Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

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WHRHS STUDENTS SING AND DANCE WHILE RAISING FUNDS FOR PROJECT ALS WITH TALENT SHOW

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. In addition, several representatives from Project ALS, including Jenifer's sisters, Valerie and Meredith Estess, spoke to assemblies of WHRHS students. 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.

"Since its inception, Project ALS has advanced ALS research, accelerating the testing of potential drugs, establishing the world's first and only privately funded stem cell laboratory and developing the first laboratory models of ALS," according to published Project ALS literature.



(above l-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.

"We have brought together the top stem cell biologists, geneticists, motor neuron experts and ALS neurologists to work on ALS and related diseases—transforming the field. In 17 years, Project ALS has raised over \$75 million, directing between 80-93 percent annually to research programs."

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."

Continued on page 6

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

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

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email editor@rennamedia.com or call 908-418-5586

4th Annual 2017 White Castle District Munsee Boy Scout Chess Tournament Open to all registered Boy Scouts/Venturers/Explorers. Non-scouts welcomed! Saturday, February 25, 2017 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Sign-in/setup starts at 9:00 am **Cranford Community Center** 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ • 908.709.7283 Registration is \$8. At Door \$12 • Note: this is a non-rated tournament. Non-scouts (under 18 only) can register by calling Joe Renna at 908-447-1295. Scouts can use Patriots' Path Council Munsee District Double Knot link to register on-line at ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2031497 Scouts can email Jim Parlapiano jim.parlapiano@hotmail.com for more info. Trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers. Lunch will be provided by White Castle for all players and fans. This tournament meets the 6a requirement for earning a Chess merit badge. Event Sponsored by BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA RennaMedia.com PATRIOTS' PATH COUNCIL

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BAYBERRY SPELLING BEE CHAMPIONS

On Monday, January 23rd, Bayberry School in Watchung held its 2017 Spelling Bee. There were seventeen entrants to begin, and after five rounds of spelling words, the Bee came down to the final two students. The two students pictured above (from left to right) are runner-up Isabella Thomas, and Bee champion Rhea Patel. These two fourth grade students battled word for word for almost twenty five minutes. Rhea Patel will move on to the SCLSNJ Bee Spectacular on March 11th at the Somerset County Vo-Tech building."

The Garden club of Watchung began 2017

with a presentation by Alma Jones, Floral

Designer. Alma bases her floral creations on the

works of Leatrice Eiseman, author of "Colors for

Your Every Mood". Alma described how certain

color combinations-easily expressed in floral

arrangements-can stimulate and relax the senses, release happy memories and enhance our moods.

The celebration of our 60th anniversary will

take place in February with Club members

donning apparel from 1957, the year our club

began. Garden club president, Karen Gelotte, expressed how her 30 years in the Garden Club

has made a difference in her life. "When I moved

to Watchung, I wanted to become integrated in

the community and the Garden Club was the

perfect stepping stone to do so. As we go forward

into our 60th year, we will continue to serve our members and communities by stimulating an

interest in gardening, encourage preservation of

our natural environment, and plant and maintain

Residents from Watchung and surrounding communities are invited to join our active club.



THE GARDEN CLUB BEGINS 60TH YEAR

To learn more, visit our website at: www.thegardenclubofwatchung.org, visit our Face Book page or telephone (908)754-5766.



(above) Karen Gelotte and Alma Jones

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SING AND DANCE

(continued) from page 1

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.



(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 played "One Summer Day".



(abovel-r) The Teachers Band, featuring English teachers Ira Horowitz on lead electric guitar, Michael Porter on vocals and acoustic rhythm guitar, and Kristin Mannion on vocals, welcome guest singer, student Hannah Melillo of Millington, who helped create three-part harmonies on the song, "White Winter Hymnal," by Fleet Foxes. Then, The Teachers Band sang, "You're My best Friend," by Queen to close 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.



(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 George Michael and "Wham!".



(above) A highlight of the Talent Show was a performance by the above ensemble of students and teachers of the number, "The Room Where It Happened," from the current award-winning Broadway musical, "Hamilton." Among the performers were four WHRHS History teachers.



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(above) Isabella Zhou of Warren Township performed a Chinese dance titled "Incense," at the WHRHS Talent Show. She won Third Prize in the competition part of the Talent Show.



DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WATCHUNG 9/11 MEMORIAL

Watchung's 9/11 Memorial Committee is seeking donations to complete the construction of the Borough's 9/11 Memorial "A Journey of the Heart."

Construction is beginning soon on the Watchung 9/11 Memorial on the Village Green. It will be dedicated to all who perished as a result of the attacks of September 11, 2001 and in memory of Watchung residents, Christopher Noble Ingrassia and Honor Elizabeth Wainio. It will be a respectful tribute with a stone mural and a pedestal with a piece of steel from the World Trade Center – a place of quiet reflection for anyone who remembers that tragic day and a meaningful way to educate young people – today's high school seniors were only 2 years old in 2001.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to participate in the 9/11 Memorial's addition to Watchung's Village Green by making a monetary donation, dedicating a brick paver for the walkway leading to the 9/11 Memorial and/or donating goods or services (for example, construction, landscaping).

A mailing, describing how to donate, was recently sent to all Borough residents and businesses, is available in the municipal building and will be featured in the Mayor's next newsletter.

The design and architectural plans for "A Journey of the Heart," the cost of which were generously donated, received final design approval in 2016. Construction is scheduled to be completed, and the dedication to be held, in the second and third quarters of 2017.

To date, \$22,600 has been contributed through

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the financial support of more than 70 residents and businesses. Over \$20,000 in goods and services has been given or pledged by local contractors and businesses.

Donations are encouraged at this time so Watchung's 9/11 Memorial "A Journey of Heart" can be completed and dedicated in time for the September 11, 2017 Memorial ceremony. Donations are tax deductible. Please see the town website or contact Linda Monetti at (908) 756-0080 (ext. 210) or email at lmonetti@watchungnj.gov.

The Watchung 9/11 Memorial Committee is chaired by Andy Baldasarre. Councilman Dave Mobus serves as the Borough's liaison; Committee members are Seth Alexander, Anthony Ingrassia, Dan Lorimar, Don Monetti and Susan Tucker.



(above) Artist Rendering of Watchung 911 Memorial.

GREEN BROOK TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS INTEGRATED PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

The Green Brook Township Public Schools Integrated Preschool Program will be holding an Informational Night for parents with children ages 3 to 5 who would like to know more about this program. This event will take place on

Wednesday, Feb 8 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the I.E.F. Elementary School Media Center.

Registration information for the 2017-18 school year will be posted on the Green Brook Township Public Schools website at www.gbtps.org on February 15. If you have any questions,

please contact Derek Ressa, Director of Student Services, at

dressa@gbtps.org or 732-968-1171 extension 1300



WATCHUNG CERT TEAM SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

Watchung's CERT Team has networked with the CERT Teams of Green Brook, Warren, and Bound Brook to share training drills, resources and skills.

For information on joining CERT, please email your questions to WatchungCert@watchungnj.gov or visit the Borough's webpage at www.watchungnj.gov.







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LOCAL GIRL SCOUTS LEARN SELF-DEFENSE

Scouts from Troop 65624 of Watchung on Sunday, January 8th for a self-defense clinic taught by Instructors Ria Zazzarino and Michelle 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

Soo Bahk Do Karate of Gillette hosted Girl 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 to provide young women with some basic skills for self-defense as they prepare to go away to college and be out on their own", she said.

> If your non-profit group or club would like to have a free clinic, contact Cavett at (908)647-4194 or mcavett@karate4peace.com



(above) Danae Churchill, 16, of Watchung practices a wrist twist with T roop 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 Watchung.



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APPLICATIONS DUE FOR DELEEUW SCHOLARSHIP

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.

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

High school seniors wishing to apply for the 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.

> 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-deleeuwat scholarship.php. Questions may be directed to Johanna Salvemini, Scholarship Administrator, at (908) 755-8098.



2017 EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS

The Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission is pleased to announce it is accepting nominations for the 2017 Excellence in the Arts Awards.

The awards are dedicated to honoring those individuals and organizations demonstrating exemplary leadership in and dedication to fostering the fine and performing arts in Somerset County.

Awardees are considered in each of the following categories: ARTS IN EDUCATION or MENTORSHIP; ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY; ASPIRING YOUNG ARTIST.

Additionally, one young artist will be selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Friends of Somerset County Cultural & Heritage, Inc.

If you know of a nominee who merits recognition, an application form and guidelines can be found on-line at www.co.somerset.nj.us /government/public-works/cultural-heritage/ excellence-in-the-arts

Nominations must be received is March 3, 2017. Awardees will be honored at a ceremony on April 19, 2017 at the Green Brook Middle School Auditorium.

Please spread the word of this wonderful opportunity to honor Somerset County artists, organizations, corporations, mentors or individuals supporting the arts in Somerset County. We would be grateful if you would forward this email to those who might be interested in submitting a nomination.

For a copy of the application, please contact Kaitlin Bundy at bundy@co.somerset.nj.us or at (908) 231-7000 ext. 7246.





I was out of shape, overweight, and it was beginning really effect my way of life. I have had 4 babies in five years, and I just wasn't able to get the weight off. I had tried dieting and other expensive programs and nothing worked. I wanted my life back and wanted to be able to have the energy to keep up with my 4 boys. So what did I have to lose by trying Nutrimost, so l jumped right in.

When I started the program I weighed 152 lbs, my BMI age was 58 and I was extremely dehydrated, I wore a size TI/12 in clothes. The first couple of days on the program was a real struggle but I stated my affirmations everyday and continued to push through. After my first week I was hooked, it became easier and easier and the weight was just falling off. Before I knew it by body was changing and I had more energy. At the end of my 40 days I had lost 27lbs, I now weigh 125lbs, my BMI age is 33 (which is my actual age), my water levels are up and my visceral level was down to a 3, 1 wear a size X-small or 5-6 in dothes and I feel the best I have in years! I am more confident in my self and how I look and I am so proud that I pushed through and stayed focused on completing this amazing program.



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ight loss among participants in the Nucl Host program varies. Nucl Host guarantees 20 bounds of weight loss by the and of your entire program, or your program will be extended without cost until you dolose 20 pounds. If within 50 bits you have not in act 20 pounds, your Nucl Host officer will refur a lot the entire cost of the program upon request. Restrictions apply, Most participants lose an average of 12 lbs, per week. Technologia and host actual clients who completed the pro-m and did not receive any comparisation for their endorsements.

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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.



CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART AT WATCHUNG ARTS CENTER

for Contemporary Art in Bedminster, NJ will hold its annual Members' Juried Exhibition at the Watchung Arts Center. The exhibition will be in the Watchung Arts Center's second-floor Heinz W. Otto Gallery through February 25th. The exhibition are free and open to the public.

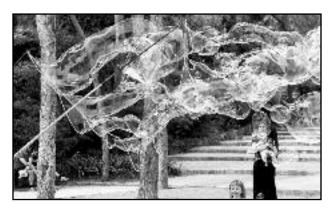
This year's Members' Juried Exhibition features 30 pieces representing the work of 28 of The Center's members. Juror Michael Wolf, a sculptor, teacher and writer based in New Jersey, said about his selection process, "I strove to select work that was technically proficient, made a bold visual statement, and considered the formal elements of art while addressing current ideas in contemporary art."

The Center for Contemporary Art is a vital regional art center with a vibrant studio art school, extensive exhibition program and important community outreach component. Each year The Center offers over 200 art classes for adults and children and 50 summer art camps for its over 600 members and the community. Classes are offered for artists with all levels of expertise in a variety of media including oil and

January 21, 2017 (Watchung, NJ) - The Center acrylic paint, pastel, gouache, watercolor, drawing, photography, and ceramics.

> More information about the Center for Contemporary Art can be found on their website: www.ccabedminster.org

> The Watchung Arts Center, located at 18 Stirling Road in Watchung on the Watchung Circle, is a multi-disciplinary arts facility serving Watchung, the surrounding communities and the Tri-State Area. To obtain more information about upcoming performances, classes and workshops, and monthly art exhibitions, please visit WatchungArts.org or call 908-753-0190.



(above) Giant Bubbles by Dr. Van Beveren.

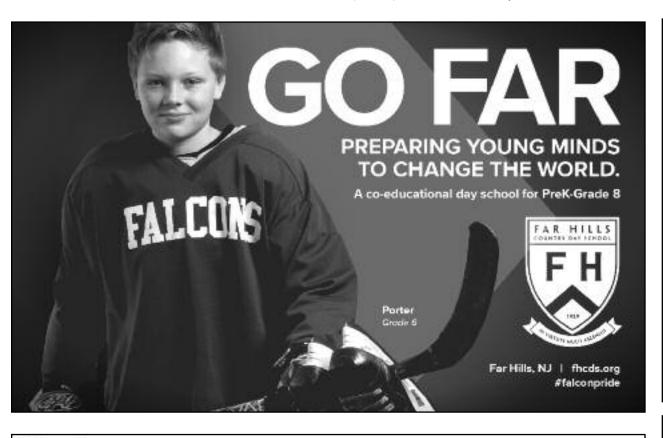


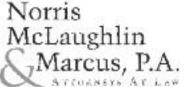
(above) Israeli Abundance by Najwan Zoubi.

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WATCHUNG SENIORS CLUB

Seniors 55 and older are invited to attend the Watchung Seniors Club meetings which are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month from September to June at 11:00 a.m. at the Firemen's Exempt Hall (lower level, handicap accessible), 57 Mountain Blvd., Watchung. Refreshments are served. Guest speakers, bus trips, an annual pizza party and a picnic at the end of the season. For more information please call Tony at 756-6954 or Madelyn at 908-561-1932.

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