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Cub Scout Pack 172

Westfield's Franklin School Cub Scout Pack 172 made cards and decorations for the troops serving both at home and overseas. The Cub Scouts are one of the many organizations and classes throughout Westfield, Cranford, Kenilworth & Scotch Plains-Fanwood that participated in making more than 4,000 handmade cards, ornaments and decorations that were sent all over the world by several organizations including the American Legion in Westfield and local mom, Colby Sheppard.

In addition to making cards & crafts, they learned how our "Freedom isn't Free," and how members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard have dedicated their lives to protecting us, all over the world not just today, but over the decades.

During the event, they listened to how the Troops and Vets appreciate all of the hand written letters and viewed pictures of "real soldiers" (standing in front of planes used in wartime).

A big thank you to this generous community, who over the past 17 years, has supported Mrs. Sheppard in collecting over 50,000 Cards, Letters and Ornaments to help our Troops' Holidays a little brighter & feel appreciated!

Thank you to all the schools, scouts, churches and individuals that participated in brightening the troops' lives this holiday season.



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CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO MAKE GINGERBREAD HOUSES - SUNDAY, DEC. 7TH



(above) Gordana Harris with an orange pomander craft.
Courtesy Photo

Miller Cory House Museum

Spicy sweet gingerbread is a special part of the holiday season. On Sunday, Dec. 7th from 1:30 - 4 p.m., children are invited to make a decorative, non-edible gingerbread house, and one additional craft to take home, and will hear “gingery” stories. Members of the Cooking Committee will also demonstrate early American recipes using ginger over the open hearth. Suggested age: 3 (with assistance for crafts) through elementary school. \$5 per child; accompanying adults free. Reservations are required.

Call the museum at 908-232-1776 or email millercorymuseum@gmail.com to place yours. Please include your phone number in the reservation.

The Miller Cory House Museum is located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, NJ. Since 1968, the 501(c)(3) non-profit Miller Cory House Museum/Westfield Historical Society has worked to preserve, interpret and encourage interest in history, Westfield, and its residents through educational efforts and community outreach programs. For more information on the Miller Cory House Museum/Westfield Historical Society and their events visit westfieldhistoricalsociety.org.

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HIGH SCHOOL WIND ENSEMBLE TO PERFORM AT STATE CONFERENCE

Submitted by Katherine De Vito

The Westfield High School Wind Ensemble has been invited to perform at the 2026 New Jersey Music Educators Association State Conference (NJMEA), one of the highest honors a New Jersey school music program can receive. The conference will take place this February at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

Each year, the NJMEA invites select ensembles to perform at the conference, showcasing the finest music programs from

across the state for an audience of more than 1,000 New Jersey music educators.

“We are incredibly proud that our students have been selected to represent Westfield,” said Mr. Chris Vitale, Director of Bands. “The last time the Westfield Band received this distinction was in 2017, making this a truly special and historic moment for our program. The accomplishments of our Westfield Band program continue to serve as a source of pride for our school and community.”

The Wind Ensemble will be joined by Christopher Bill, a professional trombonist, arranger, and YouTube artist, who will appear as a guest soloist. Prior to the conference, he will spend several days in Westfield working with all of the band students, culminating in a collaborative performance alongside the Wind Ensemble at the conference in Atlantic City.

Congratulations to all of the students - especially the Class of 2025 who submitted the recording that earned this distinguished invitation.



(above) The Westfield High School Wind Ensemble

Phot: Alfred Braza Photography

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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.

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.

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.



(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.

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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 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. Purchase in advance on line or at the door.

OPERAS ON FILM

Mountainside Rescue Squad
Operas on Film, now in its 12th season is held at the Mountainside Rescue Squad. The selected films from famous opera houses throughout the world, will be played with subtitles on the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. hosted by Mena Clemson and Norma Huber, Jr. It is free to attend. Whether you are an opera buff or an opera neophyte, you are invited to join us for the following films:

December 12th, I LOMBARDI
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The Westfield Service League's Grant Applications for 2026 is Now Open

At The Westfield Service League's Thrift & Consignment Shops, community and service have been our mission for over 90 years. And one of our greatest accomplishments is being able to offer our grants program to non-profit organizations serving the Westfield and Union County communities.

To date, we have been able to award close to \$3 million from our net proceeds to organizations that are making a real difference in the lives of others. So whether you're feeding families, mentoring youth, protecting the environment or lifting up those in crisis — your work matters and we want to help you do even more.

Over the years, we have supported after school programs for kids and educational programs for adults, food pantries that provide dignity and nourishment, shelters offering safety and hope and a host of other important causes. And last year, we awarded over \$90,000 to over 40 deserving organizations.

We are now accepting applications and want to hear your story. Email us at wslgrants@gmail.com. Your organization must be a 501(c)(3) that serves the Westfield and Union County communities.

Applications and supporting documents must be received no later than January 26, 2026 (no exceptions) by emailing them to

wslgrants@gmail.com. Or, if you prefer, drop it off or mail it to: The Westfield Service League, Attn: Jane Franz & Michele Williams, Grants Program Chairpersons, 114 Elmer Street, Westfield, NJ 07090. Our grant committee is made up of a select group of our members and we will personally meet with you to discuss your application in detail.

The Shops are open Tuesday-Friday, 9:30-4 and Saturdays, 10-4. For more information, call our Thrift Shop at 908-233-2530 or our Consignment Shop at 908-232-1223.

Let's continue to build a stronger, more compassionate community together. Apply by January 26, 2026. We'd love to hear from you.

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(above) The Westfield Service League's Grant Applications for 2026 is Now Open.

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ROSEMARY SHIRE AWARDED HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TO GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club of Westfield has awarded Honorary Membership to Rosemary Shire in recognition and appreciation for her 23 years of outstanding service to the club.

As a Garden of the Month committee co-chair, Rosemary draws on her experience as an enthusiastic home gardener and her 20 years as a Union County Master Gardener. The Garden of the Month recognizes gardens that can be seen from the street to thank the property owner for beautifying our town and to encourage others to get out and garden.

As a hands-on gardener, Rosemary serves on the committee for the club's five large planters that bring beauty to the downtown corners at East Broad and Elm Streets.

As an art enthusiast, Rosemary is a popular speaker with her insightful programs on the depiction of landscapes and flowers in art that reflect the cultural importance of the natural world through the ages.

Rosemary's joy shines through her publicity and Facebook posts, as well as the interesting monthly outings that she helps organize for club members and her regular help with our civic projects and park gardens. Her dedication to the club led her to serve four years (two terms) as President.

The Garden Club of Westfield is pleased to honor Rosemary whose commitment continues to

help the club to bloom, celebrate gardening, and serve the community.

The club invites you to follow it on Facebook at facebook.com/TheGardenClubofWestfield. For information about membership or the club, contact us at gardenclubofwestfield@gmail.com.



(above) Rosemary Shire

Courtesy Photo

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Submitted by Margaret Allen

Members of the Garden Club of Westfield demonstrated the art of flower pounding at AppleFest, held at the Reeve House, home of the Westfield Historical Society on October 18. Visitors were invited to sit down and give it a try. All ages joyously selected fresh flowers from the club's display and pounded away to create their own unique bookmark to take home. A lady gardener scarecrow, created by member Cary Prisch especially for the occasion, stood watch over all.

*Follow on Facebook at
TheGardenClubofWestfield.*



(above, l-r) Margaret Allen, Cary Prisch,
Merrilyn Crane.

Courtesy Photo



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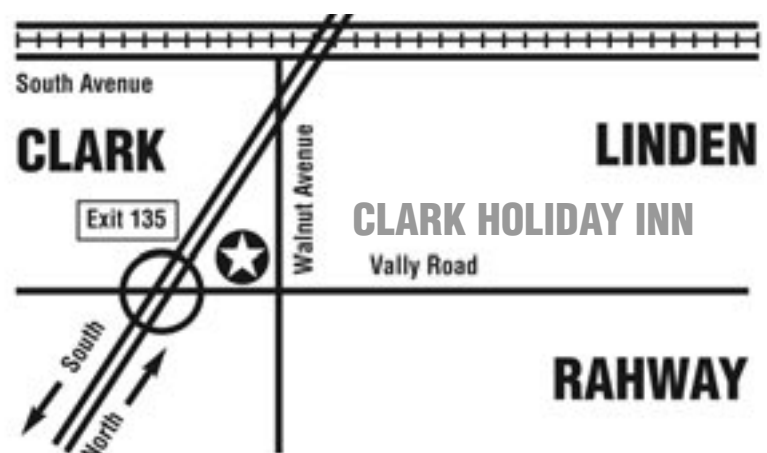
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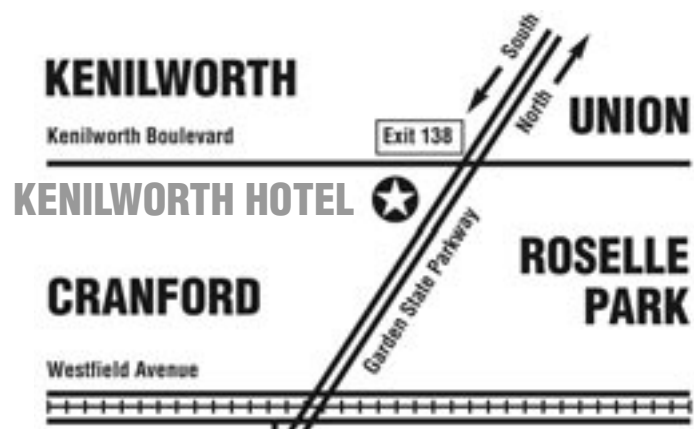
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BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT TWIN MAPLES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AWARDEES

The Westfield Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) presented its 2025 Harry Devlin Commendations for outstanding efforts in historic preservation at a ceremony on Monday, November 17, in the Council Chambers at 425 E. Broad Street. Seven property owners were recognized and three honorary awards were bestowed. Named for Harry Devlin, a noted artist and architectural historian who was one of the founding judges, the awards honor properties that exemplify historically-appropriate renovations and additions.

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY HONOREES INCLUDE

- Anastasia Harrison
23 Stoneleigh Park (Restoration),
- Peter Kraus and Lorenzo Martin
848 Embree Crescent
(Restoration and Painting),
- Leo and Jessica Dubrovsky
416 Elm Street
(Restoration and Sensitive Addition),
- Joseph and Leslie Barmakian
258 E. Dudley Ave. (Painting).
- Victor and Andrea Mohl
612-618 Westfield Ave. were honored in the newly created category of outstanding stewardship of an historic property.

TWO COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES WERE RECOGNIZED FOR ADAPTIVE REUSE:

- Maize Cocina and Cocktails for transforming the former 19th-century train station into a 21st century restaurant
- The Lenox House at 227 Lenox Ave. for successful conversion of an office building into residential units.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

- Julie Diddell, Executive Director of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NJ, for her efforts in building heritage tourism around the March to Yorktown
- Westfield's Charles Addams Trail.
- Tony and Dennis Annese of Denton Management were honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding stewardship of their historic downtown properties.

Established in 1984 by municipal ordinance, Westfield's Historic Preservation Commission is charged with preserving historical sites and structures while fostering an appreciation for these landmarks as an essential element of the town's unique character. For more information on the Devlin Awards program, please visit westfieldnj.gov/historicpreservation.

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



The Fortnightly Club of Summit
presents
SANTA
at Twin Maples

214 SPRINGFIELD AVE, SUMMIT NJ
Breakfast • Brunch with Santa
Photos with Santa • Live Music • Nutcracker Theme

Sat. Dec. 6 9:15 or 11:15
Sun. Dec. 7 9:15 or 11:15
\$45 Adults \$20 Children (under 12)

Tickets
www.fortnightlyclub.com
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(above) Santa visits with children at Twin Maples beside the Club's Annual Mitten Tree

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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.

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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 to request a quote. Consultations are free of charge.



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George A. Sosa Jr.
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PIPES OF CHRISTMAS RETURNS TO SUMMIT DECEMBER 14



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	
December 5th at 7:00 PM	December 6th at 12:00 PM
NEW YORK CITY	SUMMIT
December 13th at 2:00 PM	December 14th at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
WEBCAST	
December 19th - 31st 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.

Christmas

at
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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

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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All programs, classes, events and concerts are accessible ensuring that everyone can participate in a diverse range of arts programming and classes.





AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS AT THE NITSCHKE HOUSE

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.



Courtesy Photo

WhartonARTS
Helen H. Cho-Pyo, Artistic Director

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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.

NEW JERSEY DAR SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

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

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

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

service and patriotism.

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

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

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

Learn more at www.DAR.org.

CAFE FOR THOSE WITH MEMORY LOSS

Christ Church, Summit, NJ

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

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

Guests socialize over a light, nutritious lunch

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

A suggested donation is \$5 per person.

RSVP is requested for menu-planning.

Contact Brenda Dodds 908 273-5549

or brenda@ccsnj.org.

Christ Church is located at

561 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ.

**CDC Theatre presents**



A Frozen Fairytale Parody

Fri. Dec. 5 8pm

Fri. Dec. 12 8pm

Sat. Dec. 6 11am & 4pm

Sat. Dec. 13 11am & 4pm

Sun. Dec. 7 2pm

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Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

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

Service of Lessons, Carols and Eucharist

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

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

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Visit our website at www.famfaith.org

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We practice an open Communion table • All are welcome!

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.

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, or visit NJIO's website 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.

CALL FOR COMMISSION VOLUNTEERS BY DEC 5

Town of Westfield

The annual open call for volunteers to fill upcoming vacancies on various boards, commissions, and committees for 2026 is now open on our website at

westfieldnj.gov/volunteer.

The talent and eagerness of our residents to volunteer are Westfield's biggest assets, and we are grateful to those who step up to devote their time and energy to benefit us all. The deadline to apply is Friday, December 5.

CDC Theatre presents

FROSTED

A Frozen Fairytale Parody

Fri. Dec. 5 8pm	Fri. Dec. 12 8pm
Sat. Dec. 6 11am & 4pm	Sat. Dec. 13 11am & 4pm
Sun. Dec. 7 2pm	Sun. Dec. 14 2pm

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GALAXIES OF JOY: THE PLANETS IN CONCERT - DEC 13

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, sv.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.

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

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(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

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