ENILWORTH

LIFE

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Issue 206 • March 2025

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COUNTY EXCELLENCE FCU CELEBRATES GRAND RE-OPENING

County Excellence Federal Credit Union, located at 16 E Lincoln Avenue in Roselle Park, celebrated their Grand Reopening and 90th anniversary on February 6, 2025.

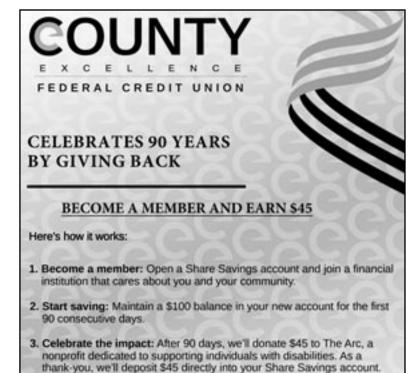
Established in 1935, as a Credit Union for teachers, we are now a community charter. County Excellence FCU now offers financial services to anyone who lives, works (or regularly conducts business in), worships, attend school in Hunterdon, Somerset, and Union County, New Jersey.

Judite Pinho (President/CEO) during the ceremony extended her gratitude and appreciation to all the members, Board od Directors and staff for their support and loyalty throughout the years.

County Excellence FCU is very proud to not only work in but for the communities it serves. The partnership that we have with The Chamber of Commerce and Kean University helps us to give back to the communities we serve.

To commemorate 90 Years, we are running a promotion for every new member we will give back to The Arc foundation. For 90 days the new members can earn \$45.00.

Visit www.countyexfcu.org, call 908-245-0173 or stop into one of our branches for more information.



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COMMUNITY WEAVING DAY

Kathleen Czarnecki,

Senior Programming Library Assistant

We enjoyed a fabulous community weaving day at the Kenilworth Public Library on Saturday, January 25, 2025. Members of the Westfield Weavers Guild shared hands-on weaving demonstrations on a variety of weaving looms.

It was incredibly fun learning how to make cloth on various weaving looms. We hope we

about this skill. Not only is weaving a relaxing hobby, you have the ability to create breathtaking works of art. Our goal is to encourage fiber artists, and people who have an interest in this craft to come together, as a community of makers.

Visit kenilworthlibrary.org to view additional programs and resources.

were able to inspire participants to learn more





Photos courtesy of Barbara Svachak

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KENILWORTH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Girl Scouts under the direction of their leader Kim prepared a Valentines Day gift for all members in attendance. Our meetings are being held on the first Wednesday of the month at p.m.

The Kenilworth Senior Citizens Club had a at the senior building, located at 526 Boulevard treat at our February meeting. The Kenilworth Kenilworth. Our next meetings are March 5th and April 2nd. We are now accepting memberships from out-of-town seniors. The criteria are you must be over 55 and pay yearly dues of \$25. Kenilworth members pay \$20.



Courtesy photos



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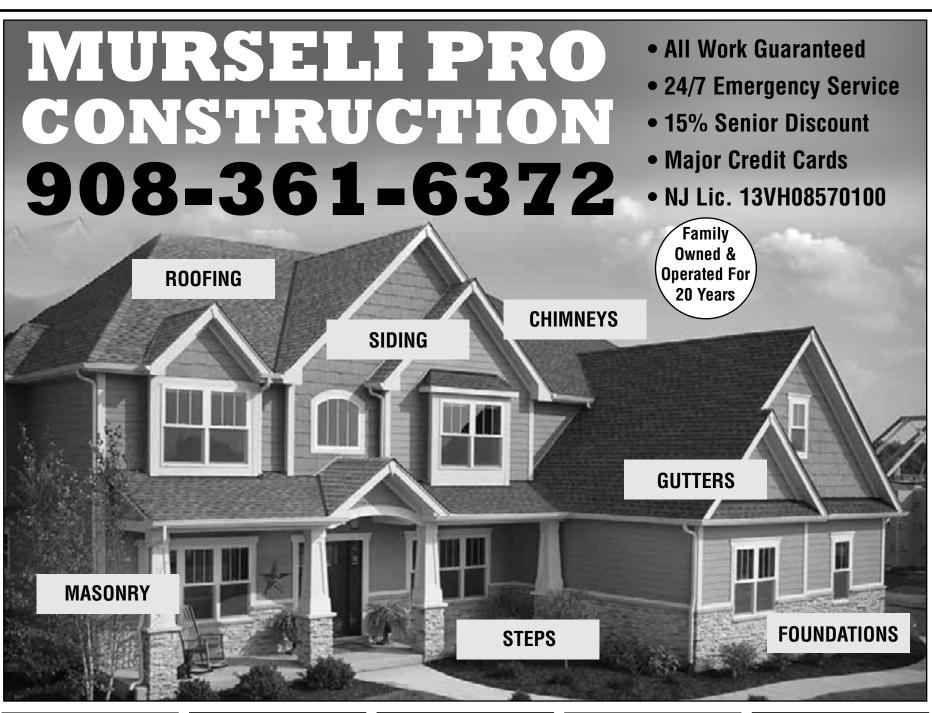
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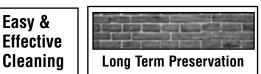
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KENNILWORTH'S LAST FARM BOY – PART 3 (FINAL)

We've been following the experiences of 7th grader Bob Allcroft who in the 1940s worked on the town's last farm, then located on Galloping Hill Rd. Merck now occupies that site.

Bob stated, "One day I felt like someone who won the Irish Sweepstakes. I don't know if the Sweepstakes exist anymore. But I felt like a big winner when Mr. Anderson said to me, 'Son, been watching you. See that tractor over there. Need you to be a picker and a driver. Think you can handle that machine?' Even though I didn't know the first thing about driving a tractor, I immediately shot back and said, 'Sure I can, Mr. Anderson, I can drive that tractor!' Then Mr. Anderson added, 'And don't go out on Galloping Hill Rd. You're too young for a farm equipment driver's license!"

"I knew nothing about driving a tractor. But I wanted to drive it. After Mr. Anderson left, I scooted over to the tractor totally puzzled. Now what was I going to do? Well, good fortune allowed me to figure out how to drive it."

"One day I decided to drive the tractor out onto Galloping Hill Rd. in order to make a turn on the road instead of on the farm property. Mr. Anderson saw me do it and boy did I ever catch the dickens from him. Never did that again."

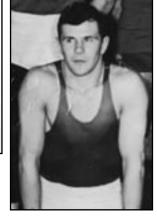
"These were WWII years. On a large section of the property were rows of barracks for soldiers. They were at a distance from where I worked so I never took a close look at them."

"I worked for Mr. Anderson for three years. The spring and summer of 1943, 1944, and 1945. I was a 7th, then an 8th, and finally a 9th grader. In the 9th grade I went to Jonathan Dayton Regional in Springfield with kids from five other towns. Like those towns, Kenilworth had no high school so we all had to go someplace. We called the high school Dayton, Regional, or just Springfield for short. There were lots of guys from the other towns who knew all about farming. New Providence, Clark Springfield and Mountainside had big farms then. Some had greenhouses. They all had lots of open land before the Parkway came through."

"I didn't work on Mr. Anderson's farm any



(above) Bob Allcroft – Regional grad., 1949. Source: Family



(above) Bob Allcroft, champion wrestler, Regional HS, 1948. Source: Regionalogue

more after 1945 because by the time I got to be a sophomore I was involved in school sports. Summers were used to practice for track and field, football, and wrestling. In wrestling I excelled – kind of a family tradition. I think the heat during the summer practice never bothered me much because of working under the hot sun on the farm. I graduated from Regional in 1949 and by the next year had to move from Kenilworth because the Parkway was coming through and our house and land were taken to make room for it."

After Kenilworth Bob lived in different places in NJ and several other states, the last being California. He returned to Kenilworth in 2020 at the age of 89 to attend a VFW Memorial Day celebration that included a program to honor his brother, Lt. Roger Allcroft, KIA near the very end of WWII. Shot down; greatly outnumbered by Japanese pilots. In 2020 he remarked, "I recognize very few places because so much has changed in the more than seventy years since I lived here."

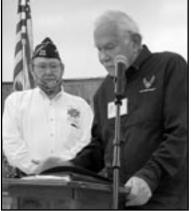
A graduate of Rutgers University Bob also saw military service which was a long tradition in his family. His father, a WWI veteran, was commander of Kenilworth VFW Post 2230 in the1940s. Bob rose to the rank of Lt. USMC, serving during the Korean War. He and his wife, Gail, to whom he was married for 56 years, had six children: Gregory, Diane, Cynthia, Linda, Jill, and Roger.



(above) Bob Allcroft with grandson Daniel Orfao and daughter Jill Orfao at Harding School (2020) 75 years after graduating.

Source: Historic Signs.





Source: Family

(above) Lt. Robert L. Allcroft, Korea, 1953-54. (above. right) VFW Commander Bob Jeans listens as Bob Allcroft speaks of his brother, Roger, KIA WWII.

Several weeks after completing this interview, Bob Allcroft passed away in California on July 5, just shy of his 94th birthday. He loved Kenilworth. Bob was a learned and kind person with a great memory. He was special. I remain thankful that I knew such a fine person.

Research provided by Walter E. Boright, Ed. D., historian, and Historic Signs, Inc. Persons with inquiries about this or other Kenilworth history topics may contact Dr. Boright at drbori@aol.com or 908-256-5200.





LIBRARY MARCH PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

908-276-2451 • www.kenilworthlibrary.org/ • 548 Boulevard, Kenilworth, NJ 07033 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10:00a.m - 8:00p.m;

Wednesday, Friday: 10:00a.m - 5:00p.m; Saturday: 10:00a.m - 2:00p.m; Sunday: Closed

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

Bingo For Children

Mondays at 6:30pm - 7:00pm March 3, 10, 17 24 & 31 Bingo games for children ages 3 & up

Lap Sit

Tuesdays at 10:30am – 10:50am March 11 & 25

Interactive stories and songs for ages 0 - 2 years old.

PJ Story Time

Tuesdays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm March 4, 11, 18 & 25

Children are welcome to attend this story time program dressed in their pajamas and bring along a favorite stuffed animal.

For ages 3 & up.

Lego At The Library

Thursdays at 3:30pm – 4:00pm March 6 & 13

Build your own unique creations with Lego bricks for ages 4 – 12.

Fun Friday Crafts

Friday at 3:30pm – 4:00pm March 7 & 21

Ages: 4-9

Registration is required for each individual craft one week prior to each craft.

Saturday Lap Sit

Saturday, March 15 at 10:30am – 11:00am Interactive stories and songs for the youngest listeners. Ages: 0 - 2

MARCH SPECIAL EVENTS

Registration is required for all special events. Out of town residents may register two days prior to each event, space permitting.

Boogie Woogie Babies

10:30am – 11:00am on Tuesday, March 4 Interactive musical program will be presented by Tiffany Taylor for ages: 0- 4 REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Fun & Fit

10:30am – 11am on Wednesday, March 5 Join us for a fun, upbeat, high-energy toddler and caregiver fitness class!

This program is recommended for ages 2 - 5.

SPECIAL EVENT AUTHOR VISIT

10:30am – 11:00am on Saturday, March 8 Alessandra, a former Kenilworth resident has written a children's book. There's More To Me! Ages: 3 & up

Beam Camp Craft Workshop

4:00pm – 5:00pm on Monday, March 10 Join us as we create confetti and an Earth friendly popper to disperse it. Registration is required. Ages: 7 - 12

Yoga Story Time

10:30am – 11:00am on Wednesday, March 12

Join us for stories and yoga poses for the youngest listeners and their caregiver. This program will be presented by Heather Valente for ages: 2 - 5.

NEW JERSEY MAKERS DAY

10:00am – 1:30pm on Saturday, March 22 We will be hosting an open house style event featuring many hand-on activities.

Read To A Dog

4:00pm – 5:00pm on Wednesday, March 25
For early beginning readers and those who are learning to read. Children will learn to associate reading with a furry, non-judgmental listener and begin to view reading in a positive way. Registration is required.

Good Tyme String Band

10:30am - 11:00am on Wednesday, March 26.

All ages are welcome to attend and enjoy foot tapping knee slapping banjo music.

LEARN ABOUT SLED DOG RACING & MEET A SLED DOG

Thursday, March 27 at 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Adults and children ages 4 and up are invited to register for this unique opportunity to learn about the Alaskan Iditarod Sled Dog Race and meet Noggin, a sled dog.

Land, a three-time participant in the 1,150-mile Iditarod, will discuss how she got involved with sled dog racing and what led her to participate in the sport's most grueling race, beginning in 2002 when she made her first appearance and finished the race in just under 14 days.

Ages: 4 – Adult

Registration is required.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Paper Pals

Join us on

Tuesday, March 18 at 2-4pm and Monday, March 10 at 6:00pm – 7:45pm

for our card making group "Paper Pals."
You don't need any paper crafting experience
to join the fun.

Yarnies

Join us on

Thursdays, March 6, 13 & 20 at 2-4pm and Thursday, March 27 at 6:00pm - 7:45pm. You don't need any crafting experience to enjoy these creative explorations. Feel free to bring a project to work on. Watch demonstrations of knitting, crocheting and weaving.

Spin - A - Yarn

Join us on

Tuesday, March 25 at 5:00pm – 7:45pm.

Bring your spinning wheel or drop spindle and create beautiful yarns! If you don't have a wheel, you are still welcome to join us to learn about spinning.

English Conversation For Adults

on Tuesdays, March 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 5:30pm - 6:30pm
And on Saturdays, March 1 & 15 at 1030am - 12:00pm.

Want to practice or learn more English? We will be hosting a free program for adults ages 18 and over. For more information, please call Krissantonia at 973-309-6971.

All of these programs are FREE for adults.



(above) Children's author Alessandra Cascarano



(above) Iditarod participant Karen Land

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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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FLESH WORLD SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 8:00 PM



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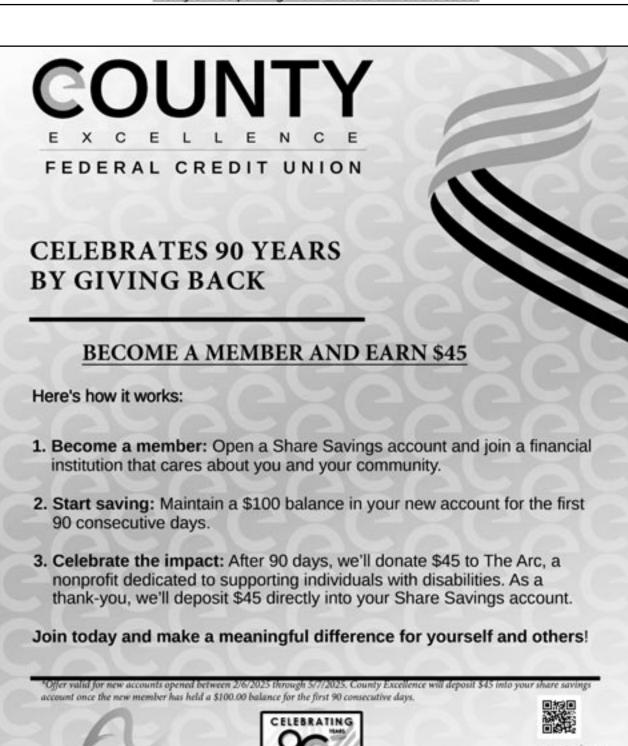
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ST. JOSEPH SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER DEDICATES RENOVATED MAIN HALL

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

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

Guests at the dedication included contributors since our founding in 1986," noted Bernadette to the \$1.6 million capital campaign to finance Center, please visit www.sjeliz.org

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



(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 Conheeney 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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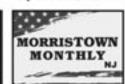




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18

TOWNS

660

900

1700

2000

2400

2700

3000

15

TOWNS

600

800

1600

1800

2200

2400

2800



Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069

24

TOWNS

800

1100

1900

2400

2800

3300

3600

21

TOWNS

700

1000

1800

2200

2600

3000

3300



Qty: 12,000 Zip: 07090

30

TOWNS

1000

1300

2100

2800

3200

3900

4300

27

TOWNS

900

1200

2000

2600

3000

3600

3900

Units (wide x High) Size			TOWN	
1	Unit (Business card) 3.25"x2"0		100	
2	Units 6	.5"x2" or 3.25"x4"	150	ľ
4	Units 3	.25"x8" or 6.5"x4"	240	Ì
6	Units 6.5	5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	ľ
9	HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	ı
12	Units	6.5"x14"	400	i
18	FULL PAGE	10"x14"	500	Ì
2-P/	AGE SPREAD	(2) 10"x14"	800	ľ
BACK PAGE 10"x14"			600	
FRONT PAGE BANNER 8.25"x2"			360	

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BUS TRIP TO WIND CREEK CASINOTO BENEFIT

KENILWORTH'S HISTORIC NITSCHKE HOUSE

The Kenilworth Historical Society will host a Bethlehem, Pa., on Saturday, March 22.

The trip will depart Kenilworth (St. Theresa's School parking lot) at 8:30 a.m. and return to Kenilworth at approximately 5:30 p.m. Cost of \$73 includes comfortable motor coach transportation, an approximate 6-hour visit to the casino and \$25 in free slot play. There will be a 50/50 raffle and complimentary drawing for door prizes on the bus. The casino offers more than 3,000 state-of-the-art slot machines ranging in denomination from 1 cent to \$100. more than 150 table games - and more. The Wind Creek Bethlehem site additionally houses a wide range of distinctive outlet stores and popular restaurants/eateries.

For further information and reservations,

please call 908-709-0434. As space is limited, bus trip to Wind Creek Bethlehem Casino in reservations and payment should be made by March 8 to ensure availability. Gift certificates for the trip are also available for purchase.

> Proceeds from the bus trip will benefit the Kenilworth Historical Society's historic Oswald J. Nitschke House (c. 1880) by helping defray operating expenses, including the cost of an elevator that makes the restored "living history" museum and cultural arts center fully accessible to everyone.

> The Kenilworth Historical Society is an independent, volunteer-based, non-profit, taxexempt, 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to the research, preservation and interpretation of the Oswald J. Nitschke House, local history and culture.

Visit kenilworthhistoricalsociety.org.



The Kenilworth Historical Society will host a soup-tasting event on Thurs., March 20, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Kenilworth Senior Center (526 Boulevard). This ever-popular event, "Soup's On," will give participants the opportunity to taste a variety of favorite soups from local restaurants/eateries. Assorted breads and desserts also will be served. A 50/50 raffle will be held during the event.

Admission is \$12. Parking and entrance to the Senior Center are located at the rear of the building. Advance reservations by March 13 are requested, as seating is limited. For information/reservations, please call 908-709-0434 or visit Love You More floral boutique, 13 North 20th Street, Kenilworth, where tickets for the event are being sold.

ST. THOMAS FLEA **AND CRAFT MARKET**

St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church in Rahway NJ, will host a Flea Market and Craft Sale on Saturday March 8, 2025. All are invited to shop 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, with vendor access starting at 7:30 am.

The Flea Market is held in the parish center located at 1407 St.Georges Ave. Rahway. This handicap accessible center can accommodate 60+ vendors at each market. Everyone who attends will receive a free raffle ticket for a drawing of a special gift card at 1:00 pm.

The Vendors have beautiful gifts for children and adults, as well as household items, collectibles, toys and antiques. Our Parish Gift Shop will also be open.

Our kitchen will be open for both breakfast and lunch. The St. Thomas chefs offer homemade ethnic specialties such as stuffed cabbage, kielbasa and sauerkraut subs and pirohi, as well as taylor ham and egg sandwiches for breakfast.

Vendors can call 908-217-6856 for table rental information. The Flea Committee provides a 8ft table to rent for \$30.00.





VENDORS CAN CALL 908-217-6856 FOR TABLE RENTAL. 8ft tables available to rent for just \$30. **NEXT MARKET DATES : APRIL 12 AND MAY 10**

the holidays, Baptisms and Weddings.

WITH THIS AD

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

