## Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

Published by Renna Media

Issue 3 • December 2015

**SCOTCH PLAINS BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION** and SCOTCH PLAINS **CULTURAL ARTS EVENT COMMITTEE** present **HOLIDAY CELEBRATION** SUN., DEC. 6TH 2:00pm-5:00pm **ALAN AUGUSTINE VILLAGE GREEN** 430 Park Avenue

### WHITE CASTLE HOSTS BOY SCOUT CHESS TOURNAMENTS

The Scotch Plains Baptist Church was the site sponsored by White Castle. The tournament was on Saturday, Febuary 27, 2016. open to all registered Boy Scouts, Venturers and Explorers. This was the second annual tournament for the Watchung Mountain District.

Robert Mehorter of Scotch Plains won third place honors. Second place was won by Harrison Hahne-Lum of of Springfield and first place went to Kevin Cavicchia of Summit, who won all four of his games.

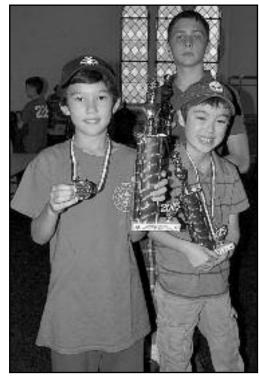
White Castle purchased 20 sets, boards and clocks for the Boy Scouts and will continue to sponsor tournaments in all seven Boy Scout Districts in New Jersey.

The company covered expenses for running the tournament including trophies for the top three winners and ribbons for participants. They also supplied lunch for all players and spectators. White Castle will continue to support the Boy Scouts and the Chess program coordinated by Joe Renna of Renna Media.

Boys and girls who are Boy Scouts, Venturers and Explorers are invited for the latest Boy Scouts Chess Tournament to play in all districts. The next scheduled tournament will be in Cranford



(left, l-r) Joe Renna of Renna Media and Jasmin Arroyo, General Manager of the Green Brook White Castle with tournament players and Charlean Mahon, Boy Scouts of America District Executive.



(above, l-r) First, second and third place finishers Kevin Cavicchia, Harrison Hahne-Lum, and Robert Mehorter.



(above, l-r) Scotch Plains Boy Scouts Luke Checchio, Ryan Bergh Thies, and Steven Rhein,



(right, l-r) Scotch Plains Scout Robert Mehorter took third place winningthree out of his four games.





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## RENNA MEDIA IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT LORI THEISS HAS JOINED ITS STAFF

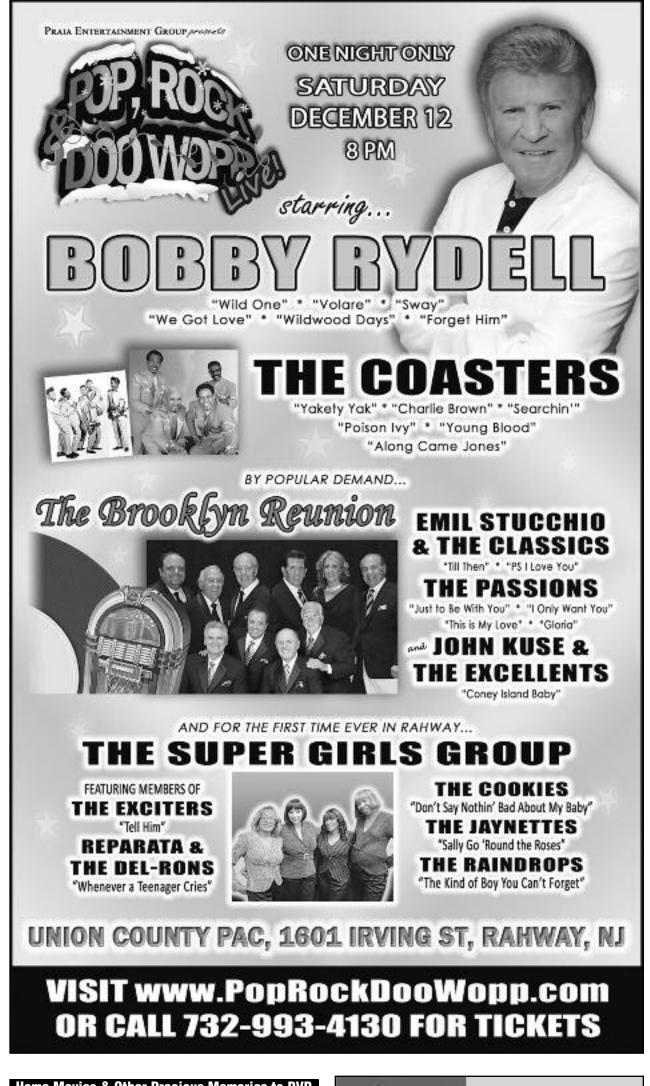
Lori Theiss is the liaison to the Scotch Plains community and will be responsible for collecting news of community service events. Community service organizations are encouraged to contact Lori to promote upcoming events and report on past happenings.

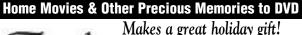
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### MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SEMIFINALISTS



Daniel Zheng (left) and Shona Jain (right) have been named Semifinalists in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Competition. Officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 61st annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered next spring.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalist must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalists level of the competition. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

## SPF HIGH SCHOOL COMMENDED STUDENTS IN 2016 NAT'L MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Principal, Dr. David Heisey, announced today that thirteen Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students have been named Commended Students in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) Program.

Approximately 34,000 commended students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2016 competition by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

(PSAT/NMSQT).

"The young men and women being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."





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### SPFHS MARCHING BAND FINISHES SUCCESSFUL 2015 SEASON

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Marching Band wrapped up the 2015 season with a November 7 performance at the USBands Open Class National Championships, held at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. The band achieved its highest score of the season, 93.900. SPF faced stiff competition in its category against six bands from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Virginia, five of which received higher scores. The top score in the group was 97.200 received by Norwin Senior High School from North Huntingdon, PA.

For the 2015 season the 180-member SPF band was reassigned from USBands Group 6A to the more competitive Group 6-Open. In its first season at this level, the band's scores increased John Gillick and color guard director Jackie steadily over six competitions. In the New Jersey State Championship on Oct. 31 the SPF band placed second in its group, received the award for Best Percussion, and won the Cadets Award of Excellence, presented to the band that best reflects overall effect, creativity and pursuit of excellence.

"This has been a phenomenal journey," said SPF band director Durand Thomas. "It's especially fulfilling to have the senior class lead as they have – they create the magic." Student drum majors for 2015 were Kaavya Krishna-Kumar, Mary Catherine Stovall and Melody Weigel. Band staff also includes assistant director

Tumolo.

The 2015 show was titled "Chance Love -Tales Beneath a Persian Moon" and featured music from Scheherazade by Nikolai Andreyevich Rimsky-Korsakov, Samson and Delilah by Camille Saint-Saëns, and Cleopatra by Alex North. Soloists were Shay Blechinger-Slocum on flute and Kevin Sonpar on baritone horn. In addition to USBands competitions the band performed at many Raiders football games.

USBands, a program of Youth Education in the Arts, is a competitive circuit for scholastic band programs nationwide and has a membership of more than 700 high school marching bands.









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### **SERVICE LEAGUE THRIFT SHOP DECEMBER SCHEDULE**

Still looking for that perfect gift, dressy wear for the holiday season, or the final touch for your tree? The FSPL Service League Thrift Shop, 1441 East Second Street, Scotch Plains, still has all you need for the season. In our boutique style shop, for children's delight we are well stocked with toys, games, dolls. The shop has housewares and home goods for this and every season. The Collectors' Corner has unique gift items and antiques. All this in addition to the usual selection of new and gently used clothing and accessories for the whole family. Remember clothes for those special parties and get togethers.

The Thrift Shop is hosting the ever popular Christmas Boutique. We have new never used gift items with original price tags for that special someone. All items are reasonably priced. This year the shop will include brand new clothing for men, women and children for special holiday parties, get togethers and family celebrations. The Christmas Boutique will run until December 23rd. Thrift Shop Hours are Tuesday thru Friday 10:00am to 2:30pm and Saturday, 10AM to 1:00PM.

Please note: The Thrift Shop will be closed December 24 thru January 2, reopening January 5, 2016.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that has served our communities since 1974. Since its founding, the League has donated over \$1.1 million for local causes.

Anyone interested in learning more about the League or League membership is invited to call 908-322-5420, visit our website www.scotchplainsthriftshop.weebly.com or speak to any of our volunteers at the shop. Check out our Facebook page "Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League" and give us a "Like."

### THREE ORGANZATIONS JOINED TO HOST **COLUMBUS DAY CEREMONY**

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood chapter of the many accomplishments of the Italian-UNICO National together with the Italian American Club of Scotch Plains and the Knights of Columbus Council #5730 held a Columbus Day ceremony on 10/10/15 at the town hall plaza in Scotch Plains. After a great welcome by emcee Sal Perillo, the invocation was given by Deacon John Lynch of Immaculate Heart of Mary RCC. Local Columbus monument historian Tom Donatelli gave the pledge to the flag. The American National Anthem was played and the Italian National Anthem was also played once again sang by Romano Del Roio, a past President of the Italian American Club of Scotch Plains. Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Seth McQuillan spoke on the knights and Father Michael McGivney, and Chapter President Paul Raphael spoke on the importance of Columbus Day traditions. The chapter had two essay winners, both 7th grade students at St. Bartholomew Academy. They were Meghan Mahaffey and Giovanni-Young Annunizato. They each were given an award for their efforts. Kevin Glover, Mayor of Scotch Plains spoke on

Americans that settled in Scotch Plains after coming from the town of Montazzoli in the Abruzzi region of Italy. He also read a proclamation adding the name of Montazzoli Plaza to the street where the Italian American club hall is located. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood chapter was very much honored to have as our main speaker the President of UNICO National, Dr. Ann Walko. Her very timely and inspiring words were well received by all in the audience. A floral wreath was presented at the monument and the benediction was given by Deacon Lynch. Member Sal Perillo introduced the Westfield Community Band Brass Ensemble who entertained everyone with Italian music selection under the direction of Ed Rommel. The Italian American Club provided sandwiches and water and UNICO provided coffee and donuts for all to enjoy. Emcee Sal thanked everyone in attendance and those that helped make the event a success. The program was organized by chapter members Carmen Ponzio (Chairman of the event) and Jeff Blanck.



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4pm - 7pm



### **BOOK CLUB APPROACHING 100TH BOOK READ**

Our Book Club, Books Unite Friends, was founded in October 2006 at the Roselle Golf Club. It consists of nine golfers, mainly teachers, nurses, and businesswomen! Each member recommends one book for the calendar year. It is highly suggested that this person first read the book to eliminate "word of mouth" or rely on the opinions of Best Sellers Lists! After a lively respectable group discussion each person then rates the book from 1 to 5 as well as share their final comments and insights! It should be also noted that monthly meetings are conducted in a restaurant which eliminates all household and dining pressures for a hostess!

After reading 86 books, East of Eden by John Steinbeck received our highest rating of a perfect 5.0! Our holiday meeting in December encourages each member to bring a mystery gift that related to the previous year's literature!!! Over the past nine years this fun challenge has truly reflected the intellectual creativity of the group. We are anxiously approaching our 100th book and are considering several ways to celebrate our extremely accomplished endeavor. Our bonded group is always on the search for that one special "WOW" book!!!! Therefore, we always look forward to other Book Club inputs and suggestions!!!



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(above, seated, l-r): Pam LaCorte - Elizabeth, Vera Kresge - Scotch Plains, Nancy Simon -Rahway, Linda Farrell - Roselle Park, and (standing, l-r): Pat Cardamone - Linden, Donna Barnes - Cranford, Joan Kylish - Scotch Plains, Ginnie Palumbo - Clark. Missing from Picture is Ann Beams - Cranford.







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Lunch 11am - 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm	
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(above) Third-grader Hannah Sinclair and her parents Eryn and Scott with Hannah's blackboard, which says she is thankful for her family.



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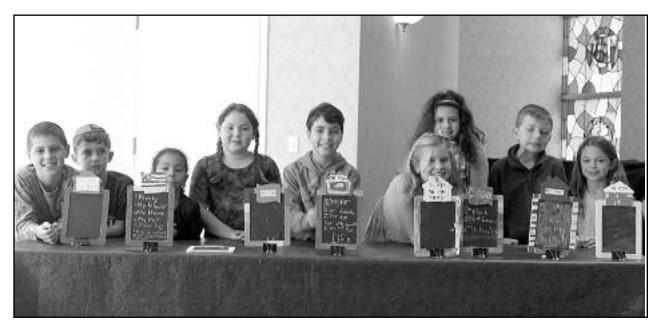
DINE IN OR TAKE OUT Monday

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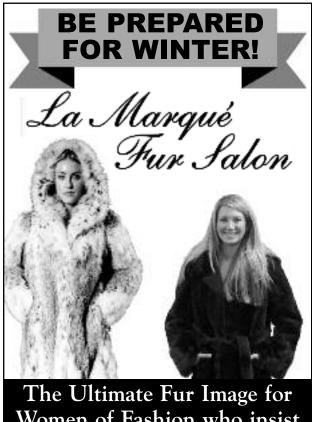
### **MODEH ANI**

Israel's Religious School in Scotch Plains participated in a family education program about Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 15. Along with their parents, the children decorated blackboards on which they wrote what they were

Third-grade students at Congregation Beth thankful for daily. Students also pasted the Hebrew words Modeh Ani (translated as "I am thankful") onto their blackboards so that they draw connections between the Thanksgiving holiday and the Modeh Ani prayer that Jews recite each morning.



Congregation Beth Israel third-graders show off their blackboards.







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## MENU

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Chicken Strips Plate 9 Fish Strips Plate 9

### SOUTHERN DESSERTS

Sweet Potato Pie 5 Vanilla Ice Cream 3

### SOUTHERN SPECIALTY BEVERAGES

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Potato Salad 5

ENTRÉES include (2) two side dishes.

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### STUDENTS ATTEND CONGRESS OF FUTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERS

students at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, were selected as Delegates to the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Lowell, MA from June 28th to June 30th, 2015.

The Congress is an honors only program for high school students who are passionate about science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). The purpose of this event is to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country who aspire to be scientists and technologists, to stay true to their dream and, after the event, to provide a path, plan and resources to help them reach their goal.

American hero and astronaut Buzz Aldrin, Science Director of the National Academy of Future Scientists, nominated both Sean Meisch and Matthew Garber to represent Scotch Plains-Fanwood High school based on their academic achievement, leadership potential and passion for science and technology.

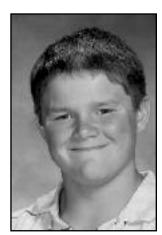
During the three-day congress, Sean and Matthew joined students from across the country

Sean Meisch and Matthew Garber, both senior and heard Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science winners talk about leading scientific research. They were given advice from deans of the world's top tech universities and they were inspired by fellow teen science prodigies. They also learned about cutting-edge advances and the future of science and technology.

> Richard Rossi, Executive Director, National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists said, "Focused, bright and determined students like Sean Meisch and Matthew Garber, are our future and they deserve all the mentoring and guidance we can give them."







Matthew Garber

### **SPF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT** FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK

Investing Club (FLTI) enjoyed learning about the York.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School student inner workings of the banking system on their members of the Financial Literacy Through recent tour of the Federal Reserve Bank of New



(above) Members of the Financial Literacy Through Investing Club, along with club advisor, Mr. Bill Konig posed before the Charging Bull Statue.









### **BIKE SUPER SALE AT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF UC PLAINFIELD CLUB**

The smell of pumpkins and spice is in the air the holidays are just around the corner. Do you know someone who needs a bike? This is a great time to take advantage of a Super Sale on bikes at our Plainfield Bike Exchange. Select bikes are up to 50% off! Visit the Bike Exchange at the Plainfield Club: 530 West 7th Street, Plainfield. Hours are 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM Monday through Friday, and Saturday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM now through December 23 at 6:00 PM.

"This is a great opportunity to purchase a new or refurbished bike at our Bike Exchange," said Russell Triolo, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County. "Thank you to all the volunteers who work hard to prepare bikes."

The Plainfield Club Bike Exchange features both youth and adult bikes, new and gently used, at greatly reduced prices. There is a full inventory of bikes for all ages – stop by and try one. We have a team of ace volunteer bike mechanics who lovingly restore and repair bikes. If you are interested in becoming a mechanic, have bikes to donate or would like more information on our Bike Exchange please contact our Plainfield Club directly at 908-822-8672 x 101.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County is celebrating 60 years of changing lives in Union County! Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County offers youth programs in 5 communities in Union County: Plainfield, Elizabeth, Union, Hillside and Roselle. Teen leadership programs for ages 14-18 are available in Union, Elizabeth and Plainfield. Members participate in character, leadership, career preparation and community service activities throughout the year. Aquatics is available at our Union Club. For information on our clubs and programs, please visit our website www.bgcuc.org or contact us 908-687-2697.

#### **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF UNION COUNTY**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County seek to inspire and enable young people, who need them most, to realize their full potential and have provided opportunity for youth since 1955. They are part of a national network of some 4,000 neighborhood-based facilities, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which serves more than 4.6

million young people annually, in all 50 states and on U.S. military bases worldwide. Clubs provide guidance-oriented character development programs on a daily basis for children 6-18 years old, conducted by a full-time professional staff. Key Boys & Girls Club programs emphasize leadership development, education and career exploration, financial literacy, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation, and family outreach.



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