

Fanwood Post NJ

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

Lori Theiss is the liaison to the Fanwood 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.

**CALL LORI
AT 908-858-4012
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SPFHS TEACHER RELEASES FOURTH BOOK

October 30, 2015. 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.



Gwyn English Nielsen



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



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.

WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM



(above) Mayor Colleen Mahr, right, and Double Dipper Cafe co-owners Linda Naso, seated, and her daughter, Jerry Quail, behind Naso, cut the ribbon to officially open the Double Dipper ice cream store under new ownership in Fanwood Sunday, Dec. 6. Several customers and the hockey team from Scotch Plains Fanwood High School cheered on the proceedings at the shop on Martine Avenue in downtown Fanwood.

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SANTA VISITS FANWOOD

That merry old man visited Fanwood today, bringing smiles to the faces of children and adults alike! Escorted by the Fanwood Fire Department, Rescue Squad and Fanwood Police PBA 123, Santa Claus made his annual hours-long ride through the borough distributing gifts.

At each stop, Santa handed out gifts and posed

for hundreds of photos. And, it wasn't just the kids who wanted to be in the photos. A good number of adults got their pictures made, too!

The warmer-than-normal temperatures turned the watch for Santa into a series of impromptu neighborhood parties, complete with tables full of food and lots of beverages, too.



(above) A youngster comes forward to get his gift from Santa as others wait during the Fanwood Fire Dept.'s "Santa run".



(above) The warmer-than-normal temperatures made for a great time to serve snacks outside.



(above) Kids and adults alike watch as Santa pulls on to their street during the Fanwood Fire Department's "Santa run".



(above) Volunteers from the Fanwood Fire Department and Fanwood Rescue Squad with Santa before starting out on the annual "Santa run".



(above) Parents line up to shoot pictures of their kids with Santa during the Fanwood Fire Department's "Santa run".

Photos by Brian Horton



(above) Riding aboard the Fanwood Fire Department's Ladder One, and accompanied by the Rescue Squad, Santa turns down a street to deliver presents.



(above) Santa is the center of attention while delivering gifts on the Fanwood Fire Department's "Santa Run".



(above) It's not just the kids who want a memento during the Fanwood Fire Department's "Santa run"

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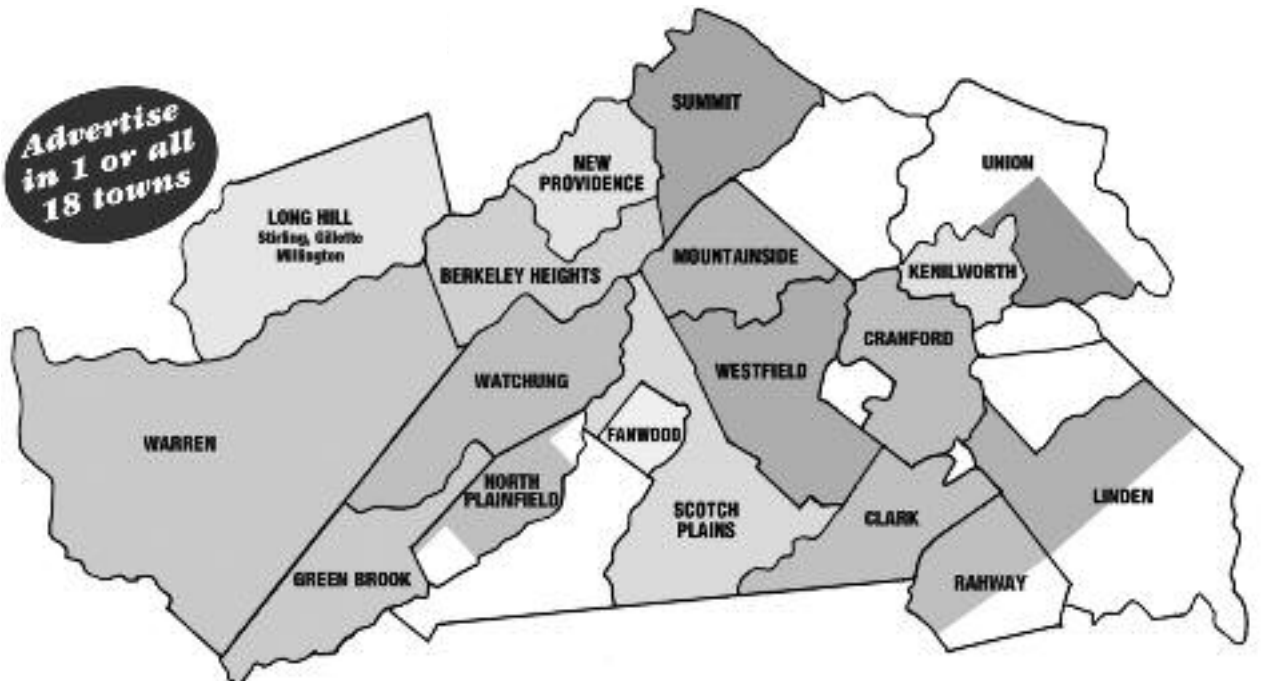
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FANWOOD RESIDENT, MICHELLE SHAPIRO ABRAHAM, WINS THE COVENANT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN JEWISH EDUCATION

Current Member and Former Director of Education at Temple Sholom of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Honored in Washington, D.C.

Temple Sholom of Scotch Plains-Fanwood, announced that synagogue member and Fanwood resident Michelle Shapiro Abraham received The Covenant Award for Excellence in Jewish Education at an awards dinner in Washington, D.C., during the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America last month.

Ms. Abraham currently serves as the Director of Program Development for the Campaign for Youth Engagement at the Union for Reform Judaism, as well as a consultant for the Foundation for Jewish Camp, and a clinical faculty member in the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Executive Master of Arts in Jewish Education Program.

Prior to these positions, Ms. Abraham spent 12 years as the Director of Education at Temple Sholom, where she designed and oversaw educational approaches and programming for nearly 140 students in the religious school and the congregation as a whole. She developed an innovative new approach to family and congregational learning that engages the entire synagogue in the same topics concurrently, thereby fortifying community and cross-generational ties.

Sandra Nussenfeld, Past President of Temple Sholom, who nominated Ms. Abraham for the award stated, "The passion, expertise, energy and

infectious love of Judaism that Michelle has brought to our religious school and our congregation has kept us united in our sense of community and shared learning."

Ms. Nussenfeld's award nomination cited several cutting-edge programs that Ms. Abraham created at Temple Sholom such as the trimester system, the Family Track Program where young students participate in family and community-centered activities outside of the traditional classroom, the open Hebrew curriculum that allows students to study at their own pace, and the post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah Jewish University program which enables teenagers to continue their Jewish education in a fun, social setting.

In addition to her classroom work, Ms. Abraham has written children's books, including "Shavua Tov! (A Good Week)" and "My Cousin Tamar Lives In Israel." She also has developed summer camp programs, including Union for Reform Judaism specialty camps such as the Six Points Sports Academy and Six Points Sci Tech Academy.

Ms. Abraham notes "Whether it's a little girl who is learning to spell with her fingers in sand, or a child who needs us to reimagine Jewish summer camp to meet his interests; whether it's parents who drifted away from Jewish education and are looking for new approaches to synagogue

learning, or teens who left after B'nei Mitzvah and want to reconnect, we need to not only accept these differences, we need to celebrate them!"



(above, l-r) Temple Sholom member and Fanwood resident Michelle Shapiro-Abraham proudly showcases the Covenant Award for Excellence in Jewish Education she received from the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America. Temple Sholom Past President Sandra Nussenfeld nominated Shapiro-Abraham for the award, which was presented at a dinner in Washington D.C.

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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