

WESTFIELD SCHOOLS HONOR VETERANS

**GWACC
BREAKFAST
NETWORKING
TUESDAY, DEC. 15
8:00am - 9:30am**

**UNION CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**
1600 Martine Ave.,
Scotch Plains NJ

Join the Greater Westfield
Area Chamber of
Commerce for breakfast
and networking at Union
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During gymnasium-filled assemblies, Westfield intermediate schools paid tribute this week to US veterans.

On Veterans Day, November 11, Edison Intermediate School (EIS) opened its assembly with the presentation of colors by the Color Guard Marine Unit from Fort Dix, NJ. Speeches and readings by the school's principal and students were punctuated by musical offerings from the school's concert band and eighth grade chorus.

Against a backdrop of student-created banners filled with words of thanks to the men and women in the military, guest speakers reminded students to be grateful for the freedoms and way of life which can often be taken for granted.

Westfield resident, Nick Ricigliano, with a long military career -- including his service in the US Army in the first Gulf War -- involving Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Kuwait -- gave examples of real life heroes who sacrificed their lives to protect those freedoms.

EIS Social Studies teacher, Robert Maver, served in the Army in Bosnia as a peacekeeper -- an image and role he said he wished more people understood. During his service in Bosnia, when he eliminated mine fields near public areas such as schools, was when he was first inspired to become a teacher.

Fellow Social Studies teacher, John Stasi, who emceed the program, thanked the students for participating in the school's theme of service, in which extra lunches are brought in for the needy every Wednesday, and for the Treats for Troops campaign held this month.

Stasi led the school in a round of applause for EIS Principal Matt Bolton, who received his Doctorate in Education the previous day. In turn, Dr. Bolton thanked the teachers and students for coming together as a community in performing acts of citizenship. He also mentioned his particular appreciation of vocal teacher, Kristine Smith-Morasso, for spearheading the annual Veterans Day event. Dr. Bolton praised the two guest speakers who he noted, "voluntarily served our country."

On Monday, November 9, a similar assembly was held at Roosevelt Intermediate School, complete with Color Guard, music, and speeches by students and Principal Stewart Carey. Social Studies teacher, Brian Vieth, presented the school's "Heroes Among Us Award" to Lieutenant Edward Brown of the US Navy.



(above) Against a banner reading "Thank You for Your Service," Army Veterans Robert Maver and Nick Ricigliano (center l-r) are greeted by Edison Principal Matt Bolton and Acting Assistant Principal Kim Schumacher at the school's annual assembly held Veterans Day, November 11.



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WESTFIELD SCHOOLS CHOSEN FOR EMMY AWARD WINNING TV PROGRAM

Classroom Close-up NJ, an Emmy award-winning TV magazine program focusing on innovative projects in New Jersey public schools, selected the Westfield Public Schools to showcase digital learning. Cameramen and producers filmed teachers and students in action on October 20, beginning with Westfield High School (WHS) in the morning and ending at Tamaques Elementary School in the afternoon. The Digital Learning Center and the Chrome Book Cohort led by Adam Pizzi were highlighted at WHS. Following her introduction to first graders in Mary Montes's classroom, Master Technology Teacher Jeanine Gottko (seated) led first graders in a mathematics lesson using i-Pads. Interviews of administrators, teachers and

students gave testimony to the school district's initiative to utilize technology to enhance instruction, engage students in learning and continue its tradition of excellence. The show will air on NJTV on Sunday, February 14 and March 20 at 7:30 AM, 12:30 PM, and 7:30 PM (Verizon Fios channel 23/High Def 523; Cablevision channel 8; Comcast channel 23/High Def 800; and Time Warner channel 23/High Def 723). For either early morning or late night viewing (or DVR), it can be seen on Saturday, February 20 and March 26 at 5:30 AM and Wednesday, February 17 and March 23 at 11:30 PM. The show will be posted and archived on www.classroomcloseup.org.



(above l-r) Mary Montes and Jeanine Gottko (seated) at Tamaques.



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100+ WOMEN IN ATTENDANCE AT GWACC NETWORKING EVENT

The second Women to Women Networking event, hosted by the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC), was held at the Westwood in Garwood, NJ on October 28th. More than 100 women were in attendance to network with other businesswomen and check out the services of local vendors. In addition, speaker Loraine Kasprak, MBA and Founder and Managing Director of Advantage Marketing, discussed how to craft an effective elevator speech. The GWACC thanks all the attendees and vendors for making the event a huge success. The Women to Women Committee looks forward to seeing everyone again at their next networking event.


Women to Women is a committee of the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce. The goal of the committee is to bring women together to increase networking opportunities and to empower women to achieve their personal and professional goals. Committee members include: Mariella Foley (Round Table Wealth Management), Maria Fuentes (Northfield Bank), Barbara Murphy (Sir Speedy), Irene Katz (Coldwell Banker), Arielle Cassidy (The Juice House), and Susan Devaney (The Mavins Group). If you would like additional information about this group, please contact one of our committee members or email Mariella Foley at Mariella@roundtablewealth.com.



GWACC CELEBRATES A MILESTONE

The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce was established at the Rialto Theater on April 27, 1948 by 29 Westfield businesses. Recently, the GWACC celebrated its 400th member, Debora Brody, Just For You Consulting Services, Inc. Scotch Plains by awarding Debora with a one year free membership in the Chamber at the Women to Women Networking Event, held October 28 at the Westwood in front of over 100 women in attendance that evening. Debora specializes in QuickBooks training, setup and support as well as consultative bookkeeping services. She has been in business for over 13 years. Gene Jannotti, the Executive Director of the GWACC, stated "The Chamber has been on a steady growth pattern for 16 months now and I believe that the Chamber is poised for even higher membership levels. Our membership committee, headed by Patrick Cicala of Capitol One Home Loans, is very active reaching out to new businesses in the area and explaining the benefits of membership." The GWACC primarily serves Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield. For more information, please call the office at 908-233-3021.





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RAKE & HOE GARDEN CLUB BRINGS CHEER TO MOBILE MEALS' CLIENTS

Members of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club's Community Projects Committee completed 48 mini flower creations October 28 for clients of Mobile Meals of Westfield. Twice a year club members gather at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, where Mobile Meals originates. The club donates the flowers and prepares small arrangements to accompany that day's meal delivery to clients.

Josephine Walsh, director of Mobile Meals Operations, reports that clients welcome and look forward to receiving the arrangements to brighten their day. Mobile Meals, a voluntary, nonprofit program of home-delivered meals serving those who are unable to shop and prepare their own

meals on either a temporary or permanent basis, is available to residents of Westfield, and surrounding communities including Mountainside, Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Clark and Cranford. For more information, call: 908-233-6146.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield has a longtime reputation for its service to the community and donations to worthy causes by maintaining the gardens at the northside of the Westfield Train Station, the Miller-Cory House Museum, and the Shadowlawn Pocket Park, and the Claire Brownell Wildflower Garden at the Westfield Historic Society's Reeve History and Cultural Resource Center.

The Rake & Hoe Junior Garden Club, which meets once a month, has members between first grade and eighth grade. Call Mrs. Beth Siano at 908-233-4150 if interested in joining. The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield, NJ's membership is diverse, spanning all ages, interests, and occupations. Federated with the National Council of State Garden Clubs, and the Garden Club of New Jersey, the club has between 50 and 70 members all of whom share one thing in common: a love of flowers and gardening.

Contact Diana Kazazis, club president, at 908-654-8783 for more information or look at their Facebook page and website, rakeandhoe.org



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NJWA MUSICIANS WILL FILL THE AIR WITH THE SOUNDS OF THE HOLIDAYS

Members of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts Brass Quintet and International American Alphorn Ensemble will again entertain holiday shoppers and visitors in downtown Westfield this winter.

The Brass Quintet, whose members include NJWA Founder and Director Dr. Ted Schlosberg, Florian Schantz, Margaret Schantz, Lowell Schantz and Rup Chattopadhyay, has been strolling the business district and will continue to do so on Sunday, December 13 and 20 playing traditional holiday music between the hours of 2:30 pm and 4:30 pm.

On Central Avenue, near Quimby Street, the International American Alphorn Ensemble has been recreating the seasonal sounds of the Alps on Saturdays, and will perform there on December 12 and 19, from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

Alphorn members who will be performing include Dr. Schlosberg, Martina Struck, William Carter, Dana Sylvander, Rudy Rollick and Kate Murphy.

Dr. Schlosberg has studied the alphorn at the Alphorn Academy in Montreux, Switzerland. He has performed on various occasions for the Swiss Mission at the United Nations, the New York Stock Exchange, network television, Ricola USA and innumerable heritage festivals throughout the East Coast.

For more information on these events, or any program of the NJWA, visit their studios at 150-152 East Broad Street, Westfield, phone 908-789-9696, log on to www.njworkshopforthearts.com and visit them on Facebook and Twitter.



The NJWA Brass Quintet will stroll the Westfield business district to entertain holiday shoppers and visitors. (above) Margaret Schantz, Florian Schantz, Rup Chattopadhyay, Dr. Ted Schlosberg and Lowell Schantz.

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RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

On Thursday, December 31st, at 7pm, under the baton of Maestro David Wroe, the New Jersey Festival Orchestra, again presents one of New Jersey's most popular New Year's Eve musical celebrations. The performance, *Dancing the Blues Away*, promises a superb revue of American musical theater classics presented in glorious symphonic splendor and features international guest vocalists direct from Broadway and beyond.

This year's program reads like a Who's Who

of the best of American musical theater- Berlin, Hamlisch, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, Boubil and Schonberg and Leonard Bernstein are just some of the superb composers featured in the show.

This not-to-be missed celebration, eagerly anticipated by much of central New Jersey, has been made possible through the generous sponsorship of The NJ State Council on the Arts and The Westfield Foundation.

An event for the whole family, this friendly

cabaret-style concert full of fun, surprises, musical finesse and virtuoso performances is sure to delight young and not so young alike. With a 7pm start (concert ends at 9pm) and a convenient Westfield High School location with ample parking, the concert is a perfect beginning to New Year's Eve revels.

TICKET INFORMATION

Audience members are advised to make reservations as soon as possible as tickets are selling fast and last year's concert was a sell-out with no tickets available at the door. Tickets in advance are \$40, \$55 or \$70. Tickets may be purchased on line www.njfestivalorchestra.org or by calling the box office at (908) 232-9400.

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IN THE BUSINESS OF SAVING LIVES

Lynn Feldman and Reid Edles want nothing more than to see the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad grow and prosper. They've given a good portion of their lives volunteering for the Westfield Squad and it is their passion; and has become their home away from home. Along with Bob Jankowitz, Dispatcher, these three people have collectively spent 75 years with the squad (Lynn 24, Reid 30, and Bob 21) giving of their time and talents.

Today though, it's all about additional

donations and new membership needed. At this late time of year, the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad sadly reports that they are still 30% away from receiving their targeted donations which translate into their operating dollars. They are the largest Squad in Union County that is completely all-volunteer, with no paid members whatsoever. These funds are needed desperately so that they can continue their operation of providing the service of saving lives to Westfield and its surrounding towns. And they are dependent on donation dollars alone.

The Squad would love to add crew members to their existing line up, and will provide all training needed at no cost to volunteers or EMT's interested in joining. The Westfield Squad is also one of the only resident squads in Union County meaning there is always someone, whether a dispatcher or crew or both, on hand in the squad building 24/7 which increases overall response time. Last year the Squad responded to over 2400 calls.

Founded in 1951, the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad celebrates its 65th year in 2016.

For more information, please either call 908-233-2500 or visit their website at wvrs@westfieldrescuesquad.org.



(above l-r) Reid Edles, Bob Jankowitz, and Lynn Feldman

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CONTINUO ARTS' "CHRISTMAS TIME IN THE CITY" EXTRAVAGANZA!

Continuo Arts' annual "Christmas Time in the City" Holiday Concert Extravaganza takes place on Saturday, December 12th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Westfield. A production by the Continuo Arts Foundation presented free of charge as a gift to the community features over 175 singers from Union, Morris and Essex Counties, soloists, the Continuo Arts Chamber Orchestra, free photos with Santa, audience sing-a-longs and special guest artists!

The Continuo Arts Choruses and a visit by

Santa always have surprise vignettes in store for concert-goers with music in surround-sound. Children of all ages can look forward to an opportunity for picture taking with Santa after the performance! The individual and combined Continuo Arts Ensembles & Chamber Orchestra will present many perennial holiday favorites in addition to Te Deum by Mark Hayes and other selections.

For the past seven years the "Christmas Time in the City" spectacular has ushered in the

holiday season for Westfielder's as well as those from many surrounding communities. Be sure to get there early for great seats, dress up for your photos with Santa, be ready to Sing-A-Long to holiday favorites both old and new!

Doors will open at 7:00 P.M. with reserved seating available to "Home for the Holidays" Home Tour ticket holders from 7:00-7:15 PM. Presented free of charge as a gift to the community, start your holiday season with "Christmas Time in the City"!

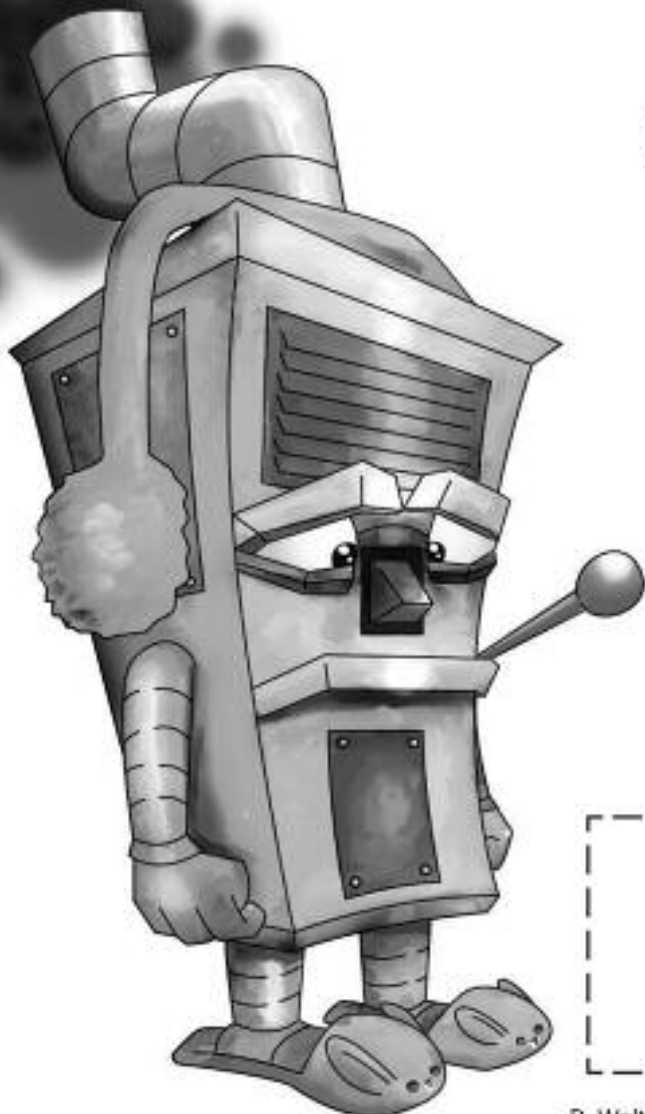
For info call 908-264-5324

or visit www.continuoarts.com



(above) Santa made a special guest appearance at last year's "Christmas Time in the City" concert spectacular! Scheduled this year on December 12th, 7:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Westfield the concert is presented free of charge by the Continuo Arts Foundation as a gift to our communities. Join this annual holiday tradition and usher in the season together!

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COOL NEWS FROM LINCOLN SCHOOL

The sun was shining on the grounds of Lincoln School the last week of October, and for good reason. Throughout the school day, each Kindergarten class spent time on the school's front lawn. After listening to a garden-themed story, students were then given the opportunity to plant their own daffodil bulbs. Led by Catherine Holloran and assisted by many additional wonderful parent volunteers, the children learned how to dig and expertly plant the bulb in order to protect its growth through the cold winter. Students and volunteers alike were warmed at the

thought of the bright blooms to come! The event was made possible by the generous donations of Bartell Farm and Garden Supply and Williams

Nursery. The PTO of Lincoln School is grateful to all involved for a successful learning experience and beautification of the school.



Photo by Rachel Stahler, Sara Sherman



(above) The air may be cooler, but Kindergartners at Lincoln School are already busy preparing for Spring! Pictured above, students in Mrs. Forrestal's, Mrs. Surace's and Mrs. Donofrio's classes carefully plant bulbs at Lincoln's annual fall planting day.

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WESTFIELD'S 2015 "HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS" HOUSE TOUR

Westfield's "Home for the Holidays" House Tour is taking place on December 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Westfield Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Offices, this festive event will feature four beautiful homes dressed in holiday style, musical entertainment and much more!

Launched in 2011, the "Home for the Holiday's" tour delights guests with unique and stylistically diverse properties, musical entertainment, holiday treats, gift envelopes and historic information about the featured properties. The 2015 tour homes include a wonderful Wychwood gem, a gorgeous Gardens colonial, a grand custom home and a stately Woodbrook colonial. Lovingly decorated by homeowners, stagers and designers offering ideas from traditional to modern, contemporary to classic, the "Home for the Holiday's" tour ushers in the season with the realization that truly, there is 'no place like home.'

Serving as tour chairperson is Coldwell Banker's Sherrie Natko, and Coldwell Banker agents will serve as docents; sharing each home's historic and unique qualities with tour goers. George Kraus, Manager of the Coldwell Banker Westfield West office, said he is "proud to once again be the sponsor of the 'Home for the Holidays' House Tour, an important holiday and destination event for Westfield and the surrounding communities." Tickets are available at the Coldwell Banker Westfield West and East offices or by calling 908-264-5324.

Benefiting the Continuo Arts Foundation, proceeds will go to support the Foundation's scholarship fund, young artist debut series, community service projects, and performances. Home tour ticket holders will also

enjoy reserved seating at the annual "Christmas Time in the City" concert on December 12th, at 7:30 pm presented by the Continuo Arts Foundation in collaboration with the Presbyterian Church of Westfield. This year's concert will feature seven choral ensembles, the Continuo Arts Chamber Orchestra, soloists, special guest artists, pictures with Santa, and of course the ever popular audience sing-a-longs!

Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 if purchased at the door.

For more information visit the web site at www.continuoarts.com or call 908-264-5324.



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PARENT WORKSHOP TACKLES PROS/CONS OF YOUTH SPORTS



Roosevelt Intermediate School (RIS) in Westfield held Coffee with Counselors on November 12, the first in a series of parent workshops planned for this school year. Coffee with Counselors was launched in 2014 for the purpose of dialoguing with parents and providing resources on topics of interest.

The November 12th session was prompted by current websites and surveys on youth sports and their impact on overall development. Citing a recent university/athletic/media survey, the RIS counselors stated that in the US, 35 million children age 5 – 18 play organized sports each year.

Counselor Christine Trottere, shown here welcoming parents to the meeting alongside colleagues Jennifer Montana (at left) and Cristina Caprara, added, "The goal of this November's "Coffee with the Counselors" was providing our parents with information about youth sports that will hopefully bring balance to the lives of our children and their families."

After viewing a series of slides citing both statistical and anecdotal information, RIS parents broke into small discussion groups to address key questions prompted by the counselors. "The pressure of youth sports certainly affects my family, so for me it was a topic well worth discussing," stated Marty McDevitt, Co-President of the RIS PTSO.

WESTFIELD HS STUDENTS ATTEND SPORTS BUSINESS DAY

Students who are enrolled in Westfield High School's Business Principles & Management course joined pupils from 20 high schools in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania at Sports Business Day on November 10. Held at MetLife Stadium, the New York Jets hosted the event and arranged for discussions on different topics

ranging from education & career paths to sales, marketing and sponsorships. Rounding out the field trip was a tour of all parts of the stadium – press box, locker room, loading docks and suites. "It was an educational, fun and career learning experience for my class," stated Westfield High School teacher Denise DeNicola.



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HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES PERFECT ACT & SAT SCORES IN SEPT/OCT

Westfield High School announced that six students have achieved perfect scores in September on ACT or in October on SAT standardized tests widely used for college admission criteria.

In a letter to each student, Westfield High School Principal, Peter Renwick, expressed his congratulations and commented, "This speaks volumes about your ability and your commitment to education."



(above, l-r) The students include Alistair Kapadia – ACT Mathematics; Bryanna Reinhardt – ACT Writing; Kayla Derman – ACT Mathematics; Greta Crandall – ACT Reading; Jesse Liu – SAT Writing; and Sarah Steiner – SAT Math 2.

Y OFFERS FESTIVE FUN AND HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Enjoy festive family fun at the Y's Lunch with Santa at the Bauer Branch located at 422 East Broad Street in Westfield on Sunday, December 6th from 12:30-2:00 pm. Participants will enjoy lunch, a photo with Santa, sing Christmas Carols and have fun with their family. Tickets can be purchased in advance at any Westfield Area Y location, children under age two are free and all proceeds benefit the Y's financial assistance program.

Adults can join friends and Y staff for "APPY HOUR" to include food, fun and fellowship at the Annual Active Adult Holiday Party at the Main Y on Wednesday, December 16th from 12:30-1:30 pm. There will be entertainment and gifts for all. Register by December 10th at the Welcome Center or online at www.westfieldynj.org. Questions regarding the Annual Active Adult Holiday Party? Please call Jean White at (908) 233-2700 x246 or email jwhite@westfieldynj.org.

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