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(above) The Cast of Sister Act

Photo by Elizabeth Public Schools

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Prepare for a night of laughter and inspiration as the Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy proudly presents Sister Act, the delightful musical comedy about a woman hiding in a convent who helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she rediscovers her own. It is based on the beloved hit movie starring Whoopi Goldberg. Produced by Sandra Toll and Directed by Erica Hicks, this production promises to uplift your spirits and have you tapping your toes to the enchanting music of Alan Menken, known for his work in Disney classics.

Join us for this hilarious Broadway show that will warm your heart and leave you smiling! The event runs from March 27th to March 29th, 2025, with performances starting at 7 p.m. nightly at the Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy Theater,

located at 27 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Elizabeth, NJ.

With vocal direction by Nicole Pepe, musical direction by David Modero, choreography by Alyson Monaco and original Set Design by Ana Pineiro this production brings together a talented team dedicated to delivering a truly memorable experience for all audiences.

Tickets are affordably priced at \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and are available for purchase at TJTHEATER.org.

Don't miss your chance to witness the joy and energy of Sister Act, whether you're a long-time fan or experiencing this story for the first time, you're in for a treat!

Join us for a wonderful evening celebrating community, talent, and the power of music. Invite your friends and family to share in the excitement—together, we can make unforgettable memories!

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PINEWOOD DERBY RESULTS

Submitted by Daniel Bernier

Cub Scout Pack 23 held its annual Pinewood Derby on February 7. Working with a parent or other adult, each Scout shaped a block of wood into a race car, painted and decorated it, and then competed with it against other Cubs on a 30-foot long 6-lane track. There was a lot of excitement and enthusiasm among the Cub Scouts who participated.

The overall winners for the Pack were as follows:

- 1st place – Gavin Jones
- 2nd place – Noah Bustamante
- 3rd place (tie) – Isaac Pedreiras
and Athan Skamangas

The Best Design award, as chosen by his fellow Cub Scouts, went to Joseph Cueva-Cruzado. Congratulations to all!

If you know a child who is anywhere between a Kindergartener and a high school senior, please encourage them to get in on the fun of Scouting. The Scouting program instills character, good citizenship and physical fitness in youth through outdoor activities such as campouts and hikes, involvement in community activities, and just plain FUN!

Cub Scout Pack 23 provides activities and training for boys and girls in Kindergarten through fifth grades. Boy Scout Troop 23 is for boys who are at least 11 years old or graduated from the fifth grade. New members are welcome at any time, all year round.

For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at 908-451-1948 or webfoottroop@gmail.com.



(above) The Cub Scouts of Pack 23 at St. Genevieve's Church built racing cars out of blocks of wood and raced against each other on February 7 at the exciting annual Pinewood Derby.



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Dr. Seuss Scavenger Hunt

Monday, March 3 to Friday, March 7

Join us at Elmora for a Dr. Seuss-themed seek-and-find game in the children's area. Win a prize by finding all the hidden images! No registration is required.

Zumba Gold

Monday, March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 and Thursday, March 6, 13, 20, & 27, at 9 am
Add fitness to your daily routine through the joy of dance! No registration is required.

Mahjong

Monday, March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31, from 12 pm - 2 pm

Everyone who loves Mahjong is welcome to come and play at the library. We will provide the space for open play. Please note that a minimum of four players is required to play the game.

Ages: 18 & up. No registration is required.

Monday Cinema at Elmora

Monday, March 3, 10, 24, & 31, at 1 pm
Don't miss out on the fun at 1 pm! Join us for a Monday Cinema at Elmora Branch Library. It's going to be a great time! This month's showtime is "Pride & Prejudice" on 3/3, "Poltergeist" on 3/10, "RBG" on 3/24, and "Queen of Katwe" on 3/31.

Crochet with Sol

Tuesday, March 4 & 11, at 12 pm

Join Ms. Sol to learn essential tips and tricks! She will teach you everything from fundamental stitches to understanding gauges. No registration is required.

Lil' Bookworms

Wednesday, March 5, at 5 pm

Encouraging children to share their love of reading, participate in book discussions, and develop a passion for reading.

No registration is required.

Adult Craft

Thursday, March 6, at 11 am

Join us for an adult seasonal craft at Elmora Branch Library. Registration is required.

Toddlers World

Friday, March 14 & 28, at 11 am

Join Ms. Martha for an hour of fun songs to sing, music, and playtime. No registration is required.

Tai Chi & Qi Gong

Mon, March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31, at 4 pm and Wed, March 5, 12, 19, & 26 at 9 am

Join Pete on Monday & Wednesday for Tai Chi, a gentle Chinese martial art that combines slow, flowing movements with deep breathing. Experience the refreshing benefits of mindfulness! No registration is required.

Adult English Book Club

Tuesday, March 4, at 11 am

Join our Book Club meeting and engage in a lively discussion about our latest book. No registration is required.

Junior Chess Club

Friday, March 7, 14, 21, & 28, at 4 pm

Don't miss out on our Chess Club for Kids! We welcome beginners. Join us and let's play some chess! No registration is required.

Stitch & Mending

Tuesday, March 11, at 10 am and Wednesday, March 12, at 5 pm

Visit Elmora for clothing repairs. Bring the item you need assistance with, and help will be provided. No registration is required.

Adult Scrabble Club

Thursday, March 13, at 2 pm - 3:30 pm

Word lovers! Exercise your B-R-A-I-N (7 points) by playing Scrabble with other like-minded adults. No registration is required.

St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt

Friday, March 14 (All Day)

Join us at Elmora for a St. Patrick's Day-themed seek-and-find activity in the children's area. Win a prize by finding all the hidden images!

St. Patrick's Day Craft to Go

Friday, March 14 (All Day)

Bring home a fun St. Patrick's Day craft!

ESL Classes for Kids

Wednesday, March 19, at 5 pm

Join us every third Wednesday of each month, to learn English as a Second Language with fun interactive activities. For ages 5-12. No registration is required.

Adult Spanish Book Club

Thursday, March 20, at 2 pm

Join Martha as she hosts a monthly book discussion for Spanish-speaking adults! No registration is required.

Game Day at Elmora

Thursday, March 20, at 4 pm

Join us at Elmora Branch Library to enjoy a variety of board and card games for the whole family! No registration is required.

Bubbles aRe Us

Saturday, March 22, at 1 pm

Located on 640 3rd Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ
Join Ms. Martha for songs, stories, and crafts that are LOADS of fun! Storytime will feature stories in both English and Spanish for the entire family. Enjoy free pizza. No registration is required.

Adult BINGO

Tuesday, March 25, at 11 am

Join us at the Elmora Branch Library for a fun-filled game of BINGO. No registration is required.

Bad Art

Friday, March 28, at 1 pm

Join us at Elmora for a wildly fun event where we celebrate the beauty in "bad" art! Embrace your inner artist—no experience needed! We've got all the supplies you'll need, so bring your imagination and a willingness to have fun.

Remember, no art is ever bad!

Don't miss out—space is limited!

Registration is required.

Drawing for Kids

Friday, March 28, at 3 pm

Join us for an enjoyable storytime and learn to draw! No registration is required.

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ELIZABETH ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS 2025 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SHOW

The Elizabeth Arts Council (EAC) proudly presents its 2025 Women's History Month show at the Elizabeth Public Library, third floor exhibit area, throughout the month of March.

The opening reception is Thursday, March 13, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the exhibit area.

Featured artists are Shez, Daphnie Manzione, Paula Borenstein, Lydia Watson, Alice Chahbazian Mateychak and Joanne Leone.

In memory of and in tribute to Dan and Virginia (Gini) Mason Pagdon several works of art by Virginia Mason Pagdon will be on display.

Dan and Gini were dedicated EAC Board members and two of the founders of the Elizabeth Arts Council, which last year celebrated twenty five years as an organization committed to the support and promotion of the arts in and around the city of Elizabeth.

For more information and to join the Elizabeth Arts Council, please call 908.289.3584.

Please contact the library for their current hours and visitor guidelines at elizpl.org or 908.354 6060.

The flyer for the show is attached. Please credit the designer, Daphnie Manzione.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH

The Msgr. Joseph F. Loreti Knights of Columbus Council 3240 is serving a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast in the Church of the Assumption basement, located at 113 Coolidge Pl, Roselle Park, on Sunday, March 9th, 2025, from 8 a.m. – Noon. \$12 includes: Pancakes, Sausage, Coffee, Tea, Juice. Tickets sold at the door. Proceeds will help Seminarian David Watchorn.

(above) Poster design by Daphnie Manzione

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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ELIZABETH-PLAINFIELD

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield (JLEP) is pleased to announce that in 2025 we will be awarding three \$4,000 scholarships to college bound women who reside in Union County and demonstrate a passion for volunteerism.

The JLEP believes that volunteerism is a vital force in our community, and we support young women who share our passion by awarding scholarships to college-bound high school seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to volunteer activities. The scholarships will be awarded in May 2025.

To be considered for a scholarship, applicants are asked to complete the application form, write a 300-to-400-word essay about their volunteer experiences, and provide two letters of recommendation. The application form is available on our website, jlepnj.org, or can also be obtained by sending a request via email to scholarship@jlepnj.org or by leaving a message

with your address and/or email address at 908-709-1177.

The deadline for submitting applications is April 4, 2025. There will be a formal presentation of the scholarships to the recipients at the JLEP's Annual Dinner on May 21, 2025.

To find out more about the League's scholarship program or about how to join as a member, please contact the League at 908-709-1177, via email at scholarship@jlepnj.org, or visit our website at jlepnj.org.

ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ELIZABETH PLAINFIELD

The Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield is a chapter of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. and 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Bayway Complex Community Advisory Panel Offers Students up to \$2,000

For the year 2025, the Bayway Complex Community Advisory Panel (CAP) is offering high school seniors who are residents of Linden, Rahway, Elizabeth, and Staten Island the opportunity to be awarded a CAP scholarship. Several one-year scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$2,000 each, to students in these four municipalities represented by the CAP. It is a onetime \$2,000 award.

The winners will be selected by the CAP Scholarship Committee, who will be taking the following areas into consideration when reviewing the applications: The applications must have all sections completed; Academics (transcript/SAT/ACT scores); Financial Need; Essay (AI generated prohibited); Science/Math Teacher Recommendation Letter(s). This scholarship is open to candidates who will be pursuing a college, university, career, or vocational school education in the Industrial, Process Technology, Computer Science or Engineering, i.e., Chemical, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, or Environmental fields. Please contact your high school guidance counselor for more information or go to shorturl.at/uKLa1 to access the application. The deadline to submit applications is April 25, 2025.

The Bayway CAP is a committee of interested stakeholders including community representatives from Linden, Rahway, Elizabeth, and Staten Island representing various sectors of the community including neighbors, educators, retirees, public officials, emergency responders, and environmental organization representatives. The group meets quarterly for face-to-face dialogue between the community and company representatives from Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery, Infineum USA L.P., Cogen Technologies, Linden Venture, Nexpera, Solutia, Linden VFT LLC, and Parkway Generation.

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SCOUTS EARN GOLD NUGGETS IN ANNUAL KLONDIKE DERBY

Submitted by Daniel Bernier

Many years ago, men raced by means of dogs and sledges across the frozen wastes of Alaska in search of gold. The Scouts BSA program capitalized on this theme and developed the Klondike Derby as an exciting annual event. Scouts pull a sled full of equipment over a field course in the Watchung Reservation to simulated towns, where the Scouts are challenged to solve problems using Scouting skills, such as firebuilding, first aid, and orienteering.

On February 1, the Flaming Arrow Patrol of Boy Scout Troop 23, sponsored by St. Genevieve's Church of Elizabeth, competed against 27 other sled teams in the Pioneer District Klondike Derby. Under the direction of Patrol Leader Alex Banic, the Scouts earned 102 gold nuggets, out of a possible 120 points, by solving 7 problems and cooking a hot lunch.

Troop 23 welcomes any boys who are at least 11 years old or graduated from the fifth grade to join them on upcoming camping trips and hikes, a 4-day trip on Memorial Day weekend, and a week-long summer camp in July. Contact Scoutmaster Dan Bernier at 908-451-1948 or webfootroop@gmail.com for more details.

BOY SCOUT WINTER FUN WEEKEND

Submitted by Daniel Bernier

Fourteen Scouts and 10 adult leaders participated in Boy Scout Troop 23's Winter Weekend on January 17-19. This annual event has been a tradition for over 50 years.

The Scouts stayed in the Wink Dousa Cabin at Winnebago Scout Reservation, located in Rockaway Township, NJ. With the cabin heated by a furnace and the troop leaders preparing four hearty meals, the Scouts were able to concentrate on just having fun!

On Saturday morning, the Scouts had fun outside. After lunch, they visited the camp Trading Post, then spent some time indoors learning about firebuilding skills in preparation for the upcoming Klondike Derby.

During their free time, the Scouts played chess, checkers, Battleship and Jenga, and built a puzzle. After dinner, the Flaming Arrow and Red Eye Crow Patrols faced off against each other in the Scout Trivia challenge.

One former Scout made his annual trip from Maryland with his father and his son to participate in the Winter Weekend.

Boy Scout Troop 23 meets on Wednesday nights in the hall under St. Genevieve's Church, 200 Monmouth Road, Elizabeth. New members are welcome at any time, all year round.

For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfootroop@gmail.com



(above) Across the generations – the Triscritti, Fowler and Cassidy families gathered at Boy Scout Troop 23's Winter Weekend at Winnebago Scout Reservation in January.



(above) The Scouts of Troop 23's Flaming Arrow Patrol pulled their sled to 7 locations in the Watchung Reservation to earn 102 gold nuggets in the Klondike derby.



(above) After a day of hiking and outdoor games, the Scouts of Troop 23 relaxed with some electronic gaming at their annual Winter Weekend.

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ST. JOSEPH SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER DEDICATES RENOVATED MAIN HALL

The St. Joseph's community, including residents from Elizabeth and volunteers and supporters from five counties in New Jersey, came together on February 8 to celebrate the renovation of the Main Hall on its campus. The Hall is the main building at the agency, used to provide a wide array of social services to residents in need in Elizabeth. The renovated Main Hall includes new private offices for mental health counseling and case management services, new facilities for the soup kitchen program, new spaces for the Adult Learning Center and health and nutrition workshops and diagnostic testing, and a reception area where residents can obtain information about agency programs and community services. Karen Maher, President of the Board of Trustees, noted that these new spaces have "allowed the agency to expand services to the community, particularly in the areas of physical and behavioral health."

The renovation of the Main Hall marks the successful completion of a comprehensive facilities improvement plan for the agency. From the initial planning phase five years ago, the principal objectives of this plan have been to 1) enhance and expand services to families and children in need in Elizabeth; and 2) offer services in an environment with greater dignity. "Dignity has been a core value of the agency since our founding in 1986," noted Bernadette

Murphy, Executive Director. "Our goal is to help people acquire the material items they need to live with dignity. We believe that it is vital for our clients to receive food, clothing, supplies and support services in an environment that fosters dignity, where individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness are truly welcomed as sisters and brothers."

The renovations have created new spaces to serve the needs of Elizabeth residents more effectively. The private offices for counseling and case management, for example, now allow staff to speak with residents in confidence about mental and physical health issues, family dynamics and personal trauma. The Adult Learning Center now has a dedicated space for English as a Second Language classes and for work skills training sessions. Community healthcare partners have state of the art spaces to test and diagnose residents on health issues. There is now adequate space to offer health, nutrition and wellness workshops. The soup kitchen now has new equipment and better workflow to serve food. And the reception desk finally gives the agency a central place for residents to come to access agency and community partner resources. All of these spaces have allowed the agency to improve and expand services.

Guests at the dedication included contributors to the \$1.6 million capital campaign to finance

the renovations, community leaders in Elizabeth and Union County, agency volunteers and partners and residents of the local neighborhood. As part of the dedication program, soup kitchen volunteers convened to recognize the founders of the agency by naming the new soup kitchen the "Founders Kitchen" in the Main Hall. Remarkably, the soup kitchen has served guests every single Saturday for 2025 weeks without interruption since the agency was established. Founder and longtime Executive Director of the agency, Sister Jacinta Fernandes, traveled from her community in Maryland to attend the dedication. All in attendance toured the Founders Kitchen and other renovated spaces in the Main Hall and participated in a moving dedication ceremony.

Six days a week a dedicated team of more than 6,000 volunteers from Elizabeth, Union, Clark, Westfield, Cranford, Mountainside and dozens of other communities, make sandwiches for the hungry in their kitchens, bring food, clothing and home goods, serve meals at the soup kitchen and help with the operations of the agency. St. Joseph's serves over 3,500 individuals annually. The organization helps Elizabeth residents access food, medicine, mental health counseling, adult education, clothing and a myriad of additional healthcare and support services.

To learn more about St. Joseph Social Service Center, please visit www.sjeliz.org



(above, l-r) Msgr. Tom Nydegger St. Helen's Westfield, Marilyn Ryan St. Helen's Westfield, Steven Abood St. Helen's Westfield, Sr. Jacinta Fernandes Founder of St. Joseph's, Ray Kostyack, Jr. St. Helen's Westfield, Cindy Abood St. Helen's Westfield, Annette Calderin St. Joseph Social Service Center Elizabeth, Maria Chaillet St. John's Clark, Shirley, Doris & Idali Ramirez Immaculate Conception Elizabeth, Jerry Conheeny St. Michael's Cranford, Aswm. Annette Quijano LD 20, Joan Garthwaite Holy Spirit Union, Harold Kessler Building Project Manager & St. Helen's, Michael Marcus Temple Sha'arey Shalom Springfield, Fr. Anthony Randazzo Holy Trinity Westfield, Second.

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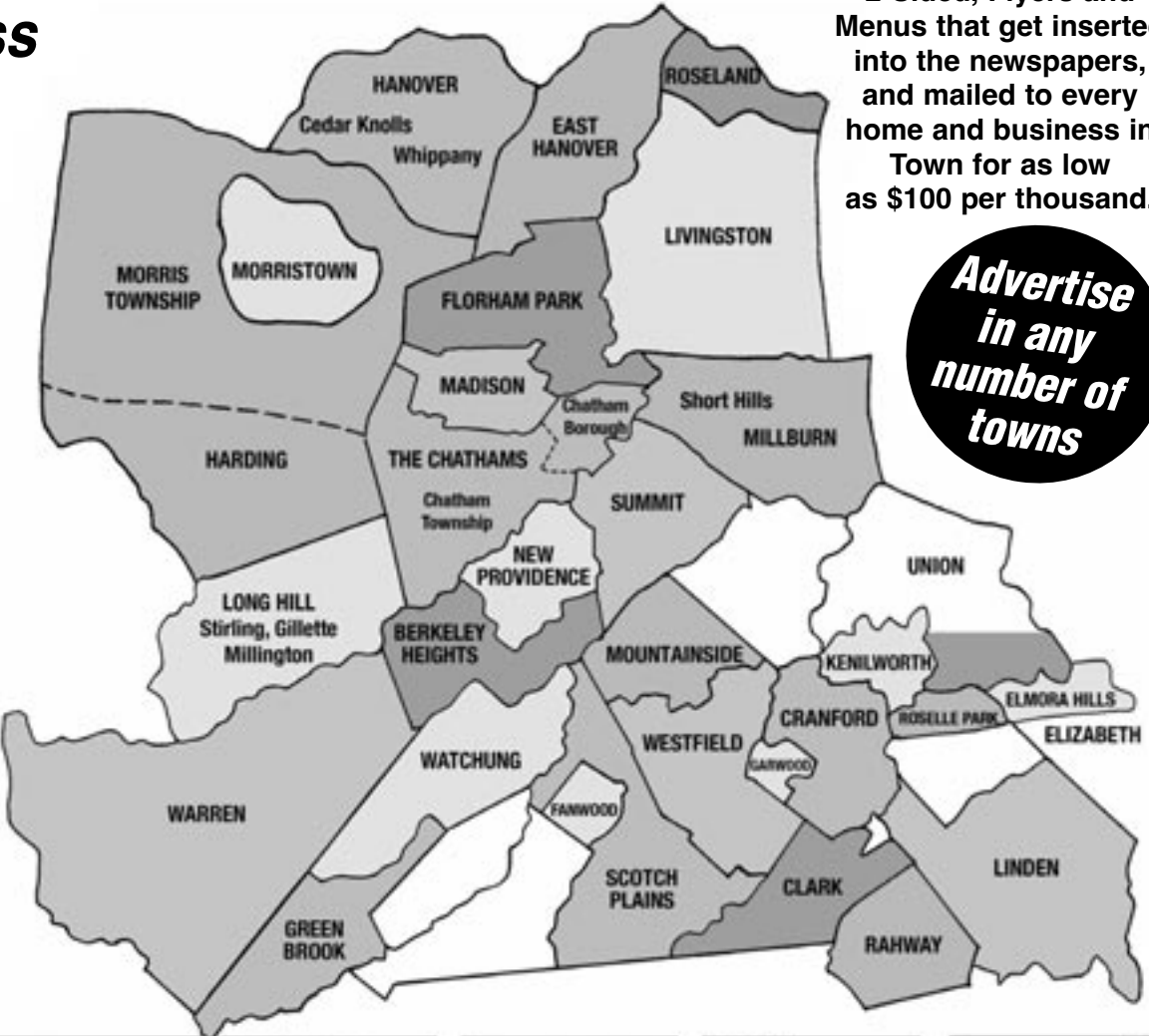
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Salem Roadhouse Cafe PRESENTS....

FLESH WORLD

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 8:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 7:15 PM

ADMISSION: \$20

STUDENTS \$15.00

Admission includes snacks, beverages, teas, coffee and desserts



SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ
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2025 Show proceeds will benefit GROUNDWORK ELIZABETH

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SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ MARCH 8 SHOW

Salem Roadhouse Café presents Flesh World on Saturday, March 8, 2024.

The doors open at 7:15 P.M., the show starts at 8:00 P.M. Admission is \$20 and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. The venue is in Bailey Hall at Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Road, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. The 2025 show funds will go to Groundwork Elizabeth, which is devoted to transforming the natural and built environment of low-resource communities - a national enterprise with local roots, working at the intersection of the environment, equity, and civic engagement

Flesh World is a collaboration of drummer Justin Vedovelli, keyboardist Peter Rushing, and saxophonist/ keyboardist Carter Vames. They play an eclectic and experimental mix of diverse musical styles, ranging from free jazz to Afro-Caribbean and pop. Their repertoire includes cutting-edge original compositions as well as covers of tunes by popular artists such as Britney Spears, Juice WRLD, and Nine Inch Nails. Just this last year, Flesh World has released two debut EPs: Bloop Blop Bleep (showcasing the group's synth-heavy originals) and Dream of You (a more restrained and ambient set of songs). Next on the horizon is Worldwide, a soon-to-be-released EP featuring the groups "out-there" takes on classic pop tunes such as Funky Town and I Want It That Way.

Guest Artist Jacob Hurlock: subbing in for the groups sax player is keyboardist, multi-instrumentalist and producer Jacob Hurlock. Hurlock is a jazz piano student at Rutgers New Brunswick where he is studying with jazz great Orrin Evans. You can hear him on shows throughout the tri-state area (and even Atlanta, GA) with groups such as the New Brunswick funk band Spicy Stir Fried and Salsa Nova, a band that performs music from both Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Brazilian traditions.

As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is live, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome.

ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

But the many musicians who've played at the Salem Roadhouse Café see it as a solid performance venue. They love it because of its special intimacy and great audiences. They say people here "really listen." Ask any of the musicians you meet here — they love to play the Roadhouse, and they want to come back often.

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Programs, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, Gateway YMCA and others. Thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.

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