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UNION HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY PRESENTS "GODSPELL" DECEMBER 8TH, 9TH AND 10TH

Join the Union High School Performing Arts Company as they present Godspell, the rock opera by Stephen Schwartz based off of several well-known parables, featuring hits including "Day by Day", "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord", "Learn Your Lessons Well", "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts", "Turn Back, O Man" and "By My Side".

Godspell at Union High School will run December 8th and 9th at 7:30 p.m., and December 9th and 10th at 2 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets please visit www.uhspac.com.

Godspell follows a group of separate individuals led and guided by Jesus and his Lieutenant John the Baptist/Judas; learning to gradually come together as one. Through creative games, stories, technology and an incredible score, each character takes their own journey toward that commitment. The audience is also invited to join in the



(above) The Union High School Performing Arts Company cast of "Godspell"

fun, putting forth the ideals of uniting together as one community. The message the production team and cast hope to convey is that sense of coming together for a common purpose, uniting against all odds, and caring for one another regardless of our backgrounds and differences.

Director James Mosser shared, "Not only does Godspell have an incredible score, but it also has a fantastic message of community and caring. Audiences will hear great music, and see exciting scenes and dances, but there is also another layer. In our production we have created an added layer of addressing the new moral and social implications that have been created by the ever-increasing use of media in our culture. Sometimes people forget how to behave because they are behind a screen talking to another person. The show uses media and devices to help hold up a lens to this, ever growing, part of our world."

Godspell stars Senior Christopher Erdman as Jesus, Senior Ronin Ruste as John the Baptist/Judas, and a cast of 23 ensemble members, ready to share their journey with you. Don't miss your chance to see some of Union's brightest young talents, live on stage right in your own backyard.

The Union High School Performing Arts Company continues to remain one of the strongest arts training programs for high school students in the state of New Jersey. The UHSPAC is inclusive of an award winning theater department, a nationally rated instrumental music program, and a top-notch choral music group. The Theater Department has been nominated for over 126 prestigious Paper Mill Rising Star Awards, an event that recognizes excellence in high school theater, similar to the Tony Awards. They have won 31 awards and currently hold the record for the most wins ever won by a single show for their 2015 production of Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies winning 9 awards.



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UNION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS COLLECT, DONATE FOR ADOPTION DAY - CASA OF UNION COUNTY

Every child adopted during a recent Adoption Day celebration at the Union County Superior Courthouse received board games for family game night and fleece blankets for getting cozy, thanks to Union High School students and staff who donated the items to Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County, a nonprofit that advocates for local foster children. Senior class advisor Megan Kaplan said students were curious about Adoption Day and after explaining the need and purpose of the day, she said momentum grew “through word of mouth,

fliers around the building and morning and afternoon announcements, and more than 20 students and staff donated, and were excited to learn where the donations would be going.” Among the students were, from left, David Lam, Reyanna Lawrence, Anaiya Turpin and Stephanie Arajao. Lam noted, “It was pretty cool to be able to help a person by getting them a game. It was nice to help a person feel good and be happy.” CASA of Union County incorporated the school donations into gift baskets for each adoptee and their family.



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The Township of Union will hold its 1st Winter Weekend, Friday, December 1st and Saturday, December 2nd featuring the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration and, for the first time, ice skating in front of Town Hall.

"There's nothing better than coming together to kick off the holiday season," said Suzette Cavadas, Township Mayor. "We're excited to transform Town Hall into a winter wonderland and bring back one of Union's most cherished events- the Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration.

The free ice skating will begin on Friday, December 1st from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Participants can rent skates on site to enjoy this new attraction. There will also be a musical performance by Alyssa Muniz, winner of the 2015 Union's Got Talent. In addition, select Union Center SID Merchants will be featuring dinner specials for Union residents. Additional information will be available at the SID booth.

The 34th Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration will then take place on Saturday, December 2nd beginning at 3:00 p.m. with the ice carving demonstration by professional commercial sculptor, Bill Bywater. The tree lighting ceremony will begin at 5:00 p.m.

Featuring holiday performances from local schools, the annual event draws hundreds of residents in celebration of the Holiday season.

The evening will also feature arts and crafts, holiday games, food vendors and ice skating until 8:30 p.m. Union Center SID will also be sponsoring Holiday crafts and activities throughout Union Center beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The festivities will culminate with a visit from Santa, and the lighting of the Holiday tree. The event is free of charge to attend.

Photos with Santa will be available inside Town Hall immediately after the Tree Lighting.



(above) Students performing at Union Township's 33rd Annual Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Photo Credit: Township of Union

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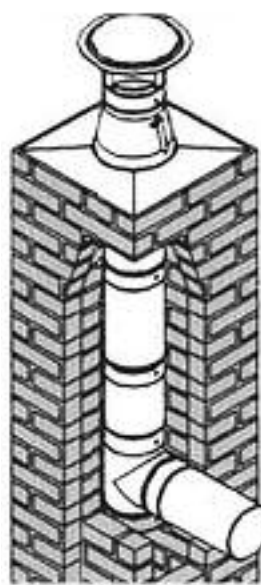
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(above) Samantha Wolf

Photo credit: Samantha Wolf by Veranika Antanevich

JAMES THE APOSTLE SCHOOL STUDENT TO STAR AS CLARA IN “THE NUTCRACKER”

Samantha Wolf, a 7th grader from Union, New Jersey, will join renowned professional guest artists when she performs the lead role as Clara in this year’s full-length production of New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble’s (NJDTE) beloved holiday classic “The Nutcracker.”

An extraordinary group of international dance artists, including Princess Grace Award recipient Lyvan Esteban Verdicia of Ballet Hispanico as Father/Russian/Arabian, and Marie-Lorène Fichaux, formerly of Paris Opera Ballet and currently with the Lyon Opera Ballet dancing the classic role of Sugar Plum Fairy, join the Ensemble for three captivating performances. Mikhail Ilyin, formerly of Miami City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre, will appear as her Cavalier. Also joining the cast are celebrated dancers Christopher Bloom of Ballet Hispanico in the role of Drosselmeyer/Mother Gigone, and as the Grandmother, former New Jersey Ballet prima ballerina Rosemary Sabovick-Bleich

Samantha, the daughter of Danielle and Marc

Wolf, is a seventh grader at St. James the Apostle School in Springfield, New Jersey. Samantha joined NJDTE’s Ensemble Company in 2015, and will perform the soloist role of Clara. She is also receiving the Mayor’s Award from the Township of Union, on November 28th, for her outstanding accomplishment of being cast as Clara in NJDTE’s production. The Mayor’s Award is presented to local residents of Union that have shown quality and community services within the Township of Union.

Performances are at Memorial Auditorium at Montclair State University, 1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, NJ on Saturday, December 9 at 1:00pm and 5:00pm, and Sunday, December 10 at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$35 Adult & \$25 Child/Student/Senior, and are available at njdte.tix.com.

ABOUT NJDTE:

New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble’s forward-thinking programming empowers dancers with contemporary technologies as well as traditional dance forms. NJDTE, located in Summit, NJ, provides the highest quality, pre-professional training to aspiring dancers through professional experiences with world-renowned dancers, teachers, choreographers, and musicians. Founded in 1969 under the direction of internationally acclaimed ballet master Alfredo Corvino, and led by award-winning Artistic Director Nancy Turano since 1994, NJDTE has maintained a successful dance curriculum with an unparalleled outcome of artistic excellence. NJDTE has been acknowledged for creating innovative training and mentoring programs for dancers and choreographers in the New York City metro area, including a site-specific dance installation series at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit, NJ. NJDTE mentors dancers toward higher education and professionalism in dance and provides its alumni with employment opportunities as NJDTE guest artists, faculty, choreographers and staff. www.njdte.org


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YOUTH VOLUNTEER HONORED BY THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA

The Gateway Family YMCA - Five Points Branch honored Laurence (Larry) Manalo, a dedicated Youth Volunteer, as 2017 Youth Volunteer of the Year at the 17th annual New Jersey YMCA State Alliance Recognition Celebration Event on October 19th at Forsgate Country Club in Jamesburg, NJ. Larry, a Junior attending Union High School, has been an active member and volunteer at the Five Points Branch for many years. He has dedicated many hours to volunteering and making a difference in the lives of the youth and teen program participants at the YMCA.

Larry was a youth member of The Gateway Family YMCA for many years, participating in the Basketball Program and Teen Personal Training. Volunteering in Basketball Classes and Friday Rookie Sports, Larry has always acted in a professional and mature manner, serving as a role model for the children, and working in cooperation with YMCA staff.

"Larry has been a steady volunteer in our youth programs at the Five Points Branch. Children in the program look up to Larry as a role model and he has grown tremendously as a coach and leader, and we are excited for Larry's future with the YMCA," stated Danielle Cioffi, District Executive Director.

"Volunteers are at the heart of the YMCA, providing positive impact to the communities they serve," stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO of The Gateway Family YMCA. The New Jersey YMCA State Alliance annually hosts the event to highlight YMCA initiatives and recognize those who have shown leadership and support for New Jersey YMCAs in one of three focus areas: Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. Honorees in 2017 included Governor and Mrs. Codey and Governor Thomas Kean. Larry was joined by other Youth Volunteers honored from YMCAs across the state for their dedication to improving the lives of others and for their impact in the community.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening the foundations of

community and stands For Youth Development, For Healthy Living and For Social Responsibility. The Y impacts the community by providing quality services to people of all ages, races, faiths and incomes. The Y is a powerful association of men, women and children of all ages and from all walks of life joined together by a shared passion: to strengthen the foundations of community.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA, visit www.tgfymca.org. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact the Five Points Branch 908-688-9622, Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Rahway Branch 908-388-0057, Wellness Center Branch 908-349-9622 or WISE Center YMCA Branch 908-687-2995.



TOWNSHIP OF UNION TEACHERS COMPLETE IN THE NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

Livingston Elementary teachers Eric Shaw and Michael Miller completed the New York City Marathon on November 5, 2017, hope to inspire their students through fitness and by displaying a healthy lifestyle.

Mr. Shaw and Mr. Miller began training 16 weeks prior to the race, running 4-5 times per week ranging from 3 miles all the way up to 20 miles. Mr. Shaw completed the marathon in 3 hours 55 minutes, just short of his goal time. Mr. Miller hopes to continue running and making his goal of finishing a marathon under 4 hours.

"Our students at Livingston School are young, grades K-4 and most of are not really sure how challenging running a marathon is. Our goal is to be positive role models through fitness. Over the past few years we have incorporated more fitness based games and activities in our PE classes to promote a healthy lifestyle. You don't always have to play the traditional sports such as basketball, soccer, hockey, etc. You just have to find activities that keep you moving and healthy," said Mr. Shaw. Mr. Miller shared "We found our

love for running as it was a way to stay fit and it was an easy way to set a great example for our elementary students and our high school athletes. Eric and I both love the challenge to get better and better with each run. Looking forward to our next race already!"



(above, l-r) Mr. Shaw and Mr. Miller!

HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS COLLEGE / CAREER NIGHT

Union High School hosted its annual College and Career Fair for the students and their families recently. Approximately 95 representatives from various institutions were in attendance including two year and four year colleges, such as, Penn State, The Fashion Institute of Technology, and Pace University, branches of the military, military academies, and vocational and technical programs. This event provided students and families an opportunity to learn more about programming within the colleges, as well as networking with the representatives. The Union High School Counseling Department provided additional resources, with a presentation on navigating Financial Aid presented by a representative from Rutgers University. According to Mrs. Nicole Ahern, Supervisor of the Counseling Department, "This event is always well attended. The representatives comment on our students being well prepared

with appropriate questions about their schools. Attending this event is an important step in the process of students starting to make decisions related to all the options available to them after high school."





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LIVINGSTON STUDENTS HONOR VETERANS

Ms. Kitzman's third graders at Livingston Elementary School honored troops through "Operation Gratitude" for Veteran's Day.

Students and staff hosted a Halloween Candy Give-Back Collection and collected 35 pounds of Halloween Candy to send to the troops. Students additionally wrote letters to soldiers thanking them for their services, sacrifices, and dedication. They were excited to bring in "sweet treats" to collect, donate and ship out for our deployed troops and first responders. Last year Operation Gratitude received and distributed a record-setting 533,891 pounds of candy! Ms. Kitzman shared "The 3rd Graders in my class were excited to help them break that record this year! Students filled out mailing labels and envelopes to

'Operation Gratitude.' Some students shared that they hope the troops love the treats because they deserve it!

Additionally, students were excited to mail out their letters and said I've never actually mailed a letter before, so this is exciting! I hope they write us back!"

Livingston School's Student Council under the leadership Ms. Sibilia graciously offered to assist, helping to cover the expenses incurred. Several 4th grade students even helped out by donating. Next year, they hope to go school-wide with the activity!

If you are interested in donating to "Operation Gratitude", please visit their website at <http://www.operationgratitude.com/>.



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UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY - MAIN • DECEMBER 2017 YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Main Library: 1980 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083.

For additional information call 908-851-5450, or find us on the web at www.uplnj.org

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Mondays: Lego Club @ 3:30PM

All Ages | No registration required
Learn, play, and build with us every Monday! Build your own creation or take part in one of our Lego challenges!

Wednesdays: Babies in the Library @ 10:30AM

Birth – 18 months | No registration required
Spend this special time with baby singing songs & rhymes, listening to stories, followed by free play & socialization. (NOTE: No program on Wednesday 12/6)

Thursdays: Pre-K Storytime @ 4:00PM

3 years – 6 years | No registration required
Jump into reading with UPL! We explore phonics, letter recognition, and numbers all while reading fun stories and making new friends!

Fridays: Toddler Storytime @ 10:30AM

18 months – 3 years | No registration required
Enjoy stories, singing, and movement, following a different theme each week!

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Music & Movement

Tuesday 12/5 @ 11:00AM

Toddlers & Pre-K | Registration required
Get movin' and groovin' with your toddler! Interactive play time with a focus on music and movement.

Teen Movie Night

Tuesday 12/5 @ 6:00PM

Ages 13+ | Registration required
Join us for popcorn and a movie! We'll be showing Wonder Woman (2017). Rated PG-13.

Multicultural Storytime

Wednesday 12/6 @ 1:00PM

All Ages | Registration required
Join us for a special story time celebrating different world cultures and languages!

Family M.E.S.S.

(Math, Engineering, and Science Saturday)

Saturday 12/9 @ 11:00AM

Ages 2+ | Registration required
In this fun early literacy program, families will learn about math, engineering, and science concepts by exploring different projects and activities each month!

Snowman Slime

Monday 12/11 @ 4:00PM

Ages 5+ | Registration required
Do you wanna build a snowman? Join us for some snowman slime fun!

DIY Craft Snowflakes

Tuesday 12/12 @ 4:30PM

Ages 5+ | Registration required
Create your own winter wonderland by making some awesome crafty snowflakes!

Hot Chocolate Playdough

Wednesday 12/13 @ 4PM

Ages 2+ | Registration required
Warm up with a different kind of hot chocolate! We're making hot chocolate scented play-dough. Perfect for the cold weather!

Munchies and a Movie

Thursday 12/14 @ 5:00PM

All Ages | Registration required
Join us for a screening of Frozen (2013) and some themed snacks! Rated PG. Parents must be present.

Tween DIY: Mason Jar Snow Globes

Friday 12/15 @ 3:00PM

Ages 9 - 12 | Registration required
Come make your own snow globes!
They're a perfect decoration for the winter season AND they make awesome gifts!

Handprint Snowman

Saturday 12/16 @ 11:00AM

Ages 3 – 5 | Registration required
Make your own snowman painting using your handprint!

ShopRite Kids Cuisine

Monday 12/18 @ 4:00PM

Ages 6 – 12 | Registration required
Learn about healthy eating and try some yummy new foods!

Girls' Night

Monday 12/18 @ 6:00PM

Ages 9+ | Registration required
Join us for a Girls' Night where we'll be making DIY beauty products and jewelry. We'll also have a hot chocolate bar with all the fixings!

Teen DIY: Beginner's Scarf

Tuesday 12/19 @ 4:30PM

Ages 12+ | Registration required
It's getting chilly outside, so there's no better time to learn how to crochet! We'll provide the materials and a little bit of instruction!

VAUXHALL LIBRARY - YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Vauxhall Branch Library is located at 123 Hilton Avenue

Vauxhall, NJ 07088. • (908) 851-5451.

Let's Play Chess Club

Wednesdays @ 3:15PM

1st – 12th Grades | Registration required
For students in grades 1st – 12th, of all levels.
Facilitated by Chess for Everyone. Registration required.
Last session of 2017 will take place on 12/20!

Club Teen: Qello Music Concert

Wednesday 12/6 @ 6:00PM

Ages 14+ | No registration required

Tween Movie

Thursday 12/7 @ 3:00PM

Ages 9 – 13 | Registration required
Join us for a screening of Captain Underpants (2017)! Rated PG.

Pre-K Story & Craft: Paper Plate Reindeer

Tuesday 12/12 @ 11:00AM

Ages 3 – 5 | Registration required
Make your own paper plate reindeer and join us for a special winter story time!

Tween 'Make It @ Your Library'

Thursday 12/14 @ 3:00PM

Ages 9 – 13 | Registration required
Make your own frosted glass ornament with us. All materials will be provided!

Pre-K STEM Story Time

Tuesday 12/19 @ 11:00AM

Ages 3 – 5 | Registration required
Join us for a special STEM related story time and craft.
We'll be making blizzards in a bottle!

Bedtime Storytime

Thursday 12/21 @ 7:00PM

All Ages | Registration required
Join us for a special winter bedtime story time! Don't forget to wear your coziest PJs.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting

Saturday 12/23 @ 1:00PM

Ages 13+ | Registration required
Help us make Union Public Library the place for you! Let us know what programs and events you want to see at the library.

Noon Year's Eve Party

Friday 12/29 @ 11:00AM

All Ages | Registration required
Join us for a kid-friendly New Year's celebration! We're celebrating with a New Year's craft, a special storytime, snacks, and a countdown to noon!

Family Drop-In Craft

Saturday 12/30 @ 11:00AM

All Ages | No registration required
Have a snowball fight inside! Come in and put together a Snowman Snowball Shooter and bring the winter fun indoors.

Club Teen: Movie, PJs, & Hot Chocolate

Wednesday 12/20 @ 6:00PM

Ages 14+ | No registration required
Warm up and hang out over some hot chocolate and a showing of Polar Express (2004). Rated G.

Tween Game Time

Thursday 12/21 @ 3:00PM

Ages 9 – 13 | Registration required
Come in and play games with friends!

Drop-In Craft: Make It and Take It

Saturday 12/23 @ 11:00AM

Ages 6 – 8 | No registration required
Join us for a special winter craft!

Pre-K Game Time

Tuesday 12/26 @ 11:00AM

Ages 3 – 5 | Registration required
Come in and play games with your preschooler!

Annual Kwanzaa Ceremony & Celebration

Wednesday 12/27 @ 6:00PM

All Ages | Registration required
A program for the entire family. Celebrate family, community, and culture!

Winter Break Family Dine-In Movie

Thursday 12/28 @ 12:00PM

All Ages | Registration required
Bring your lunch; we will supply the popcorn!

UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY FOOD DRIVE

Help check out hunger this holiday season with donations to a Food Drive being sponsored by the Libraries of Union County Consortium (LUCC). From November 27 - December 18, your local public library will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items to benefit the New Jersey Community Food Bank and other local food pantries. Collection bins will be conveniently located at the public libraries and library staff will then route 100% of the donations to designated food banks.

Even though experts say our economy is in

recovery, many people in New Jersey have been left behind: low income families, struggling single parents, the elderly on a fixed income, and the unemployed. The New Jersey Community Food Bank assists by distributing food to more than 1,500 non-profit charities in 19 counties, including soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, local food banks, after school programs, and senior centers.

To make this holiday season hunger free, simply visit your local library with a donation of non-perishable items.

HUNDREDS GATHER FOR FOURTH ANNUAL UNION COUNTY DAY OF PRAYER

At a time when the country is being torn apart by hate rhetoric and fear of those unlike oneself, more than 650 members from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist communities came together October 24 in a show of unity at the Fourth Annual Union County Day of Prayer in Westfield.

"It is great to be together with leaders of other faiths," said Rev. Michael Saporito, pastor of The Parish Community of St. Helen, which hosted the event. "This is such a year of turmoil for people in the country. It is great to bring different people of faiths together, and what faith doesn't want love, peace and unity and want to treat other people with the dignity they deserve?"

The annual Union County Day of Prayer,

whose theme this year was Unifying Our Community Through Prayer, is hosted each year by the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council, comprising more than 40 interfaith congregations and community-based nonprofits, including founding member Community Access Unlimited (CAU). The evening featured prayers, songs and meditations from religious leaders of various faiths from throughout Union County.

"Martin Luther King once said that the most segregated time in this country is 11 a.m. on Sunday when everyone goes to their segregated church," said Sid Blanchard, CAU's executive director. "People with disabilities can't go because they are excluded, they are unwelcome. By bringing the community together and meeting

each other, we are seeing that all people have value. People with disabilities and young people who have been abused and neglected will be welcomed in the faith community of their choice."

Unity and togetherness was the theme that carried through the evening.

"It is important to come together to offer prayers for our community and country at large," said Deacon Timothy Williams of the First Baptist Church in Kenilworth and chairman of the council's steering committee.

Added Pastor Carl Brewer of the Metropolitan Seventh Day Adventist Church in Plainfield, "It is something to build our community and we should always do what we can to bring us together."

The Venerable Klint Kevalin of the Dhammakaya Meditation Center in Fanwood described the event as "Something that the world really needs. It is something that we as a community need to show, that peace can happen. We come from different faiths joining together to bring light to the world."

That light has never been more needed than now. Rev. Dr. L.L. DuBreuil, pastor of Faith United Church of Christ in Union, said, "We are living in a time of suspicion and ignorance. It is important that we get to know each other, pray together and shine the light."

Imam Khalil Abdul Aziz of Plainfield's Mosque Masjidullah, agreed, saying, "Here in 2017, I think we haven't made the effort to get to know each other. We live next to synagogues, churches and mosques, but we don't really know each other. Interfaith efforts are very productive in bridging that gap."

Cantor Matt Axelrod of Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains spoke of the advantage of building that bridge, saying, "Anything that brings us together and shows us what we have in common makes us a stronger community."

That was a belief shared among the other religious leaders and reflected their denomination's teachings. Said Rev. Ann Marie Alderman of the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield, "Part of our faith is the interconnected web of all beings. We believe that all the various ways to reach the holy are legitimate and it is important for us to work together so the beloved community arrives."

Rabbi Cecelia Beyer of Temple Beth AhmYisrael in Springfield described Shema, a prayer that is the central tenet of Jewish worship, explaining, "What that says is that God is one. It is important that we find those things that unite us under one God. It is why events like this are important."

The Interfaith Coordinating Council was created by Community Access Unlimited CAU, a statewide Elizabeth-based nonprofit providing support programs and services to adults with disabilities as well as youth served under the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to enable them to live independently in the community, providing supports in areas including housing, vocational skills and life-skills training, education, advocacy and recreation.



(above) Union County Day of Prayer 2017: Members of the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council and other invited speakers gather before the Fourth Annual Union County Day of Prayer, held Oct. 24 at The Parish Community of Saint Helen.

GRIEF SEMINAR FOR ALL TYPES OF LOSSES

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave., will hold their six-week seminar - "Journey to Wholeness- Healing the Grieving Heart" on Sundays evenings from January 8 - February 11, 2018. There is no charge to attend.

Patti Williams, R.N., and certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Virginia Waters, PhD. Psychologist, will lead the sessions from 6:30-8:30 p.m for the first night in the Thompson Youth Center of the church, and then from 4:00-6:00 pm for the following 5 weeks. Patti and Virginia are beginning the 18th year of this ministry, and have helped approximately 2,600 people experience healing, find a new purpose for their lives, and feel joy once again. This is an experience like no other. Teaching is interactive and the small groups are homogenously grouped with a facilitator with the same loss.

The sessions include learning about the stages of grief and understanding the tasks of the grieving process, coping strategies, taking good care of ourselves, dealing with changes, decisions, loneliness, holidays, anniversaries, building a support system, etc.

Both of the leaders and all of the facilitators have experienced loss within their lives and share from "the inside out". It does not matter if your

loss is divorce, death or job loss; loss is loss - it must be grieved. It does not matter how long ago you experienced loss. Bring family members and friends. All faiths are welcome. Teen group available. You must pre register for this life changing event and attend the first session. Registration closes as of session one. Please call Patti to register- 908-709-1341. No fee is charged.

A participant shared, "Your group reflected your love not only in your church but reaching out to your community. This is a very noble action of love! Thank You!! Every Sunday evening I am excited to come to the class. Every session is different, you help us to understand about grieving, tools that we need, a tremendous help to me... to us, giving us hope and enjoy life's blessings! You give your time, the most expensive gift to us. Thank you for all the special things you do! Ms.Patti and Dr. Virginia and others!"

Sincerely yours, Rose.

The seminar is dedicated to Patti's late husband, the Rev. Dr. Bruce D. Williams who had a vision for this program wanting to help others deal with their pain and suffering during their time of loss.

HOLIDAY GATHERING WITH THE UNION TOWNSHIP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

For its last event of the year, the Union Township Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual Holiday Business Gathering on Wednesday, December 20.

The festivities, aimed at celebrating the year's achievements and ringing in 2018, will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Unity Bank, 952 Stuyvesant Avenue, in Union. Open to Chamber members and the public, the event is an opportunity to socialize with colleagues, and enjoy some food, drink and fellowship.

Admission is free for members, but preregistration is required. To register, please contact the Chamber by phone at (908) 688-2777 or by email at executivedirector@unionchamber.com.

"We are pleased to be co-hosting the Chamber's holiday event with Unity Bank this year," said Executive Director James Masterson. "We have much to celebrate this year, and enjoy sharing the season with our members and the community."

The Union Township Chamber of Commerce presents its
**December Networking Event
and Annual Holiday Gathering**

Let's Celebrate our
Accomplishments for the
Year and Ring in 2018!

**Wednesday,
Dec. 20, 2017**

Where:
Unity Bank
952 Stuyvesant Ave.,
Union, NJ

When:
5pm - 7pm

Join us for Beer, Wine
and Food! Meet and
Greet Your Colleagues!

Thanks to our Host and Sponsor:

Admission: FREE

To register NOW, contact the Chamber at:
(908) 688-2777, or by email:
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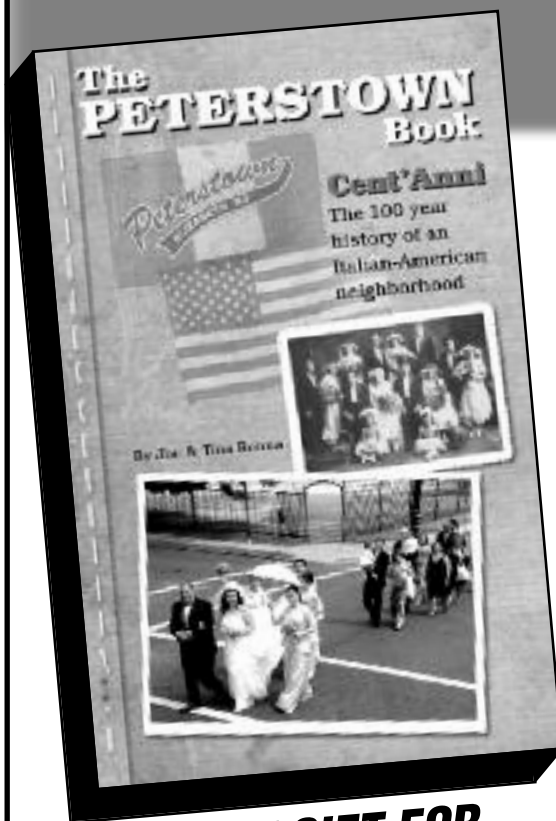
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WHITEHOUSE WIND SYMPHONY PRESENTS FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT IN UNION

The Whitehouse Wind Symphony, a community band under the direction of Branchburg resident James P. Sheeley, Jr., will present a free holiday concert on Saturday, December 9th at 3pm at Liberty Church, located at 953 West Chestnut Street in Union. This will be the fifth time that the band has performed a holiday program at Liberty Church. This annual concert series is one of the band's most highly anticipated annual events. This year's family-friendly program is entitled "The Gift of Music."

Concertgoers will enjoy the band's arrangements of classic Christmas carols such as "Good King Wenceslas," "Il est Ne, le Divin Enfant," "Pat-a-Pan," "Fum, Fum, Fum," "Hark The Herald Angels Sing," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," "Good Christian Men, Rejoice," "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful," and "Here We Come A'Caroling." The band will also play some favorite holiday songs like "Over the River and Through the Woods," "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," and "Feliz Navidad."

Also planned is a medley from the animated TV special "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." In a special piece entitled "For Unto You is Born This Day!," Gary A. Myer of Bridgewater, NJ will narrate the story of the first Christmas as the band accompanies him. Audience members will be invited to sing along for "A Christmas Festival," and as is tradition with the band, children will be invited to ring sleigh bells as the band plays "Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson.

The concert is free and open to the general

public, although donations will be accepted to benefit the band, a non-profit group comprised entirely of volunteer musicians, as well as the presenting churches and foundations. In the event of inclement weather, the announcement to cancel any of these concert will be made on the band's website (whitehousewindsymphony.org) and Facebook page (facebook.com/whitehousewind).

The Whitehouse Wind Symphony was founded by conductor emeritus Casey Bork on April 15, 1996. It is dedicated to presenting the best in all varieties of wind band literature. Since its founding, the band has grown rapidly, attracting experienced musicians as regular members from all over New Jersey, as well as New York City and eastern Pennsylvania. It is now comprised of approximately 50 amateur and professional musicians who perform together regularly to enthusiastic audiences throughout central and northern New Jersey. It was recently voted the winner of the "Hunterdon Happening" list in the category of favorite musician/band for the third consecutive year. For more information, including information about future performances, please send an email to whitehousewindsymphony@gmail.com.

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through funds administered by the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission.



(pictured) The Whitehouse Wind Symphony pauses for a group photo following one of last year's holiday performances. Photo by Gene Hirschel

CITIZENSHIP PREPARATION CLASSES

The Union Public Library in partnership with Jewish Vocational Service will be offering free classes to help legal permanent residents prepare and apply for U.S. citizenship. The curriculum will focus on all aspects of the citizenship exam and interview, as well as legal assistance in completing the N-400 Application for Naturalization.

The Union Public Library will hold exam preparation classes on Saturdays, 9am-1pm for

10 weeks beginning January 2018. Registration and the first class; will be held on January 6 at 9am.

All prospective registrants must bring their Green Card in order to be registered.

For more information, please contact Inna Kramers at ikramers@jvsnj.org or 862-704-2283.

The Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave., Union, NJ 07083. (908) 851-5450 or on the web at www.uplnj.org.

NEW BUS FOR UNION SENIORS COURTESY OF NJ TRANSIT GRANT

Joseph Florio, Deputy Mayor of the Township of Union joined Phyllis Monguso, Director of the Township of Union Senior Center in taking receipt of their new 15-passenger bus. The 3rd in recent memory to be paid for by NJ Transit, the bus is the latest accomplishment in the Senior Center's aggressive pursuit of grant opportunities to expand and enhance their services. The bus will be utilized to help transport senior citizens to doctors' appointments, run errands, and go on trips.

Photo courtesy of the Township of Union.



CAN YOU RING THE BELL TO HELP SOMEONE IN NEED?

The Kenilworth Social Service Agency is looking for volunteers to help with the Kenilworth Salvation Army unit yearly fundraising. We are looking for people to give one hour on a Saturday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on December 2, 9, 16, or 23, ringing the bell outside of the Acme in Kenilworth.

In years past the volunteers were mostly Kenilworth seniors. In the past few years many of them are not in the best of health, have moved away, or could no longer help. This left those who did help having to do double shifts or more than one Saturday. Some worked every week for more than an hour.

If you can give an hour for a very good cause please call Paulette Drogan at 908-966-6987. Leave your name and telephone number and I will contact you with further information and available hours.

RENNA MEDIA LAUNCHES THREE NEW NEWSPAPERS NOW MAILING 125,000 NEWSPAPERS BRINGING TOTAL TO 21 TOWNS

Renna Media will be launching three new newspapers in January 2018. *Garwood Times*, *The Chathams*, and *Madison Monthly* will join Renna Media's family of newspapers, bringing the number of publications to 21 with a total of 125,000 newspapers mailed to homes and businesses monthly.



(above, l-r) Joe and Tina Renna, owners of Renna Media, LLC, have been publishing community newspapers since 1998.

The publications are "hyper-local" in nature in that they contain information focused on each individual town and are direct mailed within those towns.

The hyper-local design gives businesses the highest value for their advertising dollars. The newspapers are designed (black ink on newsprint) to keep the cost of advertising as low as \$60 for a business card size ad. Regional

businesses can take advantage of one low rate for being in multiple publications. Inserts are also available.

Joe and Tina Renna, owners of Renna Media, LLC, have been publishing community newspapers since 1998.

For info about Renna Media publications, please contact info@rennamedia.com; or call 908-418-5586.

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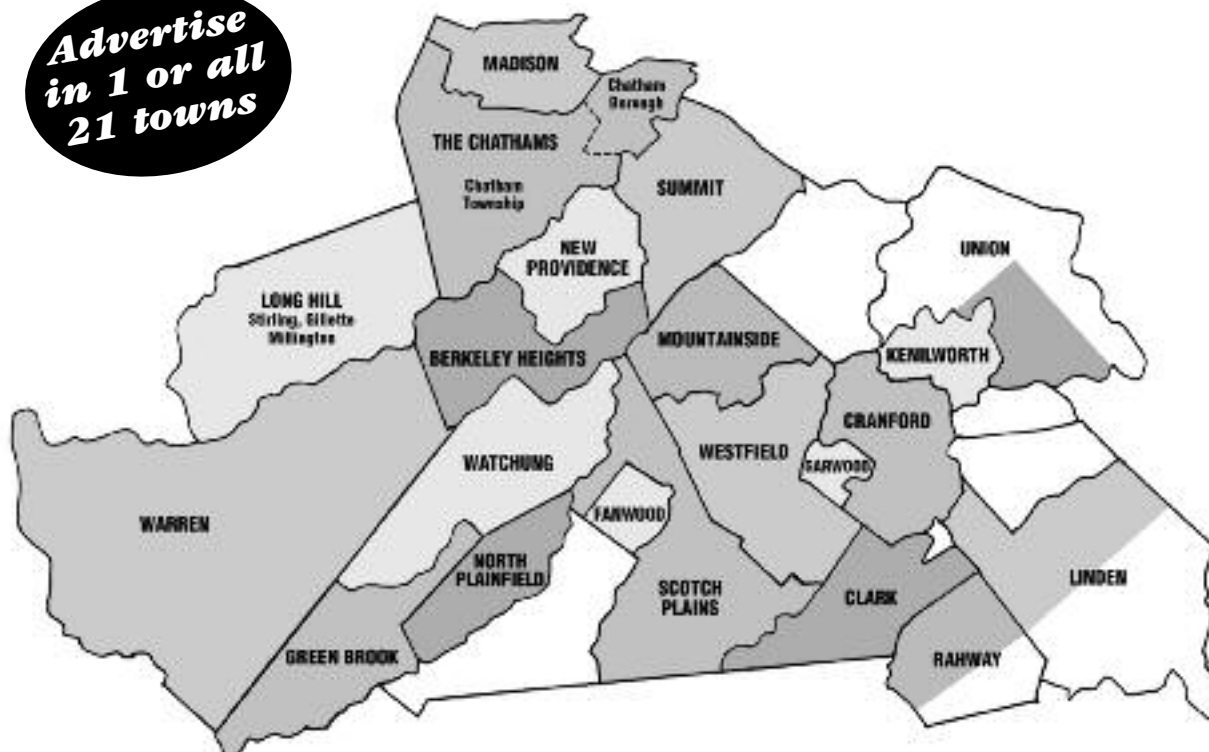
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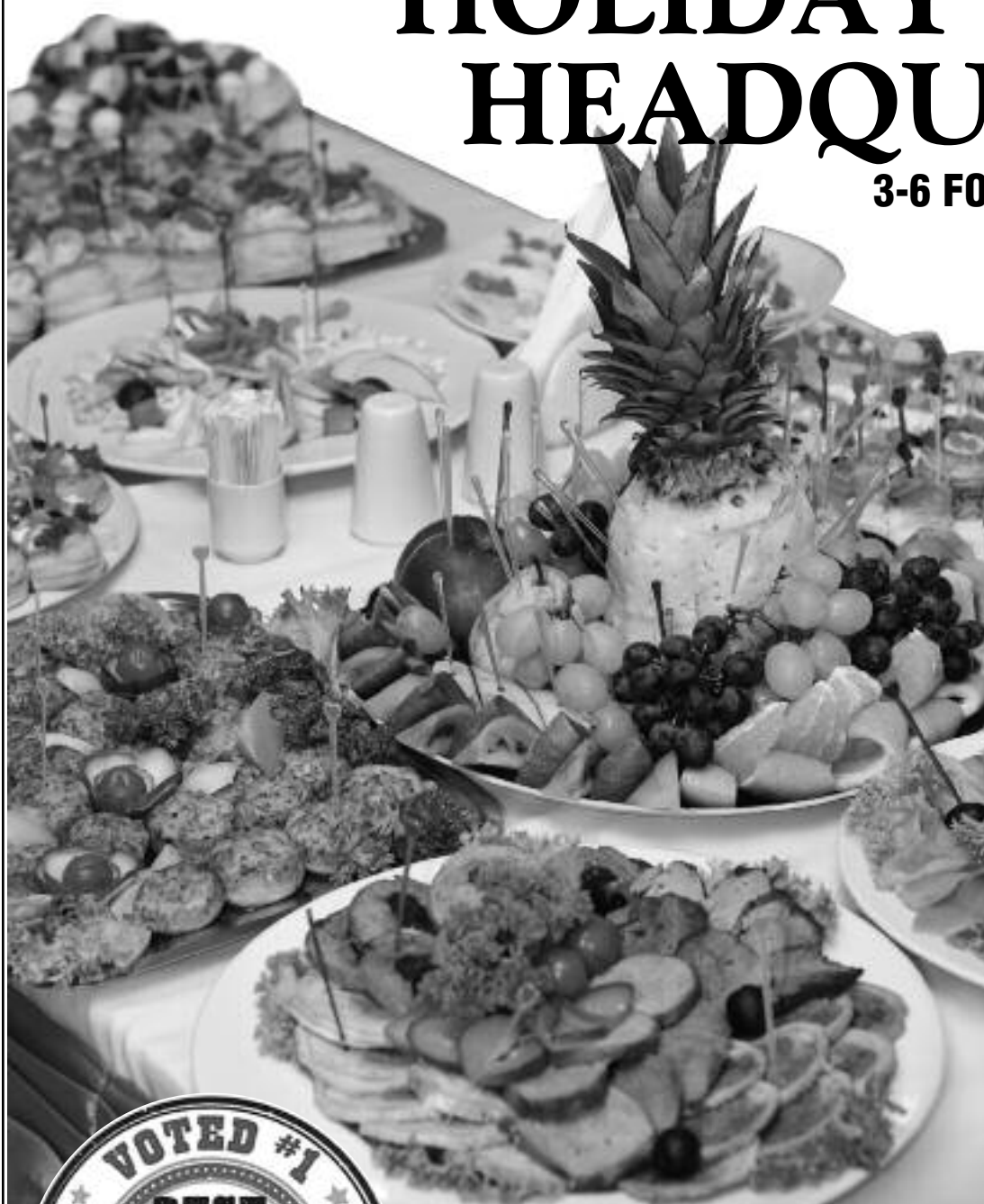
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Includes: A tossed salad with vinaigrette dressing, assorted bread, rolls, butter, salt & pepper.

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\$12.50 pp - 20-49 people, 3 hot entrées, 1 potato or vegetable

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Hot Entrées a la Carte

1/2 tray serves 8-10 people; whole tray serves 16-20 people

For complete catering menu visit www.cozycornerdeli.net

	Half	Whole
Baked Ziti	40.00	64.00
Lasagna	44.00	74.00
Roasted Pork Loin	44.00	74.00
Honey Glazed Baked Ham	44.00	74.00
Kielbasa & Sauerkraut	44.00	74.00
Swedish Meatballs	44.00	74.00
Chinese Pepper Steak	50.00	80.00
Oven-Roast Beef w/Gravy	50.00	80.00
Chicken Marsala	50.00	80.00
Chicken Parmigiana	50.00	80.00
Chicken Cordon Bleu	50.00	80.00
Chicken Fingers & Sauce	40.00	65.00
Chicken Wings	35.00	60.00
Veal & Peppers	54.00	84.00
Veal Parmigiana	64.00	94.00
Veal Marsala	64.00	94.00
Eggplant Parmigiana	44.00	74.00
Seasoned Potatoes	29.00	44.00
Roasted Mixed Vegetables	29.00	44.00
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