



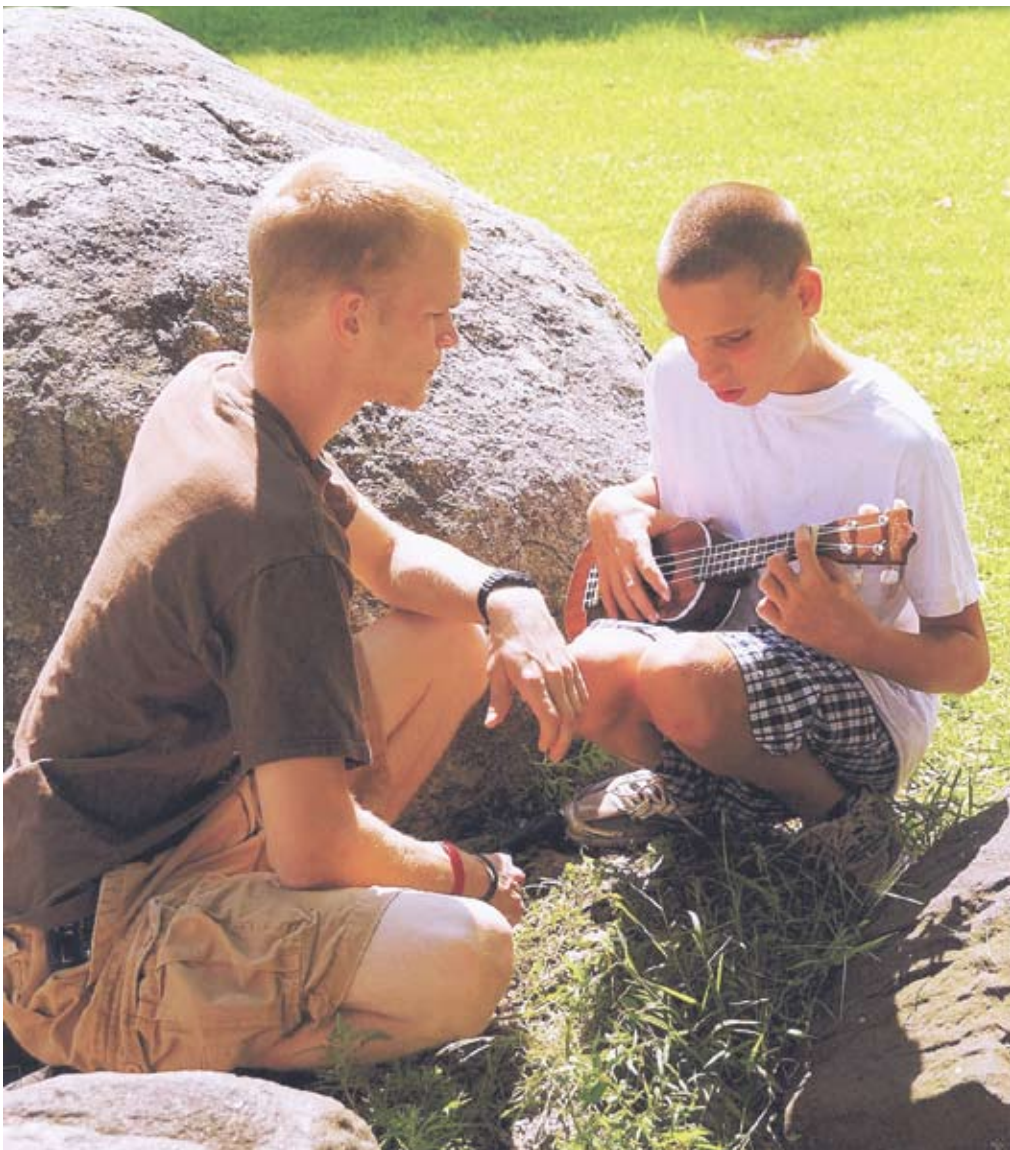
the New Jersey Lion

Volume XVII, No. 4

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Winter 2012

Ridgefield Park Sponsors Picnic for Campers



A blind child learns uke at Camp Marcella.

Members of the Ridgefield Park Lions recently gathered to provide a barbecue for the campers, counselors, and staff at Camp Marcella. President Paula Tarantino and members Johanna and PDG Al Knaub, Barbara

and ZC Rich Scullin, Goldie and Jerry DiMeglio, MaryAnn Guercio, Patricia Ferri, Kristin Tarantino, and Frank Maione joined together in preparing the food and serving the campers. For many of the members this was a first-time and extremely

rewarding experience. Dinner was provided the last night of camp prior to the session-ending campfire. Members who attended were overwhelmed by this extremely heart-warming event. (For more photos, see page 5.)



Fred Frisch, Golf Committee chairman, and Joe Kaufman, manager of Gift of Life Donor Program, The Family House.

Lightning Strike Near Miss for Golfers

The Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley held its signature fund raiser at the Radnor Valley Country Club in Villanova on August 15. The delay by torrential rain and frightening lightning (which struck a tree right next to the club house which drew fire and police to the rescue) did not dampen the day's activities as over 120 golfers, auction attendees, and dinner patrons gathered at

one of the finest private 18-hole championship golf courses in the Philadelphia area.

"Many thanks to our sponsors and our auction contributors," said Jim Quirk, eye bank president. "Without the help of supporters, the day would not have been as successful." Funds raised help the eye bank provide services to donor families and recipients as well as the under insured.



They're Off-The JT Foundation for Autism Awareness, along with the Point Pleasant Lions Club, have partnered to present the 2011 Seafood Festival and Walk. For the second year in a row the event will be co-run by the Point Pleasant Lions Club and The JT Foundation for Autism Awareness.

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Welcome International Convention Guest

Carolyn A. Messier from Windsor Locks, Connecticut was elected to serve a two-year term as a director of The International Association of Lions Clubs at the association's 94th International Convention held in Seattle, Washington July 4-8.

Director Messier is the executive director of the Lions Low Vision Center and is a low vision therapist.

A member of the Windsor Locks Lions Club and a Lion since 1990, she has held many offices within the association, including

club president, cabinet secretary, zone chair, region chair, district membership chair, leadership development chair, vice district governor, district governor, council chair, and council secretary/treasurer. She also served as a member of the Memphis USA/Canada Forum Committee, was a presenter at the Faculty Development Institute, six DG/VDG schools, and several district/state conventions/conferences, and was a presenter or moderator at five USA/Canada Forums.

In recognition of her service to the association, she has received numerous awards, including the Club Lion of the Year, 100% Club President Award, two International President's Certificates of Appreciation, an International President's Leadership Award and an International President's Medal. She is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to Lions activities, Director Messier is active in numerous professional and community (Continued on page 6)



Carolyn A. Messier, Intl. Director



A Success Story: Leos Book Project for Tanzania

After months of planning and problems solving, Edison Metro Lions and its Leos have finally completed its first challenging project, Books for Tanzania, Africa. The mission was accomplished due to the collaborated effort of Edison Metro President Kirby Tan, East Brunswick Leo President Kathy Zhao, PDG Eddie Hui, and Dar Es Salaam Pwani Lions Club. All Lions and Leos who had contributed their time and energy to this project also deserved the credit.

The true story began with Kathy Zhao's research of the UN Millennium Development Goals for a Leo project, and it led her to education in Tanzania. She learned that schools were mandatory there, but children lacked basic learning materials. She noticed that the local library in her area would throw away countless

boxes of books—books that could still be read and loved, but ultimately ended up in the landfill. There had to be some better fate for these books, she thought.

The Dar Es Salaam Pwani Lions Club in Tanzania was contacted via emails from Lion Eddie and Leo Kathy. Lions there were thrilled that New Jersey Leos from East Brunswick, Edison, and Highland Park were collecting books for their secondary schools. For some schools, the books would help to create their first-ever library.

By March, over 1,600 books were collected and all boxed up sitting in various Leos' houses. The project rolled to a standstill because the shipping cost was unaffordable. The company that charges cheaper rates refused to sail by the east coast of Africa where the Somali pirates often

hijack or kidnap. The project seemed doom at the time.

With a stroke of luck, Lion Kirby came to the rescue. He happened to have friends in the shipping business. Moved by Lions and Leos' humanitarian effort, a shipping owner offered to ship the books by sea for a discounted rate. A few generous people, including Kirby, donated toward the shipping cost, and the Edison Lions Club contributed the balance. Lion Kirby also provided the standard shipping boxes. Leos brought the books to a middle school to organize and pack them. They also signed their names on poster with the words "One Heart One World," and placed it in a shipping tube. They cheered and waved when Lion Kirby drove a van to pick up the 35 boxes of books (weighing more than 1,000 pounds on the shipping company's scale). The new library was on its way to Tanzania.

Four months later the books were in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.



They were received and re-sorted by the Pwani Lions Club. They found that there were enough books to create several new libraries for both a few primary schools and the secondary school in the Bagamoyo District. One box of books will even be donated to the University of Dar Es Salaam.

Through it all, the project has encountered and overcome problems, and found priceless support in Lions and Leos and in the community. Most importantly, it's comforting to know that over 1,600 books will light up the lives of children and adults in Tanzania.

Dover Health Fair a Collaboration

On November 1, the Rockaway Township, and Bridgewater Lions Clubs, Lions Clubs International Foundation, GlaxoSmithKline, and the Harmonium Choral Society sponsored a Health Fair in Dover.

About 200 hearty souls from the area came to learn about the services provided by the Dover Police, Dover Business College, Zufall Health Center, Mission Nutrition, ABC-Senior Services, Morris County Office of Hispanic Affairs, Elderly Law, El Primer Paso, Goodale Prescription Pharmacy, Rockaway Library, and Quillen Advisory Services.

Free services provided to all were eye screening, blood pressure testing, and cholesterol and blood glucose testing. The Rockaway Lions also had information for prospective members.

Music was provided by the Harmonium Choral Society in the afternoon. They provided a variety of songs from around the world. This was a great treat.

A special thanks to Glaxo-SmithKline which provided funding for this event. Without their help, this learning experience for all the attendees would not have been possible.



Edward Poto, president of Rockaway Lions Club, District Governor Diego Santiago, and Daniel Prince, president Bridgewater Lions Club at the Dover Health Fair.



Lion Ping Wu performs sight screenings at the Dover Health Fair.



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Lion

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Walter Margetts Award presented to individuals for dedication and support of Camp Marcella 2011: Ramon Villoslada, Mayra Villoslada, Luis Gonzalez and Marie Nieto, all members of the West New York Leones Cubanos de Hudson.

Camp Marcella's Season of Success!

Another season of success has come to an end at Camp Marcella, but the sounds of music, laughter, and just plain fun still echo throughout the campsite! Since 1947, blind and visually impaired children—many with additional emotional and physical challenges—have attended summer sessions at the camp. Fifty-seven blind and visually impaired, multiple-challenged campers attended camp during the first two weeks of August in addition to 150 plus special needs campers who attended sessions in July! Campers ages six through 19 were among the 57 who attended this year's sessions for the blind and visually impaired which included (but was not limited to) activities in music, arts and crafts, hiking, swimming, and sports. Most importantly, the new campers who attend gain skills in inde-

pendence and self-confidence, while the returning campers continue to enhance the skills previously learned. Anyone, in addition to the camper parents, who has attended the campfire at the end of each session can attest to the success of each child's experience at camp! The campers hug and congratulate each other as they are awarded recognitions by their counselors for various achievements—the overall camaraderie during this event—all attest to the excellent time they have shared together. A special thanks to Camp Director Phil Cocilovo and the counselors and staff for all of their efforts in making each experience a memorable one. In addition to a number of new campers attending this year's sessions, we also had former campers returning and renewing old friendships and forming new ones—and this

is what Camp Marcella is all about. We would like to thank the Lions of Mt. Olive, Randolph, and Ridgefield Park who did an outstanding job in providing barbecues that were much enjoyed by the campers. We would also like to thank those Lions Clubs, as well as private donors, that provided funding for camperships for those children who are in need of financial assistance in order to attend. As we begin preparations for next year's season, we again ask that ALL LIONS help us to increase our numbers by seeking blind and visually impaired children in and outside of your communities. Help us to spread the word to the other 1,200 children that we know are out there who are not aware that Camp Marcella is still open and very much alive.



Annual Harvest Luncheon and Awards—Jose Nieto, executive vice president/treasurer, receives the Nathan Rogoff Award for outstanding service and dedication by a trustee to Camp Marcella on October 23.



Chairman's Award presented By PID Robert Moore to Kristin Tarantino of Ridgefield Park Lions for continued and outstanding support and dedication to Camp Marcella.



Camp Marcella pig roast



Acute Eye Problem Discovered at South Orange Health Fair

The South Orange Lions Club sponsored the District 16E Lions Eye/Ear-Mobile at the South Orange Health Fair and Celebrate South Orange Day on June 11 in downtown South Orange. In addition to enjoying the music, good food, and demonstrations by local agencies and

performers, members of the South Orange community were able to receive eye screenings in the eye/ear-mobile. The South Orange Lions members were assisted by Dr. Arthur Tutela of West Orange and Dr. Vatsal Dosh of Millburn, who performed many screenings

for the fair goers. The fair goers received information about eye care and diabetes. We are happy to report that the doctors were able to find an acute eye problem in one of the people who was screened and referred them for to the appropriate surgeon.



Knowlton Twp. Annual Halloween Party and Harley Drawing

Congratulations to John B. from Clifton, grand prize winner of the 2011 Harley Davidson motorcycle and the two-place enclosed trailer pictured above. Knowlton Treasurer Cindy Hendershot works the table for the last minute ticket sales. Despite an early snowfall, the Lions and the Knowlton Recreation Department hosted a fun-filled Halloween party

with free hot dogs, apple cider donuts, Halloween cookies, hot chocolate, hot apple cider, coffee, and of course, Halloween candy for all. A highlight of the evening was a huge bonfire. Unfortunately, the snow precluded the hay ride. There was a costume contest for the kids and then the "tada" moment of the drawing of the motorcycle winner.



District Governor Michael Marrazzo inducts Lewis Sasaki as the newest member of the Eatontown Lions Club. L to R: Toby Stark, sponsor; Lewis Sasaki, Michael Mazzarro, District Governor; and Carl Lillvik, membership chairman.

Eatontown Inducts New Member

The recent meeting of the Eatontown Lions Club was a very busy one. The club was honored with a visit from the Lions district governor, Michael Marrazzo, who addressed the club and brought the members up-to-date on how the district was progressing. He stressed how the clubs in the district could best serve their communities by net-

working and sharing their ideas and resources.

After his address Governor Marrazzo conducted the induction ceremony of Lewis Sasaki as the newest member of the Eatontown Lions Club. District Governor Marrazzo then joined Club President Joe Aretino as he awarded the Lions Clubs International Melvin Jones Fellowship to

members Toby Stark and Richard Fowler, who have distinguished themselves through exemplary service to the Lions and the community.

The Melvin Jones Fellowship is named for the founder of Lions Clubs International. The fellowship is recognition of a commitment to humanitarian work. It is the foundation's highest honor.



Flash! What governor was seen with Marilyn Monroe? District Governor Dayle Baile gets a surprise visit from Marilyn Monroe (look alike) at the Brigantine Lions Murder at the Oscars.



An entrant at the District A Charitable Foundation Car Show.

Eye Bank Announces Shift to Celebrate Partnership with NJ Lions

"The Lions of MD16 and the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey have a strong commitment to help the visually impaired," explains Elspeth Moore, board chair of the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey. "It is evident in the way they work together to serve their communities. We must celebrate this, and let all Lions know how we are changing lives together."

In September, the eye bank's board of directors approved three key concepts to be implemented this Lions year: a revised Visionary of the Year dinner; the Lions Ambassador Council and the 4-Star Visionary Club Award.

The Visionary of the Year dinner was initiated many years ago by Lion Marshall Klein, former executive director and co-founder of the eye bank, to honor those in

the community who support the eye bank's mission. Past Visionaries of the Year include Dr. Geetha Natarajan (1995), Herb Bodensiek (2003), Stanley and Ruth Grossman (2008), and Senator Richard Codey (2009). With the shift to the dinner now being exclusively a Lions celebration, Lions and clubs will be honored and recognized for their support of the eye bank and its mission to restore and preserve sight through cornea transplantation, research, education, and partnership.

The event will be held on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at Mayfair Farms in West Orange. Lions clubs and businessowners will have an opportunity to purchase an advertisement in a special Lions program booklet. This year, PDG Paula Tarantino

of District 16-A will be honored for her many years of service supporting the visually impaired through various state projects, including the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey. Other Lions and Lions clubs will be recognized during the evening, and the four winners of the 50/50 raffle, with cash prizes ranging from \$500 to \$2,500, will be announced as well.

The eye bank's board also approved the formation of a Lions Ambassador Council, which will consist of Lions club members appointed by their club presidents to serve as club ambassadors to the eye bank. In this role, ambassadors will serve as a link between the eye bank and each club, providing advice and exchanging information.

"The role of Lions ambassador will be crucial in strengthening our relationship with Lions clubs," says Margaret Chaplin, the eye bank's executive director. "Any Lions club member can do it, whether he or she has been a Lion for many years or has just joined the club. I am excited about this council because it will bring Lions across the Garden State together in support of a mission we share." Chaplin adds that Susan Mueller of the Stafford Township Lions Club, Valerie Frietas of the Atlantic Highlands Lions, and Gerri LoSapio of the Chester Lions Club have already stepped forward to become council members.

The 4-Star Visionary Club Award is named for the four requirements that accompany

this special honor. Each 4-Star Lions club shall (1) assign a Lions ambassador, (2) conduct a Lions Donor Day or other volunteer activity promoting eye, organ, and tissue donation, (3) make a financial gift to the eye bank, and (4) participate in the visionary dinner. "We expect several clubs to receive this award at the upcoming 2012 Visionary Dinner," says Cathy Wasner, the eye bank's community coordinator. "Several clubs are already well on their way!"

For further information and to purchase advertisements and raffle tickets, please contact Cathy Wasner at cwasner@lebnj.org, or call (800) 653-9379. You can also visit us at www.lebnj.org and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lionseyebanknj.



The Chester Lions Club was pleased to present a check for \$5,000 to Barbara Dzedzic of Succasunna, N.J. at a regularly scheduled meeting. Mrs. Dzedzic was thrilled to be the winner of the \$5,000. She could not believe her good fortune. Only 500 50/50 tickets were sold, excellent odds for those who participated. The drawing took place at our signature event, the Chester Lions Club Oktoberfest. The \$5,000 raised to the club from ticket sales will be distributed to charitable causes.



Lion Ed Saegers and Rita's owner/operator Joe Savare

Belleville Partners With Rita's Water Ice

During the past several months, the Belleville Lions Club has partnered with Rita's Water Ice to raise funds for the club. The early summer drive was so successful that they raised enough money to increase their annual scholarships by one. The club has a major Christmas tree fund raiser this year and is partnering with Rita's to raise additional funds. They use a special discount flyer when people buy a tree. They take the discount flyer to Rita's and the club gets a donation for each customer sent.

Ridgefield Park Sponsors Picnic for Campers!

(Story on page 1)



The arts and crafts room is very popular with campers of all ages.



Camp campfire



Pool fun and games



A neat place to hang out and talk

BRIEFS

Good Night, Irene, Good Night!

Both the Belvidere Club and the Warren Township Club received emergency grants from the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) for \$5,000 each to help the victims of Hurricane Irene and its subsequent flooding. These were the only two clubs in New Jersey who applied for grants, and their applications were readily accepted. Belvidere's Emergency Management Coordinator has identified 88 residences and 23 businesses that required aid, and the Belvidere Club purchased gift cards from WalMart and Target to help these folks. The Warren Club distributed gift cards to those who sustained major flood damage in Bound Brook and Manville to purchase food, clothing, and medicines lost in the storm. Matt Saum, the new state chairman for the Lions ALERT Emergency Preparation Program, was instrumental in providing information on the status of the storm damage and provided information on how to apply for LCIF grants.

What a Shame—Every issue, I get 10-12 pictures that I would use because they would tell a story. In fact, the only thing they tell me is they were not taken by a camera. People think cell phones, iPods and countless other types of technology are also cameras. True they take pictures, the little pictures look great, but blow them up to 5"x7" or 8"x 10" and they fall apart. Everything becomes fuzzy, you can not see face features or, in some cases, the center activity of the picture. Even a cheap camera takes better pictures. I am sure someone in your club can come up with a camera for an event. You can get very cheap disposable cameras with 24

pictures. While the NJLion can only use one or two pictures, we send everything along to the MD 16 web site and they can take lots of pictures. All pictures need to be sharp, clear and if possible, taken with a flash, even outside. If the subjects have a hat on, the faces will be shaded and hard to see. We want your pictures, clear and sharp.

Lindenwold Leos Help the Dogs—Over the past four years, the Lindenwold Leo Club and their partners, the Environmental Club and the Interact Club, worked together to raise funds to care for homeless dogs at the Camden County Animal Shelter. The group sponsors a dog walk each year that is growing in size. They raise about \$1,500 a year from the activity. The funds are given directly to the shelter. During the walk the students also collect food and toys that are given to the shelter. The Leo club operates a photo booth where owners can get pictures of their pets for \$1 each. The students are considering expanding their good work by inviting other schools to become involved in the walk or to do a walk in their area for homeless pets. By bringing the groups together, the students would increase the publicity and draw in local businesses.

District 16D Charitable Foundation—Over last summer, several trustees from the two District 16D foundations (Audio-Visual Screening Foundation and the Eye and Ear Foundation) got together and merged these two foundations into the new District 16-D Charitable Foundation, a registered business in the State of New Jersey and a federal 501c3(a) entity providing tax exempt status for all donations

made to it. Contributions to the new foundation can be mailed to: Foundation Treasurer, 29 Davis Street, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080. Clubs may specify which charities are to receive donations and how much, and the new foundation will honor these requests.

Devils vs. Flyers Hockey Game For Lions—Again this year, there will be a special Lions night at a NJ Devils hockey game—Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 1 p.m. at the new Prudential Center in Newark. An order blank will be mailed shortly to all club presidents announcing this event and how to purchase tickets. Tickets will be \$50 each (discounted from the normal \$69) with each club receiving \$10 back for its charitable accounts for each \$50 ticket purchased. This year, the game is between the Devils and the Flyers, so it would be best to get your orders in soon since this match-up will generate a lot of interest. For anyone who has not been to an event at the Prudential Center venue, you are in for a real treat! The center is surrounded by some of the best restaurants in New Jersey; parking is available right next to the center, and Newark's finest provide a very high level of safety and security.

District D LEO Clubs—Right now, one of the fastest growing parts of District 16D is our Leo clubs—we now have 10 official clubs in all areas of the district: Bridgewater-Raritan, Belvidere, East Brunswick-Edison, Edison, Edison Visionary, Highland Park-Edison, Jamesburg, North Warren, Sayreville, and Metuchen. Starting a Leo club is relatively simple and the LCI website takes you through all

the requirements. Last year's Leo chairperson, Niketa Patel from the Edison Visionary Club, received the 2010-11 Leo Club Extension Award from the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors for outstanding achievement in Leo club growth by achieving a net gain of at least three new Leo clubs. This year's Leo club chairperson is Fay Kobland, who helped found the Jamesburg Club and is an excellent source of information on Leos.

Stafford Twp. Lions—As the year 2011 comes to the end, we have many projects as all our members are involved with a project. The club sponsored three scholarship awards to students of Southern Regional High School. In June, there were nine members that did A Walk for Life sponsored by Southern Ocean Medical Center for cancer. Founders Day in Manahawkin, chaired by Lion Bob Skrable, included the Guide Dogs of Morristown and a representative from Lions Eye Bank of NJ. Lion Bob Skrable cuts out wooden objects for some members to take to Emeritus Assisted Living home. Residents at the home painted bird houses to hang out in their garden and other objects painted become table decorations. The residents really look forward to the return of the Lions. Lion Ken Welsh is chairperson. Lion Susan Mueller takes a group of Lion ladies to Sea Crest Nursing Home where they socialize with the residents. In August, Lion Susan Mueller ran an outing on the River Lady paddle boat in Toms River, and a good time was had by 10 members; this will probably be a yearly event. Ten members went to the Seeing Eye Dog Facility in Morristown, NJ where they received information on training and

how one obtains a dog. Sea Pirate Day in Barnegat, chaired by Lion Susan Mueller, handed out brochures and stickers to people to make them aware of Lions and what they do. Spring and fall eye screenings were chaired by Lions Tom Struble and Lou Schovanec. Screening covered Waretown to Little Egg Harbor in South Jersey; approximate 350 children were screened at 22 locations. Eye Glasses for Recycling, Lions Ed and Isabelle Sapanara, collected for the recycling of 2,977 glasses in 2011. Since they started this as their project in 2006, they have collected 17,289 glasses. Our White Cane, chaired by Lion Peter Casamento, started in May and ended in October at Wal-Mart in Manahawkin and Bageledies on Long Beach Island. This is one of our main sources of fundraising. In October, at the Chowder Fest on Long Beach Island, members spent the day trying to get new members and handing out brochures. Lion Gladys Cassamento was chairperson. The club is still collecting Stamps for the Wounded—Lion Ruth Skrable chairperson. Thank-giving and Christmas certificates are given to the churches for food for the needy. Lions Gladys and Peter Casamento are chairpersons for this project.

Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley 10 Day Panama Cruise—Feb.7-Partial Transit of the Panama Canal-plus Aruba, Cartagena, Costa Rica, and Grand Cayman. Each person gets \$60 onboard credit. Starting at \$1831.52. Contact Georgiann at Custom Travel Services, (856) 663-0444.

Crowds Come Out for Middletown's Annual Auto Show



This was a tough year for outside Lions events. Weekends usually arrived with rain and weather gloom. The Middletown Lions Club knew they were lucky when the day came for the 6th Annual Auto Show and Motorcycle Meet for the New Jersey Blind Citizens Association-Camp Happiness. The good weather brought out 118 cars and vehicles; the crowds followed. Master of Ceremonies and founder of the event, Al Siano, reported the club raised over \$10,000 in entrance fees, business scholarships and vendor/

exhibitor fees. This is more than a auto/motorcycle show. It is a community event. The people come in large numbers to see the beautiful cars and bikes, to listen to the music of the era, to participate in the side events—a hula hoop contest, karaoke, and trophy presentations. Music was donated by Z-Man Productions, aka Ziggy, and featured a special appearance and performance by Johnny G. Tarangelo, a former member of the popular doo wop group, The Mystics. Johnny T received a

Middletown Lions Club President Lori Ann Oliwa presents 'Lion Heart' Awards to Lions Craig Finnegan (left) and Al Siano (right) for their extensive involvement with the auto and motorcycle meet.

special award for his donation of time and talent. The students of Middletown High School DECA club pitched in and washed cars during the day. They presented the proceeds, about \$800, to

NJBCA.

Lion Doug Scott, executive director of NJBCA, expressed his gratitude to the Middletown Lions Club for their outstanding support for Camp Happiness in Leonardo.

The 101 year old camp presents supportive programs for Camp Happiness. For more information on the event, check the Middletown website, www.mlions.org or email president@mlions.org.

Organization Meeting of Rutgers Visionary Lions Club



The very first campus club in District 16-D was announced on November 8, and an organization meeting was conducted. DG Lion Doug Reeder, VDG Lion John Kobland, and GMT-D Lion Mahesh Chitnis addressed the meeting and answered the queries of the potential members. A campus Lions club can make an impact on both the local campus community and communities around the world, while connecting students, faculty members, and business leaders.

Lion Rebecca Davis, faculty advisor, is very enthusiastic to

help this new club to have several projects that will have positive impact on the student life. This club aims to have several youth exchange programs twinning with clubs around the world.

Melenie Krutzel was elected as a president of the new club. Molly Bandeh, Anna Samoylov, and Kevin Dahaghi were elected as secretary, treasurer, and membership chair. Rutgers Visionary Lions Club will be chartered in January 2012. Potential members can contact the organization team at rvlc@visionarylions.org.



The winner of the President's Trophy, presented by King Lion Lori Anne Oliwa, was a 1955 Thunderbird convertible owned by Barbara Fincher. The candy-apple red convertible caused quite a stir amongst classic car enthusiasts and also won a second trophy.

Welcome International Guest

(Continued from page 1)
organizations, including being a member of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Visually Impaired and a board member for the Fidelco Lions Advisory Board and the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation. She has also served as Loyal Shepherd Fellow of the

Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation and has been honored by the Board of Education Services for the Blind for Outstanding Work with the Visually Impaired.

Director Messier and her husband, Normand, also a Lion and a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, have two sons.

The Lady Lions, sponsored by the Oceanport Lions Club, won the Jersey Shore Fall Softball League Championship by beating the Manalapan Belles 8-7 in extra innings. Front row (kneeling left to right): Alex Ledone, Abbey Wortman, Meri Rossi, Emily Harvan, Emily Sgro. Back Row (left to right): Coach Dave Roberts, Bailey Bestle, Alexis Travers, Megan Wellinghorst, Emily Roberts, Coach Pete Dellera Jr., Olivia Cleaves, and Coach Pete Wortman. Not present: Joscelyn Poll.



During the past year, the Edison Visionary Lions Club sponsored a new club in District 323-A 2 in India.

Lions Club of Navi Mumbai Visionary World Personalized Service Day

Following the tradition of October service week, Lions District 323 A-2 conducted several service activities between second and ninth of October. At the concluding ceremony the district announced formation of a new Lions club for young professionals. Edison Visionary Lions Club

is co-sponsoring this unique club. At-large member of Edison Visionary, Lion Suprabha Raorane, is the organizer of the club.

Lion Mahesh Chitnis, charter president of Edison Visionary Lions, while working on several twinning service projects in Navi Mumbai, encouraged the

participating Lionesses to form a Lions club with a vision. His efforts were fruitful, and "Lions Club of Navi Mumbai Visionary" was announced. This club was chartered in December. This is the second club in India co-sponsored by Edison Visionary Lions this year.



Edison Visionary Lions Club



The Moorestown Lions Club was represented in this year's July 4th parade with Lion Peter Thorndike as Benjamin Franklin, President Jeanette Habina as George Washington and Jim Dungee as Abraham Lincoln. The "Capital Building" float was designed and built by Lion Joe Perla. The Moorestown Lions Club's 4th of July float was designed, built, and driven by Lion Joe Perla, assisted by President Jeanette Habina's grandson, Wilson James.

Yankees Great Attends Saddle River Celebrity Golf Tournament



Yankee Great Yogi Berra and Jim Murphy at Saddle River Valley Celebrity Golf Tournament—The Saddle River Valley Lions had 20 golfers participate in the Gene Michaels Celebrity Golf Tournament held at Brooklake Country Club in Florham Park in September to benefit the Concordia Learning Center at St. Joseph's School for the Blind in Jersey City. This year's event was once again a huge success.



Lions Jerry Michotta and Paul Beck sell ice cream at the the Saddle River Valley Lions booth at Mahwah Day 2011 in September.



Jennifer Murphy hanging out with Saddle River Valley Lions Mascot "Leo" at one of the club's events.

While Others Ponder... Lions Act.

The District 16 C Charitable Foundation came up with a great idea that really sparked a lot of interest in the district. They offered to match any club's donation to an established food bank... and clubs responded to the challenge.



Hammonton Lions Club donated a total of \$500 to the two local food pantries and presented the checks at their November 1 meeting. (L to R) King Lion Carol Orsi presents a \$250 check to Pastor Jen Fox for the food pantry at the Hammonton Presbyterian Church, and Ed Muller, director of the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry, accepts a \$250 check from Lion Tom Alvino, food collection chairperson. The donations will be matched by the Lions District 16C Charitable Foundation. The club is also holding a food donation drive each month to help meet the increased need of families in the Hammonton area.



President Nancy Sapper of the Berlin Lions Club presents a check to Michael Chang, manager of the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store and Food Pantry. The funds are to be used to help stock the very, very, very low inventory in the food pantry. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is the parent organization of the many thrift stores which are located nationwide. The Berlin location happens to also have a food pantry.



Brigantine Lions President Steve Satz presents a check for \$500 to Linda Simpson, coordinator, The True Spirit Coalition at the Community Presbyterian Church. Also pictured is Carole Mooney, secretary of the Lions, and Marge Holmes from the coalition.



(L to R) Berlin Lions President Nancy Sapper presents a check to Jon Hundertmark, VP of God's Interfaith Food Table, for the G.I.F.T. pantry, located in the Holy Communion Lutheran Church in Berlin. Club VP Lois Kelly looks on (right). GIFT Inc. is supported by four Berlin Protestant churches: Holy Communion Lutheran, Centenary Methodist, Berlin, Baptist and the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd.



Westville Lions Club President Liz Giuliano (right) presents a \$500 check on behalf of the Westville Lions to Alice McEwen (left), food bank director at the Colonial Manor United Methodist Church in West Deptford, NJ. The food bank at Colonial Manor United Methodist Church is providing assistance to those in need from Westville. The Westville Lions donation to this food bank resulted in a matching donation for the District 16 C Charitable Foundation.



Turnersville - Washington Township Lions Club made \$500 donation to The ARC Gloucester. Ana Rivera (Executive Director) receives a check presented by Rich Citrino, Sr.



Cranbury & Pumpkins —a great combination

Cranbury Lions Club joins with the Cranbury PTO for their annual Halloween pumpkin carving event on Friday evening, October 28, for the children and families of Cranbury. Over 100 children and their families enjoyed an evening of pumpkin carving. The Lions provided ice cream, donuts, and cider, as well as the popular face painting. The Lions provided 40 pumpkins for a discount purchase at the affair. Above left, Bob Virgadamo, “The Great Pumpkin,” judges the pumpkins, and 1st Vice District Governor John Kobland films the decorated pumpkins. Above right, Lion Phyllis Johnson at the ice cream cart with Lion Monty Haggerty setting up the cider in the background.



Members of the ‘Knights of Sight,’ the Middletown Lions Club all-volunteer vision screening team, are congratulated by Superintendent of Schools William O. George III and Board of Education President Stephen F. Willig. Back row, left to right, Superintendent George, Sycamore Drive School Nurse Jill Generelli, Lions Craig Finnegan, Larry Caminiti, Ben Albala, Rich LaBarbera, and President Willig. Front row, left to right, Lions Tom Mahon, Eleanor Holstein, Beverly Bova Scarano, Lion President Lori Anne Oliwa, and Lion Kathy Davies. Not pictured: Lions Ron Finnegan and Tom Guarino.



The Saddle River Valley Lions were invited to attend a New Jersey Jackals Baseball game at Yogi Berra Stadium in Montclair. The Jackals played the Federals while the Lion members enjoyed a tasty barbecue.

Chester Club’s Octoberfest is Good Fun All Around

Each year the Chester Lions Club present their Octoberfest. The 2011 Fest was the thirteenth, and it turned into a major fund raiser for the clubs and for the many local and Lions projects they support.

Beer and wholesome German foods take center stage. Enjoy the finest in German Oktoberfest beers, brewed specifically for this event. Foods offered from noon until 8 p.m. daily include bratwurst, sauerkraut, potato salad and the most delicious smoked pork chops you ever tasted.

Food and drink were available all day, along with the fantastic performance of the famous German band, The Adlers, noted for authentic German costumes and music, including bell ringers and a unique water goblet musician. Classic German dancers also performed.

Additional activities included a wide variety of games and rides designed to entertain the entire family. A rock climbing wall,

pony rides, obstacle course and a super slide entertained active youngsters and sand art and spin art was available for the artistically inclined.

Classic cars were on display and numerous organizations, including the NJ Blind Citizens Association and the Seeing Eye, were on hand to answer questions.

In previous years, funds raised at the event were donated to many deserving charities including the New Jersey Eye Bank, The Seeing Eye, New Jersey Battered Women, ARC of Morris County, Community Hope, local first aid and fire departments and high school scholarships.

Volunteers from area schools and organizations make the Oktoberfest function every year and this year was no exception. Community involvement and generous sponsors allow the Chester Lions Club to continue its contributions to numerous charities.



The Scotch Plains Lions Club works closely with Boy Scout Troop 104 of Scotch Plains. The Lions donate to the troop for needed supplies and equipment and present Lions Eagle Scout Certificates of Achievement to the new Eagle Scouts. The scouts help the club at the pancake breakfasts it sponsors. This October, more than 20 scouts (in several shifts) helped prepare food and serve the guests at the breakfast. The photo was taken at the end of the successful breakfast. Lions in the photo are (left to right) Ron Kelly, breakfast chairman; Don Wussler, and Jerry Kirshenbaum.



Go Fly Your Kite! The Oceanport Lions Club came up with an interesting way to mark the end of summer. They held a kite flying contest. They got lucky and had good weather for the contest. About 70 children participated and flew their kites. Bicycles were given to the elated winners, third graders from Wolf Hill School, Melanie Watts and Joshua Beer. The judging of the contest was done by Lions PDG Norman Palmer, PDG Joyce Palmer, Karl Perry, Michelle Swobodzein, Matt Schneider, and Michelle Tibbetts.



The Saddle River Valley Lions Club participated at Mahwah Day held on September 24. Thousands of people from Mahwah and surrounding communities enjoyed the fun and festivities that ended with a fireworks display. The Mahwah Dairy Queen sponsored the Saddle River Valley Lions booth, and hundreds of ice cream cones were sold along with free balloons given to the children. Pictured above is Jim Murphy, member, as the "Lion".

New Jersey Lions Take Part in the USA/ Canada Lions Leadership Forum



Lion Mahesh Chitnis with Lion John Kobland, 1st VDG 16-D.



Lion Mahesh Chitnis with Lion Carmion Fuhrman DG from Bruceton Tenn and a member of the host committee.



Harrington Park Awards Scholarships—Nicole Reeves and Michael Bucceroni were named the Harrington Park scholars for 2011. Both were awarded \$2,000 scholarships by the Harrington Park Lions Club. The scholars are pictured with Scholarship Chair Louis Apa and President James Pepe.

‘Knights of Sight’ Recognized By Hazlet Township BOE

The Hazlet Township Board of Education recognized the Middletown Township Lions Club Vision Screening Team, the ‘Knights of Sight,’ at their regular meeting on October 3. The volunteer vision screening team recently tested the eyes of 254 kindergarten students at the Sycamore Drive Early Childhood Learning Center at no charge to the school district. Superintendent of Schools Dr. William O. George III, Ed. D., Assistant Superintendent Dr. Bernard F. Bragen, Jr., and Board of Education President Stephen F. Willig presented certificates of appreciation to each member of the team. Sight preservation and prevention of blindness are major global initiatives of Lions clubs throughout the world. Middletown Lions Sight Committee Chairman Rich LaBarbera stated the purpose of the screenings is to detect common eye ailments, such as lazy eye, shaking eyes, and refractive errors like near-sightedness and

far-sightedness. Noting that lazy eye is one of the leading causes of blindness in children, he clarified that the condition can be corrected up until the age of eight. Lion volunteers conduct the vision screenings using special cameras known as Welch Allyn Suresight Vision Screeners. Team members receive extensive training in the operation of the cameras. The Suresight Vision Screeners take digital readings without physical contact, and results from the exams are sent directly to the South Jersey Eye Center, Camden, where they are evaluated by medical doctors. Parents are notified of any problems. To date, the ‘Knights of Sight’ have performed vision screenings in the Middletown Township and Red Bank school districts, and will be visiting the Matawan School District in the near future. Several thousand students have had their eyes tested. The Middletown Township Lions Club, chartered in 1946 under

Lions International, is a volunteer service organization consisting of men and women who help the community through various charitable service programs and fundraising initiatives. The club assists individuals and families by underwriting free eye exams, eye-glasses, and hearing aids for those who cannot afford them and also donates funds to local charities that advocate for the blind and visually-impaired. Members also volunteer directly at The Kitchen at St. Marks Food Pantry, Keansburg, by purchasing, preparing, and serving meals to the hungry. The club has instituted a capital campaign—‘Hear Their Voices’—which will guarantee the continuation and expansion of all charitable programs. Checks can be sent to the Middletown Lions Club, c/o Lion President Lori Anne Oliwa, P.O. Box 75, Middletown, N.J., 07748 and should contain a designation for the capital campaign in the memo area.



Hammonton Lions Club V.P Lisa Frederico receives the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley Diamond Club Award from Gene Polgar PID, for their outstanding support of the eye bank over the past year. L-R: Arthur Orsi, District Governor Dayl Baile, Marlene Martin, Lisa Frederico, Sal Velardi, Gene Polgar, and Jim and Janice Heisler.



Daniella Buccì was awarded a \$1,000 Wayne Lions Club/Paul Vigilant Memorial Scholarship at the Wayne Valley HS Senior Awards Program on June 1, 2011. Miss Buccì will attend Montclair State University and she hopes to work with children upon completing her degree. The presenter is Lion Jim Sandford, scholarship chairperson for the club.



(Standing) Hansa Mehta, breast cancer survivor and Lion member spouse; Linda Mathew, speaker of the topic; and Shefali Patel, Lion member spouse.

Central Jersey Indian L.C. Seminar

The Central Jersey Indian Lions Club in District D sponsored a Breast Cancer Awareness seminar in October. Over the past several years the group has been active in organizing health and eye camps throughout New Jersey. The program started with a story from Hansa Mehta, a breast cancer survivor. She described the emotion of finding out she had cancer and

how it influenced her husband and two young sons. Because of early detection, she is now cancer free.

The major speaker was Linda Mathew, a licensed clinical oncologist for the past 10 years. The speakers stressed early detection and the importance of yearly exams. They discussed facilities available to do breast cancer screenings and mam-

mograms even if the patient cannot afford it. Both speakers covered most cancer related topics and answered many questions from the audience.

For more individual information, the speakers urged the group to contact Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick and the National Cancer Institute.



Westfield Lions Jeff Broadwell and Rev. Lois Schembs selling the Lions Big Coloring Books at a church fair.

Scotch Plains Lions Honor Daniel Pesin

Daniel Pesin is a senior at Scotch Plains, Fanwood High School. At a recent meeting of the Scotch Plains Lions Club he was presented with the Lions Certificate of Achievement for his volunteer work with the Lions.

Like his brother, Michael, before him, Daniel has been collecting used eyeglasses for the Lions Recycling program. Lions eyeglasses recycling boxes have been placed in various places (schools, religious institutions, and hospitals) in the neighborhood with signs describing the project.

In the 2010-2011 year, Daniel and Michael collected over 1,000

pairs of used eyeglasses. These were brought to the Scotch Plains Lions Club which then delivered them to New Eyes for the Needy. This organization sorts and cleans the glasses and sends them to medical missions and international charitable organizations for distribution to poor people in over 25 countries around the globe.

In addition, Daniel has helped the Lions collect contributions on White Cane Day and for the Scotch Plains Health Fair, he helped register patients for the eye screening as well as having them read the eye chart.



Vincent Oliva and Maria Nadel from the Warren Township Lions Club present a \$250 Target gift certificate to Steven and Marrisa LaRue to replace the school clothes they lost to Hurricane Irene.

Warren Lions Help "Hurricane" Family

By Doug Reeder

Steven, age 13, and Marrisa, age 9, LaRue were looking forward to returning to school after summer vacation this year and their mother, Christine, had purchased new school outfits for her kids and stored them in their home's basement until school started.

Then Hurricane Irene arrived. The LaRue's neat-as-a-pin home was hit with a natural catastrophe as two walls in the basement collapsed, letting in water and dirt and everything stored in the basement was attacked by mold,

including the new school clothes.

The LaRue's home was deemed unsafe by Green Brook Township and the family was forced to move out until the basement could be cleared and the foundation fixed. As of Thanksgiving Day, the LaRues were still staying with friends and waiting on various governmental agencies and their own insurance company to tell them what remediation funding would be available to them.

And in the meantime, Steven and Marrisa had to go to school—but without the new clothes their mother had purchased during the

summer.

The Warren Township Lions heard about this situation and elected to use part of an emergency hurricane relief grant they received from Lions Clubs International to help the LaRues. Just after Thanksgiving, the Club presented them with a \$250 gift certificate to be used at the local Target store to help replace the ruined clothing and to provide this deserving family with some temporary funds until their home gets repaired and life gets back to normal.

Lions Clubs Gives New Start to 800 Seedlings

In keeping with International President Wing-Kun Tam's plan to plant over a million trees throughout the world, the Jackson Lions Club contacted the Jackson Forestry Center and asked if there was anything they could do to help.

The answer they got back from The Forestry Center was a need for 20-30 volunteers to pot 250-300 seedlings. Jackson is a small club; it was more help than we could provide. Being Lions and not wanting to back down from a challenge, it was decided that the Jackson Club would sponsor the project by providing food for the workers and asking the other local clubs of District 16-B for help.

So with the help of the Jackson, Middletown, Neptune, Oceanport, and West Windsor Lions clubs over 800 seedling trees were potted for the NJ State Forestry's Nursery.

Nursery superintendent Joseph Battersby was amazed at the number of seedling trees that were potted in three hours by seventeen Lions. He was informed that is what happens when you ask the Lions for help. WE GET THINGS DONE!!

According to Mr. Battersby, "The seedlings will be used to plant a tree farm on a recently acquired property across from the Forestry

Center. The trees will be used to harvest seeds for future trees."

It was noted that this project was put on an indefinite hold due to state budget cuts. "Without the help of the Lions club, this project may have never gotten off the ground," said Mr. Battersby.

Robert Burrell, president of the Jackson Lions Club, said, "We as Lions were more than happy to help supply the manpower to get this project off the ground. The new tree farm will make for an easier and more cost effective way for the Division of Parks & Forestry to harvest seeds for much needed new trees."

Jackson Lions President Bob Burrell would like to thank the members of the Jackson Lions Club and the members from Middletown, Neptune, Oceanport, and West Windsor Lions clubs from District 16-B for their help. And a special thank you to Jackson Lion Laura Stone for being the chairperson on this project. We could not have done what we did with out your help.

It was a fun day, and with the five clubs working as one we proved the slogan, "Whenever Lions get together, problems get smaller. And communities get better."



Lions plant seedlings.



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Governor Dayl Baile installs President M. M. Rahman of Atlantic City Bangladesh Lions Club.



On July 2, 10 members of the Cranbury Lions Club and four friends sold 50/50 tickets at the Trenton Thunder Game while Derek Jeter was on rehabilitation, raising \$1,293. There was a sell-out crowd, including standing only tickets. Pictured left to right: PDG Bob Virgadamo, Lion Phillis Johnson, Immediate Past President Dave Shaffer, and Lion Fay Kobland. As the members sold their tickets, they came back to the Trenton Thunder charity table to turn in their tickets and money then pick up additional tickets to sell. The Cranbury Lions reported at 4 p.m. for the 7 p.m. game to take advantage of the early crowd who came to see Derek Jeter practice with the Trenton Thunder. It was an exhausting, yet fun and profitable, evening enjoyed by all.



The Hammonton Lions Club dedicate a new Leo Park sign for the park the club maintains during the town's Green Day. Pictured (left to right) Lion John Wiessner, King Lion Carol Orsi, Lion Sal Velardi and Lion Arthur Orsi.



Tree Planting—Joe Ziccardi, arborist and Carol Orsi, president of the Hammonton Lions Club stand in front of the tree that was planted by the club in Leo Park to commemorate the dedication of the Leo Park sign and to participate in the International President's program for Lions to plant one million trees worldwide. The club also sold dogwood and maple tree seedlings at the Green Day event.