Green Brook Gazette

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Green Brook
Cultural Heritage
and Historic
Preservation
Committee and
The Green Brook
Historical Society
meeting:

3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH 7:30 pm

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MUSICAL PROVIDED OVER 70 WITH OPPORTUNITY TO SHINE

Submitted Denis J. Kelly

Between the cast, crew, support personnel, art design of programs and house volunteers, scores of people pitched in to stage the annual production of the spring musical, "Little Shop of Horrors," Wednesday, March 18, to Sunday, March 22, at Watchung Hills Regional High School.

"It happens every year," said Arts and World Languages Supervisor Brad Commerford, "about 75 people are involved in staging the musical. It's a huge undertaking. Script and Cue members, and everyone associated with the production, had an opportunity to participate. They did an excellent job."

The Watchung Hills production was directed by Douglas Eaton, who also provided set design. Angela DiIorio Bird was musical director and orchestra pit director. She was also one of two keyboardists in the orchestra.

Lead actors in the cast were Michael Weinfeldt as Seymour and Hannah Melillo as Audrey. Silas Baker was Mushnik, Ryan Prestera was Orin. Peri Martins and Julia Sluyter were Ronnette 1 and Ronette 2, Veronica Mu and Julia Golkin were Chiffon 1 and Chiffon 2, and Jackie Romankow and Allison Horvath were Crystal 1 and Crystal 2. Alex Wu provided the voice for Audrey II. David Kalwicz, Nikhil Bhat, and Zoe Golkin provided the manipulation for Audrey II.

Members of the Ensemble were: David Kalwicz, Lynsey Stanicki, Nikhil Bhat, Alex Bird, Angela Celeste, Mariella Zijdel, Kira Leinwand, Caitlin Iannella, Tea Kingly, Katrina Howard, Judy Tounsi, Victoria Magali, Adele Rotondo, Gaby DiLone, Charles Buscarino, Angela Munoz, Katherine Peterson, Angela Seda, Emma Leary, Rhiannon Barone, Eric Bautista, and Alex Wu.

Assistant Musical Director was Alyssa Rosenblum, who also played clarinet. The orchestra included: Owen DiDonna, drums; Naomi Smith, electric bass; Davie Willett, guitar; Jillian Carbone, keyboard; Jason O'Brien, percussion; Nick Mossa, clarinet; John Ray and Brianna Rosen, flute; Andrew Morrison and Justin Panzarino, saxophone; Hanna Stanicki and Katelyn Bereheiko, bass clarinet; and Bonnie Burgdorf and Brian Carneiro, trumpet.

The production crew included: Scenic Artist, Kate Griffin; Lighting Design and Technical Director, Chris Valenti; Costume Design, Gail DeCicco; Choreography, Ashlen Udell; Sound Design, Matt Guarino; Special Effects, Rick Clark; Production Assistant, Brooke Kupferman;



(above): "Audrey II," center, the name of the mysterious plant with an appetite for blood, with voice provided by Sophomore Alexander Wu and puppet manipulation by Junior David Kalwicz, Sophomore Nikhil Bhat and Freshman Zoe Golkin, is the center of attention in the Spring musical at Watchung Hills Regional High School, "Little Shop of Horrors." Accompanying the growing plant in a flower shop are leads, Sophomore Hannah Melillo, left, as Audrey, and Senior Michael Weinfeldt, as Seymour.

Assistant Directors Jacob Lyons, Anirban Chakraborty, and Kathleen Stavole; and Assistant Director/Musical Director Liaison, Amelia Stapperfenne.

Other production staff included: Joe Bouffard and Jenna Leski, assistant stage managers; Christopher Oakes, lighting board operator; Matt Guarino, Michelle Reina, and Mike Maloney, audio engineers; and Kieran Amore, Stephanie Chavanne, Michael Dumapit, Gabrielle Fallon, Stephanie Fallon, Sarah Kowsakowski, Josh Leski, Gabe Peraza, Dominique Rounce, Jennifer Stavole, Nicole Stoicescu, Caitlin Villarreal and Janine Villarreal, running crew.

Rail and Rigging was provided by Jennifer Gilmore, Emily Graf, Dana Nara and Ashley Thach. Construction crew were Matt Guarino, Rick Clark, Nick Dinizio and Brett Siksnius. Scenic Painting crew was Kimberly Griffin and Rebecca Novik. Prop and Furniture Rental was provided by Anything But Costumes. Prop masters were Megan Maloney, Collette Crocco, Mylan Dettling, Megan Petersen and Jordan Scheiner. Costume Rental was by Jaye Barre. Hair and Make-up were by Lina Rivetti and Noelle Puelo. Puppet Master was Jeff Seesselberg. Poster Design was by Kevin Guo and Steve Speeney.

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GRAND OPENING OF SHOOT ME ON APRIL 25TH

Kathy Facciponti is inviting the public to the grand opening of her business Shoot Me Photography on April 25, 2015.

Her studio is located at 204 North Washington Avenue in Dunellen, New Jersey.



(above, l-r) Mother and daughter duo; Kathy (Sr.) Ponti of Ponti's Petals and daughter, Kathy (Jr.) Facciponti

She is sharing the location, a grand old Victorian home with Ponti's Petals, her mom Kathy's floral shop. Two Kathy's will offer cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and live music from 1:30 pm to 6:00 pm.



SAMANTHA DONATES HAIR FOR GOOD CAUSE

By Melissa Noble

When is a haircut more than just a fashion statement? When the clippings are harvested to provide natural hair wigs for women living with cancer. On February 28th, 8 year old, Samantha Noble from Green Brook IEF Elementary School walked into Melanie's Salon in Dunellen to get her hair cut in hopes of helping someone she had never met through a difficult time.

Samantha had been growing her hair for 2 years with the intent of donating it to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, a charity that uses pony tail clippings of 8 inches or longer to create real-hair wigs for women with cancer. According to Pantene's website, the organization has donated 24,000 free real-hair wigs to the American Cancer Society's wig banks. These wigs get distributed to patients across the United States.

After her cut, Samantha commented, "I got a really nice haircut and I got to help someone else too." Samantha wants to spread the word about donating hair in hopes of getting others to join her in the cause. "It takes 8-15 ponytails to make a wig for someone, so we need people to share their hair" said Samantha. "It will grow back and you'll help someone feel better about themselves."

If you would like to join Samantha in her crusade to help women with cancer through hair donation, visit pantene.com/en-us/brandexperience/make-the-cut.



(above) Samantha Noble





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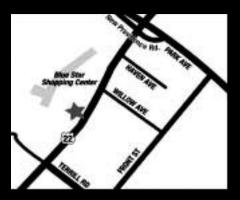
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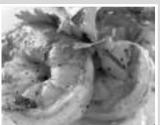
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GIRL SCOUTS GO TAHITIAN AT WORLD THINKING DAY

Submitted by April Larsen

Green Brook Girl Scout Troop 65023 participated in the Green Brook & Dunellen Girl Scout World Thinking Day on February 27. Girls from many troops represented different countries and focused on the wonders of culture. The troop demonstrated a traditional Tahitian dance called Tamure Tamure. For anyone interested in Girl Scouts please go online to www.GSHNJ.org



(above, front. l-r) Grace G., Madison C. and Keria L. (back, l-r) Andrea Y., Jada R., Gianna D. and Kaitlyn Z.

MULTICULTURAL WEEK A FUN-FILLED EXPERIENCE!

Feldkirchner (IEF) Elementary School Spanish classes and researching other countries celebrated Multicultural Week. During that week, each classroom presented Multicultural projects on specific countries.

Projects were displayed in the school's hallways outside grade-level classrooms. Students learned about countries from all seven world continents, including countries that our students' families originate from.

Some of the other activities that occurred during the week included:

1) making medallions that represented each student's country of origin; 2) learning a continent song; 3) listening to and reading stories about other cultures; 4) learning cultural

During the week of February 23rd, Irene E. games; 5) continuing to learn about Spain in in Computer classes.

> The culmination of the multicultural event occurred on Friday, February 27, 2015. On that day parents/guardians were invited to come see the school's displays/activities, and hear the student body sing the "continent song". Also on that day, everyone sampled a variety of cultural foods within the classrooms.

> Parents volunteered to bring in a dish to their child's classroom that is representative of their cultural background and heritage.

> Multicultural week was all-in-all a fun-filled educational (and culinary) experience for the entire IEF School community.



(above, l-r) From Mrs. Holczinger's class Jake Sihlanick (Portugal), Jakob Garcia (Phillipines), Ben Webb (Italy), Gavin Guo (China), Shiva Patel (India), Jashith Gorrepatti (India) and Nika Gusev (Ukraine).



(above) Kaylee Yue, representing Korea, is in Mrs. Alhanti's class

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"CINDERELLA" FOCUSES ON MAKING YOUR OWN DREAMS COME TRUE

Brook Middle School presented a middle school version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" on Thursday, March 19 and Monday, March 23.

The Rodgers and Hammerstein version is different from the Disney version of the story because it focuses more on making your own dreams come true instead of hoping that things will fall in your lap.

Cinderella (Christine T.) lives with her Stepmother (Aurora B.) and Stepsisters

The Musical Theatre Department at Green (Mallory H., Victoria P., and Dana W.) and wishes she can attend the Royal Ball, thrown by the King (Adam N.) and Queen (Megan C.) in hopes to find their son Prince Christopher (Sam. B) a wife. Her Stepmother does not let her attend, but her Godmother (Kyra A.) magically appears and helps her realize that she must make things happen for herself.

> Once Cinderella realizes this, she is transformed from rags to riches and attends the ball, where she and the Prince fall in love. When she leaves in a hurry and loses her glass slipper,

the Herald (Daria A.) travels the kingdom in search of the girl who fits the missing shoe. The chefs (Rhea K., Jordan P., Christina P., and Kaitlyn L.), Select Chorus (Julie A., Michelle C., Giovanna D., and Maria I) and the Chorus (Rhea Cariappa, Shannon C., Kaylin D., Rhea F., Meghan F., Katrina G., Calyn G., Mia H., Mihika I., Courtney M., Samantha M., Erin P., Lauren Q., Deziree S., Katie S., Amelia T., Abigail W., Savera Z., and Sydney Z.) made the show come to life! The production also included 11 stage crew members (Vivian C., Reshma D., Roshni D., Jordan H., Brandon H., Alli M., Nina M., Sophia P., Evelin P., Alexa R., and Annika R.) and 24 pit band members (Jason A., Aditi B., Zach B., Kathy C., Ben D., Elliot D., Taylor H., Calvin K., Ben K., Omar L., Kevin L., Kyle M., Michael M., Achyuta M., Jack O., Aanika S., Jason S., Max S., Sean W., Tyler W., Jessica Y., Tim Z., Vivian Z., and Lynn Z.).

The production was directed by Mrs. Cifelli, choreographed by Mrs. Chehade, instrumentally musically directed by Mr. Sorensen, and the set was designed by Mrs. Rego.





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RESIDENT IS ONE OF SOMERSET COUNTY'S 20 OUTSTANDING WOMEN

Patricia Walsh, liaison to the county Commission on the Status of Women, joins the commission in announcing the 2015 Outstanding Women in Somerset County award winners.

"We have many women in Somerset County doing amazing things every day," said Freeholder Walsh. "It is most appropriate that during Women's History Month, we take the



(above) Florence Larkin, Green Brook resident and one of Somerset County's 20 outstanding women award winners

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Somerset County Freeholder Deputy Director time to publicly recognize them and say thank you." The Outstanding Women in Somerset County awards dinner was held March 27 at The Imperia in Franklin.

> "This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Somerset County Commission on the Status of Women," she added, noting it was founded in January 1985 with the support of then-Freeholder and later Governor Christine Todd Whitman.

> Honorees are women who live in Somerset County. Among this year's award recipients is Green Brook resident, Florence Larkin recognized for her work in arts and entertainment. She has been a member of the

Board of Trustees of the Watchung Arts Center (WAC) for 13 years and currently serves as vicepresident of education. As a former school teacher who always advocated for the arts, she has used her insight in overseeing the WAC's very successful children's art classes and children's art summer camp. Working with a fellow trustee, she has been instrumental in developing a relationship with the Watchung Hills Regional High School Art Department to showcase the works of advanced arts students and their faculty in a month-long art exhibition at the WAC. She also is coordinator and host of the Meet the Performers Reception held with each WAC concert and event.

HILLS GRADUATE AND TREASURE HUNTER DONATES HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS



(above) Brad Bocksel, a 2001 graduate of Watchung Hills Regional High School and former resident of Warren Township, returned to his alma mater on Monday, March 9, to share his success at finding and donating to museums historical artifacts such as Revolutionary War and Civil War-era coins, musket balls, and belt buckles, among other artifacts. With Bocksel (third left) are students (l-r): Senior Brooke Bahooshian of Green Brook Township, Senior Greg Lockwood of Millington, Junior Brianna Torrisi of Warren Township, Junior Brianna Walker of Watchung, Senior Liddy Tino of Watchung, and Freshman Alexa Chavez of Watchung.



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"DANCIN' WITH THE SUPERSTARS" BENEFIT

Submitted by Lorinda Haver

On Saturday, February 7, 2015, Broadway Dance Theatre hosted "Dancin' With The Superstars," a benefit competition & performance for Pediatric Cancer Research & Marinda Davis (Dysautonomia Awareness). The event was held at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights and raised \$12, 450.

Broadway Dance Theatre invited four dance studios to participate (Epic Dance Company of Flemington, Denville Dance Arts of Denville, Ms. Doreen's Fabulous Feet of Metuchen and Chez Renee of Middlesex) to the event, and along with the dancers of Broadway Dance Theatre....they danced to raise thousands of dollars for two amazing causes.

Each studio had to choose a "superstar" (or dance dad) and create a dance performance around the superstar. THEY WERE FANTASTIC...and great sports about the whole

performance. The studios raised money for the two causes by getting sponsors in the name of their superstar. Broadway Veteran, Ben Cameron MC'd the event, and we had star studded judges (Nikki Hester, Robert DuSold & Emily Hsu) who critiqued the "superstars" live at the event. Nobody was "hired" as we all volunteered our time to be part of this beautiful night. It was an incredible event full of laughs and friendships and spectacular performances.



(above) Broadway Dance Theatre Company and dancers who hosted the event



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