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## BATTLE HILL TROTS OUT HUNGER

On Monday, November 13th, Bernadette Murphy, a representative for St. Joseph's Social Service Center, visited Battle Hill to inform students about the many programs the center runs year round. The visit kicked off Battle Hill's latest fundraiser, a "Turkey Trot."

After hearing about all the assistance St. Joseph's provides to the community, students were encouraged to donate \$2 to the cause. Those who donated had their name written on a feather by Donna Carlyle, Battle Hill greeter, which was added to a school-wide turkey. Teachers jumped in to help too. They were invited to take part in a \$10 donation dress down week and receive a Turkey Trot hat to be worn the day of the main event. Phyllis Neshimka, physical education teacher, also choreographed a Turkey Trot dance to the song Jump On It for students to participate in. Sarah Norman, art teacher, had all students create a Turkey Trot hat.

On Tuesday, November 21st, third and fourth grade students filed out onto the field and lined up to await their peers. The rest of the student body followed soon after and began to walk laps around the field with the third and fourth grade students. Music was played to encourage student

interaction and would be interrupted periodically with a holiday themed dance, including Neshimka's Turkey Trot and the Thanksgiving Hokey Pokey.

"Our goal with this particular fundraiser was to help those in need as the holiday season was fast approaching," said Student Council Advisor Alison Brehm. She added "With the overwhelming support of our Battle Hill Community, we did just that."

The fundraiser was so successful it raised a total of \$845 to be donated to St. Joseph's Social Service Center. "Battle Hill's donation will provide 700 meals to those in need this holiday season," said Murphy.

### ABOUT ST. JOSEPH SOCIAL SERVICES CENTER

Since 1983, St. Joseph Social Services Center has served the materially poor and homeless community of greater Elizabeth, New Jersey, by providing basic human needs such as food, clothing and medications, as well as a wide range of services and programs to help them acquire the material goods and social services they need to live with integrity. St. Joseph's is located at 118 Division St., Elizabeth, NJ 07201-2736. Telephone 908.352.2989. Email: info@sjeliz.org.

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(above) Battle Hill Student Council with St. Joseph's Social Service Center representative Bernadette Murphy Pictured:  
 Top: Andrew Manata, Kauri Townes, Adaugo Ikwu, Julian Laverty, Yadier Yi, Roosevelt Sterling. Bottom: Julian Felix,  
 TaNise McDonald, Isabella Solano, Aiden Vazquez, and Bella Luna Victoria. Not Pictured Ava Soares.



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## MEET MARYANNE CHRISTIANO-MISTRETТА YOUR CONTACT FOR NEWSPAPER CONTENT



*Maryanne  
Christiano-Mistretta*

Hello Readers!

I'm ecstatic to introduce myself as the new editor for Renna Media. It's such an honor working with Joe and Tina Renna; they are awesome!

Joe has asked me to write a little bit about myself for our readership, which is probably a great idea since I'll often be out

and about in the community.

Residing in Union County with my husband, Dennis, and our beloved cat Nicholas, my interests, besides writing and editing, include animals, music, and living a healthy lifestyle.

Writing professionally since 1995, I'm an award-winning journalist. I received my award from The NJ Society of Professional Journalists for investigative journalism. I'm also an author, public speaker, and poet (recently selected to read at the All About Eve Arts Festival at the West End Theatre in Long Branch, New Jersey).

Having a great passion for music, I've developed a unique library program called "The Learn & Listen Series" which pays homage to legendary musicians.

The two-fold presentation begins as I host, sharing a musician's biography – which I wrote – followed by actual live music from local New Jersey and New York talent. Librarians can choose from a variety of singers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, Sammy Davis Jr., John Lennon, Freddie Mercury, Johnny Cash, Janis Joplin, and David Bowie.

I'm blessed to be able to work with performers like indie recording artist Keith Beck; jazz sensation Stephen Fuller (front man for Amani);

singer/performance artist, Anna Oh; and three-time Grammy winning producer, Rob Fusari.

"Learn & Listen" also includes Jayne DiGregorio and Rich Timberlake, who work behind-the-scenes filming for an upcoming documentary.

In addition to the "Learn & Listen" series, I also lecture on "History of the Newspaper Industry," "Going, Going, Gone: What the Next Generation Won't Remember" (seniors love that one!), and there's also a healthy foodies series, which includes sampling.

Now, if you've read this far, you may be asking yourself – how can this woman work so much and still have time to edit 21 newspapers? As Joe Renna himself says – "It's not work, it's a lifestyle." I somehow get everything done ... and with a big smile on my face.

When you have a grand passion for what you do, it doesn't matter what day it is. It could be a Monday, or a Friday, and you're equally as happy. Sometimes I'm home all day working in my pajamas; other times I'm having a blast taking photos at a Winter Walk. Whether I sleep in or get up super early to attend a town meeting, it's all good. In this line of work, every day is different, and every day is exciting.

In just one month of working for Renna Media, I've attended many fun affairs and met incredible people. It brings a tear to my eye when a child cheers, "I'm gonna be in the newspaper!" after I take his or her photograph. That's what it's all about – the essence of presenting a good story to the community.

So, don't hesitate to send me your community news. We call on the arts, fundraisers, nonprofits, new businesses – anything positive that should be in your local newspaper.

Reach me at 908-858-4012, or email me at: [Editor@RennaMedia.com](mailto:Editor@RennaMedia.com)

I look forward to hearing from you!

*Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta*

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## TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS HOST STUDENT ELECTIONS

Township Elementary Schools recently held student elections for the 2017/2018 School Year. Fourth graders were given the opportunity to run for the Student Council executive board. Students had to fill out an application for the position they were running for, create a poster, and prepare a speech. These speeches were presented in front of the 3rd and 4th graders along with many of their family members and staff. It took a lot of courage and preparation for these students to feel confident presenting in front of their peers, and all of the families in the school.

Congratulations to the 2017-2018 Student Council Executive Board.

Photos by Township of Union Public Schools.

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(above) Battle Hill: President: Yadier Yi, Vice President: Bella Luna Victoria, Secretary: Ava Soares, and Treasurer: Julia Laverty.



(above) Washington School: President, Lizandro Perez, Vice-President, Emelia Pelesz, Secretary, Saul Pichardo and Treasurer, Brody Zawacki.

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(above) Livingston School: President Blake Wilkins; Vice-President Leah Fragoso; Secretary Charlotte Garland; and Event Coordinator: Gianna Manderichio.

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## AMERICAN LEGION POST 35 ORATORICAL SPEECH CONTEST HELD AT UNION HIGH SCHOOL



(above) Destiny Tullis and David Arminio who served as the timer for the contest.

Union High School hosted the American Legion Post 35's Oratorical Speech Contest on Saturday, December 2, 2017.

In this contest, students prepared a speech on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. The prepared speech has to be the original effort of each contestant and not take up less than eight (8) minutes and no more than ten (10) minutes.

Upon completion of the first speech, the

moderator chooses one of the assigned topics on the US Constitution for the students to prepare a 3-5 minute speech. The students were not allowed to use any notes for either speech.

The first place winner of the contest was Destiny Tullis, a junior at Union High School. Second place winner was Anthony Jackson, a sophomore at Union High School. Destiny will go on to the next round of speeches in this national contest scheduled to be held in Indianapolis on April 14th -15th 2018.



(above) Sandra Mangarella, John Blank (American Legion), Anthony Jackson, Michael Yesenko (American Legion, former UHS Social Studies Supervisor), and Destiny Tullis.

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## MARGARET STEINER CELEBRATES 102ND BIRTHDAY



(above) Margaret Steiner celebrated her 102nd birthday on December 7th with her family, staff, and neighbors at Clark Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

Margaret Steiner celebrated her 102nd birthday on December 7th with her family, and neighbors.

Margaret Roehner Steiner was born December 6, 1915 to William and Margaret Roehner in Elizabeth, NJ. She was raised in Union and had three brothers (two that died in childhood) and three sisters.

On June 5, 1933 Margaret married John Steiner and they resided in Union, where he was a fireman with the Union Fire Dept. John owned a Harley Davidson motorcycle and they both enjoyed many rides along with a club they belonged to. Margaret and John later had two children, Ralph and Judylynn. During their long marriage, their family grew to five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

John built a little bungalow in Seaside Park, NJ where the family enjoyed many summers. After 33 years of service to his town he retired. They built a year-round home at the shore but later moved to Ft. Myers, Florida to spend their senior years. Margaret would occupy her time over the years on a bowling league, playing tennis, and country line dancing.

John passed away in 1977 and Margaret stayed in Florida with her friends. During the 1980s she enjoyed trips with her friends to England, Alaska, and Switzerland.

Margaret returned to Union to live with her daughter for a while, but then moved to the Atria and now resides at Clark Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Clark, NJ where she celebrated her 102nd birthday on December 7th.

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## UNION HIGH MARKETING STUDENTS TOUR MACY'S HERALD SQUARE

Union High School's Fashion Marketing and Hospitality and Tourism classes got the opportunity to get the inside scoop of the marketing strategies behind the world's largest retailer. Students, along with their teacher Ms. Katie Snyder and two chaperones, toured the Herald Square retail store on November 30th. John Wiltberger a nineteen-year veteran of the company led the tour, which is part of Macy's Tourism Marketing and Development program. The tour started with the history of Macy's and the growth of the huge retailer since its official opening in 1857. Students were taken through different departments within the eleven floors of selling space and given information on the marketing and advertising strategies used to attract customers to each department.

Ms. Snyder shared "Once again this was a great trip and experience for the students in my Fashion Marketing and Hospitality and Tourism Marketing classes. There is so much for the students to learn, experience, and absorb from being inside the store and having the opportunity to ask questions to our tour guide about their marketing efforts. The curriculum comes to life in a fun and interactive way!"

With over 5,000 employees at the Herald

Square location alone, students learned about the different career opportunities in the retail industry. Students were also informed of the three subdivisions within the marketing and advertising department that work together to promote the giant retailer. The entertainment group is responsible for events such as the Thanksgiving Day Parade and the 4th of July Fireworks. These events along with others are used as a way to keep Macy's name current but also as a way to get people into the stores to shop. The tourism and marketing development sector is responsible for making sure that those who come in from out of town are welcome and informed about Macy's and that they are given coupons for sales. Macy's prides itself with being socially responsible. The cause-marketing group focuses on ways to give back to the community. During the the holiday season, the retailer ran a "letters to Santa" campaign where for every letter that is written to Santa, Macy's made a \$1 donation to the Make-a-Wish foundation.

The students learned about the different demographics that the store caters to and how they use marketing to attract them. Students were particularly interested in the Junior's

Department of the store where bright colors, eclectic décor, current music, and even restaurants were used to keep them engaged.

11th grader Kiana Veloso-Lima said, "I enjoyed going on this trip. I was able to relate what I learn in a classroom to the real world. I really think that this trip is very beneficial for students." Maria Fonseca a 12th grader added, "The trip to Macy's was great! It helped put an image to the topics we had been learning in class. What we were learning in class was showed to us in real life, outside of a classroom."

"The trip was a very fun experience," stated 11th Grader Saleem Messiah. "It taught me some things about Macy's such as it being the biggest department store in the world and how it started. It was also cool seeing a lot of what we learned in class already, really translates to the real world. Especially such a successful worldwide store as Macy's. Looking at the different clothing options they had in one big store was pretty cool. The tour guide was nice. Great vibes, great people, great food, and a great time!"

The Fashion Marketing and Hospitality and Tourism course are part of the many great business and marketing courses offered at Union High School in the business department.



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# UNION HIGH GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM HONORED AT THE UCGSCA ALL STAR BANQUET

*Submitted by Township of Union Public Schools*

The Union County Girls Soccer Coaches Association hosted an All Star Banquet at the Westwood in Garwood on Wednesday, December 6, to recognize the best players from teams across Union County. We are proud to announce that the Union Girls' Soccer Team as a whole and several talented individual players from the team were acclaimed for their excellent performance this season.

Caitlyn Finnerty (goalkeeper), Gabby Lamadieu (defender), and Kayla Miller-Peoples (forward) were awarded positions on the 2017 All-Stars Watchung First Team. Kelly Severini (midfield) and Kayla Veloso-Lima (forward) were awarded positions on the 2017 All-Stars Watchung Second Team. Andrea Santiago and Nicole Alfano received an honorable mention for their contributions as midfield players. In addition, Gabby Lamadieu, Kayla Miller-Peoples and Kayla Veloso-Lima received All Conference Awards and will be attending the NJGSCA State Banquet in January.

As an added bonus, Coach Cassiano Dos Santos was recognized as Coach of the Year by

his peers. His commitment, dependability and continuous effort to obtain the best possible performance from his players was clearly evident in the accomplishments of the Farmers this season.

Coach DosSantos shared "Despite losing some key players due to injury we had a great season. Our team played well battling against top teams in the state. The girls made tremendous progress these last 2 seasons, and as the trend continues, we will continue to surprise the best teams in the state. Thank you for honoring Union Girls Soccer, this is an added motivation and will push us even further next year."

Overall, the Union Girls' Soccer Team had a very successful season with a 14-6 record. Its only losses were to Top-20 ranked opponents. In addition, the Farmers ranked 3rd in Union County, and finished in 19th place in the state. This is quite a record to uphold next year, however with the guidance of Coach Dos Santos and the unending support of their fans, the Farmers are very likely to achieve this lofty goal!

*Spirit of UNION* • Page 9 • January 2018

## OPEN HOUSE AT THE CALDWELL PARSONAGE

The Union Township Historical Society will host two open houses in January at the Caldwell Parsonage Museum, 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union.

The first will be held on Sunday, January 14; the second on Sunday, January 28--both from 2 until 5 p.m. Besides touring the historic home, visitors will be able to enjoy the holiday decorations.

Reservations are not required. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

For more information, please call (908) 687-0048 and leave a message.



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(above) Young Union residents enjoying the Five Points Branch pool.



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## FIVE POINTS BRANCH YMCA ANNOUNCES FACILITY RENOVATIONS

During the month of November 2017, The Gateway Family YMCA Five Points Branch began renovating portions of their facility, located at 201 Tucker Avenue, Union.

Renovations include both the men's and women's locker rooms, consisting of complete tile replacement, new flooring, new countertops, and sinks. During renovations, the YMCA will remain open to members and continue to provide high-quality programs and services.

In a letter to YMCA members, Danielle Cioffi, District Executive Director, The Gateway Family YMCA stated, "We ask for your patience and cooperation while we close areas of the building for renovations and repairs. We know you will be pleased with the results!" This recent renovation project comes as a direct result of member requests during targeted focus groups and as part of the Y's Member Experience survey conducted through SEER Analytics.

"We take pride in our five YMCA branches in

Elizabeth, Rahway and Union," stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO. "At the YMCA we are open for all and we strive to provide the highest quality experience for everyone who walks through our doors." Renovations at the Five Points Branch, during 2017, included a full induction of a new pool deck, as well as the installation of a Seresco HVAC unit for climate control in the pool area, and new duct work that is visually appealing and colorful.

The Gateway Family YMCA impacts the community by providing quality services to people of all ages, races, faiths, or incomes. The Y doesn't just strengthen bodies – it strengthens people, families, and communities.

For more information about programs and services provided by The Gateway Family YMCA – Five Points Branch, please visit [www.tgfymca.org](http://www.tgfymca.org) or contact the Five Points Branch at [fivepointsinfo@tgfymca.org](mailto:fivepointsinfo@tgfymca.org) or 908-688-9622.

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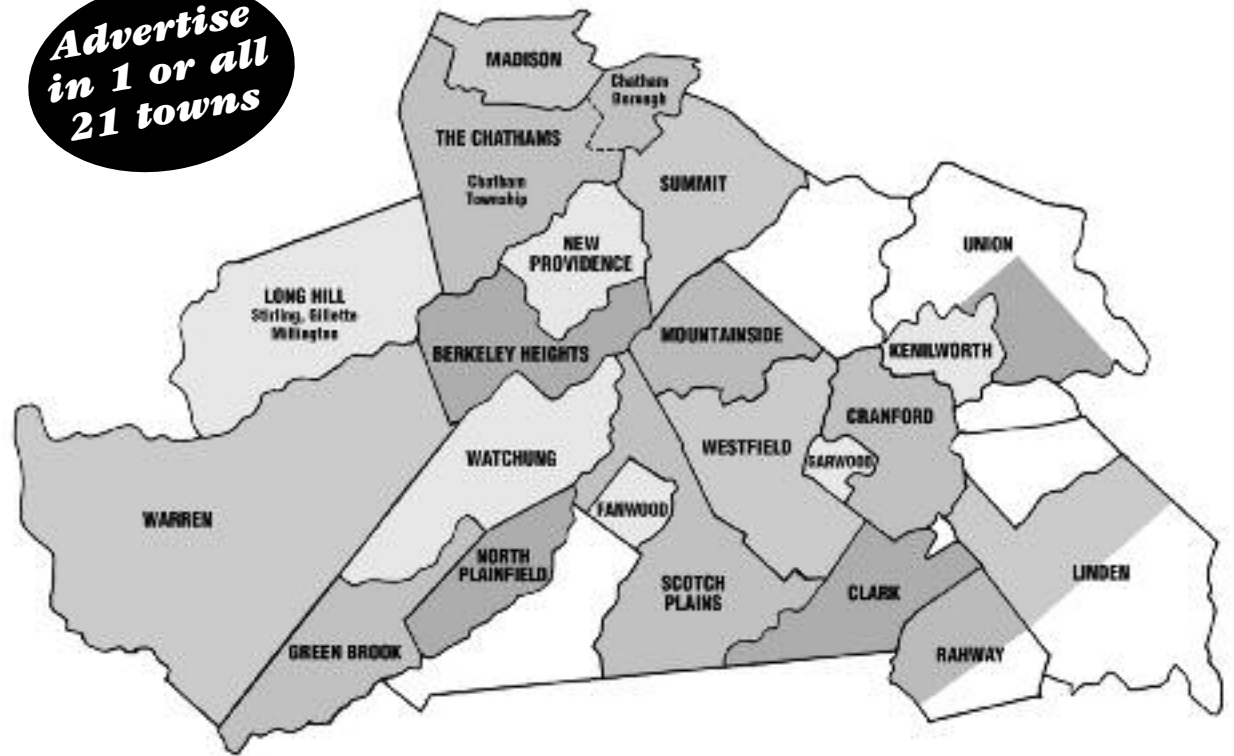
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