

Fanwood Post NJ

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ROCKIN' FOR AUTISM ANNOUNCES ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

To commemorate Autism Awareness Month, and raise awareness of and funds for autism related services, the Borough of Fanwood will be hosting its second annual Rockin' For Autism Music Festival on Saturday, April 29, 2017, from 10:00am to 7:00pm at LaGrande Park (200 LaGrande Avenue; Rain date April 30). Highlights from last year's festival can be found at www.rockin4autism.org.

The 2017 festival will feature a variety of local musical acts, food trucks and stands, local vendors and non-profit organizations, autism workshops, a bake sale and merchant tricky tray raffle, a beer garden (2:00-6:00pm), an obstacle course and more. It will also coincide with the Scotch Plains Fanwood Youth Baseball Association Opening Day Ceremony, and feature sports clinics from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Soccer Association and the Wolves Basketball Academy.

Rockin' For Autism is the brainchild of 15-year-old Fanwood resident Mallory Banks, who since 2011 has raised more than \$20,000 for Autism New Jersey (www.autismnj.org) in honor of her brother, Ethan (age 17), and all those affected by autism spectrum disorder. Miss Banks, an Autism Awareness Junior Ambassador for the past six years, ranks among the top kids in New Jersey who raise money for Autism Awareness Month. Last year, the festival raised \$10,500 – more than doubling the amount of money previously raised by Mallory since 2011.

"Last year's Rockin' For Autism Music Festival was unbelievable. While it was an exciting day for many, at the heart of it was the money the festival raised to help people with autism like my brother," said Mallory. "This year's festival is going to be even bigger and better than

last year's, and we hope that even more people attend because everyone who comes makes a difference."

"Rockin' For Autism is an extraordinary event that Fanwood is proud to host. It has something for everyone to enjoy," said Fanwood Mayor Mahr. "Last year's festival exceeded everyone's expectations, and was a shining example of how the dreams of an exceptional young woman can pull an entire community together for a worthy cause. I am confident that the festival will continue to attract high attendance, creating memories while raising awareness and funds for the autism community."

Many bands and performers are scheduled throughout the event. And many local businesses, organizations and sponsors have signed up to support the festival as well.

For more information, or to volunteer, sponsor or exhibit at the event, please contact info@rockin4autism.org or visit www.rockin4autism.org.



(above) 2016 Rockin' For Autism volunteers.



(above) The Banks family:
Ethan, Jeff, Mallory and Gina.

Rockin' For Autism Music Festival
Saturday, April 29, 2017,
10:00am to 7:00pm
LaGrande Park
200 LaGrande Avenue
Rain date April 30.

Highlights from last year's festival
can be found at www.rockin4autism.org.



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MARIANNE KRANZ RECOGNIZED AS A WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

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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

Fanwood resident Marianne Kranz was among 10 women recently honored at the 25th annual Union County Women of Excellence gala on Friday, March 24, 2017 at Galloping Hill Golf Club in Kenilworth.

Marianne, a 23-year resident of Fanwood, was recognized for her work at SAGE Eldercare, a non-profit eldercare agency in Summit, where she is Director of Volunteers and Meals on

Wheels. In that position, she is responsible for delivering hundreds of daily meals, mostly to seniors who are homebound, in Union and Essex County, coordinating hundreds of volunteers who do the actual delivery. She also recently surpassed 800 hours of volunteer work at the Caring Contact crisis hotline, answering calls from people who are in crisis, suicidal, lonely or depressed.



(above) Marianne Kranz surrounded by SAGE co-workers and volunteers.

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FANWOOD IRISH FESTIVAL

The Fanwood Irish Festival, a two-day celebration of Irish food, music and dancing, sponsored by Sheelen's Crossing Bar/Restaurant and other local businesses was held in March. The heated tent provided a perfect venue for a late-winter event on the South Avenue parking lot of the Fanwood train station. A portion of proceeds will benefit the SPF High School sports boosters.



(above) Emma, 4, of Fanwood, gets face painted.



(above) Mayor Colleen Mahr and event organizer Sean Flannery, owner of Sheelen's Crossing.



(above) Dancer gets air



(above) Appropriately dressed couple.



(left) Dancers from Marie Moore School in Scotch Plains perform for a full tent.

Photos courtesy Borough of Fanwood.

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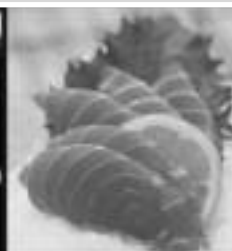
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FANWOOD-SCOTCH PLAINS ROTARY SUPPORTS NJ SHARING NETWORK

On March 8, 2017, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club presented new member Dan Weiniger with a check for \$1,000 for the NJ Sharing Network, an organization committed to

saving lives through organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

Weiniger is waiting for a new heart; In February 2003 at the age of 42, he had a heart attack followed by quintuple bypass surgery. He lived a normal life until February 2015, when he suffered another heart attack, and it was so severe that a bypass could not be performed. "It didn't look good until an LVAD (left ventricular assist device) was presented to me," said Weiniger. LVADs were first invented to keep patients alive while waiting for a transplant.

Weiniger is keeping busy while waiting for the transplant and he plans to participate in NJ Sharing Network's 5K Celebration of Life on June 4, 2017 in New Providence, NJ. The money

raised for the event will be used to save lives through "innovative transplant research, family support, public awareness and education about the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation and transplantation."

Members of the Rotary Club will continue to support Weiniger by participating in the walk or by sponsoring him. If anyone is interested in participating, sponsoring or donating, go to njsharingnetwork.org.

If you are passionate about serving your community, are interested in working on international projects or just want to change the world, visit the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary any Wednesday at 12:15pm at the Stage House Restaurant in Scotch Plains.

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(above l-r) Dan Weiniger, President Carmela Resnick, President-Elect Steve Goldberg, Secretary Kim Decker

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GREATER WESTFIELD AREA CHAMBER HOSTED TRINITAS HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO

The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the Trinitas Regional Medical Center Health and Wellness Expo at Snuffy's Pantagis in Scotch Plains in February. The inaugural Expo greeted nearly 700 attendees with swag bags, a robust schedule of events, free health screenings and a blood drive.

"We are delighted to bring this event to life with our named sponsor Trinitas Regional Medical Center. More importantly, we are ecstatic at the enthusiasm of the community toward this event." said Gene Jannotti, Executive Director of the GWACC.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Ben Michaelis, a Manhattan clinical psychologist, author, and

frequent mental health expert on The Today Show, Fox News, and MSNBC as well as numerous national publications. Dr. Michaelis presented The 5 Habits for Creating a Healthy Mind to a ballroom filled with participants. He stayed after his presentation and spent time with both vendors and attendees.

The mission of the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote business opportunities, economic development and community growth. For more information about the chamber and other upcoming business networking and community events, please contact Heather Bryant at 908-233-3021 or heather@gwaccnj.com.



(above) A ribbon cutting opened the Expo presided by Scotch Plains Mayor Al Smith; Doug Harris, Trinitas Vice President of Marketing/Public Relations; Gene Jannotti, GWACC Executive Director and Expo Coordinator Heather Bryant, GWACC Membership/Events Manager.

GWACC WISH LIST PROGRAM TAKES OFF

The Greater Westfield Area of Commerce (GWACC) made its first Wish List Program "match" on March 1st. This new program pairs a member business and a nonprofit organization with the purpose of fulfilling a wish requested by the nonprofit.

In March, Community Access Unlimited (CAU), a nonprofit based in Elizabeth, received their wish--a laptop donated by Mario G. Cesario of Cesar-Kai Academy/The Max Challenge in Cranford.

Community Access Unlimited provides comprehensive support services to approximately 8,000 New Jersey residents with developmental

disabilities, youth aging out of foster care, and people with affordable housing needs. Their mission is to give the people they work with (referred to as 'members') the opportunity to live independently and to lead normal and productive lives as citizens integrated into the community. Supported housing units are located in four of the five towns served by the GWACC.

For more information about the Wish List program, please contact Stephanie Branna at stephanie@brannaagency.com. The GWACC serves five communities in Union County: Westfield, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Fanwood.



(left, l-r)
Chris Devine,
GWACC Board;
Stephanie Branna,
Committee Chairman;
Cara Pavia,
Community Access
Unlimited;
Mario Cesario,
Cesar-Kai Academy;
Gene Jannotti,
GWACC
Executive Director.

GREATER WESTFIELD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPCOMING

Join the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce for any of our upcoming events. For more information and to RSVP, go to gwaccnj.com/events or call the chamber at 908.233.3021.

Thursday, April 20th from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm for business networking at Le Petit Temptation in Cranford. Chef Jessie Dardar is creating an original assortment of Hors d'oeuvres along with wine and vodka drinks. Prospective members are welcome. Prepayment online at gwaccnj.com/events. Members \$10 and nonmembers \$15. There will be an additional fee at the door.

Thursday, May 4th from 6 - 7:30 pm for business networking at Allstate Insurance - Ron Bansk Agency in Westfield. Finger food, wine and beer will be served. Prospective members are welcome. Members \$10 and nonmembers \$15. There will be an additional fee at the door.

Come to downtown Westfield on Sunday, May 7th from 10 - 5 for the 23rd annual Spring Fling Street Fair! It's free and fun for the whole family. Check out scores of vendors, fantastic food, a KidZone, live entertainment, and so much more. Downtown Westfield is closed off to vehicular traffic.

May 10th starting at 4 pm for their 2nd Annual Nine, Wine & Dine golf outing at Shackamaxon Country Club. Golfers of all abilities are welcome for fun, wine and dinner. We'll be playing a 9-hole scramble format. If you don't golf, sign up for dinner. Golfers can RSVP as individuals or as a foursome. Proceeds from the day will benefit the GWACC Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting local non-profit organizations and scholarships for local high school seniors.

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Ms. Megan Brady and Ms. Jane Perper's kindergarten class of The Goddard School in Fanwood is proud to debut their very first school newspaper! Each article was written and typed by students, and the pictures were drawn by them as well! This project has enhanced students' persuasive writing skills, expression of ideas through print, and teamwork!

Throughout the year, we have been discussing various forms of journalism, including print media. It has taught us the importance of news and how it tightens the fabric of our community. We are very appreciative of the hard work Renna Media does for our community, and so grateful for their assistance in furthering our kindergarteners' education!



(above, standing, l-r) Ms. Jane, Charlie, raj, eliana, Gonzalo, Avery, Hannah, Ms. Megan (kneeling, l-r): zack, Olivia, Dorian, Alex (sitting, l-r): Adam, Vera, Layla

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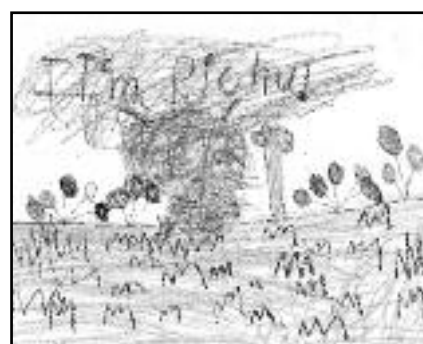
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MOVIES

CHARLIE DESERVED TO WIN

By Charlie

Charlie deserved to win Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory because he was the nicest kid. Also, he gave the Everlasting Gobstopper back to Willy Wonka. Lastly, his poor family can have a nicer home in the chocolate factory.

SKYWALKER STRONGER THAN VADER

By Gonzalo

Luke Skywalker is stronger than Darth Vader because Yoda told him all of the secrets of the Force. Also, Luke has a robot hand that is very strong. Lastly, he has a stronger light saber than Darth Vader.

"TROLLS" REVIEW

By Avery and Layla

The movie "Trolls" is really great, and everyone should see it. It had a lot of color that made everything look real. We liked how the Bergens were mad at first, but then they changed and lived in the happiest town ever. We learned that everyone can be happy.



Illustration by
Layla and Avery:
"Trolls Movie Review"

BOOKS

THE DAY THE CRAYONS QUIT

By Dorian, Eliana, and Hannah

The Day the Crayons Quit was the funniest book. We liked when the yellow and orange crayon both argued over who was the true color of the sun. It was funny when the peach crayon was not wearing any clothes and was embarrassed. Finally, we laughed when the blue crayon could not see over the box because he was too stubby. We liked that Duncan used all of his crayons at the end so they could all have fun.



Illustration by
Dorian, Eliana,
and Hannah:
The Day the Crayons
Quit Book Review



Spring is here, and it is important to know what to wear outside during this kind of weather in New Jersey. April showers bring May flowers, so it will be rainy. Wear a rain coat, rain boots, a rain hat, and bring an umbrella. This will keep you dry all Spring.

Illustration by Raj and Adam: "April Showers"

SPORTS

EVERYBODY SHOULD PLAY SOCCER

By Zack

Everybody should play soccer because you get to run around outside. Also, the uniform has cool socks. Lastly, it is fun to score goals.

FLIPS HARDER THAN SOMERSAULTS

By Vera

Flips are harder than somersaults in gymnastics because it is really scary to be up high. Also, you need to land perfectly at the end. Lastly, you need to be strong to jump really high.

BACK STROKE OVER THE FRONT

By Dorian

In swimming, the back stroke is easier than the front stroke because you can float on your back. Also, it is easier to see without goggles. Lastly, it is easy to breathe because you are not underwater.

PREPARING FOR SWIM CLASS

By Gonzalo and Zack

If you go to swim class, you need to be prepared. Do not forget to bring your goggles to protect your eyes, towel, bathing suit, and Crocs. It is important to build strong muscles in your arms, legs, and stomach to swim. Also, you need to work on how to breathe when you swim. Finally, you need to listen to the swim coach.



Illustration by
Gonzalo and Zack:
"Getting Ready
to Swim"

SCIENCE

CROCODILES MOST LIKE DINOSAURS

By Adam

Crocodiles are the most similar to dinosaurs because they both have sharp teeth. Also, they both have scales. Lastly, they are both reptiles.

ASTRONAUTS VS PILOTS

By Eliana

Astronauts are more exciting than airplane pilots because they make more discoveries. Also, they can float because there is no gravity in space. Lastly, rocket ships go faster than airplanes!

WEATHER

By Raj and Adam

FASHION

POLISHED FINGERS BETTER THAN TOES

By Layla

Nail polish on your fingers is better than on your toes because it is easier to see. Also, finger nails are easier to paint. Lastly, you can decorate your fingers with rings to match your nails.

DRESSES DESIGN BEATS BOOTS

By Avery

Dresses are better to design than boots because there is more room to make patterns on dresses. Also, dresses keep people warm. Lastly, people feel confident in dresses because you see them easier than you can see boots.

FOOD

ICE CREAM SUNDAE RECIPE

By Charlie and Vera

This is how you make the best ice cream sundaes ever. First, you get a dish. Then, pick an ice cream flavor. Next, put mints, chocolate chips, and whipped cream on it. Finally, put the cherry on top. Eat up!



Illustration by Vera
and Charlie
"How to Make the
Best Ice Cream
Sundae"

THE ARTS

COLORED PENCILS WORK BEST

By Olivia

Colored pencils work best for creating art because a lot of artists use them. Also, you can sharpen colored pencils. Lastly, they do not dry out.

TAP DANCE IS HARDER THAN BALLET

By Hannah

Tap dance is harder than ballet because you have to move faster in tap dance. Also, it is trickier to hop on one foot in tap dance. Lastly, tap shoes hurt more than soft ballet shoes.

CHARIZARD IS BETTER THAN PIKACHU

By Alex

In Pokémon, Charizard is better than Pikachu because he is in his third evolution, and Pikachu is in his second evolution. Also, Charizard's damage points are 120, and Pikachu's is 30. Lastly, Charizard's hit points are 180, and Pikachu's is 60.

LEGOS BETTER THAN BLOCKS

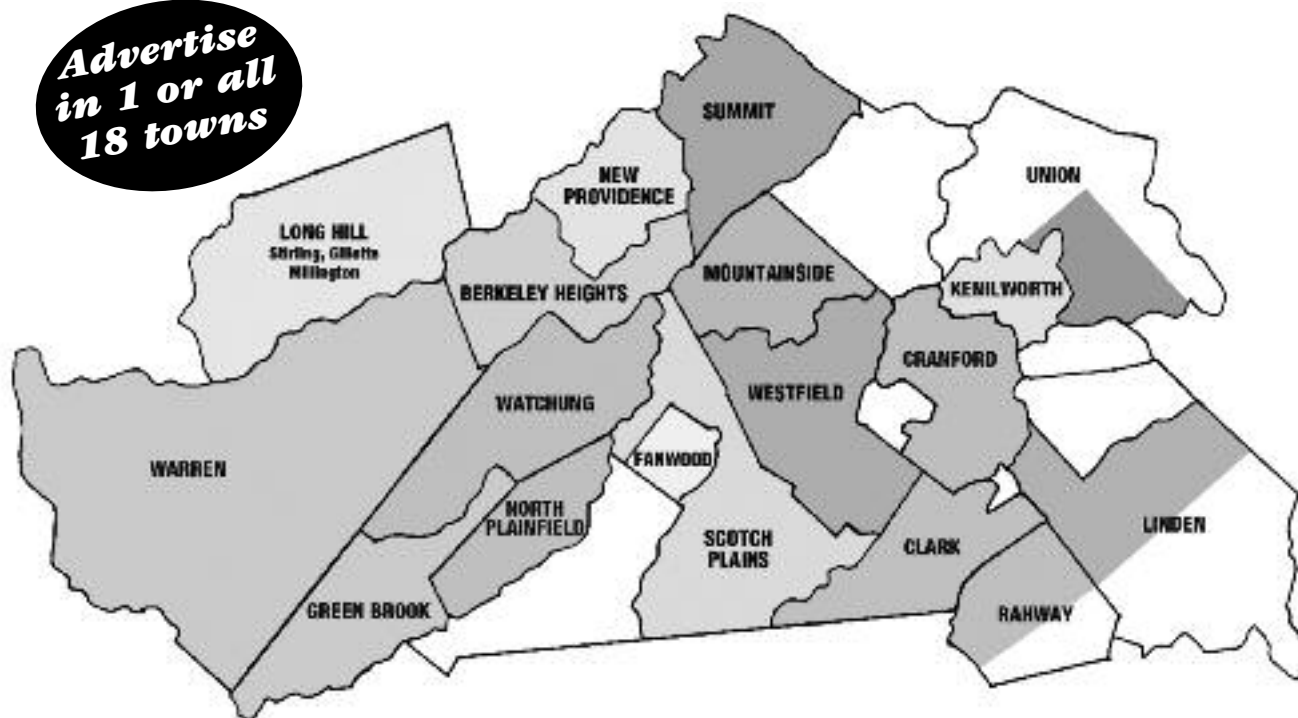
By Raj

Legos are better to build with than blocks because they can connect. Also, they are different colors. Lastly, they do not fall apart.

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ROTARY CLUB GROWS TO 60 MEMBERS

Within less than 3 months of the new calendar year, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club inducted 4 new members.

The club attributes the growth to its commitment to service, both locally and internationally.

Over the past 12 months, the club has volunteered at Mobile Meals and El Centro, donated to a homeless veteran organization called Operation Chillout, provided education for girls in Uganda, and partnered with School One to raise funds to feed children in Malawi!



(above l-r) The photo includes Rotary Officers, new members and their Rotary sponsors: Kim Decker, Gene Janotti, Carmela Resnick, Wayne Zuhl, Kristy Ball, Dan Weiniger, Mayor and Rotarian Al Smith, Liz Mangan, Bill Graham and Steve Goldberg.

HEARING SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Hearing Society is pleased to announce that it is currently accepting applications to its Sarah H. McGhee and Katherine Schmidt Memorial Scholarship funds for the school year 2017-2018. These scholarships provide financial assistance to high school graduates who have documented hearing loss and have been accepted into accredited two-year colleges or vocational schools (\$2,000) or four-year colleges or universities (\$4,000). A special characteristic of these awards is that they are renewable for one to three years for the student providing satisfactory grades are maintained.

Application forms are available on request by

contacting Mrs. P. Hanigan, Scholarship Chairperson, 1213 Wyoming Avenue, Mountainside, NJ 07092, or by phoning her at 908 232 4512 (voice). Applications must be submitted no later than May 19, 2017.

The Hearing Society is a not-for-profit organization that has served people with hearing impairments in Union County since 1932. The society also sponsors a class in speech (lip) reading at the First Baptist Church in Westfield, and welcomes interested people from the area to attend. For more information about the Society, contact Alice Knecht, 908-688-8241 (voice), or online at alirobkn@aol.com.

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INTRODUCING THE 2017 VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

Dr. David Heisey, Principal of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, has announced the names of the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2017. Valedictorian is Caroline McNichol and Salutatorian is Max Mazursky.



KATHRYN KALAIGIAN RECEIVES VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Kathryn has had an impressive range of service and leadership experiences beginning with younger students at school and church and the creation of the Sunshine Theatre Company group for senior citizens.

"The recipients of these awards demonstrate that young people across America are making

remarkable contributions to the health and vitality of their communities," said John Strangfeld, chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial. "By recognizing these students and placing a spotlight on their volunteer activities, we hope to motivate others to consider how they can also contribute to their community."

ANDREW KRINEY HIGHEST ACT SCORE

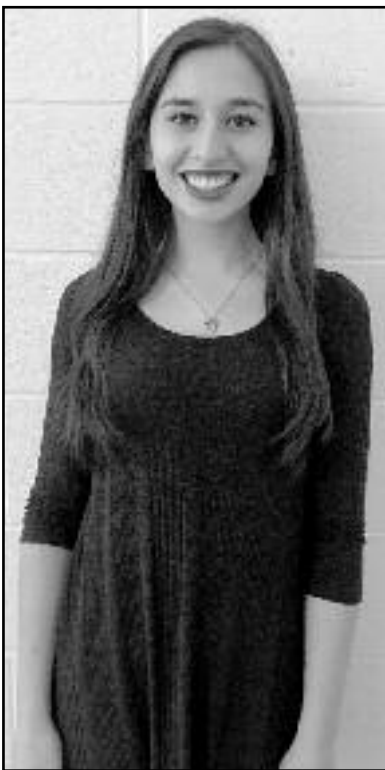
Andrew Kriney, a senior student at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, earned the highest composite score of 36 on the ACT College

admissions and placement exam. Only 1 in 4,000 test takers achieve this score. Congratulations Andrew!

DEBLINA MUKHERJEE SELECTED AS U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

Deblina Mukherjee, a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, has been selected as a candidate for the 2017 United States Presidential Scholars Program. Presidential Scholars is a program of the Department of Education that

recognizes the academic achievements of distinguished US citizens graduating from high school. It is described as "one of the Nation's highest honors for high school students" in the United States of America.



Kathryn Kalaigian



Andrew Kriney



Deblina Mukherjee

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FANWOOD RECREATION SPRING BREAK CAMPS

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Dates: April 10–14 / Time: 9 AM–12 noon / Location: La Grande Park building / Ages: 5–11 years / Cost: \$160

Bricks 4 Kidz® LEGO® camp is specifically designed to inspire creativity and build knowledge in STEM. Our one week camp offers a variety of kids' favorite LEGO® themes such as Minecraft®, Star Wars®, Pokemon®, and Superheroes, etc.. Our camp includes loads of creative building, games, challenges, and motorized model creations. In this camp, EVERYTHING IS AWESOME!!

Registration: You can now register and pay online! Visit fanwoodrecreation.org. For more information, call Fanwood Recreation, 908 370-7092.

Multi Sports Camp (ages 5-11)

Offered in association with the US Sports

Institute. Players will have the opportunity to experience up to 4 different sports each day. Sports included: Baseball, Basketball, Cricket, Flag Football, Hockey, Handball, Lacrosse, Soccer, Rugby and more! During the morning players will focus on developing their technique and skills within each sport, and gain a basic understanding of playing a scrimmage. The afternoon will focus on small sided scrimmages in a tournament environment that encourages good sportsmanship and teamwork.

Days: Monday-Friday / Dates: April 10–13 / Location: Forest Road Park / Times: 9 AM–12:30 PM, 1–4 PM, 9 AM–4 PM / Price: \$85, \$125 or \$150 (late price begins 3/29)

Registration and for more information go to USsportsInstitute.com or call 732 563 2520. Fanwood Recreation, fanwoodrecreation.org or call 908 370-7092.

RECREATION SPRING 2017 SENIOR PROGRAMS

Fanwood Recreation announces its Spring schedule of programs for Fanwood's senior community. Programs began the week of April 3rd and end the week of June 19th, are scheduled for 12 sessions, and will be held at the Forest Road Park building.

SPRING SCHEDULE:

Aerobics—Tuesdays, 9–10 AM

Zumba Gold (aerobic dance)—Wednesdays, 11:30 AM–12:15 PM

Gentle Yoga—Thursdays, 9–10 AM

Tai Chi—Thursdays, 10:15–11:15 AM

Line, Ballroom and Latin Dancing—Thursdays, 12–1 PM

Zumba Gold (aerobic dance)—Fridays, 9:15–10 AM

Cost: Each program is \$15 for residents of Fanwood and Scotch Plains, \$30 for non-residents. Please make your check for the correct amount payable to Borough of Fanwood/Recreation.

For more information and to register please go to fanwoodrecreation.org or call Fanwood Recreation, 908 370-7092.

COLLEGE CLUB TO HOLD SPRING FLING

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains will host its annual "Spring Fling" fundraiser on April 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Plainfield County Club, 1591 Woodland Ave, Edison, NJ with guest, local NJ author Eva Lesko Natiello, author of "The Memory Box" to speak.

Tickets are on sale now to attend. Your ticket cost of \$50 includes lunch and entertainment.

There are additional opportunities to contribute to the scholarship fund by participating in a Raffle for a 55" TV (\$5/ticket), Silent Auction, Gift baskets and 50/50 Raffle (\$2/ticket). All proceeds from the event go to local scholarships.

Please email collegeclub.fsp@gmail.com for tickets. For more information, visit fanwoodnj.org.



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FANWOOD RESIDENT BECOMES CASA VOLUNTEER

Union County Superior Court Judge James Hely administered oaths to 16 community members on March 20, 2017 — among them Jana Fallon of Fanwood — who stepped up to volunteer as extra eyes and ears for Family Court judges on cases involving Union County's abused, neglected or abandoned children now placed in foster care.

The new child advocates completed 30 hours in a new, flexible training option that comprises fewer in-person sessions than the traditional session, but incorporates an online learning component for scheduling flexibility. After the new advocates took their oath and received a

commemorative CASA pin and certificate, they gathered with staff and board members for a celebratory luncheon, during which they were matched to their new case.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds make successful advocates and this class is no exception: Advocates range in age from 21 to 81; are parents and non-parents; recent retirees and students; and careers include business professionals, a teacher, nurse, attorney and professor; as well as homemakers. Languages spoken include Spanish, Chinese, Ukrainian and German. Most have no prior knowledge of the foster system, and at least two of the volunteers are immigrants.

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 their time in care is as short as possible. There are 600 Union County children currently in foster care and CASA of Union County serves approximately one-third; its mission is to provide an advocate for every foster child that needs one.

For details on future trainings, contact Courtney at 908-527-7045 or cgreen@casaoftioncounty.org.

To inquire about other ways to support CASA of Union County, contact

Executive Director Marla Higginbotham at 908-527-7041 or marlah@casaoftioncounty.org.

CASA'S CHARITY 5K RUN/1M WALK IS MAY 7

Lace up your sneakers and take simple but crucial steps to change the life of an abused, neglected or abandoned Union County child placed in foster care: On Sunday, May 7, 2017, CASA of Union County will host its third annual Foster the Dream 5k Run and 1 Mile Walk at Oak Ridge Park in Clark to raise awareness of the need for community volunteers to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates, and to raise funds for expanded recruitment and training efforts.

The race course is USATF-certified and trophies are given to the first-place female and male finishers, as well as runners in the following brackets: 10 and under, 11-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60+. In addition, participants can try their luck at various raffles — tickets are \$5 — and enjoy such post-race sustenance such as fruit, bagels and water. Whether a serious runner, a speed-walker or simply looking to stroll with friends and family — this race for a reason promises fun for all, and helps vulnerable youth right in your own community!

Life in foster care and the road to it is no walk in the park, but your walk or run in the park can change that. Two-thirds of Union County foster youth still need a CASA volunteer, and your

participation brings CASA of Union County closer to remedying that by providing a committed advocate for every youth that needs one. Appointed to a case by a family judge, trained CASA volunteers serve foster youth by advocating in court and the community to ensure their needs are met and best interests remain priority. They are court-empowered to speak with the youth's teachers, doctors, therapists, foster parents, caseworker, attorney and more, and then report findings to the judge.

Race check-in and packet pick-up begins 7:30 am race day; the 1 mile walk starts at 9 am and the 5k at 9:30 am. Award presentation and raffles begin at 10:30 am. Performance race shirts are guaranteed to all paid registrants through April 25. Registration is \$25 to run and \$20 to walk; \$5 more after April 15. Children under 10 run or walk for free!

Ready? Set. Go register yourself, your family and your friends at www.fosterthedream.org, taking the first steps toward changing the life of an abused, neglected or abandoned child from Union County! Contact Jen Mutch, race chair and CASA board president, at (917) 453-5415 or jcdowntown@hotmail.com with questions.

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