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Published by Renna Media

Issue 122 • November 2025

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# **MOUNTAIN PARK HELPS WITH CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS**

Berkeley Heights Public Schools

Back in September, students and staff at Mountain Park Elementary School observed 'GOLD Day' to honor Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, which takes place every September. This global observance is dedicated to raising awareness, honoring children and families affected by cancer, and supporting research for safer and more effective treatments.

The color gold is widely used to represent this cause, and the month features numerous fundraising and awareness events to help advance research, improve care, and provide support for those fighting pediatric cancer.







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# Berkeley Heig

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Berkeley Heights News is published by Renna Media. 5,000 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Berkeley Heights, NJ. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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#### **SEND US YOUR NEWS**

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! Email: editor@rennamedia.com

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# **BHPS CELEBRATES NATIONAL CUSTODIAN DAY**

Berkeley Heights Public Schools

October 2 to honor the hardworking custodians who keep our spaces clean and safe. Throughout Berkeley Heights Public Schools, students took

National Custodian Day is celebrated on time to thank and celebrate the wonderful men and women who work so hard in the schools and district buildings to keep them beautiful and running smoothly.



Photo by BHPS

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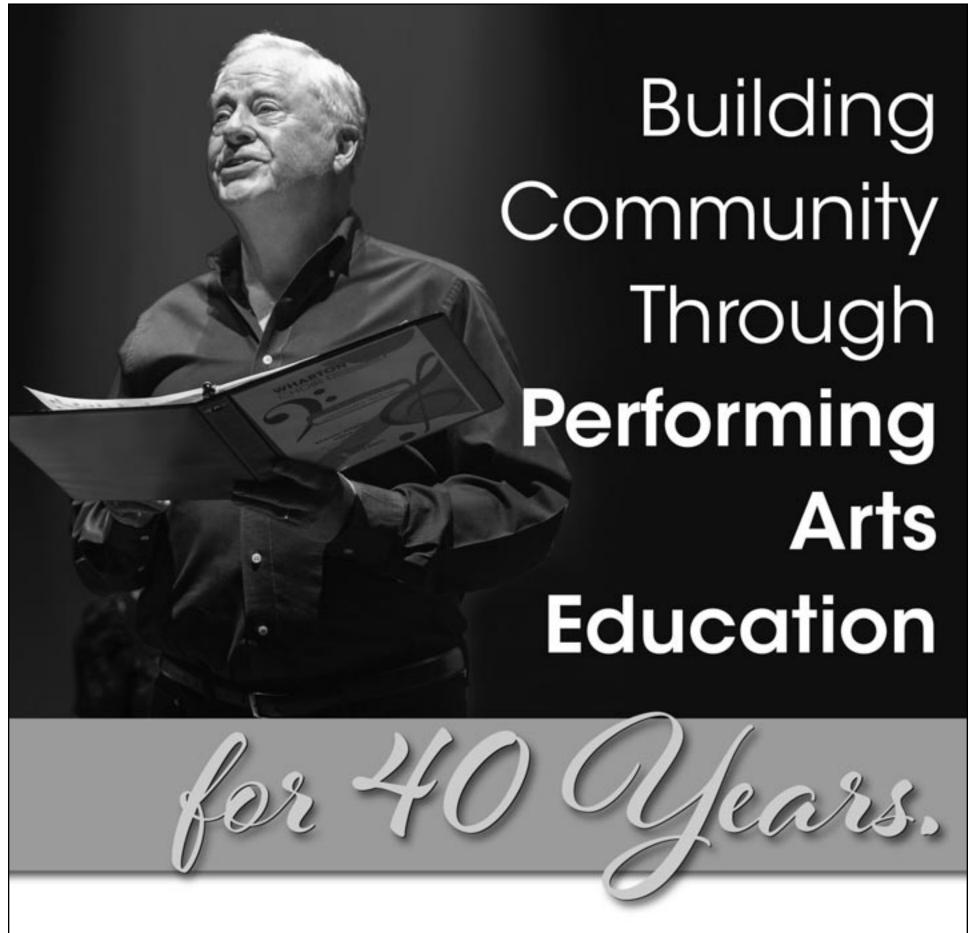


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# **EVENT TACKLES SOCIOECONOMIC BARRIERS - NOV 13**

Junior Leagues

The Junior Leagues of New Jersey State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC), in collaboration with the Junior League of Summit and the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield, will host "Bubbles and Bills: Building Stronger Communities: Addressing the Socioeconomic Barriers to Well-Being" on Thursday, November 13, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Summit Elks Lodge (40 Maple Street, Summit, NJ).

This dynamic, non-partisan event will feature a social hour from 6:00–7:00 p.m., followed by a panel discussion from 7:00–8:30 p.m. The evening will bring together community leaders, advocates, and public affairs experts to explore how civic engagement and strategic partnerships can help uplift underserved communities across New Jersey.

Confirmed panelists include Amanda Block,

Founder of GRACE; Peter Jacob, Executive Director of Family Promise Union County; and Dr. Christine Thorpe, Founder of Stronger Tomorrow Wellness. Legislative speakers will be announced on November 5, 2025.

"SPAC is committed to advancing dialogue and action around the barriers that impact the health, safety, and well-being of women, children, and families," said Victoria Williams, Chair of SPAC. "I'm honored to moderate this event. It promises to be a powerful opportunity to bring our communities, partners, and leaders together in meaningful conversation and collaboration."

The event is free and open to Junior League members, community partners, and the general public. Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged. To register:

Bubbles AndBills2025.eventbrite.com



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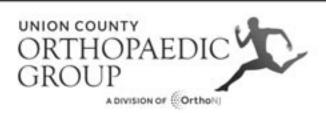
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# **ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST - NOV 15**

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 Berkeley 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.

# **PROGRAM ENCOURAGES STIDENTS** TO WALK-TO-SCHOOL

Students throughout the district enjoyed Walkof the New Jersey "Safe Routes to School" safety signs along the way. program.

Students learned how walking or biking to to-School Wednesday on October 15th when they school, versus taking a car, helps keep our air were encouraged to walk or bike to school as part clean and discovered the meaning of important







Photo by BHPS





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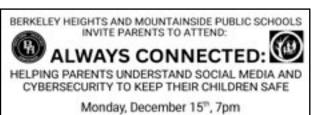
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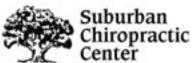
# HEADACH You Don't Have To Live With It!

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## SIEMINSKI THEATER FUND RAISING EVENT

The Sieminski Theater, a professional 501c3 not-for-profit performing arts center located in this fun-filled evening and fundraising event for Basking Ridge NJ, announces our 2025 fund raising event of the year!



Saturday November 15th at 6:00pm Join us for the Sieminski Theater! Just in time for the holiday Hallmark movie season, and who doesn't love those cheesy Hallmark holiday movies! "My Unauthorized Hallmark Movie Musical"!

The evening will start with a cocktail reception in the lobby with Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Then move into the theater for this delightful, lighthearted musical production. Afterwards, enjoy a dessert bar and champagne and an opportunity to meet the star of the show. There will be raffles, drawings and more surprises. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to future programming at the Sieminski Theater. An event not to be missed and will help keep the Arts alive at the Sieminski Theater!!

#### **ABOUT THE SIEMINSKI THEATER:**

Bringing a professional performing arts venue with a diverse lineup of entertainment to Basking Ridge and the surrounding communities makes the Sieminski Theater and Somerset County an artistic and cultural destination. We enjoy a newly expanded performance schedule from American Theater Group, Light Opera of New Jersey, New Jersey Festival Orchestra, Trilogy Repertory, and countless national touring groups. Our intimate, award-winning non-profit venue features technical amenities that rival any Broadway theater. Visit us at www.sieminskitheater.org to view our upcoming entertainment schedule, where any seat is the best seat in the house.



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- Gold Watches

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- Kreugerrands
- Buffalos
- US Silver Coins Pre-64
- Morgan/Peace Dollars

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- Trays
- 925 Jewelry
- All Sterling Silver



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- Cartier
- Patek Philippe
- Pocket Watches

#### **BUYING ALL DIAMONDS**

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- Loose Diamonds
- Diamond Jewelry
- Engagement Rings

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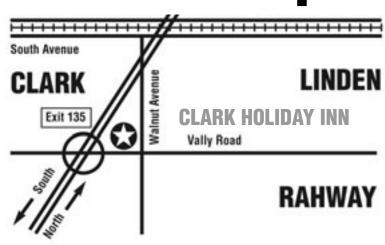




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- Gold Earrings
- Gold Rings
- Gold Bracelets
- Gold Pendants
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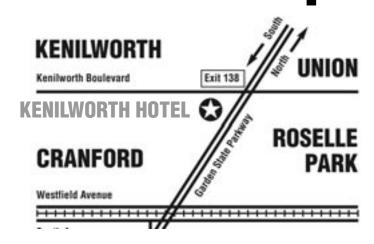
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# **LEAVE THE LEAVES AND SAVE THE STEMS**

Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission

Raking, bagging, and disposing of leaves is as much an autumn tradition as Halloween. Instead of bagging those leaves, keep them and use them to help beneficial insects and to feed your lawn.

Invertebrates rely on fallen leaves and other organic debris to cover and insulate them from the elements. Whatever your landscape, you can ensure that resources for nests and overwintering habitat are available.

#### **WHO USES LEAVES AND DEAD STEMS?:**

- 30% of native bees are tunnel-nesting, such as leafcutter and mason bees. They need narrow tunnels or other tiny spaces in dead wood, hollow stems, or brush piles.
- Bumble bee queens burrow an inch or two into the earth to hibernate for winter. A layer of leaves is welcome protection from the elements.
- Woolly bear caterpillars tuck themselves into leaf piles for protection from cold weather.

#### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

- Make piles of leaves in the back corner of a yard.
- Use leaves to mulch garden beds and trees. In addition to making piles of leaves for bees

and caterpillars, you can mow leaves back into the lawn. Depending on the type of mower you have, you can either switch to the mulch setting or make several passes over dry leaves to cut and re-cut them into fine pieces. These leaf fragments drop into the grass where microbes break them down further, returning nutrients and organic matter back to the lawn.





## **SCANDINAVIAN FOOD & GIFT SALE - NOV 22ND**

Lodge Linne #429 will be sponsoring their 45th annual Scandinavian Food & Gift Sale on

Free admission, handicapped accessible. The event is sponsored by Lodge Linne #429, Vasa Order of America.

Saturday November 22nd from, 10 am -3pm. The sale will be held at Salt Brook School, 40 Maple St., New Providence, NJ. We will feature Scandinavian Christmas decorations, Norwegian Sweaters, tomtar, candles, linens, housewares, imported foods and baked goods. Light Scandinavian refreshments will be served starting at 11:00. Lodge meetings are held the 3rd Friday of the month at Faith Lutheran Church, 524 South St., New Providence.

OUR FREE ADMISSION

# FOOD & GIFT SALE

Lodge Linne 429 · Vasa Order of America Saturday, November 22, 2025

10:00am - 3:00pm

Scandinavian Refreshments Available

#### Salt Brook School

40 Maple Street, New Providence, NJ Handicap Accessible

INFO: Karen 908-578-1945 • Judy 908-464-0139

Proceeds from the sale benefit many local organizations and charities such as First Aid Squads, local libraries, high school scholarships, Sage, Summit speech schools and New Providence Community Organization.

For Further information contact: Karen 908-665-1292, Judy 908-464-0139, Vibeke 908-313-0376.



(above) Nancy Lamensdorf, Erin Cook, Margaret, Warlick, Carol Liscinsky, and Carol Liscinsky.

Courtesy Photo



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# **BERKELEY HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY OCTOBER PROGRAMS**

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#### **FOR ALL AGES:**

**Family Movie** 

Sunday, November 16 at 2:30pm **Children Storytimes and Programs MONDAYS:** 

#### **Baby Storytime:**

Mondays at 10am - November 3, 10, 17, & 24. Crafternoon: crafts for ages 4-7 with caregiver

Mondays at 3:30pm November 3, 10, 17 & 24.

#### **TUESDAYS:**

**Toddler Tuesdays: for toddlers with caregiver** 

Tuesdays at 10 am - November 4 (art), 11 (music), 18 (sensory), & 25 (play).

**Tummy Time** Tuesdays at 2pm - November 4, 11, 18, & 25... **Evening Storytime** 

Tuesdays at 6pm - November 4, 11, 18, & 25. **String Tyme Band** 

Tuesday, November 11 at 10:30am.

#### **WEDNESDAYS:**

**Family Storytime** 

Wednesdays, 10am - November 5, 12, 19, & 26. **Elementary STEM** 

Wednesdays, 3:30pm - November 5, 12, & 19. **THURSDAYS:** 

**Block Party: (Build & play with blocks)** 

Thursdays at 10am - November 6, 13, & 20. **Puzzles & Games** 

Thursdays at 3:30 - November 6, 13, & 20..

FRIDAYS: **Play Pals** 

Fridays at 10am - November 7, 14, & 21.. Lego Play: Friday, November 14 at 3pm.

**Family Fun Friday** 

Friday, November 21 at 3:30pm.

**SATURDAYS:** 

Day of the Dead Craft

Saturday, November 1 at 3:30pm.

**Saturday Hangouts** 

Saturdays at 10am - November 1 (blocks), 8 (craft), 15 (storytime), 22 (games), and 29 (TBA).

**SUNDAYS:** 

Floor Puzzles

November 23 at 2:30pm.

## **TEEN PROGRAMS:**

**WEEKLY TEEN PROGRAM** 

Thursdays at 6pm - November 6, 13, & 20.

#### **ADULT PROGRAMS:**

**MONDAYS:** 

**Board Meeting** 

November 10 at 7pm.

**Jov of Cookbooking** 

November 17 at 7pm.

## I BUY OLD MOTORCYCLES

All Types - Running or Not



#### Flower Arranging

November 24 at 6:30pm.

#### **TUESDAYS:**

#### **Tinker Tuesday Crafts**

Tuesdays at 7pm - November 4 (fall sand candle), & 11 (Modge Podge pumpkin).

#### **Evening Book Club**

November 11 at 7pm - There, There.

#### **Friends of the Library Meeting**

November 18 at 7pm.

**Armchair Traveler** 

November 25 at 7pm.

**WEDNESDAYS:** 

**Adult Coloring** 

Wednesdays at 1pm - November 5 & 19. **Coffee and Conversation** 

Wednesdays at 1pm - November 12.

#### **Road to Home Ownership**

Wednesday, November 12 at 7pm.

**THURSDAYS:** 

**Get Happy Book Club** 

November 13 - 7pm (Build the Life You Want)

#### **Books Speak Volumes Book Discussion**

November 20 at 7pm

(Love & Whiskey-Jack Daniels).

FRIDAYS:

#### **Morning Book Discussion**

November 7 at 10:30am

The Firekeeper's Daughter.

**SUNDAYS:** 

**Pins & Needles** 

November 2 at 2pm.

**Music Performance** 

November 9 (Time and performer TBA)

# **EXPERIENCE ROCK, SOUL & OLDIES AT DREW**

Get ready for a season of unforgettable live **DEC. 14 – TRIBUTES TO MELLENCAMP** music that spans generations and genres. Drew University Concert Hall is hosting a powerhouse lineup of shows that bring the best of American rock, soul, and oldies to the stage. Whether you're a lifelong fan or discovering these classics for the first time, each performance promises a night of nostalgia, energy, and pure musical joy.

#### **ROCK & SOUL HIGHLIGHTS NOV. 1 – THE BSTREET BAND:** THE MUSIC OF BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

Kick off the series with the ultimate tribute to The Boss. The BStreet Band has been electrifying audiences for over 40 years with their spot-on renditions of Springsteen's greatest hits. Expect a high-energy night of sing-alongs, storytelling, and Springsteen magic.

#### NOV. 21 - MOTOR CITY REVUE: **MOTOWN TRIBUTE FEATURING LAYONNE HOLMES**

Feel the groove with this 11-piece powerhouse that brings the golden age of Motown to life. With rich harmonies, tight rhythms, and powerhouse vocals.

# AND BAD COMPANY: ONE STAGE, ONE NIGHT

Two rock legends, one epic night. Experience the heartland grit and storytelling of John Mellencamp alongside the anthemic rock energy of Bad Company.

#### **OLDIES & HOLIDAY FAVORITES** NOV. 14 – THE CYRKLE & BILLY J. KRAMER: **MEMORIES OF THE HITS, '60S & THE BEATLES**

Step back into the era of peace, love, and charttopping harmonies. These original hitmakers bring the British Invasion era to life with timeless songs, behind-the-scenes stories.

#### NOV. 29 – CHRISTMAS WITH THE DUPREES & ANTHONY DUKE CLAUS

Celebrate the season with the smooth harmonies and timeless charm of The Duprees.

Buy now at gdpresents.simpletix.com. Tickets start at just \$30. Groups of 10+ get 15% off automatically at checkout

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From Hitsville to Soulsville

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Tammy Scra's Rock n' Roll Fantasy

The Music of BAD COMPANY

THE CYRKLE

Memories of the Music, the 60's & The Beatles **BILLY J KRAMER** 



Drew University, Madison, NJ

# **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT TWIN MAPLES**

The entire family is invited to one of the areas loveliest historic homes, Twin Maples in Summit, on Saturday or Sunday, December 6 and 7 to join Santa for food and fun. The weekend event is hosted by the Fortnightly Club of Summit to benefit historic preservation. Festivities begin at 9:15 a.m. each day with a delicious Holiday 'Breakfast with Santa' served in the beautifully decorated ballroom with catering by 'What a Dish.' For those who can't make it for breakfast, 'Brunch with Santa' will be served each day at 11:15 a.m. All seatings include a children's buffet, adult served meal, photos with Santa, live music and more. This year's beautiful holiday décor features a 'Nutcracker' theme, so don't be surprised to see Clara, the Sugar Plum Fairies and some really naughty mice. Tickets to Santa at Twin Maples can purchased https://www.fortnightlyclub.org or through Eventbrite. Seating is limited. Pricing for Breakfast with Santa is \$45 for adults and \$20 for children under 12. Please bring booster seats

for children. Highchairs are not available.

The weekend event benefits the preservation of Twin Maples, 214 Springfield Avenue, Summit, a property on the New Jersey and National Historic Registers. The house was designed and built by New York architect Alfred F. Norris in the Colonial Revival style in 1908 and resembles the White House. The Fortnightly Club purchased the property in 1949. Today, Twin Maples serves as a clubhouse and hosts many community events and fundraisers. The Fortnightly Club of Summit, a non-profit organization founded in 1893, offers women camaraderie and a full calendar of interesting events and volunteer opportunities. The Club supports the preservation of Twin Maples, education, the arts and humanitarian efforts. For over thirty-years the Club has awarded annual scholarships to deserving young, local women. Fortnightly Club's 104 members are from Summit and many neighboring towns. To join or for more information, visit the Club's website at www.fortnightlyclub.org.





(above) Santa visits with children at Twin Maples beside the Club's Annual Mitten Tree

# **HELP WANTED**

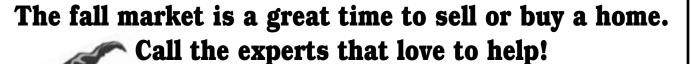
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# NJ FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA: CANDLELIGHT CONCERT AND TENORS RETURN

Step into an evening of sophistication and charm as the New Jersey Festival Orchestra presents its first-ever candlelight concert, Romance in the Mansion, on Saturday, November 15 at 6:30 PM at the James Ward Mansion in Westfield.

Under the baton of Music Director and Maestro David Wroe, a string quartet of NJFO musicians — Bradley Bosenbeck (Violin I), Théo



Payen (Violin II), Gregory Williams (Viola), and Ansel Cohen (Cello) — will perform an intimate program that blends the romance of Broadway, the emotion of cinematic scores, and the allure of contemporary classics. Audiences will be swept away by lush arrangements from beloved artists such as ABBA, Coldplay, George Gershwin, and more — all illuminated by the warm glow of candlelight in one of Westfield's most elegant settings.

Guests can indulge in complimentary wine and small plates as they enjoy this unique fusion of artistry and atmosphere. With its golden décor, intimate seating, and unforgettable musical program, Romance in the Mansion promises to be a highlight of the NJFO season.

NJFO gratefully acknowledges the Ward family for generously sharing their beautiful space to support this fundraising event. Proceeds will help bring notable soloists to future NJFO concerts and fund community initiatives such as the orchestra's Listening is Healing music therapy program. Earlier this season, NJFO musicians Yifei Xu and Matthew Armbruster shared the gift of music with patients at Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ, an inspiring example of the impact programs like Listening is Healing bring to the community.

"We are thrilled to present this intimate concert experience and deeply grateful for the generosity that allows us to continue sharing music both on stage and beyond," said Maestro Wroe. Following Romance in the Mansion, NJFO rings in the festive season with one of its most anticipated events — The Return of the Holiday Tenors.

Back by popular demand, this symphonic spectacular will fill the concert hall with the magic of the holidays, featuring award-winning tenors John Kun Park, Luke Norvell, and Michael DeShield alongside guest choruses and the full New Jersey Festival Orchestra. Together, they'll perform an uplifting program of holiday classics, Broadway-style showstoppers, and beloved seasonal songs that capture the joy and wonder of the season.

Under Maestro Wroe's direction, this festive performance blends grand symphonic arrangements with soaring vocals and heartwarming moments, making it a beloved tradition for families across New Jersey.

Performances take place on Saturday, December 6, at 7:00 PM at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, and on Sunday, December 7, at 3:00 PM at The Concert Hall at Drew University in Madison.

From the candlelit elegance of Romance in the Mansion to the jubilant voices of The Return of the Holiday Tenors, NJFO's 2025 season offers something truly special for every music lover.

Tickets are available at njfestivalorchestra.org or by calling the NJFO office at (908) 232-9400 during operational hours. Seating is limited, and early reservations are encouraged.

## **CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH OPERA AT FLORHAM'S HOLIDAY SHOW**

Celebrate the magic of the season as Opera at Florham presents its beloved Annual Holiday Spectacular at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 6 Sussex Avenue, Morristown, NJ.

This cherished holiday tradition invites audiences to enjoy an enchanting afternoon of Operatic favorites, holiday classics, and festive cheer. Featuring a stellar cast of acclaimed vocalists and musicians, the concert promises to fill the air with warmth, joy, and the timeless beauty of the human voice.

Whether you're a lifelong Opera lover or discovering Opera at Florham for the first time, this delightful performance captures the spirit of the holidays through music that transcends generations. From beloved Arias to familiar seasonal melodies, the Holiday Spectacular is a joyful celebration of artistry and community - perfect for audiences of all ages.

#### WHY YOU CAN'T MISS IT

Opera at Florham's Holiday Spectacular is more than a concert - it's a heartwarming experience that has become a highlight of the holiday season across New Jersey. Each year, this festive performance transforms St. Margaret of Scotland Church into a winter wonderland of music, where world-class voices and live accompaniment inspire wonder and joy.

Expect to be swept away by the power of the human voice, the beauty of timeless melodies, and the spirit of togetherness that defines this special time of the year. Whether you come to be uplifted, share the magic with family and friends, or simply savor the music of the season, the Holiday Spectacular is a gift you'll remember

long after the final note.

Tickets are \$30 for general admission, with student discounts available. For tickets and more information, please visit operaatflorham.org.





# **LANDMARK 2025 - 26 SEASON CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

Wharton Arts proudly announces the 40th Anniversary of its Performing Arts School, marking four decades of inspiring creativity, connection, and community through music, theater, and the performing arts. Since its founding in 1985, the Wharton Performing Arts School (PAS) has grown into a cornerstone of arts education in New Jersey, nurturing generations of students while fostering a vibrant, inclusive artistic community.

The 2025-26 Wharton Arts season, themed Arise!, invites audiences and students alike to celebrate artistry, representation, inspiration, selfexpression. and empathy. Signature performances, community gatherings, and milestone events will honor the school's history while looking ahead to the next 40 years of impact.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNIVERSARY SEASON:**

#### • CAFÉ Choir Concerts

- November 19, 2025 and throughout the season | Wharton Black Box Theater Showcasing Wharton Arts' commitment to lifelong learning and creative aging with joyful, intergenerational music-making.

#### • Holiday Cabaret: Celebrating 40 Years of **Community Through the Arts**

- December 12, 2025Wharton Black Box Theater, Berkeley Heights A festive fundraiser and performance featuring PAS students and faculty, honoring four decades of transformative arts education.

#### • Wharton Players in Beetlejuice JR

- December 5-7, 2025 | Wharton Black Box Theater. Berkelev Heights

A frightfully funny student musical production of the Broadway favorite.

Said Performing Arts School Director Deb Joyal, "Forty years ago, Judy Wharton founded a community to make performing arts education accessible to everyone. Today, we are deeply honored to carry on that legacy, providing a vast array of classes, performances, and events that

connect with students at every age and stage of communities. learning."

These special events join a rich season of concerts and programs from Wharton Arts' affiliated programs—the New Jersey Youth Symphony, New Jersey Youth Chorus, and Paterson Music Project—with signature performances including Lunar Rising: A Symphony in Light and Sound (October 18, 2025, UCPAC) and Galaxies of Joy: The Planets in Concert (December 13, 2025, UCPAC).

"Hitting this 40-year milestone is both a tribute to the vision of our founder, Judith Wharton, and a celebration of the extraordinary work of our current PAS director, Debra Joyal, under whose guidance our lifelong learning programs have flourished and our partnerships have grown far beyond the walls of our Berkeley Heights home," said Artistic Director Helen Cha-Pyo. I am deeply grateful to our dedicated faculty, staff, and students who make our school a welcoming, inspiring learning space for all.

"Wharton Arts began with a vision to make high-quality performing arts education accessible to all," said Executive Director Gina Caruso. "As we celebrate our 40th year, we honor the thousands of students, families, faculty, and supporters who have built this thriving community—and we look forward to shaping the next 40 years of creativity together."

The anniversary season will feature community celebrations, alumni gatherings, and opportunities for supporters to invest in Wharton's future. Proceeds from the Holiday Cabaret and other fundraising events directly support student scholarships, educational programs, and performance opportunities.

For tickets, sponsorships, and more information about Wharton Arts' Anniversary season, visit WhartonArts.org.

Wharton Arts' mission is to offer accessible, high quality performing arts education that sparks personal growth and builds inclusive

Wharton Arts' vision is for a transformative performing arts education in an inclusive community to be accessible for everyone.

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students through a range of classes and ensembles. The 5 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Chorus, an auditioned choral ensemble program for students in grades 3–12, encourage a love and appreciation of choral music while nurturing personal growth and creative development. The 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve over 500 students in grades 3-12 by audition, inspire young people to achieve musical excellence through high-level ensemble training and performance opportunities. Based in Paterson, the Paterson Music Project is an El Sistemainspired program of Wharton Arts that uses music education as a vehicle for social action by empowering and inspiring young people to achieve their full potential through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing. From Pathways classes for young children to Lifelong Learning programs for adults, the Wharton Performing Arts School has a robust musical theater and drama program and offers both private and group classes for instruments and voice for all ages and all abilities. With the belief in the positive and unifying influence of music and that performing arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay, Wharton Arts offers need-based scholarships.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.



(above) The 2025–26 Wharton Arts season, themed Arise!, invites audiences and students alike to celebrate artistry, representation, inspiration, self-expression, and empathy. Signature performances, community gatherings, and milestone events will honor the school's history while looking ahead to the next 40 years of impact.



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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 allies.

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



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

Courtesy Photo

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.



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