

Clark Monthly NJ

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EVENTS MARK 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ARMISTICE

Submitted by Judy Doran

World War 1 formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. On November 11, 2018 at 11 a.m. services were held at the A.L. Johnson High School in Clark to honor all veterans. The Clark American Legion Auxiliary, the American Legion, the VFW, town officials, fire and police organizations placed memorial wreaths. The Boy Scouts, UNICO, Emergency Squad members and many town residents also attended to honor the service of our veterans. Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, Commander J. Switek of the American Legion, Commander Jack Doran of the VFW, and Tammi Angelo, President of the ALA Auxiliary addressed the crowd.

Clark Mayor Sal Bonaccorso commented how proud he and the town council were to govern in a community that had such active veteran's organizations. Commander Switek of the American Legion asked all to reflect and celebrate the 22 million veterans for their willingness to serve. VFW Commander Doran reminded us that veterans pledge their lives to protect our safety and way of life. Tammi Angelo, Auxiliary President, asked that we recognize our veteran neighbors, friends and family by flying the flag and visiting veteran's hospitals.

The flag was lowered, taps were played and a

12 gun salute sounded as the Clark community bowed their heads in a closing prayer offered by the American Legion Chaplain Steve Burczynski. Everyone was invited to return to the American Legion Post on Westfield Avenue for refreshments where they had a chance to speak to veterans and thank them personally. It was a great way to celebrate Veterans Day.



(above) ALA President Tammi Angelo, right, and members place Auxiliary wreath at Johnson high school on November 11, 2018. The 100th year anniversary of the signing of the armistice to end WWI.



(above) Clark Boy Scout Pack 145

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BEGIN YOUR FAMILY HOLIDAY FUN WITH SEUSSICAL AT CDC THEATRE DECEMBER 7-16

CDC Theatre in Cranford is offering a great way to jump into a fun holiday season! Seussical is a fantastical and magical musical adventure that is fun for the whole family! The show follows many of our favorite Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the Elephant, The Cat in the Hat, Gertrude McFuzz, and a little boy with a big imagination – Jojo, in the musical retelling of their respective Dr. Seuss fables. The colorful characters transport the audience from the Jungle of Nool to the tiny but effervescent world of the Whos.

The Cat in the Hat (Lyle Dungee) narrates the story of Horton (Zach Love), an elephant who discovers a speck of dust inhabited by the Whos, including Jojo (Garrett Hanlon), a Who child sent off to military school for thinking too many "thinks", and his very concerned parents Mr. Mayor (Justin Luckenbaugh) and Mrs. Mayor (Nicole Scavone). Horton faces a double challenge: not only must he protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, but he must guard an abandoned egg, left in his care by the free-spirited Mayzie La Bird (Krystina Matos). Although Horton faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping and a trial, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz (Jenna Ravenda) never loses faith in him, and through the power of friendship, loyalty, courage, family and community these two unique worlds emerge triumphant from their trials and

tribulations.

Director Zach Mazouat explains that "Just like its source material, at a first glance, Seussical appears to be a lighthearted children's musical, but at the heart of each of the show's many storylines is a meaningful lesson about friendship, courage, self-acceptance and the power of the singular voice. It's a show that both children and adults will enjoy. A true testament to the enduring power of Dr. Seuss and his fables." Also at the helm of this production are music director Tracy Witko, choreographer Melanie Della Peruti, stage manager Dana Dispoto, and producer Anita Esteve.

Rounding out the very talented cast are Rachel Valovcin, Elle Michaeli, Brian Butterfield, Jaimie Woodruff, Melanie Cella, Alison Giles, Michele Greenspan, Jonathan Sykes, Ryan Sautner, Tyler Sautner, Aaron Shinn, Alexandra Banncroft, Edgar Hidalgo, Sean Kelly, Olivia Kelly, Mark Zebro, Joseph Michaeli, Bridget Webb, Lorelle Lane, Marisa Piccininni, Billy Mehr, Hannah Martin, Joann Riley, Danielle Mastropiero, Nicole D'Angelo and Geovanna Ayala (as Cindy Lou Who).

The show will run Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from December 7-16. Additional information and tickets can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org. Shop on-line for best price and selection.





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PACK 145 SCOUTING FOR FOOD BENEFITS OSCEOLA CHURCH PANTRY

Cub Scout Pack 145 of Clark participated in Scouting For Food at the November Pack meeting held on Friday, November 16, 2018. A truck load of food was donated to Osceola Church in Clark to help feed the needy. For more information on scouting please visit cubpack145.info.





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(above, l-r) Clark Resident Nina Malloy celebrated National Adoption Day with Union County Court's Civil Division Asst. Manager Maria Kershaw holding Nina's Daughter Amy, and Civil Division Manager Sandra Thaler-Gerber.

SMILES ABOUND FOR 28 YOUTH AT UNION COUNTY ADOPTION DAY

Event included adoptions, entertainment & more

It was quite a day at the Union County Family Courthouse, as 28 youth gathered to celebrate their adoptions and an end to foster care. The morning of Friday, Nov. 16, 2018, Union County's observation of the national awareness day held each year the Saturday before Thanksgiving, 16 children entered courtrooms as foster youth but exited as part of a forever family. In addition, 12 others adopted in recent months returned to celebrate.

National Adoption Day raises awareness of children in foster care awaiting adoption. Since its inception 19 years ago, approximately 60,000 children have left foster care and entered forever families. In the United States, more than 100,000 such youth need a permanent home, and the average wait time for each is nearly four years. Unfortunately, more than 20,000 age out without a permanent home or family.

In addition to adoption hearings officiated by Superior Court Judges James C. Wischusen and James Hely, festivities included guest speakers, entertainment, gifts for the children and families, and well-wishes from all. All adoptions ended with teddy bears for all, plucked from their perch on the judges' bench.

After the adoption finalizations, families were greeted by CASA of Union County staff and Cranford Girl Scout Troop 40332 Cadettes who rallied their community to donate games and popcorn for "Family Fun Night Makes Memories" baskets. In addition, each child

received specially selected books donated by Kappa Alpha Theta's Westfield Chapter and each child will receive a bike and helmet, courtesy of the Albanese Family of Plainfield's Dairy Queen.

Prior to the formal program — which included comments from Union County's Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy and Family Presiding Judge Lisa F. Chrystal, as well as two teen adoptees — families enjoyed personalized cupcakes, books from Union Catholic high-schoolers, coats from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, elaborate balloon hats sponsored by A Birthday Wish Foundation, and the appearance of Heroes4Heroes, a Union County corrections officers organization whose members don superhero costumes and brighten the faces of all. In addition, Elizabeth's Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. A Cappella Choir performed "This is Me" from The Greatest Showman — the conclusion of which left no dry eye.

Eleven adoptees had CASA volunteers advocating for their needs: Clark's Bob Vogel, five youth; Westfield's Barbara Bagger, three youth; and Springfield's Isabella Blumberg, invited by the family to join the closed hearing as their three adoptions were finalized.

For details on CASA of Union County and ways to get involved, contact Courtney at cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org or 908-293-8136, or log on to www.casaoofunioncounty.org.

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96 Ivy Street
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 28 Bradley Road
 326 West Lane
 84 Terhune Road
 42 Colonial Drive
 1 Janie Lane
 380 Westfield Avenue
 42 Kenneth Place
 28 McCollum Drive
 640 Madison Hill Road
 19 Cook Street
 51 Brookside Terrace
 265 Laurel lane
 114 Stemmer Drive

2 Park Street
 12 Dawn Drive
 52 Grand Street
 53 Lefferts Lane
 3 Linda Lane
 107 Sweet Briar Drive
 489 Madison Hill Road
 56 Mae Belle Drive
 990 Raritan Road

UNDER CONTRACT

362 West Lane
 41 Gertude Street
 10 Pine Street
 17 Largo Lane

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS = 74, 51 ARE IN CLARK

JOHNSON CRUSADERS SIGNING ON TO PLAY COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS



(above) Victoria Zatko, Amanda Zambrana, Brandon Hund, and Colleen Sullivan with coaches and administrators at the Signing Day event.



(above) Amanda Zambrana and her family.

Photos by Clark Public Schools



(above) Victoria Zatko and her family.



(above) Colleen Sullivan and her family.



(above) Brandon Hund and his family



STUDENTS SIGN NATIONAL LETTERS OF INTENT TO PLAY COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

On Thursday, November 15, 2018, various staff members and administration at Arthur L. Johnson High School participated in a signing day ceremony to honor Amanda Zambrana (Field Hockey), Colleen Sullivan (Soccer), Brandon Hund (Lacrosse), and Victoria Zatko (Softball) and their years of service to Crusader Athletics and commemorate their signing of Nation Letters of Intent to play NCAA Collegiate Athletics.

ALJ's senior student athlete Amanda Zambrana signed her letter of intent to continue her athletic and academic career at the collegiate level, where she will continue playing field hockey at Rider University for the Broncs. Amanda had an outstanding season for the Crusaders as she led her team to the Group 1 NJSIAA State Championship game. She is a three-time All Conference, All County, and All North Jersey post-season award recipient. As one can see, Amanda has had a wonderful athletic career as a Crusader.

ALJ's senior student athlete Colleen Sullivan signed her letter of intent to continue her athletic and academic career at the collegiate level, where she will continue playing soccer at Robert Morris University for the Colonials. The senior had an outstanding career for the Crusaders as she led her team to multiple Divisional Championships and a State Final appearance throughout her career. As one can see, Colleen has had a wonderful athletic career as a Crusader.

ALJ's senior student athlete Brandon Hund

signed his letter of intent to continue his athletic and academic career at the collegiate level, where he will continue playing lacrosse at Townson University for the Tigers. The senior had an outstanding career for the Crusaders as he led his team to multiple Divisional Championships throughout his career. As one can see, Brandon has had a wonderful athletic career as a Crusader.

ALJ's senior student athlete Victoria Zatko signed her letter of intent to continue her athletic and academic career at the collegiate level, where she will continue playing softball at LaSalle University for the Explorers. The senior had an outstanding career for the Crusaders as she led her team to Divisional Championships and both Union County and NJSIAA State Final appearances throughout her career. As one can see, Victoria has had a wonderful athletic career as a Crusader.

Gus Kalikas, Athletic Director, had this to say about the event. "Amanda, Colleen, Brandon, and Victoria have been integral parts of the success of our athletic programs while attending Arthur L. Johnson High School. More importantly, they have been model student athletes that did things the right way both on the fields, in the classroom, and throughout our community. Although it will be sad to see them leave, the Crusader's loss is their University's gain, and we look forward to following their successful collegiate athletic careers over the next four years."

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OSCEOLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Submitted by Paul Hadsall

On Sunday, October 28, 2018 members, visitors and friends of Osceola Presbyterian Church gathered to celebrate the church's 75th anniversary. The service was led by Elder Alice Dietze and assisted by a number of elders and members. The children of the church also participated in leading the congregants in a song. Following the service, a luncheon was held in fellowship hall.

During the luncheon games and songs kept the attention of young and old. At one point a roll call was held to determine the member who has been at the church the longest. The longest anyone present has been with the church was Marge Messler, going back to the 1950's.

Osceola Presbyterian Church was established at its current location of 1689 Raritan Road, Clark, NJ through the generosity of Mr. Thomas Sperry of Westfield and his mother, Mrs. Kate Sperry Goodrich. The property was part of the Sperry Osceola Farms, famous throughout the country for its fine breed of horses and cattle. While spending their winters in Florida, the Sperry's learned of Chief Osceola, leader of the Seminole Indians, and named their New Jersey farm after him, which was in turn applied to the "new" Osceola Presbyterian Church.

After meeting in various Messengers and community buildings, the congregation dedicated the original church building on October 24, 1943. Serving as a center for the growing ministry to the community, it was established as the first visible expression of the Christian faith of those early members.

Over the years the church continued to grow and serve the communities of Clark, Cranford, Winfield and Linden, in addition to having parishioners from other neighboring towns. In

1988, a fire destroyed much of the church.

"Nobody really knew if we would be able to rebuild," said longtime member Jim Dietze. "Somehow donations came from far and wide to help us get it done."

Through a number of fundraising activities and the generosity of friends and strangers, Osceola was able to pay off their mortgage of \$1.3 million in just nine years.

Today, Osceola continues to serve the same communities as a church but is also heavily invested in outreach to those in need. The church provides food for the needy on a monthly and seasonal basis, offers NA and AA meetings regularly, as well as continuing a vibrant youth group and other religious studies. Services on Sunday include Sunday School for all ages at 9 a.m., with religious services at 10 a.m.



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(above) Longtime member Ursula Riddlestorffer assists church youth in lighting a remembrance candle.



(above) Alice Dietze speaking with church children about the anniversary.



(above) The Bible was damaged during the church fire in 1988. It was rescued by member Duke Whitehouse, who was a firefighter on location.

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JORDAN LORIA DONATES "BUDDY BENCHES" FOR SILVER AWARD PROJECT

Submitted by Ralph Bernardo

Jordan Loria, a Senior Girl Scout in Troop #40537 in Clark, completed her Silver Award

project for the community. She built and donated "Buddy Benches" to the Clark Preschool and Recreation Center for the kids to use throughout

the year. She held three fundraisers to raise money for supplies, two of them at the Rec Center and one at the previous Kou Kou coffee shop in town. She educated our town and surrounding towns by handing out flyers during these fundraisers explaining the project.

A "Buddy Bench" is a bench for any school age child to use if they have no one to play with or want to play with someone new. If a child sits on the bench, another child who sees them will know to include them in their play or activity. It's to teach children about caring, kindness and to include their fellow classmates. Quoting Ralph Waldo Emerson, "In order to have a friend you need to be one."

These "Buddy Benches" were presented to the Clark Preschool and Recreation Center on September 25 for the "Week of Respect," which ran from September 30 through October 6, 2018.

Jordan would like to thank Mrs. Lori Kowalski, the Clark Preschool Administrator and School Nurse; Mr. Ralph Bernardo, the Director of the Clark Recreation Center; Mr. Ed Grande, Board of Education Superintendent; her fellow Girl Scouts of Troop #40537; her Girl Scout leaders Maria Breien and Lisa Loria, her mother; Mr. John Pingor and his crew from the Board of Education; Mrs. Georgia Koukoumis of Kou Kou Coffee; Sheila Loria of Sweet 'n Fancy Emporium, who is her grandma; and lastly her grandpa Frank Loria. Without all of them she would not have been able to complete this Silver Award project.



(above) Jordan Loria, Pre School Principal Lori Kowalski, and Clark Recreation Director Ralph Bernardo pictured with the completed "Buddy Benches."

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BASKETBALL CLINIC HELD AT CLARK RECREATION

Submitted by Ralph Bernardo

For the first time Clark Recreation sponsored a two-week Basketball Clinic at the Rec Center. It was run by Coach Bob Firestone on Saturday mornings, to help young children learn the basic fundamentals of basketball. Over 60 children attended the clinic.

Thanks to Mayor Bonaccorso for always supporting our youth programs. Our appreciation and thanks also go out to the supporting coaches, John Zambone, Steve Hund, Jeffery Drajin, Christine and Gigi Drajin.

For information regarding recreation programs and classes call 732-428-8400 or visit our website at ourclark.com.



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GWYLLYN OF OUTLANDER JOINS PIPES OF CHRISTMAS



Attention Outlander fans: STARZ Series' Outlander bard, "Gwyllyn" aka Gillebride MacMillan, has just been added to the 2018 production of the Pipes of Christmas with performances in NYC and Summit, NJ.

Tickets are still available for the 2 p.m. concert on Saturday, Dec. 15 in NYC and the 7 p.m. concert on Sunday, Dec. 16 at Central Presbyterian Church in Summit, NJ.

Get tickets via www.smarttix.com or by calling (212) 868-5444.

MacMillan will be signing copies of his new CD, "Freumhan Falaichte" (Hidden Roots) after the 7 p.m. performance in Summit, NJ.



CLARK UNICO HOLIDAY FLEA MARKET & GIFT FAIR SET FOR DEC. 8



On Saturday, December 8, 2018 Clark UNICO will hold their annual holiday fundraiser held indoors and outdoors at Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, NJ. Open to the public 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

This annual Holiday Flea Market and Gift Fair produced by JC Promotions, Inc. will consist of 75 tables displaying an array of quality merchandise such as candles, handbags, sports collectibles, jewelry for all ages, clothing, dollar items, unique gift items, gloves and scarves, toys, perfumes, antiques and collectibles, garage/tag sale items all at bargain prices.

This is a great opportunity to do some shopping locally or get lots of stocking stuffers while supporting Clark UNICO.

JC Promotions, Inc. is a fundraising company that produces street fairs, arts and crafts shows, vintage fairs, flea markets, kids fairs, food truck shows and more throughout New Jersey for over 50 organizations. If your group is in need of a fundraiser give JC a call.

JC is offering 4 free spaces to any Clark school organization that would like to participate by having an exhibitor space to sell their items and/or promote their club. Please contact JC for a reservation. Hurry while they last.

The high school is located at 365 Westfield Ave, Clark, NJ. For additional info on this event or how your group can host a fundraiser call JC's office 201-998-6311 or visit jcpromotions.info.

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PERSONALLY YOURS CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF HOLIDAY SEASONS

Submitted by Justine Fruzzetti

Personally Yours Gift Baskets of Clark, New Jersey will be celebrating 30 years of holiday seasons this December, an accomplishment small business owners dream of. With such a monumental anniversary approaching, local residents have become curious as to how this customized gift basket and chocolate shop has come to experience such success and security, especially in an economy where local stores find difficulty in keeping their doors open for longer than a few years, even months.

Dean Russo, the owner of Personally Yours Gift Baskets and a Clark resident, was excited to share the story of the business he holds so near



(above) Personally Yours Gift Baskets owner Dean Russo and "Mariah the golden retriever" who is the face of Balic' Wine, which Personally Yours Gift Baskets distributes.

and dear to his heart. Dean, who wasn't born into the gift-giving industry, was actually an accountant in New York City in the 80's and progressively noticed the up rise of gift baskets in the corporate industry and the lack of businesses in New Jersey who offered them. That is when he decided to bring it here himself. In 1988 Russo opened the doors to the first Personally Yours Gift Baskets in Cranford, NJ completely from scratch.

Russo opened the store focusing on corporate and business accounts and soon found himself with major clients specifically in the pharmaceutical industry including Johnson & Johnson and Hoffman LaRoche. PYGB even assisted in Schering Plough's launch for Claritin and produced over 3,000 baskets in one order. With time he also found success in personal baskets as well as small and medium-sized businesses which used the gift-giving industry to reinforce relationships with both clients and employees.

For the next few years, business continued to sky rocket and it wasn't until the tragic and unforgettable events of 9-11 when everything Russo had learned about the industry would change. With New Jersey and New York suffering, the location of his clientele, the idea of gift giving instantly declined.

"No longer did sending gifts seem appropriate" Dean recalls, "in order to keep my business alive and thriving, my game plan had to change." Russo began looking into acquisitions rather than marketing and purchased his first business-client list from one of his local competitors Celebrations. With this move proving successful he continued on and acquired the client list from From Fruit to Nuts of Short Hills in 2008 and then another from Wayne's Market of Red Bank in 2014. In 2015, PYGB ventured out again and paired up with Balic' Winery which enabled them to supply clients who desire wine as part of their gift giving options. With these small but plentiful acquisitions, Russo broadened his clientele while still keeping his small business feel, often a strategic plan of larger companies. Russo states, "No matter how many years you have been in

business you cannot stop striving for growth."

So what is the difference between Personally Yours Gift Baskets and other big box stores? The answer is simple: customization, budget, and customer service. As opposed to other larger chain companies, you are not picking something out of a magazine or online where what you see is what you get. Personally Yours Gift Baskets customizes baskets to a person's liking and budget no matter if it is one basket or 1,000.

Russo explains, "While we don't mind national companies as they support the notion that gift giving is an important aspect of reinforcing relationships for both personal and business, we take it that extra level by customizing to order and giving the option to include company logoed and marketing items in addition to quality hand-picked items." He goes on to say, "Every year we go to several tradeshows seeking out the best gourmet items, negotiating prices, and keeping our gift baskets affordable and of high-quality brands."

Today, Personally Yours Gift Baskets has clients who have been with them for almost 30 years, and are still serving a variety of industries both big and small. From large manufacturing companies who place year-round orders to show thanks to their employees and customers, to smaller financial and specialty businesses who use gift baskets as a token of appreciation for other's trust in their services.

"That is why it is with such pride to be celebrating our 30th holiday season this year and to constantly be evolving with the industry; always seeking products to keep things fresh and new," Dean states. "We offer a wide selection of gourmet chocolates, fresh cheeses, Balic' wines, assorted cookies, nuts, and dried fruit which can be arranged in a large selection of containers aside from baskets such as boxes, salad bowls, ice buckets, and magazine holders."

The store itself is truly worth a visit which is full of house décor, host and serving utensils, wine accessories, and enough sweet and savory treats to leave any foodie happily satisfied. Visit today at 23 Westfield Ave. in Clark or call 908-272-3737.

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MENTOR LINKS: READY FOR A NEW YEAR

The Frank K. Hehnly School Mentor LINKS (Looking Into the Needs of Kids) Program has kicked off another academic year. Their first event was designed to begin relationships which will continue to grow throughout the coming months' activities. Program advisers Lisa Giandana, Sarah Badillo, and Nina Conner met with Hehnly mentors and their new "links" for the first time over a bagel breakfast to get to know one another and discuss the program's goals. Students rolled dice and answered a corresponding ice breaker question about

themselves. Such questions included: If a genie gave you three wishes, what would you wish for? If you were stranded on a desert island, what three things would you want to take with you? If you could spend the day with one fictional character, who would it be? This allowed mentors and links to better understand each other's interests, strengths, and weaknesses. According to Ms. Conner, "The group is eagerly anticipating their next event during which they will bowl at Garwood Lanes and share a lunch at Mooyah."

Photo by Clark Public Schools



(above) The mentors and "links" enjoying breakfast together and a getting to know you activity.

CLARK SENIORS CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN



(above) The Clark Senior Wednesday Club celebrated Halloween by dressing up and giving out prizes for 1-2-3rd place costumes.

The winners pictured here with Clark Recreation Director Ralph Bernardo, were Annette Mall as Minnie Mouse, Jo Vincentia as Louisville Slugger, and Louise Lipari as a figment of your imagination.



STUDENTS HONORED AT UNICO FEAST

Several students were honored as the Columbus Day Essay Contest winners at the Clark UNICO Italian-American Feast held on October 7, 2018. Winners included Alyssa Donkersloot, fifth grader at Valley Road Elementary School; Ava Savvis, fifth grader at Frank K. Hehnly Elementary School; Mina Park, eighth grader at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School; and Sabrina Sarro, ninth grader at Arthur L. Johnson High School. Students shared their essays and were presented with certificates as well as Barnes and Noble gift cards. The contest, sponsored by UNICO, asked students to write about Christopher Columbus and his positive contributions to society.

Superintendent Edward Grande stated, "These students authored pieces that articulately highlighted the positive impact of Italian Americans on our society."



(above, l-r) Clark Council President Bill Smith and Clark UNICO President Joseph Arancio stand behind student honorees Sabrina Sarro, Ava Savvis, and Alyssa Donkersloot.

Photo by Clark Public Schools

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CLARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Be sure to visit the library to enjoy these free events for people of all ages.

The library will be closed on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25 for Christmas. We will close at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, December 31 and will be closed on Tuesday, January 1 for the New Year holiday.

Aging & Retirement-Are You Prepared for the Next 30 Years?

Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 pm

As we enter retirement many of life's routines and circumstances will change. Are you prepared for the next 20 to 30 years of your life?

What actions or decisions have you taken to prepare for the following:

- Loss of tax deductions
- Unexpected and expected medical expenses
 - Unable to make decisions on your own
 - Long-term care
 - Your spouse passes
 - Caring for grandchildren
- Helping grandchildren with college expenses
 - Divorce
 - How your assets are disbursed
 - Loss of spouse
 - Leaving a legacy to spouse, children, grandchildren, charity
 - Final expense planning
 - Extended families

LEGO® Club

Friday, December 7 at 3:15 pm

Join us for the LEGO® Club at the Clark Public Library! Create your own lego structures. Legos are provided by the library. Creations are displayed in the Children's Area. For children in grades K - 5.

CoderDojo

Saturday, December 8 at 2:00 pm

CoderDojo is a free programming workshop run by dedicated volunteers. Our goal is to help kids understand how to code and teach them to love coding in a social environment. This event

is for children ages 10 - 16 years old. For more information about CoderDojo, please visit <https://coderdojo.com/about/>. Please register.

Chess Club for Kids

Monday, December 10 at 6:30 pm

Children ages 6 and up are invited to come to the library for chess club! We welcome beginners and those wanting to learn new tips on wanting to hone their skills. Registration is requested.

Adult Book Club

Monday, December 10 at 7:00 pm

We will be discussing "City of Thieves" by David Benioff. A writer visits his retired grandparents in Florida to document their experience during the infamous siege of Leningrad. His grandmother won't talk about it, but his grandfather reluctantly consents. The result is the captivating odyssey of two young men trying to survive against desperate odds. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk.

Afternoon Book Club

Tuesday, December 11 at 1:00 pm

We will be discussing "Into the Water" by Paula Hawkins. A single mother turns up dead at the bottom of the river that runs through town. Earlier in the summer, a vulnerable teenage girl met the same fate. They are not the first women lost to these dark waters, but their deaths disturb the river and its history, dredging up secrets long submerged. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk.

Tinker Tuesday

Tuesday, December 11 at 3:30 pm

Join us in making some fun LED light holiday cards. For students in elementary school. Registration is required.

Finger Painting Friday

Friday, December 14 at 10:00 am

No childhood is complete without some good, old-fashioned, messy finger painting. We will read a story and then make some squishy, colorful creations. Wear some old clothes! Please register.

Make a Gingerbread House

Friday, December 14 at 3:30 pm

Build and decorate your own "gingerbread" house with graham crackers. For ages 4 and up. We will be using food products. Ingredient labels will be available for any allergy concerns. Registration is required.

Union County Division on Aging Services

Monday, December 17 from 10-Noon

Do you have a questions about services for seniors or their caregivers? The Union County Division on Aging will be at the Clark Public Library to answer them. Drop by anytime between 10am-12pm and get answers to your questions about: pharmaceutical assistance, home energy assistance, home care, home delivered or congregate meals, caregiver relief, medicaid, transportation, and other questions you may have.

Lego® Mania

Thursday, December 27 from 1:00-5:00 pm

Join us for a fun filled Lego® afternoon! We will have a themed Lego® building contest with prizes, a Lego® themed craft, and eat some snacks, all while watching The Lego® Movie and The Lego® Batman Movie. Come for the whole afternoon or just drop in for a while!

New Year's Noon Celebration!

Monday, December 31 at 11:15 am

Children and families are invited to help us celebrate the New Year by counting down the minutes until noon! Crafting, music, and green screen photos round out this special family event.

STORYTIMES

will run through December 20.

Tales for Tots

Mondays at 10 am or 11 am and Thursdays at 10 am

Stories, finger plays, and songs for active listeners. Geared toward ages 2-3 with a caregiver. Older children are welcome! 30 minutes of open play follows.

Baby Bookworms

Tuesdays at 10 am

Stories, songs, nursery rhymes, and movement. Geared toward babies and toddlers under 2 years old with caregiver. 30 minutes of open play follows.

Stories & More

Thursdays at 1:30 pm

Stories, movement, songs and a craft for active listeners ages 3 -5 years old. Sorry, younger siblings may not attend. Registration is required.

Grown-Up Coloring Club

meets on most Fridays 1:00 p.m.

Coloring isn't just for kids anymore! Join us for a relaxing afternoon of coloring for grown ups. Relieve some stress while stimulating your creativity!

No registration is required.

Teen Tech Help

(please check our online calendar or call for dates and times)



Do you have a new phone or tablet and need help figuring it out? The library now offers one-on-one assistance with a variety of technological issues. Sessions last one hour and may also focus on e-mail, e-books, Microsoft Office or other technology questions you might have. Advance registration is required, so please call the Reference Desk at 732 388 5999 to schedule an appointment.

Registration is required for programs listed above, unless noted otherwise. Additionally, free movies are shown at the library on Monday and Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. Newly released DVDs are featured each Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m.

No registration is required for movies.

HOLE SPONSORS ARE NEEDED FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY'S ANNUAL INDOOR MINIATURE GOLF OUTING ON FEBRUARY 2

To make this day a success, we are asking businesses, clubs, organizations, etc for support. You can sponsor a hole (\$50 for one hole or \$75 for two holes) and also design one if you would like. Sponsors will be listed in all publicity. Sponsorship signs will be posted at all golf holes. To receive an application, kindly email

 clarklibraryfol@gmail.com  or stop by the Clark Library

“HOW VOLUNTEERING TRANSFORMED ME:” CARING CONTACT VOLUNTEER

Each year approximately 45,000 people die by suicide in the United States, 120 people each day, one person every 12 minutes. Though this tragically large number continues to increase annually, there is work being done to reverse this trajectory.

Caring Contact is an award-winning, volunteer-staffed crisis hotline and listening community. We compassionately serve those in emotional distress and educate our communities about the power of personal connection. In 2017, our volunteers responded to over 10,000 calls through our caring and crisis line. Contact Listeners are volunteers who listen to people in crisis over the phone. They receive 52 hours of listening and suicide awareness and intervention training before assisting people in need of support. Even after this rigorous training, most listeners are surprised by how volunteering transforms them. To give you a sense of their experience, here is an interview with a current Caring Contact volunteer listener (whose name is being withheld).

WHAT IS YOUR PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND?

I am a recent college graduate. I studied Sociology and Psychology.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR LISTENING SKILLS?

I would regard myself as a quiet listener. I know that probably sounds weird or maybe even obvious. But, after the training I realized how much talking I was doing when people were venting to me. Before I became a trained listener I don't think I realized how powerful the act of listening can be or how difficult it is sometimes. I used to be distracted when listening to people and I missed a lot. Through the training I've attached a real purpose to listening and listening well, which has made me better in a variety of aspects in my life.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR TRAINING.

The training struck this balance between easing the volunteers into the material and also challenging people in ways that were a bit nerve-racking. I remember my first practice session where I was acting as the Listener. All I was supposed to do was listen and reflect on a feeling or two. This, honestly, turned out to be one of the most difficult role plays because all I wanted to do was solve what seemed like an obvious problem to me, rather than just really listen to what the person was saying.

I found that the training applied to both the hotline and also my everyday life. I think everyone's family members and friends are grateful when a person takes this training. I also loved the growth of each volunteer, it is so clearly visible because of the practice sessions and utilization of the skills we learned - there is a lot of development throughout those 12 weeks.

DO YOU EVER FEEL LIKE YOU GET A CALL YOU CAN'T HANDLE? HOW DO YOU COPE?

The first few crisis calls were really scary. I remember that I decided on those few phone calls to just be there and to sit with the person in this dark, dark hole. By the end of the call we had developed a safety plan and the person was safe in that moment. After these types of calls, I usually debrief with someone in the office or another volunteer who is working at the same time as me.

Also, there is a bell in the phone room which lets someone in the office know you need help. There was one instance when my phone call got disconnected because I was so shaken up and didn't know what to do. Janet Sarkos, the Executive Director at Caring Contact and a volunteer listener, came in and talked me through the call. It's things like that that make the overwhelming calls easier. It's really helpful to be surrounded by people who have had similar calls, speaking to them is a huge way of coping for me.

WHAT TYPES OF CALLS ARE MOST CHALLENGING?

Any call that involves someone being really down, feeling stuck and alone. Those are hard calls. They aren't necessarily difficult to manage, but so many of these calls stick with me and I want to do more, to change their living situations and that's just not possible. I think the most difficult calls are those that end before it seems like we have reached a safe plan, or have made enough progress - this has happened before and it's really hard to let those calls go.

Which call was really memorable for you?

One of the most memorable calls was from a college student. We talked for about 45 minutes. He told me that he's never told anyone the things that he's told me during our phone call. He disclosed that if he had not picked up the phone and talked to me, that he was planning on running in front of a truck on the highway. Knowing that someone called and just by speaking to me for an



(above) A Caring Contact volunteer shares what she's experienced on the suicide prevention and crisis hotline.

hour felt like they could go on for one more day, that's very powerful.

HOW DID BECOMING A LISTENER CHANGE YOU?

Being a listener has opened my eyes to how many people are struggling, how many people think about suicide but don't tell those they are close to. I now feel comfortable asking those I am close to if they are struggling or thinking of suicide. That's something I never would have done if it hadn't been for this training and experience. I now know how powerful listening can be, just listening to another person. It can change their life.

Please visit our website, caringcontact.org, to find out more and how you can volunteer to save a life.

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CLARK PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT TO HOLD PARENT UNIVERSITY ART NIGHT

The Clark Public School District will hold a Parent University Community Education Session, “Art Night with Mr. Terhune,” on Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the ALJ Cafeteria. This free event is open to all parents and students in the district. Led by Arthur L. Johnson High School art teacher Mr. Terhune, parents and students will create a 2-dimensional mixed media winter scene.

To register for this event, contact Christine Broski at cbroski@clarkschools.org or call 732-574-9600 x3355 by December 3. The event is

recommended for children of all ages. All students must be accompanied by a parent. Refreshments will be served.

“Art Night” is part of the district's Parent University program, which includes other community education nights in addition to parent teas and two larger assembly-type programs.

The program also includes virtual sessions that can be found on the district's website under Parent University as well as on the district's Facebook and Twitter pages.

The Clark Public School District's
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PRESENTS
Art Night
with Mr. Terhune
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
6:30 PM - ALJ CAFETERIA

Create a 2-dimensional mixed media winter scene with ALJ Art Teacher Brad Terhune!

To register for this FREE event, contact Christine Broski at cbroski@clarkschools.org or (732) 574-9600 x3355 by Monday, December 3rd. Refreshments will be served. Recommended for all ages.

Open to all students attending the Clark Public Schools and their parents. All students must be accompanied by a parent.

ALZHEIMER'S NEW JERSEY FOCUSES ON SAFETY

Non-profit provides essential training and tips on how to interact with and protect people with the disease

Alzheimer's New Jersey, a non-profit which provides programs and services to the residents of New Jersey affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, recognized Alzheimer's Awareness Month in November by focusing on the importance of safety for the 180,000 people in New Jersey diagnosed with the disease.

"Because of the memory loss and confusion associated with Alzheimer's disease, safety is an important consideration. It is important that caregivers as well as police officers and other first responders understand Alzheimer's disease and the role that memory loss and confusion play in communication and behavior changes including wandering behavior," said Ken Zaentz, president and CEO of Alzheimer's NJ.

Alzheimer's New Jersey provides information and resources that support police officers, first responders and caregivers regarding safety and the person with Alzheimer's disease. This includes wandering behavior which is common and can be very dangerous.

- Be aware that a person in any stage of Alzheimer's disease can get lost and that wandering can put the person at serious risk.
- Make sure the person wears an identification bracelet.
- Have family/friends/companions/aids join the person on walks.
- Keep items out of sight that may prompt them to leave (i.e., coats, hats, purses, etc.).
- Decorate the door to the outside so that it is not recognized as a doorway or put a STOP sign on the inside of any exterior door.
- Be aware that wandering may be more likely in unfamiliar places. Do not leave the person alone when traveling, shopping, etc.
- Make sure stairwells are lit and use nightlights for bathrooms and hallways.
- Use contrasting colors. For example, painting the edge of a step a different color than the rest of the floor will make that step easier to see.
- Ensure carpets are fully tacked to the ground and avoid throw rugs.
- Install grab bars and a bath chair in the tub and shower.
- Use medication dispensing products or have family/caregiver dispense medication.
- Consider installing a shut-off valve for the stove.
- Secure tools, gardening equipment and appliances that the person no longer remembers how to operate safely without assistance.
- If the person is not safe to be home alone, consider home care, adult day services and/or alternative living situations to assure 24/7 supervision and safety.

In addition to Always Safe, Alzheimer's New Jersey (formerly the Alzheimer's Association, Greater New Jersey Chapter) provides local programs and services that assist those living with Alzheimer's disease and dementia and their caregivers in New Jersey. Visit alznj.org or call 888-280-6055 for more information.

ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S NEW JERSEY

Since 1985, Alzheimer's New Jersey has provided care and support for New Jersey families and has helped advance research for a cure. As Alzheimer's New Jersey (formerly called the Alzheimer's Association, Greater New Jersey Chapter), their commitment to local programs and services is stronger than ever.

Their mission is to respond to the needs of people in New Jersey who are affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, by providing programs and community partnerships that increase awareness and access to services.

Visit alznj.org or call 888-280-6055 for more information.

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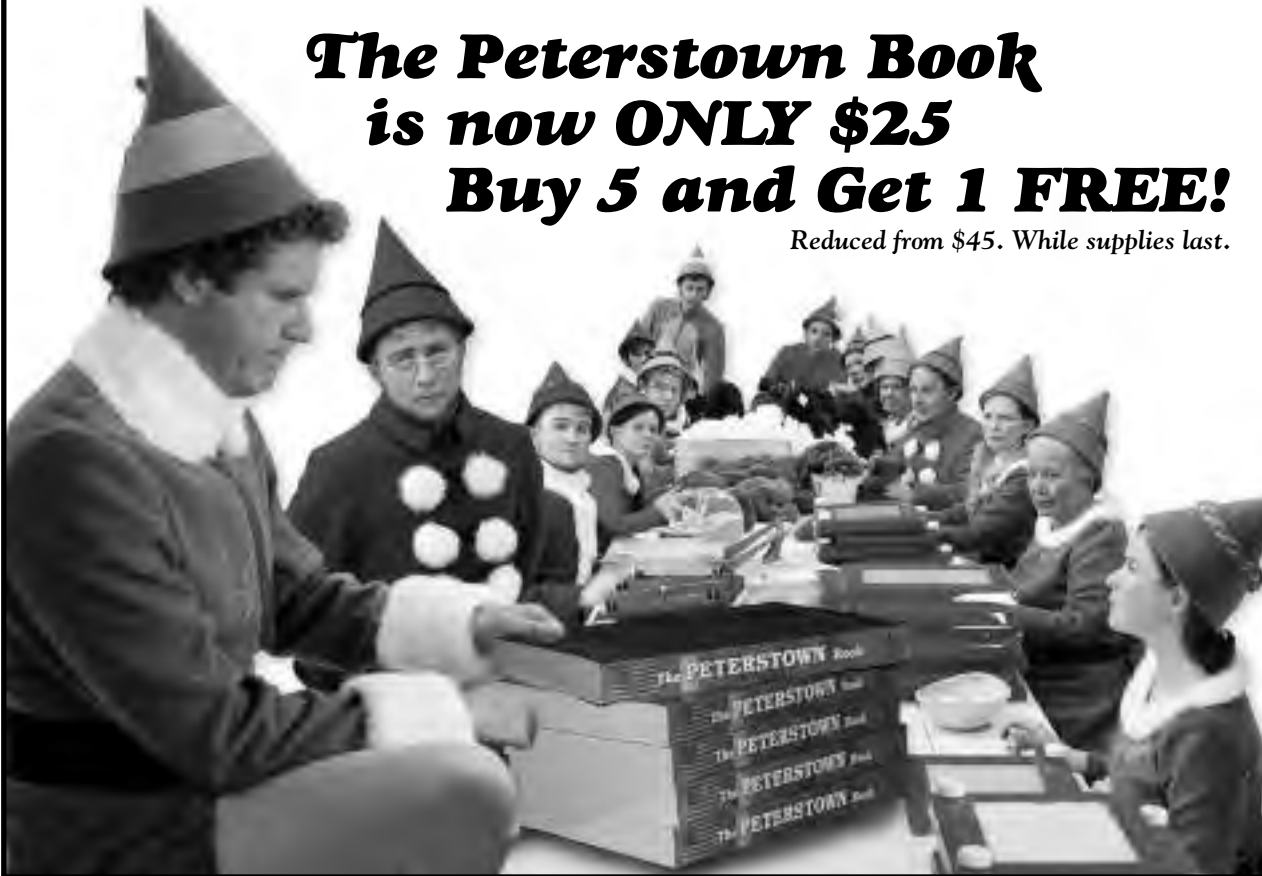
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Carnivor (Cabernet Sauvignon).....	750ml	\$10.99
Casal Garcia Vinho Verde	1L	\$ 5.99
Cavit (All Types)	1.5L	\$13.99
Chateau ste Michelle Columbia Valley Cabernet and Merlot	750ml	\$13.99
Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Chardonnay	750ml	\$ 9.95
Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Riesling	750ml	\$ 8.99
Clos du Bois Chardonnay	1.5 L	\$19.99
Clos du Bois Cabernet, Merlot.....	750m	\$ 9.95
Cockburns Ruby and Tawny Porto	750ml	\$11.99
Concha Y Toro Frontera	1.5L	\$ 8.99
Coppola Diamond Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot	750ml	\$13.99
Coppola Diamond Chardonnay	750ml	\$11.99
Corbett Canyon (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 7.99
Cupcake (All types, except Prosecco and Moscato)	750ml	\$ 8.99
Dom Perignon	750ml	\$149.99
Dreaming Tree (All Types)	750ml	\$11.99
Ecco Domani (Pinot Grigio)	750ml	\$ 9.99
Fish Eye (All Types).....	1.5L	\$ 9.99
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	\$26.99
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



WINE

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	\$41.99
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 Oakville Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon.....	1.5L	\$44.99
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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