

Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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Issue 4 • January 2016

THE COLLEGE CLUB OF FANWOOD SCOTCH PLAINS MEETING

JANUARY 18TH

speaker will be

Mark Di Ionno

Star Ledger Columnist

Meetings are held at

THE CHELSEA

295 South Avenue

Fanwood.

Refreshments start at

7:30pm

and the speaker

will begin at

7:45pm.

The meetings are

FREE and

open to the public.

THE CHELSEA HOSTING COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Chelsea at Fanwood is planning an exciting calendar of events to host in the New Year that will be open to the public and business community. They are no stranger when it comes to community events. In fact, one of their recent December gatherings was a free networking event held on December 16 at their Fanwood location. It was well attended by local businesses and many new introductions were made with the intent of future business to ensue. Light refreshments were served. The event was co-sponsored by The Law Firm of Benjamin D. Eckman.

The Chelsea is located at 295 South Avenue, Fanwood, NJ. If you are interested in finding out more about The Chelsea's upcoming events, please contact Danielle Fisher, Director of Community Relations by phone at 908-654-5200 or feel free to visit their website at www.chelseaseniorliving.com.



(left, l-r) Danielle Fisher, The Chelsea's Director of Community Relations along with Ben Eckman, Attorney and co-sponsor of the networking event.



Photos of this and other events can be found at www.rennamedia.com and on the Fanwood Post Facebook page. Feel free to "Like", "Tag", and "Share".

CHELSEA TO HOST "GO RED FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH" EVENT

The Chelsea at Fanwood assisted living residence, along with Fanwood-based safety training company Little Hearts, Big World, will sponsor the 2016 Go Red for Women's Health event on Friday, February 5, 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. The event will be held at the Chelsea, 295 South Avenue, Fanwood.

Go Red is a national campaign of the American Heart Association to raise awareness of women's heart health, focusing on recognizing symptoms of heart attack in women and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

"We're so busy working and taking care of our families that

we don't take great care of ourselves," said Melissa Padulsky, owner of Little Hearts, Big World, which teaches CPR, first aid, safety for baby sitters and other occupational safety courses.

"The Go Red campaign reminds everyone that women need to eat healthy, exercise and be vigilant of risk factors for cardiovascular disease, just as men do."

The February 5th event will feature local vendors, free chair massages, free blood pressure screenings, light food, a raffle and giveaways.

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SPFHS TEACHER RELEASES FOURTH BOOK

Scotch Plains Monthly is published by Renna Media. 9,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Scotch Plains.

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations, schools and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos from recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email Lori Theiss at lori@rennamedia.com

Scotch Plains Monthly is online at www.rennamedia.com like us on [facebook.com/Scotch Plains Monthly](https://www.facebook.com/ScotchPlainsMonthly)

Author Gwyn English Nielsen, teacher of English and communications at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and resident of Scotch Plains, recently released her fourth book in print: *From Footlights to Flashlights: Ten conceptual plays that reach and teach teens*. The anthology is a collection of character-building plays, each focusing on a specific theme related to a challenge that adolescents often experience in today's society.

From Footlights to Flashlights contains one-act pieces that could be referred to as "morality plays" as each teaches a message, a moral. Themes include good vs. evil, identity, peer pressure, romantic love, inequity, manners, miscommunication, sexism, grief, and tolerance—all relevant given today's ever-changing, moral and ethical climate. Nielsen's previous works for children, *Serendipity* and *The Dream Catcher* and *Torey the Turkey Goes Skiing* are also didactic in content.

Nielsen started penning the one acts fifteen years ago when she was teaching theater at a local summer camp. Gradually, she began to produce and direct the short plays. Four of the ten she produced and directed while a teacher at Terrill Middle School. Her students performed them at Park Middle, Terrill Middle, and at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School to rave reviews. After writing six more, she decided to put all ten together in the anthology so that other teachers of drama/English would be able to produce them as school assemblies for no royalty fees. "For me, it's always about the message and not about the money. As a society, we are moving away from traditional values, turning inward. It's time to return to existential soul-searching and to what is truly important in life," suggests Nielsen. She also admits that some of the plays are autobiographical in content. "All authors draw from their own lives. Fortunately, I've had a fascinating one so far so that my plays tend to be on the avant-garde side. Scenic elements are sparse and the staging is often unorthodox. Consequently, no one needs a big budget to produce them."



Recently in mid-October, the book was featured at the Frankfurt International Book Fair in Frankfurt, Germany, which is the world's largest. *From Footlights to Flashlights* will also be featured at the AASL's (American Association of School Librarians) seventeenth national conference and exhibition in Columbus, Ohio, November 5-8.

Locally, Gwyn English Nielsen and a collection of student actors will present scenes from the book at the Mountainside Library (Saturday, March 5 from 2 to 3 p.m.). The book is available for purchase on-line via Amazon and Barnes and Noble.com and as a special order in stores.

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CLASSIC ISRAEL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

The Israel Support Committee of Central New Jersey is sponsoring a documentary film festival in January 2016. Three Academy Award documentaries will be screened at three local synagogues. This festival will be free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. To register and obtain additional information contact Conrad Nadell at conradwho@gmail.com or 908-531-8228. The documentary films will include:

SUN - JAN 10 AT 2:30 PM "THE LONG WAY HOME"

Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah
111 Valley Road in Clark

This film describes the plight of the Holocaust survivors as they worked their way through the refugee camps trying to locate family and to reach Palestine to form a Jewish Homeland.

SUN - JAN 24 AT 3 PM "IN OUR OWN HANDS"

Temple Emanu-El
756 East Broad St. Westfield

This film traces the history of the "Jewish Brigade", the only all-Jewish fighting unit in WWII. After the war they helped smuggle Holocaust survivors to Palestine, participated in Israel's War of Independence and became the nucleus of the Israeli army.

SUN - JAN 31ST AT 2:30 PM "INTO THE ARMS OF STRANGERS"

Congregation Beth Israel

18 Cliffwood Street Scotch Plains

This presents the story of the "Kindertransport", how parents sent tens of thousands of children away from German-held land to strangers in Great Britain.

The Israel Support Committee of Central New Jersey consists of representatives from Congregation Beth Israel (Scotch Plains), Temple Emanu-El (Westfield), Temple Shalom (Scotch Plains), Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah (Clark), Temple Beth El/Mekor Chayim (Cranford), Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael (Springfield), and Congregation Anshe Chesed (Linden). The mission of this committee is to disseminate information about issues affecting Israel and provide support for the State of Israel.

11 CRITICAL HOME INSPECTION TRAPS TO BE AWARE OF WEEKS BEFORE LISTING YOUR HOME FOR SALE

Scotch Plains NJ - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To order a FREE Special Report, visit www.njhomeinspectiontraps.com or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-888-243-5861 and enter 1003.

You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

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SO MUCH BIGGER THAN A BOX - OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Juliette Rose, a resident of Scotch Plains and first grader at Trivium Academy of New Jersey, participated in a worthy cause that will touch the heart and life of a child thousands of miles away. As part of her community service at her school, she donated her time filling up a box with toys, hygiene products and school supplies; items most American children may take for granted and certainly would not expect to find under their Christmas tree. In an interview with Jill Parasine, a volunteer with the North Central New Jersey Area Team of Operation Christmas Child for the past five years, she shared a memorable moment from one recipient of an Operation Christmas Child box. "Alex, a Rwandan boy, received a comb which he carried for years and cherished because he felt such pride in having one of his own," said Parasine. "He later volunteered for OCC as a young man to give back and to help others understand how their gift can impact the life of a child in another country. Even a small gift, such as a toothbrush, could be an extraordinary item to children in some countries where families share one toothbrush."

Before packing the boxes with donated items, students watched a video at school explaining the collection process and how each of their boxes will carry great joy and meaning to another child. The kids were delighted to learn that the boxes can be delivered by canoe, camel, truck, donkey, and even by elephant.

Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse, a Christian Humanitarian aid organization, founded by Rev. Franklin Graham, Rev. Billy Graham's son, has collected and delivered more than 124 million

gift-filled shoe boxes to children in more than 150 countries and territories through Operation Christmas Child. In 2015, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoe box gifts to reach another 11 million children. Shoebox gifts are collected in the U.S., Australia, Finland, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Canada, Spain and the U.K.

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are delivered to children around the

world. Samaritan's Purse not only delivers the boxes to children, they also invite the children to attend a 12-part Bible study, entitled "The Greatest Journey" in their language at their level. It ends with a lively graduation ceremony and a gift of a Bible in their language.

Trivium Academy of New Jersey is an accredited private Classical Christian school, located in South Plainfield, New Jersey. To learn more, visit <http://www.triviumacademynj.org>.



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John Lucich is the HTCN Academy Director and has been performing computer forensics for over 24 years. John is a retired state law enforcement officer from the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, Organized Crime & Racketeering Bureau and a 14 year cyber crimes instructor at Sea Girt, NJ for the State Attorney General's Academy. John is also a technical expert for Fox News and CNN news networks and has made numerous TV appearances over the past seven years. He is currently the CEO & forensic lab director for eForensix, a computer forensic consulting company who has been engaged in notable cases throughout the United States.



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NOTES IN THE COATS

Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains collected approximately 75 winter coats, which were donated to the non-profit community-based organization, Jersey Cares, for distribution to men, women and children in need throughout the state.

Volunteers from the synagogue's Social Action Committee conducted a month-long coat drive collection and seventh-grade Religious School

students helped with the out reach project on December 2 by sorting and bagging coats. The students also wrote warm greetings and drew uplifting pictures to be left as "a note in the coat" in the pockets of outerwear going to children. Congregation Beth Israel's Social Action Committee sponsors a wide range of activities throughout the year to help people in need in Scotch Plains and surrounding communities.



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SPF HIGH SCHOOL REGION II HONOR CHOIRS

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School is pleased to announce that twenty students have been accepted into the Central Jersey Music Educators Association's (CJME) 2016 Region II Honors Choir. This is quite an accomplishment to have been selected from a field of more than 400 talented students from across central New Jersey.

Women's Choir:
 Lauren Barth,
 Rachella Carlino,
 Phoebe Collins,
 Amelia Graham,
 Katie Lamendola.

Mixed Choir: Allan Romero,
 Janay Armbrister, Claudia Sahaj,
 Peter Canevari, Matt Schuman,
 Paulie Cherubini, Audrey Smith,
 John DeMarco, Kevin Sonpar,
 Victoria Domiciano, Josh Venick,
 Ethan Graham, Zoe Verrico,
 Shannon McCreesh, Melody Weigel.



SPF HS ANNOUNCES NATIONAL HISPANIC RECOGNITION STUDENT

Gabriela MacPherson, a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School has been recognized as a Scholar in the College Board's 2015-16 National Hispanic Recognition Program. Gabriela's exceptional academic achievements demonstrated by her strong performance on the PSAT/NMSQT qualifying test identified her as an outstanding student among Hispanic and Latino students who took the test.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program is a College Board program that provides national recognition of the exceptional academic achievements of Hispanic high school students and identifies academically well prepared Hispanic high school students.



SPF STUDENTS ACCEPTED INTO SYMPHONIC BAND

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School is pleased to announce that three of our talented student musicians have been accepted into the Central Jersey Music Educators Symphonic Band: Mary Catherin Stoval, 1st Chair French Horn; Kevin Sonpar, 1st Chair Trombone; and Daniel Zheng, TOP 20.

These students will represent our music program at Montgomery High School this January under the direction of a Westchester University faculty member. They will also have the unique opportunity to meet and perform with other exceptionally talented high school musicians from our area.



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ALEX & ANI IN WESTFIELD 'CHARMS' UNION COUNTY FOSTER KIDS

An unexpected collaboration may just rescue throngs of spouses and significant others from what-to-give-my-love woes this Valentine's Day. Breathe easy, folks: CASA of Union County and jeweler Alex & Ani in Westfield have a way for you to woo — and help foster children in your own community at the same time. If that doesn't score bonus points with your one-and-only, what will?

CASA of Union County, a non-profit that recruits, trains, supervises and supports community members to advocate for abused, neglected or abandoned children in foster care, will receive 15 percent of sales between 6 and 8 p.m. Monday, February 1, 2016, at a "Charmed by Charity" soiree in the popular jeweler's Westfield shop at 200 East Broad Street. Shoppers enjoy light refreshments and Alex & Ani's (+) energy punch, while CASA staffers on hand can offer more about the CASA experience and the need in our own community.

Known for its made-in-the-USA, stackable bangle bracelets with meaningful charms, customers are encouraged to bring friends and loved ones along, and each find just the right combination of sentimental arm candy to gift to loved ones, teachers and graduates in June, birthdays and anniversaries anytime or, of course, simply keep and enjoy themselves.

(Shhh. We won't tell.)

There are nearly 600 Union County children in foster care through no fault of their own, and each has a case pending in family court in Elizabeth. After completion of 30 hours of training in Westfield, CASAs are sworn in by a Union County judge and empowered by court order to speak to all parties in the child's life - foster parents, teachers, doctors, therapists and more. CASAs meet with their foster youth regularly and participate in quarterly court hearings to ensure the youth's needs are met and their best interests remain priority.

CASA currently has volunteers to serve just approximately one-quarter of the county's foster youth; its goal is to provide one advocate for every foster child. There are myriad ways to help make that a reality, and bringing friends, family and colleagues to shop the Alex & Ani event is an easy way, as all proceeds go toward funding trainings for members of the community to become sworn advocates and the voice for a foster child.

For event information, contact Gretchen at (908) 527-7047 or gboger@casaoofunioncounty.org. For details on becoming a CASA, contact Lisa at lporis@casaoofunioncounty.org or (908) 527-7048.

ADVOCATES NEEDED FOR AREA FOSTER YOUTH UNION COUNTY TEENS FACE AGING-OUT ALONE

Marla was 15 when she and her mom came to New Jersey from El Salvador. She was promised housing with her sister and brother-in-law, food and the chance to attend school. However, when Marla arrived, she was forced to work long hours at a restaurant strip club and not allowed school. After Marla's brother-in-law sexually abused her, Marla told her mom, who kicked her out of the house. Scared and alone, the teen moved in with her boyfriend, who made her work two jobs to pay for rent and food. Dreams of school seemed impossible now. Just when Marla thought it couldn't get worse, she became pregnant and her boyfriend beat her until she lost the baby. A co-worker let Marla stay with her but called the state when she couldn't help anymore. Marla, still just 15, then began a journey in foster care.

Each year, nearly 23,000 youth age out nationally; 450 right here in New Jersey. Data shows these kids often lack the necessary skills to live independently, resulting in 40 percent being homeless, 55 percent unemployed, 1 in 4 suffering with post-traumatic stress, 60 percent arrested and 71 percent experiencing unplanned pregnancies. These youth are twice as likely than non-foster kids to not earn a high school diploma or GED, and 25 percent earn a two- or four-year degree by the age of 24.

Will you be the voice for one of the nearly 600 Union County youth, ages 0-21, in foster

care through no fault of their own? CASAs are sworn in by a judge and court-empowered to speak to all parties: foster parents, teachers, doctors, therapists and more. CASAs incorporate their findings — as well as observations from regular visits with the youth — into reports for the judge. They participate in quarterly court hearings and work to ensure the youth's time in care is as short as possible and their best interests remain priority.

Join CASA's next training class, which kicks off Tuesday, March 1, 2016. CASA advocates for youth age 0-21. Those interested in working with youth 14-21 also undergo specialized Fostering Futures training, designed to equip volunteers with tools to guide teens toward a successful future on their own.

Learn more at information sessions in Westfield or Elizabeth:

6 p.m. Wednesdays,
Jan. 13, Jan. 25, Feb. 9, and Feb. 22
at the County Clerk's Building,
300 North Avenue East, in Westfield;
and 10 a.m. Fridays,

Jan. 15, Jan. 29, Feb. 12 and Feb. 26
at the CASA office,

1143-45 E. Jersey St., 2nd Floor, in Elizabeth.

Contact Lisa at (908) 527-7048 or lporis@casaoofunioncounty.org to RSVP for any information session, for the March 2016 training schedule, or any questions on CASA.

**THE JCC OF CENTRAL NJ
IS COSPONSORING A
CAREGIVERS SYMPOSIUM
WITH THE CENTER FOR HOPE
HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE
TUESDAY**

FEBRUARY 9, 2016

(in case of Inclement Weather February 23)

6:00 – 9:30 PM

**ADULT STEPS IN THE
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Panel:

Deanna Butters,

Spend-A-Day Coordinator, SAGE Eldercare

Bridget Martorelli,

Director of Community Outreach, Center for Hope
Hospice & Palliative Care

Dale Ofei-Ayisi,

MA/LCSA, Coordinator of Community Services,
COPSA Geriatric Services, Rutgers University UBHS

Representative from Jewish Family Service of
Central New Jersey

Dinner will be provided.

**Price: FREE but registration due by
Wednesday, February 3.**

**Register on-line: www.jccnj.org
or by calling 908-889-8800 EXT. 318**

Contact: Debra Judd Email: djudd@jccnj.org

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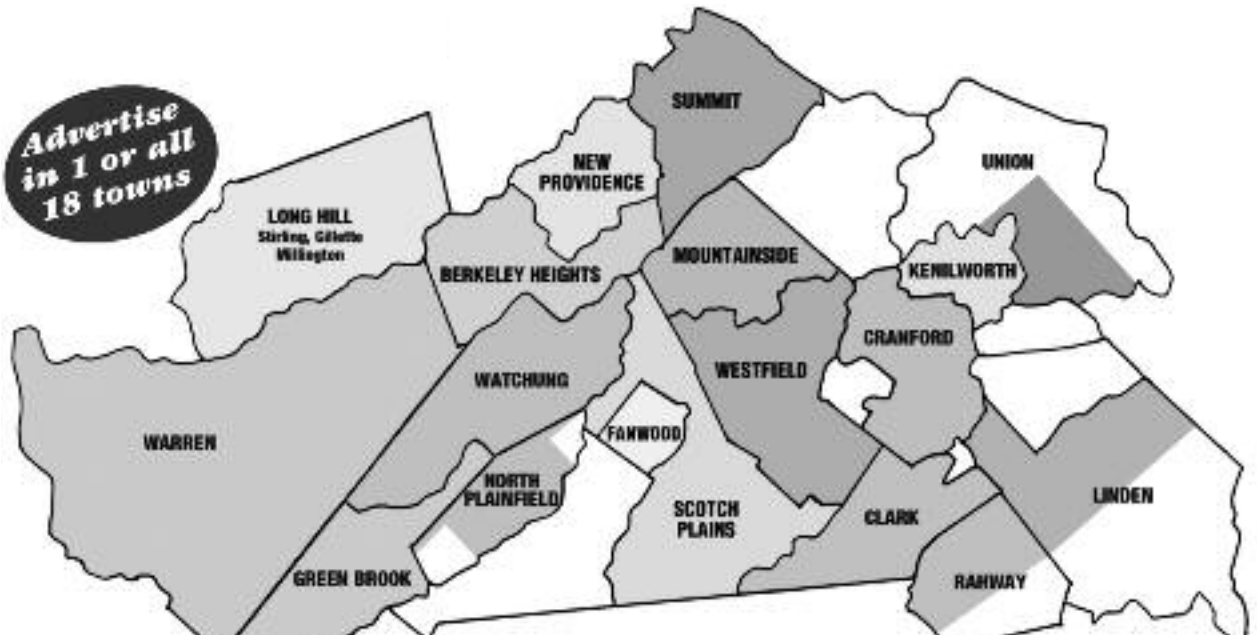
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Lunch 11am - 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm
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Kids 7-10.....\$5.99	Kids 7-10.....\$6.99
Kids 3-6.....\$3.99	Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
2 & Under.....FREE!	2 & Under.....FREE!

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