

# Scotch Plains NJ

## WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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Issue 18 • March 2017

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### HIGH SCHOOL REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS BYE BYE BIRDIE

The SPFHS Repertory Theatre is proud to present this year's production of Broadway's hit musical *Bye Bye Birdie*. Performances will be held on Friday, March 10, Saturday, March 11, Thursday, March 16, Friday, March 17 and Saturday, March 18 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, March 12 at 2 pm. All shows take place at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, 667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains.


This classic musical set in the late 1950s features rock and roll star Conrad Birdie, an Elvis Presley type, at a time when he's at the top of the charts and drafted to the US Army. Birdie's manager and songwriter, Albert Peterson, and his longtime love, Rose Alvarez hatch a publicity stunt to help sell Birdie's new song, "One Last Kiss" and save their business from going under. They arrange for Conrad Birdie to give "one last kiss" on national television to Birdie superfan Kim MacAfee, a teen from small-town Sweet Apple, Ohio, at Birdie's farewell performance on the "Ed Sullivan Show." When Birdie and his team arrive in wholesome Sweet Apple everyone is abuzz, Kim's boyfriend, Hugo, is quite jealous and both merriment and chaos ensue.

The cast features a total of 53 students, 5 of whom are seniors and is under the direction of Mrs. Courtney Nemece, Director, SPFHS Repertory Theatre, a 5th grade teacher at Park Middle School and Mrs. Jan Allen, SPFHS Choral Director, SPFHS Repertory Theatre Music Director and Producer. The show has a large stage crew and importantly, features a pit band as well.

According to Allen, "The staff are very excited to present this classic show, *Bye Bye Birdie*, to the local community and beyond. The cast has been working tirelessly to put together a delightful on-stage performance, and all of the other off-stage components, with the commitment of many other students, are coming together in an equally exciting way."

Tickets may be purchased at [BirdieSPFHS.BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BirdieSPFHS.BrownPaperTickets.com) and are \$13 for students/seniors and \$15 for adults. Seniors with "Gold Cards" may contact Kathleen Sheehy at [kgsheehy405@gmail.com](mailto:kgsheehy405@gmail.com) to arrange for their ticket.

**SPFHS Repertory Theatre**  
 presents



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# Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

Scotch Plains Monthly is published by Renna Media. 9,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Scotch Plains.

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## PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

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

Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email [editor@rennamedia.com](mailto:editor@rennamedia.com)

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## GARDEN CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Garden Club of Westfield meets the second Tuesday of most months at 12:00 noon at the Scotch Hills Country Club, 820 Jerusalem Rd. Scotch Plains, NJ. For more information, call club president Merrilyn Crane at 908-232-3223. All are welcome.



(above l-r) On Feb. 3, 2017, Garden Club of Westfield members Betty List, Irene Ilaria, Elaine Junguenet and Jill Crouch created floral arrangements for veterans at the VA Hospital in Lyons, NJ. This service project supports the Blue Star Program of the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Club to honor living veterans.



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# SPEAKABILITY TOASTMASTERS NOW IN SCOTCH PLAINS AND FANWOOD

SpeakAbility Toastmasters welcomes the community to sample a meeting at its new locations in Scotch Plains and Fanwood. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped millions of men and women become more confident in front of an audience. Our network of clubs and their learn-by-doing program are sure to help you become a better speaker and leader. Why pay thousands of dollars for a seminar when you can join a Toastmasters club in your community for a fraction of the cost and have fun in the process?

“SpeakAbility Toastmasters provides a supportive and positive environment where

members have the opportunity to develop their communication and leadership skills,” says Oscar Ocasio, Club President for SpeakAbility Toastmasters.

SpeakAbility Toastmasters next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 – Regular meeting.

A regular Toastmasters meeting includes prepared speeches, Table Topics™ (impromptu speeches) and evaluations.

SpeakAbility Toastmasters meets each 1st and

3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:45p.m. at the following locations:

1st Wednesday: JCC of Central NJ, 1391 Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ

3rd Wednesday: Forest Road Park Building, Forest Road Park, Fanwood, NJ (for GPS use 158 Forest Rd., Fanwood, NJ 07023)

For more information about the club, please email Michelle Tropper at michelletropper@verizon.net, or visit the club website at [www.speakabilitytoastmasters.com](http://www.speakabilitytoastmasters.com)



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(above l-r) SpeakAbility members Sumantha Prasad, Rhoda Kaufman, Patti Phillips, Michelle Tropper and Ed Cruikshank. Patti and Michelle recently received the Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) Award from Toastmasters International. The DTM award is the highest level of achievement one can earn as a Toastmaster.



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## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD IN ITALY

Seventeen junior and senior Italian language students at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School recently embarked on the adventure of a lifetime when they participated in an academic-cultural exchange with the high school Liceo Statale-Vito Capialbi located in Vibo Valentia, Italy.

This authentic experience, which was organized by high school Italian teachers Mrs. Giuseppina Della Pietra and Mr. Antonio Gaetano, was unique in that it took place in the southwestern region of Calabria, an area not typically frequented by American tourists, and an area in which few people spoke English.

Students, therefore, were required to apply their Italian language skills to communicate with their host families, educators and community members during their nine-day stay, while also forging memorable bonds with their Italian peers and reaping the educational benefits of linguistic

and cultural immersion.

In the process, our students visited artistically and historically rich sites in the scenic cities of Vibo, Scilla, Pizzo, and Reggio in Calabria, as well as Monreale, Palermo and Cefalu on the island of Sicily.

While expanding cultural horizons, the students were treated to foods that expanded gastronomic palettes as well. The culinary adventures, however, were a small clip in the larger picture of local hospitality. Indeed, the SPF group was warmly greeted at many turns by school officials, mayors, journalists and curators. Additionally, the program nurtured pedagogical discourse among educators on both sides of the Atlantic.

Time was utilized to share best practices regarding scope and sequence, methodology, and use of human and physical resources.



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*(above) The students who travelled to Italy were Aaron Arkin, Danielle Barber, Nicole Barber, Josephine Catuogno, Callie Ann Ciarrocca, Rebecca Lynn Citarella, Sam Colao, Joseph Dietze, Claudia Gentile, Eliza Kuperschmid, Gabriella Marino, Katherine McGowan, Ryan Midwinter, Michael Szanto, Eleanor Szalc, Kelsey Werkheiser and Jordan Wheeler. Mr. Raffaele Gerace, Assistant Principal at Terrill Middle School, and World Language Supervisor Mrs. Linda Materna accompanied the group to Italy.*



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## SPFHS HONORS CHOIR

Twelve Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students were selected from among over 500 students from Central New Jersey to participate in the Region 2 Honors Choir.

The concert took place on January 29, 2017 in Monroe Township High School under the direction of esteemed choral directors Mrs.

Lorraine Lynch of Roxbury High School and Dr. Nicholas McBride of The College of New Jersey.

All of these students are highly involved in Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's choral department and the school district is very proud of their accomplishments.



(above, back, l-r) Peter Canevari, Phoebe Collins, Kyle Magee, Joshua Venick, John DeMarco.  
(front row, l-r) Audrey Smith, Shannon McCreesh, Kaitlin Lamendola, Rachella Carlino, Victoria Domiciano, Lauren Barth, Allan Romero

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## SCOTCH PLAINS LIONS CLUB TO HOLD PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY MARCH 5TH

The Scotch Plains Lions Club will once again hold a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday March 5th. This function will be held at the Scotch Hills Country Club, Jerusalem Road and Plainfield Avenue in Scotch Plains, from 8 am until 11:30am. This breakfast will be All You Can Eat and will include pancakes, eggs, ham & sausage. Beverages will include juice, coffee, tea and milk. The cost for the breakfast is \$8.00; children under 6 are free. Tickets can be purchased at the

door or in advance from a Lions Club member. This is one of many fund raisers for this Lions Club, proceeds of which are distributed to local charities and community activities and most importantly to many organizations throughout the area which serve the blind and visually impaired. For more information on the Scotch Plains Lions Pancake Breakfast or to reserve your place, please call the Pancake Breakfast Chairman Ron Kelly 908-753-8218.

## COLLEGE CLUB WELCOMES EDIE ELKAN, HARPIST AND FOUNDER OF BEDSIDE HARP MONDAY MARCH 20TH, 7:30-8:30 PM

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains welcomes musician, Edie Elkan, founder of Bedside Harp, a hospital-hosted educational and service company dedicated to promoting the therapeutic use of the harp in healthcare.

Edie founded this service company fifteen years ago, in February 2002. She and her team of harp therapist professionals and interns have now offered over 90,000 patients a one-on-one-harp therapy session, played over 22,000 hours at the seven hospitals in New Jersey and Pennsylvania that have hosted Bedside Harp programs, and taught nearly 800 adults and children how to play the harp for their own healing, empowerment and enjoyment and trained and certified over 100 harp therapists

hailing from all over the US, Canada and Ireland.

At about the same time she launched Bedside Harp, Edie began practicing mindfulness meditation, and she incorporates it in all of her teaching. She and Bedside Harp have appeared on "The Today Show," and have been featured in The New York Times, The Star Ledger, and many other local newspapers and print media.

Please come and join us for this free program open to the public. The College Club's mission is to support education of our youth, local community and we encourage you to join us on March 20th at The Fanwood Presbyterian Church located at 74 South Martine Ave, Fanwood, NJ. The program starts promptly at 7:30pm.

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# BRUNNER PRE-K VISITS COMMUNITY HEROES

On February 1st Officer Rites of the Scotch Plains Police Department, Fanwood Firefighters Kristopher and Brian Piccola, and EMT Eileen Ochsner from the Scotch Plains EMS visited Brunner School to teach the pre-school students about the roles of first responders, as well as their vehicles, as part of the pre-school study of transportation. Students were able to put on the gear of the first responders, access the vehicles, hear the sirens, see the lights, and experience many other aspects of the first responder experience. The students had a wonderful experience and learned a lot of valuable lessons from these wonderful local heroes.



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## POLICE LAUNCH PROJECT MEDICINE DROPBOX

In an effort to curb pill and painkiller abuse, the Scotch Plains Police Department has launched the Project Medicine Dropbox for expired medications in pill form only.

For safety reasons, the Project Medicine Dropbox can only accept solid medications such as pills, patches, inhalers and similar objects. No liquids, medical waste, or syringes are allowed. Consumers wishing to dispose of these objects should consult their doctor or pharmacists to identify the best way of getting rid of them.

Once a medication is placed in the box, it cannot be retrieved at any time. Double check the medications you are depositing to make sure you are not putting any current medications in.

The collection box is located in the lobby of the Scotch Plains Police Department office on 430 Park Ave. Residents have access to the medicine dropbox only when the Municipal Building is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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Dr. Fink Rosner is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association and the New Jersey State Bar of the United States. He is also a member of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and the American College of Elder Law. He is a past president of the New Jersey State Bar Association and the New Jersey State Bar of the United States. He is also a past president of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and the American College of Elder Law.

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# SCOTCH PLAINS & MOUNTAINSIDE LIBRARIES' CAREER NETWORKING GROUP

## LINKEDIN: 11 THINGS YOU MUST FIX ON YOUR PROFILE TO GET NOTICED

Monday, March 13th, 6:30PM, at the Mountainside Public Library.

LinkedIn is an essential networking and marketing tool for your career, whether you are employed or in job search mode. Is your profile the best it can be? Are you familiar with LinkedIn's latest features? Do you know how to use the features to boost your visibility and enhance your brand? During this presentation you will learn:

- Why a stellar LinkedIn Profile is important for anyone in business today
- Overview of current features of LinkedIn's Profile functionality
- 10 fixes to improve your LinkedIn Profile and create your desired reputation
- Plus: new tip – NEW CONTENT: "Blogging" with LinkedIn

Stacey Staaterman is a Certified Professional Coach and Consultant who specializes in leaderships and careers, [www.staatermancoaching.com](http://www.staatermancoaching.com). She helps

professionals to figure out how they can be happier, more fulfilled and more successful in their work. She also works with companies to remove performance blocks, drive engagement and elevate leadership skills. Stacey facilitates workshops, assessments and seminars to increase team work, communication, and collaboration.

Stacey is a contributing writer reporting on career strategy and leadership for MINonline.com. From 2014-15, she was a public speaking trainer with Own The Room (a division of Blue Planet Training) during which time I served as a coach for video training pilot developed with MIT Media Lab. She has a B.S. in Advertising from Syracuse University (S.I. Newhouse School of Communications) and completed a Digital mini-MBA program from Rutgers University.

This program is free and open to the public. To register for this event, please call the Mountainside Public Library at 908-233-0115. Connect with the libraries' Career Networking Group on LinkedIn, Career Networking Group at SPPL.

## FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS



Scotch Plains Mayor Al Smith got his blood pressure checked by Rahway nurse Michele Kowal at the Scotch Plains Public Library on Tuesday, February 14. The Mayor advocates for a healthy Scotch Plains.

Every month, the Scotch Plains Public Library hosts a free blood pressure screening. The next free screening will be held on Tuesday, March 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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## LOCAL QUILTER AND EDUCATOR FEATURED AT 34TH ANNUAL QUILT SHOW

“Anything Goes” the quilts of Elsa Gail Hahn will be showcased at the Harvest Quilters of Central NJ’s 34th annual quilt show on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, Scotch Plains, NJ from 8am to 5pm.

Ms. Hahn’s whimsical one-of-a-kind creations defy what is typically thought of as a quilt. Art quilts and wall hangings dominate her work, which spans 12 years of exploration in the fiber arts. An original Orca whale study on silk, inspired by a trip to the San Juan Islands, will be a focal point of this eclectic exhibit. Other highlights will include a self-portrait and a unique spin on a children’s book.

Visitors will be treated to a traditional New York Beauty quilt made with non-traditional fabrics of black and brights. Reaching back to her childhood in Westfield where she was born and raised, Ms. Hahn will display her childhood sewing cards, rags from a baby quilt she made at age 12 and her early needlework.

“I’m color driven when I make a more traditional quilt, but I love the challenge of trying to incorporate an item not meant for quilting, such as a dish towel or scarf.”

A retired elementary music teacher, Ms. Hahn spent 34 years in the Westfield school system and directs the Children’s and Bell Choirs at Cranford Presbyterian Church. She splits her time between Edison, NJ and Brewster, MA, the inspiration for her quilt “Cabins on the Beach.” A horseback riding trip to the Triangle X Ranch in Jackson Hole, Wyoming in 2005 inspired her to make her first quilt to commemorate the experience.

A winner of multiple ribbons at Harvest

Quilters shows, where she is Workshop Chair and the Bayberry Quilters of Cape Cod where she serves as Chairperson of the 2017 Challenge quilt, Ms. Hahn expressed that most of all “I cherish all the dear friends I’ve made through quilting.”

Reading, birdwatching, gardening, woodworking and spending time with her extended family enriches her life and fuels her quilting.

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church is located at 1961 Raritan Rd, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076. Admission is \$7/adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.



(above) Elsa Gail Hahn will be showcased at the Harvest Quilters of Central NJ’s 34th annual quilt show on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, Scotch Plains, NJ from 8am to 5pm.

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# SCOTCH PLAINS RESCUE SQUAD CELEBRATES 80 YEARS OF SERVICE

Submitted by: Susan Baldani, a life member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad.

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, the oldest volunteer squad in Union County, will be celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. Formed on March 9, 1937, it was incorporated on April 10, 1937. Since then, the squad has answered over 75,000 calls.

It all started with a few people who saw a need for this type of organization in Scotch Plains; Harold Hill, the son of one of the founder members, is still active on the rescue squad today. The first ambulance was bought used from Muhlenberg Hospital for \$250.00. Today, an ambulance cost about \$205,000.00. This does not include all the equipment necessary to assist people in a medical crisis, such as defibrillators, oxygen tanks, bandages, backboards, and radios, to name just a few. Originally, this ambulance was kept at the municipal building and its members, numbering around twenty, would respond when the siren in town sounded. Today, the squad has 83 members and its own building purchased in 1943. After many renovations and additions, this building is now three times its original size.

Back then, members were trained in advanced first aid. Today, training is at a much higher caliber and active members are full Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) certified by the state of New Jersey who can do everything from setting a broken leg to restarting a heart in cardiac arrest. Members come from all walks of life: doctors, nurses, police officers, business employees, stay-at-home moms and dads, and

everything in between. The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad also has a strong cadet program, and these 16 and 17 year olds are also trained to save lives. For others who want to help but are not interested in direct patient care, the squad auxiliary does a great job with holding fundraisers, like the upcoming pancake breakfast on March 26th, providing occasional dinners to our members on meeting nights, and supporting the squad in general. Anyone 14 years or older can join this group.

Besides responding to calls, the squad stands by at many town functions. You will see its ambulances at high school football games, concerts on the green, the Italian Festival and many others. They also give talks and tours of the ambulances to boy and girl scout troops, preschools and any other organization that's interested in what they do. In addition, the rescue squad has a large assortment of wheelchairs, crutches, walkers and other medical equipment which it loans out to the community free of charge.

All of these services are made possible by the generous contributions of the Scotch Plains community. Without this support, the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad could not do what it does so well. They are Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Working for Pride, not Pay.

If you would like more information on the rescue squad, please go to [www.ScotchPlainsRescueSquad.com](http://www.ScotchPlainsRescueSquad.com) or call 908-322-2103.

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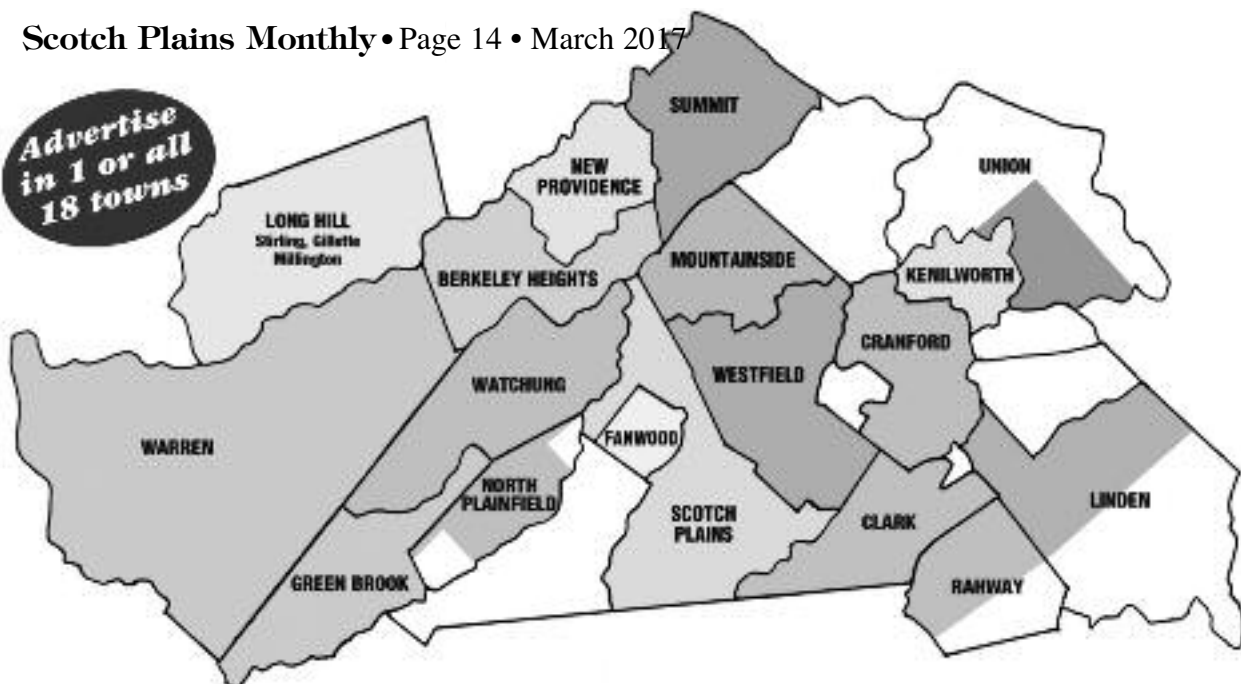
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approximately 6:30 pm. RSVP online before 3/16 at 2 pm to save!

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- New Roofs
- Roof Repairs
- Shingles
- Flat Roofs



**GUTTERS**

- Cleaning
- Installation
- Screening
- Repairs
- Replacement



**MASONRY**

- Driveways
- Steps
- Repair
- Brick & Blocks
- Sidewalks



**BEFORE**

**AFTER**



**CHIMNEY LINERS**

Cleaning  
 Rebuild Repairs  
 Capping



**CHIMNEY REPAIR**



**FIREPLACE CLEANING**

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