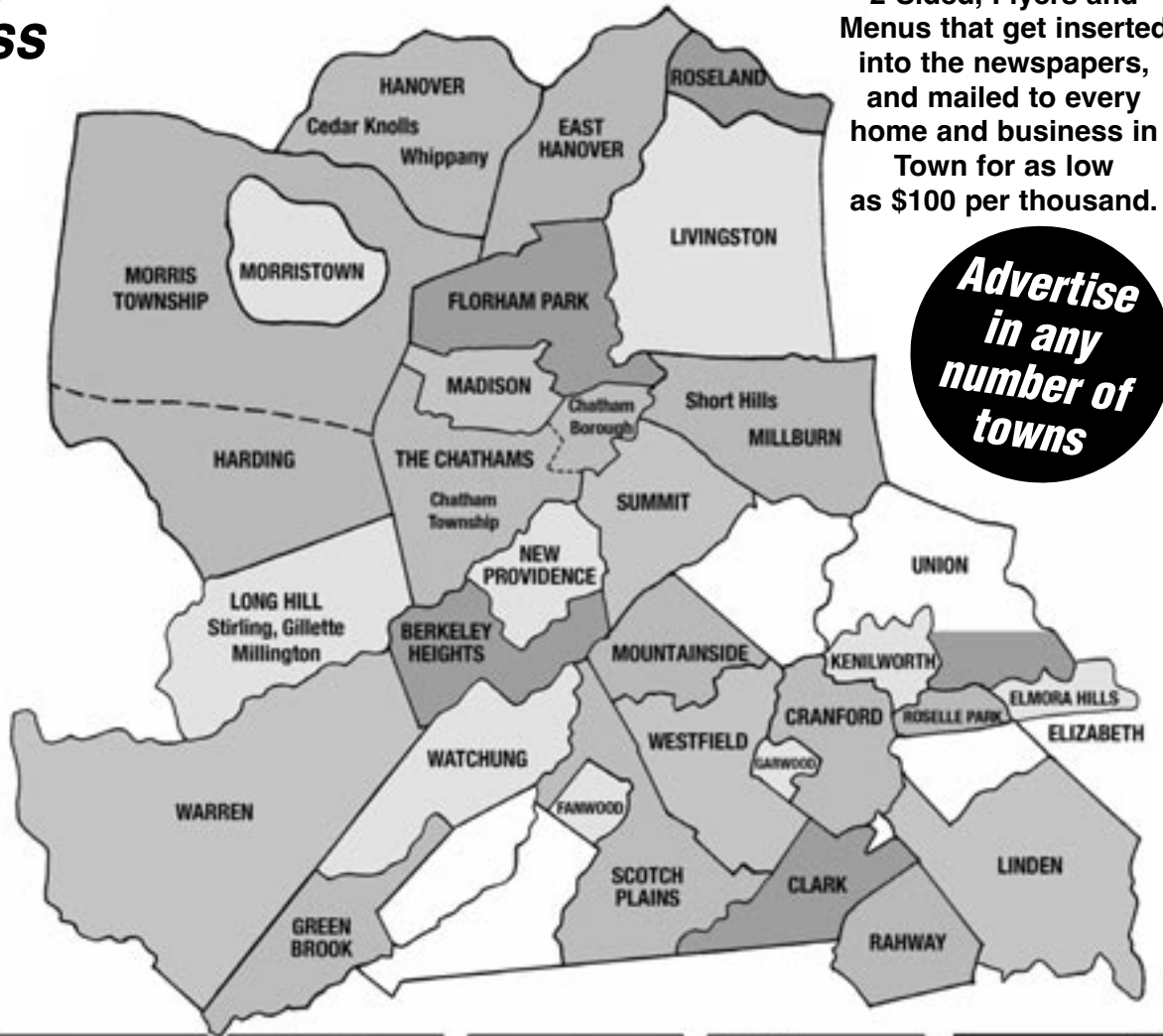
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GRACE THANKS DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

GRACE - Giving & Receiving Assistance for our Community's Essentials

The community of GRACE supporters who came together on October 5th to celebrate 'Cheers to GRACE'. We raised more than \$30,000 while bringing together more than 150 friends who celebrated the gifts of GRACE during a night to remember.

This event raised funds to support weekly distribution of fresh, nutrient-dense food, essential supplies, and stabilizing supports that enhance the health, wellbeing, and security of more than 600 local families every week. Our Founder, Amanda Parrish Block, spoke to the crowd, sharing ways to engage more deeply in supporting the community. "I extend the invitation to each of you to join in our weekly distribution to serve our neighbors. Thanks to this network of care, one in four GRACE families graduates to self-sufficiency within three months."

The event was put together by a committee of

twelve dedicated volunteers, led by Board Member Andrea Caserta. While Donna Fisk of Fisk Foto captured all the highlights of the night, Summit's local food scene was well represented by Summit Diner, Towne Deli, BarBacoa, Pizza Vita, Zappia's, Anita's Baked Wonders, Marigolds, Hot Dogs by Mr. Chi, Natale's Bakery, Sweet Nothings, and Serra Doce. These local businesses all donated their delicious signature food for our event. Roses in Stereo's kept the crowd dancing all night, and guests departed with a special gift from Brownie Points Bakery.

A special thank you to the generous sponsors who made this event possible: Amanda, Michael and Grace Block, The Caserta Family, Cristina Curiale, Claire Toth & David Dietze, Disco Dharma, Fisk Foto, Katherine Liu, Lucky Locks, Richard & Kayla Pechter, Rich & Joanne Sealaus, Summit Health Cares, The UPS Store

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ABOUT GRACE

Since 2016 GRACE has been Giving & Receiving Assistance for our Community's Essentials. As a volunteer run 501(c)3 non-profit organization, GRACE meets community needs with community resources to enable the good health and success of our vulnerable and underserved neighbors by providing a weekly distribution of culturally relevant fresh food and supplies, including milk, bread, eggs and produce, toilet paper, diapers and wipes, period products and laundry detergent. While providing access and referrals to stabilizing support services at every distribution, GRACE now serves more than 600 local families every week. GRACE meets community demand with community resources. For more information, visit www.gracegivingreceiving.org, or email info@gracegivingreceiving.org.

ATTENTION MORRIS AREA RUNNERS

Whether or not you are affiliated with a running club come check out the Rose City Runners! We meet every Saturday morning at the Kitchell Rd. parking area of nearby Loantaka Park in Morris Township. Meet time is at 9 a.m. November-March and 8:30 a.m. April-October. We leave promptly so if it's your first time come a little early so you can be introduced.

We share post Saturday run breakfast on a park picnic bench. We even have a fire in the shelter fireplace on cold winter days to keep us warm when we share breakfast. We do have other activities including member hosted house parties. Some members also race, and we form a team when there is enough interest from members. Racing is an option and not a requirement for membership.

Just come some Saturday! Members run varying paces (including a few walkers) and cover 3-8 miles, much on quiet wooded park trails. We often have turnouts of over 20 runners even on cold days. We have a diversity of ages from 20's to 70's. When park trails are icy or snow covered, we use alternate routes. We are a friendly welcoming group.

Contact BarbaraRushman@yahoo.com or visit our website RoseCityRunners.com to join or to learn more. There is no cost for membership.

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