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#### Issue 31 • April 2018

## **'AN EVENING OF SHINING STARS' SPECIAL NEEDS TALENT SHOW**

#### Submitted by Michael P. Curci

Shining Stars," featuring members of the special needs community from around Union County, will take place on Friday May 4, 2018 at 7 p.m.

Founded by Cranford resident Sally Curci, the 7th annual showcase will feature "Music from the Decades" with the cast set to sing and dance their way into your hearts as they show off their amazing talents.

And for the very first time, the "Shining Stars" cast will take the professional stage at the beautiful and historic Union County Performing Arts Center, where many of America's biggest names have performed.

"We are so excited to give our special cast the chance to perform at such a great venue," noted Sally Curci. "Our audience has grown each and every year, and our cast continues to grow as we spotlight talent from around Union County. It's going to be a night to remember."

When the lights will go up, the "stars" will shine, entertaining you with music from the '20s through today, with solo acts and full cast dance choreography, which is one of the highlights of the show.

Adam Fleissner, who has performed in every show, can't wait to take the stage again, as he prepares to sing "Help!" by the Beatles.

"We meet so many great people," said Fleissner. "We get One of the area's most anticipated events, "An Evening of new people in every year and everyone has a good time meeting each other and performing. All of it is just fantastic."

Caitlin Madden is also excited to team with volunteer buddy Mark Lynch on the Elton John song, "Don't Go Breaking My Heart," with rehearsals in full swing.

"I'm very excited for the show, I like my number," said Madden. "I like all the years I've been doing it. It's fun. Come see us!"

Tickets are on sale now at UCPAC.org/events. Find the Shining Stars logo, select your seats and you'll be in for one of the best nights of the year!

"An Evening of Shining Stars" is presented by Shining Stars Network, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Union County that shines the light on the special needs community by creating inclusive events such as their annual talent show, dances at local high schools, and our Ambassadors basketball team, which travels to play local first responders to promote friendship and understanding.

SSN will also host their 2nd annual two week performing arts camp, "Camp Shine," from August 20 through August 31 in Scotch Plains. To reserve your spot, or for more information on any of these programs or events, email shiningstarsnetwork@gmail.com,or check out their website at ShiningStarsNetwork.org



(above) Cast to appear at Union County Arts Center 2018 Shining Star Show May 4, 2018



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## **VFW FOX HOLE LOUNGE NOW OPEN**

Submitted by Thomas Lombardi

Berkeley Heights VFW Post 6259 located at 15 Locust Avenue, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey is happy to announce that our Fox Hole Lounge is open daily from noon till 6 p.m. and Thursday until 10 p.m., seven days a week.

We now have New Jersey Lottery game "Quick Draw" in the Lounge. Our rental hall is

available for parties, meetings, and just about any kind of event. A full kitchen is also available.

The VFW has long supported activities in the township and now is a good time to return that support. We need your support to help our veterans who, when asked, gave so much of theirs. For more information call 908-464-9893.

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SPONSOR **PROGRAM ADDRESSING CLEAN WATER ISSUES**

Submitted by Marlene Sincaglia

sponsoring a program entitled "All Life Depends of Clean Water: How Baykeeper Programs are Addressing Clean Water Issues in the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary."

The program will be held on Monday, April 23, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. at the DeCorso Center, 15 E. 4th Street, New Providence, New Jersey. The program is free and opened to the public. There will be light refreshments beginning at 7:15 p.m.

Our speaker is Sandra Meola, NY/NJ Baykeeper's Communications and Outreach Director. She will give an overview of NY/NJ Baykeeper's programs addressing water quality including oyster restoration and reducing plastic pollution advocacy and policy.

Baykeeper's Meola manages NY/NJ legislative strategy, multimedia messaging, and press relations.

The NY/NJ Baykeeper is the citizen advocate of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary. Since 1989, we've

The League of Women Voters of Berkeley worked to protect, preserve, and restore the Heights, New Providence, and Summit will be environment of the most urban estuary on Earth, benefiting its natural and human communities. Through our Estuary-wide programs they seek to end pollution, improve public access, conserve and restore public lands, restore aquatic habitats, encourage appropriate and discourage inappropriate development, carry out public education, and work with federal and NY/NJ state regulators and citizen groups as partners in planning for a sustainable future for the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary watershed.

> The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

For more information on the League of Women Voters of Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Summit, visit: lwv-bhnps.org

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### Berkeley Heights News • Page 4 • April 2018 BUSINESSES UNITE TO PRESENT "BEAUTY & WELLNESS WEEKS"

Berkeley Heights will host the area's first-ever "Beauty & Wellness Weeks" from April 28 through May 12, 2018. Twenty-nine establishments, ranging from gyms and chiropractor/massage businesses to hair and nail salons and jewelry sellers, are creating special offers and services to attract new customers and reward loyal patrons. The theme, "Be Your Best Self," conveys the physical and mental benefits of feeling healthy and looking good.

"We hope that participants will come away with a greater sense of well-being," said Julie Lloyd, Chairperson of the Downtown Beautification Committee. The DBC is organizing the event in cooperation with local business owners and the Suburban Chamber of Commerce. "Taking advantage of this opportunity to try more of what these businesses have to offer can help workers, parents, and seniors feel better about themselves and manage stress.

A recent American Psychological Association study indicates that stress levels continue to rise. Key stress management strategies include exercising, taking time for oneself, and breathing and relaxation activities such as meditation. Beauty & Wellness Weeks showcases services and products that support increased health, happiness, and inner and outer beauty.

In addition to all the special services and pricing detailed at the event website, ExperienceBH.com, participants can take advantage of BH Platinum, a frequent participant gift program. BH Platinum Cards will be available at participating establishments. Each time a customer purchases a service, they'll earn a stamp on their BH Platinum Card. Customers who collect five stamps from any of the participating establishments during Beauty & Wellness Weeks will be entered to win generous gifts—an assortment of merchandise and gift cards donated by participating businesses.

Patrick Smith, Vice Chairman of the Suburban Chamber of Commerce representing Berkeley Heights, said, "Almost all these beauty and wellness businesses are owned and operated by area residents who are passionate about their purpose. They enthusiastically welcome the opportunity to introduce their services to more people who can benefit from them. The Chamber is excited to support this opportunity for area residents to "Experience Berkeley Heights."

Berkeley Heights Beauty & Wellness Weeks is being promoted to residents of Berkeley



Heights, Long Hill, New Providence, Chatham, Warren, and Mountainside. To make it easier for busy parents to relax and enjoy services and shopping, the Berkeley Heights Y and the Berkeley Heights Recreation Department are offering childcare services. More details are available on the website.

Participating Berkeley Heights establishments are: All About Eyewear, Anything Floral, Balish MedSpa, Berkeley Barber Shop, Berkeley's Cuts for Kids, Body Restoration, Crestview Barber Shop, Dean's Greens Garden Center, DeFabio Chiropractic, Electric Beach Tanning Studio, European Wax Center, Feathers II, Gabriele Fitness, Hair Art, Hall's Garden Center, J Michael Jewelers, Life Time Athletic, Massage Envy, MC Beauty Bar, Nail It Spa, Nikki Tans, Peak Medical, Premier Fitness, Smith Chiropractic, Sublime Salon & Day Spa, Suburban Optic, The Fountain of Youth Spa, Vanilla Moon Salon, and Berkeley Heights YMCA.

Julie Lloyd said, "Modern downtowns have evolved into centers offering personalized services and unique products. This event celebrates Berkeley Heights as a mecca for people seeking the very best in beauty and wellness. We hope that area residents discover new favorites and seize this chance to pamper themselves a little; or a lot! They deserve it."

More information about the participating establishments, using the Platinum card, and children's babysitting and activities is at ExperienceBH.com.

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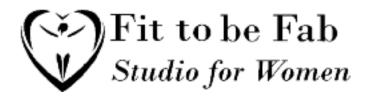
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Berkeley Heights News • Page 5 • April 2018

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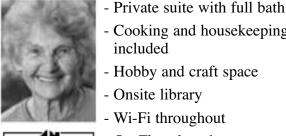




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## **HEALING FROM GRIEF AND LOSS SEMINAR**

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey, will hold their six-week seminar "Journey to Wholeness: Healing the Grieving Heart" on Sundays, April 15 to May 20, 2018, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Patti Williams, R.N., and certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Virginia Waters, PhD, will lead the sessions in the Thompson Youth Center. Patti and Virginia in the 18th year of this ministry, and have helped approximately 2650 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 categorized among 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 and tools for the journey, taking good care of ourselves, dealing with changes, decisions, loneliness, holidays, anniversaries, and building a support system.

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

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.



(above, l-r) Patti Williams and Virginia Waters.





## **ADOPT-A-BEACH CLEAN-UP PROJECT COLLECTS 200 POUNDS OF TRASH**

members of Val's Valiants, The Warriors team from the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Berkeley Heights, and the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission (BHEC), and their families, recently put on special gloves, and picked up 199 pounds of litter in just under two hours along an "L-shaped" route near the Green Brook tributary, by the intersection of Horseshoe Road and Watchung Way, close to the Runnells Center for Rehabilitation.

Volunteers of all ages participated in this effort, from young children and teens to adults. Participants included Corina Atanase, Mike D'Aquila and his two young sons, Valerie Diamond, Kim Diamond, Karen Hall, Kevin Hall, Richard Leister, and Marlene Sincaglia.

The clean-up was part of the state-wide Adopt-A-Beach program, a joint effort between the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Clean Communities Council that supports volunteers in their efforts to clean up natural waterways such as streams, rivers, and beaches to promote environmental stewardship, preserve the natural environment, and establish a cleaner environment.

The route began at the intersection of Mountain Avenue and Horseshoe Road, continued down Horseshoe Road to Watchung Way, ran along Watchung Way, and ended just beyond the driveway leading up to the Runnells Center for Rehabilitation. In total, the group gathered 135 pounds of recyclables and 64 pounds of garbage along this approximately half mile stretch.

The character of the litter collected reflected an interesting pattern. Plastic beverage bottles were more common along the main roadways, particularly along and off of Horseshoe Road. Small glass liquor bottles and eating utensils, plates, cups, and take-out containers made from plastic, paper, and foam were the items most commonly found adjacent to Watchung Way, just a few feet into the woods near the bottom of the Runnells driveway. Large, more obscure items were more commonly located deeper into the woods along Watchung Way, just beyond the

(above) Adopt-A-Beach Clean-Up.

included a bucket of clay pieces, a bed frame, and a bamboo barstool chair with its seat cushion still attached.

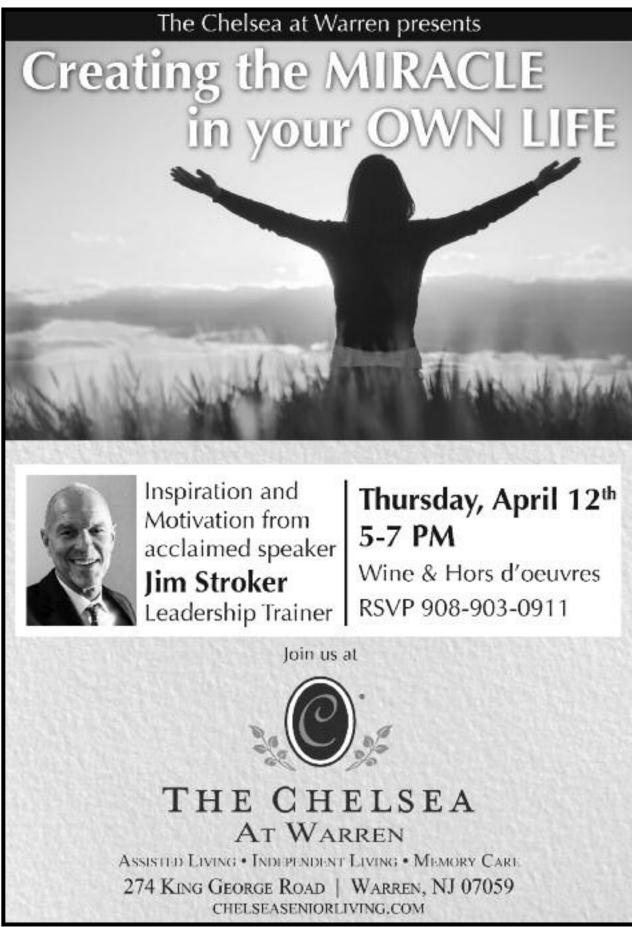
Governor Livingston High School sophomore Valerie Diamond, a second-year participant in this clean-up effort and leader of Val's Valiants, stated that "This trash clean-up is something that needed to get done. People should be able to walk down the street without seeing trash everywhere they look."

From an environmental and health perspective, the clean-up provided a number of benefits. Litter degrades, causing pollutants to contaminate water runoff from rain and melting snow. This runoff seeps into ground water and flows along streets into our waterways. Ridding areas near waterways of trash and other debris helps to

Ten Berkeley Heights residents consisting of Runnells driveway. Examples of such items avoid such contamination, resulting in cleaner natural water in local water bodies. This, in turn, promotes a healthier environment that benefits plants, forest animals, marine life, and humans.

According to Environmental Commissioner Richard Leister, "The best way [to keep trash out of streams, is not to create it in the first place." Leister, who stated that the Environmental Commission supports efforts such as this one to keep trash out of streams, further noted that "If you drop things like plastic bottles in the forest, they do not decompose."

The Adopt-A-Beach program runs from March 1 to April 30, 2018. If your family, friends, business, organization, or other group is interested in participating in this program, please contact NJCCC at 609-989-5900 or visit njclean.org for more information about volunteering.



## **FIVE BERKELEY HEIGHTS SCOUTERS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR SERVICE**



(above, l-r): Mike Higgins, Terrence Grossman, Tom Lenahan, Cliff Boldt, Kevin Engemann, and Mike Koubek.

Submitted by: Hal Daume

At a recent gathering of Scouting, volunteers from the Patriots' Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America, five Berkeley Heights Scouters were recognized for their efforts on behalf of the youth of this community. These five are the key leaders of Troop 68, one of the two Boy Scout troops sponsored by the Rotary Club of Berkeley Heights.

Committee member Mike Higgins and Committee Chair Mike Koubek received the Boy Scout Leader Training Award, in recognition of their three-year commitment in training, tenure, and performance. Immediate Past Scoutmaster Terrence Grossman received the Watchung Mountaineer Award, honoring his multiple-year commitment to the Scouts of Troop 68.

Committee members Tom Lenahan and Kevin Engemann each received a Unit Scouter Award, symbolizing their long-time commitment to Scouting excellence in Berkeley Heights.

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## **RESCUE SQUAD CELEBRATING 75 YEARS AND RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS**

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

Berkeley Heights Volunteer Rescue Squad has been serving the community since 1942. President Joe Savino has been with the Squad for the past five years. With limited funding from the township, their operating budget comes 100 percent from donations.

"The town does as much as they can," said Savino. "They help us with maintenance, if we have a special request. We don't have fundraisers. We do fund drives to every resident asking them to donate. Many will send a contribution. By and large the community is supportive, but we barely make our budget. There is no surplus."

In addition to contributions, the squad relies on people in the community who are willing to commit their time to volunteer.

"We have twenty-two regular members and



they ride on a committed weekly schedule," said Savino. "That is the minimum we need to keep a full roster. We are always looking for new members. We would love to have at least five new regular members."

Volunteers must be able to commit to 12 hours during the week and 12 hours on a weekend once a month. A shift is every 12 hours -7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Since Berkeley Heights is a small town, volunteers can be on call at home, not in the building. Savino said, "Go about and do your business, but be absolutely available. I work Tuesday night, over night shift. I have a police radio and a pager. If they need us, I jump in my car and meet the crew."

Savino said the squad receives 950 calls per year, which is approximately two to three calls per day. "In this area we have a lot of geriatric calls," he said. "And we do have our share of trauma calls. We do get our share of high impact accidents on the highway. We patrol about four miles on Route 78."

Riding a small ambulance out on Route 78, Savino is grateful to the fire department. "They help with getting people out of vehicles and they have a big heavy firetruck that would protect us from a vehicle hitting us. They are excellent. They're a good bunch of guys to partner with," he said.

The squad currently has 22 regular members; three regular members who are college students; 16 associate members; and one currently taking the EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) test, which Savino feels is the hardest thing getting through. Prior to taking the EMT test, a volunteer can ride up to a year as an associate, then take it to the next level. Once a volunteer passes the EMT course, they are permitted to take the state exam.

"You basically have a year to take the exam," said Savino. "You can ride for a year with no other commitment. Basically, it's a two-year program. The squad will pay for all the training."

There are also nine high school cadets on board. "We invite high school kids to ride a threehour shift with us," said Savino. "Some are thinking of becoming doctors or nurses. A nice bunch of high school kids."

If anybody is interested in finding out more about the rescue squad, they could come in and fill out an application. The headquarters are located at 378 Snyder Avenue, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey (on the corner of Snyder and Locust Avenue).

The Berkeley Heights Volunteer Rescue Squad is funded primarily through donations. They are all volunteers and do not charge for transport to the hospital or for medical supplies, so any donations are truly appreciated.

All contributions are tax deductible. To donate by check, please make your check out to Berkeley Heights Volunteer Rescue Squad and mail to:

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Or visit their website to make a donation online at bhyrs.org

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## **VIBHAY CHATURVEDI WINS BOY SCOUT CHESS TOURNAMENT**

Troop 368, and a resident of Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, won First Place in The Munsee



(above) Vibhay Chaturvedi.



(above) Berkeley Heights resident Sean Gleeson of also competed in chess tournament.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Cranford Monthly page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share"

MERICA

Vibhay Chaturvedi of Watchung Mountains District of Boy Scouts 5th Annual Chess Tournament.

> Gleeson Sean of Watchung Mountain Troop 368, and a resident of Berkeley Heights was also in attendance.

> The tournament was held at the Cranford Community Center, Cranford, New Jersey, on February 24, 2018. Sponsored by Renna Media, trophies were awarded to first, second, and third place finishers. The tournament met the 6a

requirement for earning a Chess merit badge. First Place prizes were chess sets in traveling cases.

Thirty-six contestants participated, with players coming from as far as Franklin, Lake Hopatcong, and Rockaway. The owner of Big Apple Pizzeria on Walnut Avenue, Cranford, donated lunch for all participants and spectators.

Last year's winner, Linden resident, Youssef Diakite returned as a volunteer and assistant



(above, l-r) Sponsor Joe Renna of Renna Media; Second Place finisher Joshua McDonald of Raritan Valley Troop 90; First Place winner Vibhav Chaturvedi of Watchung Mountains Troop 368; Third Place finisher Miguel Aguirre of Raritan Valley Troop 90; and Jim Parlapiano, Cranford Troop Volunteer.



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## THE NEXT BIG THING!!! **JOE RENNA'S HYPER LOCAL NETWORK**

Renna Media has launched a new YouTube channel called Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network! The channel will consist of a variety of shows, each with its own focus. The first episode of each show is up and ready to view.

### **Mind Your Own Local Business**

Mind Your Local Business uses real life examples to illustrate successful techniques for managing and marketing your business. Local businesses will be featured. The first episode is about crafting a 30 second elevator speech. The February 2018 meeting of the Irish Business Association held at Molly Maguire's in Clark, NJ is featured in the first episode. Businesses that would like to be featured in an episode can email Joe at joerenna@rennamedia.com.

#### The Peterstown Show

The Peterstown show is a video continuation of the Peterstown Newspaper. The show focuses on the 100-year history of an Italian American Neighborhood in Elizabeth, NJ. Like the newspaper, it preserves the culture and traditions while recording the oral history that may be lost. The first episode is an interview with Carmela Lepore who turned 108-years-old on January 30, 2018.

### **Renna's Arena hosted by Nick Renna**

to Local Sports Show & More

Nick Renna has been the voice of high school sports as a public address announcer and brings that experience to a variety show; an eclectic mix of old and new video about general interests. His first episode is a video he shot of a 5th and 6th grade St. Anthony's Grammar School game from 1989.

### The Video Shoebox

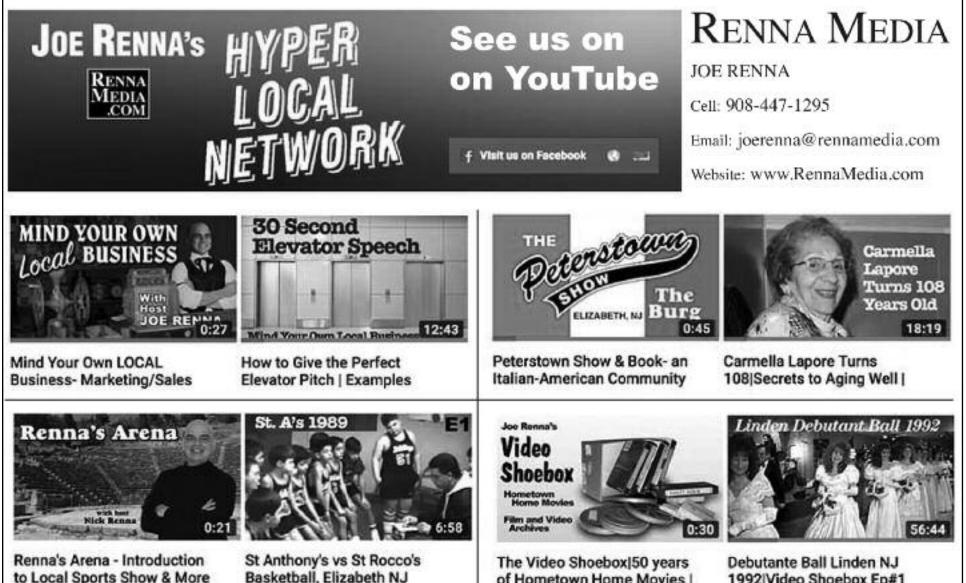
As a camera bug from a very young age Joe Renna amassed a collection of VHS tapes and 8 mm film. The first video is of the Linden Debutant Ball that he shot in 1992. There are hundreds of hours of videos to come.

Anyone with 8mm film or VHS tape to transfer should email joerenna@rennamedia.com.

Renna Media will convert film for free if we use it on the show.

## PLEASE VIEW / LIKE / COMMENT / SUBSCRIBE.

More shows will be coming in the future! And if you have ideas for what you'd like to see, please comment or email me at JoeRenna@rennamedia.com. ▼Please SUBSCRIBE to my channel to get regular business insights and networking guidance: youtube.com/channel/UCqJS. ▼I welcome your likes, shares and comments! You can learn more about me and my business by visiting my website at rennamedia.com. .



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## **ONCE UPON A MATTRESS AT CDC THEATRE**

CDC stage, jumps into the director's chair for this

show. "Once Upon a Mattress' is one of my

favorite shows because of its iconic music and

tongue-in-cheek humor," he recently shared.

"Although the show was written in the late 1950s

and first performed in the early 1960s, at the

center of the story is an atypical ingénue, Fred,

whose story challenges traditional fairytale

If you think you know the classic fairy tale "The Princess and the Pea" by Hans Christian Anderson, the next show at CDC Theatre in Cranford, New Jersey, may surprise you! "Once Upon A Mattress" carries this tale of royal courtship, curses and love along on a wave of wonderful songs composed by Mary Rodgers.

Zach Mazout, who has appeared often on the



Berkeley Heights News • Page 15 • April 2018

With this ad. Expires 5/10/18.

## **KEAN UNIVERSITY HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION**

The annual Yom HaShoah Holocaust Commemoration at Kean University will take place on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 6:45 p.m. at the Wilkins Theatre for the Performing Arts, 1000 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey.

This year's featured speaker will be Robert Bielsky, the youngest son of the legendary partisan commander Tuvia Bielski, portrayed by Daniel Craig in the 2009 film "Defiance." He lectures throughout the world about the heroics of his father and uncles, and about their successful mission that saved over 1200 Jewish lives during the Holocaust, whose descendants today number in the tens of thousands.

Robert Bielsky is active in many Jewish organizations. He is a member of the Associates Board of the Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City, and is past president of the Holocaust Memorial Committee of Brooklyn.

This event is free and open to the public; and is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ and Kean University's Holocaust Resource Center. Educators who attend will receive professional development credits, and sign language interpretation will be provided. For more information and to register, visit jfedgmw.org/kean.



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**BLUE STAR SHOPPING CENTER** 

Large Parking Lot to Accommodate our Customers

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Hibachi Grill Supreme Buffet (Show ID)







### **MONDAY - THURSDAY**

Lunch 11am • 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:00pm
Adult\$7.99	Adult\$11.99
Kids 7-10\$5.99	Kids 7-10\$7.49
Kids 3-6\$3.99	Kids 3-6\$5.99
2 & UnderFREE!	2 & UnderFREE!

### FRIDAY - SATURDAY

Lunch 11am -	3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm	•10:30pm
Adult	\$7.99	Adult	\$11.99
Kids 7-10	\$5.99	Kids 7-10	\$7.49
Kids 3-6	\$3.99	Kids 3-6	\$5.99
2 & Under			

### **SUNDAY ALL DAY DINNER**

11am	• 10pm	l
•••••		\$11
.10		\$7
	•••••	<b>11am - 10pm</b>

11am • 10pm		
Adult	\$11.99	
Kids 7-10	\$7.49	
Kids 3-6	\$5.99	
2 & Under		

### **GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE**

# SUSHI

Fantastic range of freshly prepared sushi. Most selection and top quality among all competitors. It is far from the typical "buffet quality" sushi. At HIBACHI, you don't sacrifice taste for price.

# BUEEDT

Elegant, modern, fresh, executed with care and confidence. HIBACHI Grill Supreme Buffet brings together 250+ of fresh-made Asian dishes in eleven buffet bars.

# HIBACHI

Choose your favorite ingredients from dozens of seafood, meats and vegetables. Watch our chef preparing them in our special hibachi sauce to create a full-flavored dish.

