

# ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY

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Issue 61 • December 2025



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## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND WINTER MARKET

Celebrate the festive season at Roselle Park's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Winter Market on Friday, December 5th and Saturday, December 6th. From 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., residents can gather at Michael Mauri "Gazebo" Park, located on the corner of East Grant Avenue and Chestnut Street, to join in on the winter fun!

The Winter Market kicks off at 4:00 p.m., offering family and friends the chance to enjoy live performances, a variety of craft and food vendors, and seasonal activities. This year, attendees can experience a refreshed setup, as there will be no beer garden.

At 5:00 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus will be coming to town to greet children and families, providing the perfect opportunity for festive photos. Guests can capture memories and share holiday cheer with the iconic duo throughout the evening.

The Christmas tree lighting countdown begins at 7:00 p.m., taking place only on Friday, December 5th. Attendees can witness the magic as the tree is illuminated, signaling the official start of the holiday season.

In the event of inclement weather, the Christmas Tree Lighting will be postponed to the following day, and the Winter Market scheduled for that date will be canceled. Residents can learn more by contacting Community Center Director Rupen Shah at [rshah@rosellepark.net](mailto:rshah@rosellepark.net) or by calling 908-245-0666.k



## SANTA'S PARADE OF LIGHTS

Get ready, Jolly Old Saint Nick is coming to town during Roselle Park's Annual Santa's Parade of Lights on Sunday, December 14th. Led by the lights and sirens for the Roselle Park Police and Fire Departments, Father Christmas will make his way around the Borough at 7:00 p.m. waving to families and children.

In the event of inclement weather, the event will be canceled.

### PARADE OF LIGHTS ROUTE

- Leaving the Roselle Park Train Station from the West,
- Right onto Locust Street, n/b,
- Left onto W. Colfax Avenue, w/b,
- Left onto Beechwood Avenue, s/b,
- Left onto W. Lincoln Avenue, e/b,
- Right onto Laurel Avenue, s/b,
- Right onto W. Webster Avenue, w/b,
- Left onto Amsterdam Avenue, s/b,
- Left onto Seaton Avenue, e/b,
- Right onto Faitoute Avenue, s/b,
- Left onto W. Clay Avenue, e/b,
- Slight Right onto W. Grant Avenue, still e/b,
- Brief pause at Michael Mauri "Gazebo" Park
- Left onto Bender Avenue, n/b,
- Left onto E. Clay Avenue, w/b,
- Right onto Chestnut Street, n/b,
- Right onto E. Webster Avenue, e/b,
- Left onto Sherman Avenue, n/b
- Left onto E. Lincoln Avenue, w/b,
- Right onto Chestnut Street, n/b,
- Left onto W. Lincoln Avenue w/b
- Left into the train station lot to end off and disperse

Residents can learn more by contacting  
Community Center Director Rupen Shah  
at [rshah@rosellepark.net](mailto:rshah@rosellepark.net)  
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## Christmas Tree Lighting & Winter Market

Live Performances, Activities, and Craft & Food Vendors



December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> • 4:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Michael Mauri "Gazebo" Park • E. Grant Ave & Chestnut St.

4:00 P.M.

Winter Market, Live Performances,  
Activities, & Craft & Food Vendors

5:00 P.M.

Picture With Santa  
& Mrs. Claus

7:00 P.M.

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting  
Ceremony (Only December 5)

Find Us on Social



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For more information, call (908) 245-0666 or email [rshah@rosellepark.net](mailto:rshah@rosellepark.net)

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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](mailto: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](http://www.DAR.org).

COUNTDOWN TO JULY 4TH, 2026

*America250 - In New Jersey & Nationwide*

Next year, on July 4, 2026, the United States of America will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our country's past, to honor the contributions of all Americans, and to also look ahead towards the future that we want to create and leave behind for the next generation of Americans.

On the federal level, America250.org is a nonpartisan initiative working to engage every American in commemorating the 250th

anniversary of our country. This multi-year effort, from now through July 4, 2026, is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.

In New Jersey, RevolutionNJ.org has been set up and is a partnership between the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC), a division of the New Jersey Department of State, and the nonprofit Crossroads of the American Revolution Association to plan the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in New Jersey.



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# AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS AT THE NITSCHKE HOUSE IN KENILWORTH

**Kenilworth Historical Society**  
During a Sunday, Dec. 7 (12-4 p.m.) Holiday Celebration Featuring "An Old-Fashioned Christmas" at the Oswald J. Nitschke House (49 S. 21 Street), visitors will have an opportunity to meet and take photos with Santa from Victorian times, tour the c. 1880 home authentically decorated for the holidays, view exhibits, enjoy favorite holiday tunes sung by the Christmas Matters Holiday Carolers (dressed in Dickens-style attire) and visit the site's Christkindlmarkt featuring handcrafted items, baked goods and other holiday treats.  
Tours will be offered in English and Spanish. The Kenilworth Education Association PEP

Committee is generously sponsoring the carolers' performance.  
Admission to the Dec. 7 event is free.  
Visitors are invited to bring, for the Nitschke House Cultural Heritage Tree, an ornament labeled with their family name and heritage. Shown here from last year's holiday celebration are Victorian Santa and Kenilworth Historical Society vice president, Fran Day, together with the Christmas Matters Carolers. Also shown is Santa with Kenilworth Historical Society volunteers and some of the many children who visited. Further details about this year's celebration and other events will be posted on Facebook.



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## ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPERA SPECTACULAR - DEC 7

December 7, 2025, 3:00 PM - 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.

After an incredible turnout at our recent Due Soprani e Un Tenore concert, you've GOT to get your tickets for the December 7th Holiday Spectacular! This concert will be held at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Morristown, which offers FREE PARKING and plenty of room in the beautiful sanctuary - so gather your friends and family for festive music and joy.

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.

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 year. Whether you come to be uplifted 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](http://operaatflorham.org). Purchase in advance on line or at the door.

*Opera at Florham*  
presents  
**HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR**

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**  
**3:00 pm**  
**St. Margaret of Scotland Church,**  
**6 Sussex Ave, Morristown, NJ**



**\$30 GENERAL ADMISSION**  
Tickets & Information  
[operaatflorham.org](http://operaatflorham.org)  
973-443-8620  
[info@operaatflorham.org](mailto:info@operaatflorham.org)

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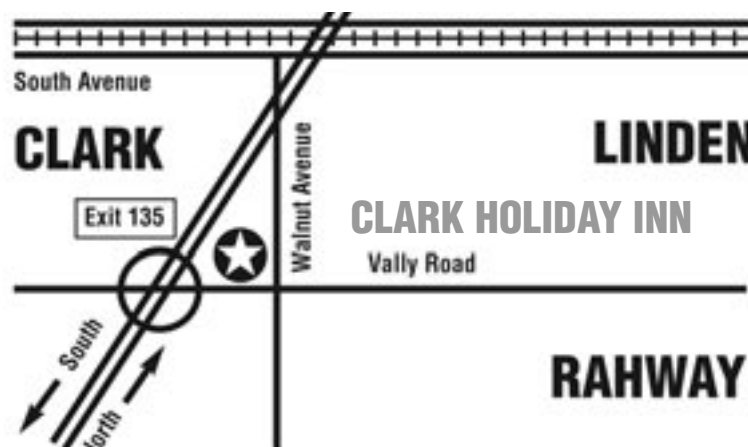
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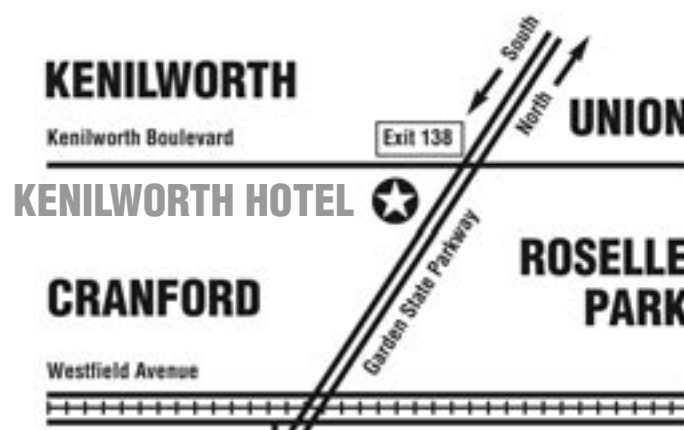


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# GRATITUDE SHOWN TO VETERANS AT EAST ORANGE VA HOSPITAL

*Knights of Columbus Council 3240 & Catholic War Veterans Post 866*

In a heartfelt gesture of appreciation, members of Knights of Columbus Council 3240 and Catholic War Veterans Post 866, from Church of the Assumption, Roselle Park, came together on Thursday, November 6th, to provide lunch for the Veterans of Ward 12B at the East Orange VA Hospital.

The joint effort was organized as a show of support, camaraderie, and gratitude to the men

and women who have served our nation. Volunteers from both organizations spent the afternoon visiting with patients, sharing food, and expressing appreciation for their sacrifices and service.

The event reflected the shared mission of both organizations - faith, patriotism, and service - and strengthened the ongoing partnership

between local Catholic service groups and the VA community.

The Knights of Columbus and the Catholic War Veterans both expressed their commitment to continuing such outreach activities in the future, ensuring that those who served our country feel the respect and gratitude they so richly deserve.

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Made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.



(above, l-r) Jerry Vitale, Carl Hokanson, Mike De Chiaro, Fr. Paul Prevosto and Gerry Taveras.

Courtesy Photo

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## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

(Ages 0-11)

### BOOKS & BADGES

**TUESDAYS 12/2, 12/9, 12/16 & 12/23**  
@ 11:00 AM

Children will have a chance to enjoy a book and craft with our officers from the RPPD.

### Storytime Play Group

**WEDNESDAYS, 12/3 & 12/17 @ 11:00AM**

Join Miss Faith for fun stories and songs, then enjoy free play with friends in our playgroup!

Ages 0-5

### LEGO CLUB

**WED 12/3, 12/10 & 12/17 @ 3:00 PM**

Ready, set, build! With our bricks and your imagination, the possibilities are endless! Bring a friend (or two!) and get ready to create something amazing. Ages: 3-12

### \*\*\*Marshmallows, Cocoa & Merry Stories

**MONDAY 12/1 @ 3:30PM**

Cozy up for a heartwarming holiday experience! Enjoy Miss Faith's homemade marshmallows, warm cocoa, and delightful holiday stories. Online registration is required.

Ages: 5-11

### \*\*\*Spin the dreidel

**MONDAY 12/8 @ 3:30 PM**

Join us for a Hanukkah story & learn how to play the dreidel game, practice a few rounds, and then take part in a friendly mini competition to win chocolate coins. Online registration is required. Ages: 5-11

### \*\*\*Tiny Tales & Treats with Mrs. Claus

**Wednesday 12/10 @ 11 AM**

Join Mrs. Claus for a magical storytime followed by fun cookie decorating! Online registration is required. Ages: 0-4

### \*\*\*Kids' Holiday Gift Wrap Party

**MONDAY 12/15 @ 3:30PM)**

Bring your gifts and let's make wrapping fun!

We'll provide all wrapping supplies, & materials to create handmade gift tags. Mrs. Claus will be on deck to help kids wrap their presents, enjoy sweet treats, and get ready for the holidays! Online registration is required.

Ages: 5-11

### \*\*\*Gingerbread Jingle Jam

**MONDAY 12/22 @ 3:30PM**

Kids will have fun building their own "gingerbread" houses using graham crackers and frosting. Please bring one bag/pack of unopened toppings to share (mini candy canes, gum drops, skittles, M&Ms, sprinkles, chocolate, etc.). Online registration is required.

Ages: 5-11

## TWEEN/TEEN PROGRAMS

(Ages 12-17)

### Tween Holiday Craft Corner

**Tuesday 12/2 & 12/9 Afterschool**

Create holiday cards or work on a winter craft to celebrate the season!

### \*\*\*Tween Cookie Decorating

**Thursday 12/18 After school**

Join us at the library to celebrate the season with cookie decorating! Registration is required.

## FAMILY EVENTS

### PAJAMA STORY TIME

**THURSDAYS 12/11 & 12/18 @ 6:30 PM**

Bring your favorite stuffed animal, wear your pajamas and join our library staff for a cozy bedtime story and craft.

### 12 DAYS OF JOY AUTHOR VISIT

**THURSDAY 12/4 @ 4:00 PM**

Bring the whole family for a fun way to celebrate the season with an author visit! Enjoy a festive storytime featuring '12 Days of Joy,' learn the importance of proper hygiene with fun activities that bring the holiday magic to life for kids of all ages. \*\*\*Online registration required.

### \*\*\*HOLIDAY STORY TIME & SING ALONG

**SATURDAY 12/20 11:00 AM**

Gather 'round for a jolly holiday storytime and sing-along with Mrs. Claus—and maybe even a surprise visit from Santa himself! Perfect for little ones. Online registration required.

### 1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN AGES 0-5

Sign up for our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Get your reading log, log your books, & collect your prizes. Sign ups are ongoing, drop in any time to sign up.

Roselle Park residents only.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### \*\*\*COOKIE EXCHANGE PARTY

**MONDAY 12/15 @ 6:00PM**

Join us for our annual cookie exchange! Bring 2-3 dozen cookies and join in on our holiday fun! Adults only. Registration is required.

### ESL - Ms. Faith Beginner Class

**Mondays 12/1 & 12/8 @ 5:00PM-6:30PM**

This class is for beginner ESL students looking to advance their skills in reading, writing, and speaking.

### ESL - Ms. Lisa Intermediate Class

**Thursdays 12/4 & 12/11 @ 5:00PM-6:30PM**

This class is for intermediate ESL students looking to advance their skills in reading, writing, and speaking.

## CAFFEINE & CHAPTERS ADULT BOOK CLUB\*\*\*

**THURSDAY 12/18 6:00PM**

Review our book of the month. Call/visit the circulation desk to reserve a spot.

### TAI-CHI

**TUESDAYS 6:30PM-7:30PM**

Build strength, flexibility, and balance through this gentle form of exercise for ages teens through adults. Space is limited. Roselle Park residents given priority.

### KNITTING CLUB

**WEDNESDAYS 1:00 - 3:00 PM**

Knit and crochet winter hats and scarves to donate to charities.

### QUILTING CLUB

**2nd + 4th THURSDAYS 1:00 - 3:00 PM**

Try out new quilting patterns with friends.

## LIBRARY SERVICES

### TECH HELP

Mondays to Fridays from 10AM-5PM. Available in Spanish or English. Appointments available, walk-ins welcome.

### FAX, COPY, PRINT & SCAN SERVICES

Available during library hours.

### FREE WIFI



(above) Smiles, laughter, and a whole lot of creativity at our Adult Craft Night with Miss Juliana, pumpkin painting was a hit.

Courtesy Photo

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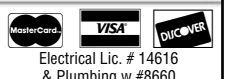
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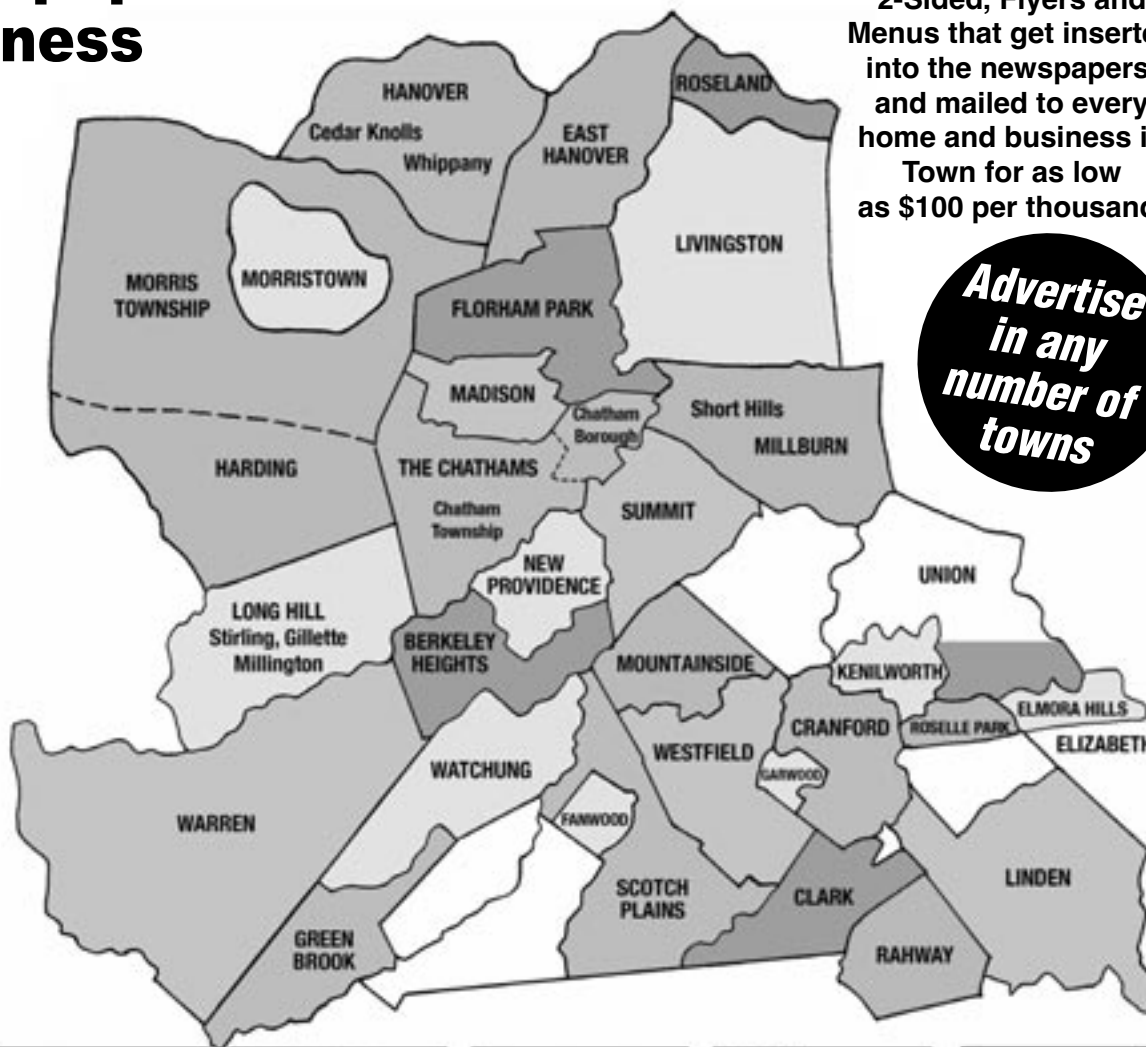
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## PIPES OF CHRISTMAS RETURNS TO SUMMIT DECEMBER 14

The sound of pipes and drums will once again ring out this holiday season as the 27th Annual Pipes of Christmas returns with performances in Boston, New York City, and Summit, New Jersey.

Presented by the Learned Kindred of Currie, the beloved concert celebrates Scotland and Ireland's rich musical and spiritual heritage through a vibrant program of traditional carols, hymns, and readings that tell the story of Christmas through a distinctly Celtic lens.

Audiences will experience stirring performances by world-class musicians on bagpipes, brass, fiddle, harp, and organ, alongside the majestic voices of the Pipes of Christmas Choir. Narrations drawn from the works of Scottish poets, scripture, and classic holiday literature bring warmth, reflection, and inspiration to the stage.

Over the years, The Pipes of Christmas has become a cherished tradition for families across generations, drawing capacity audiences from across North America and abroad.

Beyond the stage, the concert has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support educational and cultural initiatives, including music scholarships in Scotland, the United States, and Canada - helping nurture the next generation of artists and scholars.

This year's program will feature new musical selections alongside cherished favorites such as Highland Cathedral, Auld Lang Syne, and Silent

Night, performed in the rich Celtic style that has captivated audiences for over two decades.

### PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

- Boston, MA – December 5-6,  
Church of the Covenant at 7PM and Noon
- New York, NY – December 13,  
Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church at 2PM
- Summit, NJ – Central Presbyterian Church  
at 2 and 7PM

Complete information and tickets are available on the concert website at **WWW.PIPESOFCHRISTMAS.COM**.

- Global Webcast of Concert Highlights to Follow

For those unable to attend in person, concert highlights will once again be shared with audiences around the world through the Pipes of Christmas Global Webcast, premiering on December 19 for subscribers.

The broadcast brings the magic of the live performances to homes across six continents, allowing friends and families everywhere to share in the music, message, and joy of the season.

### ABOUT THE LEARNED KINDRED OF CURRIE

The Learned Kindred of Currie is an international Scottish heritage society dedicated to celebrating Scotland's history, language, and culture. The organization sponsors the annual Pipes of Christmas concerts and a variety of educational programs, including scholarships for young musicians, writers, and scholars.



Join Us for the Learned Kindred of Currie's 27th Annual Production

## THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

Answer the call of the pipes and drums.

| BOSTON                                       |                                               |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>December 5<sup>th</sup></b><br>at 7:00 PM | <b>December 6<sup>th</sup></b><br>at 12:00 PM |

| NEW YORK CITY                                 | SUMMIT                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>December 13<sup>th</sup></b><br>at 2:00 PM | <b>December 14<sup>th</sup></b><br>at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM |

**WEBCAST**  
**December 19<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>**  
available on demand



Full details at **pipesofchristmas.com**

This annual concert is a special fundraising event that supports our cultural outreach and scholarship programs.

## 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

Tickets are available at [www.njfestivalorchestra.org](http://www.njfestivalorchestra.org)

or by calling (908) 232-9400.



**NJFO NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA**

### Return of the 3 Holiday Tenors



**SAT, Dec 6 at 7:00 pm**  
The Presbyterian Church, Westfield

**SUN, Dec 7 at 3:00 pm**  
Drew University, Madison

Renowned tenor fare, holiday classics, and winter-time favorites guaranteed to make the season merry.

### BROADWAY THROUGH THE AGES



**WED, Dec 31 at 5:00**  
Westfield High School

**THURS, Jan 1 at 2:30**  
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# Galaxies of Joy:

## The Planets in Concert

**December 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

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**NJYS Youth Symphony:**  
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Featuring Gustav Holst's  
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