



SIX SCHOLARS...The Woman's Club of Westfield Awards Scholarships to six Westfield High School seniors. In the photo from the left are: Lia Varga, Charlotte Clausen, Nicole Boutiskaris, Daniel Han and Charlotte Moore. Missing from photo is Isabella Cuccaro.

Six WHS Seniors Awarded WCW Scholarships

WESTFIELD — At a recent meeting of The Woman's Club of Westfield held recently at The Masonic Lodge in Westfield, six Westfield High School (WHS) seniors each were awarded \$2,500, one-time scholarships. The ladies of the club all wish these outstanding students good luck and much success in their college days and beyond. The six students given the scholarships are as follows:

Nicole Boutiskaris is the daughter of Alexandra and Peter Boutiskaris. She has two siblings, sister, Melissa, a student at The College of New Jersey and brother, Christopher, who is attending The University of Delaware. Nicole is a member of The National Honor Society and The Spanish Honor Society. At WHS, she has been president of the Spanish Club, been an exchange student, hosting a student from Spain for two weeks and traveling to Catabria for a two-day stay there. Nicole has been opinion editor for the WHS newspaper, *Hi's Eye*, and is a member of The National and Spanish Societies.

Charlotte Clausen is the daughter of Elise Maher and Robert Clausen. Her sister, Olivia, is a student at Northwestern University. She is a flutist for the WHS Symphonic Band. Charlotte holds the position of president of the young Republican's Club. She participates in a summer high school intern program in New York City, working for a financial company, Charlotte participated with a traveling band, taking her to Rome, Venice and Florence with handmates and rehearsed with an Italian military band playing in various concert settings across Italy.

Isabella Cuccaro, daughter of Anna and Tony Cuccaro, has been actively involved with playing soccer from the age of six years old, until an injury ended her physical role, so she turned to volunteering with the Westfield Soccer Organization helping disabled children learn the basic skills of the game. Isabella has learned that giving back to the community by teaching kids how to love soccer is very rewarding and results in the best feeling in the world. She is known for her warm, loving and caring personality, and is always ready to help others. Her father has always been a wonderful role model for her, giving words of wisdom.

Daniel Han is the son of Margaret and Frank Han. He is a varsity athlete, running cross country, plus indoor and outdoor track. Dan is the editor of the *Hi's Eye*, the WHS weekly newspaper and he is a staff writer with *Tap Into Westfield*, a local news site. He is employed by Wendy's as a coordinator, orderly and front register worker. Daniel is both a YMCA track and

cross-country coach.

Through school, Dan has been a church lector communion assistant and vacation and Bible camp aide. He has played viola in the Symphony Orchestra. After college, Daniel plans to be a writer and journalist.

Charlotte Moore is the daughter of Susan and Dennis Moore. She has spent many hours inside and outside of the classroom creating artwork and sharpening her skills as an artist. Charlotte is a very dedicated student of art. She has volunteered at the New Jersey Food Bank, been a transition leader at WHS, was a student at the Young Entrepreneurs Academy and at The All Stars Project DSY. She works as an office assistant at One Wall Partners, assisting customers in person and over the phone.

Lia Varga is the daughter of Josephine and Honor Varga. Lia has volunteered at a homeless shelter and a food bank. She traveled to the Dominican Republic on a service trip where she helped build a house for a poor man. Lia played WHS volleyball for three, high-school years on the junior varsity team. She has interviewed Ono Bowl customers and written blogs based on stories they shared with her and has helped guide underclassmen in their path to confirmation. She plans to attend The University of Delaware.

SPFHs DECA Team Attends Conference

SCOTCH PLAINS — Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA team traveled to Orlando, Florida for the International Career Development Conference. Nine students participated in various events and leadership workshops at the four-day conference that took place in late April.

Sophomore Ryan Eng placed in the top 10 of all competitors in the Financial Consulting event. There were over 250 students from the United States and Canada competing in this event. Ryan was also recognized for having one of the top five test scores in his category.

Juniors Henry Saltzman, Brandon Weinberg, Bella Fiore, Devon Danielovich, and Lauren Kieltka all earned achievement level scores in their events.

DECA is the co-curricular Marketing Club of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. The goal of the club is to provide emerging business leaders and entrepreneurs the opportunities to become college and career ready. Marjorie FitzGibbon is the DECA advisor at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Mount Students Awarded IACE Summer Program

WATCHUNG - Teresa Sengel, Department of World Languages Chairperson at Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung, reported that Sabrina DiIorio and Andrea Morin were among



Andrea Morin

only 20 outstanding students in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut chosen to participate in the IACE Summer Program in Narni, Italy.

Sabrina is a sophomore from Scotch Plains and Andrea Morin is a junior from Westfield.

The scope of IACE, The Italian American Commission on Education, promotes the study of Italian and is funded by the Italian government.

"Both girls are receiving grants from IACE," said Mrs. Sengel. "From July 16 to July 29, they will attend language and culture classes every morning and participate in diverse cultural activities while visiting many of the places they have been studying in class."

Sabrina shared, "I am very excited and grateful that I received the opportunity to travel to Narni, Italy this

summer. I think it will be a rewarding experience and can't wait to immerse myself deeper into the Italian culture and language!"

Andrea added, "During my trip to Italy, I hope to enrich my knowledge of both the Italian language and culture. I am so lucky to have this opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and immerse myself in an amazing place with other students also interested in expanding their horizons."

"It is exciting to imagine these two



Sabrina DiIorio

very talented young women expanding their already excellent skills in speaking, understanding Italian, and most importantly, their understanding of a diverse culture and a diverse people," said Mrs. Sengel. "In the fall, they will share this knowledge with classmates in Italian 3 Honors and in AP Italian. Congratulations to both students for their hard work in preparing special projects to win this competition."

The Student View

A Column Written by Local High School Students

By Amanda Pyle

After Alabama Governor Kay Ivey signed one of the most controversial anti-abortion bills into law on May 15, my social media was flooded with political posts. These posts varied in opinions, with people saying things like "Keep your rosaries off my ovaries" and "This is a war against women", to people saying "Protect women. Protect life" and "Pro-life. Pro-guns Damn straight".

Regardless of the opinions held by those who used their social media to project their own opinions, one thing was clear: high school students in our region are very politically active. It was quite fascinating to see how emotional people of all ages, genders and races reacted to the passing of this law. It became evident to me that the youth are very politically active, and we have very strong values and morals.

I saw—and this is no exaggeration—hundreds of posts this past week all referencing Alabama's anti-abortion law. I also had numerous open and honest conversations with my peers and my teachers during school.

Now, this is not the first time that I have witnessed this. Ever since the 2016 presidential election, I have increasingly noticed how politically aware the youth in this area are. Maybe it's because we are finally old enough to understand the importance of these

political issues, or that we are finally starting to form our own individualized opinions on different controversial issues. Whatever the reason may be, it is beyond clear that my generation is not only politically aware, but we are powerful in our beliefs.

Many people argue that we are addicted to social media, or that we spend too much time on our phones, and what this past week has made me realize is that people are now more likely to use their social media accounts to promote their political beliefs. Rather than only posting pictures of themselves or something cool that they have done, high schoolers will now use their large social media presence to publicize policy changes that they want to see, or talk about controversial issues that they have a strong opinion on.

I think it is very empowering that we are proud to share our political opinions with friends, family and peers that we believe would pay attention to what we post. Even though our posts only have a relatively small circulation compared to the entire U.S. population, I think that high schoolers' habit of using their social media accounts as a platform to promote societal change shines a light on the bright future that this country has with the minds of my brilliant and powerful generation.

Joy Mulzoff of Westfield Builds Houses in Tijuana

WATCHUNG — While attending a family reunion, Mount Saint Mary Academy sophomore Joy Mulzoff, of Westfield, learned about Doxa, an organization that facilitates trips for groups to engage in service projects and the construction of homes for disadvantaged families in Mexico.

"Our family thought it was a great idea to participate and we immediately wanted to find out when we could do it," said Joy, adding that her cousin's husband has worked with Doxa.

When asked why she felt called to participate, Joy said, "Service is one of my favorite things to do, especially with those that I love. It's become a big part of my life, and I love the feeling of helping those who need it. I feel that participating in service is one of my purposes in life. So, when I had the opportunity to build a house for a family, I knew I had to do it!"

Joy and her family were in Tijuana,

Mexico for four days, arriving on Holy Thursday (April 18) and leaving on the morning of Easter Sunday (April 21).

"The experience was so fun, and it was nice to be around such hard working people," she said. "It was a big reality check and it made me realize that I should appreciate how fortunate I am. It felt so good and heartwarming to pass the keys of the house on to the family. I had such a good time with my family and the family that we were building the house for that I was sad when we had to leave."

"Building someone's home is so special and meaningful, and I would love to do it again in the future," she added.

At Mount Saint Mary Academy, Joy is a member of the Operation Smile Club. She is also involved in Teens for Teens, a charity organization that aids less fortunate teenagers in the state of New Jersey.



Joy Mulzoff of Westfield



DECA-DENT...Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA team traveled to Orlando, Florida for the International Career Development Conference. Pictured, front to left, back row, are: Brandon Weinberg, Henry Saltzman, Jimmie McNichol, Sam Feinberg, Ryan Eng and Connor Alchus; front row: Bella Fiore, Devon Danielovich and Lauren Kieltka.

It's Almost Graduation time!

ATTENTION PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS:

Congratulate your child or grandchild and send them well wishes for the future in

The Westfield Leader

The Scotch Plains - Fanwood TIMES

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EDUCATION MATTERS...On April 25, the Education Foundation of Garwood (EFG) held its 15th Annual Appreciation Dinner at The Westwood. Pictured, left to right, are: Garwood Superintendent of Schools Teresa Quigley, Ed.D., Person Making a Difference Adele Lewis, Educator of the Year Crystal Spagnuolo, and Principal Mary Emmmons.

Spagnuolo, Ed. of Yr.; Lewis, Person Making a Difference

GARWOOD — On April 25, the Education Foundation of Garwood (EFG) held its 15th Annual Appreciation Dinner at The Westwood. Crystal Spagnuolo was honored as Lincoln School's Educator of the Year and Adele Lewis was honored as Garwood's Person Making a Difference.

Mrs. Spagnuolo is currently in her 20th year in the district teaching seventh and eighth grade Mathematics, as well as seventh grade English Language Arts. She grew up in Garwood and has shared that she, "always felt a special connection with the school and the students in it."

Mrs. Lewis is the founder of the EFG and continues to serve as a member, which she has done each year in its 15-year existence. Additionally, she spent 12 years serving on Garwood's Board of Education, eight of those years as president. Currently, she is on the Westfield YMCA Board of Trustees, the Garwood Historical Committee, and is a shelter volunteer at the Jersey Animal Coalition (JAC) in South Orange.

With over 140 in attendance to enjoy the awards ceremony, dinner,

tricky tray, and 50/50 raffles, this signature event raised more than \$4,700 for the EFG. The generosity of local business contributes greatly to the ability of this event to be a very successful fundraiser. The EFG raises funds in order to provide scholarships for graduating Garwood eighth-grade students and high school seniors. In addition, the EFG awards grants to Garwood educators to enhance the curriculum. To date, the EFG has distributed over \$56,000 in scholarships and grants.

Candace Kilmer, president of the EFG, expressed, "Thank you to all those who attended the dinner, sponsored a table, or donated an item for the tricky tray. With your help, we were able to make this year's Appreciation Dinner one of the most successful in recent history and a memorable celebration for the honorees."

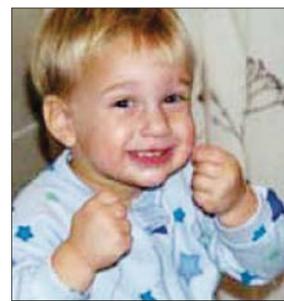
The EFG is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization. It was founded in 2004 to work with the Garwood School District "in pursuit of educational excellence." Follow on Facebook at "Education Foundation of Garwood."



Photo courtesy of Susan M. Dougherty

READY TO WALK...Members of the Westfield High School (WHS) Key Club get ready to walk in Cranford's Relay for Life that was held on May 17. The WHS Key Club's team, chaperoned by their adviser, Matt Girona, said the teens were so enthused by their participation, that they plan to attend next year and stay all night. The walk at the Hillside Avenue School raised almost \$115,000 for the American Cancer Society. Over 58 teams and 536 people of all ages participated in the annual event.

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