

BUSINESS + LIFE

KENILWORTH LIFE

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A NIGHT OF MUSIC TO TRANSFORM YOUNG LIVES

On March 21, Pegasus: The Orchestra will perform with the Chatham High School Chamber Choir in a dazzling benefit concert for the TheraYouth Foundation at the Dorothy Center for Performing Arts at Drew University. Led by accomplished conductor and pianist, Karén Hakobyan, the vibrant program includes Haydn's "Fire" Symphony and a rousing version of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, both composed exclusively for this ensemble. GRAMMY-nominated cellist Sergey Antonov - hailed by The Washington Post as "destined for cello superstardom" - will bring his soaring tone and formidable technique to Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No.1. All proceeds support pediatric medical therapy for disadvantaged youth. Normally this ensemble performs in New York City theaters so tickets are a steal at \$41-\$61 and can be purchased at therayouth.org.

TERAYOUTH CELEBRATES THREE YEARS OF TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S LIVES

In just three years, the TheraYouth Foundation has become a beacon of hope for families across New Jersey struggling to secure essential therapy services for their children.

Physical therapist Dr. Irina Marcoff, DPT, founded TheraYouth to address a troubling reality: too many children with treatable conditions were being left behind. Long waitlists for public Early Intervention and school-based services; a shortage of pediatric providers accepting Medicaid; and the high cost of private therapy (often exceeding \$125 per session); placed critical care out of reach for hundreds of families.

"Early therapy can change the entire trajectory of a child's life," says Dr. Marcoff. "But for many families, access is the greatest barrier."

At its Elizabeth, NJ clinic, TheraYouth provides affordable physical, occupational, and speech therapy to disadvantaged children, more than 90% of whom rely on Medicaid. Since its inception, over 113 patients have "graduated" from therapy by achieving critical developmental milestones.

The impact of timely intervention is undeniable. One young patient, unable to crawl or walk due to congenitally weak neck muscles, faced the risk of permanent disability due to delays in care. After just four months of physical therapy at TheraYouth, he graduated from treatment, able to walk normally, transforming his future.

Unfortunately, demand continues to outpace resources with more than 400 children on TheraYouth's waitlist for services. The foundation operates entirely through donations, community partnerships, and fundraisers.

On March 21st, TheraYouth will host a benefit concert to

raise vital funds for pediatric therapy services. Help transform the lives of New Jersey's most vulnerable children through buying a ticket, or through a donation at www.therayouth.org.



(above) Dr. Irina Marcoff providing physical therapy to a young patient at the Arlene S. Chasek clinic in Elizabeth NJ.

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Therayouth.org/events

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ALL CHILDREN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN PINEWOOD DERBY

The excitement is building for the Cub Scouts of Pack 23 as they get ready for the annual Pinewood Derby. Scouts are given a kit that includes a block of wood, plastic wheels and axles. With help from a parent or other adult, they transform those parts into a race car and then race it against their friends' cars, down a 30-foot long track. Trophies are presented to the winners.

Pack 23 would like to invite all boys and girls, from Kindergarten to the 5th grade, to join in the fun, even if they are not in Cub Scouts! The Pinewood Derby race will be held on Sunday, March 8, in Saint Genevieve's Church hall, 200 Monmouth Road, Elizabeth, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Derby kits cost \$5 each and can be requested from Cubmaster Dan Bernier at 908-451-1948.

The Scouting program at St. Genevieve's Church teaches character, citizenship and physical fitness to the youth of Elizabeth and surrounding towns. New members are welcome at any time, all year round. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfoottroop@gmail.com.



(above) Cub Scouts from Pack 23 are transforming blocks of wood into race cars for their annual Pinewood Derby.

Courtesy Photo



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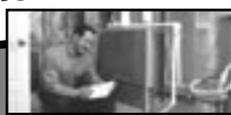
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YOUTH SYMPHONY REHEARSALS FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC - MARCH 1-5

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), a program of Wharton Arts, invites young musicians and their families to experience the excitement of ensemble music-making during the NJYS Open Rehearsals Week, taking place March 1-5, 2026.

Throughout the week, visitors are welcome to observe live rehearsals of any of NJYS's 15 ensembles, offering a rare behind-the-scenes look at how young musicians collaborate, learn, and grow under the guidance of NJYS's accomplished artistic staff. Open Rehearsals Week is designed for students in grades 2-11 who are curious about joining a youth orchestra or expanding their musical journey.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet NJYS conductors, experience the rehearsal process firsthand, and explore how NJYS nurtures musical excellence, teamwork, and confidence in young performers.

Said Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Helen Cha-Pyo, "At the New Jersey Youth Symphony, we hold our students to the highest standards of musical excellence and artistry because they are capable of extraordinary things. At the same time, our core mission goes beyond performance. We want our students to experience the profound connection between music and life, and to understand the power of music as a force for service, empathy, and community building. Open Rehearsals Week is an open invitation to parents, educators, and students to step inside our rehearsal rooms, feel the joy of our community, and witness the 'serious fun' that happens when young people make music together with purpose, passion, and heart."

NJYS is one of New Jersey's premier youth orchestra programs, serving talented young musicians from across the region through a comprehensive range of ensembles and educational experiences. Open Rehearsals Week reflects NJYS's commitment to access, education, and artistic excellence.

Attendance is free, but advance registration is encouraged. Registration and additional information available at NJYS.org.



ABOUT THE NEW JERSEY YOUTH SYMPHONY

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), a program of Wharton Arts, provides exceptional orchestral and ensemble training to young musicians in grades 2-12. Through a wide range of ensembles, performances, and educational



opportunities, NJYS fosters musical excellence, collaboration, and a 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 located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

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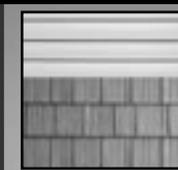
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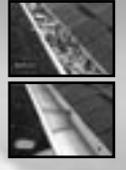
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STUDENTS PRESENT CARE PACKAGES FOR VETERANS

VFW Post 2230

(above) James Maranca presented Commander Jeans of VFW Post 2230 in Kenilworth, with care packages for veterans. James and his classmate Romie Robinson (not pictured) are 8th grade students at Nettingham Middle School in Scotch Plains. They are in a Change Maker's course, which centers on students completing a service of some kind. James and Romie chose to make care packages for veterans and carefully chose items that they thought our veterans would enjoy having. They assembled the packages and dropped them off at the Kenilworth VFW. Commander Jeans commended the boys on a job well done and assured them the veterans will certainly enjoy the packages.



Courtesy Photo

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WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HIT "PAUSE"?

The parishes of St. Bartholomew the Apostle, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scotch Plains along with the Church of the Little Flower Berkley Heights and St. James the Apostle Springfield are inviting men of all ages to attend this year's Men's Cornerstone XVII retreat. It will be on Friday March 6th and Saturday March 7th and held at St. Bartholomew in Scotch Plains.

WHAT IS CORNERSTONE?

Cornerstone is an opportunity to hit the "pause button" in life and a chance to renew and strengthen your faith and grow in your experience in the Christian faith. It is led by a team of parishioners from various backgrounds and ages who themselves have experienced an increased presence of Christ in their lives.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND CORNERSTONE?

You will have a unique opportunity to meet other men of the community and together listen, reflect, and share real life experiences. Taking the time to retreat from daily routine and stress is both a necessary and rewarding experience.

WHAT DOES "CORNERSTONE" MEAN?

The word "Cornerstone" describes Christ as the main foundation ("the cornerstone") of our lives. His presence within us allows us to live, grow, and become more loving and vibrant people of God.

What can I expect at Cornerstone? It will begin on Friday evening March 6th at 6 p.m. and end on Saturday evening March 7th after Mass and dinner. There will be talks, followed by small group discussions, time for quiet personal reflection, Reconciliation, and Eucharist.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Please visit the web sites of either St. Bartholomew the Apostle at stbartholomewchurch.org/mens-cornerstone or Immaculate Heart of Mary at ihmparish.net. You may also reach out to the co-directors: Jim Brennan 908-337-6874, jpbrennan1946@gmail.com; Jose Montero 201-310-4278, josergomezmontero@hotmail.com; or Pat Cetera 908-230-7282, ceteras4@verizon.net.

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WHAT, WHERE, AND WHEN IN OLD KENILWORTH

KENILWORTH'S UPSALA COLLEGE - REMNANTS AND MEMORIES – PART 2

As noted in Part 1, the first new building erected on the Upsala Campus on College Hill at the top of N. 21st. St. was in 1899. Known as Old Main, it served as an administrative, academic, dining hall, and male dorm facility. As enrollment grew these activities needed more space.

A large apartment building erected in 1899 by famed local builder James Arthur sat near N. 12th St. and Monroe Ave. Known as McLindon Flats, the college purchased it in 1907 from John McLindon. With men and teams of horses it was moved about a half mile, uphill to the 14- acre campus. Renovated and opened in 1908 it was named Mercantile Hall and later Commercial



THEN – The Ark dormitory, N. 21st St., ca. 1908
Source: Swenson Immig. Center



NOW – The Ark entrance was behind fence at 6 Upsala Ct.
Source: Historic Signs

Hall. Students dubbed it “The Ark.” The basement held the dining hall, kitchen, furnace room, and a two-room cook’s quarters. WWI occupants were cook Bernhardina Benson and her son, Swen Swenson. In his adult life Swen was a notable town resident. The main floor was mostly classrooms, the second hosted a science lab, library, classrooms and some male dorms. The top floor was primarily male dormitories. According to Alvin Calman (1983) students had to pay for the gas used in experiments as well pay to use newly installed indoor toilets or without charge continue using outdoor latrines.

The Ark was torn down in the 1930s and that portion of College Hill was excavated away in the 1940s. Taking those things into consideration, a recent engineer’s analysis from an aerial perspective, places the length of the Ark directly behind residences at 508 and 512 Oak St. with the front of the dorm facing west toward the driveway at 6 Upsala Ct. The full structure sat on a portion of a flag lot that is part of 516 Oak St.

Upsala’s curriculum promoted physical fitness. It had teams for men’s and women’s sports. Calman notes gym construction began in 1911, possibly at a cost of \$15,000. Its regulation indoor basketball court was the first in any NJ private school. With a small student body from which to draw the men’s teams lacked depth. Teams sometimes played against area high schools. Although many losing seasons, it was undefeated one year – it played just one game and won it. The women’s teams fared better.

The aerial analysis indicates the gym was located on the empty westside area of the property at 516 Oak St. that abutted 512 Oak St.



THEN – Gymnasium, Oak St., ca. 1920
Source: Swenson Immig. Center

Sometime after Upsala moved to East Orange in 1924 the gym became a tavern-restaurant and dance hall known as the Sycamore. When the town wouldn’t allow it to be moved closer to Michigan Ave. the owner in 1934 moved operations to the Kraemer-Ring Building. Later owners kept the Sycamore name until at least the 1960s. Still a tavern and restaurant, it is now Ava’s Kitchen and Bar at 1 N. 21st. St. The gym eventually was torn down.

Research suggests that tennis courts were located across the street from the gym. Suggesting that would include a residence at 525 Oak St. and a portion of 315 N. 21st St.

Also on the campus were a water tower with powerhouse and a large latrine. Aerial-wise, the water tower would have been in the far back yard of the home at 2 Via Vitale. The latrine structure mostly would have been located to the very rear of properties along 410 and 414 N. Michigan Ave.

Research provided by Walter E. Boright, Ed. D., historian, and Historic Signs, Inc. Sources include: Upsala archives at the Swenson Immigration Center Augustana College in Illinois, the Kenilworth Historical Society, and the Cranford Chronicle; 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.



THEN – Tennis Team, ca. 1920
Source: Swenson Immig. Center

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NOW – Gymnasium site at 516 Oak St.
Source: Google



NOW – Tennis Ct. site at 525 Oak St.
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Located at 548 Boulevard. Library website is 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

CHILDRENS' PROGRAMS

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Bingo For Children

Mondays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm

March 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30

Bingo games for children ages 3 & up

Lap Sit

Tuesdays at 10:30am – 10:50am

March 10, 17, 24 & 31

Interactive stories and songs for

or ages 0 – 2 years old

PJ Story Time

Tuesdays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm

March 10, 17, 24 & 31

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

March 4 & 18

Interactive stories and activities for ages 2 – 3

Fun Friday Crafts

Fridays at 3:30pm – 4:00pm

March 6: Cereal Day Craft

March 20: Easter Craft

Ages: 4 – 9. Registration is required for each individual craft one week prior to each craft.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Make it Rhyme Poetry Class

Mondays at 3:30 - 4:30 pm

March 2, 9, 16 & 23

Ages 10 & up. In this 4-week workshop, middle schoolers will read and write a range of different poetry styles, including haiku, sonnet, blankverse, free verse and more!

Boogie Woogie Babies

10:30am – 11:00am on Tuesday, March 3

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

Holi Story Time and Craft

6:30-7pm on Tuesday, March 3

Join us for a special story time and craft to celebrate Holi. Ages 3 & up.

Financial Literacy for Kids

Wednesday at 3:30-4:30

on March 4, 11, & 18th

In this 3 week workshop kids will learn the essentials of financial literacy within engaging activities and lessons and easy-to-understand material.

History of Union County Women

3:30-4:30pm on Thursday, March 5

Women's History Month is celebrated in March of every year. Union County has had many amazing Women associated with this area. After seeing this program, you will walk away with a sense of pride and understanding of the contributions these women have made to our country. Registration is recommended.

American Girl Tea

11:30 - 1 pm on Saturday, March 7

Celebrate International Women's Day with your favorite historical dolls! Join us for some crafts, games, and light refreshments.

Read To A Dog

4:00pm – 5:00pm on Tuesday, March 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 and begins March 3.

Yoga Story Time

10:30am – 11:00am on Wednesday, March 11

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.

Lego At The Library

3:30pm – 4:00pm

on Thursdays, March 12 & 26

Build with Lego bricks and design your own creations.

Tween Craft

3 - 4pm on Friday, March 13

Ages 10-16. Join us to make diamond art. Registration is required and will open for Kenilworth residents on March 2. Out of town residents may begin to register on March 9, space permitting.

Pi Day Story Time with Telina Cuppari

10:30 - 11am on Saturday, March 14

All ages. Join local author and 2x Guinness World Record holder Telina Cuppari for a reading of her book, Pizza Palooza Alphabet Book and view pieces of her world record collection!

Culinary Creatives

4 - 5 pm on Thursday, March 19

Ages 5-10. In this hands-on class, kids will make their own no-bake banana cream pies from start to finish. Participants will practice layering, slicing, mixing, and more, while building kitchen confidence. Recipes are nut-free but will contain wheat and milk. Registration is required and opens on Monday, March 9 for Kenilworth residents.

Good Tyme String Band

10:30am – 11:00am on Wednesday, March 25

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

Baby-Sitter's Club Book Club

3:30-4:30 pm on Wednesday, March 25

Join us for a discussion about Baby-Sitter's Club Book #1, Kristy's Great Idea.

Registration is recommended. Ages: 7 & up

Sleuths in the Stacks

3:30-4pm on Friday, March 27

Oh no! The librarian's Golden Bookmark has gone missing! It was last seen somewhere in the library. To find it, you'll need to solve clues, explore different library areas, and use your best detective skills! Ages: 5 - 12
Registration begins on March 16.

Karaoke Kids: 12 - 1pm on Monday, March 30
Sign up to sing your favorite song (or 2, or 3!)
Registration is recommended to make sure your song choice is available. Visit the Children's Room to fill out a song request form beginning March 23.

Kids Art Club

12 - 1 pm on Tuesday, March 31

Join us for an open art hour. Various art materials will be provided for kids to make an art project of their choice. Ages: 4 & up
Registration is recommended.

ADULT PROGRAMS

"Weave with us"

Monday, March 2, 2026, 5-7:30pm.

Enjoy the company of fellow weavers. Bring your portable loom! Beginners welcome. This event is open house style.

"Paper Pals"

Tuesday, March 17 at 2pm

and Monday, March 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, March 5, 12 & 19 at 2-4pm

and March 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, March 30 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, March 31 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.



(above) Students from the UCVTS Robotics Team recently visited the library and took our kids through their Chem in Color program. Kids participated in multiple science projects and ended with making their own slime. We can't wait to have them back!

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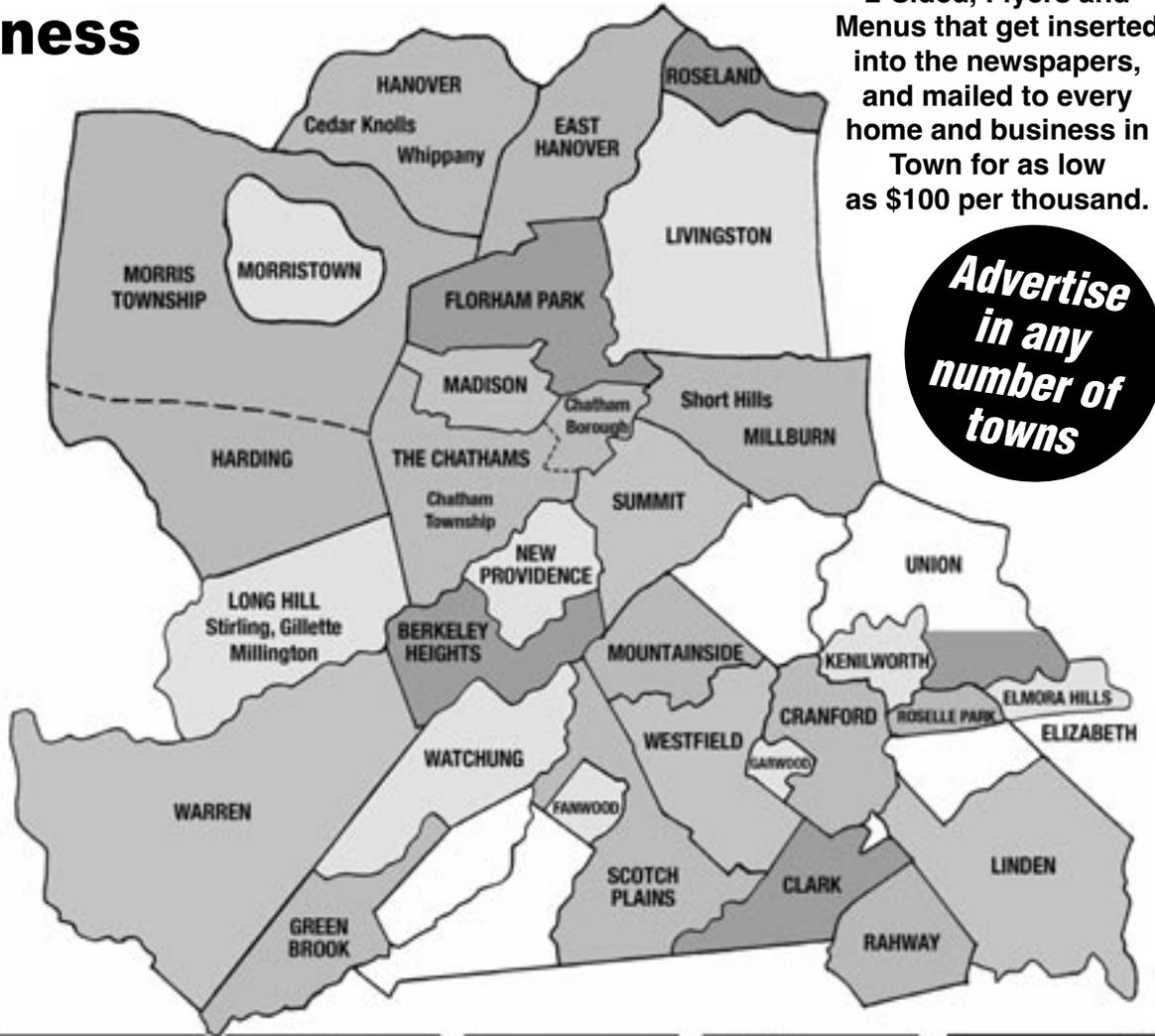
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
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SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ ANNOUNCES MONROE QUINN TRIO

The Salem Roadhouse Café presents Monroe Quinn Trio and the Pillars Of Praise children’s choir on Saturday, March 14, 2026. The doors open at 7:30 p.m., the show starts at 8 p.m. Admission is \$20 and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. The venue is located in Bailey Hall, at Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. This year’s charity is Townley Church’s “Blessing Room”, a place where needed items find their way into the hands of needful people. The Blessing room operates in coordination with local and county governments and agencies to put clothing and small household items needed most by families and individuals.

The Pillars Of Praise children’s choir is a group of dedicated children under professional direction who harmonize and sing in multi-part harmony. This group performed at the 2024 Townley Church/Roadhouse Café “Sounds of the Season” Christmas show to rave reviews and a standing ovation.

If you like pure, unadulterated jazz instrumentals presented in a classy, intimate nightclub atmosphere, this show is for you! The Monroe Quinn Trio has delighted audiences in the tri-state area with performances of music ranging from the American Songbook to jazz arrangements of pop classics and original works. Monroe is joined by bassist Jose Rodriguez and Michael Advensky on drums. Monroe Quinn began playing professionally at the age of thirteen as part of a musical family that included his father, Joe, a drummer, and his brother, Alan, an exceptional trumpeter, whose own big band would rehearse in their living room. Michael Advensky is a full-time musician and educator who’s been performing for the past 4 decades. Throughout his career, he’s shared the stage with artists such as Gavin DeGraw, Gloria Gaynor and many more. Jose Rodriguez is a native to New York City and currently resides in Teaneck, NJ. He began piano studies at the age of eight and bass at the age of twelve. Jose earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education at New Jersey City



University with concentrations in classical and jazz studies. He also worked on a master's degree at S.U.N.Y Purchase Conservatory and concluded his Master's degree at NJCU. Jose established himself as an on-demand freelance bassist on double bass and electric bass over the years and now enjoys an active freelance career?

As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café music is live, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome.

ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

It’s not “church music.” It’s music music. Folks who’ve come to the Salem Roadhouse Café know that it’s a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music — in a world otherwise filled with clubs and bars. The Roadhouse has always offered its stage to local and independent mainstream musicians. Jazz, rock, folk, and other groups have performed. What’s the common thread? They’re all great musicians playing the kind of music people like to hear. There’s no message, just music.

Now in it’s 18th year of operation, the Roadhouse started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth. Hey — that’s why we’re located where we are, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for numerous carefully chosen local charities. That’s its social mission.

But the many musicians who’ve played the Salem Roadhouse Café see it as a solid performance venue. They love it because of its special intimacy and great audiences. They say people here “really listen.” Ask any of the

musicians you meet here — they love to play the Roadhouse, and they want to come back often.

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Program, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, Groundwork Elizabeth and others. Many thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.

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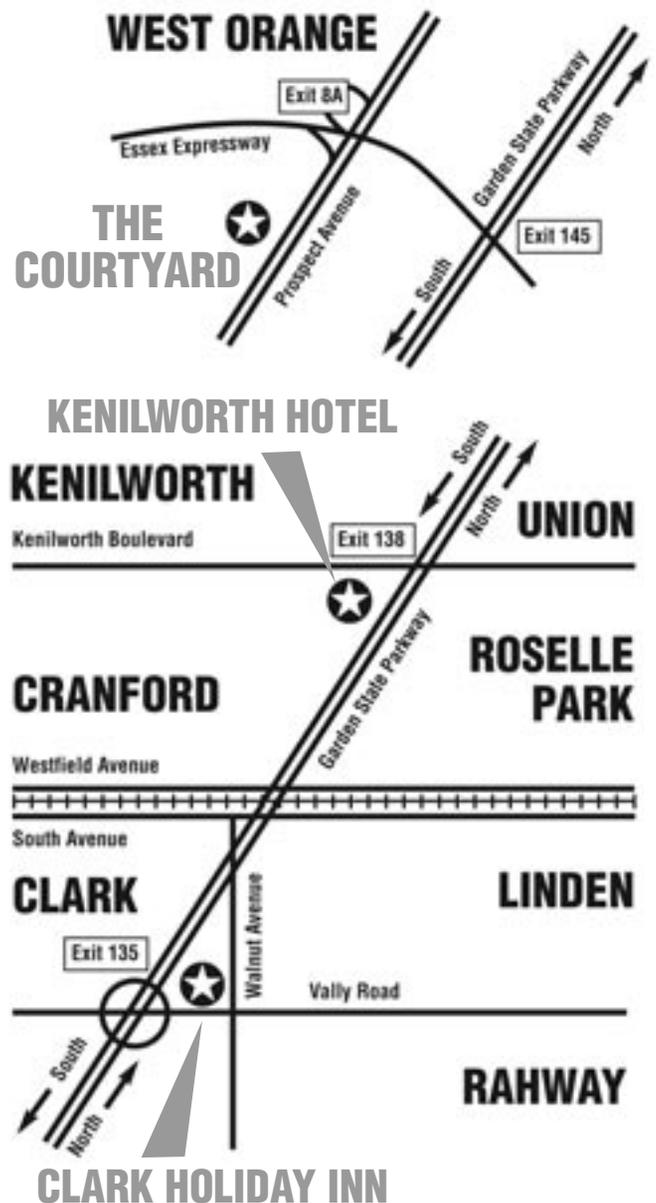
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