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HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS FREAKY FRIDAY MARCH 13 - 16

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Repertory Theatre is proud to present this year's musical production: Freaky Friday. Based on the beloved novel by Mary Rodgers and the hit Disney films, Freaky Friday follows an overworked mother and her teenage daughter who magically swap bodies and have just one day to put things right again.

Performances of Freaky Friday will take place on Thursday, March 13 at 7:00 pm, Friday, March 14 at 7:00 pm, Saturday, March 15 at 7:00 pm, and Sunday, March 16 at 2:00 pm. Freaky Friday will be presented in the Manya Ungar Memorial Auditorium at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains, NJ). Freaky Friday is a spunky, contemporary musical for all ages that will have something for adults and kids alike!

Freaky Friday is a heartfelt, comedic, and unexpectedly emotional update on an American classic. By spending a day in each other's shoes, Katherine and Ellie come to appreciate one another's struggles, learn self-acceptance, and realize the immeasurable love and mutual respect that bond a mother and daughter.

When asked about the production, director Morgan Knight said, "Every generation has their own Freaky Friday. As a teen, my mom enjoyed the classic 1976 film with Jodie Foster and Barbara Harris; my fellow millennials and I were practically raised on the 2003 remake with Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis, and the younger generation has enjoyed the 2018 musical and Disney Channel original movie adaptation. The timeless appeal of Freaky Friday is its universal themes— the journeys of growing up and

parenthood. I am thrilled for our students to put their own SPFHS spin on this American classic."

The Freaky Friday production involves almost 100 students, including the cast, crew, and live student orchestra. The production is under the artful direction and creative supervision of Morgan Knight (Director), Jan Allen (Producer and Music Director), Courtney Nemec (Producer and Assistant Director), Kyra Robinson (Choreographer), Trey Shore (Pit Orchestra Conductor), Joseph Napolitano (Set Designer), Evan Perrotta (Technical Director and Crew Supervisor), Christian Confalone (Lighting Designer), and Joanne Sprague (Costume Designer).

Tickets for Freaky Friday are on sale now! They may be purchased in advance online at www.spfhsrep.com and are \$18 for adults and \$16 for students and senior citizens. Seniors may contact Rosa Estevez via email at SPFHSPayTickets@gmail.com or 908-935-7796 to make arrangements for discounted tickets. Tickets may also be purchased at the door, but they tend to sell fast and the shows often sell out.

SPFHS Repertory Theatre strives to make its performances accessible to our audiences. Accessible seating is available for those with mobility challenges; contact Rosa Estevez at SPFHSPayTickets@gmail.com or 908-935-7796 to request special seating. Handicap parking spaces are located near Door 1 and are available on a first-come, first-served basis to those displaying official license plates or placards. Based on individual needs, efforts will be made to provide early seating prior to general admission.



Photo by Ant Butters

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KRAMER MANOR JOINS BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL

Borough of Fanwood

Jill Jackson Jones, a Kramer Manor history preservationist, announced at the February 10, 2025, Borough of Fanwood agenda meeting that Kramer Manor, a neighborhood of about 100 households founded in 1924 as an all-Black enclave, will be included in the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail.

According to Jackson Jones, legislation establishing the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail was signed into law by Governor Phil Murphy on September 7, 2022. The law called for the New Jersey Historical Commission to create the trail “to promote awareness and appreciation of Black History, heritage and culture that will highlight black heritage through historical markers and a trail like path that connects stories of black life and resiliency.”

“We are just so excited about this. The application (to be included in the Black Heritage Trail) was lengthy,” announcing that she learned that Kramer Manor was accepted as part of the Trail in January.

She has suggested a Black Heritage Trail marker for Kramer Manor be placed on Martine Avenue in the middle of Fanwood and Scotch Plains.

A resolution was approved authorizing the borough to apply for a New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Local Recreation

Improvement Grant for \$100,000 for the LaGrande Park athletic fields improvements, which will include new outfield netting and dugout shading.

Photo by Paul Peyton



(above) Jill Jackson Jones, a Kramer Manor history preservationist, announced that Kramer Manor’s application to be included in the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail has been accepted.

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MARCH 30 AT 3 PM: RE-LIVE THE BEATLES

Step into a time machine and relive the magic of the Fab Four's illustrious career. This isn't just a concert—it's a nostalgic voyage that captures the essence of an era and celebrates the music that changed the world! Experience iconic moments like The Ed Sullivan Show, Shea Stadium, the Sgt. Pepper era, and Abbey Road. Enjoy timeless hits like "I Want to Hold Your Hand," "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," and "Come Together." This immersive performance features dazzling costume changes, exquisite musicianship, powerful vocals, and a stunning multimedia backdrop, transporting you straight back to the 60s.

APRIL 6 AT 3 PM: MICHAEL PATRICK'S RING OF FIRE BAND: A JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE

Prepare to be captivated by Michael Patrick's heartfelt tribute to the legendary Johnny Cash. Over a decade ago, Michael Patrick fell in love with Johnny Cash's music—the simplicity, sincerity, and deep, expressive voice. Enjoy classics like "Ring of Fire," "Walk the Line," and "Folsom Prison Blues." Jenni Bee performs the songs of June Carter Cash, including "Jackson" and "Wildwood Flower." The Ring of Fire Band has shared the stage with Cash Family members and legends like Randy Travis and Clint Black. With annual tours in the South and sold-out shows from NYC to Boston, the Ring of Fire Band keeps Johnny Cash's legacy burning bright.

Don't miss these spectacular performances by New Jersey's best bands! These talented local

musicians bring their passion, energy, and unique sound to every performance. Experience the vibrant music scene of New Jersey and support your local artists. Whether you're a fan of rock, pop, doo-wop, or tribute bands, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Join us for an unforgettable musical journey and be part of the excitement!

Tickets are \$30-45 Get your tickets before they sell out! Visit GDPresents.simplivetix.com or call 917-567-5842. For group rates and phone orders, email us at GDPresentstix@gmail.com.

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fanwoodrecreation.org.*

Spring programs for children include:

CreateArt Workshop,
Parent & Me Multi Sports Squirts,
Squirts Multi Sports,
Parent & Me Soccer Squirts,
Soccer Squirts,
Senior Skills,
T-Ball Squirts,
Basketball Skills,
TGA Premier Junior Golf,
Skateboarding Lessons,
STEM Python Coding,
Fashion Design,
Tennis Lessons,
Babysitting Certification,
Youth Hip Hop Dance,
Mad Science After-School program,
Kids MusicRound.

Spring programs for adults include:

Every Now and Zen - Yoga and Meditation,
Tennis Lessons,
Beginner & Intermediate Pickleball.

Summer camps and programs for children include:

TGA Premier Junior Golf Camp,
Applause Musical Theater Camp,
CreateArt Workshop,
Summer Park Program,
Babysitting Certification,
Junior First Responders Program,
Junior Tennis Lessons,
SAT Boot Camp,
Middle School Reading Club,
Young Rembrandts Drawing Camp,
STEM Python Coding Bootcamp,
Eureka: The Inventors' Camp,
Red Hot Robotics!
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Clues and the Cosmos Camp,
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Squirts Multi Sports,
T-Ball Squirts,
T-Ball Skills,
Multi Sports Camp,
Basketball Camp,
Golf Camp,
NFL Football Camp,
Skateboarding Camp.

Summer programs for adults include:

Beginner & Intermediate Pickleball,
Tennis Lessons.

'PAINTING IT FORWARD' EVENT – MARCH 27

The Student Movement Against Cancer (SMAC) invites the community to unleash their creativity for a cause at our upcoming Painting it Forward night, a fundraising event dedicated to supporting our organization's central operations. This special evening of art, fun, and philanthropy will take place on March 27, 2025, from 6:30 – 9 p.m. at Pinot's Palette in Summit, NJ.

Attendees can expect a guided painting session led by a skilled instructor while connecting with other SMAC supporters and enjoying refreshments. Whether you are an experienced artist or picking up a paintbrush for the first time, this event is designed for all skill levels. More than just an evening of fun, every dollar raised will help strengthen SMAC's scholarship program, expand our student-led network, and enhance resources for young cancer advocates.

SMAC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering students in the fight against cancer through education, fundraising, and leadership development opportunities. Community events like this one ensure that our

programs continue to grow, providing young leaders with the tools they need to make a lasting impact.

Tickets are limited. Reserve your spot today by visiting pinotpalette.com/summit/event/820371. For sponsorship opportunities or more information, please contact Danielle Delavaux at Danielle@supportsmac.org.

ABOUT SMAC

Student Movement Against Cancer (SMAC), Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to empowering the next generation of cancer fighters. Created in 2001, SMAC began when a small group of friends at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School banded together to help their friend, Rob Mattar, as he battled cancer. Since then, SMAC has become a network of student-led chapters around New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Louisiana who raise funds for cancer causes, launch awareness campaigns, and support their communities. SMAC has raised over two million dollars for cancer causes since its founding.



ANNUAL SHARING THE QUILTS SHOW – MARCH 22

Harvest Quilters of Central New Jersey
Harvest Quilters of Central NJ will present their 41st annual quilt show on Saturday, March 22, 2025. The 41st Sharing the Quilts will be held at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ from 9 a.m. to 5

p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children under twelve.

At 10:30 a.m., Elsa Hahn of Edison will show her work and speak on “Surface Design – Making it Personal.” The award-winning quilter and retired Westfield music teacher will share her

firsthand knowledge of various art quilting techniques, including the pros and cons of popular methods.

Janice M. Tellier of Mountainside will be recognized as 2025’s Featured Quilter. The Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) graduate and lifelong creative spirit will display 20 plus works of original art. Of her 14 vibrant bed-sized quilts Tellier quipped, “I often think my beds are better dressed than I am.”

Tellier’s whimsical fiber art will be featured alongside her acrylic paintings, crochet, examples of bobbin lace making and a fascinating diorama of a miniature modern quilting studio. “My hope is to have the quilts speak to the viewer, with a sense of humor or play on words,” Tellier said.

As is tradition, local charities will benefit from drawings for a modern lap-sized quilt, a traditional queen-sized bed quilt, gift cards and craft themed gift baskets.

In addition to viewing a full array of modern, traditional, art and wall-hanging quilts, attendees can participate in viewer’s choice awards, kid’s crafting table and vendor sales area.

A tearoom offering lunch, snacks, homemade baked goods, and beverages will benefit Willow Grove Church programs.

For additional information, please visit harvestquilters.com, or email: harvestquiltersnj@gmail.com.



(above) Janice M. Tellier will be recognized as 2025’s Featured Quilter.

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ST. JOSEPH SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER DEDICATES RENOVATED MAIN HALL

The St. Joseph's community, including residents from Elizabeth and volunteers and supporters from five counties in New Jersey, came together on February 8 to celebrate the renovation of the Main Hall on its campus. The Hall is the main building at the agency, used to provide a wide array of social services to residents in need in Elizabeth. The renovated Main Hall includes new private offices for mental health counseling and case management services, new facilities for the soup kitchen program, new spaces for the Adult Learning Center and health and nutrition workshops and diagnostic testing, and a reception area where residents can obtain information about agency programs and community services. Karen Maher, President of the Board of Trustees, noted that these new spaces have "allowed the agency to expand services to the community, particularly in the areas of physical and behavioral health."

The renovation of the Main Hall marks the successful completion of a comprehensive facilities improvement plan for the agency. From the initial planning phase five years ago, the principal objectives of this plan have been to 1) enhance and expand services to families and children in need in Elizabeth; and 2) offer services in an environment with greater dignity. "Dignity has been a core value of the agency since our founding in 1986," noted Bernadette

Murphy, Executive Director. "Our goal is to help people acquire the material items they need to live with dignity. We believe that it is vital for our clients to receive food, clothing, supplies and support services in an environment that fosters dignity, where individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness are truly welcomed as sisters and brothers."

The renovations have created new spaces to serve the needs of Elizabeth residents more effectively. The private offices for counseling and case management, for example, now allow staff to speak with residents in confidence about mental and physical health issues, family dynamics and personal trauma. The Adult Learning Center now has a dedicated space for English as a Second Language classes and for work skills training sessions. Community healthcare partners have state of the art spaces to test and diagnose residents on health issues. There is now adequate space to offer health, nutrition and wellness workshops. The soup kitchen now has new equipment and better workflow to serve food. And the reception desk finally gives the agency a central place for residents to come to access agency and community partner resources. All of these spaces have allowed the agency to improve and expand services.

Guests at the dedication included contributors to the \$1.6 million capital campaign to finance

the renovations, community leaders in Elizabeth and Union County, agency volunteers and partners and residents of the local neighborhood. As part of the dedication program, soup kitchen volunteers convened to recognize the founders of the agency by naming the new soup kitchen the "Founders Kitchen" in the Main Hall. Remarkably, the soup kitchen has served guests every single Saturday for 2025 weeks without interruption since the agency was established. Founder and longtime Executive Director of the agency, Sister Jacinta Fernandes, traveled from her community in Maryland to attend the dedication. All in attendance toured the Founders Kitchen and other renovated spaces in the Main Hall and participated in a moving dedication ceremony.

Six days a week a dedicated team of more than 6,000 volunteers from Elizabeth, Union, Clark, Westfield, Cranford, Mountainside and dozens of other communities, make sandwiches for the hungry in their kitchens, bring food, clothing and home goods, serve meals at the soup kitchen and help with the operations of the agency. St. Joseph's serves over 3,500 individuals annually. The organization helps Elizabeth residents access food, medicine, mental health counseling, adult education, clothing and a myriad of additional healthcare and support services.

To learn more about St. Joseph Social Service Center, please visit www.sjeliz.org



(above, l-r) Msgr. Tom Nydegger St. Helen's Westfield, Marilyn Ryan St. Helen's Westfield, Steven Abood St. Helen's Westfield, Sr. Jacinta Fernandes Founder of St. Joseph's, Ray Kostyack, Jr. St. Helen's Westfield, Cindy Abood St. Helen's Westfield, Annette Calderin St. Joseph Social Service Center Elizabeth, Maria Chaillet St. John's Clark, Shirley, Doris & Idali Ramirez Immaculate Conception Elizabeth, Jerry Conheeney St. Michael's Cranford, Aswm. Annette Quijano LD 20, Joan Garthwaite Holy Spirit Union, Harold Kessler Building Project Manager & St. Helen's, Michael Marcus Temple Sha'arey Shalom Springfield, Fr. Anthony Randazzo Holy Trinity Westfield, Second.

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LITERACY SPEAKER EVENT – MARCH 17

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains is hosting the event: Literacy New Jersey (LNJ) presented by Barbara Bagger on March 17th at 7:30 p.m. at Mira Vie located at 295 South Avenue in Fanwood, NJ. The event is free and open to the public.

Barbara Bagger is the Regional Program Director at LNJ and responsible for the literacy programs in both Union and Middlesex Counties. She began her work at LNJ as an ESL volunteer tutor in 2016. In 2017, she was asked to join the LNJ staff as a Literacy Specialist. She became the ESL Coordinator in 2018, then Program Director for Union County in 2020 and finally Regional

Program Director in 2022.

She also has experience teaching conversational English in Romania with the non-profit organization, Global Volunteers. Her volunteer work also includes being a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) supporting children in foster care.

Barbara is a retired lawyer and was a Senior Vice President and in house counsel for litigation with Summit Bank and Bank of America. She currently lives in Westfield with her husband, Rich and her dog, Nova.

Please join us for this informative presentation and bring a guest!

Refreshments will also be offered.



LITERACY

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Union County Programs

SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL REPERTORY THEATRE

FREAKY FRIDAY

Thurs. Mar. 13 at 7PM
Fri. Mar. 14 at 7PM
Sat. Mar. 15 at 7PM
Sun. Mar. 16 at 2PM



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CARRIAGE HOUSE POETRY SCHEDULE

The Carriage House: in the Kuran Arts Center, Watson Road, Fanwood, NJ, on the Fanwood Borough Hall grounds

For updates visit

carriagehousepoetryseries.blogspot.com.

Readings are free and open to the public.

"Irish Poets Night"

March 13th, 7:30 PM

in observance of St. Patrick's Day, featuring John McDermott reading

William Butler Yeats and His Own Work

National Poetry Month

"A Wandering Poet"

April 24th, 7:30 PM

featuring Edmund Baranowski

Featuring Catherine Doty

May 15th, 7:30 PM

Featuring Rogan Kelly

June 19th, 7:30 PM

SUMMER HIATUS: JULY AND AUGUST

Featuring Jane Ebihara and Elaine Koplow

September 18th 7:30 PM

Halloween Special Event:

October 20th, 7:30 PM

"Haunted Hippies & Groovy Ghouls,"

featuring Robin Rosen Chang,

Nancy Lubarsky, Bob Rosenbloom,

Gary Szelc, and Cheryl Vargas

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UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESERVING HISTORY

For more information visit unioncountyhistoricalsocietynj.org.

The Hannah and James Caldwell Memorial Obelisk recently underwent a complete restoration and cleaning at the Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church (formerly known as the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethtown) in Elizabeth thanks to the Union County Historical Society (UCHS).

UCHS President Joanne Rajoppi said, "The 179-year-old obelisk honoring Revolutionary War pastor and patriot James Caldwell and his wife Hannah, was in terrible condition: encrusted dirt from years of neglect with loose mortar and unreadable engravings. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our country, what better time to reflect, remember and honor the contributions of our patriots, especially the Caldwells, who sacrificed their lives for independence."

The Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church cemetery is one of the oldest in the state, dating to the late 1680s. More than 40 officers of the

Continental Army are buried there, many of whom attended the church while Reverend Caldwell served as its pastor. Caldwell also served as General George Washington's Deputy Commissary of supplies during the war. The British placed a bounty on his head and he was murdered in 1781. His wife Hannah and mother of their nine children had been murdered the previous year by a British soldier in the aftermath of the Battle of Connecticut Farms.

There are also more than 313 enslaved and free African Americans buried in the historic cemetery, often in unmarked graves: some are children, and some are likely war veterans. The 313+ Ancestors Speak Project acknowledges and commemorates their lives and burials. A monument with their names was recently erected in the cemetery.

The restoration of the Caldwell memorial was partially funded by a Union County Heart Grant,

donations by the Union Township Historical Society, the NJ Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, (NJSAR), the West Fields Chapter of SAR, American Legion Post 248, the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield and many individual contributors.

Ms. Rajoppi said that the restoration included a workshop on how to clean gravestones.

Volunteers, including local area Boy Scouts, the Crane's Ford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and UCHS members attended the four-hour event.

The restoration work was completed by Richard Grubb & Associates, a full-service cultural resource management firm and one of the largest, independent archaeological and historic preservation consulting companies in the eastern United States. Their corporate headquarters are in Cranbury, New Jersey.

ABOUT THE UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

The UCHS was incorporated by an Act of the 93rd Legislature of the State of New Jersey on April 1, 1869. The objective of this Society is the collection and preservation of all matter of historical relics, books, records, documents, and manuscripts, to stimulate and encourage historical research and the study of history pertaining to the territory originally embraced by Elizabethtown and the present Union County.

The Society exists through the help and generosity of its members. Membership is comprised of citizens who have a common interest in preserving the past. There is no paid staff. The Executive Board and Members perform all Society functions.



(above) The recent restoration and cleaning of the James and Hannah Caldwell Memorial Obelisk at Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth was commissioned by the Union County Historical Society.

Courtesy photos

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