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SPRING CONCERTS BEGIN APRIL 5

Fanwood Performance Series

Contemporary folk-music groups, singersongwriters and an acclaimed blues guitarist will be featured as the Fanwood Performance Series presents its spring season of live music at the Carriage House.

The series returns from its winter break on Saturday, April 5, with folk trio Lara Herscovitch & The Highway Philosophers, in a double-bill with The Honey Badgers. Herscovitch is a singersongwriter-poet who brings authenticity, integrity, humor and heart to her music. Sound Waves Magazine called her work "songwriting at its best... good for your ears and your soul." The Honey Badgers are a folk/Americana duo from Delaware, formed in 2011 by Michael Natrin and Erin Magnin. They're known for intense, sparkling harmonies, honest lyrics and melodies, and captivating onstage chemistry.

Debra Devi, named by American Blues Scene as one of "today's top female blues/rock



(above) The Honey Badgers



(above) Lara Herscovitch & The Highway Philosophers

guitarists," brings her Jersey City-based band to the Carriage House on Saturday, May 10. New Jersey Stage compared Devi to "a cross between Bonnie Raitt, Joan Jett and Pat Benatar." Devi is also the author of "The Language of the Blues." Opening the show with an acoustic set will be singer-songwriter Cassidy Rain, lead singer of The Outcrops, which played in the Fanwood Performance Series in 2023.

Also returning to the series is another New Jersey musician, Michaela McClain, who will perform on Saturday, June 14, along with Cleveland indie-rock band Vanishing Shores. McClain brings her powerful and expressive voice to her heartfelt original songs. Vanishing Shores is led by singer-songwriter Kevin Bianchi, who draws inspiration from artists such as Elvis Costello, Ray Davies, Tom Petty and Lindsey Buckingham.

All shows start at 7 p.m. at the Kuran Cultural Arts Center (a.k.a. the Carriage House), on Watson Road just west of Martine Avenue, next to Fanwood Borough Hall. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors – cash at the door. Reservations are strongly suggested and can be made by emailing fanwoodperformance@gmail.com.

The Fanwood Performance Series is a presentation of Mayor Colleen Mahr and the Fanwood Borough Cultural Arts Council. It is made possible in part by a HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant from the Union County Board of County Commissioners.

The series will continue with three more shows in the fall; dates and performers to be announced. Music fans can find more information and updates at the series website fanwoodperformanceseries.org.

Courtesy photos

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TEXTILE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Scotch Plains Township

Scotch Plains Township is participating in a new countywide textile recycling program that Union County has launched in partnership with Helpsy, a leading sustainable clothing and textile recycling company. The county states that this initiative "aims to reduce waste, support environmental sustainability, and provide residents with an easy and accessible way to recycle unwanted clothing and accessories."

The new Helpsy drop-off bins are located in three Union County municipalities, including Scotch Plains. Residents can drop off a wide variety of clothing, household linens, textiles, and accessories regardless of condition, as long as they are dry and odor-free. The collected items will be recycled, resold, or reused, and kept out of the waste stream.

Helpsy will supply designated drop-off bins for used clothing, shoes, accessories, and household linens—regardless of condition—as long as these items are dry and odor-free. A full list of accepted materials is available at helpsy.com/what-we-accept.

Diverted from local landfills, the collected items will be repurposed for resale, reuse, and recycling. Residents can donate items at the DPW Yard at 2445 Plainfield Ave. on Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call 908-233-6707 with any questions.

GREEN TEAM COLLECTS 147LBS OF CRAYONS

The Fanwood Green Team conducted a successful recycling initiative collecting over 147lbs of crayons benefiting the Crayon Initiative which provides free crayons to children in hospitals. This is our 3rd recycling project; having also collected shoes & Lego's with tremendous success. The Fanwood Green team is a small group of volunteers with a mission of educating the community about sustainable living and to support environmental initiatives. To learn more please contact lauralang61@gmail.com



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READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

Read Across America Week was celebrated in Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools from March 3-7 with a variety of theme days, guest readers, and other activities to celebrate and year to come together to inspire a love of reading encourage a love of books.

Each elementary school planned a variety of activities, ranging from days for students to dress like a detective or superhero to guest readers, including Board of Education members Dr.

Karen Kulikowski and Deb Brody, Scotch Plains Mayor Josh Losardo, Superintendent Dr. Joan Mast and other district administrators.

"Read Across America Week is a time each in our students," said Dr. Mast. "These celebrations were a wonderful way to reinforce the importance of literacy. Thank you to the guest readers, teachers, and staff who made this a very special week for SPF students."



(above) Evergreen Elementary School students celebrate Read Across America Week.

Photos by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools



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VENDOR POP UP APRIL 6TH

Welcome shoppers and community members, you're invited to join us for a delightful day at the Fanwood Train Station parking lot on Sunday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Stroll through our marketplace and discover a wide array of unique arts and crafts, handmade jewelry, fashion accessories, candles, vintage women's clothing, children's books, all-natural dog treats, portrait photography, honey, vinyl records, polarized sunglasses, wooden American flags, and much more!

Our selection of food trucks and local restaurants will be ready to satisfy your cravings, and live music will add to the festive atmosphere. Discover one-of-a-kind treasures and enjoy a day of shopping and fun!

This free event is hosted by the Borough of Fanwood and is located at 256 South Avenue, Fanwood, NJ. Please note that the event is outdoors and will be canceled in case of inclement weather. For more information, please visit JC Promotions.Info.



WOMEN VOLUNTEERS HONORED

Borough of Fanwood

In celebration of Women's History month, Fanwood recognized the women who donate their time to the borough's Environmental Commission:

Sandy Redder, chair; Suzanne Custons-Sanschagrin, Phyllis Sandrock, MaryAnne

StaRosa, Leslie Krone-Speck, Carol Chimento, and Andrea Parra. The Commission's mission is to promote the conservation, protection, development, or use of all Fanwood's natural and water resources. They are the caretakers of the Fanwood Nature Center, which marked its 50th anniversary in 2024.









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"MOVERS, SHAKERS, CHANGE MAKERS" EVENT - MAY 10TH STUDENT MOVEMENT AGAINST CANCER (SMAC)

Inc., established in 2001 by students of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, is proud to announce its third annual signature event, "Movers, Shakers, Change Makers," scheduled for May 10, 2025, at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains. Building on the success of last year's event, which raised nearly \$6,000 for the New Jersey-based nonprofit Inspiring Life Together, "Movers, Shakers, Change Makers" continues to embody SMAC's commitment to community engagement and cancer awareness.

This high-energy gathering, designed to bring students together for a day of movement, camaraderie, and philanthropy, will raise funds for Comfort Project 360 in 2025, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the patient experience for those undergoing cancer treatment. Thanks to the support of SMAC's central organization, this event is entirely underwritten—meaning that every dollar raised through student participation, sponsorships, and donations will go to Comfort Project 360.

"We want students and supporters to know that 100% of their contributions will make an impact," said Danielle Delavaux, Executive Director of SMAC. "Because SMAC has covered all event costs, every dollar raised will help provide comfort and support to cancer patients and their families at Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center's Cancer Centers."

SUPPORTING COMFORT PROJECT 360

Student leaders from SMAC's network of chapters selected Comfort Project 360 as this year's beneficiary. The nonprofit is dedicated to enhancing the experience of cancer patients at Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, NJ, by transforming treatment spaces and providing thoughtful amenities. From renovating infusion rooms to offering comfort kits, blankets, journals, and wellness programs, Comfort Project 360 ensures that patients feel supported, comforted, and cared for during one of the most challenging times in their lives.

"We are incredibly honored to support Comfort

Student Movement Against Cancer (SMAC), Project 360 this year," said SMAC Executive COMPETITIONS AND PRIZES Director Danielle Delavaux. "Our students understand that cancer treatment is about more than medicine—it's about comfort, dignity, and hope. This event will allow them to make a real impact on the lives of patients facing this difficult journey."

REGISTRATION:

Preregistration is required and can be completed at www.supportsmac.org/mscm

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT:

T-shirt Giveaway:

The first 100 registered students will receive an exclusive "Movers, Shakers, Change Makers" T-shirt, symbolizing their commitment to the cause.

Wrist Pedometer Giveaway:

Each attendee will receive a SMAC wrist pedometer to track their activity throughout the evening. The student with the highest step count will have the opportunity to choose from a selection of exciting prizes.

Local businesses and community members are encouraged to support the event through sponsorships or donations. Such contributions have been pivotal in past events, enhancing the experience for participants and amplifying fundraising efforts. For more details about the event, registration, and ways to contribute, please visit www.supportsmac.org/mscm or contact SMAC at events@supportsmac.org for more information.

ABOUT STUDENT MOVEMENT AGAINST CANCER:

Student Movement Against Cancer (SMAC). Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering the next generation of cancer fighters. Founded in 2001, SMAC has grown into a network of student-led chapters across New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Louisiana, raising funds for cancer causes, launching awareness campaigns, and supporting their communities. Since its inception, SMAC has raised over five million dollars for cancerrelated initiatives.



(above) Student planning committee.

Courtesy photo





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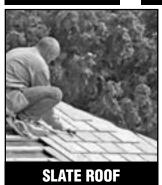




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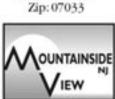
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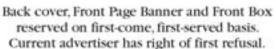
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