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SENIOR HOLIDAY PARTY

The Mayor's Annual Senior Holiday Party was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2024, at the Morristown Senior Center. Seniors were treated to a delicious luncheon, and holiday merriment.



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NJAC-NATIONAL SOCCER DIVISION CHAMPIONS

The Morristown High School Boys Soccer Team were champions of the NJAC-National Soccer Division this year finishing with a record of 14-5-3. This is the first time since 1967 that the boys soccer team has won a conference title.

- The team was led by Senior Captains: Jonah Sulkin, Mickey Chong, Harold Funes, Atticus Lindsley and Keiran O'Neill.
- Senior Striker Harold Funes lead the team

- with 32 total points (14 goals and 4 assists).
- Junior Striker Jermaine Campbell had 22 total points on the year (10 goals and 2 assists).
- Senior Striker Enrique Esteves had 21 total points (8 goals and 5 assists).
- Junior Gavin Raiz led the team in assists with 7 and had 15 total points on the year.
- Senior Goalie Atticus Lindsley had 148 saves this year, 289 lifetime.



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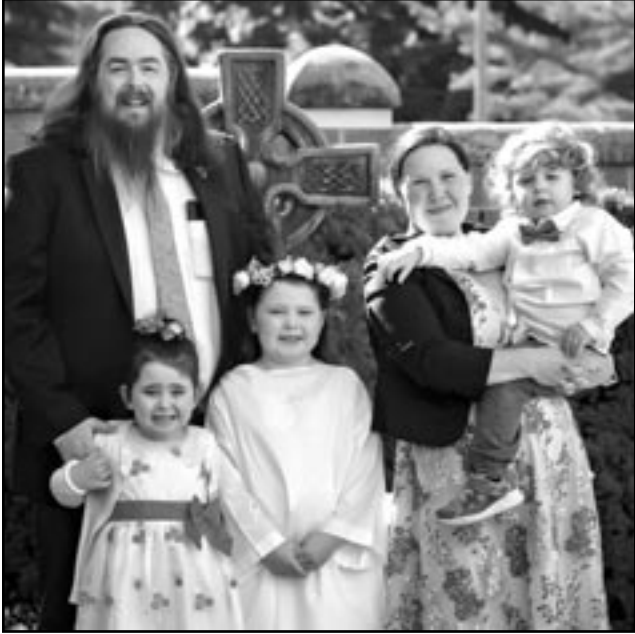
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 Garden
Communities

KERRY O'CONNOR CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF ORGAN DONATION

NJ Sharing Network

Kerry O'Connor of Morris Township celebrated a significant milestone in September – it is 11 years since a pancreas transplant saved her life. Reflecting on her journey, Kerry is using this anniversary to advocate for NJ Sharing Network and encourage people to register as



(above) Standing at right pancreas transplant recipient Kerry O'Connor enjoys a precious moment with her husband Billy and their children (l-r) Saoirse, Gracyn, and Seamus.

Photo by NJ Sharing Network

organ and tissue donors to help save and enhance lives.

“Not a day goes by that I don't think about the incredible gift my organ donor gave me. Their selfless choice has given me a life I never imagined possible,” said Kerry. “Sharing my story with others is my way of honoring my donor's legacy and supporting the vital work of NJ Sharing Network.”

Kerry's health challenges began at a young age when she was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Despite using the most up-to-date diabetes technology, including an insulin pump and Continuous Glucose Monitoring System (CGMS), Kerry struggled with severe hypoglycemia unawareness. Her blood sugar levels could drop dangerously low without warning, putting her life at constant risk. Simple activities like folding laundry could cause her blood sugar to plummet, forcing her to administer glucagon to herself to prevent losing consciousness.

Kerry had been living with Type 1 diabetes for 28 years. The only solution to her condition was a pancreas transplant. She was placed on the waiting list, and after 11 months, she received the life-changing call. Kerry's donor, like her, was CMV and EBV negative, a rare match that allowed for the successful transplant on September 3, 2013, at University of Minnesota

Medical Center.

Since her transplant, Kerry has not only regained her health but has also embraced life with a renewed sense of purpose. She has traveled to France, volunteered often for NJ Sharing Network, and most notably, welcomed three children into the world. Her children, Gracyn (8), Saoirse (6), and Seamus (3), are a testament to the incredible second chance at life that her transplant provided.

“Most pancreas transplant recipients don't have children, let alone three,” said Kerry. “My husband Billy and I are truly blessed. I am living proof of the lifesaving power of organ donation. Our children are a daily reminder of what a miracle this journey has been. I hope my story inspires others to consider registering as organ and tissue donors. You truly have the power to save lives.”

According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), over 100,000 Americans are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant, with nearly 4,000 of them in New Jersey. One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and enhance the lives of over 75 others. But the need for registered donors is critical, as only 3 in 1,000 people pass away in a manner that allows for organ donation.

To learn more about organ donation, get involved, and join the National Donate Life Registry, visit NJSharingNetwork.org.

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ROBOTIC COMPANION PETS DISBURSED TO HOMEBOUND RESIDENTS

Morris County

During the holiday season, the Morris County Office of Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming (ADCP) reminds residents of the importance of supporting the senior community and ensuring they feel connected, valued, and cared for during this special time of year.

This year, the ADCP office provided more than 110 "Joy for All" robotic companion pets to qualifying residents and facilities across the county as part of an initiative aimed at alleviating social isolation, loneliness, and cognitive decline among seniors.

The program, which was funded by the Aging American Rescue Plan, allocated 20 robotic companion pets to the Morris County Sheriff's Office, which distributed them to clients enrolled in its Project Lifesaver program. Additionally, 12 pets were donated to the Cornerstone Adult Day Center and each of the county's 12 nutrition sites "adopted a pet" to keep onsite. 40 pets were distributed through the Nutrition Home Delivered Meals program, and Hope House will distribute another 25 pets.

"When addressing social isolation and dementia care, we wanted something creative approach. The "Joy for All" companion pets have been the focus of rigorous, peer-reviewed studies demonstrating their efficacy to alleviate the many of the effects of loneliness and social isolation," said Christine Hellyer, Christine Hellyer, Director of the ADCP office. "The partnership with the

Sheriff's Office to distribute the pets was an essential component of this program. In total, about 120 companion pets were provided to seniors or senior programs that could benefit from them."

To qualify for a companion pet, recipients must be at least 60 years of age, homebound, and either socially isolated or experiencing dementia or a similar cognitive condition. Designed to mimic real pets, the "Joy for All" animals aim to provide companionship and comfort for those unable to care for live animals.

Sheriff Gannon, who joined in delivering a companion pet to a Project Lifesaver client,

emphasized the importance of this program.

"Anytime the Sheriff's Office can provide comfort to those in need, we are going to do it. This simple act of support provides aid to those who are homebound," said Gannon. "We look forward to seeing the tremendous benefits of this program being passed on to a sometimes forgotten population in our community."

The pets respond to motion and touch: the cats will roll over and purr, while the dogs bark and wag their tails. The pets do not come with names, allowing recipients the personal experience of naming their new robotic dog or cat, which they are welcome to keep for as long as they wish.



(above, l-r) Morris County Sheriff James Gannon and a Project Lifesaver client with a companion pet cat; Morris County resident Lynn Biss receives her companion pet dog.; Morris County

Photos by Moris County



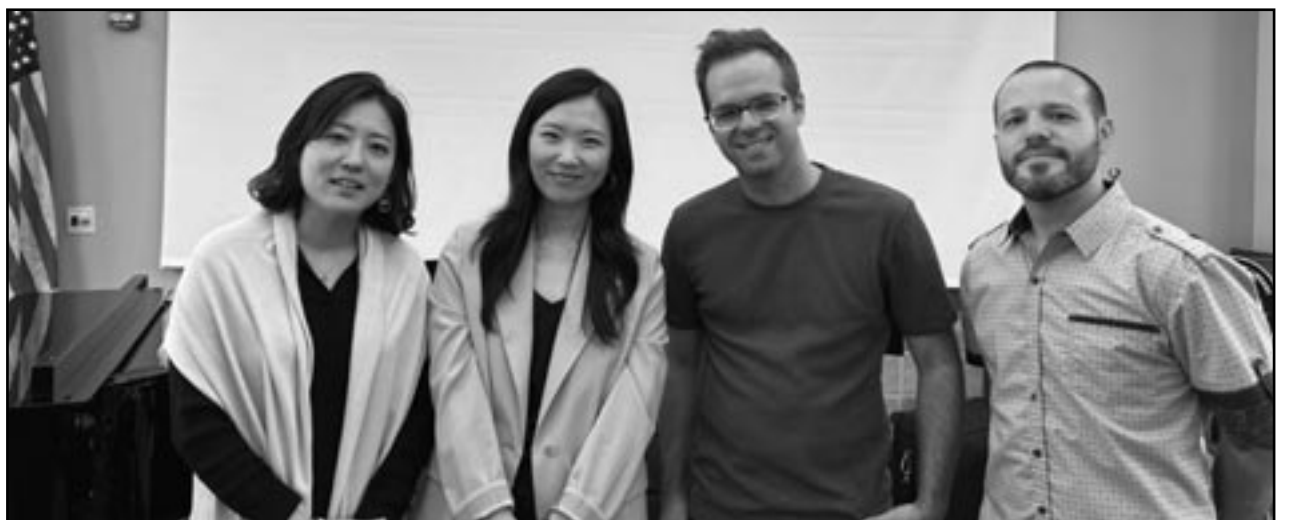
(above) Eli Lee

THE ELLIE LEE QUARTET PERFORMS IN STIRLING

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling welcomes the Ellie Lee quartet on January 25, at 7:00 p.m. Admission, as always, is free. A short reception will follow the concert at which attendees may meet the performer. Refreshments will be served. The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling is located at 158 Central Ave.

Ellie Lee is a composer and a jazz pianist based in New York and New Jersey, whose works and performances encompass a variety of styles including jazz, classical, pop, R&B/soul, and gospel. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Classical Piano Performance from the Sookmyung Women's University in Seoul, South Korea. Having been awarded a World Tour

scholarship from the Berklee College of Music in Boston, she moved to the United States and completed her Professional Diploma. While at Berklee College of Music, she studied with George W. Russell Jr, Tim Ray, Alain Mallet, Joanne Brackeen, and Ross Ramsay. Ellie received a Master of Music in Jazz studies Performance from the William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey. She studied with Bill Charlap, a Grammy award winning pianist, and Geoffrey Keezer, a two-time Grammy nominee. Ellie is a recipient of the Roy Meyer Endowed Doner Scholarship at William Paterson University. She now teaches at Felician University in NJ as an Adjunct Professor.



(above) Eli Lee with band members Pureum Jin on sax, Jon Difore on drums and Adrian Moring on Bass.

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LONG-TIME PUPPY RAISERS HONORED

HANUKKAH ON THE PLAZA

Town of Morristown

On January 1, 2025, at 4 p.m. the Town of Morristown invites the public to ‘Hanukkah On The Plaza’, The free event will be held at Pioneer park, between Headquarters Plaza and 1776 On the Green. There will be Live music, doughnuts, hot drinks, Hanukkiah Lighting, prizes & gelt.

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Celebrate & Lights!

The Seeing Eye

The Seeing Eye recently honored five long-time puppy raisers with induction to “The Seeing Eye 21 Club”, a special honor for volunteers who have raised at least 21 Seeing Eye® puppies. The non-profit also honored the Seeing Eye puppy raising club volunteers with two awards, the Outstanding Leader Award and the 20-year Leader Award. Finally, 34 exceptional college-bound puppy raisers were awarded college scholarships totaling \$64,000.

“Each year, The Seeing Eye’s Family Day is a celebration of all the hard work and dedication of our volunteer puppy raising families,” said Seeing Eye director of canine development Peggy Gibbon. “An army of volunteers provides each Seeing Eye puppy with a loving home environment, socialization, and basic training that prepares them to become Seeing Eye dogs for people who are blind.”

“We’re actively recruiting puppy raisers and puppy sitters for our upcoming litters that are planned for the coming months. If you’re interested in joining our community of dog lovers, now is a great time to reach out to us and learn what puppy raising is all about,” said Gibbon. “We need homes and families of all shapes and sizes for our puppies because fully trained Seeing Eye dogs are placed in similarly diverse families and living situations with people who are blind.”

A puppy raiser family is responsible for providing a loving and nurturing home environment for approximately one year. During that time, the raiser is responsible for teaching basic obedience, house manners, bringing the puppy to Seeing Eye puppy club meetings and socialization trips in their area. The Seeing Eye puppy could be a German shepherd, Labrador retriever, golden retriever, or a Labrador/golden retriever cross.

Puppy raisers must live within New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware or New York (Rockland or Orange Counties) so they can attend regular puppy club meetings where they will receive help and coaching with their puppies. All veterinary expenses are covered by The Seeing Eye and a stipend is provided to



(above) Pam Heady was among those inducted into “The Seeing Eye 21 Club”, a special honor for volunteers who have raised at least 21 Seeing Eye® puppies.

Courtesy photo

help cover the cost of dog food. If a Seeing Eye puppy does not graduate from the program, the family who raised the puppy is offered the first option to adopt the puppy they raised. For more information visit seeingeye.org/raise.

Established in 1929, The Seeing Eye provides specially bred and trained dogs to guide people who are blind. Seeing Eye dog handlers experience greatly enhanced mobility and independence, allowing them to retain their active lifestyles. The Seeing Eye is a 501(c)3 non-profit supported by contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations, bequests, and other planned gifts.

The Seeing Eye is a trademarked name and can only be used to describe the dogs bred and trained at the school’s facilities in Morristown, N.J. If you would like more information on The Seeing Eye, please visit the website at SeeingEye.org, call 973-539-4425, or email info@seeingeye.org.

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EVENTS & PROGRAMS:

Our events are both in-person and on Zoom – all are free and open to everyone! All Library programs sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

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Our popular used book sales are held every Tuesday from 10am-2pm and the first & third Saturday of each month. Cash or checks only please. Donations for the sale happily accepted inside the Library during all open hours. For details about donations or volunteering to help, email the Friends friends@mmt.mainlib.org New inventory added weekly!

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Check out our great collection of beautiful jigsaw puzzles! Museum Passes are popular and we have passes to many area attractions.

JANUARY ADULT PROGRAMS:

Stamp Club

January 2, 10:00 am

Join like-minded folks on the 1st Thursday of every month for stamp collecting fun & information. Sponsored by The Jockey Hollow Stamp Club of Morristown and The American Philatelic Society.

Foreign Film Lovers Club

January 8: "Between Two Worlds" (France)

January 22: "Godland" (Iceland)

7:00 PM on Zoom.

Films available through the Library on Kanopy and DVD. The Foreign Film Lovers Club highlights a variety of thought-provoking films. Ahead of each meeting, you'll watch the movie on your own at home. Then when we meet on Zoom, everyone will have a chance to talk about what we liked or didn't like about that night's film.

Studio Ghibli Film Nights

Join us to watch and discuss popular Japanese animation films. All ages welcome.

January 29, 6:30 pm "Princess Mononoke"

Yoga

Every Monday at 6:00 pm & Thursdays at 10:00 am

Join us for some much-needed relaxation and gentle exercise! All ability levels from beginner to advanced are welcome. Monday classes are bilingual Spanish and English. Bring your own yoga mat and equipment.

Qigong

Every Saturday at 9:30 am

Qigong is a traditional Chinese mindful exercise system for cultivating and strengthening the body's vital energy. Similar to Tai Chi, these low-impact exercises heighten awareness of the mind-body-breath connection. It can be practiced by all age groups and is easily adapted for the physically challenged. No previous experience or special equipment required.

Valentine's Concert – Sat Night Fundraiser

Saturday, February 1, 2025 at 7:00 pm

for a jazz concert by the David Humm Quintet with your favorite love songs from the American songbook. Featuring vocalist Audra Mariel. This event will be held in the Media Wing and light refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$30, cash or check only at the door. Doors open at 6:30 pm, no advance ticket sales. This program is a fundraiser for The Friends of the Library. Snow date is February 8.

BOOK CLUBS:

Book Lovers Circle

January 2, 7:00 pm on Zoom

Do you have a passion for reading and books? Come to our Book Lovers Circle on the first Thursday of every month. Not a traditional book club, you will hear about the latest books at the Library, receive a new reading list and have a chance to share your own favorites, old and new. A great way to expand your literary horizons, email morristownreaders@mmt.mainlib.org for the Zoom code.

The Seers

January 8, 7:00 pm

"Encounters: Experiences with non-human intelligences" by Diana Walsh Pasulka

Join us on the first Wednesday of every month to discuss all things related to spirituality, self-help, motivation, and inspiration.

Morning Book Club

January 9, 10:00 am

"The Mystery of Mrs. Christie" by Marie Benedict

Evening Book Club

January 21, 7:00 pm

"The Mystery of Mrs. Christie" by Marie Benedict

Virtual Classics Book Club

January 9, 7:00 pm on Zoom

"The Group" by Mary McCarthy

Held online the second Thursday of every other month. Email morristownreaders@mmt.mainlib.org for the Zoom code.

Science Fiction Book Club

January 11, 2:00 pm

"Exhalation" by Ted Chiang

JANUARY CHILDREN'S & TEENS PROGRAMS:

Baby Story Times

January 13-May 19; every other Monday at 10:30 am

Ages 6 months – 2 years - with caregivers

Children's Storytimes

January 14 – May 21; Tuesdays & Wednesdays

at 10:00 am, Saturdays at 11:00 am

Ages 2-8 years. Stories and crafts with caregivers

Second & Third Grade Book Club

January 16, 7:00 pm

"Dragonbreath" by Ursula Vernon

The third Thursday of each month.

Fourth – Sixth Grade Book Club

January 9, 7:00 pm

"Willodeen" by Katherine Applegate

The second Thursday of each month.

Teen Book Club

January 14, 5:00 pm "A Darker Shade of Magic"

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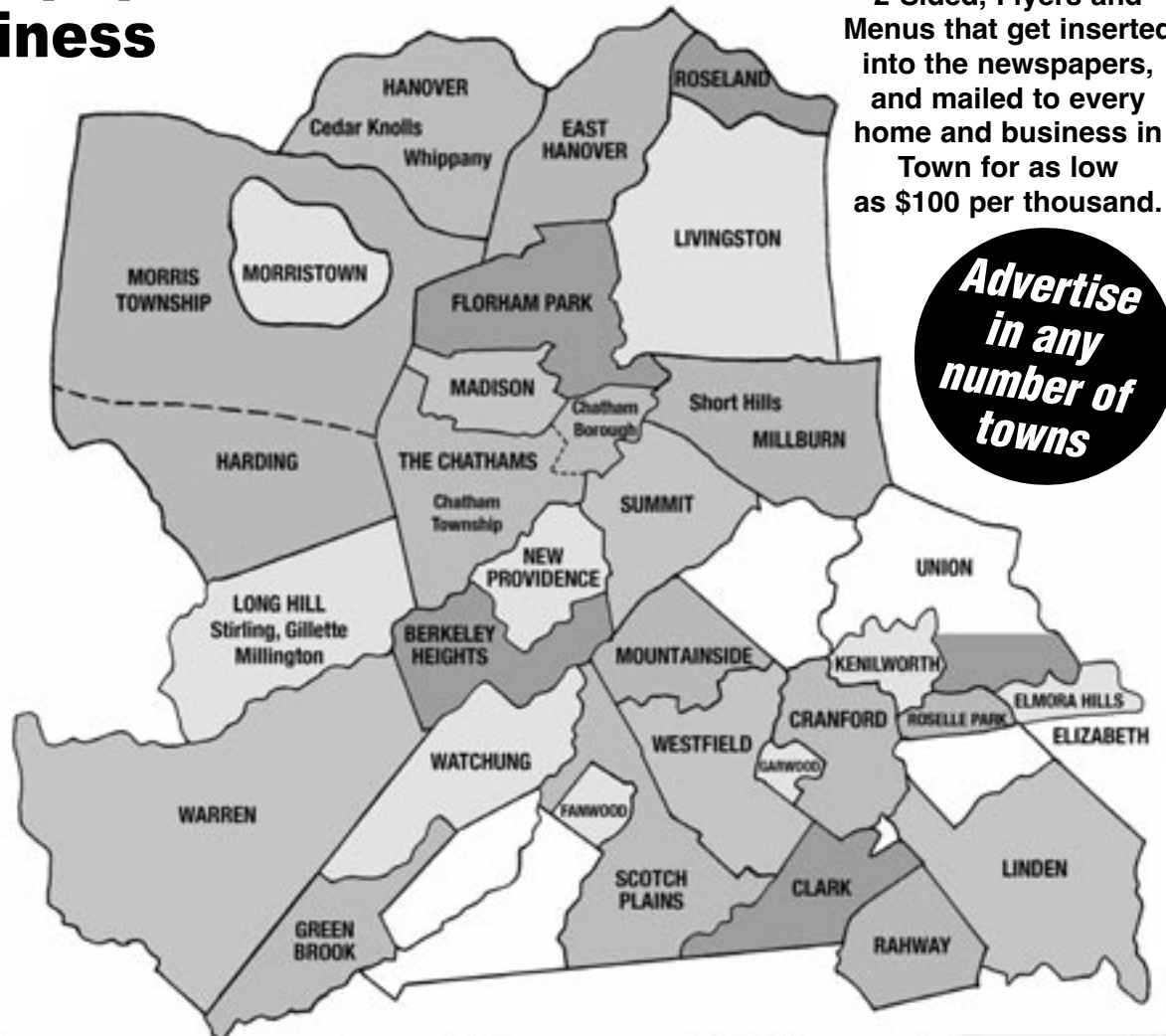
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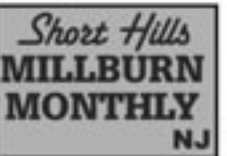
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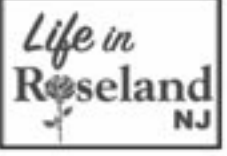
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AN UNUSUAL GOOSE REHABBED AND RELEASED

The Raptor Trust

The Brant goose, with its compact size and striking black-and-white plumage, is a remarkable bird. Adapted to drink saltwater, these geese embark on long migratory journeys from their Arctic breeding grounds to coastal winter



(above) We're thrilled to see this Brant goose take to the skies (or water) once more! It was a charming patient.

Photo by The Raptor Trust

habitats. Look for them in estuaries, mudflats, and saltmarshes, where they thrive throughout the winter months.

Recently, The Raptor Trust treated a Brant goose (Admit #21-4190) found in Long Valley with wounds from a predator attack. After intensive care, including suturing lacerations, treating an eye injury and parasites, this resilient bird was successfully released at Sandy Hook on November 2nd.

ABOUT THE RAPTOR TRUST

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located at 1390 White Bridge Rd., Millington, NJ. They provide free care and assistance to injured, sick, or orphaned wild birds. They offer educational programs to the public about wild birds, especially birds of prey. They strive to provide a human example for others. For more information about upcoming events, to make a donation, and volunteer opportunities visit info@theraptortrust.org. To report an injured wild bird call 908-647-2353.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS NIGHT SKY GAZING

Amateur Astronomers, Inc (AAI) of Cranford, NJ celebrated their 75th Anniversary on Sunday, November 17, 2024, at The Westwood Caterers of Garwood, NJ. In attendance were 53 past and current members who range from teenagers to seniors.

AAI has always interested anyone who loves looking and learning about the night sky. Housed in the William Miller Sperry Observatory on the Union College campus in Cranford, the observatory is open to the public every Friday night with their twin domes looking at the heavens. One of the domes houses a 24-inch reflector and the other dome houses a refractor, which was constructed by club members. Public lectures start at 8:30 p.m. on Fridays, they are on current topics in Astronomy.

Youth lectures are presented by the club at 7:00 p.m. to preregistered scout groups to help them earn their patches in science. If you are interested in preregistering a scout group, please contact info@asterism.org.

The club also celebrates celestial events such as eclipses by opening the Observatory and having numerous telescopes outside the building. For more information about AAI email, membership@asterism.org or visit asterism.org.

ASTRONOMY DAY - MAY 17, 2025

Amateur Astronomers, Inc. along with the North Jersey Astronomical Group, two amateur astronomy clubs located in New Jersey, are once again holding their annual Astronomy Day on Saturday, May 17, 2025. The event will be held in 2 locations: Trailside Nature & Science Center in Mountainside in the afternoon and at William Miller Sperry Observatory on the campus of Union College in Cranford in the evening. The theme is "Solar Max, Unlocking the Secrets of the Sun." This is a family friendly event that focuses on learning about our Sun and its impact on us, and also about astronomy and related sciences in a fun and easy to understand atmosphere. This event appeals to both children and adults. The event is free and open to the public and does not require preregistration. So, mark your calendars for Saturday, May 17, 2025, and come out to learn more about the Sun and our universe!



(above) AAI has always interested anyone who loves learning about the night sky. Housed in the William Miller Sperry Observatory on the Union College campus in Cranford, the observatory is open to the public every Friday nights. One of the domes houses a 24-inch reflector and the other dome houses a refractor. Public lectures start at 8:30 p.m. on Fridays, on current topics in Astronomy.

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