

# Summit NJ Times

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## FIRST AID SQUAD ASSISTS WITH UNEXPECTED BIRTH

Submitted John Reichart

What began as a quiet Saturday evening for the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad quickly turned into an unforgettable experience when members were dispatched to assist a woman in active labor on Passaic Avenue.

Upon arrival, Summit Police officers were already on scene with the new parents and their newborn daughter, who had made her arrival moments before the first ambulance crew, staffed by members Beverly Brown and John Reichart, reached the location. Both Beverly and John immediately provided post-delivery care to mother and baby while coordinating additional resources to ensure continued coverage for the city.

Additional member volunteers, Jolan Schluter, John Buscaino, Bob Mendes, Blair Clark-Schoeb, and Mary Kate Davidson, responded to assist with transporting the family to the hospital, while Atlantic Health paramedics provided advanced life support, ensuring that both mother and child received seamless, high-quality care. Reichart, a retired police supervisor, coordinated communications and logistics at the scene while Beverly attended to the new mother.

“After 44 years on the squad, I can honestly say that this was one of those calls that reminds us why we volunteer,” said Crew Chief Beverly Brown, who joined the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad in 1980. “Most of our calls involve people in crisis or distress, but this was pure joy, and it’s something none of us will ever forget.”

The Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad is a 100% volunteer organization providing emergency medical services to the City of Summit 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days



(above) The Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad assisted with an unexpected roadside birth.

Courtesy Photo

a year. The squad is funded entirely through donations and community support.

For more information about volunteering or supporting the squad, visit [summitems.org](http://summitems.org).

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# SANTA CLAUS SHOP PREPARES TO HELP DELIVER A JOYOUS HOLIDAY TO LOCALS IN NEED

For the 59th consecutive year, the Santa Claus Shop will open its doors to area families to provide complementary holiday shopping. The Shop serves more than 400 low-income families and senior citizens from Summit, New Providence, Berkeley Heights and other local communities.

This year’s Santa Claus Shop will be held at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 587 Springfield Avenue in Summit. Families will be offered shopping hours by invitation only during the first week of December.

The Santa Claus Shop is chaired by Summit residents Stephanie Phiebig, Kay Puthaaroon, Hillary Reilly, Jessica Whitehorne and Roseanne Wilson and co-chaired by Jacquelyn Ford, Whitney Goldberg, Jennifer Jones, Tara Marshall and Mollie Siebert. The Santa Claus Shop exists solely on donations and volunteers. With the monetary donations from area residents, local organizations and businesses, the Santa Claus Shop can purchase the gifts that allow less fortunate neighbors to experience the joy of holiday giving without financial burden.

To keep the holiday spirit alive for local residents in need, the Santa Claus Shop chairwomen ask for members of the community to consider giving. Checks can be made payable to SHIP, with Santa Claus Shop noted on the check’s memo line, and mailed to the Santa Claus

Shop, P.O. Box 119, Summit, NJ 07902. The ability to make an online donation is also available at [summitsantaclausshop.com](https://summitsantaclausshop.com).

If you would like to find out more information or get involved please visit our website or follow us on Facebook at Santa Claus Shop - Summit, NJ and Instagram - @santa\_claus\_shop\_summit.



Courtesy Photo

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# ENROLLING IN MEDICARE AND UPDATING YOUR PLAN

By George Sosa, President, The Sosa Insurance Group

Turning 65 marks eligibility for Medicare, a federal health insurance program designed for seniors and certain individuals with disabilities. While the system can be complex, resources are available to help beneficiaries navigate enrollment, updates, and plan changes to ensure their coverage continues to meet their needs.

Original Medicare consists of Part A (hospital insurance) and Part B (medical insurance). Part A covers hospital stays, skilled nursing facilities, home health, and hospice care. Part B focuses on outpatient care, doctor visits, preventive screenings, and therapies. While comprehensive, Original Medicare leaves gaps in coverage, which can be supplemented through Medigap policies. These help with deductibles, co-pays, and sometimes foreign travel coverage, offering flexibility and predictability.

Medicare Advantage (Part C), offered by private insurers, combines Parts A and B and often includes additional benefits like vision, dental, hearing, fitness programs, and lower premiums. These plans have out-of-pocket maximums, but often require use of in-network providers.

Prescription drug coverage (Part D) is also offered through private plans. Each plan has a formulary outlining covered medications, cost-sharing structures, and potential coverage gaps, though assistance programs like “Extra Help” exist for those with limited income. New Jersey also provides state assistance through PAAD and Senior Gold to help seniors manage prescription

drug costs.

For higher-income beneficiaries, Medicare applies IRMAA (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount), which adds extra costs to Part B and D premiums based on IRS tax information.

Enrollment timing is crucial. While some may delay enrollment due to employer coverage, late enrollment penalties apply if coverage lapses without creditable insurance.

Every year, Medicare beneficiaries have an opportunity to review and adjust their coverage. The Annual Enrollment Period (October 15 – December 7) allows switching between Original Medicare and Advantage plans, adding or changing drug plans, or returning to Original Medicare. Any changes take effect January 1. Additionally, the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment (January 1 – March 31) allows those in Advantage plans to switch or return to Original Medicare.

When evaluating options, beneficiaries should consider cost, provider networks, additional benefits, drug coverage, and changes in their health or medications.

Understanding Medicare is the first step to making the best decisions for your health and budget. If you’d like help comparing plans or reviewing your coverage for 2026, The Sosa Insurance Group is here to guide you every step of the way. Contact us at 973-902-5445 to schedule a one-on-one review about your Medicare choices.

## Medicare can be complicated. We Make it simple.

### Annual Enrollment Period ends December 7th!

The Medicare Annual Enrollment Period is the time when Medicare beneficiaries can choose to re-evaluate their health care coverage. Getting Medicare or changing Medicare plans is a major milestone.

We specialize in Medicare Supplement, also known as Medigap, Medicare Advantage, Medicare and Medicaid and Stand-Alone Part D Prescription. We provide prospective clients with phone, virtual and face-to-face appointments to assist in navigating all your Medicare options:

- Change from one Medicare Advantage Plan to another Medicare Advantage Plan.
- Change from a Medicare Advantage Plan to Original Medicare.
- Change from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage Plan.
- Enroll in a Prescription Drug Plan or change your Prescription Drug Plan.
- If you're new to Medicare, you might have a different election period; reach out to us to review your options.

**CALL TODAY: 973-902-5445**

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450 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052



The Sosa Insurance group is dedicated to assisting Medicare beneficiaries throughout their Medicare journey.

If you, parents or a loved one is new to Medicare, considering a change or just simply want to review their plan options, please call 973-902-5445 to speak with one of our expert agents. You can also reach us by email at [info@thesosainsurancegroup.com](mailto:info@thesosainsurancegroup.com) to request a quote. Consultations are free of charge.



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# DR. ANGELA WEST OF TEMPLE SINAI HOSTS FREE ZOOM SERIES ‘OBJECTS OF SURVIVAL: MATERIAL CULTURE AND HOLOCAUST MEMORY’

Dr. Angela West, adjunct professor in Drew University’s Holocaust Studies Department, will present a free two-part Zoom series, titled “Objects of Survival: Material Culture and Holocaust Memory,” on Thursdays, Dec. 4 and 11, at 1 p.m. via Zoom.

The series, sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), West Morris Section and coordinated by the Our Jewish World program, will offer a singular look at how Holocaust captives remained emotionally strong and survived during this most unimaginable of times through “material objects”—items they created, preserved, or stole from World War II Germany.

Our Jewish World is coordinated by Melanie Levitan and Ilene Dorf Manahan, both of Morristown.

Dr. West will focus on a variety of objects that have since served as powerful tools for uncovering and interpreting Holocaust history. Some of the donated historical items have connections to Morris County community members and their experiences.

In the first session, on Dec. 4, Dr. West will review the kind of stories that objects represent about resilience, survival and resistance, and the role such items—that is, the “material culture” created, saved or hidden in ghettos, camps or secret places—now play in helping future generations remember the past. Through the use of such deeply personal artifacts as a prisoner’s uniform, handmade art from Bergen-Belsen, and a saved trapped door, Dr. West will make it clear how physical objects can preserve memory and offer new ways of connecting to individuals’ stories during times of extremity.

In the second session, on Dec. 11, the speaker will turn to the end of World War II and the

liberation of the concentration camps, which marked a turning point, but not an end for Holocaust survivors. In the years that followed, many remained in displaced persons (DP) camps, navigating the challenges of uncertainty while beginning to rebuild their lives. Dr. West will share survivors’ testimonies from this complex postwar period through the lens of material culture and will include objects that accompanied individuals on their journeys—items that continued to be material witnesses to resilience, identity, and renewal in their postwar lives and offer powerful insights into how people chose to carry memory and reclaim agency in the aftermath of the Holocaust.

Besides teaching at Drew University, the speaker is also a consulting historian, museum

curator, and currently the manager of the Holocaust Remembrance Center at Temple Sinai in Summit. Her recent exhibit documents the stories of child survivors of the Holocaust who now reside in New Jersey. Dr. West is dedicated to advancing public understanding of the Holocaust, far-right extremism, and its implications for contemporary society.

NCJW confronts today’s most urgent social and economic challenges facing women, children and families. Powered by the Jewish imperative to ensure dignity for all, we impact policy, advocate for justice, and support the community. Together our voices make a meaningful difference in the world.

Preregistration is required for this series. Register by e-mailing [iadpr@aol.com](mailto:iadpr@aol.com).



(above) Dr. Angela West, adjunct professor in Drew University’s Holocaust Studies Department, will present a free two-part Zoom series, titled “Objects of Survival: Material Culture and Holocaust Memory,” on Thursdays, Dec. 4 and 11, at 1 p.m. via Zoom. Register by e-mailing [iadpr@aol.com](mailto:iadpr@aol.com).

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# BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT TWIN MAPLES - DEC 6TH & 7TH

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



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

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 be purchased at <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](http://www.fortnightlyclub.org).



**The Fortnightly Club of Summit**  
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# PIPES OF CHRISTMAS RETURNS TO SUMMIT DECEMBER 14



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NEW YORK CITY	SUMMIT
<b>December 13<sup>th</sup></b> at 2:00 PM	<b>December 14<sup>th</sup></b> at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
WEBCAST	
<b>December 19<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup></b> available on demand	



Full details at **pipesofchristmas.com**

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

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.



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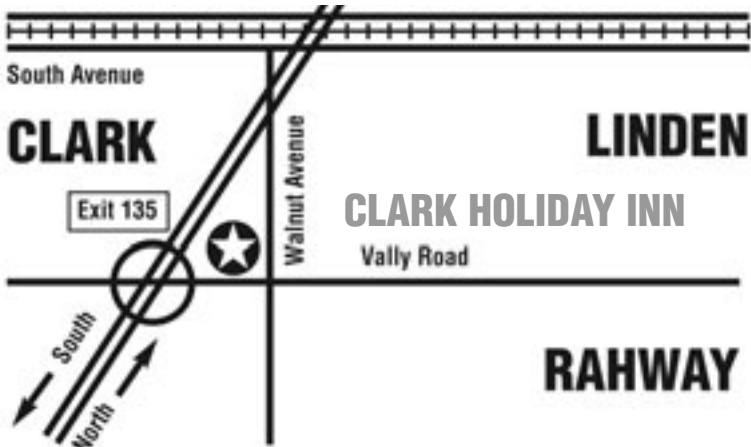
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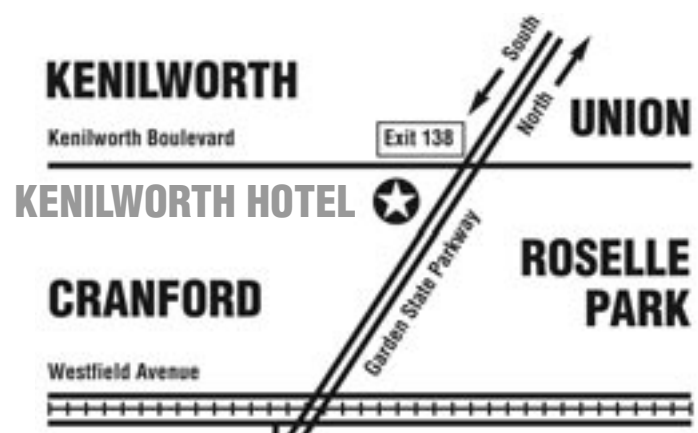
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# TWO CONCERTS: HOLIDAY TENORS & BROADWAY THROUGH THE AGES



**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**  
Sieminski Theater

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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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# SUMMIT PUBLIC LIBRARY DECEMBER PROGRAMS

75 Maple St., Summit NJ. To register or to see a complete list of events, visit [summitlibrary.org](http://summitlibrary.org).

## ADULTS PROGRAMS

### Virtual Author Talk: Sue Hincenbergs

Tuesday, 12/2, 2:00-3:00PM

Online. Hincenbergs discusses her latest book, The Retirement Plan, followed by live Q&A.

### Finding Calm in Chaos:

#### A Thoughtful Approach to Tough Times

Tuesday, 12/2, 7:00-8:00PM

Online. Learn strategies for staying grounded during stressful times.

### Friend Speed Dating

Thursday, 12/4, 6:30-8:00PM

Meet new people in a low-key social setting; refreshments served.

### Virtual Author Talk: Paula J. Johnson

Tuesday, 12/9, 2:00-3:00PM

Online. Johnson discusses her book, Julia Child's Kitchen, followed by live Q&A.

### Great Decisions:

#### American Policy in the Middle East

Wednesday, 12/10, 1:00-3:00PM

Discussion on U.S. policy in the Middle East, featuring guest Dr. Daniel C. Kurtzer via Zoom.

### Comparing DNA Ethnicity Estimates

Thursday, 12/11, 7:00-8:00PM

Online. Learn how ethnicity estimates differ across DNA testing services.

### Friends Pop-Up Donated Jewelry Sale

Silver/Gold – Sunday, 12/14, 1:00-5:00PM

Shop donated gold and silver jewelry; Friends members can shop early from 12:00-1:00PM.

### Concert: Spirit of the Season

Sunday, 12/14, 2:00-3:00PM

Festive world music with flute, guitar, and bass.

Made possible by Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs.

### Adult Craft Program

Sunday, 12/14, 2:00-3:30PM

Create a seasonal craft with instructor Marge Barkan.

### Knit, Stitch & Natter

Wednesdays, 10:00AM-12:00PM

Drop in to knit, crochet, and craft with fellow makers. Bring your own supplies; all skill levels welcome. No registration required.

## YOUTH & FAMILIES PROGRAMS

### Teen Night: Slime Night

Tuesday, 12/2, 5:30-7:00PM

Create homemade slime with different colors and textures. For Grades 6-12.

### The Jersey City Nutcracker

Wednesday, 12/3, 4:00-5:00PM

Enjoy excerpts from The Nutcracker story and a live dance performance by Nimbus Dance Theatre Ensemble. For families.

### Adulting Essentials: Sewing Workshop

Wednesday, 12/3, 6:00-8:00PM

Learn sewing basics and make a hand-sewn gnome; dinner served. For Grades 9-12.

### Lil Tumblez

Friday, 12/5, 10:00-11:00AM

Sensory and movement play to build coordination and confidence. For ages 0-5.

### Teen Night: Bad Art

Tuesday, 12/9, 5:30-7:00PM

Create the most hilariously bad "adventure-themed" art; winner gets a prize!

For grades 6-12.

### Canta Conmigo

Thursday, 12/11, 10:00-10:40AM

Bilingual Spanish-English music and movement with singing, rhythm games, and dancing. For ages 2 – 6 years.

### Family Team Kahoot

Thursday, 12/11, 5:30-6:30PM

Compete in family trivia for all ages. Light supper served. For families.

### Cookie House Building (Grades 6-8)

Monday, 12/15, 3:00-4:30PM

Build mini cookie houses with graham crackers and candy.

### Bright Star Theatre: Beauty and the Beast

Tuesday, 12/16, 4:00-4:45PM

The classic fairy tale performed live with humor and heart. For grades K-5 and families.

### Teen Night: DIY Ornament

Tuesday, 12/16, 5:30-7:00PM

Design your own ornaments with paint, glitter, ribbons, and more. For grades 6-12.

### Cookie House Building (Grades K-5)

Wednesday, 12/17, 4:00-4:30PM

& 5:00-5:30PM

Build mini cookie houses with graham crackers and candy.

### Greek Mythology for Teens

Thursday, 12/18, 5:00-6:00PM

Learn Ancient Greek myths and culture through games and fun activities. For Grades 5-12.

### Baby Time: Music & Movement

Friday, 12/19, 10:30-11:30AM

Dance, sing, and play to build coordination and early learning skills. For ages 1-4.

### Candyland: The Live Board Game

Tuesday, 12/30, 1:00-4:00PM

Walk through a life-size Candyland board game and win small prizes; costumes encouraged. For families.

### Noon Year's Eve Celebration

Wednesday, 12/31, 11:00AM-12:30PM

Countdown to 2026 at noon with games, activities, and balloons. For families.

## POP-UP DONATED JEWELRY SALE - DEC. 14

The Friends of the Summit Free Public Library will hold a Gold & Silver Pop-Up Jewelry Sale at the Library, 75 Maple Street, on Saturday, December 14, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Proceeds from the sale support Library programs and services that are not covered by the regular budget, including free museum passes, music programs, new technology, and more. Jewelry donations are accepted year-round at the Library.

Membership is open year-round, and info is available at the Library and on website at [summitfriendsofthelibrary.wildapricot.org](http://summitfriendsofthelibrary.wildapricot.org).

The Friends of the Summit Free Public Library is a volunteer organization of residents dedicated to enhancing Library services. Membership and donations are tax-deductible. For any questions, please email [sfplfriends@gmail.com](mailto:sfplfriends@gmail.com).




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## ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPERA SPECTACULAR - DEC 7



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)

OPERA AT FLORHAM IS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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 an afternoon of 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, 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](http://operaatflorham.org). Purchase in advance on line or at the door.

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**The Duprees**  
Special Guest: Anthony Duke Claus

**Sunday, December 14 - 6pm**

**Holiday Rock CONCERT**  
**HUMAN WHEELS**  
**The Music of Mellencamp**  
Tommy Scro's  
**ROCK & ROLL FANTASY**  
**BAD CO**

**Sunday, February 15 - 3pm**



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Organ Recitals After Services on December 3 and 17

### Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

Family Service with Eucharist at 4:00 p.m.

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.

### Sunday Mornings

Services with Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School, Youth & Adult Forum at 8:45 a.m.

### Livestream available

Visit our website at [www.famfaith.org](http://www.famfaith.org)

**Facebook** at Faith Lutheran, New Providence

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## A JOYFUL FREE FAMILY CONCERT - DEC 13

The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) invites music lovers of all ages to celebrate the season at its annual Holiday Spirit concert on Saturday, December 13 at 2:00 p.m. at Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School in Summit, NJ. Admission is free, with suggested donations of \$10 per person gratefully accepted. The concert will also be livestreamed and recorded, with details available at [www.njio.org](http://www.njio.org).

This festive event brings together NJIO's three orchestras—Prelude, Intermezzo, and Symphony—for one joyful performance that showcases musicians of many ages and skill levels performing side by side. The program features a playful mix of holiday and family-friendly favorites, including Reineke's Toy Symphony, Vivaldi's Winter, and the always-rousing Radetzky March (complete with audience clapping). Concertgoers can also join in the fun with a sing-along of classic carols and hand-held percussion instruments for "Sleigh Ride" to close the concert.

Following the performance, families are invited to stay for NJIO's Instrument Petting Zoo, sponsored by Elefante Music, where children can meet musicians and try out orchestral instruments.

Thanks to a generous \$4,000 grant from The Summit Foundation, this year's Holiday Spirit concert will feature extra touches of fun, including printed program books for the sing-along and "instrument passports" for young concertgoers to collect stamps as they explore the Petting Zoo.

This concert is made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Summit Foundation, Instrument Petting Zoo sponsor Elefante Music, Allison Ziefert Real Estate Group - Compass, and our season sponsors: the Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation, The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack Foundation, Standish Foundation, and many other generous supporters. NJIO is a proud participating organization in the Families First Discovery Pass Program, a program of the NJ Departments of Health and Human Services.



(above) Future orchestra member tries out the cello at the Instrument Petting Zoo

### ABOUT THE NEW JERSEY INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA

NJIO is committed to ensuring that its programs and concerts are accessible. For more information regarding the concert or to inquire about patron services, please contact NJIO at [info@njio.org](mailto:info@njio.org), or visit NJIO's website [www.njio.org](http://www.njio.org)

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra, now in its 32nd season, has been nationally recognized as a leader in intergenerational excellence through its unique approach to teaching musical performance and as a model for intergenerational orchestras across the country. Depending on space availability, NJIO welcomes new members of all ages and abilities each concert period to one of its orchestras – no auditions needed!

The Holiday Spirit concert is the second of four free NJIO performances this season. Upcoming concerts include the Winter Concert on March 1, 2026 at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark and the Spring Concert on May 3, 2026 at 3 p.m. at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield.

## ONE HAPPY FAMILY - KICKS OFF 2025-26

The Summit Symphony Orchestra begins its 2025-26 season, celebrating 87 years of free concerts in Summit, on Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 p.m., at Summit High School.

The concert, titled "One Happy Family" will explore the different families of instruments that make up an orchestra.

Music Director Michael Avagliano will lead the orchestra in performances of Strauss's Serenade for Winds, Gabrieli's Canzon per sonar septimi toni a 8, Barber's Adagio for Strings and Brahms Symphony No. 2.

The Summit Symphony has been providing free orchestral concerts for the Summit area since 1938. Their 2025-26 season will include 3 performances, on December 7, March 15, and May 17.

For more information about the Summit Symphony Orchestra please visit our website, [summitsymphony.org](http://summitsymphony.org), and be sure to follow on Facebook @ Summit Symphony Orchestra.

**SUMMIT / SYMPHONY** MICHAEL AVAGLIANO  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

*One Happy Family*

**SUNDAY 2 pm DECEMBER 7**

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## GALAXIES OF JOY: THE PLANETS IN CONCERT

Wharton Arts' New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) invites audiences to journey across the cosmos at Galaxies of Joy: The Planets in Concert on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. on the UCPAC's Main Stage in Rahway, New Jersey. A Celestial Celebration Featuring Holst's The Planets with NASA Visuals and a World Premiere by NJYS Composer Oliver Kahng.

Led by Artistic Director & Principal Conductor Helen H. Cha-Pyo, this spectacular concert features Gustav Holst's iconic orchestral suite, The Planets, accompanied by stunning, high-definition NASA imagery from the NASA Scientific Visualization Studio (SVS). As the symphony journeys through Mars, Venus, Jupiter, and beyond, vivid visuals drawn from space telescope data and interplanetary missions will illuminate the music's grandeur—transforming the concert hall into a breathtaking voyage through the solar system. (Video credit: NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio, [svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/12880](https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/12880).)

Adding to the excitement, the program includes the world premiere of PLUTO: The Gatekeeper to the Underworld by Oliver Kahng,

a senior at Regis High School and a member of the NJYS Youth Symphony. Kahng's original composition offers a contemporary continuation to Holst's planetary suite, inspired by Pluto's mythological and astronomical legacy.

Said Cha-Pyo, "At this magical time of year, there's no better gift to share with family and friends than The Planets, one of the most beloved works in the symphonic repertoire, brought to life with breathtaking NASA visuals and the remarkable artistry of our NJYS Youth Symphony. This concert celebrates the wonder that connects music and imagination, featuring Pluto, a new work by one of our own student composers. I invite you to join us on a truly inspiring journey through sound and creativity."

"Experiencing Holst's The Planets with NASA's stunning visuals creates an unforgettable celestial journey," said Executive Director Gina Caruso. "Premiering a new work by one of our own young composers makes the evening even more special, highlighting the imagination and creativity of our students at the New Jersey Youth Symphony."

Tickets are \$24 for adults and \$19 for students and seniors, available at [UCPAC.org](https://ucpac.org).

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

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 Sistema-inspired 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) NJYS Youth Symphony, conducted by Helen H. Cha-Pyo, will present Galaxies of Joy: The Planets in Concert will be presented on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., at UCPAC's Main Stage, Rahway, NJ. Tickets available at: [UCPAC.org](https://ucpac.org)

Courtesy Photo

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# SUMMIT COMES TOGETHER TO FEED FAMILIES IN NEED

*Submitted by Melanie Wilson*

A little girl sat squished in the shopping cart among boxes of pasta, cans of fruit, and packages of dried beans, while her brother shopped in the aisle, asking his mom what was next on the grocery list.

"Pasta, fruit, beans," she said as they went. But this was not about filling their own pantry. They were packing a "Bag of Hope" for families in Summit who could not afford groceries right now.

Their mom, Angela Seavy, Assistant Director of Special Services for Summit Public Schools, was taking part too. The schools had asked families to help, and like hundreds of others, she and her children showed up ready to do their part.

For parents, it was a chance to show their kids what community service really looks like. Sure, writing a check is still important, because GRACE, the local nonprofit that provides food and essentials to Summit families in need, relies on donations to keep the program running. But in this case, kids could also see it, touch it, and be part of it. Helping your neighbors wasn't just an idea—it was something you could actually do, aisle by aisle, bag by bag.

All over Summit, families were doing the same thing. Simple shopping trips turned into lessons in generosity and empathy. Some parents said their children asked questions about why families might need help, and it opened up conversations about kindness, responsibility, and the impact of their actions.

Even before families went out to shop and pack bags, GRACE was feeling the strain. By the third week of October, the nonprofit noticed an uptick in families needing help. Many households that rely on SNAP benefits had already run out of funds for the month and worried their November benefits would not arrive.

The monthly in-kind donations and USDA allocations arrived on October 29, and GRACE found the shelf-stable and frozen goods were far less than usual. Protein sources were also greatly affected. Meat and egg prices had jumped, making it harder to stretch our donations. Filling the gap with outside purchases would have cost at least

\$30,000, well beyond the nonprofit's budget.

When the county announced there was no emergency SNAP distribution and not enough staff to run one, GRACE knew it was time to call on its community.

"Our friends and partner organizations always say to just ask when we need help," said Amanda Block, Founder of GRACE. "A call to the JLS Community VP solidified the idea."

The Junior League of Summit acted as the anchor donor organization, committing the first pledges for donated grocery bags. After the JLS made their commitment, Block reached out to local churches and community groups to respond to growing need. The Summit Public Schools also answered the call, delivering 288 bags prior to the NJ Teachers Convention. Soon, additional grocery bags were pledged from Brandywine, Central Presbyterian Church, Calvary Church, the Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, St. John's, and the Summit Democrats.

Most of the remaining bags arrived on Sunday, November 9, with the Summit Fire Department helping to receive and store hundreds of them. Calvary Church expanded its pledge from 300 bags to 1,000 and staged a bagging event where 200 volunteers worked side by side, turning pledges into real grocery bags.

At Calvary Church, volunteers started arriving early. By the time bagging began, people were lined up like they were waiting for a big event, ready to help. Kids joined in too, coloring notes and writing messages that went into each bag.

"It was amazing! People were lined up like they were waiting for heaven to help us. We had children coloring notes and writing messages that went into each bag," said Cynthia Falco.

More than 1,600 Bags of Hope have now been collected, with a few more arriving each day. These bags contain groceries that help GRACE families feel that they have what they want and need in order to feed their families. Thanks to the generosity of the Summit community, GRACE is now well stocked in shelf-stable goods for all of November and possibly into the first week of



*(above) Andrew and Julia, Children of Angela Seavy (Assistant Director of Special Services for Summit Public Schools), filled their shopping cart with essential items on their Bags of Hope grocery list for GRACE.*

Courtesy Photo

December.

"Each bag might seem simple, but together they make a real difference," said Block. "They give families food, yes. They provide comfort and stability. But even more than that, they show just what can happen when neighbors respond to a need and step in to help. This was a massive, rapid mobilization effort, showing the kind of community spirit that makes Summit a place that people want to call home."

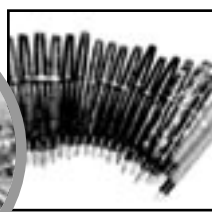
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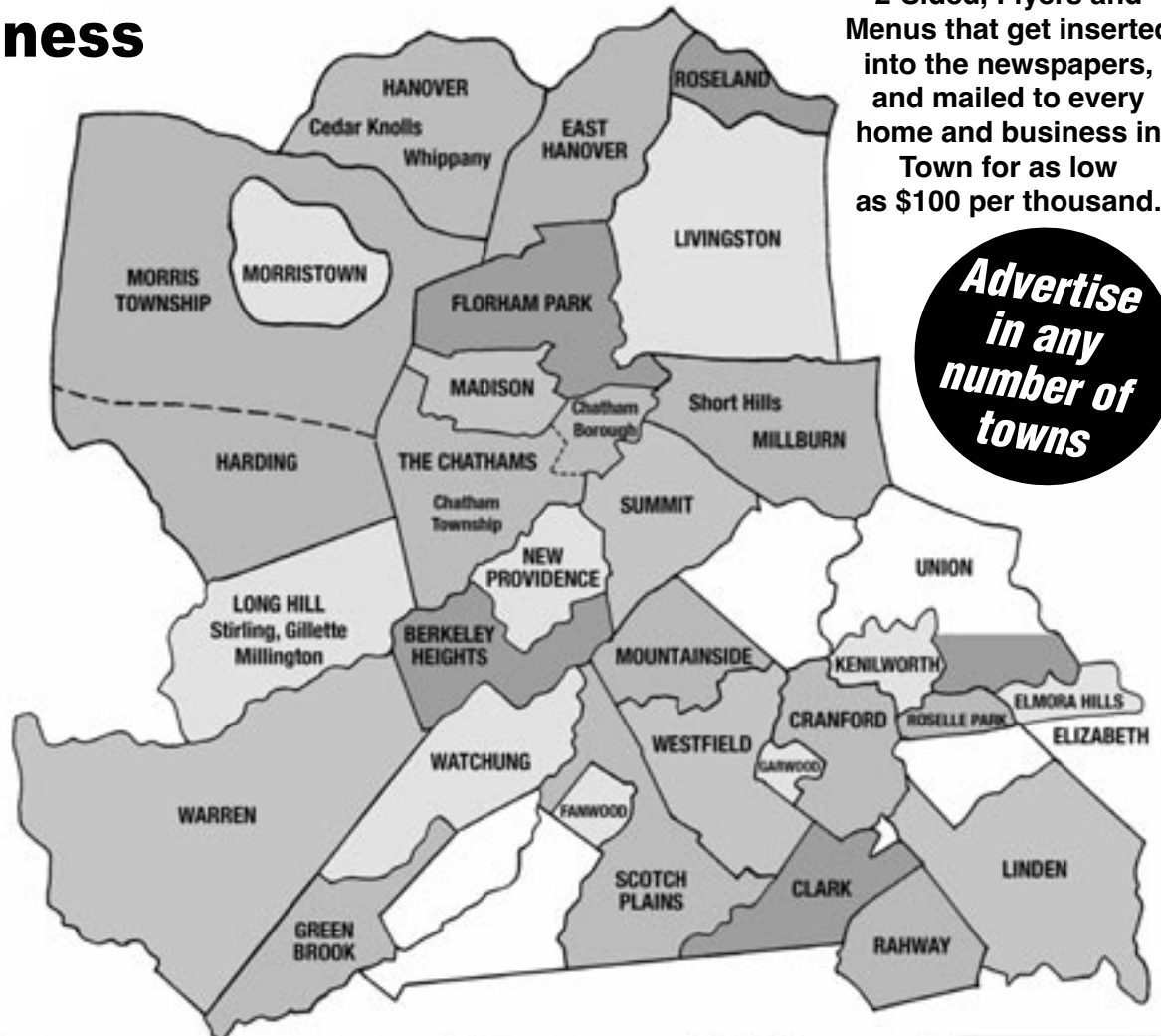
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