

## SOUNDS OF THE SEASON FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT

Townley Presbyterian Church, together with the Salem Roadhouse Café, is pleased to sponsor the third annual "Sounds Of The Season" Christmas celebration music show on Saturday, December 6 at 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Townley Presbyterian Church is located at 829 Salem Road, Union, NJ. Admission is free.

The concert will be held in the church sanctuary, specially decorated for Christmas with lighting and an upgraded sound system. Performers will do their renditions of Christmas songs – all live.

Featured performers are: Monroe Quinn, guitar; Kayla

Richardson, vocals; Four The Record, vocal group; Carrie Jackson, piano and vocals; Stephen Fuller, Vocals, Gerson Galante and Justin Jaworski on guitar and sax; Cynthia and Jeff Manno, vocals and piano; Bill Jensen, church organist; the Townley Church Choir and more. An audience sing-along is also planned.

There will be an opportunity for a free-will offering to benefit the church's "Blessing Room," an aspect of the ministry that provides needed items for needy people. Such items include clothing and small household items for families and individuals.



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7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

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**KAYLA RICHARDSON, FOUR THE RECORD**  
**CARRIE JACKSON, STEPHEN FULLER**  
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**ROBERT HILL, CYNTHIA & JEFF MANNO**  
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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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Lawton C Johnson Summit Middle School  
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 Scan to learn more at [NJIO.org](http://NJIO.org)

# 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.

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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.

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- Enroll in a Prescription Drug Plan or change your Prescription Drug Plan.
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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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**Sunday, December 14 - 6pm**

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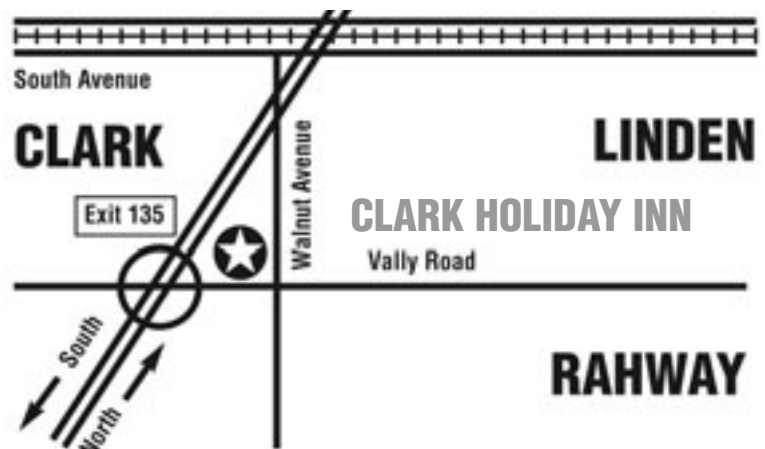
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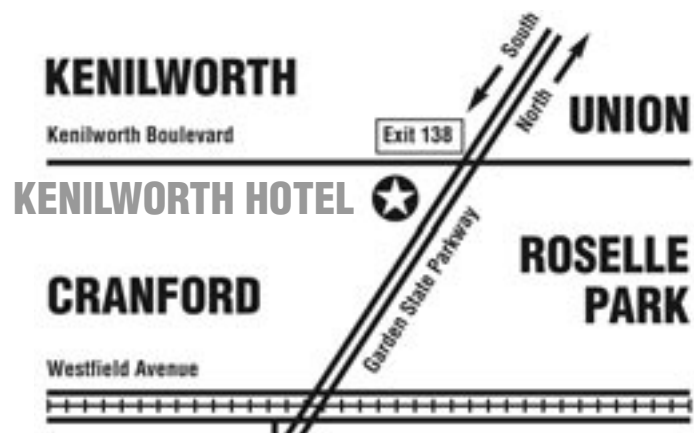


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## FREE ZOOM SERIES - MATERIAL CULTURE AND HOLOCAUST MEMORY

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.

"The tactile and deep human connection to objects and artifacts tells of individuals' lives and communal experiences during World War II and offers powerful insights into the history of the Holocaust," Dr. West explains. "In the ghettos, concentration camps, and places of hiding, both women and men crafted and saved meaningful items that preserved memories, expressed identity, and sustained their spiritual life under impossible conditions."

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



(above) Dr. Angela West, adjunct professor in Drew University's Holocaust Studies Dept.

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.

Dr. West emphasizes, "Understanding this 'material culture' is particularly helpful to know, especially as the survivor generation continues to shrink and soon the tactile 'things' will be all that remain."

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).

## CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPERA SPECTACULAR



*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)  
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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.

### 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 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.

### UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

- Sunday, February 15, 2026  
– Valentine Serenade
  - Sunday, April 12, 2026  
– Revenge, Romance & Revelry: Scenes from Die Fledermaus
  - Sunday, May 17, 2026  
– 36th International Vocal Competition
- Founded in 1982, Opera at Florham is northern New Jersey's premier Opera company, presenting annual concerts, the International Vocal Competition, and the Opera Talk educational series.

# UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY DECEMBER EVENTS

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## Mahalia Jackson: Film & Community Discussion (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Mon. December 1st @ 5:45 pm

Mahalia Jackson was an American gospel singer, widely considered one of the most influential vocalists of the 20th century. With a career spanning 40 years, Jackson was integral to the development and spread of gospel blues in black churches throughout the U.S. Please join us as we watch a documentary that chronicles her life from her early days in New Orleans to her rise to international fame. A community discussion will follow after the film.

## Wednesday Night Trivia: Food & Drink (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Wed. December 3rd @ 6:00 pm

Are you a foodie? Maybe you enjoy a fine drink? Please join us for a night full of fun and prizes as we test your knowledge on food and drink!

## Soul Train: A Film & Community Discussion (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Sat. December 6th @ 1:00 pm

Soul Train is an American musical variety television show that aired for 35 years that primarily featured performances by R&B, soul, and hip hop artists. Please join us as we watch a documentary on the show and its creator, Don Cornelius. A community discussion will follow after the film.

## Vauxhall Branch Library Community Advocacy Group (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Mon., December 8th @ 6:00 pm

Are you a resident of Vauxhall? Are you a frequent user of the Vauxhall Branch Library? Do you have ideas on how to improve the library? Come join us as we discuss ideas to improve the branch.

## Winter Glass Painting (Main Library)

Tues. December 9th @ 6:00 pm

Check in at the Union Public Library and learn to paint on a piece of glass! Returning art instructor Lynn Schwartz will lead patrons through this special project of painting on glass objects. All supplies and materials will be provided. Seats are limited so register today!

## Library Karaoke! (Main Library)

Wed. December 10th @ 6:00 pm

Do you think you can sing better than Whitney or Taylor? Maybe you have better moves than the King of Pop? Please join us for some fun and meet some new people as we sing some music hits.

## Setting your Intentions for Union Seniors (Main Library)

Thur. December 11th @ 6:00 pm

Stop by at the Union Public Library and meet with Union County Surrogate Christopher Hudak. They will be presenting about estate planning, probating wills, filing administration (without a will), duties as the Surrogate, guardianship, POA, and much more! There will even be an opportunity for a Q&A at the end with Surrogate Hudak to answer any additional or specific questions you may have.

## Kwanzaa 2025 Celebration (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Sat. December 13th @ 12:00 pm

Please join us as storyteller, Ms. Shirley Johnson, leads attendees in a community celebration of Kwanzaa with storytelling and music. Ms. Johnson comes to us from Sankofa Stories and is a long-time teacher and storyteller of multicultural and African-American tales. Chef Jesse Jones returns as he stirs up another food demonstration of a special dish specifically for Kwanzaa, his Southern style Beignets. Chef Jesse Jones is a renowned chef and author known for his modern approach to southern cuisine.

## Build Your Balance (Main Library)

Wed. December 19th @ 10:30 am

It's more important than ever to avoid the risks of falling as we age. Through gentle strength exercises, and stepping strategies, learn to keep your body balanced in different situations.

## Union Public Library's Silent Book Club (Main Library)

Mon. December 22nd @ 6:00 pm

Join us for Union Public Library's Silent Book Club. There's no assigned reading. All readers are welcome to join in, from fiction and non-fiction to ebooks and more! Bring your own book and join us as we read in quiet camaraderie.

## ESL Conversation Group (Main Library)

Tues. December 23rd @ 5:30 pm

Join us at the Union Public Library for our English Conversation Group. English is a major barrier to health for many within our community. This ESL-adjacent program offers monthly, 2-hour group sessions to support English speaking, writing, and listening skills. While loosely structured, sessions are informal and use ESL books, games, audio lessons, and role play to build proficiency with the English language.

## Black Candle Movie Viewing (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Sat. December 27th @ 1:00 pm

Please join us for a viewing of the landmark documentary, Black Candle, which is the first feature film on Kwanzaa. The documentary traces the holiday's growth out of the Black Power Movement in the 1960s to its present-day reality as a global, pan-African holiday embraced by over millions of celebrants. A community discussion will take place after the documentary.

## Vauxhall Negro League Baseball Club (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Mon. December 29th @ 6:00 pm

Are you a baseball fan and love history? Perhaps you are a fan of Satchel Paige or the Kansas City Monarchs? Come join us where our goal is to preserve the history of Negro League Baseball. Our meetings will consist of presentations, discussions, film viewings, book talks, and much more.

## Meditation (Virtual on Zoom)


Mondays @ 6:30 pm

Join Bindu Bhatt for a virtual evening meditation session. No prior experience is necessary. Bindu has practiced meditation for over 30 years and wants to share her insight.

## Chair Yoga (Main Library)

Tuesdays in December @ 9:15 am

Take a deep breath with friends and stretch! From beginners to professionals, join this popular class as a weekly series. Presented by the Gateway Family YMCA. Space is limited, please register to secure your chair!



**JOIN THE UNION MUNICIPAL BAND**

IF YOU ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MUSIC & EAGER TO JOIN A FRIENDLY, TALENTED GROUP, CONTACT US TODAY! Rehearsals are scheduled every Monday evening from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM at Hannah Caldwell School (1120 Commerce Ave)

HELP THE BAND GROW UNION'S MUSICAL HERITAGE!

CONTACT OUR REC. DEPARTMENT  
[recreation@uniontownship.com](mailto:recreation@uniontownship.com)  
or call 908-686-4200



Join Us for the Learned Kindred of Currie's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Production

# THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

Answer the call of the pipes and drums.

| BOSTON  |   |
|---|---|
| December 5 <sup>th</sup><br>at 7:00 PM                              | December 6 <sup>th</sup><br>at 12:00 PM           |
| NEW YORK CITY   | SUMMIT  |
| December 13 <sup>th</sup><br>at 2:00 PM                             | December 14 <sup>th</sup><br>at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM |
| WEBCAST   |   |
| December 19 <sup>th</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup><br>available on demand |   |



Full details at [pipesofchristmas.com](http://pipesofchristmas.com)

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

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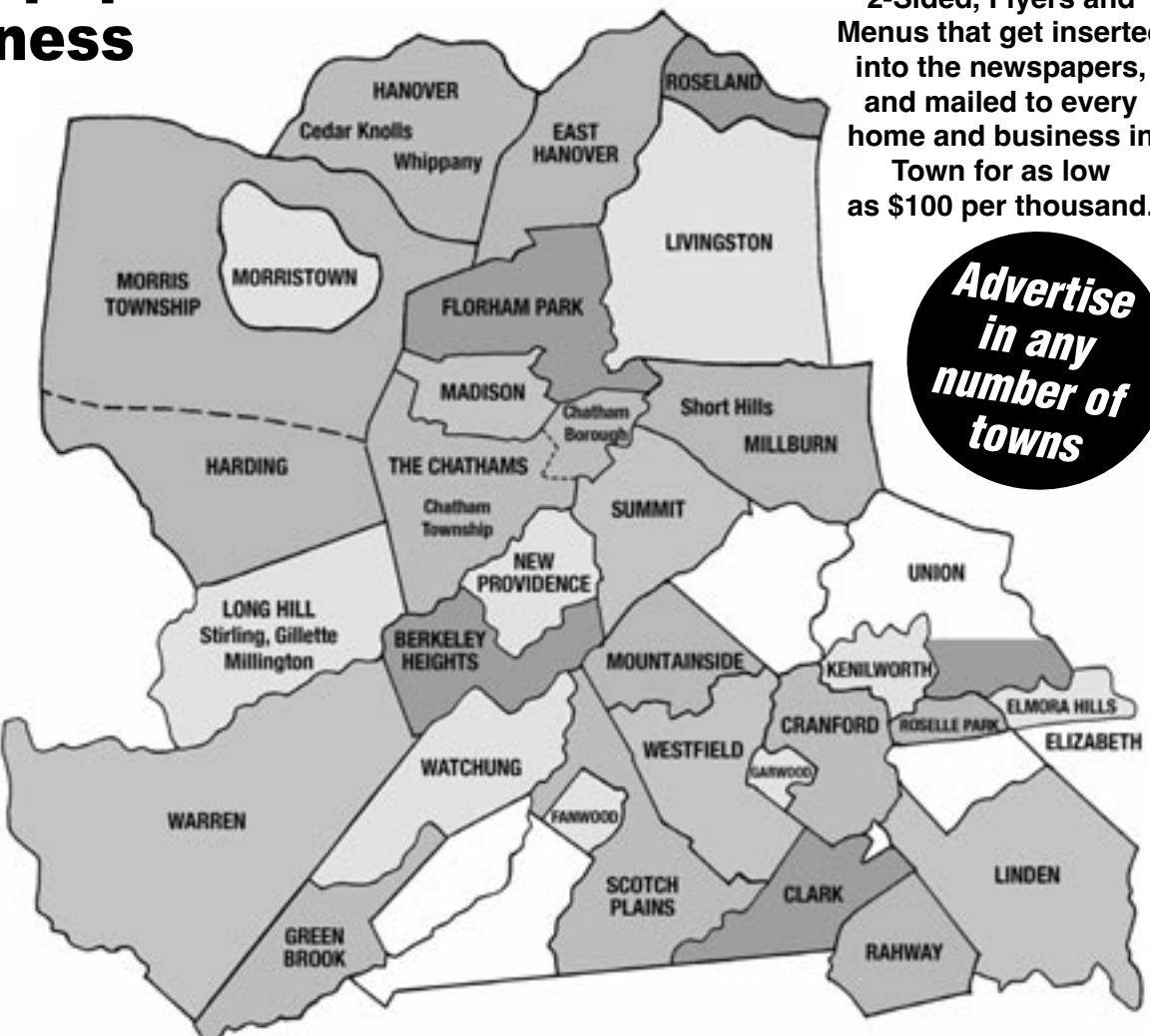
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# TWO CONCERTS: HOLIDAY TENORS & BROADWAY THROUGH THE AGES

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

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.*

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## BROADWAY THROUGH THE AGES




**WED, Dec 31 at 5:00**      **THURS, Jan 1 at 2:30**  
Westfield High School      Sieminski Theater

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**TOWNSHIP OF UNION POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS**

# SANTA-IN-BLUE TOY DRIVE

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Calling all volunteers, we need you this holiday season! Children are the "reason for the season," and our annual "Santa in Blue" program helps make Christmas morning that much more special to children. Your valuable and selfless efforts in gift sorting and wrapping will further enhance our mission in helping families in need.

**10:00AM to 1:00PM**

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**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13th**



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## DROP LOCATIONS

**Main Library**  
1980 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ

**& Vauxhall Branch Library**  
123 Hilton Avenue, Vauxhall, NJ

# Galaxies of Joy:

## The Planets in Concert

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

The Main Stage at UCPAC, Rahway

\$24/Adults, \$19/Students & Seniors



**NJYS Youth Symphony:**

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Conductor

**John P. Stevens High School Treble Choir:**

Regina McElroy and Matthew Lee, Directors

Featuring Gustav Holst's  
*The Planets* and stunning  
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**World Premiere! PLUTO: The Gatekeeper to the Underworld**  
by NJYS Youth Symphony member, Oliver Kahng.



Tickets available at **UCPAC.org**

**New Jersey Youth Symphony**

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Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director & Principal Conductor