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REGION II SCHOLASTIC HONORS MUSICAL GROUPS

Twelve student instrumentalists and another seven student singers from Watchung Hills Regional High School have been selected for Region II scholastic honors musical groups. Selected for All Region II Vocal groups are, from left, Kyra Anthony, Christine Tanko, Angelina Carrano, Anchal Dhir, Suchir Govindarajan, Kira Leinwand and Summer Stuart.

Selected for All Region II Instrumental groups are: From left, Katie Tan, Olivia Xu, Lindsey Shi, Craig Mandelbaum, Jack Horan, Andrew Morrison, Ethan Marmolejos, and Carl Peterson. Not in the photo are students selected for All Region II Instrumental groups. They are: Cathleen Luo, William Narayanan, Cristina Sarrico, and Catherine Cai.



LONG HILL CHAMBER PLANS 'BUSINESS BUILDERS'

Submitted by Michelle Cavett, Long Hill Chamber of Commerce President

The Long Hill Chamber of Commerce has several "Business Builders" planned for 2017. We will be holding several dynamic networking events this year to help connect business owners/operators in the area. This can lead to business services being utilized as well as referrals.

For example, I found Pieper Payroll through meeting the owner, Jeff Pieper at a Chamber-sponsored networking event. A year later when the time came to engage payroll services, I immediately thought of him, and have been extremely pleased with his services ever since.

Through our "speed-networking" sessions, a regular part of our events, business owners/operators are paired up and exchange ideas and connections. For example, I was recently connected through a speed-networking session to a school which I was not aware even existed. When my speednetworking partner suggested it, I asked if he had any

connections. He gave me the name of the owner and now I'm presenting a proposal for a pre-school karate program for them. I never would have even thought of them had I not been sharing what I was looking for with my partner.

Other types of Business Builders we have planned are "Lunch and Learn" where we will have an expert speaker addressing a common business concern. We will start off in March with social media topics, as this is what Chamber members tell us is the area they feel they are the weakest, but has the most potential for growing their business. We want to help our members achieve their business growth goals and help make the Long Hill businesses strong and prosperous through dedicated service to our community. If you are a business owner/operator and would like to be part of the Long Hill Chamber of Commerce, please contact me at mcavett@karate4peace.com or call (908)647-4194.



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High school seniors wishing to apply for the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship should obtain applications now from their school guidance office. The scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Deadline for submission of applications is March 8, 2017.

Previous DeLeeuw scholarship recipients already in college are also eligible to apply. They must submit complete official transcripts of college grades with a new application.

This is the twenty-second year the scholarships have been offered. To date, the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship Fund, which is a fund of the Plainfield Foundation, has awarded over one million dollars. The awards are made in accordance with the terms of a bequest from Ms. DeLeeuw, author of 75 books, journalist and arts activist.

The Plainfield Rotary Scholarship Foundation, headed by Michael R. Townley, acts as selector for the scholarships. Area Rotary Clubs assist in the selection process. Only students attending high schools in Plainfield, North Plainfield, South Plainfield, Warren, Watchung, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Edison are eligible. Location of high school, not student's residence, is the qualifying factor. The student must also be accepted to an accredited college or university.

Applicants must plan to major in one of the following areas of study: art, poetry, writing, journalism or engineering. They must demonstrate the scholastic aptitude and interest to pursue study in one of these specified areas. They must also prove financial need.

Interested students should consult their guidance counselors to obtain the necessary application information or go to the Plainfield/North Plainfield Rotary Club website www.rotarypnp.org/csadele-deleeuwscholarship.php. Questions may be directed to Johanna Salvemini, Scholarship Administrator, at (908) 755-8098.

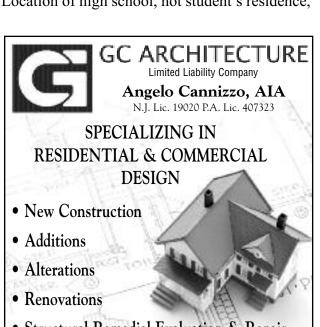




Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

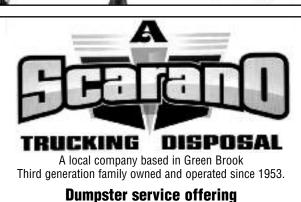
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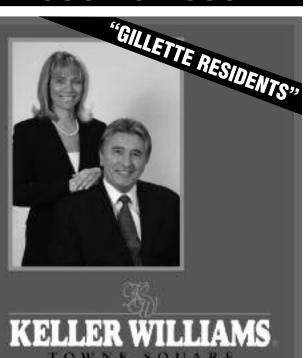
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MOSAIC FLUTE DUO TO PERFORM AT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Mosaic Flute Duo, consisting of Natasha Loomis and Mitzy Nonaka, will perform at The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling on Sunday, February 12, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. A brief reception for the artists will follow.





(above, l-r) Mitzy Nonaka, Natasha Loomis

(above, 1-r) Muzy Nonaka, Natasna Loomis



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Dynamic and energetic flutist Mitzy Nonaka enjoys a varied freelance career in New York, bringing enthusiasm to classical and contemporary stages alike. Recent highlights include joining Apotheosis Opera Company's production of "Tannhauser" in their premier season, participating in the Rubin Museum's Spiral Music series performing traditional and contemporary Japanese music with the Koto/Shamisen/Vocal artist Sumie Kaneko, backing Monique Mizhari/Honeybird in the "Out Comes Woman" CD release at Nublu, and performances at Symphony Space with Light Opera of New York, culminating in the first professional recording of Victor Herbert's "The Only Girl" for Albany Records. Originally from Mogi das Cruzes, Brazil, Mitzy was primarily self-taught before beginning her undergraduate studies at SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Music under Tara Helen O'Connor. She completed graduate work at both New York University and Rutgers University, studying with Kathleen Nester and Bart Feller, and has performed in masterclasses for William Bennett, Karl-Heinz Schutz, Keith Underwood, among others.

Natasha Loomis is a versatile and engaging flutist who is active as a performer, educator, and music administrator. She is equally at home playing music ranging from Baroque to contemporary and is passionate about discovering new music and presenting creative programs for audiences. Natasha teaches privately in New Jersey and runs an active studio for students of all ages and levels. She also teaches at Montclair State University's Preparatory Division and has spent time as

faculty at Hunterdon Academy of the Arts and as co-adjutant chamber music faculty at Rutgers University. She is an avid chamber musician as well as 2nd flutist with the Adelphi Chamber Orchestra since 2012. Past engagements have included performances with the Allegro Chamber Orchestra of Lancaster, Opera Lancaster, Ars Musica, and the Delaware Theatre Company. Performance highlights include the New York Flute Fair "Multiple Breaths" concert in 2011, Weill Recital Hall Chamber and Solo Music Series in New York City in 2012, and (le) poisson rouge with Helix! New Music Ensemble in 2015. In July of 2015 she performed Mozart's Concerto in G Major with the Vienna International Orchestra at the Palais Auersperg in Vienna, Austria, as well as giving several chamber and solo performances at the Zodiac Festival in southern France. Natasha is currently pursuing a D.M.A. in flute performance at Rutgers University, studying with Bart Feller. Former teachers include Elizabeth Mann and Susan Palma-Nidel, among others. She has played in masterclasses for Jeffrey Khaner, Ransom Wilson, Tara Helen O'Connor, Gary Schocker, Keith Underwood, and the Imani Winds. Honors include being selected as a performer in the Banff 2012 Masterclass for Winds and as a competitor in the National Flute Association's Young Artist Competition in New Orleans in 2013. She also performed as a soloist with the Franklin and Marshall Orchestra as Concerto Competition winner in 2009.

Admission is free; donations are welcome. For more information go to www.fpcstirling.org/ or call the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling at (908) 647 - 1033.

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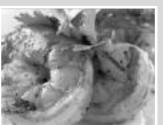
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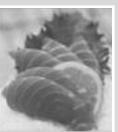
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10:00 am to 2:00 pm Sign-in/setup starts at 9:00 am

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- How to lower your "out-of-pocket" costs and get the maximum amount of money from each school

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Lynn McKenna, Parent of High School Senior

"Opened up opportunity to look at colleges we thought were out of our price range."

Barbara Eames, Parent of High School Sophomore

"Covered a lot of ground - easy to follow and moved quickly."

Sara Pogue,
Parent of High School Junior

"Demystified the college funding process"

Joseph Mozzella, Parent of High School Senior



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SELF-DEFENSE FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Soo Bahk Do Karate of Gillette will be holding a 6-session self-defense seminar series at their location at 630 Valley Road in Gillette. The session will be held on 6 consecutive Sundays beginning March 5th from 4:30-6pm. The class is specifically tailored to young women ages 16 -25. No previous experience is necessary. "We want to focus on young women preparing for college and being out on their own", said Program Director and Certified Instructor Michelle Cavett.

Cavett and Ria Zazzarino, both 3rd degree blackbelts, will be conducting the classes, along with guest instructors with specific expertise, such as weapons defense. "This will be intense, in-depth preparation. Of course, the main goal is to be aware enough not to get into a compromising situation in the first place, but when that fails, we want to make sure they have some tools and techniques to utilize", said Cavett.

For more information contact Cavett at mcavett@karate4peace.com or call the karate studio at (908)647-4194. To register, visit their website at www.karate4peace.com.



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LOCAL GIRL SCOUTS LEARN SELF-DEFENSE

Scouts from Troop 65624 of Watchung on college and be out on their own", she said. Sunday, January 8th for a self-defense clinic taught by Instructors Ria Zazzarino and Michelle have a free clinic, contact Cavett at (908)647-Cavett, both 3rd degree blackbelts in the traditional martial art.

"We've hosted this troop before and were happy they wanted to come back for more", said Cavett. The Instructors began the clinic with focus on the principles of self-defense such as common sense and general awareness.

"The main goal is to avoid getting into a dangerous situation in the first place", said Zazzarino. The girls worked on knife defense, where an attacker lunged forward at them with a knife. "They all did very well", said Cavett, who also emphasized the importance of practicing not only technique, but also cultivating the ability to remain calm when confronted. "We can show you many debilitating techniques, but if you freeze when confronted, they will do you no good", she said.

An intensive 6-week long self-defense course for young women ages 16-20 is planned for the late Spring, said Cavett, who is also Program Director of the karate studio. "We want to be able



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Soo Bahk Do Karate of Gillette hosted Girl for self-defense as they prepare to go away to

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(above) Danae Churchill, 16, of Watchung practices a wrist twist with Troop Mom Denise Tautonico, a red belt at Soo Bahk Do Karate of Gillette. Other participants were Gwen Kinder, 16, Gianna Tautonico, 15, Kaelin Churchill, 14, and Troop Leader Diana Churchill, all of





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STUDENTS SING AND DANCE WHILE RAISING FUNDS FOR PROJECT ALS

Students and teachers at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) demonstrated their performance skills and entertainment savvy, while raising funds for Project A.L.S. (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), at a Talent Show, Wednesday, Jan. 11, in the school's Performing Arts Center (PAC). Some 16 acts were presented for the enjoyment of the audience, including solo and group performances of song, dance, musicianship, and poetry. Three of the acts were awarded prizes in the talent show competition at the event.

First prize went to Peri Martins of Warren Township, who sang "Rise Up," by Andra Day, and accompanied herself on piano. Second prize went to Eliana Neuwirth of Warren Township, who sang, "Almost Lover," by Fine Frenzy. Third Prize went to Isabella Zhou of Warren Township, who performed a Chinese Dance to the music of the number titled, "Incense."

According to the program, the Talent Show was presented, "In loving memory of Tom Shea (1968-2012) and Jenifer Estess (1963-2003)." Shea is the late brother of WHRHS English Teacher Laura Goodson, who died from A.L.S.

Two summers ago, WHRHS students read, as part of a summer reading assignment, "Tales from the Bed: A Memoir," by the late Jenifer Estess, as told to her sister, Valerie Estess. The work of non-fiction was about Jenifer Estess' battle with ALS, often also referred to as Lou Gehrig Disease. WHRHS student government leaders have held several fundraising events in the last couple of years, such as this year's and previous years' Talent Shows.

One of the highlights of the Talent Show was an ensemble performance of "The Room Where It Happened," from the current award-winning Broadway musical, "Hamilton." Among the performers were WHRHS History teachers Rebecca Brown, Sean New, Ken Karnas and Greg O'Reilly.

Students in the ensemble include Adele Rotondo, Jack Melillo, Suchir Govindarajan, Hannah Melillo, Kyra Anthony, Claire Vickery,





Matt Oboh, Maddy Goffredo, Elisabeh Russo, Grace Shanahan, Julianne Lin, Francesca Meehan, Stephanie Moreno and Sarah Kelly. In a separate performance, Dana Wasserman and Summer Stuart sang another song from Hamilton, "Dear Theodosia."

Several singers offered solo singing performances, including: Colton Berry, "I Wonder as I Wander," by John Jacob Niles; Sarah Kelly, "I Can't Make You Love Me," by Bonnie Rait; and Michael Dumapit, "In Your Atmosphere," by John Mayer.

Several bands performed, including "Tank," comprised of Alex Overzat from WHRHS, and his friends from other schools, Nick Scafuto, and Kerry and Thomas Stranick of Bridgewater-Raritan High School, and Ben Boxer of Livingston High School. They did "Runaway," by Bon Jovi.

WHRHS student band "No Fugazi," performed "Waiting on the World to Change," by John Mayer. Band members of No Fugazi are: David Kim, Natalie Kim, Eddie Cai, Ben Kozakowski, and Matt Renzo. The student band, "Wah!", featuring Will Johnson, Will Broder and Anthony Speros, performed "Careless Whisper," by George Michael and Wham!, while Anthony Speros also contributed a solo vocal and guitar performance on, "Phunkdified," by Justin King.

The Piano/Violin/Cello Trio, featuring students Minhee Han, Brian Zeng and Kevin Lu, played the musical composition, "One Summer's Day."

Student Hannah Melillo joined a trio of The Teachers Band, comprised of English teachers, Kristin Mannion, Michael Porter, and Ira Horowitz, to create three-part harmonies on "White Winter Hymnal," by Fleet Foxes. The Teachers Band trio closed out the Talent Show with "You're My Best Friend" by Queen.

Mehu Saju read an original poem. Spencer Acciarito offered an original comedy stand up routine.



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(above) The band, "Wah!," a trio of students, from left, Will Johnson of Gillette, Will Broder of Warren Township, and Anthony Speros of Stirling, played, "Careless Whisper," by



(above) The Piano/Violin/Cello Trio, featuring Kevin Lu of Warren Township on Cello, Minhee Han of Green Brook Township on piano, and Brian Zeng of Warren Township on violin



(abovel-r) Student band, "No Fugazi," Natalie Kim of Warren Township, Eddie Cai of Watchung, David Kim of Warren Township, Owen DiDonna of Millington, who is a WHRHS graduate now a freshman at Towson University, Towson, Md., Ben Kozakowski of Green Brook Township, and Matt Renzo of Warren Township, performed "Waiting on the World To Change," by John Mayer at the Talent Show.



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(above, left) Peri Martins of Warren Township, who sang "Rise Up," by Andra Day, and accompanied herself on piano, won first prize at the WHRHS Talent Show,. (right) Eliana Neuwirth of Warren Township sang "Almost Lover," by Fine Frenzy, at the WHRHS Talent Show. She won Second Prize.





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