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## COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING

Morris County Commissioner Director Tayfun Selen gave a “State of the County” address at the Morris County Chamber of Commerce’s 104th Annual Meeting, which drew about 500 attendees at the Hanover Marriot Hotel in Whippany on February 13, 2025.

Meghan Hunscher, president and CEO of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce delivered a “State of the Chamber” address, thanking all the sponsors, local businesses and community leaders who make an impact in Morris County.

“I am proud of the community we have cultivated here at the Morris Chamber. As we enter our 104th year, it is imperative that we continue to innovate and introduce new initiatives that build on our success. I look forward to developing new ways to connect our members to valuable resources, opportunities for business growth and rewarding relationships with members across the region,” said Hunscher.

Hunscher also announced changes to the chamber’s Board of Directors for 2025-2026, with Dr. Anthony Iacono, president of County College of Morris, succeeding outgoing chair Deirdre Wheatley-Liss, Esq., of Porzio, Bromberg & Newman. Wheatley-Liss reflected on her two-year tenure and the chamber’s achievements before passing the role to Dr. Iacono, who emphasized his commitment to education, workforce development and economic growth in Morris County.

The Chamber luncheon also celebrated the success of individuals and businesses from throughout the county.

The keynote speaker, Sudeep Kesh, chief innovation officer at S&P Global Ratings, shared practical insights on mitigating risk while fostering creativity, strategies for navigating an increasingly connected economy, the future of human-AI collaboration and the critical “innovation imperative” for succeeding in a rapidly changing world.

Christine Cox-West, founding partner of The Fortis Agency, a financial services agency, was honored with the Saint Clare’s Health William P. Huber Award for Outstanding Community Leadership. The award recognizes a person who displayed outstanding leadership to benefit the



(above, l-r) Morris County Commissioner Director Tayfun Selen delivers the State of the County. Keynote speaker, Sudeep Kesh, chief innovation officer at S&P Global Ratings.



Courtesy photos

community during the previous year.

In his remarks, Director Selen emphasized that Morris County’s success is about synergy.

“It’s about businesses investing here and schools educating our students. It’s about leaders who drive innovation and economic growth. It’s about the people who built our county and those who continue to build our communities by choosing to live and raise their families here,” said Director Selen, who also thanked past and current county officials for ensuring that the county is prepared for a bright future.

Selen said 2026 will offer tremendous opportunities to boost tourism and support local businesses with the 250th anniversary of American Independence and the FIFA World Cup. Currently, the county has more than 120 restored historic sites, including the first National Historic Park, and is anticipating thousands of visitors for these two major events.

For more information on how you can participate in Morris County’s 250th Anniversary, email [250@morriscountyalliance.org](mailto:250@morriscountyalliance.org).



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### MARCH 30 AT 3 PM: RE-LIVE THE BEATLES

Step into a time machine and relive the magic of the Fab Four's illustrious career. This isn't just a concert—it's a nostalgic voyage that captures the essence of an era and celebrates the music that changed the world! Experience iconic moments like The Ed Sullivan Show, Shea Stadium, the Sgt. Pepper era, and Abbey Road. Enjoy timeless hits like "I Want to Hold Your Hand," "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," and "Come Together." This immersive performance features dazzling costume changes, exquisite musicianship, powerful vocals, and a stunning multimedia backdrop, transporting you straight back to the 60s.

### APRIL 6 AT 3 PM: MICHAEL PATRICK'S RING OF FIRE BAND: A JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE

Prepare to be captivated by Michael Patrick's heartfelt tribute to the legendary Johnny Cash. Over a decade ago, Michael Patrick fell in love with Johnny Cash's music—the simplicity, sincerity, and deep, expressive voice. Enjoy classics like "Ring of Fire," "Walk the Line," and "Folsom Prison Blues." Jenni Bee performs the songs of June Carter Cash, including "Jackson" and "Wildwood Flower." The Ring of Fire Band has shared the stage with Cash Family members and legends like Randy Travis and Clint Black. With annual tours in the South and sold-out shows from NYC to Boston, the Ring of Fire Band keeps Johnny Cash's legacy burning bright.

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# MRS. BENNETT FOLLOWS THE CONTINENTAL ARMY – MARCH 11

## Historical Society of Florham Park

The Historical Society of Florham Park announces the free scheduled March 11, 2025 program of “Mrs. Bennett Follows the Continental Army”.

In acknowledgement of US Women’s History Month, learn about life as a woman who followed Washington’s Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Wives, daughters, mothers, and single women followed their men on long marches and through cold and hungry conditions. Many had children with them. They worked as laundresses, cooks, and nurses. And, yes, some were prostitutes.

Spend some time with Mrs. Bennett and hear about life in camp, on the march, and during skirmishes and battles. Hear what Washington thought of the camp followers. Learn about the soldiers themselves and why they stayed in the army regardless of the hardships they faced. And learn about how these women marched the same long marches, suffered the same short rations, and lived in the same rough camps as the soldiers.



(above) The program will be presented by Pat Wells, the vice president of the Chatham Township Historical Society, and an amateur historian, researcher, and speaker.

Courtesy photo

They had to be as tough as the soldiers themselves.

The Historical Society of Florham Park is very happy that the program will be presented by Pat Wells. Ms. Wells is the vice president of the Chatham Township Historical Society, and an amateur historian, researcher, and speaker. Recall the two recent popular presentations for Florham Park and area residents. One was in 2022 when she delivered “A History of the White House” and another was in November 2023 - "Stories of the Mayflower: What Were They Thinking?!".

Everyone is welcomed to attend this March 11 free program at the Florham Park Library. Refreshments available at 6:30 p.m. in the Akhouri Room, with the program scheduled from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Please register by calling the Library at 973-377-2694, or register online at florhamparklib.org. A confirmation email will

give you the option to attend either in-person at the Library or via the Zoom link option should you wish to attend remotely.

Indeed, The Historical Society of Florham Park was founded in 1935 by a group of women. They dedicated themselves to saving the Little Red Schoolhouse and establishing it as a museum. Until October 2017 they provided monthly scheduled museum openings. In negotiations with the Borough, they hope to return doing so soon. In the meanwhile, four presentations such as the above are regularly scheduled. After the March 11 presentation, the next will be on April 8 with “Colonial Taverns of New Jersey – Libations, Liberty and Revolution”.

To learn more and/or consider joining The Historical Society of Florham Park, visit their Facebook page at “Historical Society of Florham Park”, or contact Peter Nicolas at pnicolas@optimum.net, or call 973-520-8654.

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## ROTARY CLUBS TEAM UP FOR END HUNGER EVENT - MARCH 8TH

### Madison Rotary Club

On Saturday, March 8th, the Madison and Mental Health Rotary Clubs are teaming up to host a fun food packaging event at Grace Church in Madison, NJ. This impactful event aims to assemble and package 40,000 meals for distribution to local food pantries, providing much-needed support to our community members facing food insecurity.

The event will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A team challenge will kick off the event at 9:00 a.m. to see which team can pack the most meals in one hour. "This is a great team building opportunity in addition to being fun" said Joe Smith, one of the event's organizers from Madison Rotary. Each team of ten volunteers or the team's sponsor is asked to donate \$1,000 to help cover the cost of the meals.

Following the team challenge, a second shift will begin at 11:00 a.m. and a third at 1:00 p.m. During each shift, up to 50 volunteers from the community will work across five assembly lines to package apple cinnamon oatmeal. All of the meals packaged during the day will be given to local pantries to distribute to their clients.

Madison Rotary has held this community event several times in the past, but this is the first packaging event since March of 2020, just days before everything shut down due to Covid. In total, Madison Rotary has packaged and locally distributed over 700,000 meals since 2017 and

continues to focus on food insecurity as one of their core missions.

Teams and individuals from the community can sign up to participate on the Madison Rotary website [madisonrotarynj.org](http://madisonrotarynj.org). Donations to support this event or Rotary's mission can be

made at the same website.

For more information about the event, please email Joe Smith at [jtsmith0443@gmail.com](mailto:jtsmith0443@gmail.com). Visit [madisonrotarynj.org](http://madisonrotarynj.org) for more information about Madison Rotary.



(above) The happy team of Nancy Willis, Lisa Lill, Susan Massengill, Kim Jensen, John Desmond, Doug Willis, Steve Anderson, Steve Jensen, Mary Ficke and Kay Smith at the last Madison Rotary End Hunger event in March 2020.

Courtesy photo



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# SCOUTING TROOP 8 COURT OF HONOR CELEBRATES 2 EAGLE SCOUTS

## Scouting Troop 8 of Chatham

On February 2, 2025, Scouting Troop 8 of Chatham, NJ, held a Court of Honor, at Ogden Memorial Church in which two Chatham High School seniors, Benjamin Bernich and Dan Cvetkovic were recognized for achieving Eagle Scout rank. This is the highest rank in Scouts and is bestowed on these individuals after years of dedication and hard work to fulfill many requirements, attain leadership positions, and execute service projects.

For Ben's Service Project he constructed a Bocce court at the Chatham Township Municipal Building to serve the Chatham Senior Center. With many volunteers, they cleared and leveled the court area, excavated a trench, then filled it with sand and gravel.

Dan's Eagle Scout service project benefitted the Beekeeping Club of Chatham, as he created

three swarm boxes and a pulley system to safely raise and lower these swarm boxes. In addition to that, he built benches for this area.

Ben and Dan reached many milestones, completed numerous service hours throughout their years in Scouts, and they did all of this while being actively involved in high school athletics,

theater and church groups.

With as few as 4% percent of scouts achieving this rank, it speaks to the determination of Benjamin Bernich and Dan Cvetkovic. At the core of this rank, is living with honor, which is central to this rank and scouts, and demonstrated by these individuals.



(above, l-r) Eagle Scouts with Parents: Eagle Scout Dan Cvetkoc with parents Branamir, and Zrinka. Eagle Scout Benjamin Bernich with parents Steve, and Liz.

Courtesy photo

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# EATING RAW ORGANIC PRODUCE CAN GIVE YOUR GUT A HEALTHY BOOST

## Mayors Wellness Campaign

When choosing organic or conventional produce, there's no simple comparison, even if it's apples to apples. In a new study published in the journal *Frontiers in Microbiology*, researchers found that when comparing conventionally grown apples to their organic counterparts, organic apples harbored a significantly more diverse bacteria population. Conventional apples and organic apples both contained about the same amount of total bacteria, about 100 million per apple. But, that's only if you eat the whole thing — stem, seeds and all.

Raw Organic Fruits and Vegetables May Be Better for Your Gut.

"Vegetables and fruits, especially when consumed raw, represent the most important source for a diverse microbial community, which is mandatory for a healthy gut microbiome and our immune system," said Birgit Wassermann, a PhD student at the Graz University of Technology in Austria, and first author of the study. Wassermann and her fellow researchers chose to look at apples because of their immense popularity throughout the world. About 83 million apples were grown in 2018 and production continues to grow. Raw fruits and vegetables are an important source of gut bacteria — cooking tends to kill off all the bacteria.

In the comparison of organic and conventional apples, not only was bacteria more diverse in organic production, but it was also associated with the presence of so-called "good" bacteria *Lactobacillus*, a common probiotic. Conversely, conventional apples were more likely to have

potentially pathogenic bacteria like *Escherichia* and *Shigella*, which are known to cause food poisoning symptoms like diarrhea and cramps. When it comes to gut health, however, Wassermann explained that it's not as simple as choosing organic over conventional apples. And for most people, simply eating more fresh fruits and vegetables is a more important first step than

discriminating between apples. "Organic or conventional? Pretty irrelevant. The main thing is that people eat more fresh produce in general," said Wassermann.

*Written by Joseph J. Murphy, DC (drmurphy.com) on behalf of the Mayors Wellness Campaign Advisory Committee of the Chathams.*

## ATTENTION MORRIS AREA RUNNERS

### Rose City 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](mailto:BarbaraRushman@yahoo.com) or visit our website [RoseCityRunners.com](http://RoseCityRunners.com) to join or to learn more. There is no cost for membership.



(above) A recent Rose City Runners club run.

Courtesy photo

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## WHARTON ARTS ANNOUNCES 2025 SUMMER CAMP LINEUP

Wharton Arts is pleased to announce new summer camp offerings to join its lineup of returning programs for summer 2025. Meet the Instruments, for ages 4-7, encourages young campers to explore song, dance, rhythm, art, stories, and dramatic musical play while learning about a different family of instruments each day: Strings, Brass, Woodwinds, Piano, and Percussion. Broadway Adventures, for ages 4-6, introduces budding young actors to the world of acting, singing, and dancing, culminating in a fun-filled showcase for friends and family. In addition to these new offerings, summer favorites will return for 2025, including Drama Kids (Scooby Doo), Summer Musical Theater Company (You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown), Triple Threat Musical Theater Intensive (High School Musical JR), and eight weeks of Theater Explorers. To view weekly camp themes and for complete camp descriptions, visit [WhartonArts.org](http://WhartonArts.org).

In addition to summer camps at the Wharton Performing Arts School in Berkeley Heights, the New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), a program of Wharton Arts, will host several ensemble-based camps in New Providence, June 22-July 3. Experience the wonders of ensemble playing at the NJYS Orchestral Camp (String and Winds/Brass/Percussion Sessions), Chamber Music Camp, and Double Reed Camp, where students learn from accomplished faculty and strengthen their talents. Whatever your camper's creative ambitions are, they will develop skills, find the space to flourish, and join an artistic community at Wharton Arts.



For more information, call (908) 790-0700 or visit [WhartonArts.org](http://WhartonArts.org).

Wharton Arts' mission is to offer accessible, high quality performing arts education that sparks personal growth and builds inclusive communities.

Wharton Arts' vision is for a transformative performing arts education in an inclusive community to be accessible for everyone.

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students through a range of classes and ensembles. The 5 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Chorus, an auditioned choral ensemble program for students in grades 3-12, encourage a love and appreciation of choral music while nurturing personal growth and creative development. The 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve over 500 students in grades 3-12 by audition, inspire young people to achieve musical excellence through high-level ensemble training and performance opportunities. Based in Paterson, the Paterson Music Project is an

El Sistema-inspired program of Wharton Arts that uses music education as a vehicle for social action by empowering and inspiring young people to achieve their full potential through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing. From Pathways classes for young children to Lifelong Learning programs for adults, the Wharton Performing Arts School has a robust musical theater and drama program and offers both private and group classes for instruments and voice for all ages and all abilities. With the belief in the positive and unifying influence of music and that performing arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay, Wharton Arts offers need-based scholarships.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

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# SENIOR CENTER MARCH EVENTS

58 Meyersville Road, Chatham • 973-635-4565 • [chathamseiorcenter.org](http://chathamseiorcenter.org)

Residents 55+ • Mon through Fri from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For 35 years, the Senior Center of the Chathams has been encouraging the independence and well-being of older adults and their families by connecting them with each other and the general community.

As a unique not-for-profit agency, the Center serves the senior population from the Chathams and older adults from a wide surrounding area.

The Center helps older adults age in place and remain active and engaged through activities and services that educate, empower, and promote community engagement. Programs and services are offered in the areas of fitness and wellness, enrichment, support and connection, and information and resources.

There is no membership fee to join. Many programs are offered free of charge, while others involve only a minimal fee thanks to individual donations, fundraising events, and grants.

The Center is located at 58 Meyersville Road (lower level) in Chatham and is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call 973-635-4565 or visit [chathamseiorcenter.org](http://chathamseiorcenter.org).

Following are some March highlights at the Senior Center. Those interested in participating should call the Center at 973-635-4565 Mondays-Fridays, between 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. to register.

### Alzheimer's NJ Caregiver Support Group

Thurs., Mar. 6, 10:30 AM

This monthly group provides families and caregivers with the emotional support and education they need to better understand Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia

### Unlocking Your Calm

Wed, Mar. 12, 12:00 PM

World events and personal situations can inflame our emotions and nervous system. Learn how the simple practice of mindfulness can help you calm your emotions

### Cold Cases

Fri., Mar. 14, 1:00 PM (new date)

Join Criminologist and FDU Professor Amy

Schlosberg to learn the process of investigating a "cold case" as she offers a variety of facts and theories for group discussion and conclusion.

Will you be the one to solve the case?

### Protect Your Wealth from Health Care Costs

Tues., Mar. 18, 11:00 AM (new date)

Most seniors are not aware of the devastating consequences of failing to prepare for the cost of long-term care until it is too late. Trying to effectively navigate the maze of the senior health care system without professional guidance can be a disaster. This presentation will cover the pitfalls of Medicare's coverage, the role of long-term care insurance, planning using irrevocable trusts, when to use a reverse mortgage, and the government benefits available. Presented by attorney Robert J. Murray, The Murray Firm, LLC.

### The Art of Poetry

Wed., Mar. 19, 1:00 PM

FDU Professor Julia Wagner will introduce you to some of the greatest poets from the last century and identify what makes these poets and their poems special.

### Exploring Italy: Rome, Florence & Venice

Thurs., Mar. 20, 11:00 AM.

Presenter, Paul White, will take us through three famous Italian cities.

### Misconceptions About

### Women's Heart & Health Care

Mon., Mar. 24, 12:00 PM (new date)

For centuries "heart troubles" were considered a man's illness, but now cardiovascular disease is known to be the number one killer of women. This presentation by FDU Associate Professor, April Patrick, provides a history of heart health in women's media, emphasizing how women - past and present - get reliable information, and advocate for their own heart health.

### Chicago: 50 Years of All that Jazz

Wed., Mar. 26, 12:00 PM

John Kenrick, Entertainment Historian, returns to talk about the history of the famous musical about Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly set in 1920s Chicago.

# WHITE HOUSE HISTORY LECTURE – MARCH 18

Madison Historical Society

Designed by an Irish architect, the White House is one of the world's most iconic buildings. It took 8 years to build, was burned down, nearly fell down, and was almost painted black. It has grown in every direction, yet amazingly still looks the same. From President John Adams in 1800 to President Donald Trump in 2025, each US chief executive has lived and worked there. Elvis was there too!

Join us Tuesday, March 18, 2025 @ 7 p.m. at Madison Community Arts Center, 10 Kings Rd., Madison. Enjoy an entertaining and fascinating tour through time of America's Executive Mansion led by Patricia Wells. This program is free and open to the public.

Patricia Wells is an educator, historian, and storyteller whose great pleasure is sharing her love of history. Since retiring, she has been deeply involved in the neighboring Chatham Township Historical Society and some of her favorite topics include – the Great Swamp, the White House, the Pilgrims, and the Revolutionary War.



(above) Earliest known photo of the White House, 1846.

Credit: Library of Congress, John Plumbe, Jr.

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## YOUR BELOVED BUT BROKEN ITEMS REPAIRED FOR FREE

Summit's Repair Cafe event, hosted by Repair Cafe Garden State, will offer free repairs on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Barnwell Hall in Christ Church from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., final repairs accepted at 2:30 p.m. Christ Church is located at 561 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ.

Repair services for this event will include electronics, lamps, woodworking, bicycles, sewing/textiles, and knife sharpening. Each person is permitted to bring a maximum of 2 items for repair.

Replacement lamps parts will be available at a nominal at-cost fee. Please ensure you can carry your items unassisted when bringing them to the event. No appointments are necessary; wait times may vary, as this event is not a drop-off service.

This event is co-sponsored by the Summit Area Green Faith Circle and Repair Cafe Garden State. For more information about Repair Cafe Garden State and other free Repair Cafe events throughout New Jersey, visit [repaircafegs.org](http://repaircafegs.org).

Repair volunteers are always welcome at this event, as well as all future repair events. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us on our website.



## ANNUAL SHARING THE QUILTS SHOW – MARCH 22

Harvest Quilters of Central New Jersey

Harvest Quilters of Central NJ will present their 41st annual quilt show on Saturday, March 22, 2025. The 41st Sharing the Quilts will be held at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children under twelve.

At 10:30 a.m., Elsa Hahn of Edison will show her work and speak on “Surface Design – Making it Personal.” The award-winning quilter and retired Westfield music teacher will share her firsthand knowledge of various art quilting techniques, including the pros and cons of popular methods.

Janice M. Tellier of Mountainside will be recognized as 2025’s Featured Quilter. The Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) graduate and lifelong creative spirit will display 20 plus works of original art. Of her 14 vibrant bed-sized quilts Tellier quipped, “I often think my beds are better dressed than I am.”

Tellier’s whimsical fiber art will be featured alongside her acrylic paintings, crochet, examples of bobbin lace making and a fascinating diorama of a miniature modern quilting studio. “My hope is to have the quilts speak to the viewer, with a sense of humor or play on words,” Tellier said.

As is tradition, local charities will benefit from drawings for a modern lap-sized quilt, a traditional queen-sized bed quilt, gift cards and craft themed gift baskets.

In addition to viewing a full array of modern, traditional, art and wall-hanging quilts, attendees can participate in viewer’s choice awards, kid’s crafting table and vendor sales area.

A tearoom offering lunch, snacks, homemade baked goods, and beverages will benefit Willow Grove Church programs.

For additional information, please visit [harvestquilters.com](http://harvestquilters.com), or email: [harvestquiltersnj@gmail.com](mailto:harvestquiltersnj@gmail.com).



(above) Janice M. Tellier will be recognized as 2025’s Featured Quilter.

Courtesy photo

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# SINGING AT THE THRESHOLD

## Garden State Threshold Choir

A choir that rehearses but does not perform. A choir that goes in a very small group to sing to one person at a time. A choir whose mission is to provide, not entertainment, but kindness and comfort, to someone who is dying. That is a Threshold Choir.

Threshold Choir is a nonprofit network of about 200 chapters across the country and abroad. And there is one right here in Whippany, NJ, called the Garden State Threshold Choir.

Founded 25 years ago, Threshold Choir singers go, by invitation, to sing at the bedside of those crossing life's challenging thresholds, especially the final threshold between living and dying.

The Garden State Threshold Choir began in 2017 when Whippany resident Judy Hahn retired, looked for a chapter to join, and, finding none nearby, started recruiting to form a new chapter. "It takes time and patience to establish a new chapter," says Hahn. "And it takes time and patience for each singer to be ready to do this work. What we have is an incredibly dedicated and compassionate group of women."

Arriving in a group of two to four singers at a hospital, nursing facility or home, they carry folding stools and sit by the bed. "Even if the hospice patient is nonresponsive, we believe they can hear us and feel the vibrations of our harmonies," says Hahn. "For those close to the

end, it is said that we are 'singing them home.'" Threshold Choir has its own unique repertoire of songs, written mostly by members. The songs are simple and short, sung softly a capella, first in unison, then repeated and layered with harmonies. The lyrics speak of rest, comfort, letting go, or about peacefulness and love.

"People wonder how we can sing to a dying person," noted Cedar Knolls resident Bonnie Adams. "But to us it's an honor to be present in that sacred, intimate space. We see the breathing relax; and when the patient is surrounded by family, the songs give voice to their feelings and help them grieve."

The Garden State chapter is accepting inquiries for membership. A singer has to be able to carry a tune, hold her own part in harmony, blend with other voices, be willing to self-monitor and accept gentle feedback, and, above all, communicate kindness with their voice. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings, alternating between Zoom sessions and in-person at the First Presbyterian Church of Whippany.

Threshold Choir is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that honors all spiritual paths and has no religious affiliation. All of the chapter's services are free of charge.

Much more information about Threshold Choir is available on [thresholdchoir.org](http://thresholdchoir.org), and about the Garden State Threshold Choir at: [thresholdchoir.org/Garden\\_State](http://thresholdchoir.org/Garden_State)

Courtesy photo



(above) GSTC members Judy Hahn, Rockie French and Delia Cashin sing at a hospice facility.

# MATURE WOMEN'S GRANTS AVAILABLE

## Madison Branch of AAUW

The Madison Area Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is now accepting applications for its Mature Women's Grant. We are proud of our more than eighty years' heritage of supporting women who wish to further their education. Each year the Branch awards several scholarships to local women. Download the application at our website: [madisonareaaauw.org/mature-womans-grant](http://madisonareaaauw.org/mature-womans-grant)

To apply for consideration the eligibility requirements are (Applicant must meet all requirements):

Be a woman

Be age 25 or over

Be a resident of one of the following NJ towns: Chatham, Chatham Township, East Hanover, Florham Park, Harding Township, Madison, Morristown, Morris Township, Morris Plains or Randolph Township.

Use the grant for education-related expenses incurred in pursuit of a degree or certification.

Grant applications must be received by Monday, April 4, 2025. Please direct any questions to our email account: [aauwgrant@hotmail.com](mailto:aauwgrant@hotmail.com)

AAUW has been transforming women's lives for more than a century. Our Madison area branch continues to support education with grants, programs that expose teen girls to STEM, topical monthly programs, and member special interest groups such as a book club, a mahjong game, book sales and more. Join us to find purpose, community and friendship at [madisonareaaauw.org](http://madisonareaaauw.org).



(above, l-r) Alissa Pacheco and Yeosun Lee, two of the four 2024 winners of the the Madison Area AAUW Branch Mature Woman

Courtesy photo

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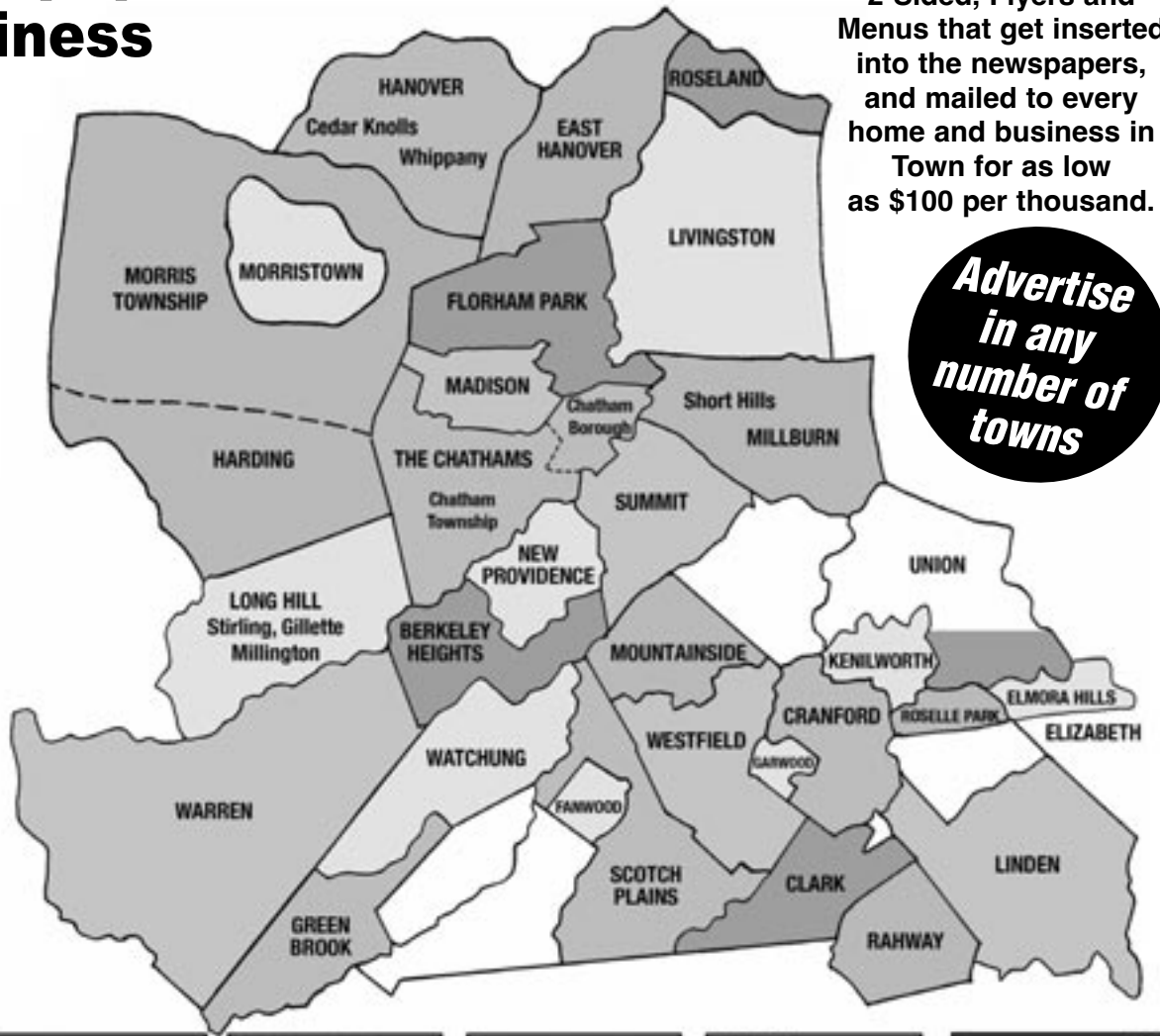
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# JUNIOR LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Junior League of Summit is pleased to announce our 2025 Scholarships Program. From February 5 - March 31, 2025, we will be accepting applications for three Shirley Wight Keeney Voluntarism Scholarships.

The Shirley Wight Keeney Scholarships are \$3,000 awards given to three graduating high school seniors who demonstrate a commitment to voluntarism in his/her community.

The Scholarship is open to students who meet the following criteria:

Applicants must live or attend school in Berkeley Heights, Chatham, New Providence or Summit;

Applicants must demonstrate academic excellence within their high school graduating class throughout their high school career;

Applicants must be continuing their education at an accredited two- or four-year college or business/vocational school;

Applicants must show significant volunteer work during their high school years that aligns

with the Junior League of Summit's mission.

All materials must be received by March 31, 2025. Award winners will be announced in May.

The scholarship recipients will be asked to provide the contact information for their school/college once available, as the scholarship will be paid directly to the institution.

The Junior League of Summit, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. For more information about the JLS go to: [summit.jl.org](http://summit.jl.org)

Applications are open now thru March 31, 2025 and should be submitted through our online application forms found here:

[summit.jl.org/community/scholarships](http://summit.jl.org/community/scholarships)  
Supporting documentation, as outlined in the application, should be emailed to: [grantsandscholarshipscommittee@jlsummit.org](mailto:grantsandscholarshipscommittee@jlsummit.org)

# 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 10 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](mailto: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](mailto:membership@asterism.org) or visit [asterism.org](http://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 10 refractor,. Public lectures start at 8:30 p.m. on Fridays, on current topics in Astronomy.

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