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## SEVEN WESTFIELD RESIDENTS BECOME CASA VOLUNTEERS

On December 14, 2016 Union County Superior Court Judge Daniel R. Lindemann administered oaths to two graduating classes of community members — among them Anne Bristow, Theresa Brown, Phyllis Dunlop, Michele Higgins, Noreen Horgan, Cheryl Kelesoglu and Marcela Wolf of Westfield — who've stepped up to serve as extra eyes and ears for Family Court judges on cases involving the county's abused, neglected or abandoned children currently in foster care. Of the two classes, one had 19 participants, including CASA of Union County's new executive director, Marla Higginbotham. The second is the result of the nonprofit offering for the first time a five-session, intensive day training at its offices, and included nine volunteers.

The new CASA volunteers completed 30 hours of training. After performing the oaths, Judge Lindemann stepped off the bench and personally thanked each advocate for committing to serve children in need of a voice. Members of the organization's board participated, and each new advocate received a commemorative pin and certificate. During celebratory luncheons that followed, advocates were matched to their new case and learned about their youth.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds and experiences make successful advocates, and these classes are no exception: They range in age from 22 to 75 and most have no prior knowledge of the foster system. They include parents, non-parents and empty-nesters; a recent college graduate and recent retiree; careers include health professionals, school personnel, counselors, legal professionals, former military, business entrepreneurs and homemakers. Languages spoken in addition

to English include Spanish, German, French and Yoruba. Several experienced abuse in their own childhoods.

William "Joe" Goodson of Plainfield, a CASA volunteer years ago who returned to help another child now that his own schedule allowed, said this work is a calling. "I know the situation in the African-American community, and I want to give back. I've been there and done that. We need more positive role models for these children who need us. I can make a difference and be someone they relate to, and that's what I'm looking for." Goodson added that on Thanksgiving, his CASA youth weighed heavily on his mind: "I'm looking at a table full of food and family and thinking of him, wondering, 'Is he ok, today?'"

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a child's life, including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, and incorporate into court reports findings from these contacts as well as time spent with the youth. Volunteers advocate both in the community and court to ensure their youth's needs are met and time in care is as short as possible. There are 600 Union County children currently in foster care; CASA of Union County serves approximately one-third of those and its mission is to provide an advocate for every child that needs one.

For details on future training sessions, several of which incorporate new, flexible options and timeframes, contact Lisa at 908-527-7048 or [lporis@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:lporis@casaoofunioncounty.org).

To inquire about other ways to support CASA of Union County, contact Marla at 908-527-7041 or [marlah@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:marlah@casaoofunioncounty.org).



(above) New CASA volunteers include Anne Bristow and Phyllis Dunlop of Westfield; Katherina Abreu and Karen Flood of Fanwood; Mureen Allen and Padmini Bagchee of Linden; Quanae Chambliss of Rahway; Julie Exarhakos of Cranford; Aase Forbes of Union; Julie Goldman of Short Hills; William "Joe" Goodson of Plainfield; Nataly Gutierrez of Elizabeth; Maryann Higgins of Mountainside; Marty Jeiven, Carol Pinkus and Maria Rodriguez of Scotch Plains; Katherine Taylor of Somerset; and Ashley Trotter of Piscataway.

\*\*\*\*\*EGRWSSDDM\*\*\*\*\*

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**WESTFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTATION:  
NEWARK THROUGH THE AGES**

Elizabeth R. Del Tufo, President of the City of Newark Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission, will conduct a Sunday Afternoon Presentation about the history of the city of Newark. The talk will take place on February 26nd at 2:30 p.m. at the Reeve House in Westfield, New Jersey.

Ms. Del Tufo will trace the city's history from its earliest days in the late 1600's through the Revolutionary War, the Industrial Era, the Post-World War II Era, the riots of 1967, and the growth and revitalization taking place today. Along the way, she will discuss many of Newark's most well-known and architecturally significant landmarks — Trinity Cathedral, the Ballantine House, Newark Public Library, the Essex County Courthouse, Branch Brook Park, Mount Pleasant Cemetery, and Broad Street Station.

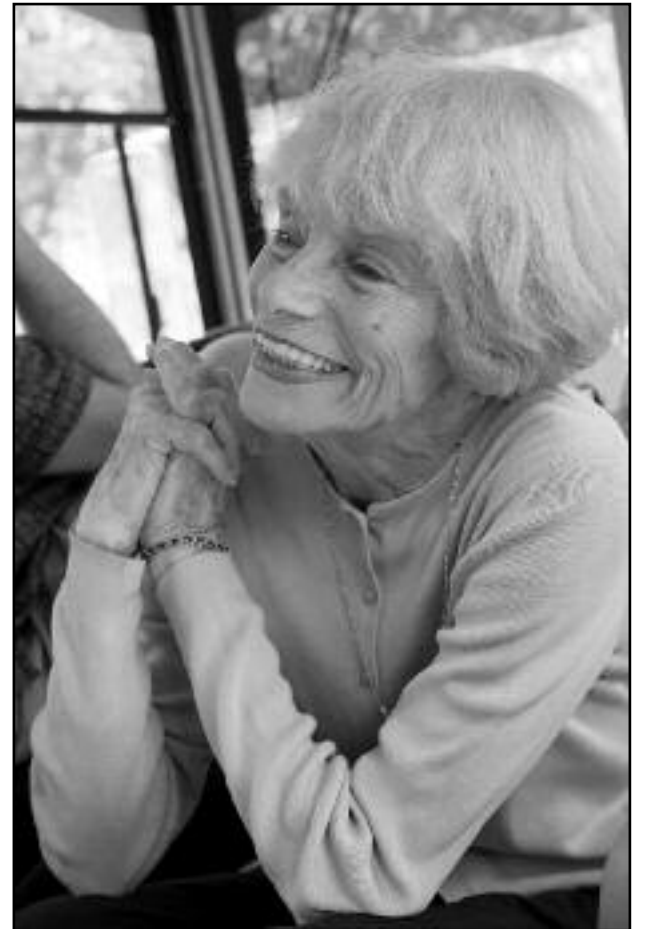
She will also call attention to many of Newark's notable statues, including the "Wars of the America" statue in Military Park and the "Seated Lincoln" statue in downtown Newark, which was dedicated by President Theodore Roosevelt and was influential in the design of the Lincoln Memorial.

Elizabeth is a long time resident of the city of Newark with a long and productive involvement in the cultural life of the city. She served as the first Director of Cultural Affairs for the County of Essex. As such she created an on-going concert series in the Essex County Parks and was the driving force in transforming an abandoned Nike Missile Base in Livingston to the still thriving Riker Hill Art Park. She founded "The Newark Arts Council" and served as its first director. The New Jersey State Council on the Arts praised her work by stating: "She has created an organization second to none in promoting and presenting the arts."

Ms. Del Tufo was awarded an honoree doctoral degree from the New Jersey Institute of Technology for her work in preserving the history of Newark and for her contributions to building a vibrant new Newark.

Space is limited and prior registration is required so to make a reservation kindly email [westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or call 908-654-1794. There is a suggested donation of \$5 to help offset costs and to support the Society. In case of inclement weather, there will be a notice on the website and on the voicemail.

For more information on the Westfield Historical Society and the Reeve House, which is located at 314 Mountain Ave in Westfield, NJ visit <http://westfieldhistoricalsociety.org>



*(above) Elizabeth R. Del Tufo, President of the City of Newark Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission, will conduct a Sunday Afternoon Presentation about the history of the city of Newark on February 26nd at 2:30 p.m. at the Reeve House in Westfield, New Jersey.*

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## NJWA CELEBRATES 45TH ANNIVERSARY WITH FAMILY GALA AND BRUNCH

The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts will celebrate a milestone with its 45th Anniversary Around the World Brunch on Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 12 pm at Snuffy's Pantagis Renaissance at 250 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains.

Founded in 1972 by Dr. Ted Schlosberg, who had been a music teacher in the Westfield Public Schools, the Workshop was a response to parent and student interest in offering options for children to pursue their musical development throughout the summer. Dr. Schlosberg devised a five-week program, the Westfield Band-Orchestra-Chorus Summer Workshop, which was first held at Westfield High School and alternately at both Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools.

The following year, the program grew to encompass musical theater and eventually drama and dance. By 1974, fine arts and crafts were added and succeeding years saw the inclusion of creative courses in language, writing, special interests and pre-school classes.

Always interested in fostering a love of music, Dr. Schlosberg began private instrumental lessons in his home in 1980. In time, he had enough students to look for more room and acquired teaching and office space on Route 22 West in Mountainside. Dr. Schlosberg saw how both children and adults were interested in pursuing their musical interests year-round and, in 1989, he founded the Music Studio, which was then located in an office building on South Avenue in Fanwood. The number of students grew and, in 1993, the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts moved into its present home at 150 East Broad Street in Westfield and eventually also

took over number 152 East Broad Street as well.

Over these past 45 years, the NJWA has enrolled students of all ages in its many programs, bands, ensembles and orchestras. The dedicated staff and individual and corporate sponsors, who have donated their time, expertise and finances, have helped thousands of people be exposed to artistically creative experiences.

This March 12 celebration will feature music by various musical groups among them the Florian Schantz Jazz Combo, the International Alhorn Ensemble and a special Gala Orchestra, comprised of the members of the Wednesday Morning Strings and the Saturday Afternoon Orchestras. The event will include fine food and

children's activities, face painting, balloon twisting and caricature drawing. Proceeds from the gala will benefit the NJWA Scholarship Fund. This arts program is made possible in part by a HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

To obtain a ticket for the 45th Anniversary Around the World Brunch, or to make a donation, please call 908-789-9696 or visit the NJWA office at 150-152 East Broad Street in Westfield.

The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts is a 501c(3) non-profit organization. Log on to [www.njworkshopforthearts.com](http://www.njworkshopforthearts.com) to visit the web site for more information about the organization.



(above) Music by the Florian Schantz Jazz Combo will be featured at the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts 45th Anniversary Around the World Brunch on March 12, 2017.



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## A NIGHT OF LOVE SONGS TO BENEFIT WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

The Westfield High School Choir Department will perform A Night of Love Songs on Saturday, February 11th, 2017 at 7:00 pm (door opens at 6:30pm in WHS Cafeteria B) under the direction of Mr. John Brzozowski, Choir Director. While having coffee and desserts, enjoy an evening of wonderful solo and group performances by members of the WHS Choir. In addition, there will be many beautiful gift baskets to raffle as well as a 50/50 raffle. Tickets will be sold at the door and are \$5.00 per student and \$10.00 per adult. This wonderful event is being sponsored by the Westfield Choral Parents Association, Inc., and the proceeds will be applied toward choral performance opportunities for the students, such as trips, clinicians and special events. Planning is underway for the choir's spring 2018 trip to Helsinki and the Baltic States.

For more information, or if you would like to make a monetary or other charitable donation, please contact Holly Zakharenko at [holly@zakharenko.com](mailto:holly@zakharenko.com), Eliana Carvajal at [rosals@hotmail.com](mailto:rosals@hotmail.com) or Karna Cestero at [karna.gerichcestero@verizon.net](mailto:karna.gerichcestero@verizon.net).



## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS DIVORCING COUPLES NEED TO UNDERSTAND

*By: James McGlew II, Esq.*

Individuals engaged in a divorce understand that the dissolution of their marriage can be a difficult and complicated process. For individuals of high net worth, the divorce process can present a complex maze of responsibilities and decisions which need to be addressed. The prospect of valuing marital assets, including properties, business interests, investments and the like, along with the task of distributing their value between the parties, has the ability to make an already tense situation worse.

There are specific issues that high net worth individuals must consider in anticipation of divorce. At Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, we have years of experience in handling high net worth divorce cases for individuals in Westfield, Cranford, Warren and other New Jersey communities. We understand our clients' concerns regarding the financial impact their divorce will impose on their lives and understand that providing individualized attention is necessary to provide the aggressive representation which is often required.

Thorough preparation and investigation are always required to truly understand the parties' incomes, assets, debts, property, and budgetary needs. As an example, if you are a valued employee earning a significant level of income, you will be required to produce proof of your current income, your tax returns for several years, a schedule of any other perks you receive through your employment including travel and expense accounts, and a schedule of any benefits from your employer including pension benefits, 401(k) accounts, stock options, deferred compensation, restricted stock, life insurance and other related benefits.

If you are a business owner you will be required to produce business tax returns for a minimum of five years, as well as other related business financial records. This will be in addition to the disclosure of income and benefits you receive from your business. Privacy issues concerning the disclosure of this information are of the utmost importance and we

take all necessary steps to ensure that your business information is protected.

If one or both of the parties has an ownership interest in a business or partnership, a formal valuation by a qualified forensic accountant will generally be required to determine the business' value and the amount of interest each spouse has in the business. Lindabury works to match the forensic accountant best suited to assist you in this process. In high net worth cases, each asset must be carefully examined to determine which assets are subject to equitable distribution (and to what extent) and which are considered separate property. Negotiations to obtain a fair settlement can be complex and may involve considerations such as whether to sell or liquidate an asset and divide the proceeds, or retain and allocate the asset to one spouse in exchange for an asset of comparative value.

If you have concerns about protecting your financial interests in a high net worth divorce, it is always beneficial to seek the guidance and assistance from an attorney with experience. At Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, our practice includes diverse expertise in related areas including tax, real estate, corporate law, and trusts, which we utilize to provide comprehensive legal advice to high net worth individuals who are dissolving a marriage. Our New Jersey divorce lawyers represent people throughout the state in all areas of family law, including child custody and support, alimony, asset distribution, and more. Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper provides legal representation to people in communities across Union, Somerset, Monmouth, Middlesex, Morris, and Bergen Counties, among other areas. Call today to schedule a consultation with James McGlew at (908) 233-6800.

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## HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM BRINGS HOME MEDALS

Westfield High School's Science Olympiad Team placed among the top six medalists at the January 11 regional competition held at New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Competing against close to 500 students from 18 different high schools, the following WHS students earned medals for skills in science and technology: Ethan Manning and Samantha Shih for 3rd place in Write It Do It; Sara Frankel and Lotte Seltzer for 3rd place in Wind Power;

Natalia Zeller-MacLean and Jack Cunningham for 5th place in Electric Vehicles; Camden Beinhaker and Lily Talmont for 5th place in Helicopters; and Morgan Miovski, Uma Lakshman and Sloan Slusher for 6th place in Protein Modeling. The team is now preparing for competition on February 4 at the Princeton Invitational which will host 36 teams representing 21 schools from 5 states, and for the state competition to be held on March 7 at

Middlesex County College. WHS Science teachers and Science Olympiad advisers, Dana Philipps and Louis Casagrande will accompany the qualifying teams. "Dr. Philipps and I are proud to have such a talented team this year. Under the guidance of their student leaders, they have been working since September to learn their events and build their devices, and it is wonderful to see their hard work pay off," stated Dr. Casagrande.



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## BOBBI GRECCO: 50-YEAR MEMBER OF THE RAKE & HOE GARDEN CLUB

Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield is proud to honor member Bobbi Grecco on her fiftieth anniversary with the Club. At the Club's January meeting, Bobbi was presented with flowers and a cake enjoyed by all. Bobbi joined the Rake & Hoe Garden Club in 1967 or 15 years after a group of Westfield woman had formed a fledgling garden club. By the time Bobbi joined, the Rake & Hoe Club was a vibrant club very involved with the community activities.

Bobbi recently provided a trip down memory lane sharing stories about past House Tours (then all day with morning and evening sessions) and craft fairs at the Masonic Temple (which are long gone). These projects all supported Club activities which supported community projects. Bobbi continues to enrich Rake & Hoe with her many contributions and is an example of the many volunteers who grace the Club's roster.

In addition to providing education, resources and networking to promote gardening and civic responsibility, community projects is at the heart of Rake & Hoe Garden Club. These projects include providing decorative services to the Jardine Academy of the Cerebral Palsy League, providing floral arrangements to veterans at Lyons Veterans Hospital, maintaining the gardens at the north side of the Westfield Train Station, the Miller-Cory House Museum, the Shadowlawn Pocket Park and the Claire Brownell Wildflower Garden at the Reeve History and Cultural Center of the Westfield Historical Society.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield is affiliated with the Garden Club of NJ and the

National Garden Club, Inc. If anyone is interested in joining the Club, please contact Pat Wilson at

908-389-9342 or for more information, visit our website, rakeandhoe.org.



(above l-r) Members Inge Bossert, Editor of Bloomin' Times Newsletter, Pat Wilson, Vice President, Robert Grecco and Dianna Kazakis, President.

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## WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SELECTED FOR REGION BAND & ORCHESTRA

Seven Westfield High School Band students were accepted to the 2017 New Jersey Music Education Association Region Band or Orchestra. Three of the seven students placed first overall in their instrument: Dale Beyert - Wind Ensemble and Orchestra, Trumpet; Michael Hauge - Wind Ensemble, Eb & Bb Clarinet, and Brooke Walden - Wind Ensemble and Orchestra,

Piccolo & Flute.

In addition, Austin Chen performed on trumpet with the Symphonic Band; Matthew Schiff - Wind Ensemble, Alto & Bass Clarinet; Sara Shen - Symphonic Band, Flute; and Daniel Shenker - Symphonic Band, Alto Saxophone. The performances took place on January 8 and January 15 - both at Montgomery High School.



(above l-r) Trevor Sindorf - WHS Band Director, Matthew Schiff, Brooke Walden, Sara Shen, Dale Beyert, Austin Chen, Michael Hauge, Daniel Shenker, and Chris Vitale, WHS Band Director.

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## WESTFIELD RECREATION REVEALS EVENTS AND PROGRAMS FOR SPRING

Spring is almost here! It's time to join the Recreation Department on our mission to keep the community active with our "Be Active, Be Healthy" movement! If your New Year's Resolution is to get healthy, come join our "Zumba" program on Monday evenings at 7:30pm with Peggy and our "Tai Chi" class on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am with Barry!

In keeping with our "Be Active, Be Healthy" crusade, our goal is to get as many families out and walking/running at our Annual "Run The Park" Road Races on Sunday, May 21. We are searching for enthusiastic sponsors who are willing to give back to our community by joining this year's event. Please contact the office to participate. Details about registration will be available soon.

After school programs to look for are Tennis, Golf, Volleyball, Field Hockey, Manners, Fashion/Sewing, Junior Science Lab, Intro to Rock, Voice, Fencing Lego and more. The department also offers a consignment Winter

Ticket Program to area attractions, please check website for details. The department's Daddy-Daughter Dance for Westfield Residents will be on Sunday, March 12 from 5pm-8pm for girls in grades 1-6 and their dads. Participants are encouraged to register online. Please visit our website for the Winter and Spring "Rec Room" Program Brochure.

Senior Transportation Services are also offered through the Recreation Department for Westfield residents for medical appointments and shopping. Senior residents must register in advance for this service. Please call 908-301-1287 or visit our website for additional information.

For additional program information, please visit our website: [www.Westfieldnj.gov/Recreation](http://www.Westfieldnj.gov/Recreation) for the Winter/Spring "Rec Room" Program Brochure or contact the Westfield Recreation Department at 425 East Broad St., Westfield at 908-789-4080. "Like us" on Facebook for up to date information.

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# FREE HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO

On Sunday, February 26, the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) is hosting the Trinitas Regional Medical Center Health and Wellness Expo from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Snuffy's Pantagis, 250 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains. The Expo is free to all attendees.

"With the limitless choices of health and wellness practitioners, we thought the public would benefit from learning about local organizations and businesses that can provide valuable resources right in their back yard," said Gene Jannotti, Executive Director of the GWACC.

In addition to exhibitors, the expo will feature demonstrations and speakers. The keynote will be delivered by Dr. Ben Michaelis, a Manhattan clinical psychologist, author of "Your Next Big Thing", and frequently featured as a mental health expert on The Today Show, Fox News, and MSNBC as well as numerous national publications. Members of the Trinitas staff will also be holding educational sessions on a variety of health topics.

The GWACC has more than 120 member businesses in the wellness industry alone, including yoga studios, personal trainers, juice bars, gyms, holistic practitioners, therapists, life coaches, chiropractors, nutritionists, dentists, and more. Practitioners will be on hand to present information on their products and services.

Exhibitor spaces are only available to members of the GWACC. For more information about this event, including exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities, visit [www.geaccnj.com/trinitas-health-expo](http://www.geaccnj.com/trinitas-health-expo), contact Heather Bryant at [hbryant@gwaccnj.com](mailto:hbryant@gwaccnj.com) or call the GWACC at 908-233-3021.



(above) Dr. Ben Michaelis, a Manhattan clinical psychologist will be the keynote speaker.

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# WESTFIELD FRIENDS HONOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH A ONE WOMAN SHOW

“The Mystery in Black History”, an original production written by actress Lisa Fleming, will be presented Wednesday, February 15 at 7pm (snow date March 1) at the Westfield Memorial Library.

Ms Fleming, portraying Marie Laveau, a free person of color and a Voodoo Queen, will take the audience on a Mardi Gras type parade including hints of jazz, so much a part of the roots of the New Orleans. We’ll learn about the birth of New Orleans, the Battle of 1811 revolt, the rich history of the French Quarter, Congo Square and the Treme Neighborhood.

The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library

is thrilled to host, Ms Fleming who has performed in regional and community theaters in Philadelphia, Atlanta and Pittsburgh and extensively in New Jersey and New York. With numerous film and television credits, she is currently working on independent voiceover productions nationwide via her own management/production company.

This free program is open to all members of the community, registration required. To sign up, please go online at [www.wmlnj.org](http://www.wmlnj.org), Calendar, February and select Lisa Fleming presents ‘The Mystery in Black History’ or contact the library at (908) 789-4090, option 0.



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Mon- Thurs 9:30 am - 9 pm  
Fri & Sat 9:30 am - 5 pm 1:00 to 5:00 pm Sunday  
Closed February 20 for Presidents Day

**PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS**

2/1	6:30 pm	Excel Basics-Advanced computer class
2/2	2:00 pm	Origami-Make a Valentine's Token w/Joy Lara
2/2	7:00 pm	Raconteur Radio presents "Gaslight"
2/3	1:30 pm	TGIF! Georgia O'Keefe (video)
2/4	2:00 pm	Lincoln Center Local: Lang Lang-pianist 2015
2/8	7:00 pm	Armchair Art Tour: Meet Ben Franklin
2/10	1:30 pm	TGIF! Ella Fitzgerald (video)
2/14	10:00 am	Coloring for Adults (Supplies provided)
2/17	1:30 pm	TGIF! Harper Lee: To Kill a Mockingbird (video)
2/24	1:30 pm	TGIF! Movie: Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day

**PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN**  
(Check website for sign up info, dates and eligibility)

2/1, 8, 15, 22	10:30 am	Time for 3's Storytime (caregiver attends)
2/2, 9, 16, 23	10:30 am	2's on Thursday Storytime (caregiver attends)
2/3, 10, 17, 24	10:00 am	Playgroup for Babies 0-23 months (caregiver attends)
2/3	3:45 pm	Chess Club for Kids (no age requirement but players must know how to move the pieces)
2/7, 14, 21	1:00 pm	Afternoon Fun for 4's and 5's Storytime
2/7	6:30 pm	Evening LEGO Club (grades 1-5)
2/9	7:00 pm	Scavenger Hunt at Library (child must know how to read)

**FREE TAX APPEAL SEMINAR**  
**Paying More than Your Fair Share in Property Tax?**




**Jennifer Jacobus, Esq.**

Did your tax bill go down with your home's home value since 2007? Or maybe you always thought you were over taxed! This **Free Seminar, February 28th at the Westfield Y** will teach you about the tax appeal system to address these issues and get you the lower tax bill you may deserve. And since homebuyers are tax conscious too, you will boost your property value by getting your taxes reduced before you hit the market.

Any homeowner may appeal, with or without an attorney. **All appeals must be filed by April 1st.** To help you understand the process and possibly put you on the path to considerable tax savings, **Jennifer Jacobus, Esq.** will outline all you need to know to consider if a tax appeal is right for you. **The Seminar is Free and Open to the Public** February 28th, 7:30 pm, at the Y—220 Clark St. in Westfield. Sponsored as a public service by Scott Gleason, RE/MAX Properties Unlimited.

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# VOLS NEEDED FOR OPERATION WARM HEART

Submitted by Vanessa Checo, Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless

Our Operation Warm Heart program provides short term shelter at participating church and organization locations scattered throughout Elizabeth, Linden, Cranford, and Rahway for homeless persons who are ineligible for shelter from County Social services. The program operates from December 1 to March 31, and shelters run generally 6 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Additional overnight volunteers are needed to assist site coordinators on specific nights preferably one night a week or bi weekly. Volunteers are given basic training and primarily check in the guests for the night, direct them regarding the facilities and where to set up their cots, and occasionally assist with serving dinner. Most importantly they provide hospitality, oversight, and company to the guests for the night. Guests generally sleep from 11PM to 6AM and most volunteers work out shifts as needed. Cots, blankets, food, and transport are provided by the site or the program.

Persons to be sheltered are prescreened and provided ongoing case management and support services in order to find alternate transitional or long term housing or placement as appropriate, and as soon as possible. The program is not intended as a place for a person to shelter for the 4 months of the season. Generally, we shelter up to 14 persons, more under Code Blue circumstances. Names of those prescreened are provided to the site volunteers in advance. An agency staff person is available by phone at all times.

In summary, volunteers provided a welcome human affirmation for our guests and find the experience very rewarding.

To volunteer or for additional questions please contact me. Vanessa Checo, Operation Warm Heart- Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, 118 Division St. Elizabeth, NJ 07201, 908-355-2060, [vhenco@theelizabethcoalition.org](mailto:vhenco@theelizabethcoalition.org).

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The large, sunny living room is wired for sound and boasts a gas fireplace and custom mantle with new hearth. On the second level, the private master bedroom suite features a spacious, walk-in closet and its own luxurious private bath with jacuzzi tub as well as a glass stall shower. There are two additional bedrooms, an office and a beautifully renovated hallway bathroom. The third level boasts two more bedrooms, another fabulous full bath and ample storage space. The two tiered paver patio overlook the private, professionally landscaped yard, complete with outdoor speakers and underground sprinklers... the perfect place to call home!



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# 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST KNOWN SALE OF COOKIES BY GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey announced in January the celebration of the 100th season of Girl Scouts selling cookies. A century ago, girls started participating in what would evolve into the largest entrepreneurial training program for girls in the world: the Girl Scout Cookie Program®, through which girls learn the essential skills they need to become effective leaders, manage finances, and gain self-sufficiency and confidence in handling money. To commemorate this banner year for the organization, the highly-anticipated Girl Scout S'mores™ cookies are now available, joining classics like Thin Mints and Trefoils/Shortbreads.

Girl Scout Cookies not only help Girl Scouts earn money for fun, educational activities and community projects, but also play a huge role in transforming girls into G.I.R.L.s (Go-getters, Innovators, Risk-takers, Leaders)™ as they learn essential life skills that will stay with them forever. Continue to enhance the girls journey, when you see Girl Scout selling in your town, support their efforts.

The celebration of 100 years of Girl Scouts selling cookies will kick into high gear during National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend 2017. From January to April, Girl Scouts in your town may be hosting events and cookie booths for cookie enthusiasts to get their hands on the iconic treats and join in the fun. To find cookie varieties available locally or learn more about the history of Girl Scout cookies and the Girl Scout Cookie

Program, visit [www.girlscoutcookies.org](http://www.girlscoutcookies.org). To join or volunteer, visit [www.gshnj.org/join](http://www.gshnj.org/join) and [www.gshnj.org/volunteer](http://www.gshnj.org/volunteer).



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## Event Benefits The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas and the NJ State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association

On Monday, February 27, 2017, firefighters from around New Jersey will compete at the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival benefiting the New Jersey State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center. This event, which draws people from throughout New Jersey, will be held at The Pines Manor, 2085 Route 27, Edison, NJ from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Last year more than \$50,000 was raised from the event which was attended by more than 900 people.

The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off will be part of the evening as firefighters from 20 departments will compete in two different categories: Gourmet and Firehouse Cooking.

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where participants will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of more than 40 of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers and dessert shops all in one location. Event sponsors include Allied Beverage Group, Bayonne Community Bank, ShopRite, and Autoland.

If you are looking for an entertaining evening of great food and wine, don't miss this event. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$65 at the door. Visit [www.cookedanduncorked.com](http://www.cookedanduncorked.com) to order tickets, view participating restaurants and wine/spirits and for more information. Tickets can be also be ordered by calling Liz Bennett at 973-322-4305.

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# NOEL COWARDS COMEDY BLITHE SPIRIT COMING TO CDC THEATRE

Opening on February 10, Noel Coward's classic comedy Blithe Spirit will be the first production of 2017 at CDC Theatre in Cranford. Located at 78 Winans Ave, CDC Theatre is the oldest continuously producing community theatre in New Jersey.

As Blithe Spirit begins, novelist Charles Condomine is preparing to host a séance to be conducted by a medium known as Madame Arcati. For him, it's a jokey way to do research for a new novel, appropriately titled The Unseen. Unexpectedly, however, the evening ends with the spectral reappearance of his first wife, Elvira,

pronounced Elveera, who has been dead for five years.

Only Charles can see her, which causes immediate problems with his very-much-alive second wife, briskly efficient Ruth. Charmed at first by the ghostly Elvira--with whom he shared a more passionate union than with Ruth--Charles quickly gets caught between the two.

Directed by Bill Sesselberg the cast includes Timothy McGovern as Charles, Lisa Black as Ruth, Judi Lagagna as Madame Arcati, Ashley Widmer as Elvira, Alan Foster and Danielle Levitt as Dr. and Mrs. Bradman and Susan Roberts as Ethel.

"Blithe Spirit is one of Noel Coward's great comedies, and it still brings laughs from improbable occurrences in familiar situations." Says director Bill Sesselberg, "I've seen a few productions of this play, including one in London

with Angela Lansbury, and it always was an enjoyable performance. I enjoy directing comedies--the wordplay, the physical action, and great characters all are a lot of fun to work with. The cast is great--hard-working, eager to contribute their ideas and help each other bring out the best in each scene. The ideas, skills, and hard-work of the staff behind the scenes all make this play as good as it is. I've always heard great things about CDC, and I'm proud and thankful to have the opportunity to direct there."

The show will run from February 10 through the 18 and details and ticket information can be found by visiting [www.cdctheatre.org](http://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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Scouts can use Patriots' Path Council Munsee District Double Knot link to register on-line at [ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2031497](http://ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2031497)

Scouts can email Jim Parlapiano [jim.parlapiano@hotmail.com](mailto:jim.parlapiano@hotmail.com) for more info.

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# CDC THEATRE YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM REGISTRATIONS AND AUDITIONS

Introduce your child to the fun of live theatre! CDC Theatre in Cranford, New Jersey's oldest continuously operating community theatre, has opened registration for the Young Artists production of Disney's *Mulan Jr.*, its Curtain Call Classes and announces auditions for *Rent*.

Open to students in grades 4-8, there is no audition required to be a part of *Mulan, Jr.* but space is limited and registration is on a first come

basis. Additional information can be found by visiting [www.cdctheatre.org](http://www.cdctheatre.org).

To register contact Andrea Redmount at [andreadmount@yahoo.com](mailto:andreadmount@yahoo.com).

Curtain Call classes begin on February 27, and run on Mondays and Wednesdays after school: Mondays for grades K-3 and Wednesdays for grades 4-8.

During the spring, classes focus on movement,

acting and singing as students prepare a one of a kind cabaret performance of some of Broadway's biggest hits on May 20 at 12:00 and 3:00 pm. Details at [www.cdctheatre.org](http://www.cdctheatre.org).

Students in grades 8-12 are invited to sign-up and audition for *Rent* on March 25 and April 1.

Visit [www.cdctheatre.org](http://www.cdctheatre.org) for information and sign-up details.

Photo By Elizabeth Lynch Photography



(above) The cast of CDC Theatre 2016 Young Artist Program production of *Footloose*

## AUDITIONS FOR THE MUSICAL 9 TO 5 AT CDC THEATRE IN CRANFORD

CDC Theatre in Cranford, New Jersey's oldest continuously producing community theatre, will be holding open auditions for the musical *9 to 5* at the theatre's 78 Winans Ave. home.

Auditions will be Wed. 2/15 7:30 -10pm and Sat 2/18 2-5pm with Callbacks on Tues. 2/21 7:30-10pm. The show will run from May 5 – 20, 2017.

Interested performers are asked to prepare 32 bars of a song of your choice. There will be no initial dance audition. Additional information can be found by visiting [www.cdctheatre.org](http://www.cdctheatre.org).

*9 to 5 The Musical*, with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton and book by Patricia Resnick, is

based on the seminal 1980 hit movie. Set in the late 1970s. This hilarious story of friendship and revenge in the Rolodex era is outrageous, thought-provoking and even a little romantic. Pushed to the boiling point, three female coworkers concoct a plan to get even with the sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot they call their boss. In a hilarious turn of events, Violet, Judy and Doralee live out their wildest fantasy – giving their boss the boot! While Hart remains "otherwise engaged," the women give their workplace a dream makeover, taking control of the company that had always kept them down. Hey, a girl can scheme, can't she?

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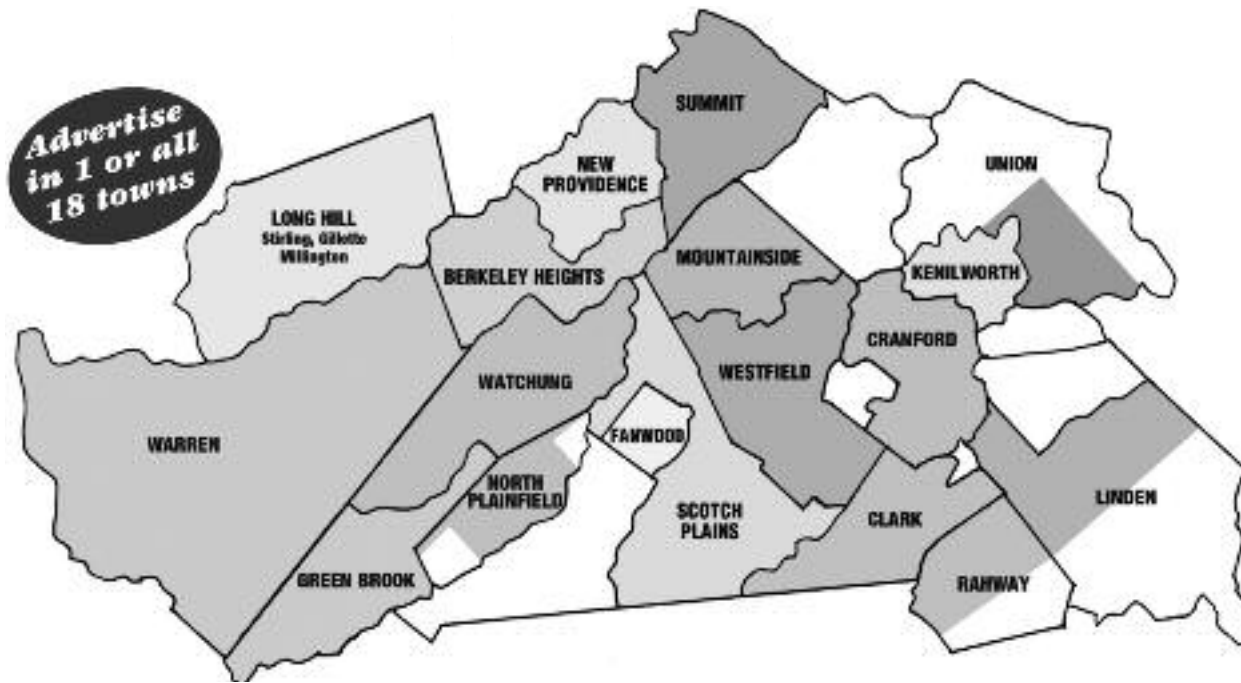
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