Green Brook Gazette

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DAR CELEBRATES MEMBERS AND MILESTONES

Five new members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) were sworn in at the 129th Anniversary Luncheon of Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter held at Prezzo's in Warren on January 25, 2025. The new members are Kathryn Van Arsdale and Kathryn and Nancy Stoll, of Green Brook; Maryellen DeCoster of Warren; and Tara Fettes of Basking Ridge.

Women celebrating milestone membership anniversaries were recognized: Pam Pasko, 40 years; Cheryl Carroll, 35 years; Karen Miller of Dunellen, 30 years; Nancy Ryno, 25 years; and Marti Kalko of Warren, five years.

The chapter received 12 awards in 2024, including a national Blue Ribbon Chapter Achievement Award. Ashley Salsano was honored as N.J. State Outstanding Junior Member and Ruth Ryno was named a N.J. Daughter of Distinction. Receiving individual national and state committee awards were Karen Miller; Holly Dunbar and Ruth Ryno of North Plainfield; Beth Kavanaugh of Oldwick; and Catherine Strohmeyer of Watchung.

The luncheon featured a brief business session and a program on America's participation in the 1900 Paris Exposition by Jean Stumberger. The chapter will resume monthly meetings in March.

The DAR is a nonprofit service organization open to women 18 and over who can prove descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter is based in Green Brook and serves areas of Somerset, Middlesex and Union counties. New members are welcome. Contact the chapter at ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com.



(above) DAR members honored in 2024 include Ashley Salsano (l.) named N.J. Outstanding Junior and Ruth Ryno, a N.J. Daughter of Distinction.

Courtesy photos

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(above) The DAR Winter Meeting and Luncheon celebrated chapter achievements of the past year.

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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.

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.





UNFORGETTABLE CONCERTS AT DREW

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.

Don't miss these spectacular performances by New Jersey's best bands! These talented local musicians bring their passion, energy, and unique sound to every performance. Experience the vibrant music scene of New Jersey and support your local artists. Whether you're a fan of rock, pop, doo-wop, or tribute bands, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Join us for an unforgettable musical journey and be part of the excitement!

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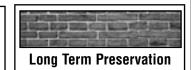




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ARIN HARKAWAT SPARKS CHANGE

Warren Hills Regional High School

Arin Harkawat, a senior at Watchung Hills Regional High School, is an environmental advocate who recently sparked change on 1,4-Dioxane Contamination.

The journey into environmental advocacy for Arin began with a poignant encounter at an environmental conference. While networking with speakers and attendees, Arin Harkawat, who grew up in Warren, was inspired by a man's heartfelt concerns over the deteriorating quality of his local waterways and tap water. This conversation prompted a deep dive into reports detailing toxic compounds in New Jersey's waterways, with one standing out repeatedly: 1,4-Dioxane. This chemical, commonly found in personal care products like shampoos and cosmetics, poses significant risks to human health, including potential liver and kidney damage, or even death. Alarmingly, New Jersey had no regulations addressing its presence. Recognizing the potential for severe environmental and health consequences, Harkawat resolved to act.

WHY 1,4-DIOXANE?

The decision to focus on 1,4-Dioxane was strategic. New York enacted regulations on the chemical in 2023, creating momentum for addressing this issue. The Environmental Justice Coalition, the campaign led by Catherine Callinan and Arin Harkawat and sponsored by Senator Raj Mukherji, decided to build on that progress in New Jersey, a state known for its environmental consciousness. Tackling 1,4-Dioxane served as a manageable first step, with hopes of expanding efforts to address broader concerns like lead contamination in the future.

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Harkawat's campaign was rooted in extensive research. He pored over scientific studies, regulatory reports from agencies such as the EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and details of New York's legislation. Additionally, he leveraged a network of environmental leaders, professors, and members of the American Public Health Association's Environmental & Environmental Justice Committee. This network provided valuable insights, ensuring the campaign was informed and strategic.

MENTORSHIP AND GUIDANCE

Mentorship played a crucial role in shaping the advocate's approach. He drew inspiration and guidance from Dr. Natalie Sampson at the University of Michigan, who advised on growing the campaign. Other mentors from his summer internship with the Children's Environmental Health Network offered support





(above) Arin Harkawat is a Warren resident and a senior at Watchung Hills Regional High School.

Photo by WHRHS

on policy framing and legislative engagement. These experiences provided the tools needed to navigate complex advocacy efforts effectively.

ENGAGING LEGISLATORS

Interacting with legislators proved to be a key learning opportunity. Harkawat emphasized the importance of presenting well-researched, clear, and relatable arguments. Legislators sometimes lack expertise in specific environmental issues, making it critical to convey the urgency and practicality of proposed solutions in an accessible manner. This skill proved vital in gaining legislative support.

IMPACT ON CAREER AND FUTURE PLANS

The experience of pushing for a 1,4-Dioxane regulation has deeply influenced the advocate's career aspirations. It enhanced his understanding of environmental justice, policy development, and effective advocacy. Harkawat expressed a commitment to continuing this work by addressing water quality issues, particularly in marginalized communities, and expanding his focus to other environmental challenges. He

aims to measure the impact of their efforts and collaborate with others to drive meaningful change.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Persuading legislators to prioritize 1,4-Dioxane contamination was not without challenges. Harkawat noted that the real hurdle lay in fostering understanding and care for the issue. Identifying and working with the right legislators who shared his vision was critical to making progress. The advocate addressed these challenges by framing the issue as both urgent and solvable, emphasizing its long-term environmental and public health benefits.

MAKING COMPLEX SCIENCE ACCESSIBLE

One of the campaign's successes was simplifying complex scientific information about 1,4-Dioxane to engage a broader audience. Collaborating with peers and asking clarifying questions helped distill the issue into clear and actionable messages. By using human connections and storytelling, he was able to make the topic accessible to diverse audiences.

BALANCING ADVOCACY AND ACADEMICS

Balancing advocacy efforts with academic responsibilities required careful time management and dedication. Much of the advocacy work was done over the summer, allowing him to focus on his studies during the academic year. He acknowledged the importance of resilience, accepting setbacks, and finding motivation in the impact his work could have on others.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Looking ahead, Harkawat envisions a future where environmental justice is prioritized in underserved areas. He plans to expand his advocacy efforts, tackle new environmental challenges, and continue pushing for impactful legislation. His ultimate goal is to ensure cleaner waterways and healthier communities, proving that change starts with a single voice and the determination to make a difference.

To learn more about Arin Harkawat's campaign, please visit environmentaljusticecoalition.org.





WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER MARCH EVENTS

500 Warrenville Road. All the programs are FREE for the registered members. Call (908) 753-9440 for more information.

Yoga with Kartika

Mondays, 10:00 a.m.

This class is open to all levels of skill.

Mahjong for Intermediate Players

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. If you are an intermediate mahiong player and

would like to play this game of skill.

Take control with Exercise

Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.

This is an ongoing exercise program, in video form, for all skill levels.

Zumba Gold with Judith

Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m.

This class is achievable for beginners. Cost is \$40 for the 8-week program.

Bridge Group with Ronnie

Tuesdays, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

New members and beginners welcome (lessons available).

Geri-Fit

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.

Seated (standing optional) exercise program. Pre-registration is required.

Craft Activities

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m.

We all work on doing craft work for Community Service projects.

Line Dancing with Linda Hyland

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. You don't need a partner.

Seated Legs & Core Exercise (Video)

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

This low-impact class easy to learn.

Card/Table Games

Thursdays, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Mahjong, Bridge, Dominoes, Left-Right-Center Dice games, Rummikub, Canasta, and more.

Tai Chi (Video)

Fridays, 10:15 a.m.

This program can be practiced while either standing or sitting. No session March 21.

Bridge

Fridays, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Bridge is a mentally challenging card game that offers intellectual and social stimulation.

Healthy Feet

March 3, 11 a.m.

Proper foot care, the role of the podiatrist.

The Somerset County Traveling Library.

March 3, 1 p.m.

Sign up for a library card, get help troubleshooting technology, check out a book.

Mardi Gras Trivia

We will play Mardi Gras Bead Roll Game & also do Mardi Gras Puzzle, Secret Message, crossword, Fat Tuesday Quilt & word search.

Bingo

March 5, 11 a.m.

sponsored by Country Arch Care Center.

What is the Quality of your Water

March 6, 11 a.m.

Learn about how our water quality is tested and maintained, and how Water is kept safe.

Brains n Games and Hand Bells

March 7 & 28, 11 a.m.

Mind-tingling, brain-stumping word games and a fun-filled musical workout using hand bells.

Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route

March 10, 11 a.m.

New Jersey was the most important theater of the Revolutionary War.

Armchair Travels to New Orleans

March 11, 11 a.m.

Explore the vibrant streets of the French Quarter and immerse yourself in the culture.

Monthly Book Club

March 11, 1:30 PM

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Holi- The Festival of Colors - Holi

March 12, 11 a.m.

Bollywood dance moves, and play fun games.

Breathing techniques for mental wellness

March 13, 11 a.m.

Practices that can be used to distract the mind and induce calm during an anxiety episode.

Casino Games

March 14, 11 a.m.

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St. Patty's Day Craft

March 17, 11 a.m.

Celebrate the St. Patrick's Day with creating a bracelet. All materials will be provided. Pre-registration is required.

Studio 60+

March 17, 1 p.m.

Plan the events they are interested in.

Wordle

March 18, 11 a.m.

Wordle is a word-based brain game.

March 19, 11 a.m.

Comedy Magic Show

A magic show with a blend of mentalism, rope and card magic, juggling.

Bingo

March 20, 11 a.m.

Bingo promotes socialization, strengthens handeye coordination, and improves skills.

St. Patty Day Musical Entertainment

March 21, 11 a.m.

We're bringing the spirit of Ireland to life with a musical performance by Kevin.

Mastering the Art of Homemade Soups

March 24, 11 a.m.

Explore the nutritional benefits of soup.

Boggle

March 25, 11 a.m.

This is a challenging game that is played using a grid of letters.

Maintain your Brain

March 26, 11 a.m.

Reduce risk of cognitive decline.

March 27, 11 a.m.

Stained Glass Technique using Vellum Paper

Create a stained-glass look using Vellum paper. Pre-registration required, and supplies provided.

Fall Prevention Presentation

March 31, 11 a.m.

Interactive discussion will focus on fall prevention strategies.

Ridewise

March 31, 1 p.m.

Sarah will join us to discuss the various transportation options.

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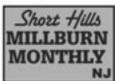
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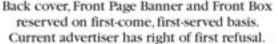
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ANNUAL SHARING THE QUILTS SHOW – MARCH 22

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, or email: harvestquiltersnj@gmail.com.



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

Courtesy photo



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<u>vendors can call 908-217-6856</u> for table rental. 8ft tables available to rent for just \$30. **NEXT MARKET DATES: APRIL 12 AND MAY 10**

St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church 1407 St. Georges Ave, Rahway, NJ



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Direct: 908.720.9205 Office: 908.325.5000 Email: RO@RoseannOKeefe.com

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You're 9wited! Join us for an exclusive FREE Home Improvement Trends Information Session

Date: Thursday, March 20

Time: 6:45pm

Location: NextHome Premier, 102 Town Center Drive, Warren

Hosted By: Roseann O'Keefe, Broker Associate

What You'll Learn:

- Trending paint colors & finishes
- Modern tile designs & applications
- Smart renovation tips for increasing home value
- Expert insights and Q&A with Rocco La Vecchia from IDEAL TILE in Green Brook and Katelyn Spacek of CURATE Interior Designs

RSVP by March 14, 2025 to Roseann at RO@roseannokeefe.com 908.720.9205

This is a free event. Light refreshments will be served.

We look forward to helping you bring your home improvement vision to life!

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"Roseann was amazing at representing us as we approached the daunting task of selling our home of 32 years. Her expertise in the area market was evident and she provided a detailed analysis of the market, helping us understand the best listing strategy. She and Jeannie provided us with a task list and stepped us through everything we needed to do to get our house market ready and sail through

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"Roseann was absolutely wonderful! She is knowledgeable, responsive and reliable. I would definitely recommend her to anyone looking to buy or sell! Her many years of experience certainly made my purchase a no-stress purchase and I would absolutely work with her in the future." Dan M.



Green Brook Gazette • Page 13 • March 2025

Green Brook Gazette • Page 14 • March 2025

Green Brook Gazette • Page 15 • March 2025

Green Brook Gazette • Page 16 • March 2025

Green Brook Gazette • Page 17 • March 2025

Green Brook Gazette • Page 18 • March 2025

Green Brook Gazette • Page 19 • March 2025

Green Brook Gazette • Page 20 • March 2025

Green Brook Gazette • Page 21 • March 2025