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**ECRWSS**

## ALJ ITALIAN STUDENTS RECOGNIZE INT'L WOMEN'S DAY

### Clark Public Schools

Students in Ms. Alessandra Savarese's Italian classes at Arthur L. Johnson High School recently celebrated International Women's Day with a special act of appreciation for the women who help make their school community strong every day.

Inspired by the Italian tradition of giving the yellow mimosa flower on this day, students painted handmade mimosa flowers and delivered them throughout the school to the many women who support students and staff—teachers, cafeteria workers, administrative staff, and board office personnel.

In Italy, the yellow mimosa flower is a symbol of International Women's Day. It represents strength, resilience, and the triumph of life after winter. Chosen for its ability to bloom in harsh conditions and its vibrant nature, the mimosa is traditionally given as a sign of solidarity and recognition of the powerful nature of women.

Through this activity, students not only learned about an important cultural tradition, but also had the opportunity to show gratitude to the many women who help make Arthur L. Johnson High School a supportive and inspiring place to learn.



(above) Students recently celebrated International Women's Day with a special act of appreciation for the women who help make their school community strong every day.

Photo by Clark Public Schools

## ALJ'S WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SERIES

### Clark Public Schools

Arthur L. Johnson High School proudly hosted a Women's Leadership Series in recognition of Women's History Month, offering students an inspiring opportunity to engage with accomplished professionals from a variety of fields.

The event featured a panel of distinguished guest speakers, including Leah Sullivan, Head of Application Engineering: Construction North America at Henkel; Dr. Jayshree Sawhney, Doctor of Dental Surgery; and Riya Varshney, Assistant Vice President at Bank of America. Each speaker shared insights into her educational background, career path, and the experiences that shaped her professional journey.

Throughout the event, students gained valuable

perspectives on leadership, perseverance, and the importance of pursuing their goals with confidence. The speakers emphasized the significance of resilience, continuous learning, and embracing challenges as opportunities for growth.

The Women's Leadership Series served as a meaningful way to celebrate Women's History Month by highlighting the achievements and contributions of women across industries, while also empowering the next generation of leaders.

Arthur L. Johnson High School remains committed to providing enriching experiences that connect students with real-world role models and foster personal and professional development.

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Renna Media, LLC, Publishers  
202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

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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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### Michael D Boll, NJVN President

For the past 10 years the New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) has proudly marched on Memorial Day parades alongside our troops and veterans to honor those we have lost. While these events are deeply meaningful, our mission extends far beyond parades and ceremonies.

NJVN is a dedicated team of volunteers committed to actively reaching veterans in need and connecting them with life-changing—and often life-saving—resources. We have built a strong, statewide network focused on improving the quality of life for our veterans.

Our support includes essential services such as food, clothing, personal items, and transportation. However, our primary focus is on outreach programs and recreational therapy events designed to support mental health and overall

well-being.

Veteran mental health remains one of the most critical challenges facing our community. Tragically, veteran suicide continues to be an ongoing crisis, with numbers that have remained steady or increased each year. This is why outreach, connection, and mentorship are at the heart of everything we do.

We are always eager to collaborate with organizations that share our mission. Most importantly, we are in need of dedicated volunteers who can support our efforts on a regular basis.

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact us: Email:

[NJVN1775@gmail.com](mailto:NJVN1775@gmail.com);

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To learn more visit [njvn.org](http://njvn.org).



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## ALJ'S 2026 VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

### Clark Public Schools

Arthur L. Johnson High School is proud to announce the Class of 2026 Valedictorian Charles Nemeth and Salutatorian Erie Lugo.

Charles Nemeth, the Valedictorian for the Arthur L. Johnson High School Class of 2026, is a stellar student and person. He has excelled in 25 Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and Dual Enrollment courses throughout his four years of high school. One of these courses, Calculus 3, is a class typically reserved for and taken by sophomores in college. His ability to analyze important information across all subject areas is truly impressive. Although his true passions and aptitude lie in the sciences, he is truly a "jack-of-all-trades". Mrs. Morse, his AP Chemistry teacher, has noted, "Charlie is, without a doubt, one of the most promising science students I have encountered in my career". In the classroom, Charlie can often be found generously helping other students with assignments and/or understanding the content. His generosity also extends to his active involvement in the ALJ Key Club. He consistently volunteers to help out at events in the community as well as donate to various groups or charities. Despite his academic successes, Charlie is, most importantly, humble, kind, and caring. Charlie is still between two colleges to attend next year, and he hopes to major in Chemistry or Marine Chemistry.

Erie Lugo, the Salutatorian for the Arthur L. Johnson High School Class of 2026, is another young man of promise and potential. Also currently deciding between two different colleges for his studies for next year, Erie aims to major in Mechanical Engineering or other engineering program. With 24 Honors, Advanced Placement,



(above) Charles Nemeth, Valedictorian; and Erie Lugo, Salutatorian

Photo by Clark Public Schools

or Dual Enrollment courses under his belt as he nears graduation, Erie has certainly earned his place at the top of the class. He has also earned distinction as an "AP Scholar with Distinction", meaning that he has scored a 3 or higher on five or more AP exams. Not only a leader in the classroom, Erie is also a leader in our local community. His school counselor, Meghan Ryan, explained, "When he is not studying or exploring his various interests, Erie can most likely be found participating in a Scouting America activity as a Senior Patrol Leader. This position is an elected youth officer position, and as such, Erie upholds the spirit of the group and he provides planning and direction to his peers." He also participated in the National Youth Leadership Training Conference, a weeklong training camp which taught him communication, teamwork, and leadership, amongst other things.

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### Book Mark Contest

May 4 to May 19

This summer, the Garwood Library will host its Annual Summer Reading Program, this year's theme is: Unearth a Story™. It underscores the joy of discovery that reading brings and that every person and every community have stories waiting to be found and shared – through books, programs, and local knowledge.

Ten bookmark submissions will be printed and distributed by the library for everyone to enjoy. Pick up the contest application at the library.

### KNITTING CLUB

May 4, 11 and 18, at 10:30

Join our Knitting Club. Open to all levels. Whether you're a beginner or you want to share your vast knowledge of knitting, spend an hour being creative and socializing @ 10:30 am. No Registration required. Yarn and needles provided to newcomers

### Storytime

May, 5, 12, 19, 26, at 10 am and 11 am

Join Miss Maryanne for stories and more. Registration is required.

### Code Forward

May, 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 3:30 PM

offers Lincoln school students the opportunity to learn computer programming languages such as Java, Python, and more.

### Library Board Meeting

May 6 at 7:30 pm

A meeting of the Garwood Board of Trustees will take place at 7:30 pm in the library located at 411 Third Ave. Meeting is open to the public

### Children's Sound Stage

May 12 at 3:30

Celebrate the Spirit of America's 250th Anniversary with Children's Sound Stage at 3:30 pm – Join us for a special Musical program for kids celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States! This program invites children to experience music, history, and fun through a lively performance of guitar, singing and interactive activities.

### Adult Game Day

May 13 and 20 at 1 pm

Socialize with others while playing Rummikub, Sorry, Uno, or cards. No registration required.

Limit 12

### Virtual Adult Craft

May 13, and 20 at 3pm

Pick up supplies and instructions for a craft. Registration is required for craft kits and is limited to 15 participants. Registration is required

### Book Club

May 18 at 1pm

Join us for a lively discussion of this month's book My Friend by Sigrid Nuned

### LEGO CLUB

May 20 at 3 pm

Be inspired by this month's theme or build whatever comes to mind. Some creations will be displayed in our showcase. Registration is required

### Thursday Night Book Club

May 23 at 6 pm

will meet to discuss How to Grow Old Disgracefully by Clare Pooley

## GARWOOD HONORS PEGGY BRIGGS

Mayor Jen Blumenstock

The Borough of Garwood honors Peggy Briggs, a former Garwood Councilwoman and long time volunteer, who passed away in April. Elected to council in 1997, Peggy was devoted to the community both on and off the dais, and her commitment to our Borough went far beyond her work as an elected official. I myself got to know Peggy through her role in the Garwood Lions Club. Over the many decades, Peggy wore many hats for the Lions, including President, Vice President and Secretary and could often be seen in the kitchen at events making the famous Lions clam chowder. Peggy was the embodiment of Garwood's volunteer spirit and she will be sorely missed.



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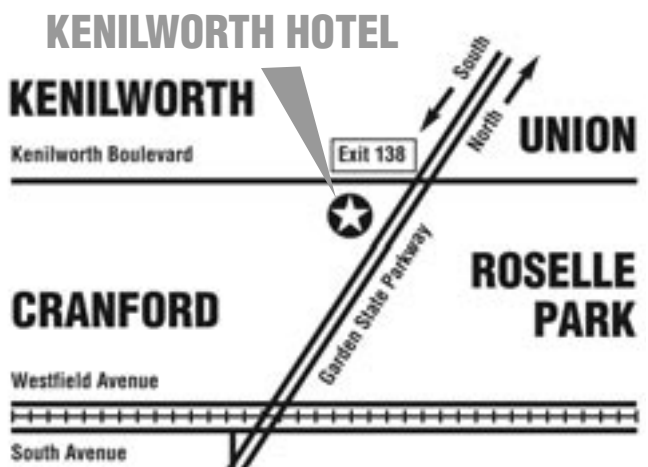
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