

# BUSINESS + LIFE

# KENILWORTH LIFE

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Issue 215 • February 2026

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Kenilworth Public Schools thanks the Kenilworth community who made this programmatic expansion possible through its support of the construction referendum. Providing early childhood education via free, all-day Pre-K sets the youth of Kenilworth up for a strong academic, developmental, and social futures.



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# BUSINESS + LIFE KENILWORTH

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## SEND US YOUR NEWS

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news!  
Email: [editor@rennamedia.com](mailto:editor@rennamedia.com)

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- Feb 1: Montclair Art Museum, Montclair
- Feb 7: Livingston YMCA, Livingston
- Feb 21: Morris Museum, Morristown
- Feb 22: Ridgewood Community Center
- Feb 28: Menlo Park Mall, Edison

all fairs 12-3pm



RSVP

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# SHARP-SHINNED HAWK RELEASED BACK TO WILD

This feisty Sharp-shinned Hawk was admitted on 12/22 after being found in a yard in Warren following a window strike. On intake, the hawk had bloody nares and mouth, consistent with head trauma often seen after collisions. The nares are a bird's nostrils, located near the base of the beak, and bleeding there often points to head or facial trauma from collisions.

With supportive care and time to heal, this "Sharpie" as we call them, made great progress and was moved to an outside flight cage on 12/28/25. After proving strong, steady flight and good awareness, the hawk was successfully released back to the wild on 1/2/2026.

Sharp-shinned Hawks are incredibly fast and agile forest hunters, built to weave through dense trees while chasing small birds. That same speed and focus, however, can make them especially vulnerable to window strikes when reflective

glass looks like open sky or habitat.

Remember, small changes matter, adding window decals is a simple way to help protect avian wildlife.

## ABOUT THE RAPTOR TRUST

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located at 1390 White Bridge Rd., Millington, NJ. They provide free care and assistance to injured, sick, or orphaned wild birds. They offer educational programs to the public about wild birds, especially birds of prey. They strive to provide a human example for others. For more information, or to make a donation visit [info@theraptortrust.org](mailto:info@theraptortrust.org). To report an injured bird call 908-647-2353.

## RAPTOR TRUST SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Each year from mid-May through August, The Raptor Trust receive hundreds of injured, orphaned, or displaced nestling and fledgling



songbirds found by citizens. We see this time as a perfect opportunity to provide experience and education to students who wish to learn about wildlife care and rehabilitation.

## POSITION DATES: MAY THROUGH AUGUST 2026

Scheduling: Approximately 24-40 hours per week, including some evenings and weekends

Location: The Raptor Trust. 1390 White Bridge Road, Millington, NJ 07946

This is an unpaid, volunteer position. College students committed to this position may meet the criteria for eligibility to apply for our volunteer scholarship. This opportunity can also be modified to meet most schools' criteria in qualifying for an academic "internship" or experience credit.

While students in all areas of study are welcome to apply, preference may be given to students who have completed or are currently enrolled in relevant coursework including Ecology, Biology, and Animal Science related studies.

## APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY FEB 6TH, 2026.

To apply, please submit an application, resume, and cover letter through our website at [theraptortrust.org/summer-scholars-program](http://theraptortrust.org/summer-scholars-program). A selection of 2-3 references whom we may contact is optional. Contact Amanda Cannizzo

at [acannizzo@theraptortrust.org](mailto:acannizzo@theraptortrust.org)

If you are interested, Visit [theraptortrust.org](http://theraptortrust.org) or email [volunteers@theraptortrust.org](mailto:volunteers@theraptortrust.org)



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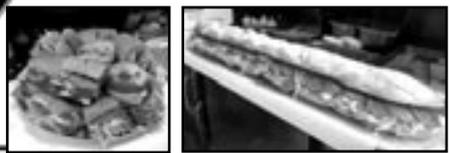
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# ESTATES ROADSHOW BUYING EVENTS

**Gold Is At An All Time High NOW IS THE TIME TO SELL**

## GOLD EXCEEDS \$4,000 PER OUNCE!!!



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- Gold Earrings
- Gold Rings
- Gold Bracelets
- Gold Pendants
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- Gold Watches

**BUYING ALL COINS**

- Gold Coins
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- Proof Sets
- Kreugerrands
- Buffalos
- US Silver Coins Pre-64
- Morgan/Peace Dollars

**BUYING ALL STERLING SILVER**

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- Trays
- 925 Jewelry
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**WATCHES**

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- Cartier
- Patek Philippe
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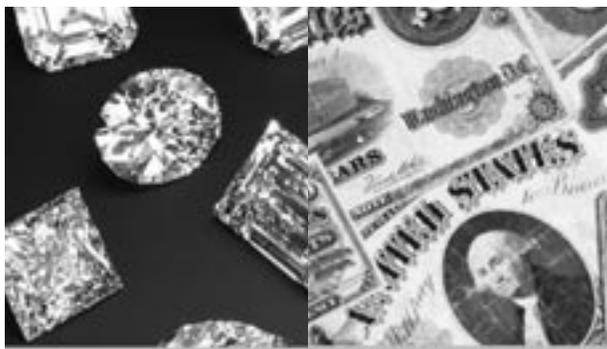
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- Diamond Jewelry
- Engagement Rings

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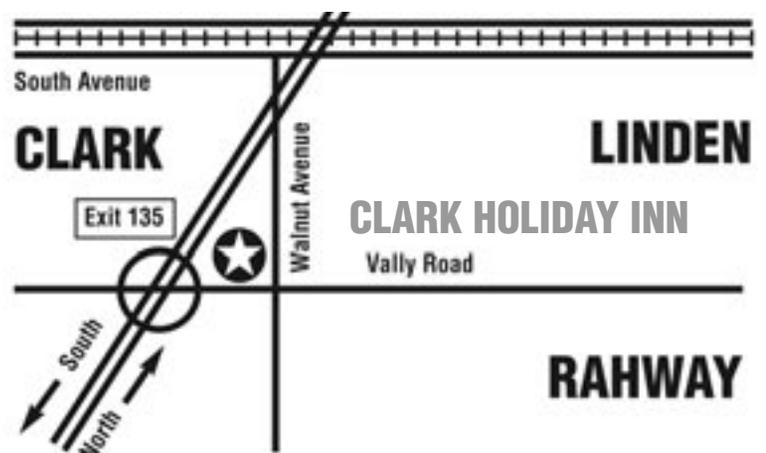
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Instant Verbal Quotes!*

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# ESTATES ROADSHOW BUYING EVENTS

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**GOLD EXCEEDS \$4,000 PER OUNCE!!!**



**BUYING ALL GOLD**

- Gold Necklaces
- Gold Earrings
- Gold Rings
- Gold Bracelets
- Gold Pendants
- Gold Charms
- Gold Watches

**BUYING ALL COINS**

- Gold Coins
- Gold Eagles
- Proof Sets
- Kreugerrands
- Buffalos
- US Silver Coins Pre-64
- Morgan/Peace Dollars

**BUYING ALL STERLING SILVER**

- Silverware
- Trays
- 925 Jewelry
- All Sterling Silver

**SILVER  
NOW \$50  
PER OZ!**

**WATCHES**

- Rolex
- Cartier
- Patek Philippe
- Pocket Watches

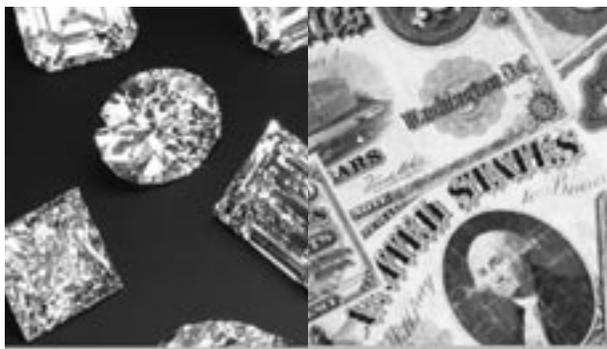
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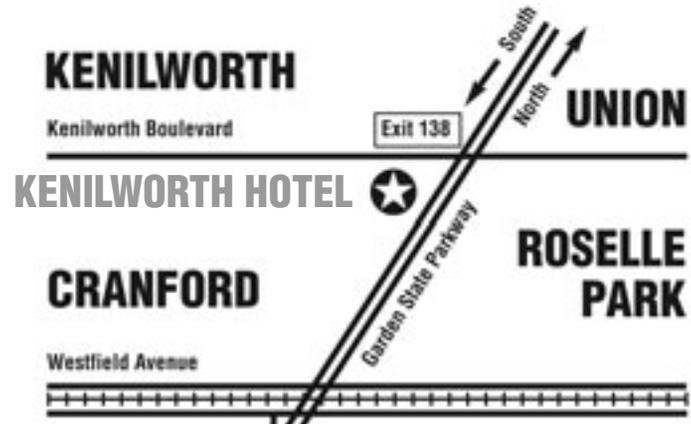
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Cash Offer  
on the Spot!*

**Don't Miss Out!  
We Pay the Most!  
Instant Verbal Quotes!**

**FEBRUARY 2025 SHOW  
@ KENILWORTH HOTEL!!  
FEB 23RD TO 27TH 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**



**60 S 31st Street, Kenilworth, NJ**

**No Appointment Necessary. • FREE Appraisals • FREE Admission**  
**Speak to the company's owner: Marshall Smoller: 609-781-6559**

# ELKS DELIVERED BASKETS FOR THE THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

Using an Elks National Beacon Grant, Union Elks Lodge delivered baskets for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays to 25 families in Union and Kenilworth. We also delivered food to the Connecticut Farms Food Pantry. The Union Elks Lodge, located at 281 Chestnut St. in Union, draws members from Union and surrounding towns.

## FIRST ANNUAL TRICKY TRAY

Our first annual Tricky Tray event will be held on March 20th. It is open to the public. Call Brenda for tickets and more information 908-305-4110.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) is an American fraternal organization based around charity and community service.

Our efforts are focused on special needs children and veterans. NJ Elks are compassionate, touching lives, changing tomorrows. The BPOE is 100% non-profit and relies on grants or private and public fundraisers.

For more information about membership email [unionsec1583@gmail.com](mailto:unionsec1583@gmail.com), or call 908-686-1583.



## ELKS CLUB TRICKY TRAY SET FOR MAR 20

Our first annual Tricky Tray event will be held on March 20th. It is open to the public.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) is an American fraternal organization based around charity and community service. Our efforts are focused on special needs children and veterans. NJ Elks are compassionate, touching lives, changing tomorrows. The BPOE is 100% non-profit and relies on grants or private and public fundraisers to obtain the funds for our charitable works.

Anyone interested in donating prizes, purchasing tickets or reserving a table can call Brenda at 908-305-4110.

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# FIRST ANNUAL Tricky Tray

**Celebrating**  
**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**  
**MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> - DOORS OPEN 5:30PM**

**(1) SHEET OF  
TICKETS  
WITH EACH  
REGISTRATION**

**\$30**

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PRIZES**

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Multiple prize  
levels  
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Drink specials  
.....  
Outside food welcome**

Call Brenda for tickets and more info  
 908-305-4110 | 908-313-6342  
 Venmo: @Brenda-Sieira Memo: tricky tray

Ask about  
reserving a  
table!!

# YOU ARE INVITED TO A WEDDING AT CDC THEATRE

 **CDC Theatre** 78 Winans Ave. Cranford, NJ



**IT SHOULDA BEEN YOU**

Fri+Sat Feb.13-28 8pm / Sun. Mar 1 2pm/ Sun. Feb.22 2pm  
**ASL Interpreted Perf.**

Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

A modern musical farce with heart, *It Shoulda Been You*, at CDC Theatre, 78 Winans Ave in Cranford, NJ, invites you to a wedding day where nothing goes as planned. Chaos, secrets, and laughs abound as two families, one Jewish, one Catholic, collide in a whirlwind of love, identity, and unexpected twists. Her mother is a force of nature. His mother is a tempest in a cocktail shaker. And, when the bride's ex-boyfriend crashes the party, the perfect wedding starts to unravel. It's up to the bride's sister to turn a tangled mess into happily ever after in this musical comedy for anyone who has ever had parents.

This fast-paced ensemble comedy celebrates acceptance, forgiveness, and the true meaning of family. At the Steinberg wedding, nothing is what it seems; religions collide, Machiavellian plots are revealed, promises are broken, secrets are exposed and hope springs from the most unlikely of places. The charming, funny musical, *It Shoulda Been You*, invites you to a wedding day that you'll never forget, with blushing brides, nervous grooms, overbearing moms, unexpected guests and plenty of crazy twists and turns. Anything that can go wrong does, and love pops up in mysterious places.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays from February 13th- 28th at 8pm, and Sundays February 22 and March 1 at 2pm.

CDC Theatre is happy to announce that as part of a new pilot program, the February 22nd matinee performance will be ASL interpreted. For tickets and more details, visit [cdctheatre.org](http://cdctheatre.org).





**TROOP 83 THANKS OUR VETERANS  
& FIRST RESPONDERS**

**9th Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser**

Sunday, February 15, 2026  
anytime between 8:00am - 12 noon

**Kenilworth VFW Hall**  
**33 S.21st Street, Kenilworth**



**Tickets are \$ 8.00 per person**

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A television and streaming renovation project is seeking a limited number of homeowners in this area with outdated or distressed homes requiring substantial remodeling. This opportunity is for full-scale renovations only-not cosmetic repairs.

Selected projects may qualify for professionally documented renovations, special project pricing, and potential homeowner compensation in exchange for filming participation and release.

**Call 833-375-1472**  
 Ask for the TV Project Department  
 Serious inquiries only.

WHAT, WHERE, AND WHEN IN OLD KENILWORTH

# KENILWORTH'S UPSALA COLLEGE - REMNANTS AND MEMORIES – PART 1

In 1898 Upsala, a small Lutheran college in Brooklyn, moved to a very rural Kenilworth – then a part of New Orange. In fact, New Orange wasn't even a town. Some of its land was in Union and some in Cranford. At the time there were less than 100 homes here. Initially headquartered in a large farmhouse on the Boulevard near N. 20th St., it moved in 1899 to a 14-acre campus on the hill at the end of N. 21st St. Locals nicknamed it College Hill. What remains of it is now called Water Tower Hill. There the college functioned here until 1924 before it relocated to a larger campus in East Orange to accommodate rising enrollment. Yet some remnants of Upsala still exist in Kenilworth – some more hidden than others. This series of articles uncovers those remnants. The articles also identify where others once stood in a "Then and Now" series of photographs.

In addition to buildings on its campus, Upsala acquired property and structures elsewhere in town. Some students, faculty and staff rented rooms in private residences. Some structures remained until the late 1940s. Some off-campus dwellings rented by Upsala people still stand. All in all, you may be surprised what this series of articles unveil.

In the 1890s investors, known as the New Orange Industrial Association, bought up over 30 farms in Union and Cranford to create New Orange. One included the old Benedict farmhouse near the corner of the Boulevard and N. 20th St. which served as the Association's offices. When Upsala moved here in 1898, the Association allowed the college to occupy the old farmhouse. Being a religious college, it erected along its eastern side a small building known as "the chapel." Today the address would be about 504-506 Boulevard, site of Tum Thai and Jimmy Buff's Italian Hot Dogs.

In 1899 Upsala moved to College Hill, and soon after the chapel was moved to N. 20th and stood in what is today the parking lot next to the Love You More flower shop at 13 N. 20th St. The chapel became the first New Orange school house. Over the decades it served as a post office, the local jail, a boys' clubhouse, and other uses. It was demolished about 1949 to make way for the Boulevard colonial-style shops then erected

by developer Harold Snyder and his company. "Old Main," the first building erected on College Hill, opened in 1899. The three-story brick and stone structure sat at the top end of N. 21st St. The third floor was a dormitory for male faculty and students. The other two floors and basement were used for offices, classes, a library, the kitchen and dining hall, and for worshipping. Much of College Hill (now Water Tower Hill) was excavated away in the late 1940s. An aerial view indicates Old Main would be between 5 and 7 Via Vitale, with its entry staircase almost where there is a fire hydrant today. Read and discover more next month.

Research provided by Walter E. Boright, Ed.

D., historian, and Historic Signs, Inc. Sources include: Upsala archives at the Swenson Immigration Center at Augustana College in Illinois; the Kenilworth Historical Society archives; the Cranford Chronicle archives; Borough tax records; first-hand interviews; and personal knowledge. The assistance of Kenilworth-born Arthur J. Vitale, a retired civil engineer, and his sister, Shirley Vitale Edwards, a local history enthusiast, helped make this series of articles possible. Their assistance is immensely appreciated. Persons with inquiries about this, or other Kenilworth history topics, may contact Dr. Boright at drbori@aol.com or 908-256-5200.



(above, left) Upsala's first site THEN: (1898-1899) source Ken. Hist. Soc.  
 (above, right) Upsala's first site NOW: (504-506 Blvd.) source Google



(above, left) Chapel site THEN: (1900-1949, source Swenson Center  
 (above, right) Chapel site NOW: (Next to 13 N. 20th St.) source Hist. Signs



(above, left) Old Main site THEN: (1899-1924) source Ken. Hist. Soc.  
 (above, right) Old Main site NOW: (5 & 7 Via Vitale) with Arthur Vitale. Source Hist. Signssource Ken. Hist. Soc.

# KENILWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Located at 548 Boulevard. Library website is [kenilworthlibrary.org](http://kenilworthlibrary.org). Registration for programs may be done in person or by calling 908 276-2451. The Library is handicapped accessible. [facebook.com/kenilworthworth.public.library](https://facebook.com/kenilworthworth.public.library)

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

### WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

#### Bingo For Children

Bingo games for children ages 3 & up

**Mondays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm**

**February 2, 9 & 23**

#### Interactive stories and songs

**Lap Sit: Tuesdays at 10:30am – 10:50am**

**February 3, 10 & 17**

for ages 0 – 2 years old

#### PJ Story Time

**Tuesdays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm**

**February 3, 10 & 24**

Children are welcome to attend this story time program dressed in their pajamas and bring along a favorite stuffed animal for ages 3 & up.

#### Toddler Time

**Wednesday at 10:30am – 10:50am**

**February 4 & 18**

Interactive stories and activities for ages 2 – 3

#### Saturday Story Circle

**Saturday at 10:30am – 11:00am**

**February 7**

Interactive stories, songs and play for ages 0 – 4

#### Fun Friday Crafts

**Fridays at 3:30pm – 4:00pm**

Ages: 4 – 9

**February 6: Valentine's Day Craft**

**February 20: Lunar Eclipse Craft**

Registration is required for each individual craft one week prior to each craft.

## FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

### Lego At The Library

**Thursdays, February 5, 19 & 26**

**at 3:30pm – 4:00pm**

Build with Lego bricks and design your own creations. Registration is not required.

### Read To A Dog

**4:00pm – 5:00pm on Tuesday, February 10**

For early beginning readers and those who are learning to read. Young, reluctant, or struggling

readers are encouraged to register for this program and read aloud for 15 minutes with a certified therapy dog, Savor. Children will learn to associate reading with a furry, non-judgmental listener and begin to view reading in a positive way. Over time, the child's reading ability and confidence can improve because they are practicing their skills.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Readers may register for a 15-minute visit.

### Yoga Story Time

**Wednesday, February 11**

**at 10:30am – 11:00am**

Join us for stories and yoga poses for the youngest listeners and their caregiver.

This program will be presented by certified yoga instructor Heather Valente

for ages: 2 - 5.

### Celebrate Black History Month

**4-5pm on Thursday February 12**

Ages 4 - 12

Join us for a special event storytime and craft to celebrate Black History Month. Make crafts celebrating black inventors and artists.

### Tween Craft: Galentine's Day

**Friday February 13 at 3:00-4:00pm**

Ages 10 - 16

Join us for a special event Galentine's Day themed tween craft making customized claw clips and brushes. Registration is required.

Kenilworth residents can begin to register Monday, February 2. Out of town residents can register beginning Monday, February 9 space permitting.

### Chinese New Year Story & Craft

**Tuesday February 17 at 6:30 - 7pm**

Ages 4 - 12. Join us for a special event

storytime and craft to celebrate Chinese New Year and the Year of the Horse.

### Boogie Woogie Babies

**Tuesday, February 24 at 10:30am – 11:00am**

Interactive musical program will be presented by Tiffany Taylor for ages: 0 - 4



(above) Read To A Dog: Tuesday, February 10, 4-5 p.m., Registration Required

Courtesy Photo

### Good Tyme String Band

**Wednesday, February 25**

**at 10:30am – 11:00am**

All ages are welcome to attend and enjoy foot tapping knee slapping banjo music.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

“Weave with us”: Join us for weaving at the Kenilworth Public Library Monday, February 2, 2026. Join us and enjoy the company of fellow weavers. Bring your portable loom! Beginners welcome. This event is open house style.

5-7:30pm.

### “Paper Pals”: Join us on

**Tuesday, February 3 & 17 at 2pm**

**and Monday, February 9 at 6:00 – 7:30pm** for our card making group. You don't need any paper crafting experience to join the fun.

### “Yarnies”

**Thursdays, February 5, 12 & 19 at 2-4pm**  
**and February 26 from 6-8pm.**

You don't need any crafting experience to enjoy these creative explorations. Feel free to bring a project to work on. Watch demonstrations of knitting, crocheting and weaving.

English Conversations For All: Monday, February 23 at 5:00pm – 7:00pm

If you want to learn English or practice speaking the language, please join us for a free two-hour session on the last Monday of each month. This program is geared towards adults.

### “Spin - A - Yarn”

**Tuesday, February 24 at 5:00pm – 7:30pm**

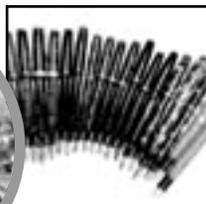
Bring your spinning wheel or drop spindle and create beautiful yarns! If you don't have a wheel, you are still welcome to join us to learn about spinning.

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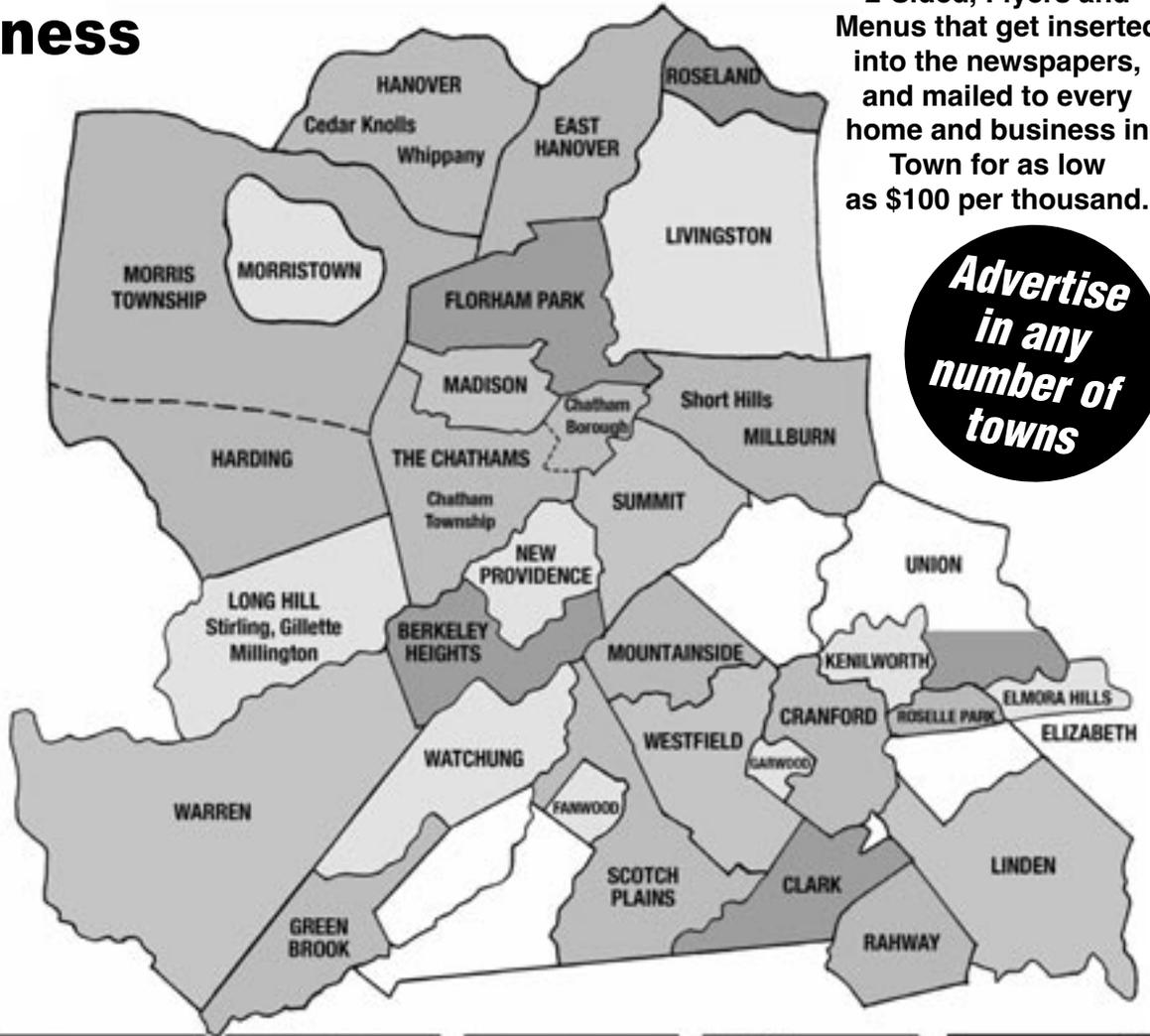
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# OPERA AT FLORHAM PRESENTS VALENTINE SERENADE

Lenfell Hall, The Mansion, Fairleigh Dickinson University (285 Madison Ave, Madison, NJ) • Sunday, February 15, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Opera at Florham invites audiences to celebrate Valentine's Day weekend with a concert of love on stage: Valentine Serenade, a special Sunday afternoon concert on February 15, 2026 at 2:00 pm at Lenfell Hall, The Mansion, Fairleigh Dickinson University (285 Madison Ave, Madison, NJ 07940).

Featuring beloved Opera at Florham favorites Sarah Barrera, Soprano, and Pedro Barrera, Tenor, this program showcases a married couple united on and off the stage, whose shared artistry brings rare intimacy and authenticity to every performance. The concert unfolds as a cinematic emotional journey - exploring love, longing, joy, and farewell through music that resonates deeply with the heart.

In past performances, the Barreras have captivated audiences with repertoire ranging from Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini, and Charles Gounod to Ennio Morricone, Stephen Sondheim, and other modern favorites, seamlessly bridging Opera, theater, and film in performances that are both emotionally rich and theatrically compelling.

### WHY YOU CAN'T MISS IT

- A rare opportunity to hear a married couple perform together, bringing genuine intimacy and emotional authenticity to the stage

- A cinematic, story-driven program that goes beyond a traditional recital
- A unique blend of Opera, musical theater, and film music
- Performed in the elegant, intimate setting of Lenfell Hall at The Mansion, perfect for a Valentine's weekend experience

**Tickets available online [operaatflorham.org](http://operaatflorham.org):**

**General Admission: \$30**

**Students (25 & under): \$10**

**FDU Students (25 & under): FREE**

A Valentine Serenade is presented by Opera at Florham as part of its ongoing commitment to offering inspired, intimate performances in one of New Jersey's most beautiful historic venues. Reserve your seat online and early to enjoy this afternoon of love and passion, as limited tickets will be available at the door.

Opera at Florham has been northern New Jersey's leading Opera company since its founding in 1982. This 2023-2024 Season, we present six concerts, including the International Vocal Competition, and the educational series Opera Talk. Our concerts are performed by professionally trained artists singing Opera Arias and excerpts from Broadway musical theater and The Great American Songbook.

FOUNDED IN 1982  
**OPERA AT FLORHAM**  
 PRESENTS  
*Valentine Serenade*

Sunday, February 15, 2026  
 2:00 pm  
 Lenfell Hall, The Mansion  
 Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, NJ

**\$30 General Admission**  
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Opera at Florham is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

# BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THERAYOUTH

At Drew University, Madison, NJ • Saturday, March 21, 2026 • 4:00 PM

Pegasus: The Orchestra will perform at Drew University on Saturday, March 21 at 4:00 PM for the TheraYouth Foundation's Third Annual Concert fundraiser. Held at the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts, the concert will unite world-class professional musicians with local student performers to raise critical funds for TheraYouth's mission to provide needed physical, occupational, and speech therapy services to disadvantaged children who cannot otherwise access care.

Pegasus: The Orchestra pairs artistic excellence with social impact. Pianist, conductor and composer Karén Hakobyan founded the group in 2017 as a nonprofit dedicated to supporting exceptional musical talent, and to bringing world-class performances to underserved communities. True to its namesake, the ensemble empowers its musicians to soar artistically. Pegasus functions as a collective of artist leaders, resulting in performances that run the range of vibrant, driven orchestral performances alternating with intimate and chamber-like expression. The New York Concert Review calls Pegasus "a truly first-rate ensemble" and a "can't miss" group, urging audiences to "get your tickets right away before they sell out."

As a composer-arranger, Director Hakobyan frequently crafts orchestral works to showcase

the unique musicality of the ensemble's artists, as in this concert which Hakobyan specifically wrote for this performance.

The Chatham High School Chamber Choir, directed by Kenneth Bryson, will perform the Interlude. This ensemble has performed at venues including the White House, the National Anthem at Citi Field to open a Mets game, the Empire State Building, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and appreciated for their musical excellence.

The proceeds from this concert will support the TheraYouth Foundation, whose mission is to ensure that children are never denied critical physical, occupational, or speech therapy simply because their families cannot afford it. TheraYouth serves disadvantaged youth with treatable conditions, helping them gain strength, communication, and independence. Funded entirely through donations and fundraisers, every dollar raised supports life-changing therapy sessions for children who might otherwise go without the care they need to thrive.

"Every child deserves the chance to reach their full potential," said TheraYouth founder, Dr. Irina Marcoff, DPT. "This concert not only raises vital funds but brings the community together around the belief that early, high-quality therapy can change the course of a child's life."

TheraYouth Foundation  
 THERAYOUTH Presents:  
**PEGASUS:  
 THE ORCHESTRA**  
 KARÉN HAKOBYAN, CONDUCTOR

Haydn - *Symphony No. 59 "Fire"* <sup>es</sup>  
 Saint-Saëns - *Cello Concerto No. 1*  
 Komitas - *Three Armenian Miniatur*  
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