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'AN EVENING OF SHINING STARS' SPECIAL NEEDS TALENT SHOW

Submitted by Michael P. Curci

One of the area's most anticipated events, "An Evening of 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 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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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SPONSOR PROGRAM ADDRESSING CLEAN WATER ISSUES

Submitted by Marlene Sincaglia

The League of Women Voters of Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Summit will be sponsoring a program entitled "All Life Depends on 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.

Meola manages NY/NJ Baykeeper's 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 worked to protect, preserve, and restore the 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 non-partisan 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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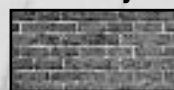
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MELVIN JONES FELLOWSHIP AWARD PRESENTED BY NEW PROVIDENCE LIONS CLUB

Submitted by Linda Kale

New Providence Lions Club recently awarded Mr. Tom Montrone and Mr. Brian Geoffroy the "Melvin Jones Fellowship Award." This award is the highest form of recognition and embodies outstanding humanitarian ideas consistent with the nature and purpose of Lionism. A recipient of this award becomes a model of exemplary service to his club and the community which it serves.

The Melvin Jones Award is a nation-wide award. Melvin Jones a 38-year-old Chicago businessman, asked a simple and world changing question, "What if people put their talents to work improving their communities?" One hundred years later Lions Club International is the world's largest service club organization with 1.35 million members in more than 46,000 clubs.

The New Providence Lions Club is in its 48th year of service to the community of New Providence, New Jersey.

The New Providence Lions Club donates back to the community every dollar it collects. Being a Lion empowers you to help others in a way that no one person could alone. The Lions are dedicated to helping others. Lions make a difference!

Organizations that have benefited from your annual support are: NP Recreation Dept., Fire Dept., Community Service Assoc., EMS Rescue Squad, Senior Citizens Center, PBA, NPHS

Scholarships, NP Historical Society, Health Fair, NP Public Library.

For more information please email info@nplions.org or call 908-665-8254.



(above, l-r) This year's recipients of the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award are Mr. Tom Montrone and Mr. Brian Geoffroy.

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NEW PROVIDENCE SENIOR CITIZEN HEALTH FAIR

The New Providence Health Department and the New Providence Senior Citizens Club will host the annual Senior Citizen Health Fair on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the DeCorso Community Center, located at 15 East Fourth Street, New Providence, New Jersey. All New Providence residents, 55 years or older, are invited to attend the Health Fair which will host a comprehensive list of health screenings and medical information at no cost to participants. Pre-registration is required for some screenings.

The focus for the Health Fair is to provide screenings relevant to senior health and well-being. One of the free central Health Fair screenings offered is a Stroke Health Risk Assessment conducted by Atlantic Health System, Overlook Medical Center, Community Health Department. This screening is an assessment of significant stroke risk factors with follow-up counseling and is available to the first

30 registrants. Although the aging process alone is not a risk factor for stroke, contributing risk factors such as the development of hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease can increase the incidence of stroke and other related illnesses. Pre-registration for this screening is required.

There is also a free fasting blood chemistry screening available for all New Providence residents who have reached the age of 55 years, and who have completed the required in-person pre-registration prior to the Fair. The pre-registration will begin on Monday, April 23, through Friday, May 4, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the DeCorso Community Center.

For additional information please contact the DeCorso Community Center at 908-665-0046 or the New Providence Health Department at 908-743-1049. Funding for this program is provided by the Union County Community Development Block Grant Program.

NEW PROVIDENCE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB HOSTS TRIP TO SANDS CASINO

The New Providence Senior Citizens Club will be hosting a trip to Sands Casino, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on Tuesday, April 17, 2018. The bus departs at the DeCorso Community Center, 15 E. 4th Street, New Providence, at 10 a.m., returning to the Center at 5:15 p.m.

The Sands Casino is offering the following

package for each guest: \$20 free slot play; and \$5 meal coupon. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased in advance on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the DeCorso Community Center.

For more information on signing up in advance, please call the Senior Center at 908-665-0046 or Phyllis Winters at 908-464-3039.

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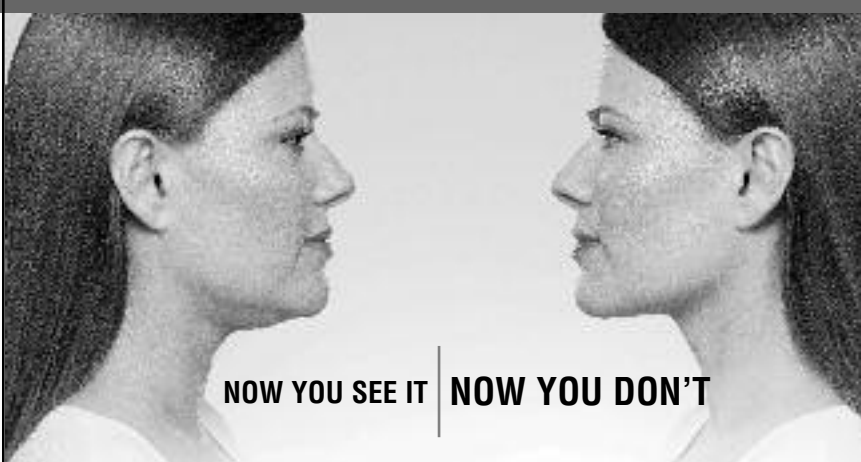
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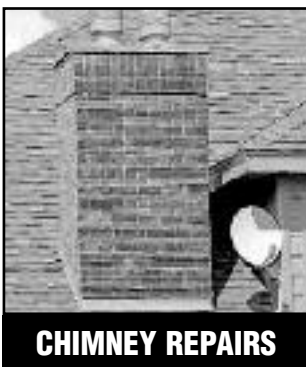
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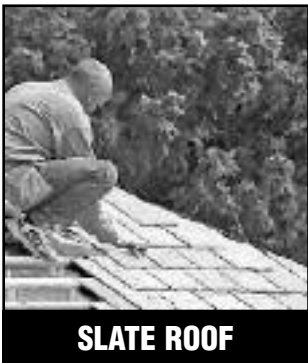
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For more information, call 908-665-0311 or visit: newprovidencelibrary.org - Like us on Facebook.com

The Thursday Evening Book Club

April 5 at 7:30 p.m.

They are reading *The Calligrapher's Daughter* by Eugenia Kim, a story that takes place in early-20th-century Korea. It tells the story of a privileged young woman and about a country torn between ancient customs and modern possibilities, a family ultimately united by love, and a woman who never gives up her search for freedom. All are welcome. Copies of the book are available at the front desk.

The Knitting Club

meets three times this month on

Mondays April 2, 16, and 30 at 7 p.m.

Bring a project you are working on or get instruction on a knitting or crocheting project you would like to start.

The Baseball Club

Monday, April 9 at 7 p.m.

Anybody interested in baseball is welcome to talk about your favorite team, players or just listen.

Non-Fiction Book Group

quarterly meeting of the Non-Fiction Book Group

April 10 at 7:30 p.m.

to discuss *Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life* by William Finnegan. This memoir is about much more than surfing.

Finnegan shows us through the story of his life how surfing is a beautiful addiction, a demanding course of study, a morally dangerous pastime, and a way of life. *Barbarian Days* takes us deep into unfamiliar worlds, some of them right here at the Jersey shore. Copies of the book are available at the front desk.

Could you use some strategies for bringing peace to your life?

Tips on getting a better night's sleep? Join us on

April 12 at 7 p.m.

for *Coping with Stress & Anxiety* from Dr. Valerie Spangenberg, formerly on staff at Morristown Memorial now resident of Lantern Hill.

The Thursday Morning Book Group

Thursday, April 19 at 10 a.m.

to discuss *Claire of the Sea Light* by Edwige Danticat. A little girl from the Haitian seaside community of Ville Rose suddenly disappears. As the people search for her, painful secrets, haunting memories, and startling truths are unearthed, and the author weaves a tapestry that explores the mysterious bonds we share with the natural world and with one another. All are welcome. Copies of the book are available at the front desk.

Celebrate National Poetry Month

wonderful local poets read from their work on

April 22 at 2 p.m.

Award-winning poet Deborah Gerrish and several other poets will share their poems and then offer an open mic for the public to share their work. Come to participate or just listen.

Outsmart the Scammers

on April 26 at 7 p.m.

will clue us in to the current schemes used to defraud people out of their savings. Kevin Mack of Edward Jones will tell us what to avoid and how to combat theft.

Did you lose any trees in the recent storm?

Then you'll want to mark your calendar for the annual free tree giveaway on

April 28 from 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

organized by the NP Sustainability Committee and held in the library parking lot. Get there early for the best selection.

Finally, come out and celebrate Spring with another wonderful Sunday Concert.

The Concord Singers, a women's choral group

April 29 to at 3 p.m.

perform a program entitled *Song of the Universal*, a work by Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo set to poetry by Walt Whitman.

Full schedule of movies available

featured movies are "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing," "Murder on the Orient Express," "Wonder Wheel," "Where Do We Go Now" and "La Cage Aux Folles." See the library calendar on our website for full dates, times and descriptions.

For the younger set, there are baby lap sits on Wednesdays.


Bigger kids, i.e. 4, 5, 6, have a special story time on *Tuesdays at 2 p.m.; and Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. Every Thursday at 2 p.m.*


there's a drop-in craft, too. And don't forget about our afterschool clubs: Snap Circuits, Jr. meets *on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 3:30 p.m.*

and LEGO meets on *the 4th Tuesday of the month at 3:30 p.m.* in the Coddington Room.

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UNION COUNTY NAMI EVENTS APRIL 2018

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Union County National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

has a support group for caregivers of loved ones who have a mental health diagnosis. Join our peer led monthly group meetings and gain insight from others facing similar challenges.

Meetings are held
on the third Tuesday of every month
from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11
Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey.

The "ER" Experience

The public is invited to hear Kelly Baker, Director of Psychiatric Emergency Services at Trinitas Regional Medical Center, speak about what to expect in the ER, the screening process/law and how caregivers fit into it. NAMI meetings offer education and support as well as an invaluable opportunity to share with others who understand the challenges of caregivers. This event is

April 24, 7:30 p.m.

at RWJ Rahway Fitness and Wellness Center,
2120 Lamberts Mill Road, Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

For more information, call 908-233-1628 or email
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OUTSTANDING CITIZEN HONORED GOOD SCOUT AWARD DINNER

Boy Scouts of America, Patriots' Path Council honored local citizens at the 7th Annual New Providence Good Scout Award Dinner, at the Primavera Regency in Stirling, New Jersey, on March 9, 2018. This year's honorees were Community Service Association, Armand Galluccio, Detective Mike Hand, David K. Helsabeck, and Nora Murphy. Over 60 people were in attendance.

The event recognized these four outstanding citizens and one organization for their community service, as evidenced by their leadership and interests within the New Providence community, and for their embodiment of the values of the century old Scout Oath and Law in their personal and professional lives.

The event chairman, and master of ceremonies was a 2017 New Providence Good Scout Award Recipient, David C. Hasenkopf of Boy Scout Troop 1 in New Providence.

Boy Scout Troop 1 and Boy Scout Troop 63 opened the ceremony with flag detail, followed by Harold Daume, Ph.D.'s "Scouting in the Patriots' Path Council" speech. David Peritore of Boy Scout Troop 1 spoke about "What Scouting Means to me."

After dinner the 2018 New Providence Good Scout Awards were presented to the following:

- The Community Service Association (CSA): Established in 1954, the Community Service Association's primary purpose is to offer financial assistance to New Providence residents in their time of need. CSA has grown from a few members to well over 25 active members with a full board and a part time social worker.
- Armand Galluccio: a former New Providence Councilman. During that time, he presented numerous Proclamations to Eagle Scouts.
- Detective Mike Hand, of the New Providence Police Department is President of PBA Local #132 and headed up the first Junior Police Academy in New Providence in 2016.
- David Helsabeck is the Vice Chair of Membership in the Watchung Mountain District of the Boy Scouts of America and has been involved in the local Scouting programs in New

Providence for 13 years.

- Nora Murphy is the Chairperson of New Providence Alliance, an organization that's mission is to achieve a drug free community and improve and enhance the quality of life for all who work and live in New Providence.

New Providence is part of the Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America which serves 17,000 youth in over 400 Scouting units in communities throughout Morris, Middlesex, Somerset, Sussex, and Union Counties.

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

For more information on Scouting, contact Jennifer Volz, Sr. Development Director, at 973-765-9322, ext. 249, or email: jennifer.volz@scouting.org



(above, l-r) Jessica Samsel and Honoree David K. Helsabeck.



(above) Honoree Armand Galluccio.



(above) Honoree Nora Murphy.



(above) Harold Daume, Ph.D.



above, l-r) Guhan Venkatesan of Troop 63, David Peritore of Troop 1, Peter Munoz of Troop 63, Michael Staunton of Troop 63, and Thomas Sponauer of Troop 1.

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JOE RENNA'S HYPER LOCAL NETWORK ON YOUTUBE

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

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.

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.

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 <p>MIND YOUR OWN Local BUSINESS</p> <p>With Host JOE RENNA 0:27</p> <p>Mind Your Own LOCAL Business- Marketing/Sales</p>	 <p>30 Second Elevator Speech</p> <p>12:48</p> <p>How to Give the Perfect Elevator Pitch Examples</p>	 <p>THE Peterstown SHOW</p> <p>ELIZABETH, NJ The Burg 0:45</p> <p>Peterstown Show & Book- an Italian-American Community</p>	 <p>Carmella Lapore Turns 108 Years Old</p> <p>18:19</p> <p>Carmella Lapore Turns 108! Secrets to Aging Well </p>
 <p>Renna's Arena</p> <p>0:21</p> <p>Renna's Arena - Introduction to Local Sports Show & More</p>	 <p>St. A's 1989</p> <p>0:58</p> <p>St Anthony's vs St Rocco's Basketball, Elizabeth NJ</p>	 <p>Joe Renna's Video Shoebox</p> <p>0:30</p> <p>The Video Shoebox 50 years of Hometown Home Movies </p>	 <p>Linden Debutant Ball 1992</p> <p>56:44</p> <p>Debutante Ball Linden NJ 1992 Video Shoebox Ep#1</p>

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