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WERE THERE PIRATES IN NEW JERSEY?

Begin celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the American Jersey, a non-profit women's club founded in 1893. Revolution by learning the little-known history of New Jersey's Privateers and the part they played in the war.

The Sea Dogs, a group of privateer re-enactors, will bare their Summit will host a Colonial Tavern Night fundraiser cutlasses at historic Twin Maples in Summit on Saturday, October 4 in two shows at 2 and 3 p.m. History buffs and the whole family will enjoy a brief lecture, exhibits of privateer artifacts and musical renditions of old sea shanties. Will the British arrive to chase the brave privateers? Come and see!

Tickets are available online at www.fortnightlyclub.org/ events-1/nj-privateers-the-american-revolution. Ticket prices are \$15 per adult and \$5 per child (3-12). Seating is limited. Free parking. No strollers, please.

The program takes place at Twin Maples, 214 Springfield Avenue, Summit, a site on both the New Jersey and National Historic Registers. The Twin Maples estate was built in 1908 in the Colonial Revival style. Its facade is reminiscent of the White House. The estate is owned by the Fortnightly Club of New to join the club go to fortnightlyclub.com.

Proceeds benefit Twin Maples' historic preservation.

Later, on October 4 at 5 p.m. the Fortnightly Club of featuring authentic colonial drinks and music with a colonial inspired appetizer and dessert buffet, featuring the Regimental Brewmeister and the Ministers of Apollo. Tickets for this event are available at fortnightlyclub.org for \$65 per person. Proceeds benefit masonry repairs of the Twin Maples terrace.

The Fortnightly Club has a full calendar planned for the coming year including a Designer Fashion ReSale event, a Twin Maples Ghost Hunt with New Jersey Paranormal, a Holiday Ceramics Workshop, breakfast or brunch with Santa at Twin Maples on December 6 and 7, the Battle of the Bubblies, Baking at Twin Maples and a Tranquility Workshop. For more information about upcoming events and







Berkeley Heights

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FALL FESTIVAL & PBA FISHING DERBY - OCT 18

Township of Berkeley Heights

Saturday, October 18th, is the Annual Littell-Lord Farmstead Fall Festival and PBA Fishing Derby. This year, we are combining two beloved events into one, for more the fun! The derby will run from 12 noon-2 p.m., so bring your kids, your fishing poles, and some bait, and enjoy a fun afternoon of festivities with us at the 4th Annual Littell-Lord Fall Festival!

This family-friendly event is designed to raise both awareness and funds for the ongoing historic restoration of the farmstead, a cherished piece of local heritage.

The festival promises a day of autumn-themed

fun for the entire community, featuring an array of activities, including artisans and crafters, games, pumpkin painting, and face painting. Guests can also enjoy tours of the farmstead, participate in raffles, and more! A diverse selection of food options, such as a food trucks, will be available, alongside a beer and wine garden for adult attendees.

Local talent will be on display, with Governor Livingston High School students showcasing their woodworking and art creations. Their involvement is a reminder of the importance of community support in preserving the town's rich history.





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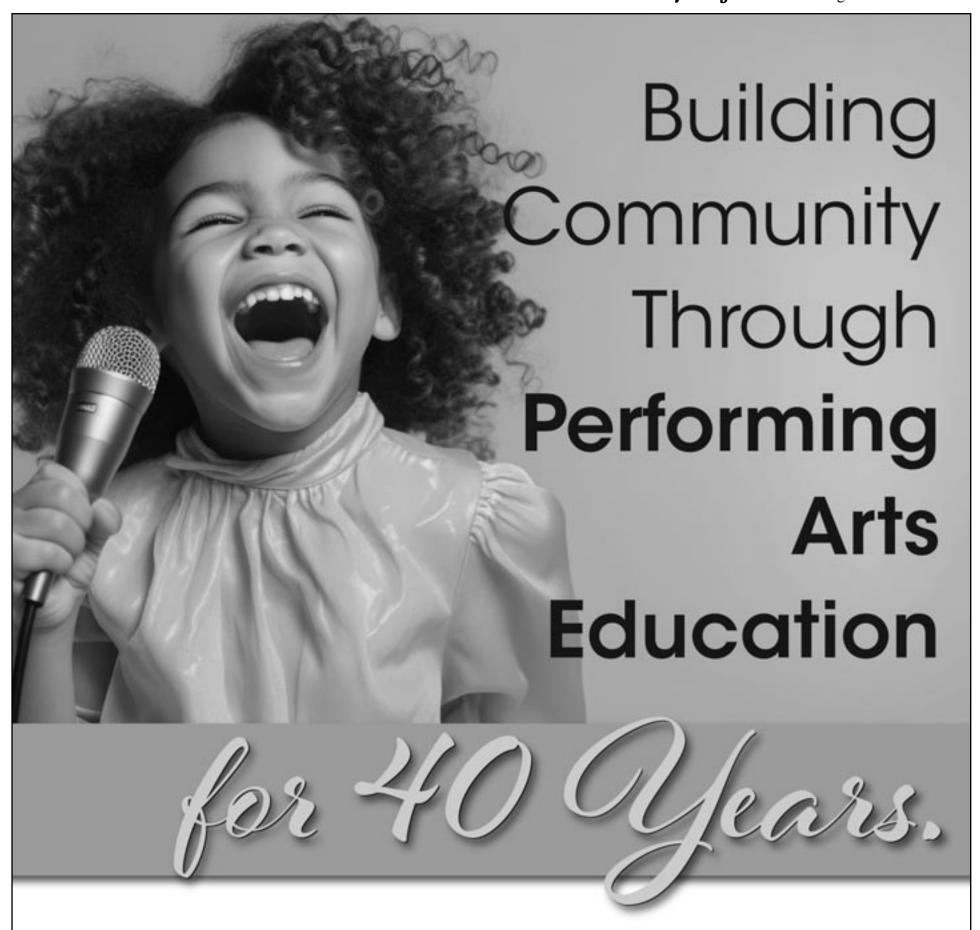
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LT. REYNOLDS DEFENDING AMERICA UNDER THE SEA

Submitted by Megan Lemly, Navy Office of Community Outreach

Lt. James Reynolds, a native of Westfield, New Jersey, serves the U.S. Navy assigned to USS Scranton, homeported at Naval Base Point Loma. As a submariner, Reynolds is part of a small percentage of Navy personnel continuing a 125-year tradition of service under the sea to help ensure Americans' safety.

Reynolds graduated from Saint Peter's Prep in Jersey City in 2013. Additionally, Reynolds earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the United States Naval Academy and a master's degree in cyber security, operations and leadership from the University of San Diego.

Reynolds joined the Navy eight years ago. Today, Reynolds serves as a weapons officer.

"I have two older siblings who served," Reynolds said. "I joined to follow the example they set of serving the country."

Known as America's "Apex Predators!," the Navy's submarine force operates a large fleet of technologically advanced vessels. These submarines are capable of conducting rapid defensive and offensive operations around the world, in furtherance of U.S. national security.

USS Scranton (SSN 756) is the second U.S. Navy ship to be named for Scranton, Pennsylvania. Scranton is a Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine. Los Angeles-class submarines have been the backbone of the submarine force for the last 40 years, with approximately 23 now in commission. They are equipped with 12 Vertical Launch System tubes for firing Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Strategic deterrence is the nation's ultimate insurance program, according to Navy officials. As a member of the submarine force, Reynolds serves aboard a platform capable of bringing the fight to enemies in defense of America and its allies.

The U.S. Navy is celebrating its 250th birthday this year.

According to Navy officials, "America is a maritime nation and for 250 years, America's Warfighting Navy has sailed the globe in defense of freedom."

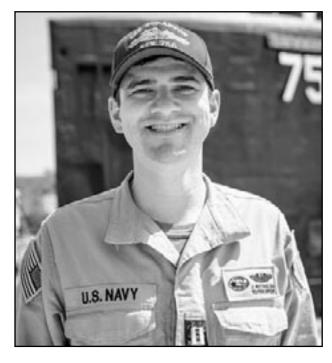
With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

Reynolds has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

"My proudest accomplishment is serving as a weapons officer aboard USS Scranton," Reynolds said.

Reynolds serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation's prosperity and security.

"Serving in the Navy means honoring this country and its Constitution to promote freedom and democracy around the world," Reynolds added.



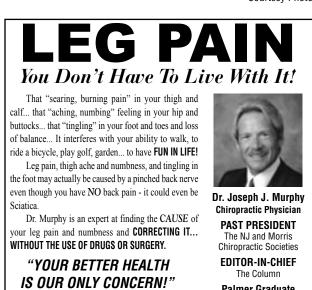
(above) Lt. James Reynolds, from Westfield to defending America under the sea, one sailor's journey to USS Scranton

Courtesy Photo

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SMALL BUSINESS MENTORING HELPS MILITARY VETERANS SUCCEED

SCORE Central Jersey

During National Military Appreciation Month and beyond, SCORE mentors offer resources for veterans to start and grow their entrepreneurial enterprises.

Veterans' training, resolve and fortitude to overcome challenges make them the ideal entrepreneur. They soar as small business owners. According to research, 80 percent of the 1.7 million veteran-owned business owners consider themselves successful. The small business five-year survival rate for veterans is double that of the non-veteran population.

Data from the U.S. Small Business Administration has shown that small business owners with an established mentor have twice the success rate – 70 percent versus 35 percent – as those who do not have a mentor.

In conjunction with National Military Appreciation Month in May, SCORE, a national nonprofit organization that assists small businesses, has developed specific resources for use by its 10,000 mentors nationally in mentoring veterans.

The SCORE Veterans Small Business Resource Guide features veterans-specific resources to offer insight on developing a business plan, securing funding, starting a business, buying an existing business, buying a franchise, connecting with one of SCORE's volunteer mentors, and gaining a better understanding of business through webinars and



(above) Since 1964, SCORE has helped more than 17 million entrepreneurs start, grow or successfully exit a business. SCORE's 10,000 volunteers provide free, expert mentoring, resources and education in all 50 U.S. states and territories. Visit SCORE at score.org.

Courtesy photo

workshops.

"Volunteering at SCORE is my way of showing appreciation to those who helped and guided me during my career while sharing my background and experience to help entrepreneurs succeed," said SCORE Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President Ed Coleman. "While I enjoy working with all SCORE clients, as a U.S. Army veteran, I particularly enjoy working with veterans to translate their military experience into entrepreneurship. Helping clients realize their

dreams is very gratifying and the essence of the SCORE mission."

SCORE Central Jersey Chapter Chair Nancy Verduin said mentors continually expand their knowledge base to better assist veterans on their entrepreneurial journey.

"Military transitioning from active duty have different needs than civilians in terms of starting a business," said Verduin. "It's wonderful to have veterans' resources at our volunteers' fingertips to aid in mentoring our service men and women."

Veterans account for about 10 percent of SCORE's client base. Veterans own 10 percent of small businesses and 14 percent of franchises. Since franchisors have a defined plan of what the business should entail, veterans represent the perfect franchisee given their ability to effectively execute plans as intended.

Nationally, veterans own nearly 2 million businesses, employing more than 5 million Americans, and generating more than \$1 trillion in annual income. Of those, 40 percent of veteran-owned businesses generate more than \$500,000 in annual revenue.

To learn more about SCORE, request a mentor or volunteer to be one, visit score.org.

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POLICE OFFICERS ADOPT LUCKY PUPPIES THEY RESCUED

Best Friends Animal Society

In December 2024, a trio of officers with the Clark Police Department in New Jersey responded to a call from a Good Samaritan about puppies that were abandoned in a five-gallon bucket. When they arrived on the scene, the officers discovered eight tiny puppies, only a couple of weeks old, huddled together for warmth in the freezing winter temperatures.

The puppies were immediately rushed to Associated Humane Society-Newark after hours by their Animal Care Officers (ACOs) for veterinarian evaluation and treatment. They were cold, starving, severely dehydrated, and infested



(above) Clark Police Officer Ronny Taborda (adopted Capri), Detective Bruce McDonald (adopted Zeus), and Detective Paul Sosnowski (adopted Ozzy). Courtesy photo

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with fleas.

"Deann Bowen, the Manager at AHS's Tinton Falls location and a veteran vet tech with experience in neonatal care, was able to meet our ACO's halfway up the Parkway and took them right into foster," said Danielle Mania, Chief Operating Officer of AHS-Newark.

With the puppies safely in foster care, which included round-the-clock feedings until they were able to eat on their own, the team at AHS-Newark set about finding their family. They posted the story and photos on social media the next morning, took press interviews, and raised \$40,000 to provide for the puppies' medical treatment and care.

"We did receive a few tips, but all were unsuccessful," said Mania. Once they were old enough, the puppies were sent to foster in different foster homes.

The officers were instantly interested in adopting puppies from the litter. With each passing day, they could not stop thinking about the puppies' wellbeing and regularly checked in on them. When they were all spayed/neutered and ready to adopt in March 2025, there was no need to list them all. Three of the puppies - now named Ozzy, Capri, and Zeus - had already found their loving homes with the three police officers that saved their lives on that cold winter day. Officer Ronny Taborda (adopted Capri), Detective Bruce McDonald (adopted Zeus), and Detective Paul

Sosnowski (adopted Ozzy).

"The Clark PD has an adorable group chat to keep in touch with all of the adopters, and they frequently have play dates with each other," said Mania. "This situation was really a testament as to how we work together as a team across the entire organization to save lives and find pets homes."

This full circle moment highlights modern animal services practices, and the pet lifesaving work that police and animal control officers do in their communities. It is also a reminder of the importance of microchipping pets and having them wear up-to-date identification tags, so in the event they become lost, they can be quickly reunited with their owners. Data indicates that 52% of lost dogs and two out of every five cats are successfully returned when microchipped, which reduces the amount of time lost pets stay in shelters that often already have limited space.

Best Friends Animal Society, a leading national animal welfare organization working to end the killing of cats and dogs in America's shelters, is partnering with AHS-Newark to help them achieve their pet lifesaving goals. Best Friends' most recent data shows that New Jersey is on the verge of becoming a no-kill state with an 89% save rate. There are just ten shelters in the state that need to save less than 100 pets to achieve no-kill. For more information, visit bestfriends.org.



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A BELOVED ART EVENT MAKES A REMARKABLE RETURN TO THE ARMORY

Westfield will once again will play host to a remarkable art event - one unlike any other in the greater New York metro area.

First launched in 1982 as the Westfield Craft Market, this event enjoyed a 20-year run, earning a reputation for quality and community spirit. Now, producers Richard & Joanna Rothbard - owners of An American Craftsman Galleries in NYC and Great Barrington, MA return with fresh energy to reintroduce Westfield to a cultural tradition it once embraced.

Sharing the spotlight will be 80 gifted artists and designers including several nationally recognized for their award winning accomplishments; many traveling from across the U.S., from as far as California and Florida. Guests will enjoy work never before seen on the East Coast. The fair could be called a weekend "Off-Broadway production" - with a great cast, many stars, with several booths designed like

HALLOWEEN EVE KICKOFF: ALL WEEKEND PASS FOR PARENTS AND KIDS FOR FREE.

The show opens Friday, October 31, with a family-friendly Trick-or-Treat Party. Kids can:

- Collect their treats while meeting the artists
- Create their own art on the famous Art Wall

Join a weekend-long Treasure Hunt. Great prizes made by the artists. And throughout the weekend, visitors can win original art prizes donated by An American Craftsman Gallery.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Westfield Armory is Just 5 minutes from Exit 135 on the Garden State Parkway
- Free parking at the Armory or across the street at the High School.
- \$12 weekend pass covers all three days. SENIORS \$10. Under 10 Free

Show Hours

Trick or Treat party Friday Oct. 31 - 3 pm-7 pm Saturday Nov.1. - 10 am-6 pm Sunday Nov. 2 - 10 am-5 pm

An incredible selection of ceramics, independent fashion artists, fine woodworking, jewelry, paintings, mixed media, Illustration, photography, and art glass - from \$25 keepsakes to Michael Alexander's \$10,000 masterpieces.

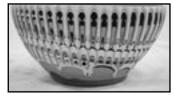
Overall, this will be the art weekend that Westfield and its surrounding communities will celebrate this first year - and for years to come. And please . . . don't forget your credit card.

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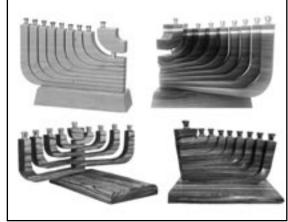


Nicole Jurain





Peter Judge



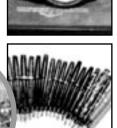
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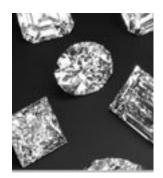
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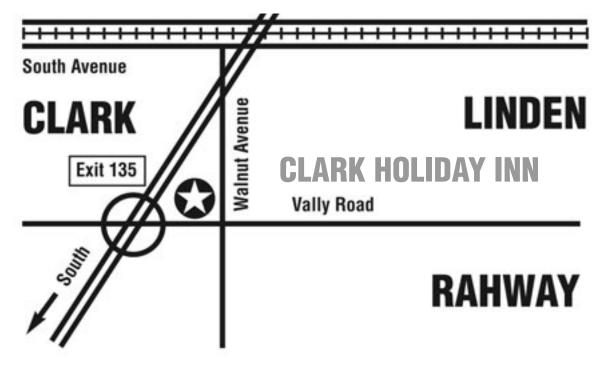
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CARING CONTACT CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF LIFESAVING SUPPORT

Caring Contact

On October 11, 2025, Caring Contact proudly celebrated 50 years of unwavering service to individuals in crisis. Since 1975, its mission has remained clear and steadfast: to provide immediate, compassionate, and confidential support to those experiencing emotional distress, mental health challenges, or personal crises.

What began as a small group of volunteers answering calls from the basement of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains has grown into a vital community resource. Today, more than 100 trained Listeners - both volunteer and paid - offer support and understanding to

thousands of callers every year.

In 2005, Caring Contact became one of the first agencies to respond to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline while continuing to serve its original warmline. When the Lifeline transitioned into the nationwide 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline in 2022, the volume of calls surged dramatically. In 2024 alone, Caring Contact Listeners answered over 21,000 calls, serving as a lifeline for anyone in need - no matter the reason for their call.

Caring Contact extends heartfelt gratitude to the supporters, volunteers, donors, and staff past and present—whose dedication has made this work possible. Their compassion has touched countless lives and built a legacy of hope that will carry forward into the next 50 years. With this milestone, Caring Contact reaffirms its commitment to continue evolving, listening, and responding - because everyone deserves to be heard, especially in their darkest moments.

Become a volunteer. Caring Contact Listener training applications can be found at caringcontact.org.

If you or someone you know is struggling or having thoughts of suicide, please call 988.

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SERVICE

MORRISTOWN PUP NABS SPOT IN 2025 BARK FOR LIFE CALENDAR

zoomies of a champion sprinter, and a bark that says "treat, please." Meet Josie, Morristown's unofficial mayor of South Street — and now, one of the proud winners of the 2025 Bark for Life Calendar Contest!

After a week-long voting frenzy, Josie galloped ahead of the competition to earn a coveted feature in this year's 2025 Bark for Life calendar. And not just a cameo — a full-page glam spread, complete with her story, her signature side-eye, and plenty of reasons why she's the queen of local hearts.

But Josie's calendar win is more than just a photo op. It means she'll be a VIP (Very Important Pup) at the Bark for Life of Central NJ celebration on October 12, 2025 at Bell Works in Holmdel, where she'll be officially honored for her victory — likely with applause, belly rubs, and maybe a few snacks.

WHO IS JOSIE?

Josie is a 4-year-old Australian Cattle Dog (allegedly)— though some suspect she may also be part professional napper and part mayhem enthusiast, depending on the hour. She was rescued as a puppy and now lives her best life ruling the sidewalks and hearts of Morristown.

Known for her expressive ears, her suspiciously dramatic sighs, and a highly curated side-eye, Josie has become a local celebrity both on leash and online.

Her favorite things include: Car rides (windows down, please), Sidewalk café peoplewatching (her favorite being the Lokl!), Chasing squirrels she has no intention of catching, Ignoring her toys to chew sticks instead, and Judging humans from the couch like it's her fulltime job.

In short: she's a rescue with attitude, heart, and a whole lot of fans.

WHAT IS BARK FOR LIFE?

The Bark for Life event is part of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life movement. It



(above) Paws Up for Josie!

She's got the ears of a supermodel, the honors the caregiving qualities of canine website, and registration is now live for the companions while raising critical funds for cancer research and support services especially here in New Jersey.

> Proceeds from calendar sales and fundraising events all go toward supporting programs like free rides to treatment, overnight stays near major cancer centers, and 24/7 access to cancer information and support for patients and families.

GET INVOLVED!

Missed your chance to vote for Josie? You can still be part of the tail-wagging fun. Donations are open at the Bark for Life of Central NJ October 12 celebration at Bell Works.

Whether you're walking in honor of a loved one, supporting a survivor, or just want to hang out with some adorable dogs (like Josie), this is your chance to do some good — and pet some

Big paws up to Josie and all the calendar winners! Be sure to snag your copy of the 2025 Bark for Life Calendar, come say hi to Morristown's finest furry ambassador this fall, and follow @ispyjosie and @barkcentralnj to come along for this year's adventure!



Joanne Rajoppi **Union County Clerk**

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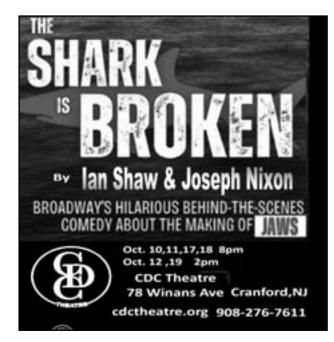
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OPERAS ON FILM ANNOUNCES SEASON LINEUP

Mountainside Rescue Squad

Operas on Film, now in its 12th season is held at the Mountainside Rescue Squad.

The selected films from famous opera houses throughout the world, will be played with subtitles on the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. hosted by Mena Clemson and Norma Huber, Jr. It is free to attend.

Whether you are an opera buff or an opera neophyte, you are invited to join us for the following films:

October 10th, THE MERRY WIDOW

Seefestspiele Morbisch, 2005, comedy, 150 mins

November 14th, THAIS

starring Renee Fleming, Metropolitan Opera 2008, 138 mins **December 12th, I LOMBARDI**

starring Jose Carreras LaScala, 1984, 127 mins

A THRILLING AFTERNOON OF OPERA FIREWORKS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025 AT 2:00 PM

Get ready for sparks to fly when two sopranos meet one tenor! Opera at Florham invites you to Due Soprani e Un Tenore, an exhilarating afternoon of soaring arias, dramatic duets, and fiery trios, staged with wit, rivalry, and romance.

Taking place in the elegant Mansion at Fairleigh Dickinson University, this one-of-a-kind concert transforms the timeless magic of opera into an intimate and unforgettable event. Audiences will be swept away by the dazzling interplay of voices as passion, humor, and heartbreak unfold through some of opera's most beloved music.

WHY YOU CAN'T MISS IT

- Hear world-class voices collide in moments of rivalry, romance, and drama.
- Experience the thrill of live opera in a beautiful, historic setting.
- Perfect for both seasoned opera lovers and first-time attendees!

Reserve your seat now and be part of an afternoon that promises vocal fireworks, theatrical flair, and the kind of energy only live opera can deliver.

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT OPERAATFLORHAM.ORG OR AT THE DOOR:

General Admission: \$30 Students (22 & under): \$10

FDU Students (22 & under): FREE

Follow it up with our next Opera Talk with

Opera Educator Lou Barrella on Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 2:00 pm entitled "The 'Love Triangle' Trios of Giuseppe Verdi. George Bernard Shaw said that "Opera is when a Tenor and a Soprano want to make love and are prevented from doing so by a Baritone!" \$10 registration fee for Opera Talks!





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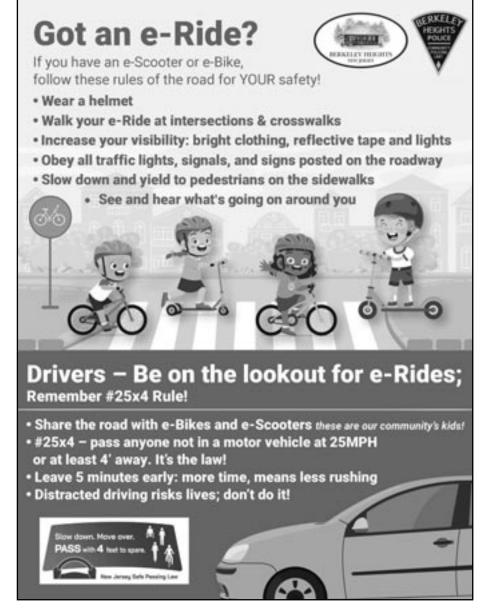
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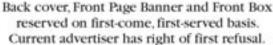
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INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA BUILDS CONNECTION THROUGH MUSIC

At a time when many people are searching for meaningful, screen-free ways to connect, the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) offers something special: a space where musicians of all ages and levels come together to create music, and where audiences are invited into that same spirit of community.

Founded on the belief that orchestra is for everyone, NJIO welcomes people of all ages and musical levels into its four non-audition orchestras. By blending generations and skill levels, NJIO creates more than music; it creates moments of human connection, belonging, and joy.

All NJIO concerts are free, open to all ages, and require no tickets or RSVPs. Each performance is also livestreamed and recorded for later viewing on NJIO's YouTube channel, ensuring accessibility. Concert lobbies feature NJIO's Concert Comfort Station, offering sensory and comfort items such as cushions so everyone can enjoy the music.

A SEASON OF "SPIRIT"

This year, NJIO's 32nd concert season carries the theme "Get Into the Spirit!", highlighting the natural spirit, the holiday spirit, the human spirit, and the national spirit. Each program is designed to draw people together around a shared experience of beauty and hope.

• FALL CONCERT:

The Natural Spirit November 2, 2025 at 3pm **Crescent Ave Presbyterian Church, Plainfield**

Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony paints a picture of meadows, flowing streams, and a sudden storm. The concert also features the NJIO 2025 Young Artist Concerto Competition winner (sponsored by NJIO's community partner, Elefante Music), Marcus Chong-Wah Wong, a 9th grade violinist from Edgewater, NJ.

• FAMILY HOLIDAY CONCERT:

The Holiday Spirit December 13, 2025 at 2pm **Summit Middle School**

A joyful celebration of holiday and winter favorites, including interactive moments for kids and an Instrument Petting Zoo sponsored by Elefante Music.

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ABOUT NJIO

The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) brings together musicians of all ages and skill levels through four non-audition orchestras and educational programs. Its mission is to open the world of orchestral music to diverse audiences and to foster human connection through education and performance.

For more information, visit www.njio.org or email info@njio.org





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ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST - NOV 15

The Berkeley Heights Rotary Club will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, November 15, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to noon at Mount Carmel Hall, 56 River Road, Berkeley Heights. This event serves as the club's fall fundraiser, with all proceeds supporting local projects, scholarships, and community initiatives.

The breakfast will feature pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee, and tea, offering a simple but satisfying meal for all ages. "This event is a great way to bring our community together while supporting important causes" says Mike Higgins, Pancake Breakfast Chair.

The suggested donation is \$10 per person or \$25 per family. The Berkeley Heights Rotary Club invites everyone to enjoy a morning of good food and community spirit.

For more information contact the Berkeley Heights Rotary Club at berkeleyheightsrotaryclub@gmail.com or visit bhrotary.com.

About Berkeley Heights Rotary Club: The Berkelev Heights Rotary Club is a dedicated group of community leaders, professionals, and volunteers committed to making a positive impact on the local community and beyond. Through various initiatives, the club strives to promote goodwill, foster connections, and support charitable causes that enhance the wellbeing of individuals and communities. New members are always welcome.



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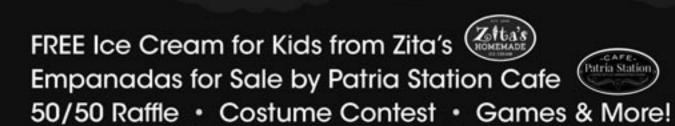
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