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Issue 102 • September 2018

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LINDEN TEACHER SELECTED AS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Linden High School dance and physical education teacher Barbara Brady has been chosen Union County Teacher of the Year for the upcoming school year.

Brady and her students were surprised in her classroom with the news on April 24, 2018 by Union County Superintendent of Schools Juan Torres. Linden Superintendent Danny A. Robertozzi, Principal Yelena Horré, Board of Education Vice President Theresa Villani, and board member Tracey Birch were also there to help Brady celebrate.

The New Jersey Department of Education made the news of the award public on Wednesday, August 15, 2018.

"This is such an amazing honor," Brady said. "I love the work I do and the feeling I get when I can help inspire my students. That's why I am so humbled by this award, and excited to represent Union County and especially my hometown of Linden."

Brady, who has been teaching in Linden for 20 years, had also been chosen as the Dance Teacher of the Year for 2018 for the Eastern District of the United States — a region stretching from Maine to Maryland. The selection by SHAPE America (Society of Health and Physical Educators) made her one of six finalists for National Dance Teacher of the Year.

She was also runner-up for National Dance Teacher of the Year in 2013, as well as state Dance Teacher of the Year in 2012 and 2016, as selected



(above) Barbara Brady with Union County Superintendent Juan Torres, Union County Superintendent of Schools.



(above) Barbara Brady, second from right, accepting her award as Union County Teacher of the Year for 2018-19. She is with, from left, Linden Public Schools Superintendent Danny A. Robertozzi, Union County Superintendent Juan Torres, Linden High School Principal Yelena Horré, and her Linden Dance Company students.

by the New Jersey Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

"We couldn't be prouder of Mrs. Brady and the work she does at LHS," Robertozzi said. "For years she has been inspiring our students to reach for the stars, and you could tell by the students' excitement at the announcement how much they love her. It's not her first honor, and she deserves every accolade she gets."

A panel of educators will select the New Jersey State Teacher of the Year based on written applications, video submissions and interviews with the 21 County Teachers of the Year. The State Teacher of the Year is expected to be announced at the State Board of Education's October meeting.

This was Linden's second Union County Teacher of the Year in three years. LHS social studies teacher Monica Goncalves won the award for 2016-17.

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Life in Linden is published by Renna Media in cooperation with the Linden Chamber of Commerce, an affiliate of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

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LINDEN EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS PUT THEIR GREEN THUMBS TO GOOD USE

Staff and students at McManus Middle School in Linden were working on the school's vegetable garden on Tuesday, July 24, picking vegetables, tending to plants and putting down mulch.

The garden is funded through a Union County "Kids Dig In" grant. It's the second year the school has planted the garden, doubling from four beds to eight this year. They are growing kale, tomatoes, eggplant, squash, jalapeños, honeydew, cantaloupe and more.

The produce is donated to needy families at the school first, then to the county's senior nutrition program at Linden's JTG Recreation Center and a food pantry run by the Linden Interfaith

Network for Community Service (LINCS). The grant requires that 30 percent of the produce goes to charity.

"Kids Dig In" gardens are growing at several Linden Public Schools, including School No. 2, School No. 5, School No. 6, and the Academy of Excellence alternative high school.

A garden at School No. 4, in its third year, is funded through the New Jersey Agricultural Society's Learning Through Gardening grant, which seeks to teach students to make healthier food choices and take better care of their environment, all while making learning more exciting.



(above, l-r) Students and staff at McManus Middle School at the school's garden. Back row are secretary Helen Koby, math teacher Christine Miskov, Vice Principal Wayne Happel, science teacher Patricia Klingert, and Principal Peter Fingerlin. In front are incoming sixth-graders Hunter DeGregorio and Adam Johnson.

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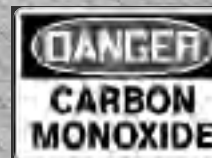
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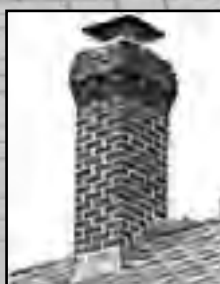
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THREE GRADS ATTAIN INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMAS

Three recent Linden High School graduates were honored on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 for attaining the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma.

The IB diploma is the pinnacle of achievement in the high school's most rigorous course of study, offering those who achieve it up to a semester's worth of college credits. This year's three awardees are Christopher Morales, Bermuda Pierre and Kristeen Piloto.

"They are amazing scholars," Superintendent Danny A. Robertozzi said at the Board of Education meeting where the three were honored. "These students are absolutely the best of the best of what is great about Linden. I am so proud of them."

Each student was given a certificate of excellence and an engraved desk clock with a globe design, symbolizing the global reach of the IB program. They were also joined at the meeting by IB coordinator Bernadette Bottino,

and IB teachers Allison Massa and Kate Lynn Walker.

Students in the IB program take two years of high-level classes in six subject areas. They must also complete a university-level Theory of Knowledge class; a Creativity, Activity and Service community service project; and an extended essay. To attain an IB diploma, a student must pass challenging assessments in all six subject areas, which are graded by IB instructors from around the world.

"The IB program is the most rigorous and challenging high school program in the world," Robertozzi said. "The program is known and respected throughout the world and offers the best preparation for university and for life."

"The best compliment I can pay to our IB program is that when students come back to visit, they always say that they were prepared for college more so than many of their fellow students."

All three of this year's IB diploma winners plan to attend Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Morales and Piloto said they will major in health sciences and plan to become doctors.

Pierre, who was cadet executive officer of the LHS Navy Junior ROTC, will be going to Rutgers on a full U.S. Navy ROTC scholarship to study biomedical engineering, and will join the Navy upon graduation.

Several hundred students have benefited from the IB program over the 16 years it has been offered at LHS. Four other students in the Class of 2018 missed gaining an IB diploma by one point and will be given another chance to pass the assessment.

"There are 33,000 school districts in this country, and there are only about 830 districts that offer this program," said Board of Education Vice President Theresa Villani. "I am very proud that we have this program."



(above) Linden High School graduates Kristeen Piloto, Bermuda Pierre and Christopher Morales with LHS International Baccalaureate program coordinator Bernadette Bottino (second from right), and teachers Kate Lynn Walker (left), and Allison Massa (right).

Photo by Linden Public Schools.





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ELEMENTARY STUDENTS LOOK TOWARD THEIR FUTURE AT CODING CAMP

Elementary school students from around Linden got a chance to step into the future this summer.

Linden Public Schools held a three-week computer coding camp at the LHS Academy of Science and Technology to teach students going into Grades 3 through 6 the basics of coding. The aim is to prepare them for what is coming up, whether it be their entry into the robust technology program at the middle-school level or the expanded technology curriculum that will begin at the elementary schools in September.

"It's the future, so we feel the more exposure we can give them, the better," said Leah Push, a technology teacher at Soehl Middle School who is overseeing the camp along with Jennifer DeTrollo-Jones, a technology teacher at McManus Middle School. "Coding is up and coming."

Twenty-three students registered for the camp, which ran four days a week from July 9 to July 26. Push and DeTrollo-Jones said response from parents has been enthusiastic.

"The day after the email went out, we were completely filled up," DeTrollo-Jones said. "We were turning kids away."



(above) Malachi Mytil (going into fifth-grade at School No. 4), David Kahiga (Grade 3, School No. 4), Henry Zuniga (Grade 3, School No. 2) use an Apple iPad to code the Meebot robot during a summer coding camp for elementary school students at Linden Public Schools' Academy of Science and Technology.



(above) Alivia Collier (Grade 6, McManus), Giana Collado (Grade 6, McManus), Caela Jones (daughter of teacher Jennifer DeTrollo-Jones), and Laila Slater Halsey (Grade 6, McManus) taking turns working with the Sphero robot. Photos by Linden Public Schools.

Students learned coding – sets of instructions to tell a computer how to do a specific task – by using Apple iPads and small robots called Meebot and Sphero. Meebot can be made to walk, dance or wave his arms based on coding that students program. Sphero is a round robot, about the size of a tennis ball, that rolls on the ground based on commands the student give it, either by remote control or coding.

One day halfway through the coding camp, students were using Sphero to paint on a large sheet of paper. They would roll it through a glob of paint, then make designs on the paper with the trail of paint Sphero left behind.

"They like it," Push said as she watched the students. "Who wouldn't like to do something like this? I like to do it!"

Then to the student at the controls, she said, "See if you can make a circle. That's awesome for your first time. It's not easy to do, right?"

With the middle school coding lessons going into their second year, and with the elementary school technology curriculum expanding, coding will soon be on more parents' radar.

"I don't think a lot of the elementary parents realized this was available at the middle schools," Push said. "I think that will change next year because of the additions at the elementary schools. There will be more exposure to different technology. They're going to be doing coding, and learning how to make Apple iMovies and all that."

Push said that next summer they hope to expand the camp to accommodate more students. The aim is to have three one-week sessions, and divide students up by grade level and ability.

"We're excited about doing it," she said. "This is where it is today. Technology is ever-changing and we're trying to keep up with it. It gets me excited to teach it, to see the excitement in them."

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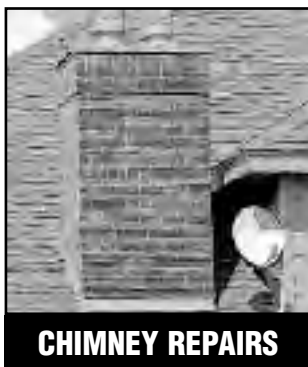
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LINDEN POLICE HOST ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



On Tuesday, August 7, 2018 the Linden Police Department joined community leaders, local business owners, and residents at the Raymond Wood Bauer Promenade for their annual National Night Out celebration. The night was filled with tons of food, giveaways, raffles, and activities for the kids, including later tag, a video game truck, face painting and airbrush tattoos. As always, the event was offered free of charge, thanks to

generous donations from local businesses, including Walmart, Target, Home Depot, Venice Pizza, Clippers Barber Shop, and Columbia Bank.

National Night Out is an annual event that promotes the partnership between police and community members to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. The event is the largest in a series of community-oriented activities hosted by the Department as part of their focus on community policing.

"We are blessed with a very active and engaged community," said Police Chief David Hart. "Maintaining robust partnerships with elected officials, local businesses, and other community members is a critical tool to help us identify neighborhood problems and keep our community safe."

Mark your calendars! Planning has already begun for next year's celebration, which will be held on August 6, 2019.



Photos by Linden Police Department

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LINDEN TO TEE UP GOLF PROGRAM IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM CLASSES



(above) Michael Blackwell, Northeast regional director for The First Tee, walking Linden physical education teachers through The First Tee activities and curriculum guide.

Linden Public Schools will be unveiling a program in the fall to introduce golf into the physical education curriculum for elementary school students.

The First Tee National School Program, through a partnership with Elizabethtown Gas, has provided the equipment and instruction for fun golf-based games that can be played outdoors or in the gym. Students will be using clubs that work with Velcro balls, similar in size and appearance to tennis balls. The games also include obstacles and targets that can be used to teach students about chipping and putting in a safe way that emphasizes teamwork.

“We’re grateful to The First Tee National School Program and Elizabethtown Gas for

giving us the fantastic opportunity to introduce golf to our elementary school students,” Superintendent Danny A. Robertozzi said. “We are always looking for creative ways to diversify our physical education classes in order to motivate students to keep moving and build a love for fitness. Learning golf now could pay dividends for our students far down the road with a lifetime of physical activity and enjoyment.”

Elementary school physical education teachers got together at School No. 10 for an afternoon of training on May 11, 2018 where they learned how to integrate the program into their classes – and had some fun themselves trying out the equipment and playing games, including “golf baseball.”



(above) Linden Public Schools physical education staff gather at School No. 10 with representatives of The First Tee and Elizabethtown Gas, sponsor of the curriculum that will introduce golf to elementary school gym classes. (l-r) Teacher Brandon Czajkowski; Ed Brockner, executive director of The First Tee of Metropolitan New York; Joe Ubil, master coach with The First Tee of Plainfield; Bill Castner, program director for The First Tee of Plainfield; Tina Early of Elizabethtown Gas; Michael Blackwell, Northeast regional director for The First Tee; Linden Director of Health and Physical Education Steven Viana; and teachers Michael Marino, Robert Kurtz, Clint Beriont and Fran Kreisberg.

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FIVE OUTSTANDING CITIZENS TO BE HONORED BY BOY SCOUTS WITH LINDEN GOOD SCOUT AWARD

Boy Scouts of America, Patriots' Path Council will be honoring local citizens at the first ever Linden Good Scout Awards Dinner to be held on the evening of Wednesday, September 12, 2018, at The III Amici Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. The honorees are Maria Castenheria, Bank Manager Santander Bank; Michael Jackson, firefighter Linden Fire Department; Danie Orelieu-Armstead, First Lady of Linden and public-school teacher; Lucia Perpina, Principal Attorney with the Law Offices of Lucia E. Perpina Esq. LLC; and Capt. Abdul Williams, Linden Police Department.

The event recognizes these five outstanding citizens for their community service and

leadership in the City of Linden. The Boy Scouts of America is proud to work with such dedicated members of the Linden community, for their embodiment of the values of the century old Scout Oath and Law in their personal and professional lives.

Linden is a 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.

For more information on Scouting, attending the event, and sponsoring the program journal, contact Ryan Page, Development Executive, at 973-271-0174 or ryan.page@scouting.org

VETERANS' AND DEPENDENTS' HEALTH CARE BENEFITS PRESENTATION

For veterans and dependents of veterans, the Cranford Public Library will present a valuable health care information session on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. David Brimmer, MS, of the Department of Veterans' Affairs New Jersey Health Care System will visit the Cranford Community Center to speak about health care benefits available to veterans and dependents. He will also discuss the process for filing a claim for VA Service-Connected Disability Compensation.

The VA New Jersey Health Care System

honors America's veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. With two main campuses and ten community-based outpatient clinics in NJ, they have been a lifeline for those in need as part of the Veterans' Health Administration, serving U.S. veterans for over 150 years.

No registration is required for this free event. The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016, and is accessible to all.

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POLICE CELEBRATE GRADUATION OF INAUGURAL YOUTH ACADEMY CLASS

The Linden Police Department celebrated the graduation of their inaugural Youth Academy class on July 27, 2018. The week-long program was hosted by the Linden Police Juvenile Aid Bureau, with assistance from members of the Linden High School JROTC. The Cadets began

their day at 8:00 a.m. with physical fitness training and drill practice, followed by a series of lectures and hands-on skills demonstrations by subject matter experts from Linden Police Officers and partner agencies at the county and state levels.

“A week may not seem like a long time, but as any of the Officers who have worked with these twenty-six cadets over that time will tell you, they have grown immensely over that time,” said Police Chief David Hart. “This was not an easy program, but they pushed through it, and we are very proud of their accomplishments.”

By all accounts the Academy was a success, and the department hopes to expand the program and make it available to more students next year.



(above) Members of the Linden High School JROTC



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THE GOAL IS CONTROL: RWJ RAHWAY AND THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA - RAHWAY BRANCH TEAM UP TO CONTROL DIABETES

If you have diabetes, the goal is control. Control your blood sugar levels and you reduce the risk of heart disease, kidney disease, blindness and neuropathy. Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway and The Gateway Family YMCA-Rahway Branch are teaming up to help uninsured people control their diabetes with a free, six-week education and exercise program.

"Diabetes control is more than diet. It's medication management, exercise, balancing meals and snacks, managing stress. People want to do the right things regarding their diabetes, but they often don't know how," said Angela Bacque, MPA, RPh, CDE, Pharmacy and Diabetes Self-Management Program Manager at RWJ Rahway. "This program gives them the tools they need."

The program includes the expertise needed to help control high blood sugar. It features diabetes educators, exercise experts, a pharmacist and nurse. Topics will include medication

management, stress management, and tips like the timing of meals with glucose checks. There will be light exercise at each session by a YMCA fitness expert, as well as a healthy lunch and incentives.

"Exercise plays an important role in learning to control your blood sugar levels. Community-based organizations like the YMCA play a key role in chronic disease prevention, increasing access to services that are outside of a traditional clinical environment," said Krystal R. Canady, CEO of The Gateway Family YMCA. "In partnership with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway, programs like this can help change behaviors and improve lives."

The first six week program is open to those without insurance or whose insurance does not cover diabetes education. Caregivers are welcome. The session begins Tuesday, September 18 from 11:30 am to 1 pm at the YMCA and runs each Tuesday for six weeks. The YMCA is located at 1564 Irving Street, Rahway. After six weeks, another six week program will begin in the Rahway area. Registration for these programs is required. To register, please call 732 499 6109.

For those who have insurance, including Medicare and Medicaid, the hospital runs a Diabetes Self-Management Program, offering one-on-one counseling. That program can be reached by calling 732.499.6109.

ABOUT RWJUH RAHWAY

Founded in 1917, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway is an acute care community hospital that provides a continuum of care. In addition to medical and surgical care, the hospital provides extensive outpatient services including physical, occupational, speech and hearing, wound care and hyperbaric medicine, pulmonary and cardiac rehabilitation. The hospital is home to Care Connection Rahway, a 24 bed rehabilitation unit and Kindred Hospital New Jersey-Rahway, a 34-bed long-term acute

care hospital for medically complex patients requiring a longer length of stay.

ABOUT RWJBARNABAS HEALTH:

RWJBarnabas Health is the largest, most comprehensive health care system in New Jersey, with a service area covering nine counties with five million people. The system includes eleven acute care hospitals – Clara Maass Medical Center in Belleville, Community Medical Center in Toms River, Jersey City Medical Center in Jersey City, Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus in Lakewood, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark, RWJUH in New Brunswick, RWJUH Somerset in Somerville, RWJUH Hamilton, RWJUH Rahway and Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston; three acute care children's hospitals and a leading pediatric rehabilitation hospital with a network of outpatient centers (Children's Specialized Hospital) with its multiple outpatient centers, a freestanding 100-bed behavioral health center, two trauma centers, a satellite emergency department, ambulatory care centers, geriatric centers, the state's largest behavioral health network, comprehensive home care and hospice programs, fitness and wellness centers, retail pharmacy services, a medical group, multi-site imaging centers and two accountable care organizations.

RWJBarnabas Health is New Jersey's largest private employer – with more than 33,000 employees, 9,000 physicians and 1,000 residents and interns – and routinely captures national awards for outstanding quality and safety. RWJBarnabas Health recently announced a partnership with Rutgers University to create New Jersey's largest academic health care system. The collaboration will align RWJBarnabas Health with Rutgers' education, research and clinical activities, including those at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care.



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THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA PROVIDES TAKING TIME FOR ME PROGRAM IN UNION

The Gateway Family YMCA - WISE Center YMCA Branch, in collaboration with The Gateway Family YMCA - Wellness Center Branch is hosting an a free healthy living program for caregivers, Taking Time for Me. This program meets twice a week for 8 weeks, taught by a YMCA coach and social worker. Caregivers are provided exercise instruction as well as discussions on healthy eating, community support and stress management. For more information or to register for Taking Time for Me, contact Susan Butler at sbutler@tgfymca.org or 908-687-2995.

"The WISE Adult Day Services program has served our community for over 30 years," stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "Caregiving can be one of the most rewarding, yet stressful of life's tasks. It is our belief that assisting the caregiver is just as important as assisting their loved one."

Taking Time for Me will meet on Wednesdays and Fridays 12:00 p.m. -1:30 p.m. September 5th through October 26th at The Gateway Family YMCA - Wellness Center Branch, 1000 Galloping Hill Rd, Union. Space in the program is limited and pre-registration is required. There is no cost for the program and it is open to the community.

The WISE Center YMCA is a branch in The Gateway Family YMCA, serving the community in Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex County, NJ. "Through WISE, our YMCA is able to provide unique services to meet the needs of our local community. We are proud



to offer the Adult Day Services program as well as Connections, Persys and community support groups," stated Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO, The Gateway Family YMCA.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening the foundations of community and stands For Youth Development, For Healthy Living and For Social Responsibility. The Y impacts the community by providing quality services to people of all ages, races, faiths or incomes. The Y is a powerful association of men, women and children of all ages and from all walks of life joined together by a shared passion: to strengthen the foundations of community.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA or the WISE Center YMCA Branch, visit tgfymca.org or contact wiseinfo@tgfymca.org.



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SAMARITAN SANDWICH-MAKING EVENT

Submitted by Sue Caruso-Green

Join local families as we help feed other families in need. We are making sandwiches for St. Joseph's Social Services Center in Elizabeth. We'll be gathering at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 16, 2018 in the Education Building of the Cranford United Methodist Church, 201 Lincoln Ave. in Cranford.

Bring your children and grandchildren. This is a great project to do with children to help them to understand that hunger and poverty exists. The need is great. Parents with children, the unemployed and the elderly all wait in the heat for the food to be distributed and the line starts to form early in the morning.

We will have some bread, cold cuts and sandwich baggies available, but please bring some as well. Some suggestions for sandwiches: ham and cheese, turkey, chicken, roast beef, peanut butter and jelly, etc.

Girl Scouts, Brownies, Boy Scouts and Cubs - all are welcome! Many hands make light work as we share our blessings with others.

Can't make it that day? Send us your email address and we'll let you know about our next event on November 18.

Questions? Send an email to Sue Caruso-Green scgreen@aol.com or call her at 908-272-1209.

Thank you for caring for others in need.



(above) Join the Cranford United Methodist Church in making sandwiches for St. Joseph's Social Services Center in Elizabeth on September 16.

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LIBRARY TO SPONSOR A "SHADES OF AUTUMN" CONCERT

The Linden Public Library will hold a Shades of Autumn concert on September 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Columbia Bank Room. The Friends of the Linden Library will sponsor this event and light refreshments will be served. Admission is free but donations will be graciously accepted.

The concert is produced by Ella Productions and features a variety of music styles that celebrate the coming fall season. Works by famed composers such as Weill, Chopin, Vivaldi and Tchaikovsky will be performed as well as modern song writers such as Neil Diamond,

Earth Wind and Fire and Nora Bayes. This program will cover many musical genres, including folk, pop, classical and jazz and will take the audience on a journey through chilly autumn mornings when the air turns crisp and visions of falling leaves will surround you.

Located at 31 East Henry Street in Linden, the Linden Public Library celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2018.

Please check out the library's web page at lindenpl.org or call 908-298-3830 for more information about this concert and other library events.

FALL FILMS AT THE LIBRARY THIS SEPTEMBER

All six films are shown free-of-charge in the Columbia Bank Room.

Awakenings; (1990; R; 121 mins)

September 4; 6:00 p.m.

Nominated for three Oscars, this movie concludes the library's tribute to Robert De Niro on his 75th birthday. De Niro stars as Leonard Lowe in this biographical film about a victim of an encephalitis epidemic. It co-stars Robin Williams as the doctor.

The Freshman; (1990; PG; 102 mins)

September 5; 2:00 p.m.

A freshman college student (Matthew Broderick) from Vermont (or is it Kansas?) begins NYU film school and works for a notorious Mafia boss (Marlon Brando) for extra money in this comedy which co-stars Bruno Kirby, Penelope Ann Miller and Frank Whaley.

Stronger; (2017; R; 119 mins)

September 11; 2:00 p.m.

This film tells the inspiring real life story of Jeff Bauman (Jake Gyllenhaal), an ordinary man who captured people's hearts and hopes after the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing.

Black Panther; (2018; PG13; 134 mins)

September 17; 6:00 p.m.

Marvel Comics' latest entry to its pantheon of superheroes is T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman), heir to the throne of a hidden but highly advanced kingdom of Wakanda.

Dirty Dancing; (1987; PG13; 100 mins)

September 18; 2:00 p.m.

This Oscar winner for Best Song was the biggest sleeper hit of the 1980s as life at a Catskills summer resort from 1963 is recalled. Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey star as you will have the time of your life.

Book Club; (2018; PG13; 104 mins)

September 25; 2:00 p.m.

The lives of four longtime friends (Jane Fonda, Diane Keaton, Mary Steenburgen and Candice Bergen) are forever changed after they read Fifty Shades of Grey in their monthly book club. Also starring Andy Garcia, Craig T. Nelson and Don Johnson.

THE GREAT WAR FILM FESTIVAL AT THE LIBRARY

To mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended the First World War, the Linden Public Library and the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs are proud to co-sponsor The Great War Centennial Film Festival. A series of nine films will be presented with the war as the central theme as seen from the French, British, American and German sides of the conflict. All Union County residents are urged to attend these films which will be introduced by John Prescott, director of the County's Cultural Affairs Office. They will be shown every Friday afternoon in the Columbia Bank Room at Linden Public Library at 1:00 p.m. The series will include the following films:

September 7

The African Queen; (1951; 105 minutes)

September 14

Oh What a Lovely War; (1969; 144 minutes)

September 21

All Quiet on the Western Front; (1930; 136

minutes)

September 28

In Love and War; (1996; 113 minutes)

October 5

Joyeux Noel; (2005; 116 minutes)

October 12

Gallipoli; (1981; 110 minutes)

October 19

Sergeant York; (1941; 134 minutes)

October 26

War Horse; (2011; 146 minutes)

November

Wings; (1927; 144 minutes)

Located at 31 East Henry Street in Linden, the Linden Public Library celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2018. Please check out the library's web page at lindenpl.org or call 908-298-3830 for more information about this film series and other library events.

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LOOKING BACK ON WHEN ROCK LEGENDS PLAYED A 9TH GRADE DANCE

Who remembers when McManus rock-and-rolled all night?

The year was 1971. Students at the Linden school, which then housed Grades 7 through 9 and was known as McManus Junior High School, were getting ready for their ninth-grade spring dance and needed a live band.

The instrumental music teacher at the time, Brooke Ostrander, offered up his band, which played original songs and some contemporary rock hits of the time from such bands as the Moody Blues, the Rolling Stones, and Jethro Tull. Ostrander, who had just started his career at McManus in January 1969, played keyboards and flute for the band, known as Wicked Lester.

The names of two of Ostrander's bandmates from that night may ring a bell: Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley – founding members of the legendary rock band KISS.

KISS made its debut in 1974 and went on to be one of the biggest rock bands of the '70s, known for songs such as "Rock and Roll All Nite." KISS sold out stadiums to fans drawn by their ground-shaking sound, glam-rock costumes, and of course their one-of-a-kind makeup, which kept their faces hidden from the public for years.

But in 1971, Simmons and Stanley were in a small New York-based band that was known first as Rainbow and then Wicked Lester, playing small gigs at an armory, a college campus and a youth convention.

And at least one in Linden, according to multiple sources, with a keyboard and flute player whose full-time job was as a band teacher at McManus.

News of the McManus show resurfaced this year when Mark Kohut, art teacher at School No. 8 and School No. 9, was reading "KISS: Behind the Mask – Official Authorized Biography" by David Leaf and Ken Sharp, which was published by Grand Central Publishing in 2008. The book talked about the band's early days, including Ostrander's contributions to Rainbow and Wicked Lester.

Kohut was shocked to come across this quote from Ostrander:

"We played the prom at McManus Junior High in Linden, New Jersey. I taught there. I was the band director. The gig went great. I told the kids who were getting the groups together that we did original material. It wasn't going to be a Top 40 band."

Unfortunately, Ostrander died in 2011, so there was no way to discuss the show with him. But at least two members of the McManus class of 1971 remember Ostrander, and the night that Wicked Lester came to town.

Brooke Ostrander was early into his teaching career in 1971, but his father, Bill Ostrander, was a longtime elementary school music teacher in Linden, from 1951 to 1977. Brooke struck a chord with students at McManus because he brought a young person's love for the modern rock music of the time.

"We all loved him because he was so cool," said Mary Kelly, McManus Class of 1971.

Rich Hoffman, also McManus '71, remembers Ostrander teaching students to play the overture from "Tommy" by The Who, as well as Neil Young's "I've Been Waiting For You," for their spring concert.

"He helped inspire me and many of my very close musical friends to be better and more experimental musicians," Hoffman said.

And Kelly and Hoffman both remember Wicked Lester. Hoffman says he spent time jamming with Ostrander, Simmons and Stanley at Ostrander's apartment in Roselle.

"I owned a portable stereo cassette recorder and offered to record two of their earliest gigs," Hoffman said. "One at a CYO center in Staten Island and the other the [McManus] ninth-grade spring dance."

"What I would do to have those tapes today!"

Kelly remembers one song specifically that Wicked Lester played at the McManus show: "Hey Joe" by Jimi Hendrix.

"I don't think the other teachers who served as chaperones at the dance were enamored of his music," she said. "I remember the band playing 'Hey Joe' and there being some rumbling about the lyrics."

Ostrander's tenure in Linden Public Schools was short, leaving at the end of the 1970-71 school year. But as his bandmates went on to become Rock and Roll Hall of Famers, he stuck with being a public school music teacher. Ostrander taught for a while in Montana, then spent 26 years at Missisquoi Valley Union High School in Swanton, Vt., a school of about 11,000 students in Grades 7 through 12.

"He had a huge impact on the students at my school and there is a tribute concert to him every year in August," said Jenn Vilandre, a former student of Ostrander's in Vermont.

Ostrander was director of the school's instrumental music program and manager of the student theater. He started a program known as "MTV," which stands for music, technology, and video, in the late 1980s, as well as a student rock band called Paragon, and student jazz band called

Low Profile.

"He was very innovative and creative, and certainly the kind of person that you enjoyed being around," said Jay Hartman, principal of Missisquoi Valley Union High School, who called his late colleague Ozzy and "The Wizard of Ostrander."

Hartman said Ostrander would occasionally share stories of his time playing with Simmons and Stanley, but "I think he was probably intentionally a little bit vague."

"While he didn't necessarily get into a lot of detail, he had just reached that crossroads in life where he was either going to go in one direction or another, and he chose to move in the direction of sharing his knowledge and his passion for music with young people," Hartman said. "And we were blessed to benefit from that for a quarter of a century."

He said the annual music festival – known as "The O Show" in Ostrander's honor – is all organized and directed by Ostrander's former students.

"That alone would tell you the influence he had on the school and the student population," Hartman said.

When Ostrander died in 2011, the website "KISS Mask," dedicated to fans of the band, remembered him fondly:

"Brooke played an intricate part of the pre-KISS days by joining Rainbow, which became Wicked Lester, with Gene Simmons, Paul Stanley, Ron Leejack and Steve Cornell.

"Mr. Ostrander's piano can be heard on some of the earliest demos, including 'Leeta' which appears on KISS' box set released in 2001."

Even greater than his early contributions to KISS was the mark he left on his students — in Vermont and in his short time in Linden.

"I knew that Brooke passed, and was sorry to hear it," Kelly said. "He was a good guy, and I remember him turning us on to a lot of great music."

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(above) Brooke Ostrander is at back right in this circa 1970 photo of Wicked Lester. The rest of the band, from left, are Ron Leejack, Gene Simmons, Paul Stanley and Tony Zarrella.



(above) McManus Middle School, where members of the band KISS Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley played a 9th grade dance in 1971.



(above) Brooke Ostrander with his son, Jordan, circa 1980. He also left behind a daughter, Katy, and his wife, Carol Ann.



(above) Brooke Ostrander

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THE AMMON FOUNDATION IN LINDEN PROMOTES ADDICTION RECOVERY

Submitted by Paula Figueroa-Vega

The Ammon Foundation launched in October 2016 as the philanthropic endeavor of Ammon Labs. It's headquarters are in 1622 South Wood Avenue in Linden, New Jersey. Their mission is "to empower individuals in addiction recovery through combating stigma and providing strategic support to enable personal success." They envision a world where all who have suffered from addiction are able to access and sustain long-term recovery. The Foundation believes that when individuals in recovery are holistically supported to build purposeful lives, the likelihood of them maintaining their recovery substantially increases.

Led by the visionary servant leadership of Executive Director Mariel S. Hufnagel, they aim to realize their mission and vision through their two core programs: the Ammon Recovery Scholars Program & the Empowerment

Workshop Program.

In their Ammon Recovery Scholars Program, they offer financial scholarships to individuals in recovery to pursue education, and then aim to additionally support their recipients with academic, personal and professional support. To date, 43 scholarships have been awarded, totaling more than \$50,000. Individuals have enrolled in college, as well as vocational and certificate programs.

For their Empowerment Workshop Program, they have developed an evidence-based and nationally recognized 6-module life-skills training program, with the goal of arming individuals with vital life skills – bridging the gap from treatment and recovery. All workshops are facilitated by Certified Ammon Empowerment Coaches, individuals in recovery with lived experience. Currently, with more than 10 partners as hosts sites all over NJ, they have facilitated 27

workshops, where over 100 participants have learned about self-care, budgeting, time management and other professional and personal development skills.

The Foundation believes that collaboration is vital in the fight against addiction. There are various ways to partner through their Core Value Partnership initiative including scholarship opportunities and workshop sponsorship opportunities for corporations, educational institutions, organizations and individuals. Support for the Foundation also comes from donations and events. The Foundation hosted its 2nd Annual On the Course to Recovery Golf Outing on Monday, July 30, 2018. Due to the generosity of Ammon Labs, every dollar raised goes directly to support Foundation programming.

For more information about the Foundation visit www.ammonfoundation.org



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PULASKI MEMORIAL PARADE CROWNING AND SASHING DINNER DANCE ON SEPT 8TH

The General Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee of St. Theresa's Church of Linden is hosting their 38th annual crowning and sashing dinner and dance on Saturday September 8th 7 p.m. at St. Theresa's Church Hall 705 Clinton St. Linden. Tickets are \$45.00 per person for a hot buffet dinner and music by DJ Leszek. Reservations can be made by calling President Sue Lukenda at 908-338-1855 or emailing her at LindenPulaskiParade@gmail.com or SLukenda@aol.com.

At this festive occasion our future Grand Marshall Joseph Birch will be sashed along with the crowning of Michelle Ciepiela our 2018 Miss Polonia, and Junior Miss Polonia Hailey Elizabeth Birch.

Linden's future Grand Marshall is a Linden police officer with 21 years of service to our community. He is a Sgt. in the Linden Police Department, former President of the Linden Police Benevolent Association and current President of the Linden Police Superior Officers Association. Hailey is the daughter of Joseph and Tracey Birch and a recent graduate of McManus Middle School where she was a recipient of the High Honors Program, member of the band, choir and cheer leading squad. Michelle is the daughter of Marek and Jadwiga Ciepiela and is currently a student at Rutgers Business School majoring in accounting and health administration. She is our former 2008 Junior Miss Polonia.

The Committee hopes everyone will help celebrate this event and participate in the 81st Annual Pulaski Day Parade. The St. Theresa contingent will be marching down 5th Ave in N.Y.C. from 29th St. to 53rd St. on Sunday October 7th, 2018. A donation of \$10 will provide bus transportation and light refreshments for attendees after the event.

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Flip Flop (All Types).....	1.5L	\$ 9.99
Franzia (Crisp White, Blush, Sangria, Chilable red).....	5L	\$13.99
Freixenet (Brut, Extra, Rose, Sweet)	750ml	\$ 9.99
Gato Negro (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 9.99
Gazela Vinho Verde	750ml	\$ 5.99
Ghost Pines (Merlot and Red Blend).....	750ml	\$15.99
J. Lohr Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$11.99
Josh Cabernet Sauvignon.....	750ml	\$13.99
Joseph Carr Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$22.99
Kendall Jackson Vintners Chardonnay	750ml	\$12.09
Kim Crawford (Sauvignon Blanc)	750ml	\$13.99
Korbel (All Types except Natural and Organic)	750ml	\$11.99
La Crema Sonoma Pinot Noir.....	750ml	\$16.99
Liberty Creek (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 7.99

Louis Jadot Beaujolais	750ml	\$ 9.99
Louis Jadot Beaujolais Villages.....	750ml	\$ 10.99
Louis Jadot Pouilly Fuisse	750ml	\$21.99
Luna di Luna (All Types).....	1.5L	\$13.99
Mark West Pinot Noir.....	750ml	\$ 9.39
Mark West Pinot Noir.....	1.5L	\$17.99
Martini & Rossi Asti	750ml	\$11.99
Menage a Trois Red	750ml	\$ 8.99
Merry Vale (Cabernet)	750ml	\$49.99
Mezzacorona Pinot Grigio.....	1.5L	\$12.99
Mi Amore Red	750ml	\$ 8.99
Moet Imperial Champagne	750ml	\$39.99
Noble Wine 337, 667.....	750ml	\$10.99
Papi (All Types)	1.5L	\$10.98
Real Sangria	1.5L	\$ 9.99
Rex Goliath (All Types)	1.5L	\$10.99
Robert Mondavi Private Select	750ml	\$ 8.99
Robert Mondavi Private Select	1.5L	\$16.99
Rodney Strong Sonoma Cabernet.....	750ml	\$16.99
Rodney Strong Sonoma Chardonnay	750ml	\$11.99
Rombauer Chardonnay	750ml	\$36.09
Ruffino Chianti	750ml	\$ 7.99
Ruffino Chianti	1.5 L	\$13.99
Ruffino Pinot Grigio	1.5L	\$11.99
Ruffino Chianti Gold	750ml	\$30.99
Ruffino Tan label	750ml	\$19.99
Santa Margerita Pinot Grigio.....	750ml	\$20.29
Senor Sangria (All Types)	1.5L	\$12.99
Silver Oak Alexander Valley Cabernet	750ml	\$76.99
Simi Chardonnay.....	750ml	\$12.09
Sonoma Cutrer Chardonnay.....	750ml	\$20.99
Sutter Home (All Types).....	1.5L	\$ 8.99
Tom Gore (All Types)	750ml	\$ 9.99
Woodbridge (All Types)	1.5L	\$11.49
Yago Sangria	3L	\$14.99
Yellow Tail (All Types)	1.5L	\$11.49

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