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DAFFODIL PROJECT OF THE TOWNSHIP'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Eighth-grade students and staff from Kawameeh Middle School came together on November 15, 2024, to participate in their first planting for The Daffodil Project. This global initiative honors the 1.5 million children lost during the Holocaust by planting daffodils, a flower symbolizing remembrance and resilience.

During the school day, students dug into the soil in front of the school, planting over 250 bulbs sent by the project. As part of their Holocaust Unit, students explored the essential question: How do we remember the past? The planting, led by teachers Nikki Dowling, Nicole Osborne, Deana Buchanan, Kamuela Tillman, and Nikki Kelly, is the first of many hoped-for annual events.

Following the planting, students reflected on their experiences by writing original poetry, blending their hands-on work with creative expression. Kawameeh Middle School aims to make this a lasting tradition, inspiring remembrance and hope for generations to come.



(above and below) Kawameeh Middle School came together to participate in their first planting for The Daffodil Project.

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SOUNDS OF THE SEASON FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT – DEC. 14

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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DECEMBER EVENTS AT THE UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY

Union Public Library, 1060 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, NJ 07083 • Phone: 908-851-5450
Vauxhall Branch, 23 Hilton Avenue, Vauxhall, NJ 07088 • Phone: 908-851-5451 • <https://uplnj.org/>

Registration is required for all events, sign up at the library or on-line:

plnj.events.mylibrary.digital

Holiday Lights in New York City (Vauxhall Library)

Wed. 12/4 @ 6:00 pm

Please join us as Mr. Mario Medici returns to lead attendees on a virtual guided tour of the Holiday Lights in New York City. We will begin at 59th and Lexington, and will meander through the streets of New York City viewing the holiday lights and window decorations, as only New York City can do it. Lecture will also include some historical facts of the key sights, and works of art, making the experience much more enjoyable and entertaining.

Friends of the Library meeting (Main Library)

Thurs. 12/5 @ 6:00 pm

Join the Friends of the Library at their monthly meeting. New members are always welcome.

Come and support your library.

Vauxhall Negro League Baseball Club (Vauxhall Library)

Mon. 12/9 @ 6:00 pm

Are you a baseball fan and love history? Perhaps you are a fan of Satchel Paige or the Kansas City Monarchs? Come join us for our second meeting where our goal is to preserve the history of Negro League Baseball. Our meetings will consist of presentations, discussions, film viewings, book talks, and much more. December's meeting will consist of a film viewing on the Negro Leagues.

Creatures of the Night: Bats of New Jersey with Conserve Wildlife NJ (Main Library)

Tues. 12/10 @ 5:00 pm

Bats often get a bad reputation of being spooky or even fearsome, but they are actually some of the most beneficial animals to people, and right now, bats need our help! Join Conserve Wildlife Foundation biologist Leah Wells in a presentation to learn about these amazing night flying creatures in your area, and what you can do to keep them around!

Adult Crochet for Beginners (Vauxhall Library)

Wed. 12/11 @ 6:00 pm

Please join us as Ms. Lisa Roberts teaches attendees the basics of learning how to crochet. Attendees can bring their own crochet hooks and yarn, but supplies will be provided!

Animal Crossing Open Hours (Online via Nintendo Switch)

Fri. 12/13 @ 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Come explore UPL Island! Check out our inclusive virtual library building that serves children, teens, and adults. Discover our Mario-themed maze, shake fruit/money trees, shop at Nooks & Abels, help craft DIYs, and leave a message on the bulletin board. As a thank you for visiting, there will be freebies! In order to visit our island, you must add us as a friend before entering the island. Our UPL Nintendo friend code is SW-4027-1837-6212. All ages welcome. No registration necessary. If you have any questions, please contact jcarvajal@uplnj.org.

Kwanzaa Celebration 2024 (Vauxhall Library)

Sat. 12/14 starting @ 12:00 pm

Please join us for a full day of festivities as we celebrate as a community Kwanzaa Rutgers Professor, Mr. Bill Davis, will do a libation and the Rites of Kwanzaa NJ singer and poet, Ms. Tamara Horn, will sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and other songs UMOJA Dance Company founder, Ms. Karen Love, will do an African Dance Performance Performance Artist, Mr. Antonio Bowser, will do a story on Kwanzaa Rutgers Professor Robert Ramos & Percussionist Sekou Davis will perform on African drums.

Stuffed Pasta with The LibraryChef (Main Library)

Mon. 12/16 @ 6:30 pm

Learn how to make delicious, homemade ravioli in this hands-on class at Union Public Library! We'll start by demonstrating how to prepare fresh pasta dough, and then it's your turn to roll it out. With a rolling pin and cookie cutter, you'll craft perfectly sized ravioli, ready to be filled with Chef Teey's basil ricotta filling. This fun and interactive session is perfect for pasta lovers and those looking to learn a new kitchen skill in a relaxed setting. Equipment you will need to bring: 1 rolling pin, 1 round cookie cutter (approx. 2-3 inches) and a flat Baking sheet or pan for transport.

A Club in Motion Workshop (Main Library)

Wed. 12/18 @ 10:00 am

Looking to fix shoulder pain? Join the club! Restore your body to its natural state using the functional movements of a mobility club. It will help improve your mobility, flexibility, strength, balance and posture. Move better - Feel better. Try exercising with a Mobility Club with Jon Leslie.

Saturday Afternoon Trivia: Cartoons (Vauxhall Library)

Sat. 12/28 @ 1:00 pm

Are you fan of the Simpsons or immediately

think of Warner Brothers when you hear "Whats Up Doc?". Come to the library and test your cartoon knowledge for fun and prizes!

Weekly Chair Yoga (Main Library)

Tues. @ 9:00 am on 12/3, 12/10, 12/17

Take a deep breath with friends and stretch! A popular class for beginners or professionals now as a weekly series.

Presented by the Gateway Family YMCA.

Walk-in Wednesdays: One-on-One Library Technology Assistance (Vauxhall Library)

Weds. @ 12:30 - 2:00 pm on
12/4, 12/11, 12/18

Get help with library resources, including downloading e-books from Libby and Hoopla, using the library catalog and resources, using mobile print, and using the photocopier and scanner. Reservations are not required.

Meditation (Virtual on Zoom)

Thurs. @ 11:30 am on

12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26

Join Bindu Bhatt for virtual meditation sessions. No prior experience is necessary. Bindu has practiced meditation for over 30 years and wants to share her insight.

OUR NEWEST OFFERING:

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[Virtual on Library Chef website]

Call us at the library today 908-851-5450 extension 3 to see how to sign up!

You will need access to a computer or smartphone to view the following programs.

Party planning tips

Tues., 12/3 @ 7:00 pm

Ever wonder how a caterer cooks for so many and makes it look effortless? Come join us as we chat about helping you make your party great!

Stuffed Mushrooms

Wed., 12/11 @ 7:00 pm

In this class we are making stuffed mushrooms with a classic breadcrumb stuffing!

Healthy Holiday Eating: Smart Swaps and Mindful Choices

Tues., 12/17 @ 6:00 pm

Join us as we discuss the ways we can be more mindful during the holidays.

Library Speakers Consortium (LSC Virtual Author Talk) [Virtual on LSC website]

Unearthed: Exploring the Smithsonian National Gem Collection with Dr. Post

Wed. 12/4 @ 2:00 pm

On Pulse-Pounding, Family Driven Mysteries: A Conversation with Laura Dave

Wed. 12/11 @ 2:00 pm

Library Board Next Meeting Date - Meeting at the Main Library

Tuesday 12/17 @ 6:30 pm

For more information about our adult programs and resources, please call Adult Services at (908) 851-5450, extension 3, or check out our website at uplnj.org or visit us at the Main Library at 1060 Stuyvesant Ave. and the Vauxhall Branch at 123 Hilton Ave.

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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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THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF NANCY “ZOEH” ARAN

NJ Sharing Network

According to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (OPTN), over 22,000 Hispanic individuals are currently on the national organ transplant waiting list. In 2023, Hispanic Americans made up about 15% of all organ donors in the U.S. This number is steadily growing, though it still falls short compared to the need among Hispanic transplant patients.

As the nation celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15), NJ Sharing Network proudly honored the vital contributions of Hispanic Americans, not only in enriching our communities but in supporting the lifesaving mission of organ and tissue donation. NJ Sharing Network is proud to share the remarkable story of Nancy “Zoeh” Arana of Roselle, NJ, whose life shows the power of organ donation and transplantation.

EMBRACING LIFE AND GIVING BACK

Born in El Salvador, Zoeh and her family immigrated to the United States, where she enjoyed a healthy and happy childhood. However, her life took a dramatic turn when she was diagnosed with kidney failure. Despite undergoing rigorous dialysis treatments and maintaining a hopeful outlook, the reality of her condition made it clear that a kidney transplant was her only chance for survival.

“I remember writing down my thoughts, memories, and important life lessons in a notebook for my daughter, Nancy, because I did not think I was going to live much longer. I was clinging to every bit of hope I could find,” said Zoeh.

Zoeh’s prayers were answered when a friend of her husband Carlos connected them with the family of a young man who suffered a fatal accident. The young man’s mother, who was made aware of Zoeh’s need for a kidney, was moved to make a directed donation and donated her son’s kidney to Zoeh. This provided Zoeh with the lifesaving transplant she so desperately needed.

“I am forever grateful to my donor and his

mother. Their incredible generosity not only saved my life but also inspires me every day. I am committed to honoring their gift and my donor’s legacy,” said Zoeh.

Since her transplant, Zoeh has dedicated her life to giving back by actively supporting her church and her personal mission work in El Salvador and Colombia. Zoeh and Carlos have also served as foster parents, providing care and support to children in need.

Zoeh’s path to NJ Sharing Network began while she was working at a nonprofit focused on mental health. Though she loved her job, she sought a new role where she could expand her reach and touch more lives. Now, as part of the NJ Sharing Network team, Zoeh uses her experience to connect with diverse communities, educate others about organ and tissue donation, and inspire hope in those waiting for transplants.

“Being a part of the NJ Sharing Network team feels like another perfect match, just like my kidney,” said Zoeh. “Every day, I’m grateful to be part of an organization that saves and enhances lives. To think that 18 years ago, I was sick and struggling, and now I’m helping others learn about the power of organ and tissue donation -



(above, l-r) Zoeh Arana, Nancy Arana, and Carlos Arana



Zoeh Arana

Courtesy photos

it’s truly the perfect circle.”

Zoeh’s connection to organ donation doesn’t stop with her own story. Her sister also received a kidney transplant after battling a rare kidney disorder, and their mother, touched by the gift of life her daughters received, altruistically donated her kidney to a stranger.

“We are a family that is all-in when it comes to organ donation,” Zoeh shared. “My mom’s decision to donate to a stranger truly symbolizes what organ donation is about - giving life, even to those we may never meet.”

According to United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents are waiting for a lifesaving transplant. One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and enhance the lives of over 75 people. However, the opportunity to give the gift of life is extremely rare - not everyone who registers as a donor is able to donate after they pass away. In fact, less than 1% of all deaths meet the specific medical criteria to be an organ donor. This underscores the pressing need for more registered donors – especially in our diverse communities.

“Unfortunately, there are some common myths and misinformation that has contributed to a lower registration rate within our Hispanic communities, such as believing that doctors will not work as hard to save the lives of registered organ and tissue donors or that organ and tissue donation is against religious beliefs,” said Zoeh. “By sharing my story, I hope that we can help break down these barriers and ensure that more lives are saved.”

To learn more, get involved, and join the National Donate Life Registry as an organ and tissue donor, visit www.NJSharingNetwork.org.

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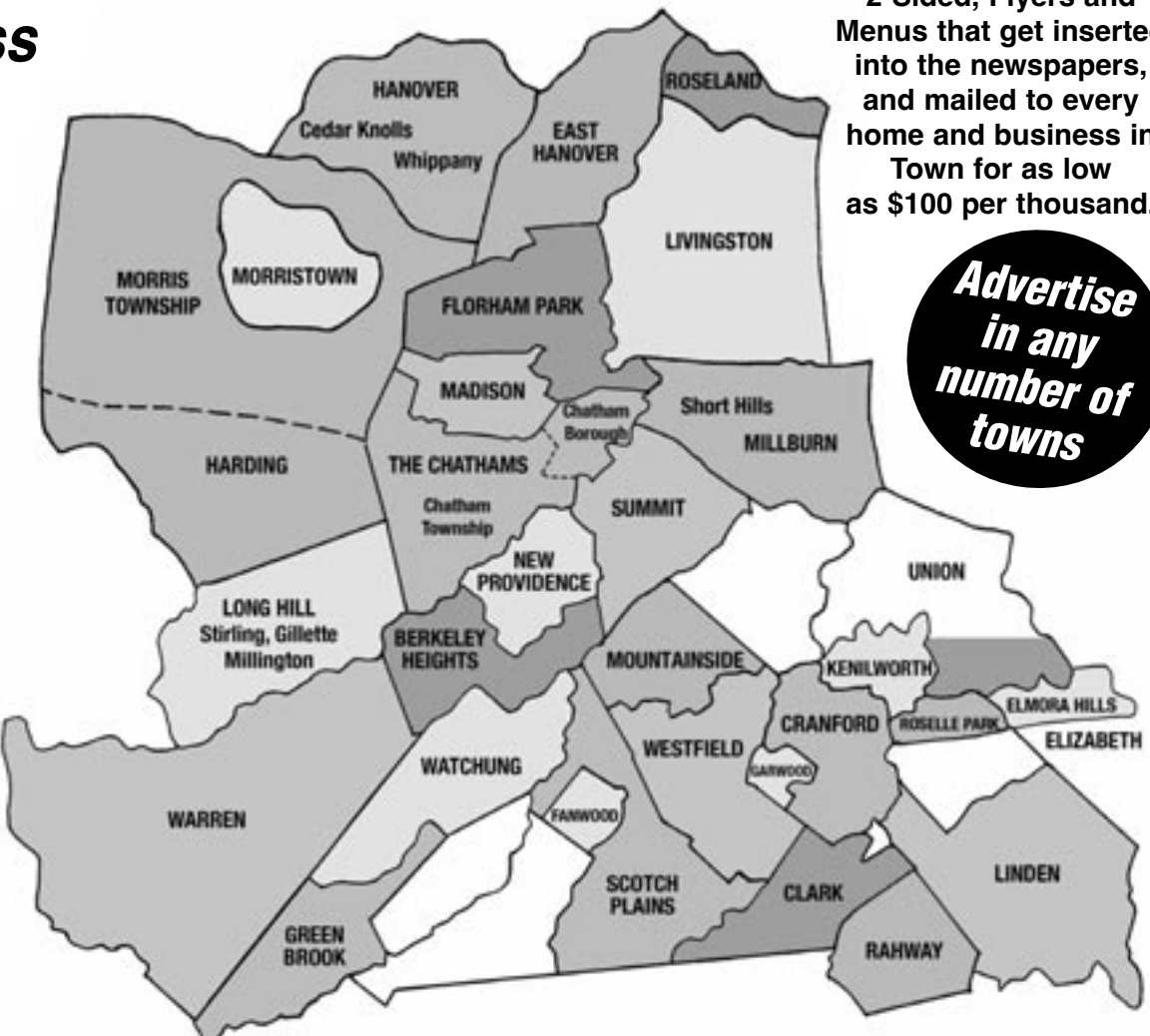
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NJIO PRESENTS FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY CONCERT IN SUMMIT

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 Schenk 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!

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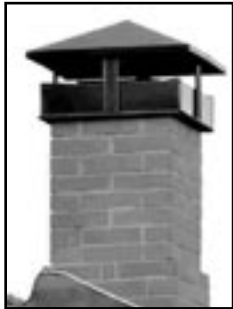
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