

Fanwood Post NJ

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ECRWSS

UNICO SUPPORTS ITALIAN STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM



(above, l-r) Pictured with SP-F HS students are: Italian Teacher Signora Carmela Lambert, SP-F UNICO First VP Daniela Sellinger, and Board Member Luciana Rodak.

Courtesy Photo

Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO

As part of its mission to contribute to worthy initiatives while promoting the image of Italian Americans and Italian heritage and culture, Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO collaborated this fall with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SP-F HS) Italian Student Exchange Program.

SP-F UNICO's involvement in the program, which continues through early 2026, began in August when the organization presented Italian teacher Signora Carmela Lambert and her students with a \$2,000 donation to the SPFHS Italian Exchange program. In February 2026, 15 SP-F HS students will travel to Sala Consilina/Teggiano in the province of Campania and live with host families for 10 days. The students will also attend the local high

school, Pomponio Leto Liceo, in Teggiano. SP-F UNICO's donation will be put toward the students' excursion to Sorrento and their tour of Capri.

As part of the program, several exchange students from Sala Consilina/Teggiano arrived on October 9 to attend SP-F HS and live with local host families.

SP-F UNICO Second Vice-President Jeff Blanck and members Domenick and Michele Saliola attended a welcome breakfast for the Italian students on October 10. The students attended SP-F HS during their visit and returned to their homes in Italy on October 19.

SP-F UNICO remains grateful that the SP-F HS Board of Education continues to offer Italian class as part of its World Language program and looks forward to future collaborative opportunities with the Italian program.

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ROTARY LUMINARY SALES

During the month of December, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary club will sell Luminaries at the Fanwood Department of Public Works at 1 Fanwood Place (off of North Avenue / across from the Fanwood Public Library). The sale dates are December 13-14, December 20-21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and December 24 – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The luminary kits cost \$1.25 per kit in all quantities and include paper bags, candles and sand. Customers are encouraged to bring buckets, boxes or plastic bags to transport the sand. Payments can be made by cash, check or Venmo.

Pre-orders placed prior to December 12th for quantities of 25 or more will be discounted to \$1 per kit. See the Rotary website for additional information regarding online purchases: fsprotary.org

Luminaries are traditionally used to illuminate the streets on Christmas Eve. A candle is nestled in sand at the bottom of a paper bag and placed along sidewalks to create a beautiful walkway. The candles are then lit at dusk on Christmas Eve. Some neighborhoods in the area get together and buy hundreds of kits to create an amazing display.

All proceeds from the sale will be used to fund the various charitable and humanitarian projects that Rotary supports, both locally and internationally.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club has been serving the community since 1938. The club

meets at 12:15pm on the second and third Wednesdays of every month at the Stage House Restaurant. On the fourth Wednesday of the month, the club meets at Darby Road at 6:30 p.m. Guests are invited to attend and learn about the good that Rotary is doing worldwide. For further information about the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary club, go to fsprotary.org or visit their Facebook page: Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club.

Holiday Luminary Sale

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(above) Fanwood neighbors, Anna Nocelli, Joan Falloon, Bernadette Hoyer, and Ellie Ashworth, will be among the carol groups participating in the Tiny Tim Carol Night and are looking forward to helping the Tiny Tim Fund continue its mission.

Courtesy Photo

TINY TIM FUND LAUNCHES FUNDRAISER

The Tiny Tim Fund is launching its 2025 fundraising campaign with Carol Night on December 11th from 4 – 8 p.m. Carol groups will spread holiday cheer while requesting donations for the Tiny Tim Fund to continue its mission of providing financial support to help local families pay for children's medical expenses.

Since carol groups can't reach all neighborhoods in Fanwood and Scotch Plains, Carol Night, as well as donations made in response to publicity, will be the organization's sole fundraiser.

There is still time to form a carol group to participate in Carol Night. To obtain more info, to volunteer, and/or to request a referral application, please get in touch with Barbara at 732-259-6348 or Mari at 908-917-5979.

The Tiny Tim Fund is a registered NJ non-profit Corporation 501(c)(3) that raises funds to provide financial assistance to help families pay

for medical expenses for children in Fanwood and Scotch Plains, including doctors, dentists, and psychological testing. The organization has been assisting local families since 1983.

The Tiny Tim Fund is administered by a volunteer board of trustees composed of Fanwood and Scotch Plains citizens from varied sections of the community. There are no administrative fees. All collected contributions are dispersed for children's needs.

Donations from local citizens, civic, and service organizations will enable the Tiny Tim Fund to continue supporting local families. The trustees are hopeful that this year's donations will allow the Tiny Tim Fund to continue providing financial assistance for current cases and to accept new requests for help.

Contributions can be mailed directly to:

The Tiny Tim Fund,
PO Box 181, Fanwood, NJ 07023

Gene DiNapoli Presents at
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Sunday, December 14 - 6pm



Sunday, February 15 - 3pm



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SERVICE LEAGUE ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League

Looking for brand-new items at reasonable prices to satisfy your holiday gift giving? The annual Holiday Boutique at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Thrift Shop is now open. Shelves are stocked with brand- new items—many in their original wrapping—all generously donated to the shop throughout the year and set aside as “perfect presents” for this holiday season. (The shop will be closed Nov. 25-29 for the Thanksgiving week holiday.)

Find new clothing, accessories, crafts, candles, holiday-themed hostess gifts and more. It’s a great opportunity to find presents for under the tree, to stuff in stockings, to mark Hanukkah or Kwanza, or even to re-donate to your favorite charities. It is also a great way to teach kids the value of money, allowing them to take pride in picking out affordable presents for their family and friends.

Note that a gift bought at the Thrift Shop has double meaning: One for your recipient and another for our community. All store proceeds outside of operating expenses are donated by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League to local non-profit organizations or used for student scholarships. So forget about tariffs, taxes and sky-rocketing prices by participating in a type of holiday giving that is more than just presents and decorations—it’s about giving back to the community. In addition to gift items, you can find an assortment of new and gently-used holiday

décor along with clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac, linens, household goods, toys, games and books.

The Thrift Shop is located at 1741 East Second Street in Scotch Plains. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Saturday 10:00 a.m.. to 1:00 p.m.

To learn more about the Service League, volunteer opportunities and types of donations accepted call the store during Thrift Shop business hours: 908-322-5420. You can also visit “Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League” on Facebook.



(above, l-r) Service League members Elaine Junguenet and Betty Seery continue the Thrift Shop’s tradition of running a “Holiday Boutique” of new items for sale in time for the gift-giving season.

Courtesy Photo

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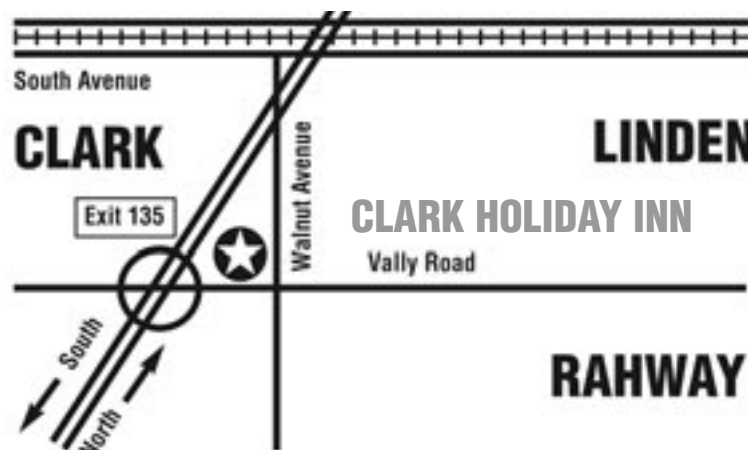
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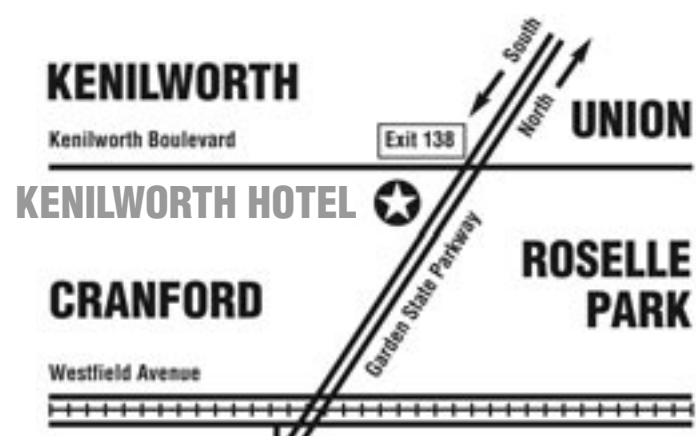
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HOLIDAY CELEBRATION & TREE LIGHTING

Come down to the North Avenue Train Station on Sunday, December 7th for the return of Fanwood's annual Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting Ceremony! This will be an all-outdoors event. Enjoy seasonal music, free refreshments, a petting zoo, contests, prizes and more. And, of course, Santa will be there to greet your children!

You **MUST PRE-REGISTER** to visit Santa. **ONLY ONE REGISTRANT PER FAMILY** although multiple members of a family are welcome to attend together. For registration purposes, please register in the parent/guardian's name, not the child's. For non-Fanwood families, registration opens on December 3rd, 10 a.m.

WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH.

Holiday Celebration: 2:30–5 p.m. In order to avoid standing in long lines to meet Santa, you will need to choose a 15-minute time slot when registering.

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY: 5–5:15 P.M.
(DON'T BE LATE OR YOU'LL MISS IT.)

Where: North Avenue Train Station Parking Lot. For everyone's safety, parking in the parking lot will be restricted, so we suggest you look for parking nearby on the streets.

COST: FREE!

Registration is now open for Fanwood residents: To register, please go to Community Pass, log in, click on "Browse Activities," select 2025 Fall Programs for Children & Adults, find this program, and follow the instructions on how to register online. No paper registrations will be accepted for this program. For more information, call Fanwood Recreation, 908 370-7092.



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Candlelight Eucharist with Special Music at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

Nativity of Our Lord Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Service of Lessons, Carols and Eucharist

Sunday, December 28 at 10:00 a.m.

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TWO CONCERTS: HOLIDAY TENORS & BROADWAY THROUGH THE AGES

New Jersey Festival Orchestra ushers in the holiday season with two major December performances that showcase the full breadth of the orchestra’s artistic range.

Under the direction of Maestro David Wroe, NJFO welcomes audiences to celebrate the magic of the season with Return of the 3 Holiday Tenors on December 6 and 7, followed by the orchestra’s signature New Year’s celebration, Broadway Through the Ages, on December 31 and January 1.

Return of the 3 Holiday Tenors features award-winning vocalists John Kun Park, Luke Norvell, and Michael DeShield, each bringing a distinct artistic profile to this beloved NJFO tradition. Park, praised for his “radiant lyricism,” has appeared with major opera houses across the country. Norvell, known for his “effortless charm and ringing tenor,” continues to shine as a rising star on both concert and operatic stages. DeShield, celebrated for his powerful presence and versatility, is a frequent soloist with ensembles throughout the Northeast.

The trio joins NJFO for a sparkling program of holiday favorites, classical tenor showpieces, and uplifting choral moments. They are joined by the Holy Trinity Choir of Westfield and Central Avenue Choir of Madison, adding festive warmth and community spirit to this seasonal celebration. Performances take place Saturday, December 6 at The Presbyterian Church in

Westfield and Sunday, December 7 at Drew University in Madison.

The festivities continue with Broadway Through the Ages, NJFO’s dazzling New Year’s tradition performed in Westfield and Basking Ridge. This year’s concert brings together a powerhouse lineup of guest artists: Tess Marshall, acclaimed for her magnetic stage presence and vocal brilliance; Lisa Marie Rogali, a versatile performer equally at home in opera and musical theater; and Peter Kendall Clark, praised for his “commanding baritone and dramatic flair.” This year’s program also features stars from the Dance Theater of Harlem, adding movement, elegance, and theatrical artistry to this musical celebration. Together with NJFO, the ensemble leads audiences on a spirited journey through iconic Broadway classics.

RETURN OF THE 3 HOLIDAY TENORS

Sat Dec 6, 7 PM

The Presbyterian Church, Westfield

Sun Dec 7, 3 PM

Drew University, Madison

BROADWAY THROUGH THE AGES

Wed Dec 31, 5 PM

Westfield High School

Thu Jan 1, 2:30 PM

Sieminski Theater

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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
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NEW JERSEY DAR SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

High school seniors in New Jersey who are U.S. citizens, are in need of financial assistance to continue their education, and plan to attend a college or university in the U.S., may apply for one or both scholarships offered by the New Jersey State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

The Vail Scholarship provides a one-time award of \$2,000 to a student who plans to major in political science, history, government or economics.

The New Jersey State DAR Scholarship offers a one-time award of \$1,000 to a student who reflects the DAR objectives of community

service and patriotism.

The deadline to submit applications is December 31, 2025. Scholarships will be awarded in April 2026.

For application forms, contact Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter DAR at ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com.

DAR is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, service organization open to women 18 and older who are descended from a man or woman who aided the cause of American independence. The mission of the DAR is to promote education, historic preservation, and patriotism.

Learn more at www.DAR.org.

OFFICER ERIC CARTAGENA SWORN IN

Borough of Fanwood

Mayor Colleen Mahr administered the oath of office to Fanwood's newest Police Officer, Eric Cartagena, on Monday, November 3rd.

Lt. Dan Kranz, Officer in Charge of the Fanwood Police Dept., said a police officer in 2025 needs to be an "enforcer, you have to be an EMT, you have to be a social worker, and sometimes you have to just be a friend."

"The ranks of Fanwood PD are gaining somebody that can be all those things," Lt. Kranz said.

Lt. Kranz said Officer Cartagena was previously employed with the Elizabeth Police Department. He has a Bachelor's degree from Kean University and is a 2022 graduate of John Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains, where he was the class valedictorian and received the Academic Achievement Award for receiving the top scores in his class.

"He is very easy to talk to and I think he will fit in seamlessly with the officers. And when he goes to your house or your business in Fanwood, I think he has the empathy and the communication to really fit in and help solve those problems," Lt. Kranz said.

Officer Cartagena is the third police officer hired by Fanwood this year following the Passing of Officer Carlos Gonzalez, Jr. from Lymphoma earlier this year and two retirements within the police department.



(above) Mayor Colleen Mahr administers the oath of office to Eric Cartagena as Fanwood's newest police officer as his fiancé Grey holds the Bible.

Photo by Paul Peyton

CAFE FOR THOSE WITH MEMORY LOSS

Christ Church, Summit, NJ

Too often, those living with memory loss can suffer from social stigma and isolation. A Memory Cafe is a social gathering for those living with cognitive loss, together with their care-partners. It's a welcoming community where all feel safe, accepted, and understood.

"The Gathering Place" is a monthly Memory Cafe hosted by volunteers at Christ Church in Summit. They meet the first Wednesday of every month, from 12 - 2 p.m.

Guests socialize over a light, nutritious lunch

and share friendship, information, and often a few laughs. It is non-sectarian and all are welcome. From guests: "It was enjoyable, uplifting, and worthwhile," and "I wish my mother had something like this to participate in while she was able."

A suggested donation is \$5 per person.

RSVP is requested for menu-planning.

Contact Brenda Dodds 908 273-5549

or brenda@ccsnj.org.

Christ Church is located at

561 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ.

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