

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, Jan. 18

SEPTA Gifted/Talented
SEPTA program for Italian for Third and Fourth Graders at 6 p.m. at Manhasset Public Library.
Email ManhassetSEPTA@gmail.com with any questions.

Thursday, Jan. 19

Board of Education Meeting
The Manhasset Board of Education meets for its regularly scheduled meeting at 8 p.m. in Manhasset High School. Visit www.manhassetsschools.org for an agenda.

Saturday, Jan. 21

Saturday Series
Manhasset SCA Saturday Series takes place at Shelter Rock Elementary School at 9 a.m. To register for class offerings, go online at www.manhassetssa.org then click on Saturday series and follow prompts.

Free Throw Competition

The Knights of Columbus Fr. William Daly Council #2122 will be holding its annual Free Throw Competition in Immaculata Hall Gym starting at 9 a.m. sharp. The competition is open to boys and girls ages 9 through 14. There are no entry fees or pre-registration. Arrive early to register. Winners progress through local, district, county and state competitions. For more information, contact John Vricella at 516-641-6139.

The Frosh, Winter Wonderland: An Evening for the Class of 2020

- 7:30 to 10 p.m. in the Manhasset High School cafeteria. Tickets will be sold during lunch on Friday, Jan. 20, or may be returned by those who can no longer attend.

Sunday, Jan. 22

- **Blood Drive**
The Church of St. Mary is holding its annual blood drive in the Marian Room beneath the church at 1290 Northern Blvd.

Tuesday, Jan. 24

- **Honor Society Induction**
The National Junior Honor Society Induction ceremony will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Manhasset High School auditorium.

Wednesday, Jan. 25

- **Guess Who's Coming to Read to Shelter Rock?**
Kindergarten through third grade students will be read to by members of the community who have varied and interesting careers.

Thursday, Jan. 26

- **Guess Who's Coming to Read to Munsey Park?**
K-3 students will be read to by members of our community who have varied and interesting careers.

- **CASA Parenting Presentation: Alcohol, Drugs And the Teen Brain**
7:30 p.m. at Manhasset Public Library
- Join Manhasset CASA with your teen

- (grades 8-12) for Dr. Stephen Dewey's presentation of Alcohol, Drugs & the Teen Brain. One-hour community service is available to students. Registration required.

Sunday, Jan. 29

- **Open House**
The Schools of St. Mary, Elementary and High School, will be holding an open house beginning at 12 p.m.



Chinese New Year Celebration

- The Chinese American Association of North Hempstead hosts a Chinese cultural celebration of music, dance, crafts and treat for the Year of the Rooster. Free and open to all at the Manhasset Public Library from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 1

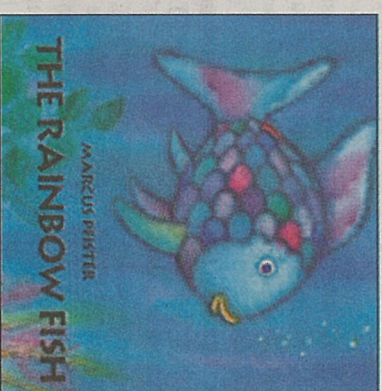
- **Math in Focus Parent University**
7 p.m., Munsey Park Elementary School auditorium offered to parents of all children in grades kindergarten through sixth grade. This event gets great feedback.

- **Concert**
Manhasset High School concert of the Symphonic Choir in the auditorium at 8 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 2

- **Board of Education Meeting**
The Manhasset Board of Education

- meets for its regularly scheduled meeting at 8 p.m. Visit www.manhassetsschools.org for an agenda.



Friday, Feb. 3

SCA Theatre

- *The Rainbow Fish* will be performed by Art Power in the Munsey Park auditorium at 2 p.m. For more information, visit www.manhassetssa.org.

Middle School Play

- Manhasset Middle School play will be performed in the Black Box Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 4

Middle School Play

- Manhasset Middle School play will be performed in the Black Box Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

Soph Social

- Manhasset High School 10th graders are invited to attend the Soph Social at Manhasset High School cafeterias from 8 to 10:30 p.m.. Tickets will be sold in advance.

Honoring Our Veterans With Wreaths

Snow, freezing rain and then wind and rain greeted those attending Wreaths Across America on Dec. 17. Those gathered at the Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale were the largest in number since the tradition began. It was almost as if each person there committed to attending for fear that others might not. Representatives of Manhasset's American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion and Boy Scout Troop 97 were among those present.

At noon, Volunteer Location Coordinator Harry Rathsam approached the podium, as he has done for years. The wind and rain stopped, the umbrellas closed and the ceremony began. Rathsam explained the reasons for Wreaths Across America is "to remember our fallen U.S. veterans, to honor those who serve and to teach children the value of freedom."

Remembering and honoring were both accomplished that day when many presented the names of family members and friends who are now serving or who had served or given their lives for our great nation. Pat O'Brien, president of Manhasset's American Legion Auxiliary, remembered First Lieutenant Michael LiCalzi and his three fellow Marines who lost their lives together in Iraq in 2006.

The American Legion Auxiliary recently learned about LiCalzi from his twin brother and dad, both of whom are named Greg. They founded Ace in the Hole Foundation to keep LiCalzi's memory alive and to offer assistance to veterans and others in need. The foundation made a very generous donation to the American Legion Auxiliary's project, which provided Christmas and holiday gifts to the veterans at the Northport VA

Medical Center:

John D'Angelo and Selva Venkatesan, who attended with their children in Troop 97, took seriously the mandate to teach the value of freedom. Adults and children alike were touched by the words quoted from President Ronald Reagan: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

Some of the parents were Gold Star mothers and fathers, parents who lost their children to war. It is always sad to speak to them privately, sometimes at the gravesite of their child. But

they share a common thread. Their interest lies in telling the story of their child's life, rather than their death. The hugs given and received at such times carry the parent and the listener through what is always a difficult but beautiful day.

Hundreds of wreaths were available for placement. Members of Troop 97 and the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary placed them on the graves of our nation's heroes with reverence and respect. Tasked with saying the name aloud to ensure remembrance, each did so and then returned home to research that hero to discover his or her mark on the preservation of freedom.

To learn more about the program and how you can participate in 2017, visit www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org or contact Pat O'Brien at patobrien17@msn.com.