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## 17TH ANNUAL TURKEY TROT RAISES OVER \$35,000

The 17th Annual Chatham Turkey Trot once again brought the community together on Thanksgiving morning for a 1 Mile Family Fun Run and USA Track & Field certified 5K Race through the scenic Highlands section of Chatham Township, NJ. This year's event raised more than \$35,000, bringing the race's total fundraising since inception to over \$365,000. The event was dedicated to the memory of Kevin Myler, a devoted father, friend, and neighbor who passed away unexpectedly earlier this month.

"There is nothing quite like the energy in Chatham on Thanksgiving morning, when families, friends, and neighbors fill the streets to run, cheer, and give back," said Curt Ritter, Founder & President of The Chatham Turkey Trot. "This year's race was dedicated to honoring the memory of our friend and neighbor, Kevin Myler, and we

are proud to have raised more than \$35,000 to support first responders, diabetes research and education, and veterans. It is this spirit of generosity and community that truly defines the Turkey Trot."

### ABOUT THE CHATHAM TURKEY TROT

The Chatham Turkey Trot organizes and hosts the annual Chatham Turkey Trot, a 1 Mile Family Fun Run and 5K Race in which runners race through the scenic Highlands section of Chatham Township, NJ on Thanksgiving Day. Since 2009, The Chatham Turkey Trot has raised more than \$365,000 for the Chatham Township Volunteer Fire Department, the Chatham Emergency Squad, Chatham Township PBA #170, the Diabetes Research Institute, The Barton Center for Diabetes Education, and Tunnel to Towers. Like us on Facebook or visit us at [TheChathamTurkeyTrot.org](http://TheChathamTurkeyTrot.org)



### 5K RACE WINNERS:

Male:

Sam Ellis – 16:47

Female:

Lee Anne Powers – 20:32,

Boy:

James Koscielniak - 20:00

Girl:

Madeline Lupo – 22:39

### 1 MILE FAMILY FUN RUN:

Boy:

Ben Leonard – 5:31

Girl:

Madeline Lupo – 5:30

Courtesy Photos



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THE CHATHAMS

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CONGRATS TO GIRLS HS SOCCER STATE CHAMPS



(above) School District of the Chathams congratulates the CHS Girls Soccer Team on becoming state champions. What an incredible season and an outstanding accomplishment!

Courtesy Photo

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# STUDENT FOOD DRIVE FILLS A BUS

### School District of the Chathams

On November 25th, Chatham K–2 students “stuffed the bus” with non-perishable food items there were collected to support members of our

community facing food insecurity.

The SDOC school bus made stops at MAS, SBS, and WAS for pick-ups, with a final delivery to the Helping Hands Food Pantry at The

Presbyterian Church of Chatham.

A big shout-out to all our K–2 students for their generosity, and a special thanks to our MAS students for sharing their smiles along the way!



Photos by School District of the Chathams



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# COMMUNITY INVITED TO SUBURBAN CHIROPRACTIC OPEN HOUSE - JAN 8

## LEG PAIN

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That "searing, burning pain" in your thigh and calf... that "aching, numbing" feeling in your hip and buttocks... that "tingling" in your foot and toes and loss of balance... It interferes with your ability to walk, to ride a bicycle, play golf, garden... to have **FUN IN LIFE!**


Leg pain, thigh ache and numbness, and tingling in the foot may actually be caused by a pinched back nerve even though you have NO back pain - it could even be Sciatica.

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**Dr. Joseph J. Murphy**  
Chiropractic Physician

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
The NJ and Morris Chiropractic Societies

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
The Column

Palmer Graduate

**Celebrating Our 42nd Year!**

## 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](mailto:brenda@ccsnj.org). Christ Church is located at 561 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ.

Memory Cafe of Christ Church Summit

## THE GATHERING PLACE

The first Wednesday of every month  
12 noon to 2pm  
in Lile Hall

*For those in the church and wider community with memory issues and their care partners.*

The Suburban Chiropractic Center, located at 301 Main Street in Chatham, New Jersey will be celebrating 41 years in practice with an Open House on January 8, 2026. The public is invited to stop by and enjoy refreshments and fellowship. Community service is an integral part of the practice and Dr. Murphy would like to thank his patients, as well as the local community for another successful year.

Dr. Joseph J. Murphy began the center in 1985 to offer the community a natural alternative to the traditional allopathic medical facilities in the Chatham area. They owe their success to the loyal patients who have continued with them, referred their friends and family, and their efforts to provide the highest level of service possible.

Dr. Murphy has a record of supporting the local first responders, police, fire, and emergency squad. He also focused on supporting student programs including being an advisor to the Kiwanis Club's Chatham High School Key Club. Dr. Murphy has been a member of the Chatham/Madison Kiwanis Club for over 40 years, offering his services to all their events including being a guest speaker. He especially enjoys the Summer Hot Dog & Ice Cream social for the Chatham Library children. He can be found volunteering at Chatham schools during their Teacher's Wellness Day events and is a

supporter of the Chatham Education Foundation and Sports Foundation. For 25 years Dr, Murphy has served on the Board of Trustees of ECLC in Chatham, a school for special needs students, including a stint as Board President. He was a consistent participant in over 23 Fishawack events and is a sponsor of Bottle Hill Day in Madison. He is a member of the Madison Elks BPOE 1465 and Chatham Chamber of Commerce, where he has served as President.

You can find out much more about the Suburban Chiropractic Center by visiting their website at [drmurphy.com](http://drmurphy.com).



(above) Dr. Joseph Murphy has been a member of Kiwanis Club for over 35 years.

## Meet Summer Camps of all Sorts!

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<b>Sat, Jan 31:</b>	<b>Bergen Town Center</b> Route 4 East & Forest Ave
<b>Sun, Feb 1:</b>	<b>Montclair Art Museum, Montclair</b> 3 S Mountain Ave, Montclair
<b>Sat, Feb 7:</b>	<b>Livingston YMCA</b> 321 S Livingston Ave, Livingston
<b>Sat, Feb 21:</b>	<b>Morris Museum, Morristown</b> 6 Normandy Heights Rd, Morristown
<b>Sun, Feb 22:</b>	<b>Village of Ridgewood</b> 131 N Maple Ave, Ridgewood (next to Library)
<b>Sat, Feb 28:</b>	<b>Menlo Park Mall, Edison</b> 55 Parsonage Rd, Edison

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Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization and is committed to being accessible to all patrons, students, parents and visitors. All programs, classes, events and concerts are accessible ensuring that everyone can participate in a diverse range of arts programming and classes.





Photos by School District of the Chathams

# STUDENT'S KINDNESS MAKES A LOCAL IMPACT

School District of the Chathams

Shout-out to all our K–2 students who are generously donating their unopened, prepackaged lunch items to the Chatham United Methodist Food Pantry! Our elementary students have been collecting perishable items from their school bought lunch such as milk, apple slices, carrots, yogurt and cheese sticks to support community

members facing food insecurities. In partnership with the Borough of Chatham and with support from Helping Hands of Chatham, these items are made available at the Chatham United Methodist Church. Dr. Mary Donohue saw the success of this initiative firsthand during her recent visit to CUMC.

# BRINGING COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF GRIEVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

*Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss*

More than 300 supporters, partners, and friends of Imagine gathered on Friday, November 21, 2025, for the 13th Annual Seasons of Hope Breakfast — a morning centered on renewing and strengthening Imagine’s mission, helping us grow our ability to provide free, year-round grief support to children and families.

Throughout the event, guests listened to powerful, heartfelt stories from Imagine families who bravely shared their experiences of loss and how Imagine has supported them.

“The stories we heard were a meaningful reminder that grief is something we carry together,” said Lindsay Schambach, Imagine’s Executive Director. “Our work continues because so many people believe in the importance of providing a safe space for kids and families to grieve.”

This year’s Breakfast was also a profound display of generosity. Thanks to the support of dedicated sponsors, every dollar raised at the event will go directly toward Imagine’s programs, ensuring that no grieving child or family is ever turned away.

Imagine extends its deepest gratitude to this year’s sponsors:

Empathy Sponsor Level: Atlantic Health Systems, Ernst & Young, Gibbons Law and Wiss

Compassion Sponsor Level: Connect One Bank

Inspire Sponsor Level: Aryming Asset Management, Hatfield and Schwartz, Holland and Knight, Northfield Bank, PNC Bank, and

Westfield Pediatric Dental Group

Hope Sponsor Leve: Rossi Funeral Homes and Wegmans

This year’s Breakfast also marked an exciting milestone for Imagine’s future. Twenty-four new guests signed a five-year pledge to join Imagine’s Circle of Hope — a dedicated community of supporters committed to sustaining the organization’s mission over the long term. These new members join more than 100 others already in the Circle of Hope, collectively ensuring that Imagine can continue expanding its free, year-round grief support programs for children and families well into the future.

To everyone who attended, volunteered, spoke, donated, or helped bring the morning to life: thank you. Your presence strengthens Imagine’s mission and sends a powerful message to grieving families — you are not alone.

As Imagine looks ahead to another year of service, the organization remains inspired by the families who share their stories and the community members who stand beside them.

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss is a 501c3 that offers training and education on loss and grief to the community and free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and caregivers of the children in the groups and offered in English and Spanish. For more information, please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or [info@imajinenj.org](mailto:info@imajinenj.org) or visit our website at [imajinenj.org](http://imajinenj.org).

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**[calderoneschoolofmusic.com](http://calderoneschoolofmusic.com)**



(above) Participants in Imagine's support group program pass a talking stick at their annual Seasons of Hope fundraiser.

Courtesy Photo



# STUDENT BANDS PERFORM AT PRUDENTIAL CENTER

The Chatham Middle and High School Bands showcased their talents at the Prudential Center in early December during a New Jersey Devils game!



Photo by School District of the Chathams

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or visit [chathamseiorcenter.org](http://chathamseiorcenter.org).

**Alzheimer's NJ Caregiver Support Group**  
Thursday, Jan. 8, 10:30 a.m.  
This group provides families and caregivers with the emotional support and education they need to better understand Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia. A trained facilitator guides the group. Visit [alznj.org](http://alznj.org) to register and learn about their additional programs, or call the Center.

**Plastics & Health**  
Monday, Jan. 12, 11:00 a.m.  
Learn about plastics, why recycling is not an option, and steps to reduce exposure to its harmful impacts.

**Problems Falling & Staying Asleep**  
Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1:00 a.m.  
Learn how sleep problems, sleep schedules, and bedtime habits can affect your daily life.

**Classical Piano Performance**  
Monday, Jan. 19, 1:00 p.m.  
Luc Reyes, a 17-year-old, who has received multiple awards at prestigious piano competitions will perform classical pieces.  
**Photography Group: Smartphone Cameras**  
Wednesday, Jan. 21, 11:00 a.m.  
This meeting focuses on taking pictures with cell phones.

**Benefits of Walking in Winter**  
Monday, Jan. 26, 1:00 p.m.  
Learn the benefits of outdoor walking adventures.

**Salute to Sondheim, His Songs & Shows**  
Tuesday, Jan. 27, 12:00 p.m.  
Hear about the unforgettable work of Stephen Sondheim - from his iconic Broadway hits to his boundary-pushing storytelling techniques.

**Aging with Intention: Rewriting Your Narrative**  
Wednesday, Jan. 28, 12:00 p.m.  
This presentation discusses Positive Psychology principles that promote vitality, engagement, meaning, and accomplishment - and ways to enhance overall health and happiness while aging.



(above) Our thanks to the Town and Country Garden Club of Chatham for returning to teach the always-popular holiday centerpiece project.

BECOME A LITERACY NJ VOLUNTEER TUTOR

**Literacy New Jersey**  
Literacy New Jersey announces its winter Tutor Information Session on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 6 p.m. The Tutor Information Session is a prerequisite to registering for Literacy NJ's Tutor Training Program. The Tutor Training Program consists of 5 sessions starting on Wednesday, January 21 and will provide tutor trainees with the tools and strategies necessary for working with adult students in one of three categories: English As A Second Language (ESL), High School Equivalency (GED), or Basic Skills.

All training sessions will be conducted online via Zoom. The five required training sessions will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays. The dates are: January 21, 26, 28 and February 2 & 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. After completing the training sessions, tutors are matched with a small group of adult students from the growing waiting list of students who need to improve their literacy skills. Tutors meet with their students either online or in person in libraries throughout Union or Middlesex County for 2 hours each week. After training, tutor trainees may be matched with a tutor mentor to guide them through their first lesson plans. New tutor volunteers are asked to make a commitment of at least 50 hours of instruction with students.

Neil Esposito, a Literacy New Jersey volunteer ESL tutor said: "I'm passionate about sharing my time and ability with my students. It gives me great pleasure to witness the progress of my students over the semesters. Several of my students have reached important, personal goals directly linked to their English language progress.

One student has taken on an important telephone-based role in her husband's construction business, talking daily with English speaking clients. Another has passed her certification exam as a bi-lingual teacher's aide in a middle school. These achievements, among numerous others, are the rewards and blessings that make being a literacy volunteer a highlight

of my life."

Literacy New Jersey provides ongoing supervision and support to tutors in the form of free Professional Development workshops on specific topics such as Computer Skills for ESL students, ESL Conversation, Citizenship and Job Readiness.

To volunteer, you must be at least 18 years old, able to speak English and willing to tutor in Union or Middlesex County. You do not need to have any teaching experience and you do not need to speak a foreign language. The training will provide volunteers with techniques and strategies for working with adult learners, as well as sample instructional materials and activities. There is a \$25 registration fee to cover the cost of books and materials. Literacy New Jersey is a non-profit organization.

For more information or to register for the Tutor Information Session on Wednesday January 7, 2026, please call Literacy New Jersey at 908-486-1777 x400 or email Barbara Bagger, Program Director, at [bbagger@literacynj.org](mailto:bbagger@literacynj.org).



(above) Make a difference, become a Literacy NJ volunteer tutor. For more information, or to register for the Tutor Information Session on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, please call Literacy New Jersey at 908-486-1777 x400 or email Barbara Bagger, Program Director, at [bbagger@literacynj.org](mailto:bbagger@literacynj.org).

Courtesy Photo



(above) Recent graduates

## WHARTON PAS ANNOUNCES NEW LOCATION FOR SUMMER CAMPS

The Wharton Performing Arts School (PAS) is pleased to announce that all 2026 Summer Camps will take place at a new location: 570 Central Avenue in New Providence—the home of the New Jersey Youth Chorus and New Jersey Youth Symphony. Bringing PAS summer programming to this site allows Wharton Arts to host all camps under one roof and create a unified, convenient experience for its student families.

“We’re excited to welcome our summer campers to a new home this year,” said PAS Director Debra Joyal. “This location supports our commitment to providing a fun, engaging, and inspiring summer for every student.”

Said Wharton Arts Artistic Director & Principal Conductor Helen H. Cha-Pyo, “As we bring our Performing Arts School summer camps to New Providence, families can rest assured that the same exceptional instruction and nurturing environment they’ve come to expect will continue without interruption. Our New Jersey Youth Symphony orchestral, double reed, and chamber music camps will remain in the New Providence location as always. Looking ahead, we’re excited by the possibilities of uniting all Wharton Arts summer programs under one roof creating a vibrant, cross-disciplinary summer experience where young performers can learn, grow, and be inspired together.”

Wharton Arts’ 2026 summer camps feature programs in music, drama, and musical theater for students of various ages and experience levels. Registration is now open online. For more information and complete summer camp listing, visit [WhartonArts.org](http://WhartonArts.org).

The Wharton Performing Arts School (PAS) is proud to be part of Wharton Arts, New Jersey’s largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center, serving nearly 2,000 students each year through a wide range of programs. PAS has been nurturing artistic excellence and creativity in the community for 40 years. Offering programs in music and performing arts, the school empowers students to develop their talents, confidence, and lifelong appreciation for the arts.

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’ teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained.



(above) PAS is pleased to announce that all 2026 Summer Camps will take place at a new location: 570 Central Avenue in New Providence.

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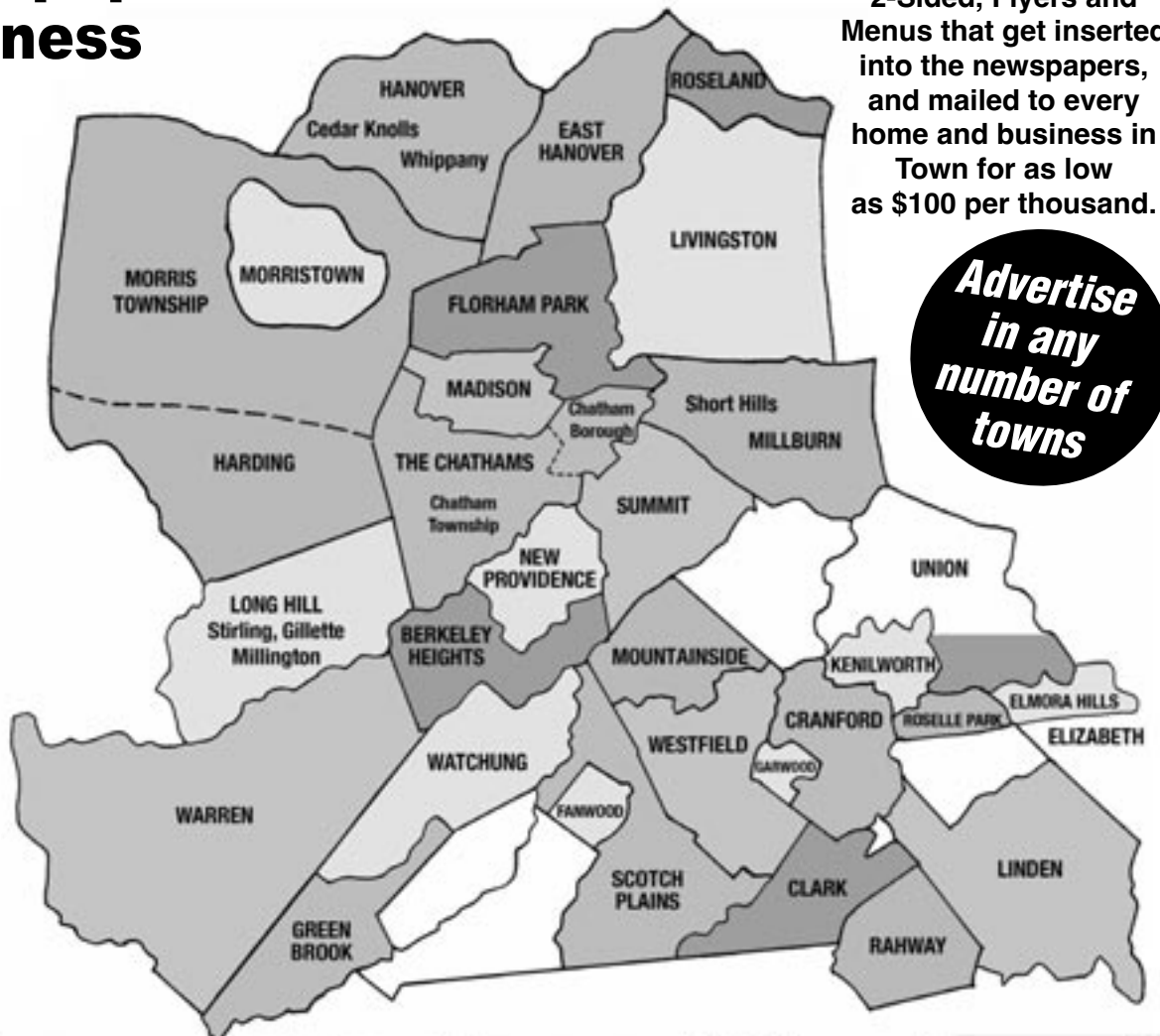
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4 Units	3.25"x8" or 6.5"x4"	240	560	900	1000	1300	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100
6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
12 Units	6.5"x14"	400	960	1400	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	3900
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# JANUARY SPEAKERS PROGRAM FOR THE SUMMIT AREA OLD GUARD

The Summit Area Old Guard is a social, educational, and recreational organization that serves men of retirement age. We meet Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave – we encourage visitation, and all are welcome. Our motto is “Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends.” The organization was founded in 1930. Our website address is [summitoldguard.org](http://summitoldguard.org).

In January, we will have four speakers:  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 6TH: RICHARD LANDER**

Shares a deep, personal connection to the Civil War as the great-grandson of John R. Lander, a Union soldier. John emigrated from Germany and enlisted with an Illinois regiment at the remarkably early age of fourteen, serving for the entire duration of the war. This military service instilled a generational interest: members of the Lander family have continuously studied the Civil War and maintained membership in the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). In his presentation, Richard will detail the complex tapestry of events that led to the conflict, covering the cultural, political, economic, and military factors at play. Attendees are encouraged to note the striking parallels between these historical forces and current events.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13TH: DR. DEAN EPPLER**

Though the Apollo Program was a revolutionary 20th-century achievement, many of its difficulties and successes have faded into

historical obscurity. Dr. Dean Eppler, a retired NASA scientist with over 35 years in human spaceflight, possesses the breadth of experience to bring the mission into focus. His background includes Apollo Program history, advanced space suit engineering, ISS facility development, and training/selecting astronauts (1990, 1996, and 1998 selections). Dr. Eppler will identify the key areas of the mission's success and discuss Apollo's enduring contributions to human spaceflight.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH: HOWARD MEYER**

A long-time leader in New Jersey volunteer EMS. He is the past president of the EMS Council of New Jersey, the country's largest volunteer squad association, and served as its volunteer legislative director for over 20 years. Since 1971, he has served in leadership roles, including president and chief, across all types of New Jersey environments—rural, suburban, and urban. Howard will detail the history and

evolution of the volunteer EMS system, highlighting its critical importance to the state. His talk will cover key events and the major challenges volunteer squads face moving forward.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 27TH: BOB GULA**

The Forgotten Victory Trail explores one of America's most overlooked Revolutionary chapters in the brutal campaigns of 1780 in NJ, when burning towns, secret networks, and fierce local resistance helped turn the tide of the war. The Battles of Springfield and Connecticut Farms in June 1780 were critical in the defense of New Jersey (and Washington's forces in Morristown) and in the weakening of the British Forces ahead of the Battle of Yorktown. Our speaker will be Bob Gula, Education Officer –West Fields Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution Patriotic Instructor, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Member and General Society of Mayflower Descendants.



(above, l-r) Richard Lander, Dr. Eppler, Howard Meyer, Robert Gula

# HICKORY TREE CHORUS INVITES ACAPPELLA SINGERS TO OPEN AUDITIONS

The award-winning Hickory Tree Chorus is calling singers in the soprano, alto, and contralto ranges to join their harmonious sisterhood!

Performing in communities throughout northern and central New Jersey, the chorus enjoys singing recognizable popular songs - arranged in rich four-part harmony.

Fresh off their top-scoring performance at the 2025 Sweet Adelines Region 15 competition, the

chorus has earned a coveted spot in the Harmony Classic at the 78th Annual Sweet Adelines International Competition in Columbus, Ohio, October 2026. Now, they're building their sound for the world stage.

Open auditions will be held in Stirling between 6:30-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in January 2026 and take less than 10 minutes (flexible scheduling is available). Singers are

asked to perform a brief acappella song of their choice. No experience required, just a love of singing and a desire to grow.

This is more than a chorus—it's a sisterhood, a mission, and a moment. Will your voice be part of it?

For details and to schedule your audition, email us at [info@hickorytreechorus.org](mailto:info@hickorytreechorus.org) or call 908-377-1399.



(above) The award-winning Hickory Tree Chorus invites you to join the sisterhood. For details and to schedule your audition, email us at [info@hickorytreechorus.org](mailto:info@hickorytreechorus.org) or call 908-377-1399.

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