

Fanwood Post NJ

Published by Renna Media

Issue 15 • December 2016

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS RETURN TO FANWOOD

See page 4
for more details

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FANWOOD ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF NEW WEBSITE

New website features fresh new design and user friendly navigation

The Borough of Fanwood is pleased to announce the launch of their new website. The site has been completely redesigned and organized to promote fast, user-friendly access to borough information, resources, and news. With a fresh and modern layout, the new homepage greets users with 'fast finder' links as well as the latest news on borough events and programs. The site also features a new, "How do I..." page which is designed to assist Fanwood residents and community members in finding answers to common inquiries.

We are excited for the launch of the new website," said Mayor Colleen Mahr said. "We wanted to create a website that not only features a fresh design, but also makes it easier for Fanwood residents to find important information."

The site is also optimized for mobile display, ensuring residents can access municipal

resources when they are away from their computers. The site address will remained unchanged at fanwoodnj.org.



MOBILE MEALS AVAILABLE TO SENIORS AND DISABLED

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So much more than just a meal, Mobile Meals of Westfield provides a friendly smile and a daily check in for residents that might otherwise be alone all day.

A Scotch Plains resident recently thanked Mobile Meals of Westfield, "Our mother looked

forward to the stimulation of your daily visits and enjoyed your meals and the special occasion gifts. You cheered up her life and provided structure that was caring and helpful. Your service shared in the success of helping her to live productively till almost 100 years old."

If Mobile Meals of Westfield can help you or someone you know, please call Josephine Walsh, Director, at 908-233-6146.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP AT BLOOD DRIVES

New Jersey Blood Services, a division of New York Blood Center, which supplies blood products and services to 60 hospitals throughout the state, is in need of volunteers at blood drives. The blood service volunteer is an integral member of the collection team whose task it is assist donors with registration, escorting and canteen duties, and to watch for post donation reactions. Volunteers should have the ability to relate to the public, be able to perform different jobs as needed and have the willingness to follow the rules. For additional information contact, Manager of Community Relations, R. Jan Zepka at 732-616-8741 or rzepka@nybloodcenter.org.

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man, Julia G. Guarneri and Lucas Stein, Debbie Mukherjee, not pictured.
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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

editor@rennamedia.com

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Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

FANWOOD-SCOTCH PLAINS SERVICE LEAGUE THRIFT SHOP CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Beginning December 6 the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop's Christmas Boutique will be opened featuring new, never used items.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League is located at 1741 East 2nd St., Scotch Plains, NJ. Hours are Tuesday thru Friday 10 a.m.- 2:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Free parking is available on the street and in the rear of the building (enter parking lot via Willow Ave.).

The League is a non-profit organization that

has served our communities since 1974. New and gently used donations are always welcome during hours of operation. Since its founding, the League has donated \$1.2 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 at www.scotchplainsthiftshop.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.”

THE THRIFT STOP IS OPEN FOR HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AND GIFTS

The Thrift Shop at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church is open on Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm and is now displaying items for Holiday gifts and decorations. Many of these items for sale are new.

The volunteers who work at the Shop have been busy as Santa's helpers getting ready for

this time of year and will be filling the shelves and racks continually.

We welcome new and our faithful customers to come shop on Wednesdays through December 21st.

The Thrift Shop is located on McDermott Place at the rear of the Church complex.

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HOLIDAY TRADITIONS RETURN TO FANWOOD

LUMINARY SALE

During the month of December, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary club will sell Luminaries at the Fanwood Department of Public Works Building on Manfra Way off of North Avenue (across from the Fanwood Public Library). The sale dates are December 3, 10, 11, 17, 18, from 9AM to 3PM and December 24 - 9am to 12pm. The luminary kits cost 75 cents apiece in all quantities and include paper bags, candles and sand. Customers are encouraged to bring buckets, boxes or plastic bags to transport the sand.

Luminaries are traditionally used to illuminate the streets on Christmas Eve. A candle is nestled in sand at the bottom of a paper bag and placed along sidewalks to create a beautiful walkway. The candles are then lit at dusk on Christmas Eve. Some neighborhoods in the area get together and buy hundreds of kits to create an amazing display.

All proceeds from the sale will be used to fund the various charitable and humanitarian projects that Rotary supports, both locally and overseas. The Rotary Club will also be collecting canned food for their annual Holiday Food Drive to support local food pantries.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club has been serving the community since 1938. The club meets on Wednesdays at noon at the Stage House Restaurant and at 6pm at Darby Road on the last Wednesday of the month. Guests are invited to attend and learn about the good that Rotary is doing worldwide. For further information about the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary club, go to fsprotary.org.

Rotary Club Luminary Sale

Be sure to visit the Fanwood Municipal Garage located at 270, North Avenue as you begin to decorate your homes for the holidays!

The sale will continue each Saturday on December 1, 10, and 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the final Christmas Eve sale on Dec. 24 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Lions Club/Fire Dept Tree Sale

Fanwoodians looking for a nice, fresh Christmas tree for the living room need look no further than LaGrande Park's annual Fire Department/Lions Club tree sale which begins Thursday, December 1. Hours are 6:30 – 9 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays and Sundays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. All profits are donated to charities including local schools and scholarships. Plain and decorated wreaths will also be available. Volunteers will be on hand to trim the bottom of the tree trunk, bundle the tree and carry it to your car.

Tiny Tim Carol Night

On the evening on Wednesday, December 7, from 4 – 9 p.m., carolers supporting the Tiny Tim Fund will be singing their hearts out and spreading peace, joy, and love to all ears that are open to them! Residents, be sure to leave an outdoor light on so that our community songbirds will know that they are welcome at your doorstep. No voice will be denied a holiday song booklet and no age is too young or too old to participate! This annual event is truly a family affair: "The more carolers on the streets, the merrier!" jested, Barbara Avilo, President of the non-profit corporation founded in 1983 and operated throughout Scotch Plains – Fanwood.

The Tiny Tim Fund is committed to continually and tirelessly contributing aid to local families who are suffering financially due to medical, dental, psychiatric, or other significant expenses. All donations are welcomed on behalf of the core team, including Barbara, Flavia Blechinger, and Mari Mc Devitt, as well as the many families in desperate need.

If possible, call ahead to Barbara Avilo at (908) 322-4472 to learn about designated meeting spots and secure your "Caroling Kit". Residents are also invited to jump in with friends and neighbors at any point! To end the night, Stage House Tavern, located at 366 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains, will greet all participants with warm desserts and hot chocolate.

Holiday Giving Tree

The Parents as Teachers program makes home visits to needy families in Union County with a mission to provide parenting education, support and coordination of health and social services beginning with prenatal care for the mother until the child's third birthday. The goal is to prevent child abuse and neglect, increase school readiness, and family self-sufficiency. The Fanwood Police Department and the Fanwood PBA Local 123 have generously supported this program by dedicating their Holiday Giving Tree to collect educational toys and books for the children. There will be ornaments on the township tree at City Hall at 75 North Martine Ave. with the age and sex of the child to purchase an educational toy for a holiday gift. Ornaments can be picked up and unwrapped gifts can be returned to the Police Department by December 9.



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HOLLYWOOD HEADLINES

NAME THE MOVIES THAT FEATURED THESE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

Headlines appear on 19 newspapers published by Renna Media

1 **Berkeley Heights**
CANDIDATE KANE CAUGHT IN LOVE NEST WITH "SINGER"

5 **Green Brook Gazette**
CLOCK TOWER STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

7 **LIFE IN LINDEN**
JOHN HAY FORREST KILLED IN ACCIDENT

9 **MOUNTAINSIDE VIEW**
PENGUIN FORGIVES PARENTS

11 **The PRIDE of North Plainfield**
APOLLO CREED TRAINS FORMER RIVAL

13 **Scotch Plains**
INCREDIBLE RESCUE AT SEA

15 **Spirit of UNION**
ROXIE ROCKS CHICAGO

2 **Clark Monthly**
VITO CORLEONE FEARED MURDERED

6 **KENILWORTH LIFE**
SOPHOMORE DIES IN KILN EXPLOSION

8 **Long Hill LEADER**
PRESIDENT DECORATES HARRY BAILEY

10 **New Providence NEWS**
THIRD GOLDEN TICKET FOUND

12 **OUR TOWN**
ALIEN STOLE MY HUSBAND'S SKIN!

14 **Summit Times**
STORM OVER "CRIME CURE" BOY

18 **Westfield Monthly**
NAME JOHNNY FRIENDLY AS WATERFRONT MURDER BOSS

3 **CRANFORD MONTHLY**
KRIS KRINGLE KRAZY? KOURT KASE KOMING "KALAMITY!" KRY KIDDIES

11. The Pride of North Plainfield

12. Our Town Rahway

13. Scotch Plains Monthly

14. Summit Times

15. Spirit of Union

16. Warren Monthly

17. Watchung Post

18. Westfield Monthly

19. Peterstown Newspaper

4 **Fanwood Post**
GALLAGHER KEY SUSPECT IN DIAZ DISAPPEARANCE

19 **Answers can be found at RennaMedia.com**

Have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Thank you,
Joe and Tina Renna

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DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Sunday Eucharists at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Eucharists at 12:15 and 7:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE
December 24-Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. Children's Service of Lessons and Carols
6:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist with Soloists
8:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist with Sanctuary Choir, Bells and Instrumentalists

DECEMBER 25
Nativity Eucharist and Carols at 10:00 a.m.

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STUDENTS IN THE 2017 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Principal, Dr. David Heisey, recently announced that eight Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students have been named Commended Students in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program.

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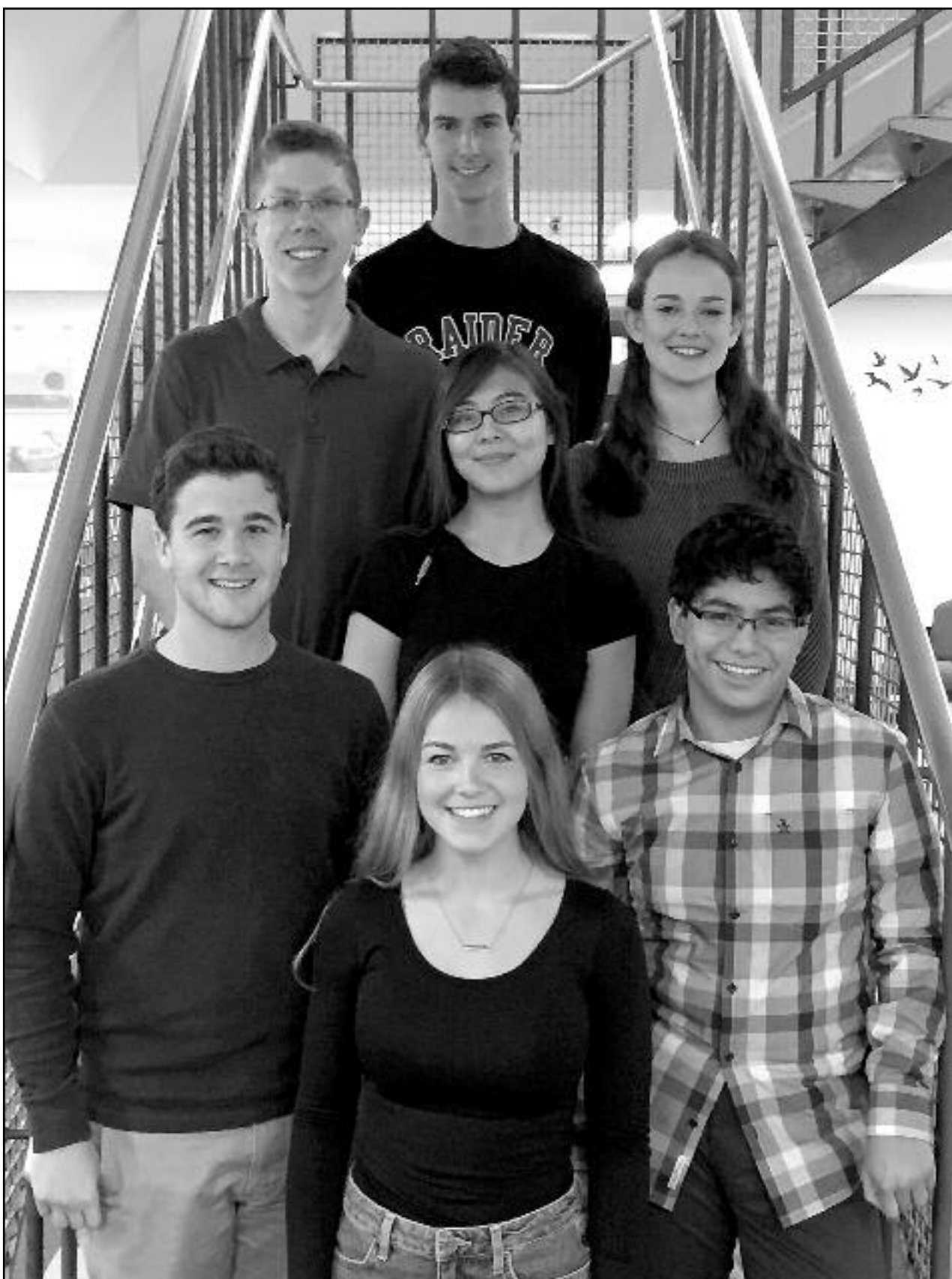
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CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA!

On Saturday, December 10th at 7pm at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, New Jersey Festival Orchestra, under the baton of David Wroe, kicks off the holiday season with a bang and plenty of bling with Home for the Holidays, a family festival of traditional and contemporary songs and music, sing-alongs and more guaranteed to make the season merry.

This year's concert features special guests The Three Holiday Tenors who are set to dazzle and captivate with a beautiful selection of renowned tenor classical fare to welcome in the holidays. Their performances of a host of traditional carols and wintertime curiosities are also sure to delight.

"We are thrilled to welcome these gifted tenors to help us celebrate the Holiday season," said Maestro David Wroe. "We believe they will bring something for everyone. Our program is a vessel for children, parents, grandparents and friends -- indeed the entire community -- to come together through music at this unique time of the year."

American tenor Cody Austin has been lauded as one the most promising singing actors of his age. A 2009 graduate of the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, his voice has been described as "warm and rich ... produced with an evenness that's rare." Mr Austin has already undertaken a variety of leading roles in opera houses throughout the United States including the Duke in Verdi's Rigoletto for Opera Santa Barbara, Alfredo in Verdi's La Traviata for Pittsburg opera, Virginia Opera and Utah Opera, Lensky in Eugene Onegin for Des Moines Metro Opera and Don Jose in Carmen for Shreveport Opera. He was recently featured as tenor soloist with Peter Nero and the Philly Pops in a program entitled 'The Great American Tenor'

Rising tenor Limmie Pulliam has been praised for his captivating stage presence and his "stentorian yet beautiful" voice. A former artist-in-residence with Cleveland Opera, Opera Delaware and Opera Memphis, his recent engagements include multiple appearances Delta Symphony Orchestra, a much acclaimed performance with Vashon Opera as Canio in I

Pagliacci and a lauded debut at the Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice as the title character in Verdi's masterpiece Otello. He also recently presented a series of concerts featuring Negro Spirituals with The Concord Chorale.

Kevin Ray is praised by Opera News for his "commendable style" and abilities with "subtle coloristic nuance." An alumnus of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, the tenor recently starred in the company's new commission of Iain Bell's one-man opera, A Christmas Carol. Other recent engagements include the title role of Peter Grimes with Chautauqua Opera, Roderigo in Otello, Beadle Bamford in Sweeney Todd, and Don José in Carmen with Wolf Trap Opera. Last season, he made his Los Angeles Philharmonic debut singing Beethoven's Choral Fantasy under the baton of Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla.

This seasonal stroll of timeless classics and sentimental favorites, sure to bring joy, smiles, and distinctive holiday memories to one and all, has been made possible in part by a Union County Heart (History, Education and Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant and generous support from The Westfield Foundation.

Tickets prices range from \$28 to \$76 for adults and there is a special discount price of only \$15 for students K-12.

Tickets are also available for NJ Festival Orchestra's New Year's Eve musical celebration. This year's performance, On The Town, promises a superb revue of American musical theater classics from stage and screen and features renowned guest vocalists direct from the Broadway stage and beyond. Special discounts are available for children under 18, making this event (which starts at 7pm and ends at 9pm) a perfect way for the entire family to join together to welcome in the new year. Patrons are advised to purchase tickets well in advance as this concert has been a sell out for the past five years.

Tickets for both concerts are available on line at www.njfestivalorchestra.org. Tickets may also be purchased by calling (908) 232-9400 or visiting the office at 224 E. Broad Street, Westfield. Gift certificates are also available.



(left, l-r)
Cody Austin,
Limmie Pulliam,
Kevin Rae - AKA
The Three Holiday Tenors
- will join New Jersey
Festival Orchestra on
Saturday, December 10
for the annual
Holiday concert
"Home For the Holidays"

ABOUT NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

The New Jersey Festival Orchestra, led by internationally acclaimed Music Director David Wroe, is a premier symphony orchestra with a presence throughout the many cultural communities of New Jersey. Now in its 34th season, with multiple performances each year, NJ Festival Orchestra is viewed as one of the cultural jewels of the metropolitan area. The organization is also a multi-year recipient of the NJ Council on the Arts' highest award: a Citation of Excellence and designation as a Distinguished Arts Organization. In addition to an adventurous subscription season, popular concerts near and far, and a rousing New Year's Eve celebration, the NJ Festival Orchestra sponsors educational and music therapy programs throughout the state of New Jersey.

ROBERT STOVALL NAMED VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to Robert Stovall, member of the Fanwood Board of Health, for being named Volunteer of the Month for November by Mayor Mahr and the Council. In addition to his service on the Board of Health, Robert also spent two years volunteering on the Rescue Squad. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated public servant with us. Pictured with Robert, center, are Councilman Tom Kranz and Mayor Mahr holding a print of Fanwood's historic train station, which is presented to each Volunteer of the Month.

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THIRD UNION COUNTY DAY OF PRAYER DRAWS NEARLY 600

At a time when the nation is gripped by divisiveness and intolerance for those who differ from us is worn by many like a badge of courage, nearly 600 people from all walks of life came together for the Third Annual Union County Day of Prayer, held October 6 at The Parish Community of St. Helen in Westfield.

"Day of Prayer and Reflection: Honoring People of All Faith Communities" drew speakers and readers from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh faiths. They were joined by people of all races and nationalities, as well as more than 100 people with disabilities. The event featured prayers, meditations and songs.

The Annual Union County Day of Prayer is planned and orchestrated each year by the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council, an organization comprising interfaith congregations and community-based nonprofits, including Community Access Unlimited (CAU). The council promotes inclusion of all people within the community and creates a clearing house of faith-based, nonprofit and government community services available to the public while bringing greater awareness of these services to the wider community, according to Sid Blanchard, CAU executive director.

"In these times when families are being rendered asunder, when communities are being torn apart, when someone who is different is being rejected, it is essential to come together," Blanchard said.

Rabbi Joel Abraham of the Temple Sholom in Scotch Plains said, "I think it's important to stand

with people of other faiths whenever possible. Especially now when there is a force of division...we want to reach across the pew and see how we are more alike than different yet also celebrate the ways we are different."

Reverend Cynthia Cochran-Carney of the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains, said, "There are many misunderstandings in our country about different faith groups, many stereotypes. I want to promote the vision we are all called by God and need to respect each other."

The Venerable Klint Kaevalin from the Buddhist Dhammakaya Meditation Center in Fanwood, said, "It's nice when we can come together and share peace and have a true commonality that we want to have goodness in the world."

Dr. Mohammad Ali Chaudry of the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge said, "Interfaith cooperation is critical for not only the Muslim community but all communities. I've been talking about how to confront and counter bigotry. I will know I am making a difference when I see a Muslim say something hateful about another group and another Muslim stand up and say, 'That's not right.' When a Jew says something hateful and another Jew says, 'That's not right.' And a Christian and so on."

Chaudry encouraged everyone in attendance to sign a pledge to "stand up for the other" that reads: "While interacting with members of my own faith or ethnic community, or with others, if I hear hateful comments from anyone about members of any other community, I pledge to

stand up for the other and challenge bigotry in any form." The pledge form is available online at www.standupfortheother.org.

"If you hear something hateful and bigoted, if you don't speak out they'll think you agree with them," Chaudry said. "If we can all take enough of a stand speaking out that that's not right, we can make a difference."

CAU is a statewide Elizabeth-based nonprofit providing support programs and services to adults with disabilities as well as youth served under the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to enable them to live independently in the community, providing supports in areas including housing, vocational skills and life-skills training, education, advocacy and recreation.

About Community Access Unlimited

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 37th year in 2016, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil right. CAU currently serves more than 6,000 individuals and families, with the number served growing each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908.354.3040, online at www.caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



(above) Members of the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council and other invited speakers at the Third Annual Union County Day of Prayer.

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(above l-r) Seated: Nicole Laregina, Sara Durand, Amie Berlant, Alexandra Schulman, Taylor Gregory, Anne (Fletcher) Lynch; Back row: Jacqueline Santos, Catherine Hoffman, Ellen Bifani, Karen Glod, Virginia Casazza, and Joseph Cistaro. Missing from photo is Anthony Bruno.

SPFHS SENIOR SCORES HIGH ON ACT



(above) Deblina Mukherjee, Scotch Plains Fanwood High School Senior, earned the highest composite score of 36 on the ACT college admissions and placement exam. Only 1 in 4,000 test takers achieve this score. Congratulations to Deblina!



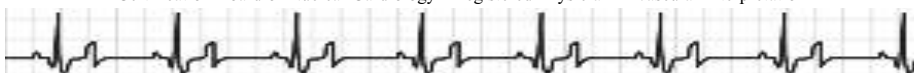
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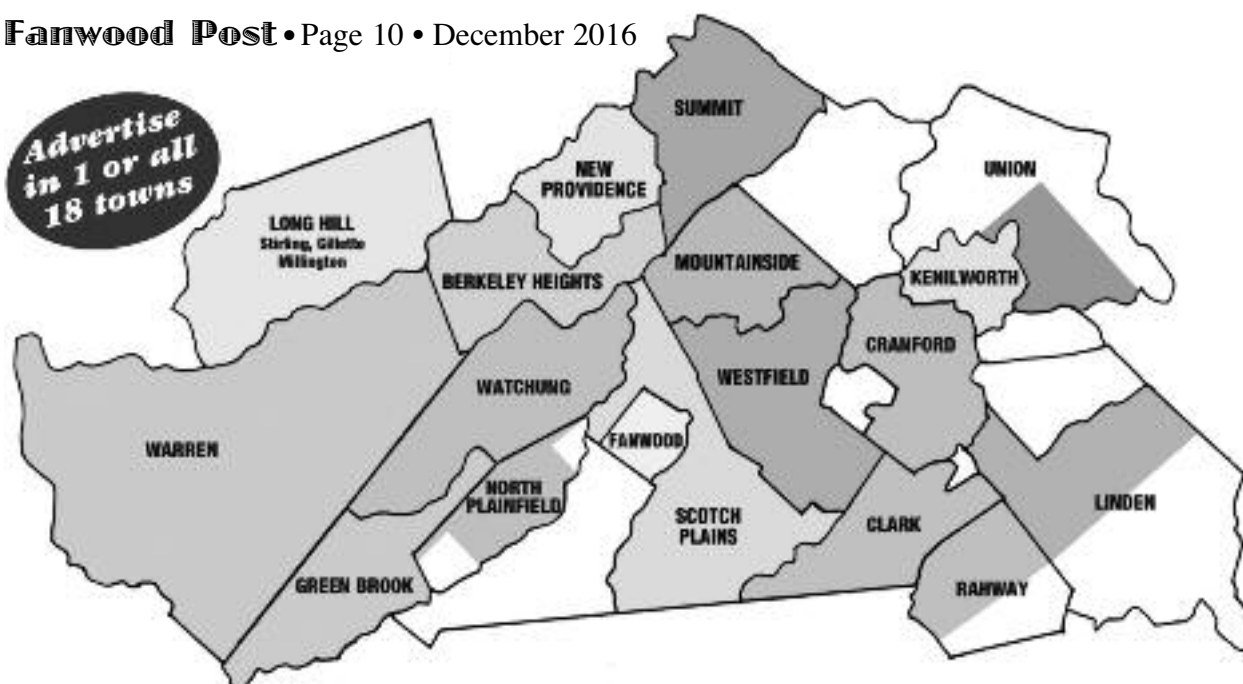
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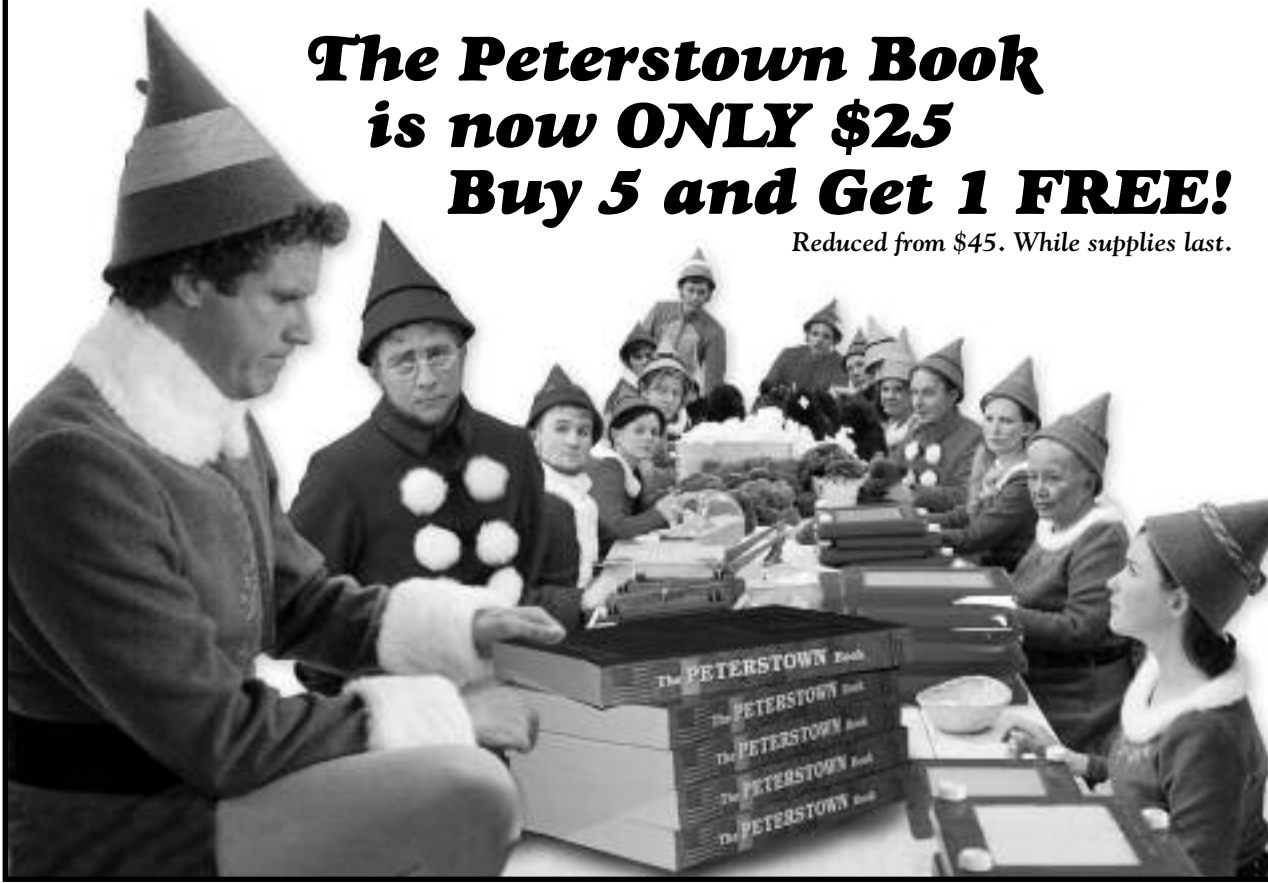
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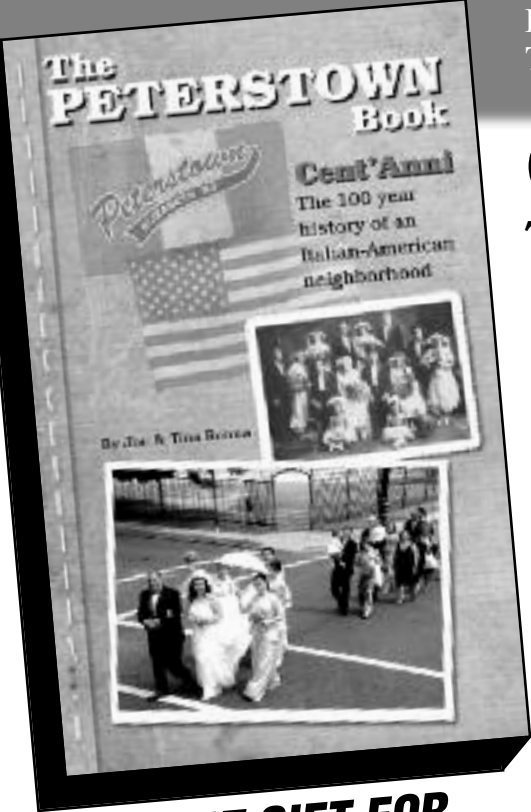
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Additional information can be found by visiting www.cdctheatre.org. Funding has been made possible in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts, Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs.

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