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Issue 16 • January 2017

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## FANWOOD CELEBRATES HOLIDAY SEASON

On Sunday, December 4, Fanwood's holiday season officially began when Santa Claus arrived via firetruck at the annual Fanwood Holiday Party and Tree Lighting. The event was organized by the Fanwood Recreation Commission and included holiday treats, crafts and, of course, photos with Santa. The line of Santa's fans wrapped around the tent with children excited to meet Santa. The Scotch Plains Fanwood High School Chamber Choir and the Jazz Band, The Moonglowers, provided holiday music throughout the event. The holiday celebration concluded at 5 p.m. when Mayor Colleen Mahr, joined by Councilmen Tom Kranz and Jack Molenaar lit the Fanwood town tree on the train station lawn.

An overnight snowfall caused Fanwood's Santa Parade to step off with a slight delay so officials could address safety concerns on December 17th. Hundreds of gifts were delivered door to door by Santa Claus with the assistance of the Fanwood Fire Department, Fanwood Rescue Squad and Local 123 of the PBA. The 25+ year tradition is one of the most anticipated events in Fanwood each year.



(above) SPF High School Jazz Band,  
The Moonglowers.



(above) SPF High School  
Chamber Choir

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## SANTA'S HELPERS VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Volunteers of the Month for December were Fanwood firefighters Frank Dietl, and Doug Germinder, designated Santa's helpers during the annual Santa Parade. The Santa Parade is a decades-old tradition in which Santa Claus goes door to door through the town delivering presents to our children. The planning and execution takes weeks of coordination by the firefighters and their families to collect the gifts, organize them into an efficient route, then spend an entire day delivering them. Doug and Frank play integral roles in making the day happen. Mayor Mahr presented each with a print of the town's historic train station and Fire Chief John Piccola said a few words of praise as well.



(above l-r) Firefighters Frank Dietl,  
and Doug Germinder, and Chief Piccola.

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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  
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## DAISY TROOP #40827 VISITS NURSING HOME



(above) Daisy Troop # 40827 from Scotch Plains-Fanwood visited Clark Nursing and Rehabilitation Center On Friday, December 9th to bring holiday cheer to the residents. The troop sang Christmas carols and offered an ornament craft to the residents' delight!

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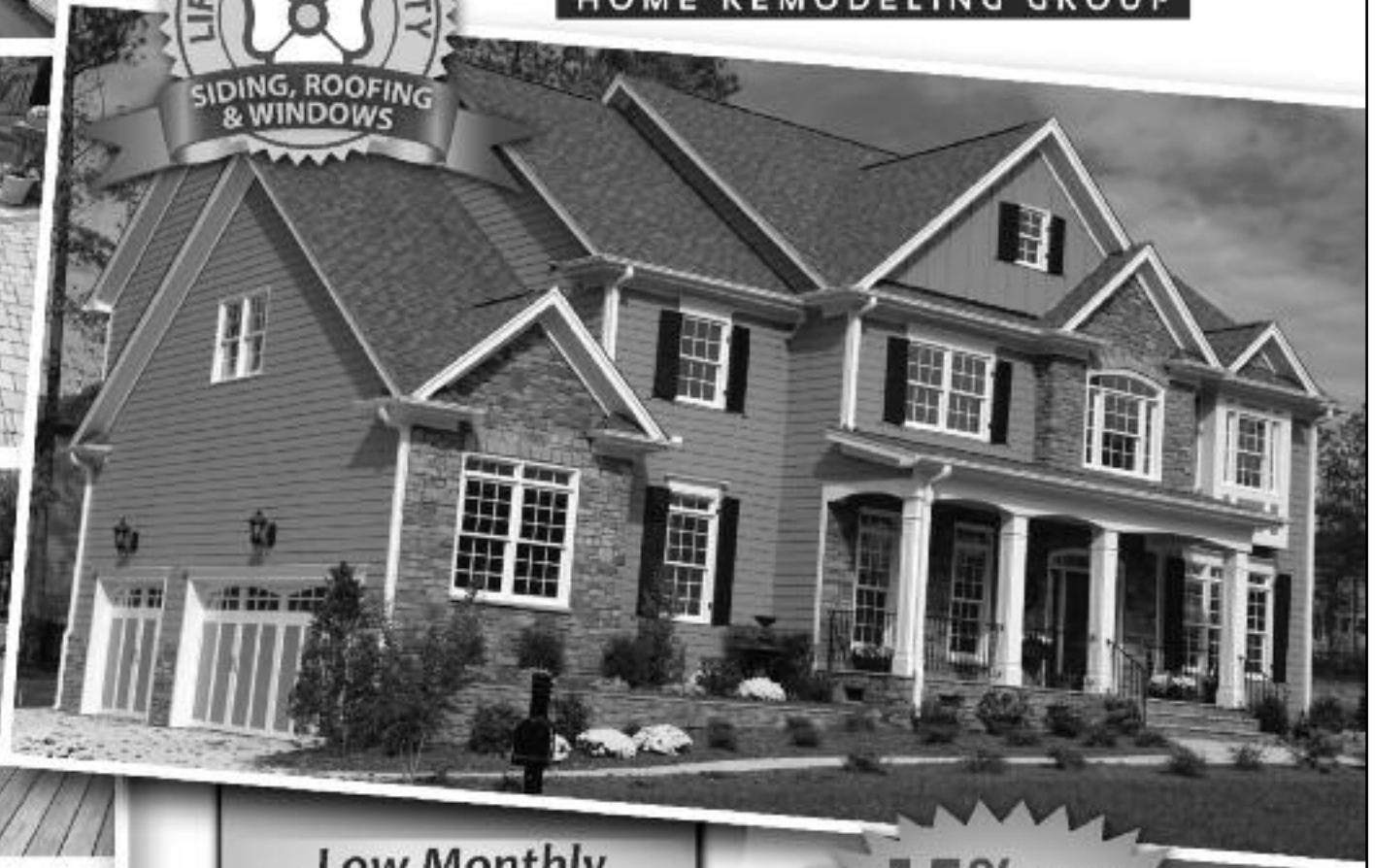


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## RICCI RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

During the Fanwood Borough Council meeting held on December 19, 2016, Jennifer Ricci, Executive Director of the Chelsea at Fanwood assisted living residence, was honored. Ms. Ricci is leaving after 17 years on the job. Mayor Mahr and Councilman Tom Kranz recognized her for opening the doors of the Chelsea to the community for public events and meetings and for being host to first responders during and after Hurricane Sandy when she fed and housed police officers and firefighters who worked long shifts. She has held numerous fundraisers for the Fire Department, PBA and Rescue Squad and made the building available as a warming and cooling station during extreme weather. She is leaving to spend more time with her family.



(above) Councilman Tom Kranz and Mayor Mahr with Jennifer Ricci.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MAKES DONATION TO BREAST CANCER CENTER

The Student Government Association at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School donated \$750 to the Breast Center at Overlook Hospital.

Funds were raised by selling pink homecoming tee shirts in honor of breast cancer

awareness month. The tee shirts were worn by students at the Homecoming football game and they were so popular, they sold out!

The entire Student Government Association presented the \$750 to representative at Overlook Hospital on Friday, December 2nd.



(above, back row, l-r) Benjamin Schneider, M.D. and Anne Davidson, Medical Director and Coordinantor of the Breast Center, respectively; Alexa Hudak, Taylor Zucosky, Gia Pares, Grace Murphy, Gabriella Marino, Sam Lusk, Henry Lewand.  
(front, l-r) Lukas Stein, Katherine Keiser, Max Lusk.

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**Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm**

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# FANWOOD SENIORS CLUB HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The Fanwood Seniors Club hosted their holiday luncheon at Snuffy's on December 12, 2016.



(above) Entertainment was provided by the SPFHS Moonglowers.

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## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### Fanwood Recreation Winter Programs for Children

Fanwood Recreation announces its winter lineup of after-school programs. Coming back are such favorites as LEGO Club, Babysitting Certification Class, Junior First Responders, Child's Play Challenge Course, Schoolhouse Chess, Wonder League Robotics Club, and Writopia. New additions include Nature's Neighborhood's Winter Garden and Group Flute Lessons. Plus, for our youngest athletes, USA Sport Group offers several sections of Soccer Squirts—indoors! Most of these programs will begin the week of January 23rd. For more information, including detailed descriptions, dates, times, prices, and age group, go to [fanwoodrecreation.org](http://fanwoodrecreation.org), where you can also register and pay online.

### Fanwood Recreation Winter Programs for Seniors

Fanwood Recreation announces its Winter schedule of programs for Fanwood's senior community. Most programs begin the week of January 2nd and end the week of March 27th, are scheduled for 12 to 14 sessions, and will be held at the Forest Road Park building unless otherwise noted. Programs include Aerobics, Water Exercise, Zumba Gold, Gentle Yoga, Tai Chi, and Line, Ballroom and Latin Dancing. For more information, including dates, times, and prices, go to [fanwoodrecreation.org](http://fanwoodrecreation.org), where you can also register and pay online.



(above) Representing the Borough were Administrator Eleanor McGovern and Council members Russ Huegel, Kathy Mitchell and Tom Kranz. The host was club president Joe Bruno.



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# SIX SCOTCH PLAINS- FANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

*Submitted by Michael Loberfeld, member of SPFHS Alumni Association*

On November 15, 2016, the public was deeply inspired by the stories of six Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School alumni who were inducted into the school's Hall of Fame.

Moria Cappio, class of 1998, is VP for Early Childhood Programs at the Children's Aid Society in New York City, a nonprofit whose mission is to support children who are living in poverty go from cradle to college. She has also been involved with Sister Pat's Camp for cancer for over twenty years.

Growing up, Cappio was very fond of the Adopt-a-Cop that visited her elementary school as part of the DARE program in the eighties. When she was Head Start director in East Harlem, in a neighborhood consisting of predominantly newly immigrated Mexican families, Cappio arranged for a police officer in uniform to read to young children with family members present. The parents and children were visibly uneasy the first time because they were not used to this, explained Cappio. But Cappio was able to turn it around. "That year as a community we did some incredible work around building positive relationships between the police and the immigrant community. We facilitated open dialogue, joint activities, we ate together, played together, all in the spirit of breaking down barriers to learn more about the other....I'm particularly proud of this example, because I think that it's a good reminder of how important it is to have respectful conversations with people that are different, in order to gain understanding and to move forward", Cappio articulates.

Because Cappio grew up in Scotch Plains, she feels it was always assumed that she would go to college. But for some of the kids that Cappio currently works with in the South Bronx, in the poorest Congressional district in the country, going to college is far from an absolute, Cappio points out. As part of Cappio's "life of service", she is committed "to work towards supporting others so that they might have access to all the incredible opportunities like the ones I had". She works to empower children as well as their families.

"Very young my parents instilled in me and my two sisters the belief that we could do anything, and that they would always be there to support us and to love us" reflects Cappio. "When it came to going to college, my parents told us that as long as we took care of getting into the school, they would take care of the rest. At the time, I think the real power of that message was probably lost on me. But now looking back. I am in awe of my parents, for how they always prioritized our family, how they always helped us overcome any obstacle, and how they've always been beside us as we go after our dreams".

Cynthia Sayer '74, an international jazz banjoist who has performed at the White House and is a member of the National Four String Banjo Hall of Fame, was led into her career by chance. "When I saw the [SPFHS] Moonglowers, and I saw the drums swinging in the Jazz Band, I

wanted a drum set. And that was a really big deal to me. I had a fight with my parents for two weeks, and they said 'no' 'too loud' 'too much racket', and I was very headstrong about it, and one day I came home from school and there was this banjo on my bed. I knew immediately it was a bribe, I knew immediately I would never get my drums, and I thought, 'Okay, I'll play this thing, you know, whatever', and you know the strangest accidents lead to your life: The person you end up spending your life with, the things you end up doing for your life....I stumbled across this. It was really by accident", Sayer marvels.

Michael Antal's ('65) widow, Ann, wrote in a letter from Hawaii, about an early experience that showed Antal's heart.. "Science was always Michael's passion", wrote Ann Antal. He told me that when he was in kindergarten the teacher had the boys and girls line up in separate lines to visit the lavatory. Michael was so excited and happy, but he had misunderstood. He thought the children were going to visit the laboratory. So you see, science was always in his blood".

"The patent for which he was most proud of was for the flash carbonization process which produced high yields of charcoal....Michael proved that charcoal can play a role in arresting global warming [by sequestering carbon dioxide and reducing the carbon dioxide level in the atmosphere]. Charcoal is the renewable equivalent of coal, but unlike coal, charcoal has no mercury or sulfur so it is environmentally friendly", wrote Antal.

Concluded Ann Antal, "Michael....was indeed a very fine human being with a cute sense of humor. He had a deep love for life, a sweet humbleness, and an intense love for humanity".

Marc Shaiman '74 was in London and unable to attend the ceremony, but delivered a taped video message to those in attendance. Community member, Skip Ungar's late wife, Manya, first met Shaiman when Shaiman auditioned for a theater program at the age of ten. "He told her he wanted to play the piano for the musical. He then demonstrated his ability by putting his back to the piano and playing it", remarked Skip Ungar. "He got the job". Later on as a teenager, "Marc went to New York and while trying to get a job playing piano in a bar, he met some girls....They were working with a woman by the name of Bette Midler on Saturday Night Live TV show. Midler got him the job as a backup pianist on the show. When the regular pianist left, he got that job. When Midler and Rob Reiner decided to go to Los Angeles, they took Marc with them, and that is how he became involved with movies", stated Ungar.

John Bernard Riley '71 is an accomplished Grammy-winning jazz drummer, who has played drums since he was in fourth grade at Coles Elementary School. Riley in the last six months has had the honor and privilege of playing in eight countries throughout the world in addition to the United States, "playing concerts and discussing music with professionals and students

in all of these environments". Riley remarked that his music teachers in the district "gave me the foundation that allowed these things to happen".

The late Dr. Christian Lambersten, class of '34, who invented SCUBA (Self-contained underwater breathing apparatus), was noted by his colleagues as having a very hands-on approach in training American commandos in how to use his invention during World War II. "He really did not have to go on these missions, but he did so", pointed out Marie DiFrancesco Leppert, who had nominated Lambertsen. Early on, the Navy had shown little interest in Lambertsen's invention. But Lambertsen did not give up, pitching his idea to the Office of Strategic Studies, which liked the idea and partnered with Lambertsen.

Cappio, in reflecting upon the inductees' stories, articulated "I think tonight highlights that you never know where your influence is going to go...The impact of Scotch Plains- Fanwood High School has had a ripple effect that is constantly expanding".

Dr. David Heisey, principal of SPFHS, praised the inductees, explaining, "We see you as a role model for our current and future students".

To find information on all thirty members of the Hall of Fame, and to nominate an alumni you feel deserves to be in the Hall, please visit the Scotch Plains- Fanwood High School Alumni Association's website at [www.spfk12.org/alumni](http://www.spfk12.org/alumni)


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## WORLD LANGUAGE HONOR SOCIETIES INDUCTION CEREMONY SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

A total of 69 students were inducted into their respective world language honor societies during a ceremony held in November replete with pomp and circumstance and which celebrated the first group of students to be inducted into the newly instituted Chinese Honor Society. Flag-bearing officers led their inductees into the auditorium as cultural music played. Senior Emily Levitt, who served as Master of Ceremonies, introduced the various guest speakers of the evening.

Christian Buren, representing the Chinese language, talked about learning Chinese, and in particular, about “the concept of zhun zhong, or respect - Respect for ourselves, for each other, our elders, for opinions and ideas, and especially respect for our studies.” Rose Giandana related her experiences traveling to France through our French exchange program, commenting on the confidence she gained by communicating in French beyond the classroom and by having the opportunity to question and rethink some of her beliefs, perspectives and ideas. Olivia Barcia, who represented the Italian language, spoke to how, as a fourth generation Italian, learning the language has helped her connect more deeply with her family heritage. Max Mazursky, a senior in AP Spanish, spoke eloquently about the 10-day all expenses paid trip to Ecuador he won through the AATSP Bertie Green Junior Travel Award. Max noted that his most memorable experience came from the day his group visited an orphanage in Quito, where he realized that, “no matter how different our cultures may be, the orphans, and every other human in the world, just want a place to belong, with people who care about them.”

Officers from each honor society led their individual candle-lighting induction ceremonies, which were all conducted entirely in the target language. Senior Simon Oster, the final guest speaker, was not only inducted into the French Honor Society that evening, but also represented German as the last, lone member and President of the German Honor Society. In his speech,

Simon spoke of his love for learning languages, relating his unique and admirable path to proficiency in both German and French.

The evening concluded with a celebratory reception in the cafeteria.

Officers included Francesca Jones, Lorie Marie Rosado, Erin Sheehy and Justin Yang (Chinese), Alyssa Cordero and Ian MacPherson (French), Julia Guarneri, Caroline McNichol and Kelsey Werkheiser (Italian) and Kiara Cruz and Daniela Fonseca (Spanish). Chinese Honor Society Inductees were Sara Begalman, Christian Buren, Amy Chen, Kelly Hopkins, Francesca Jones, Lorie Marie Rosado, Erin Sheehy and Justin Yang. Inducted into the French Honor Society were Sara Banasiak, Rachel Breit, Maya Dunchus, Hannah Finan, Mackenzie Inacker, Katherine Keiser, Quinn Kekelis, Brianna Linder, Michael Lockfeld, Caraid McGovern, Briana McGowan, Sara Miller, Alexa-Jada Nelson,

Simon Oster, Nikita Paranjape, Gabriella Scannell, Megan Small, Sydney Smith, Gabriel StaRosa, Connor Wirth and Karl Wirth. Italian Honor Society Inductees included Olivia Barcia, Brandon Boyarsky, Francesca Carlino, Josephine Catuogno, Maria DelSordi, Riya Desai, Angela DiGiacomo, Alanna Gaona, Nina Halberstadter, Adam Mayerson and Ryan Midwinter. Inducted into the Spanish Honor Society were Jason Acevedo, Madeline Bord, Caitlin Bourke, Jack Cannon, Natalie Choque, Daniella Cohen, Phoebe Collins, Hannah Davis, Francesca DiFabio, Anna Dunchus, Caroline English, Patrick Gannon, Madison Goldberg, Caroline Gutierrez, Jacqueline Harvey, Isabella Hurtado, Kathryn Kalaigian, Nicholas Lavin, Rachel Maizes, Jared Mann, Paige McMorro, Kerri McNeely, Gia Pares, Molly Pritchett, Nathaniel Redmount, Veronica Sendao, Lauren Trentacoste, Isaac Velasquez and Ethan Wollman.



(above) Chinese Inductees

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## EDUCATORS PRESENT “FINDING THE ARTIST WITHIN, THE STUDENT WITHIN”

Recently Scotch Plains-Fanwood teachers and administrators unveiled their opening art exhibit of watercolor paintings showcasing their work and highlighting a new dimension of district Professional Development: “Finding The Artist Within, The Student Within.”

Ms. Barbara Prestridge, Park Middle School Art teacher, designed the workshop and this was their culminating event. This art exhibit provided an opportunity for the school community, along with the Board members, to view the work and discuss this unique form of professional development. Those who participated reflected on the experience of being a global student through the dynamics of combining artistic creation and personal expression. This initiative produced multiple benefits. Educators were provided with a hands-on arts experience in order to increase their understanding of the value of the arts in the curriculum, as well as to focus on ways of fostering creativity in themselves and in their students. Further, by understanding the complexities of creating art as a novice learner, this group of educators had a unique opportunity to reflect on ways this experience would help them in their own teaching.

One participant stated that this workshop was such a powerful experience that all district educators should participate in it because it involves entering the students’ perspective, appreciating the value of struggling, learning from one’s mistakes, and recognizing the importance of thoughtful and timely teacher support. Dr. Joan Mast, Assistant Superintendent who participated in the workshop, saw the tremendous value of providing an opportunity for teachers to experience first-hand what it’s like being a novice learner on the path towards expertise. The district plans to continue this initiative as part of an after school series of workshops open to teachers.



(above) French Inductees



(above) Italian Inductees



(above) Spanish Inductees



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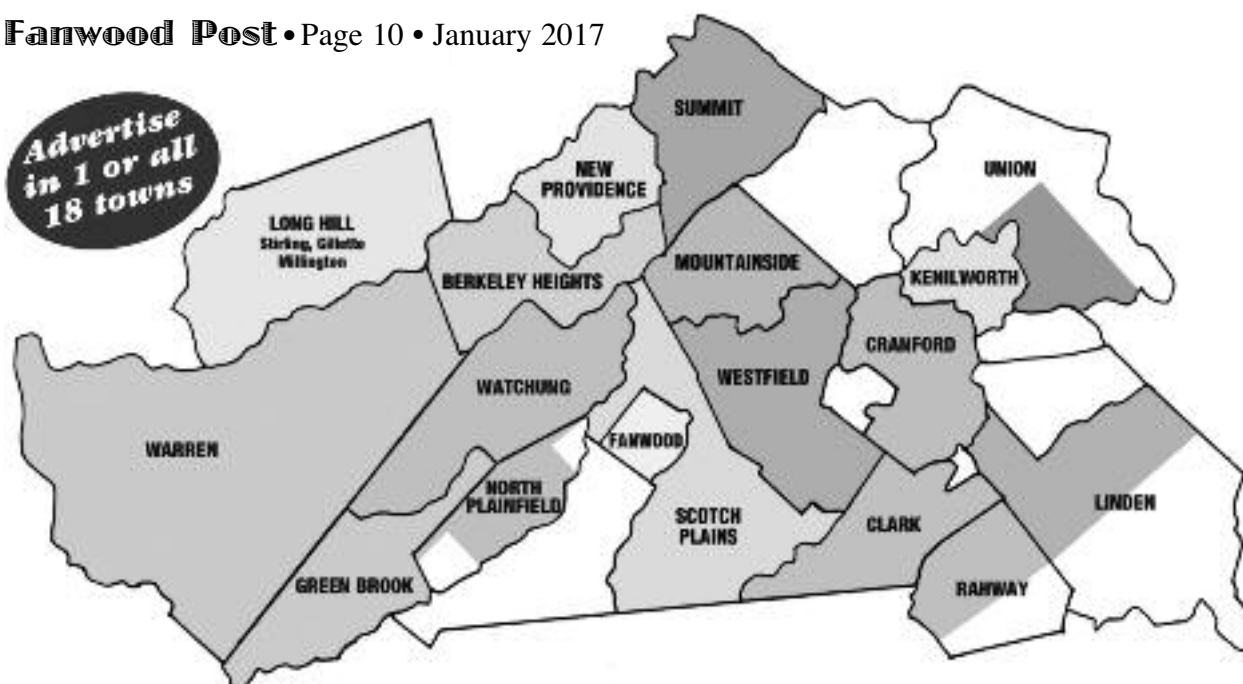
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# BLOOD RESERVES CHALLENGED BY PATIENT DEMAND

## *O-Negative Blood a Constant Challenge*

New Jersey Blood Services, a division of New York Blood Center (NYBC) is asking for help to maintain an adequate supply of all blood types, but especially O-negative – the “universal” blood which can be transfused into anyone in an emergency. In addition, hundreds of additional blood drives need to be scheduled to meet projected hospital demand. Current inventory of several blood types is running below the desired target level.

“It’s simple: hospital patient demand for blood often outpaces our best efforts to recruit donors and schedule blood drives,” said NYBC Executive Director of Donor Recruitment Andrea Cefarelli. “There are always reasons but we have to overcome that for the sake of hospital patients who need us.”

“This is one of the toughest times of the year,” Cefarelli added. “We’re asking for our dedicated supporters to roll up their sleeves to make sure we’re able to provide our hospital partners with whatever they need to take care of their patients.”

Blood products have a short shelf life – from five to 42 days, so constant replenishment is

necessary. Each and every day there are patients who depend on the transfusion of red blood cells, platelets and plasma to stay alive. But blood and blood products can’t be manufactured. They can only come from volunteer blood donors who take an hour to attend a blood drive or visit a donor center.

January donor drives to be conducted at the Scotch Plains Donor Center, 2279 South Ave, Scotch Plains:

Wednesday, January 11, 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Friday, January 13, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm

Saturday, January 14, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Sunday, January 15, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

To donate blood or for information on how to organize a blood drive Please call Toll Free: 1-800-933-2566 Visit: [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org). If you cannot donate but still wish to participate in bringing crucial blood products to patients in need, please ask someone to donate for you, or consider volunteering at a local blood drive.

Any company, community organization, place of worship, or individual may host a blood drive. NYBC also offers special community service scholarships for students who organize

community blood drives during summer months. Blood donors receive free mini-medical exams on site including information about their temperature, blood pressure and hematocrit level. Eligible donors include those people at least age 16 (with parental permission or consent), who weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, are in good health and meet all Food & Drug Administration and NY or NJ State Department of Health donor criteria. People over 75 may donate with a doctor's note.

About New York Blood Center

Established in 1964, New York Blood Center (NYBC) is one of the largest independent, community-based blood centers in the country. Each year, NYBC provides approximately one million blood products to nearly 200 hospitals in the Northeast. NYBC also provides a wide array of transfusion-related medical services. NYBC is also home to the world’s largest public cord blood bank, which provides stem cells for transplant in many countries, and a renowned research institute, which – among other milestones -- developed the Hepatitis B vaccine and innovative blood purification technology.

## COLLEGE CLUB HOSTS MARK DI IONNO, STAR-LEDGER COLUMNIST

On Monday January 23, 2017, the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains welcomes lifetime newspaperman and a 2013 Pulitzer Prize finalist in news commentary, Mark Di Ionno to share stories about his journalism career as a columnist or editor on topics such as Hurricane Sandy, and as an author of award-winning nonfiction books about New Jersey with a specific focus on the Revolutionary war in the Watchungs and his book A Guide to New Jersey’s Revolutionary War Trail which received the New Jersey Academic Alliance Award.

Mr. Di Ionno is a four-time winner of the New Jersey Press Association’s first-place award for column writing. His columns appear regularly in The Star-Ledger, and its online partner, [nj.com](http://nj.com), with an estimated readership of over 1 million people.

Mr. Di Ionno began his career in sports and was a columnist at The New York Post, where he broke many stories, including parts of baseball’s

case against Pete Rose and the undoing of Mike Tyson.

Prior to becoming a columnist at the Star-Ledger, he was of the principal editors involved in the paper’s 2005 Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of Gov. Jim McGreevey’s abrupt resignation and the 2001 Pulitzer-finalist coverage of the Seton Hall fire.

Mr. Di Ionno is the author of three award-winning nonfiction books that include New Jersey’s Coastal Heritage, and A Guide to New Jersey’s Revolutionary War Trail, which were put on NJ 350’s “101 Greatest New Jersey Books. His publication is The Last Newspaperman, which was also a finalist in USA Books and ForeWord Reviews “Best of 2012” contests.

Please join us to hear about the interesting career in journalism of Mark Di Ionno. The program is free and open to the public and will be held at The Chelsea located at 295 South Ave, Fanwood, NJ, starting at 7 p.m.

## UMPIRE CERTIFICATION CLASS TO BE HELD IN JANUARY

ASA/USA Softball NJ District 2 will hold its umpire certification class in Cranford beginning in mid-January 2017.

The class costs \$75, and will run from 6-8 weeks, including both classroom and gym training. Once certified, you will be eligible to umpire any of the thousands of the games ASA/USA Softball NJ hosts throughout the state, including the 3,500 games hosted by

District 2 in and around Union County. Please contact District 2 Commissioner Keith Hoffman at [khoffcran@aol.com](mailto:khoffcran@aol.com), 908-463-3960 with interest.

ASA/USA Softball is the largest and oldest softball organization in the world, and is the official sponsoring organization for Team U.S.A., the women who will represent our country in Softball at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

## Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce NETWORKING EVENTS

### BREAKFAST NETWORKING TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

7:30 - 9:00 am

### TEPP ACCOUNTING SERVICES,

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Join us for coffee and breakfast and don't forget to bring your business cards. You will have the opportunity to introduce yourself to the group and meet local business professionals. Nonmembers are welcome. Members: FREE but please RSVP. Nonmembers: \$5 in advance. Additional \$5 at the door.

### MULTI-CHAMBER NETWORKING & DINNER! WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

6:00 - 8:00 pm

### SNUFFY'S PANTAGIS RENAISSANCE,

250 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains

Meet business professionals from the GWACC + 6 other local chambers --Springfield, Edison, Suburban, Union, Cranford, and Linden. More than 1,500 business professionals have been invited to this event! Enjoy the delicious and extensive all-you-can-eat dinner buffet and make valuable contacts. Bring plenty of business cards. Members of all invited chambers: \$25 in advance. Nonmembers: \$30 in advance. Additional \$5 at the door.

To register for events, or for more information about the Chamber call 908-233-3021.



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