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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


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



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UNION FIREFIGHTERS TAKE HOME 1ST PLACE IN FOOD COMPETITION

On Monday, February 26, 2018, the Township of Union firefighters joined together with 24 other teams of firefighters from around New Jersey to compete in 'The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off,' part of the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival held at the Pines Manor in Edison New Jersey. Union Firefighters took home 1st Place in the "People's Choice" category.

The event benefited the New Jersey State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

The Fire Department Cook-off is part of a

culinary extravaganza where participants were able to experience the tastes and flavors of more than 30 of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers and dessert shops all in one location. This event, held at The Pines Manor in Edison, NJ, drew more than 1000 people from across New

Jersey. According to event organizers, \$65,000 was raised this year, St. Barnabas will receive half. The Cooked and Uncorked event has provided The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center with over \$170,000 over the past 8 years.



(above) The Union Fire Department team consisting of Michael Davitt, Gunther Guerra, Thomas Holder, Henry Sisbarro, took home 1st Place in the 'People's Choice' category of the 8th Annual Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival where 25 teams of firefighters competed in the 'The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off.'

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

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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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MICHAEL HALL OF UNION COMPETED IN BOY SCOUT CHESS TOURNAMENT

Union resident Michael Hall of Patriots' Path Council, participated in The Munsee District of Boy Scouts 5th Annual Chess Tournament. Alexander is in Watchung Mountain Troop 368.

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 tournament director.



(above) Chris Fedhoff did a tremendous job reporting for Cranford's TV35 on the 5th Annual Munsee District Boy Scout Chess Tournament. See the video on their website cranfordtv35.viebit.com



(above) Michael Hall.



(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.

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

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The cost of a ticket is \$5. The First Prize is a \$500 gift card to Best Buy donated by Investors Bank. Second Prize is a Gift Certificates Basket containing gift certificates donated by Union merchants – a \$200 value. Third Prize is a Gift

Basket donated by White Realty – a \$100 value.

Tickets are available at the ConnectOne Bank, 356 Chestnut Street at 5 Points, or by calling Barbara at 908-687-5743.

The drawing will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday May 10, 2018 at the Knights of Columbus, 1034 Jeanette Avenue, Union, New Jersey at the annual reception for the Township of Union Education Foundation. The winner need not be present.

IMAGINE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Join Imagine in supporting children and adults coping with loss. 20,000 children in New Jersey lose a parent to death each year. Imagine supports children and families coping with loss and fosters resiliency and emotional well-being for all those who grieve through our peer-support and educational programs.

From April 5 to 8, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Volunteer Facilitator Training will be held at 244 Sheffield Street, Mountainside, New Jersey. Come for the four-day, experiential training that provides you with the tools to facilitate Imagine support groups for children and adults. Explore your own losses and learn about the

Companionship Model that Imagine uses to support grievors of all ages.

Volunteers come from all walks of life and need no special background other than a willingness to listen and the ability to be with children and adults in pain without trying to fix, solve problems, or give advice. No prior experience is necessary. Volunteers must be 21-years or older. Volunteers serve as companions and loving listeners for those who are grieving.

For more information or to register contact: Mandi Zucker at mandi@imaginej.org or call 908-264-3100.

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS AT CDC THEATRE

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 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 princess stereotypes. This theme has only gained popularity among modern audiences. It has the spectacle of a classic Broadway show without feeling dated or boring, and it's a show that audiences of all ages can enjoy."

Boasting a large cast of talented local performers, the show opens on Friday, May 4, and runs for three weekends until May 19, 2018. Additional information about the show and ticket purchases can be found by visiting the theatre's website, cdctheatre.org.

UNION COUNTY NAMI EVENTS APRIL 2018

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 namiunioncounty@yahoo.com.

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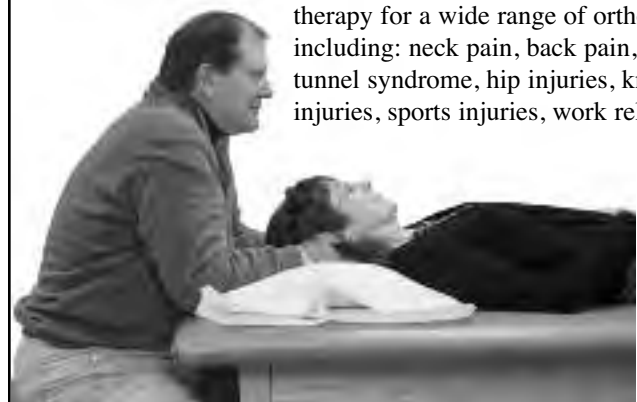
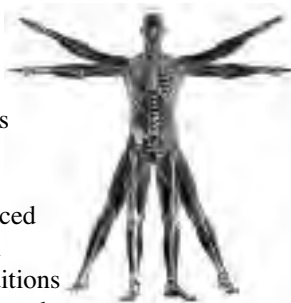
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'TASTE OF UNION' SET FOR APRIL 19TH

Submitted by: Taste of Union Committee

The Taste of Union will be celebrating its 11th year. As a community, we come together to support an individual in need and showcase our local restaurants. This event reveals the best of Union, generous individuals giving of their time and talent selflessly to benefit others.

The Taste of Union is a special day celebrating community and cuisine. Come and join us on April 19, 2018 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1034 Jeanette Avenue, Union. Guest can expect their taste buds to experience a wide range of culinary delights and flavors. You can enjoy many of these amazing restaurants in one location. A minimum of 28 restaurants will participate along with wine tasting from Total Wines.

Tickets are only \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Tickets May be purchased at the Clerk's Office at the Municipal Building, 981 Caldwell Avenue, Union, or the Senior Center, 968 Bonnel Court, Union.

Come and join us at the Taste of Union... it is known as a foodie destination. Each year, the Taste of Union committee assists individuals in our community with a need. Please help us in our efforts to support the Cosico family, our 2018 Taste of Union recipient.

The Cosico family has recently gone through so many challenges due to multiple hospitalizations and surgeries for their little girl, Elyse, who was born with a rare congenital condition called APERT's Syndrome. This syndrome is characterized by abnormal skull development, fused fingers and toes, and some facial deformities. This condition requires multiple surgeries as Elyse grows.

In the recent past year, Elyse had to undergo three trips to Dallas, Texas, where she gets her care because her condition is not common in New Jersey. She recently had LEFORT 3 surgery with Halo placement to move her middle face forward

and fix her protruding eyes. After that surgery, she had to be hospitalized at Saint Barnabas Medical Center as she acquired a C-diff infection. She returned to Texas six weeks after the LEFORT 3 surgery to have the Halo removed. Last August 24, 2017, Elyse had neck spine surgery, after an MRI showed instability in her neck spine, specifically C1 and C2. This instability at this location can render her paralyzed on all four extremities if not immediately corrected. On December 19, Elyse had to undergo a CVR (Cranial Vault Reconstruction), where the skull bone was reopened again to allow normal brain development. She was transferred to the PICU after surgery.

All these surgeries are performed at Medical City Children's Hospital in Dallas, Texas, because of their expertise in Elyse's case. Because they are out of state, their medical insurance does not cover most of her bills and requires upfront payment fees to the doctor and hospital before she can be scheduled for surgery. As well as booking flights and hotel accommodations on every trip to Texas.

We are counting on your support, so Elyse will be able to keep getting the care she needs. Elyse is expected to have a few more surgeries in the future and her hope of continuing her medical follow-up in Texas will rely solely on your help. All proceeds will be used for medical bills and her ongoing care.

For any additional information call Karen Caulfield at 908-851-5472 or Phyllis Monguso at 908-851-5291.

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FRIDAY - SATURDAY

Lunch 11am - 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm
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Kids 7-10.....\$5.99	Kids 7-10.....\$7.49
Kids 3-6.....\$3.99	Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
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READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY AT CONNECTICUT FARMS

Submitted by Christina Lam

Connecticut Farms School, Union, New Jersey, celebrated Read Across America Day on March 2, 2018. Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every

community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss.

At Connecticut Farms, we celebrated Read Across America by having a day filled with Dr.

Seuss themed reading activities. The students also participated in Dr. Seuss themed games and activities, read books written by Dr. Seuss, and enjoyed a light Dr. Seuss themed snack.





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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.

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'DAMN THE TORPEDOES' TOM PETTY TRIBUTE BAND TO PERFORM AT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

The Salem Roadhouse Café proudly presents Damn the Torpedoes performing on Saturday, 14 April, 2018.

This is your best chance to experience the foremost Tom Petty tribute band up close and personal, in an intimate, limited seating venue. Damn the Torpedoes have been playing to sellout crowds in large venues all over the Middle Atlantic and New England area. Only at the Salem Roadhouse Café will you be able to see and hear them in a nightclub-like setting, playing rare works as well as classic big hit Petty tunes.

All ages are welcome. It's a wholesome show, so bring the entire family! Doors open 7:30 p.m. The show starts at 8 p.m. Admission is \$30, advance sales online only at: roadhousecafe.ticketleap.com/damn-the-torpedoes. No door sales will be available the night of the show. Plan now for an evening of great music in Northern New Jersey's Most Intimate Coffeehouse™.

Proceeds will help Groundwork Elizabeth.

ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

Dedication best defines the Salem Roadhouse Café: dedication to excellent music and dedication to the community. As its tenth year begins, Salem Roadhouse Café reaffirms its commitment to both.

Started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth, the Roadhouse Café continues to operate as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That may be its social mission, but the Roadhouse Café is and has been a performance venue beloved by the musicians who play there because of its special intimacy with the audience.

CHURCH MUSIC, IT'S NOT.

The Roadhouse Café has always offered its stage to local and independent main stream musicians. It's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music, in a world of clubs and bars. Jazz, rock, folk and other groups have performed. During the past 10 years well over 100 different entertainers have appeared. Local fine artists also display their works.

COMMUNITY ORIENTATION

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center for Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Program, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music

Institute, and others. Thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.

The musicians who play the Roadhouse often ask to return as soon as possible. The Roadhouse has given them a place with a beautiful stage, good acoustics, a live, attentive audience, and a sound system that is first class.

Now well into its tenth year of operation, the Salem Roadhouse Café plans to feature many of the performers who have graced the stage in the past, as well as bring talent that is new to the Café stage. The current season will be benefitting Groundwork Elizabeth – Changing Places, Changing Lives

Admission includes the show, snacks, beverages and dessert.

For more information visit website: roadhousecafe.org; Facebook:

[facebook.com/roadhousecafe](https://www.facebook.com/roadhousecafe); or phone: 1-908-687-1028 (leave a message and a return number).



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UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS FOR ADULTS APRIL 2018

The Union Public Library has exciting events planned for adults during the month of April 2018 at both the Main Library (MN) and Vauxhall Branch (VH). All programs are free and open to the public.

THE MAIN LIBRARY EVENTS

The Main Library is located at 1980 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey.

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

Bite Club : Vegetables Aren't Boring!

Monday, April 2 at 7 p.m.

Join fellow foodies to chat about veggies. Please prepare a sweet or savory recipe in which vegetables are a main ingredient. Megan Hewitt, RD from Shoprite of Union will discuss how to incorporate more vegetables into our diets. Coffee and tea will be served. Registration required, please call 908-851-5450 x3 or email Emily at emacleod@uplnj.org. Please bring a copy of your recipe to the meeting.

Movies for Adults

Tuesdays at 2. April 3, 10, 17, and 24.

Join us at the library Tuesdays at 2 p.m. for free movies. Doors open at 1:50 p.m. and elevator access is available. Please call the Library for specific titles and more information at 908-851-5450.

Meditation.

Thursdays in April at 11:45 a.m.

Relax and unwind in our ever-popular meditation class.

Friends of Union Public Library.

Thursday, April 5 at 7 p.m.

Monthly meeting of the Friends of the Library. New members always welcome.

Celebrate Library Week:

The Life and Writing of James Baldwin.

Monday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m.

The influence of writer and social critic James Baldwin reached far and wide. In this unique exploration of Baldwin's groundbreaking literary and social justice work, actor/comic Grant and scholar Dr. Lindsey Swindall engage participants in an interactive dialogue that unravels the truths of racism in this country and examines other themes in Baldwin's writings.

This program is funded by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

Connect, Explore and Discover Our 24/7 Digital Library.

Learn how to download e-books, e-audiobooks, digital magazines and more using just your library card.

Wednesday, April 11 from 1 to 2 p.m.

Discover Hoopla Digital Friday; April 13 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. RBdigital; and Saturday, April 28 from 11 a.m. to noon. RBdigital (ebooks, e-audiobooks, and digital magazines). Please bring your library card and your mobile device with you.

Qello Film Concerts.

Thursday, April 12 at 1 p.m.

Join us for a filmed musical Swing and Jazz concert featuring Louis Armstrong.;

Wednesday, April 25 at 1 p.m.

Join us for a filmed musical concert featuring jazz artist Norah Jones.

Intergenerational Storytime

Thursday, April 12 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Join us for a special opportunity to read to young children ages 2 to 5. Please call the library at 908-851-5450 ext. 3 if you are interested in signing up. Books and light snacks will be provided.

AARP Safe Driving Class

Saturday, April 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sign up and save on your insurance. Registration required, and space is limited.

Off the Shelf Book Group

Thursday, April 19 at 7 p.m.

This month the group will be "The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace" by Jeff Hobbs. New members always welcome. Please contact the library to receive a copy of the book.

Financial Wellness 101

Monday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m.

This information seminar will offer insight on how to enhance your financial wellness. Topics to be covered include: emergencies, protection for family, home purchase/remodel, college education, wedding, vacation, comfortable retirement.

Senior Resource Connection: Union County's Mobile Aging Service Kiosk (ASK).

Tuesday, April 24 from noon to 2 p.m.

Union County's new mobile ASK will host free information events at the library on a monthly basis.

The events are designed to provide residents with a convenient, friendly way to find out about services for the aging, and for their families and caregivers. ASK is staffed by professionals with the Division on Aging and Disability Resource Connection of the Union County Department of Human Services. They will provide information and guidance on home delivered meals, respite care, home care, adult day care and other services.

International Film.

Thursday, April 26 at 2 p.m.

Join us to view a new foreign film every month.

Please call the library for exact title.

Les Malamut Art Gallery.

Stop by the gallery to view this new exhibit, Irish Culture and History: Artifacts and Photographs. Photography by Carol Martin, plus a selection of musical instruments and historical artifacts. This exhibit will be on display through April 30.

THE VAUXHALL LIBRARY EVENTS

The Vauxhall Branch Library is located at 123 Hilton Avenue, Vauxhall, New Jersey.

For more information, call 908-851-5451.

Connect, Explore and Discover our 24/7 Digital Library.

Monday, April 2 from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.

Learn how to download e-books, e-audiobooks, tv, movies, music and comics using your library card and Hoopla Digital. Register in advance.

Tai Chi Free Exercise Program. Every

Tuesday in April from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

For mature adults. Wear sneakers and comfortable clothing. Sign up required.

Family Movie

Saturday, April 7 from 1:30 to 3:20 p.m.

Join us for a family themed movie. Bring your own lunch, and we will supply popcorn and a beverage. Call the library for exact movie title.

Adult Prize Bingo

Monday, April 9 at 1:15 p.m.

Bring a friend for even more fun!

Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) Presents Real Money 101.

Wednesday, April 11 at 6 p.m.

Financial information for college. For high school students and their parents. Register in advance.

Homeschooling Meetup

Thursday, April 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For kids ages 10 and above. Please register in advance.

Spring Break Family Movie

Monday, April 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Join us for a family themed movie. Bring your dinner and we will supply popcorn and a beverage.

Please call the library for exact title.

Hilton Readers Book Discussion Group

Monday, April 23 from 6 to 7:45 p.m.

This month's book selection is "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult. Please contact the Vauxhall Branch for a copy of the book. New members always welcome.

Bring your own dinner.

Come Sign with Me

Saturday, April 28 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 5 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. School-aged children and adults can learn basic American Sign Language.

Jersey Job Club: LinkedIn 101.

Monday, April 30 at 6 p.m.

Join our Career Coach, Deb Warner to learn the basics of using LinkedIn for your career.

UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY APRIL 2018 YOUTH PROGRAMS

THE MAIN LIBRARY EVENTS

The Main Library is located at 1980 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey.
Phone: 908-851-5450; website: uniontownship.com/379/Union-Public-Library

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Mondays: Construction Zone
at 3:15 p.m.

All ages. No registration required. Learn, play, and build with us every Monday using Legos, K'Nex, and more.

Wednesdays: Babies in the Library
at 10:30 a.m.

Ages birth to 18 months. No registration required. Spend this special time with baby singing songs & rhymes, listening to stories, followed by free play and socialization.

Thursdays: Preschool Storytime
at 4 p.m.

Ages 3 to 6. 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 Time
at 10:30 a.m.

Ages 18 months to 3 years. No registration

required. Enjoy stories, singing, and movement, following a different theme each week. Please note that the April 27 session will focus on music and movement.

Crazy 8s Math Club

Tuesdays starting April 17 at 4:30 p.m.
Grades 3 to 5. Registration required. Join Bedtime Math's Crazy 8s Math Club where you'll build stuff, run and jump, make music, make a mess. It's a totally new kind of math club.

This program runs from April 17 to June 5.

Crazy 8s Math Club

Thursdays starting April 19 at 4:30 p.m.
Grades K to 2. Registration required. Join Bedtime Math's Crazy 8s Math Club where you'll build stuff, run and jump, make music, make a mess. It's a totally new kind of math club.

This program runs from April 19 to June 7.

Karate at noon

Saturdays starting April 21

Ages 3 to 11. Registration required. Sensei Andrew Crescenzo from USA Karate & Fitness will be teaching a series of sampler karate classes. All levels welcome. Please note that the noon class is for ages 3 to 6 and the 12:30 p.m. class is for ages 7 to 11.

This program runs from April 21 to May 12.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Read to Waldi

Mondays April 2 and 16 at 4:15 p.m.

Ages 5 and up. Registration required. Bring along a book or two and practice reading aloud to Waldi, our visiting therapy dog.

Intergenerational Storytime

Thursday April 12 at 10:30 a.m.

All Ages. Registration required. Bringing generations together with a special storytime, featuring special guests from Schaeffer Gardens.

Science Friday (SciFri)

Friday April 13 at 3:30 p.m.

Ages and up. Registration required. With April showers and warmer weather in the forecast, we'll be exploring rainfall and temperature through some fun experiments.

Robo-Monday

Monday April 15 at 5 p.m.

Ages 5 and up. Registration required. Fun with Ozobots. We'll be using these tiny robots to create games and learn about logic and coding.

Bedtime Storytime

Tuesday April 17 at 7 p.m.

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

ShopRite Kids Cuisine

Wednesday April 18 at 4 p.m.

Ages 6 to 12. Registration required. Learn about healthy eating and try some yummy new foods, following a different theme each month.

Munchies and a Movie

Friday April 20 at noon.

All ages. Registration required. Join us for a screening of "Leap" (2017)! Rated PG. Popcorn will be served. Parents must be present.

Teen Paint & Sip

Friday April 20 at 2:30 p.m.

Ages 13 and up. Registration required. Come in and relax as we paint together. Supplies will be provided.

Family M.E.S.S.

(Math, Engineering, and Science Saturday)

Saturday April 21 at 2 p.m.

Ages 2 and up. 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!

Teen Advisory Board Meeting

Friday April 27 at 3:30 p.m.

Ages 13 and up. 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. Recommend books, movies, and music you want to see on the shelves, and earn community service hours by coming to TAB meetings and participating in programs.

Family Drop-In Craft

Saturday April 28 at 11 a.m.

All Ages. No registration required. We'll be making Pop-up Tulip Cards to cap off National Gardening Month and celebrate the arrival of May flowers!

THE VAUXHALL LIBRARY EVENTS

Vauxhall Branch is located 123 Hilton Avenue, Vauxhall, New Jersey. 908-851-5451;
website: uniontownship.com/facilities/facility/details/The-Vauxhall-Library-32

Pre-K Story & Craft

Tuesday April 3 at 11 a.m.

Ages 3 to 5. Registration required.

Enjoy stories, songs, and a craft to celebrate National Gardening Month.

Let's Play Chess Club

Wednesdays at 3:15 p.m.

Grades 1 to 12. Registration required.

All levels welcome. Facilitated by Chess for Everyone. Please note there is no meeting on Wednesday April 18.

Club Teen: Game Time

Wednesday April 4 at 6 p.m.

Ages 14 and up. Registration required. Enjoy video games, card games, and board games with your friends in a fun and relaxed environment.

Tween Game Time

Thursday April 5 at 3 p.m.

Ages 9 to 13. Registration required.

Come in after school and play games with friends.

Lunch and a Movie

Saturday April 7 at 1:30 p.m.

All ages. Registration required.

All families are invited to join us for a screening of "The Lion Guard: Return of the Roar" (2015). Not rated. Bring your lunch, and we'll supply popcorn and a beverage.

Pre-K Interactive Learning Time

Tuesday April 10 at 11 a.m.

Ages 3 to 5. Registration required. Enjoy puzzles, coloring, memory games, and other fun activities with your preschooler!

Teen and Adult Financial Education Program

Wednesday April 11 at 6 p.m.

Ages 14 and up. Registration required. New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) will be presenting "Real Money 101."

Tween DIY

Thursday April 12 at 3 p.m.

Ages 9 to 13. Registration required. We'll be making coding bracelets, using beads to code our names. All materials will be provided.

Dinner and a Movie

Monday April 16 at 6:30 p.m.

All ages. Registration required.

All families are invited to join us for a screening of "Wonder" (2017). Rated PG. Bring your dinner, and we'll supply popcorn and a beverage.

Music & Movement

Tuesday April 17 at 11 a.m.

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

Club Teen: Teen Cuisine

Wednesday April 18 at 6 p.m.

Ages 14 and up. Registration required. Megan Hewitt, RD from ShopRite of Union will stop by to teach us how to make delicious and healthy snacks.

Tween STEM Builders Club

Thursday April 19 at 3 p.m.

Ages 9 to 13. Registration required.

Play around with Legos and 3D magnetic tiles to create amazing shapes and structures.

Pre-K STEM Story and Craft

Tuesday April 24 at 11 a.m.

Ages 3 to 5. Registration required.

Celebrate Earth Day with a fun STEM-based story time! All materials will be provided.

Tween "Make It at Your Library"

Thursday April 26 at 3 p.m.

Ages 9 to 13. Registration required. Celebrate the weather warming up with a beautiful rainbow craft! All materials will be provided.

Come Sign with Me

Saturday April 28 at 1:30 p.m.

Ages 5 and up. Registration required. School-aged children, teens, and adults will learn basic American Sign Language (ASL) in just 60 minutes!

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THE NEXT BIG THING!!! 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.

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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