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YMCA VOLUNTEER AYONNA CHAMBERS HONORED

The Gateway Family YMCA honored Ayonna Chambers, a dedicated YMCA Volunteer, as '2018 Youth Volunteer of the Year' at the 2018 New Jersey YMCA State Alliance 18th Annual Recognition Celebration, held on October 15, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, NJ.

"Volunteers are at the heart of the YMCA, providing positive impact to the program participants and members in our branches every day," stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "We are fortunate to have the ability to foster a sense of volunteerism for youth in the communities we serve."

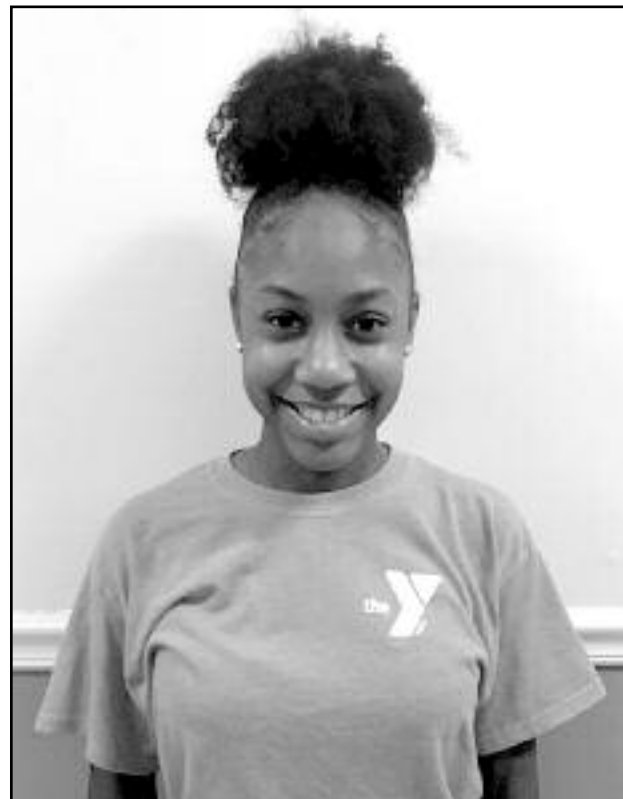
Ayonna, a student attending Union High School, has been an active member and volunteer at the Five Points Branch in Union, NJ for many years. She has dedicated over 100 hours to volunteering and making a difference in the lives of the youth program participants at the YMCA. Ayonna first joined the YMCA with her family and participated in the After School Program in elementary school.

"Ayonna volunteered with our gymnastics program for 2 years and has recently transitioned to the branch staff team. It has been wonderful to watch Ayonna grow through the Y, first as a child participant and now to a young woman giving back," stated Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO.

Jodi Pelano, Branch Executive Director added, "Ayonna is extremely patient, caring and gentle with our youngest gymnasts, ages 3-5. She has a bright future to look forward to and we are happy to have her at the YMCA."

The New Jersey YMCA State Alliance hosts the Recognition Event annually to highlight YMCA initiatives and recognize those who have shown leadership and support for New Jersey YMCAs in one of three focus areas: Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. Honorees in 2018 included John McManus and Gloria Ron-Fornes. Ayonna was joined by other Youth Volunteers honored from YMCAs across the state for their dedication to improving the lives of others and their impact in the community.

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,



(above) Ayonna Chambers was named 2018 Youth Volunteer of the Year for her dedication and support of children at The Gateway YMCA.

racess, 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, visit tgfymca.org. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact the Five Points Branch 908-688-9622 or Wellness Center Branch 908-349-9622.

HOLIDAY WEEKEND CELEBRATION NOV 30TH & DEC 1ST

On Friday, November 30th and Saturday, December 1st the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration, ice skating and other events will be held in front of Town Hall.

The free ice skating will take place on Friday, November 30th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 1st from 12:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration will then take place on Saturday, December 1st beginning at 3:00 p.m. with an ice carving tree lighting ceremony at at 5:00 p.m.

Featuring: holiday performances from local schools; Arts and crafts, holiday games, food vendors and a visit from Santa. The event is free of charge to attend. Photos with Santa will be available inside Town Hall immediately after the Tree Lighting, Buggy rides and other activities including a performance of It's a Wonderful Life the Radio Play beginning at 2:00 p.m. at Unity Bank.

A full schedule of SID activities can be found online at UnionCenterSID.com.

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THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA KICKS OFF THE LUNCHBOX CHALLENGE AT HEALTHY U DAY

The Gateway Family YMCA joined YMCAs throughout New Jersey in celebrating the annual Healthy U Fall kickoff of its youth programs this fall. The Healthy U program is the result of a collaboration between The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey and the New Jersey YMCA State Alliance.

The Gateway Family YMCA's local kickoff event featured healthy activities focused on nutrition and active fun. The Lunchbox Challenge asked students, and their families, to take a close look at the food choices they make in their "lunches" as an opportunity to learn and practice making smart healthy eating choices.

Healthy U's goal is to promote healthy behavior and to prevent childhood obesity through more physical activity, family involvement and nutrition education. In New Jersey, one out of every three school age children is either overweight or obese, putting them at risk of developing serious health problems later in life. In Healthy U research, participating children and families report that they are eating more fruits and vegetables and consuming fewer processed and sugary foods. They are also spending more time being physically active and less time in front of screens.

"Celebrating Healthy U is so important to raise the awareness of improving the health and well-being of children," said Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "Healthy U has positively impacted over 96,000 children ages 3

to 14 at 480 YMCA preschool and afterschool sites and 90 school sites statewide."

"Healthy U is a unique asset to YMCA childcare education programming," stated Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO.

Since Healthy U's inception in 2008, The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey has invested more than \$4.7 million to sustain the program through 2019. "All evidence indicates that well-nourished active children are more prepared to learn and thrive. We are thrilled to have The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey as a strong partner," said Sue Cornell, Healthy U Director.

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 Gateway Family YMCA impacts the community by providing quality services to people of all ages, races, faith or incomes.

The Y is the nation's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The Y doesn't just strengthen bodies – it strengthens people, families and communities.

For more information about programs and services provided by The Gateway Family YMCA, please visit tgfymca.org.

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 Non-verbal communication

Communication Skills
 College/Career Development



(above) Kids having fun at the Gateway Family YMCA's local kickoff event for Healthy U, which promotes healthy behavior to combat childhood obesity.

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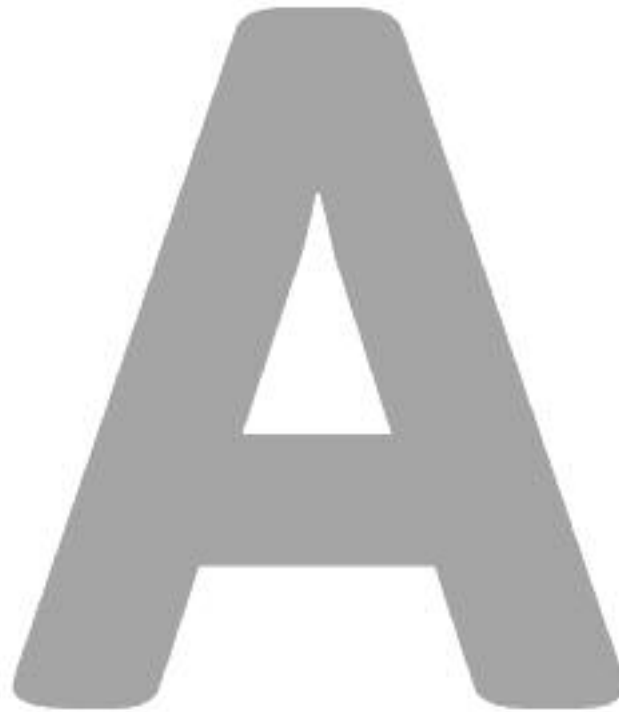
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The Union Municipal Band, under the
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Ehrhart Gardens, 100 Francis Court, Union, NJ
at 7:30 p.m. The second concert will be held on
Monday, December 17 at Hannah Caldwell
School Auditorium, 1120 Commerce Avenue,
Union, NJ at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and the
public is cordially invited to attend.

These concerts will feature popular holiday
selections as well as music from the Broadway
stage, marches and overtures. The pieces that are
planned include: I'll Be Home for Christmas, Let
It Snow, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer,

Chanukah Celebration, Sonata for Winds by
Charles Carter, Cheerio March by Edwin
Goldman and I'll See You Again by Noel
Coward.

The band would like to invite musicians from
Union and the surrounding communities to join
the group. If you are interested please call the
band director Howard Toplansky at 908-415-
4939. For directions or questions, please call the
Recreation Department at 908-686-4200.

The event is sponsored by The Township of
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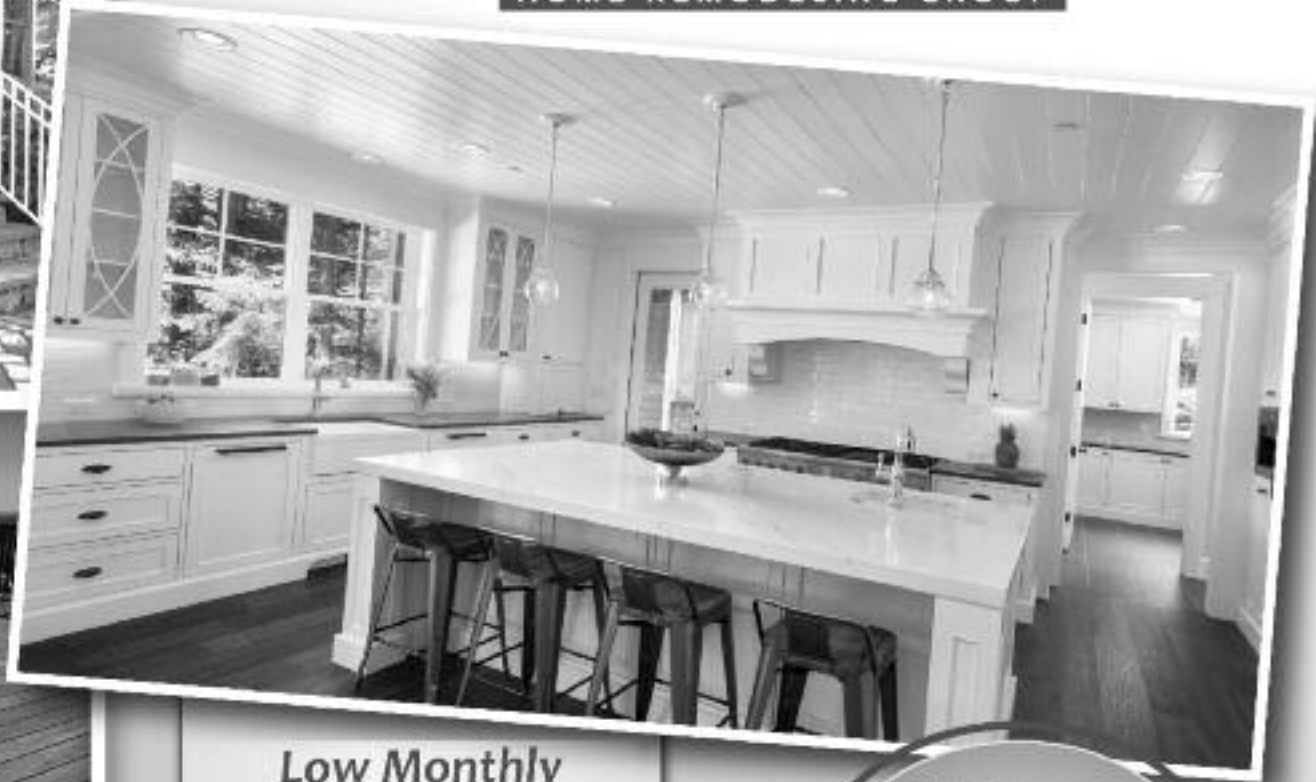


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SMILES AROUND FOR 28 YOUTH AT UNION COUNTY ADOPTION DAY

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.



(above) Union resident and employee of the Union County Probation Department bakes cupcakes to distribute each year at the National Adoption Day ceremony in the courthouse.

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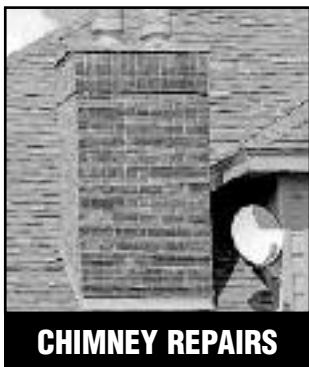
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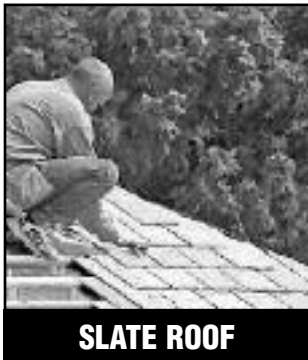
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BATTLE HILL SCHOOL SUPPORTS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS AND BCRF

*Submitted by Alison Brehm
and Jessica Mongiovi*

Battle Hill Elementary School continues their mission to help those in need. They began their philanthropic endeavors this school year during the month of October by recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month and supporting the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF). The fundraising efforts began with a t-shirt sale offered to the Battle Hill Community. Staff, students, and families were encouraged to wear pink each Wednesday throughout the month of October to recognize the battle so many women are facing. Students and staff were invited to dedicate a pink ribbon to a family member or friend who is battling, or was lost to, breast cancer. Some of the messages included, "I miss you, Mom," and "To all the breast cancer patients, stay strong, you will get through this." All students and staff participated in a walk-a-thon on Wednesday, October 17 to "Walk for a Cure."


"Battle Hill selected to support breast cancer because of its close connection to our school community," stated Miss Brehm. "It has affected a large portion of the Battle Hill family and we wanted to support the cause that hits so close to home."

Battle Hill collected over \$1,200 which will be donated to the BCRF.



(above, l-r) Pictured in front of the dedication board are (back row) Breakthrough Onyechere, Brandon DaSilva, Shyam Shah, Nicole Ikpogu, Leah Eke, Gianna Marlin, Chiamaka Nwanonyiri, Angel Salcedo, Vincenzo Carr; Olivia Magliozzi, (front row) Lola Parades, Alexa Castillo, Landon Paco, and Alexa Rivera.

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BATTLE HILL'S FOURTH GRADE STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION



(above, l-r) Battle Hill Student Council Executive Board
Landon Paco, Leyla Akin, Angel Salcedo, and Alexa Rivera.

*Submitted by Jessica Mongiovi
and Alison Brehm*

The fourth grade students at Battle Hill recently had the chance to get involved in the school political process through the Student Council. Students had the opportunity to run for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Student Council at the fourth grade level is an introduction to student government, community involvement, and fundraising.

“At Battle Hill we strive to make the Student Council better each year by finding new ways to help our school, the community and our country,” said Student Council Advisor Miss Alison Brehm.

Just like a regular election, Battle Hill held a primary election. All fourth grade students were encouraged to apply for a position and those who applied wrote a speech to first persuade the teachers. Each speech was linked to a Google Form which allowed teachers to view them and vote for their top four candidates in each position. Votes were tallied and four finalists were chosen.

Finalists were as follows,

Treasurer – Brandon DaSilva, Shyam Shay, Landon Paco, and Nicole Ikpogu

Secretary – Alexa Rivera, Breakthrough Onyechere and Leah Eke

Vice President – Angel Salcedo, Olivia Magliozzi, Lola Paredes, and Chiamaka Nwanonyiri

President – Leyla Akin, Alexa Castillo, Gianna Marlin, and Vincenzo Carr

Finalists created flyers which were placed around the building. Candidates delivered their speeches to the student body. Each finalist was asked to briefly speak about the purpose of their role, why they would be best for the job, and a fundraiser they would like to see happen this year at Battle Hill, which would benefit the school or an organization. Ms. Mongiovi, advisor, also created a video of the students responding to the question, “Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give your 5-year-old self?” The video was shown before the speeches were read to the audience of students, staff and parents.

All candidates did an excellent job on their speeches, but there were only four spots to fill. Each fourth grade student had the opportunity to vote for a candidate in each category. Instead of using a paper and pencil ballot, Ms. Jessica Mongiovi, advisor, created an online ballot on which students voted during their recess time.

The winners are

President: Leyla Akin

Vice President: Angel Salcedo

Secretary: Alexa Rivera

Treasurer: Landon Paco

“The goal this year was to continue to get the board more involved in all aspects of Student Council,” said Mongiovi. Following the election, board members met with advisors and selected representatives from each class to assist them throughout the year.

Battle Hill is looking forward to another successful year!

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CAJUN CRAB OPENS ON ROUTE 22

The Cajun Crab Louisiana Seafood Restaurant opened in November 2018 at 789 Route 22 West in North Plainfield, NJ. Owner Jenny Chen operated Fresh Catch Seafood Market at the location for ten years.

The restaurant features a tank with live lobsters and dungeness crabs. The menu offers both steamed and fried dishes. Diners can chose from Louisiana Cajun, Asian Garlic Sauce or Lemon Pepper flavoring and three levels of spiciness. Meals are a hands-on experience and served are with bibs and gloves.

The Cajun Crab also has take-out service and catering. Orders can be made by calling 908-822-8888 or online at CajunCrabOnline.com.



(above) Judy Chen presents a combo dish of Snow Crab Legs, Clams, Shrimp, Crawfish and Mussels, Sausage, Corn and Potatos served in a steam bag.

UNION HIGH SCHOOL JRROTC SERVE AS COLOR GUARD FOR BERKELEY HEIGHTS VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

The Berkeley Heights Veterans Committee held a remembrance program at VFW Headquarters on 11/11/2018 at 11 a.m., the time that officially marked the end of World War I on 11/11/1918. The program welcomed the community to take time to pause and remember those who have served and sacrificed for freedom.

The VFW Post 6259 Hall is located at 15 Locust Ave, Berkeley Heights, NJ and is also home to American Leagion Post 356 which was

restarted by members of the VFW. Both organizations are recruiting new members. Veterans are encouraged to join. They can be from any branch of the service and can transfer from other posts if they are new to the area. The organizations conduct several community service programs throughout the year and invites the community at large to participate. On December 18, 2018 they will be visiting veterans at Lyons Hospital to have a Christmas party for those in the PTSD ward.



(above, l-r) Union High School JRROTC served as Color Guard at the Berkeley Heights Veterans Day ceremony. Cadets: Benjamin Brett, Antony Steitz, Izabella Ksiazek, and Sebastian Van Auken.

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TOWNSHIP OF UNION HOSTS SANTA IN BLUE TOY DRIVE THROUGH DEC. 14

The Township of Union is proud to host the Santa in Blue Toy Drive to benefit families in need this Holiday season.

The yearly event collects thousands of toys and is a time honored tradition that brings together Township Administration, the Township of Union Police Department and the greater community.

As part of the collection, organizers are asking for new, unwrapped toys for children newborn to 16 years of age.

The drive is ongoing until December 14th, with drop-off locations at:

Town Hall: 1976 Morris Ave

Union Police Department: 981 Caldwell Ave

Fire Headquarters: 1 Bond Dr.

All Township of Union Schools

Sorting of the toys will take place on Sunday, December 16th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Union High School. Volunteers are needed for the sorting and are encouraged to attend.

For additional information visit UnionTownship.com or contact the Union Police Department, at 908-851-5000.



(above) Committeeman Manuel Figuereido and student volunteers at the 2015 sorting event for Union Police Department's "Santa in Blue" Toy Drive. The yearly drive to support families in need is currently underway with donations being accepted at Municipal buildings through December 14th.

CHAMBER HOLIDAY NETWORKING PARTY

For its final event of the year, the Union Township Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual Holiday Business Networking Event on Wednesday, December 19, 2018.

The festivities, aimed at celebrating the year's achievements and ringing in 2019, will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. at Unity Bank, 952 Stuyvesant Avenue, in Union. Open to Chamber members and their guests, the event is an opportunity to socialize with colleagues, and enjoy some food and drink and fellowship.

Admission is free for members, but pre-registration is required. For membership information and to register, please contact the Chamber, at (908)-688-277, or email executivedirector@unionchamber.com.

"We are pleased to be co-hosting the Chamber's holiday event with Unity Bank again this year," said Executive Director James Masterson. "We have much to celebrate with our members, and we will enjoy looking back on a year of accomplishments and looking ahead to a bright future."

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ADULT PROGRAMS AT THE UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Vauxhall Branch Library is located at 123 Hilton Avenue, Vauxhall, NJ 07088.

For additional information please call the library at 908-851-5451, or find us on the web at uplnj.org.

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

ADULT PROGRAMS AT VAUXHALL BRANCH (VH)

Shoprite of Union: Holiday Meals

Monday, December 3 from 6-7 p.m.

Shoprite Dietitian Megan Hewitt will speak about healthy eating information while also offering free food samples. Advance registration required, please call 908-851-5451 to sign up.

African Dance Lesson for Adults

Monday, December 10 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us for a lesson in African dancing!

Advance registration required, please call 908-851-5451 to sign up.

Dinner and a Movie Night for Adults

Monday, December 17 from 6:30-8:15 p.m.

Join us for this film about an African American detective during the 1970s. Bring your dinner and we'll supply the popcorn! Please call the library for the exact title.

Jersey Job Club: Master the Art of Networking

Tuesday, December 18 from 3-4:30 p.m.

Join our Career Coach, Deb Warner, to learn tips that will enable you to achieve success with your job search.

Annual Kwanzaa Ceremony & Celebration

Wednesday, December 26 from 6-8 p.m.

Join us for our annual Kwanzaa ceremony and celebration! This is a program for the entire family.

Advance registration required, please call 908-851-5451 to sign up.

Family Prize Bingo

Saturday, December 29 from 3-4

Join us for a fun afternoon of bingo. Meet new friends and win cool prizes. Register in advance.

Tai Chi Free Exercise Program: Tuesdays in December

First session: 12:30-1:15 p.m.

Second session: 1:30-2:15 p.m.

Wear sneakers and comfortable clothing.

ADULT PROGRAMS AT UNION MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY (MN)

Friends of the Union Public Library Meeting

Thursday, December 6 from 7 – 8:30 p.m.

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

Inter-generational Craft: Cat Castles

Saturday, December 8 from 2-3 p.m.

Perfect for adults, families and teens! Join us as we create cool hideouts for cats out of cardboard boxes. Supplies are limited, please call the Main Library at 908-851-5450 to sign up.

Cookie Swap!

Wednesday, December 12 from 2-3 p.m.

Bring cookies you've baked or bought and get ready to swap! Hot chocolate will be served too! Please call the Main Library at 908-851-5450 in advance to sign up.

Writer's Support Group

Thursday, December 13 from 7-8 p.m.

Are you looking for feedback on the book you're working on, trying to overcome writer's block, or trying to figure out your personal writing style? Come join this group of authors and writers whose mission is to encourage, support and promote authorship.

Leave 'Em in Stitches!

Tuesday, December 18 from 7-8 p.m.

Bring your own project(s) and get ready to knit/crochet!

De-Stressing for the Holidays Yoga

Wednesday, December 19 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Gentle and relaxing. No experience necessary.

Off the Shelf Book Discussion Group

Thursday, December 20 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

This month members will have a potluck and discuss "Sex On the Moon" by Ben Mezrich. New members always welcome. Please contact the library to receive a copy of the book.

Tuesdays @ 2 Movies

December 4, 11, and 18 from 2- 4 p.m.

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

International Film

Thursday, December 27 from 2 - 4 p.m.

Join us at the library for a free international movie. Doors open at 1:50 p.m. and elevator access is available. Please call the Library for the specific title and more information at (908) 851-5450.

Connect Explore & Discover Digital Resources

Friday, December 7 from 2-3 p.m.

Monday, December 10 from 7-8 p.m.

Friday, December 28 from 2-3 p.m.

Learn how to download e-books, e-audiobooks, digital magazines, language learning programs, and more using just your Union Public Library card. Please bring your library card and mobile device.

Mobile Aging Kiosk

Tuesday, December 18 from 11:30-1:30 p.m.

Union County's mobile Aging Service Kiosk (ASK) is designed to provide residents with a convenient, friendly way to find out about services for the aging, and for their families and caregivers.

ASK is staffed by professionals with the Division on Aging and Disability Resource Connection of the Union County Department of Human Services.

Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 18 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Les Malamut Art Gallery

Join us for an exhibition of vinyl record covers. The theme of the collection is "'Tis the Season for Magic and Music."

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DECEMBER YOUTH PROGRAMS AT UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Vauxhall Branch Library is located at 123 Hilton Avenue, Vauxhall, NJ 07088.

For additional information please call the library at 908-851-5451, or find us on the web at uplnj.org.

*Please note that you can sign up for programs up to two weeks in advance. We recommend signing up as early as possible to avoid disappointment!

*Program details subject to change. Please contact the library to confirm.

MAIN LIBRARY WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Mondays: Construction Zone *at 3:30 p.m.*

All ages; No registration required

Learn, play, and build with us every Monday using Legos, K'Nex, and more!

Please note: Construction Zone will not be held on 12/24, as the library will be closed for Christmas Eve.

Read to Waldi

Mondays 12/3 & 12/17 at 4:15 p.m.

Ages 5+; Registration required

Bring along a book or two and practice reading aloud to Waldi, our visiting therapy dog! Waldi will be stepping down from his therapy dog duties at the end of the year, so on 12/17, join us for a 'retirement party' in his honor!

Please note: Program takes place on alternate weeks.

Wednesdays: Tiny Tots (Storytime) *10:30 a.m.*

Birth - 2 years; No registration required

Spend this special time with baby singing songs & rhymes, listening to stories, followed by free play & socialization. Please note: Tiny Tots will not be held on 12/12 due to a staff training event.

Thursdays: Alphabet Soup (Storytime) *at 4:00 p.m.*

Ages 4 - 6; Registration required for 12/6 and 12/13
Jump into reading with UPL! We explore phonics, letter recognition, and numbers all while reading fun stories, singing songs, and making new friends! The 12/6 session will be Stretchy Stories, a yoga and movement-based storytime, and the 12/13 session will feature a craft following storytime.

Please Note: Alphabet Soup will not be held on 12/20, due to Bedtime Storytime later that evening.

Fridays: Toddler Tales (Storytime) *at 10:30 a.m.*

2 - 4 years; No registration required

Enjoy stories, singing, and movement, following a different theme each week! The 12/14 session will focus on music & movement.

Please Note: Toddler Tales will not be held on 12/7 or 12/28 due to staff scheduling constraints.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Teen Wii U & Waffles

Wednesday 12/5 at 12:30 p.m.

Ages 13 and up; Registration required

Play some games on the Wii U and enjoy some freshly-made waffles!

ShopRite Kids Cuisine

Wednesday 12/5 at 4:00 p.m.

Ages 6 - 12; Registration required

Learn about healthy eating and try some yummy new foods, following a different theme each month! Presented by Megan Hewitt, RD from ShopRite of Union.

SciFri (Science Friday)

Friday 12/7 at 3:30 p.m.

Ages 8 - 12; Registration required

Learn about winter solstice and the science behind winter weather, then make a jar of snow slime!

NJPAC Books on the Move

Saturday 12/8 at 12:00 p.m.

All ages; Registration required

Join NJPAC Teaching Artist Wincey Terry in an interactive reading of the inspiring true story, Tito Puente, Mambo King (Rey del Mambo) by Monica Brown. Young listeners will hear the reading in English with excerpts in Spanish, enjoy dance steps and drum rhythms of the mambo & cha-cha, and complete some fun arts & crafts activities. Plus, the first 25 families receive a FREE copy of the book!

Cat Castles Intergenerational Craft

Saturday 12/8 at 2:30 p.m.

Children ages 5 and up, teens, and adults;
Registration required

Cat lovers of all ages are invited to this afternoon of feline fun, inspired by Carin Oliver's book, Cat Castles: 20 Cardboard Habitats You Can Build Yourself. Petra Romano of Petra Romano Photography will also show us how to take the best smartphone pictures of our furry friends. Children must be accompanied by an adult. This is a great family bonding activity, plus an escape from holiday stress!

The W.H.O. (We Help Others) Club: Teen Edition

Friday 12/14 @ 12:30 p.m.

Ages 13+; No registration required

Interested in making our community a better place and earning community service hours? Join us each month for a new service project. This month, we'll be making 'You Deserve a Break' Kit-Kat notes to show your appreciation for a family member, teacher, community helper, or another important person!

Touch the Music Presents The Nutcracker

Saturday 12/15 at 2:00 p.m.

Ages 3 - 10; Registration required

Hear the story of The Nutcracker accompanied by the beautiful music of Tchaikovsky. Learn about the different sounds that orchestral instruments create, then play & explore the instruments you've just heard!

The W.H.O. (We Help Others) Club: Kids Edition

Tuesday 12/18 at 4:30 p.m.

All ages; No registration required

Interested in making our community a better place and earning community service hours? Join us each month for a new service project. This month, we'll be making 'You Deserve a Break' Kit-Kat notes to show your appreciation for a family member, teacher, community helper, or another important person!

Bedtime Storytime

Thursday 12/20 at 7:00 p.m.

All ages; Registration required

This month's Bedtime Storytime will have a Winter Wonderland theme. Don't forget to wear your coziest PJs to warm you up in the winter chill!

Teen Advisory Board Meeting *at 12:30P p.m.*

Ages 13 and up; Registration required

Help us make Union Public Library the place for you! Let us know what programs and events you want to see at the library. Recommend books, movies, and music you want to see on the shelves, and earn community service hours by coming to TAB meetings and participating in programs!

Noon Year's Eve Celebration

Saturday 12/29 at 11:30 a.m.

All ages; Registration required

Join us for a kid-friendly New Year's celebration! We're celebrating with a New Year's craft, a special storytime, and a countdown to noon!

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DONATE FOOD FOR THOSE IN NEED AT THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA

The Gateway Family YMCA is collecting non-perishable food items and toiletries

Share what you can! The Gateway Family YMCA is collecting non-perishable food items and toiletries for those in need in our local communities this winter. Together with our members, volunteers, friends and partners, we make our community stronger by focusing on three priorities: youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Items needed include all non-perishable food items (Canned or Boxed Food) soups, tuna, cereal, oatmeal, pasta, tomato sauce, chili, peanut butter, jelly, etc. Toiletries and personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, shaving cream, disposable razors, diapers, wipes, etc. are also needed. Items will be distributed to our neighbors in need in the local community.

Donated items can be dropped off at any of our local branches thru December 23rd:

- Five Points Branch
– 201 Tucker Avenue, Union, NJ
- Wellness Center Branch
– 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union, NJ
- WISE Center YMCA Branch
– 2095B Berwyn Street, Union, NJ

“Giving back to the community is an important part of what the Y does every day. The Gateway Family YMCA stands For Social Responsibility, because we truly are in this together, and together we can harness our individual strengths and bring about positive change around us,” stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a not-for-profit community service membership organization working to meet the health and social service

needs of the children, men and women in our local communities. Committed to the mission of building healthy lives through programs that strengthen spirits, minds and bodies for people of all ages, religions and cultures, the Y serves over 23,000 individuals and families. Programs are tools the YMCA uses to achieve its vision of strengthening the foundations of community and to reinforce the Y’s core values of honesty, caring, respect and responsibility.

To learn more about The Gateway Family YMCA and its community service projects visit www.tgfymca.org. For more information, contact the Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622, Rahway Branch 908-388-0057, Wellness Center Branch 908-349-9622, WISE Center YMCA Branch 908-687-2995 or visit us at www.tgfymca.org.



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Fairwood Post	3,000	Mailed to every home and business	07023
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Green Brook Gazette	3,000	Mailed to every home and business	08818
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Life in Linden	12,500	Mailed to every home and business	07036
Long Hill Leader	3,600	Mailed to every home and business in Gillette, Villaggio and Spring	07933, 07946, 07988
Madison Monthly	6,300	Mailed to every home and business	07940
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Our Town Rahway	6,000	Mailed to every home and business	07065
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Summit Times	9,600	Mailed to every home and business	07901
Spirit of Union	5,500	Mailed to every home and business	07085
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2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
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DECEMBER YOUTH PROGRAMS AT UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY

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For additional information please call the library at 908-851-5451, or find us on the web at uplnj.org.

VAUXHALL WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Tuesdays: Toddler & Pre-K Time
at 11:00 a.m.

Ages 3 - 6; Registration required
Interactive storytimes, crafts, and more for
young children and their parents/guardians.

Story & Craft: Cookies
12/4

Music & Movement
12/11

STEM Story & Activity: Winter
12/18

Library closed (Christmas Day)
12/25

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Club Teen: DIY iPhone/iPad Holder

Wednesday 12/5 at 6:00 p.m.

Ages 14 and up; Registration required
Create a iPad or iPhone Holder made from
recycled paper towel rolls!

Quick & Healthy Snacks for Tweens

Thursday 12/6 at 3:00 p.m.

Ages 9 - 13; Registration required
Megan Hewitt, RD from ShopRite of Union
will teach you how to make some fast,
delicious, and healthy after-school snacks!
Please inform staff of food allergies when
registering, if necessary.

Family Karaoke

Saturday 12/8 at 3:00 p.m.

All ages; Registration required
All are welcome for a fun afternoon of

singing along to your favorite songs!

Homeschool Hangout

Thursday 12/13 at 11:00 a.m.

Ages 10 and up; Registration required
Meet, learn, and engage with other local
homeschooling families through a variety of
fun and interactive activities!

Tween 'Make It at Your Library'

Thursday 12/13 at 3:00 p.m.

Ages 9 - 13; Registration required
Tap into your creative side and create
a beautiful winter snowflake!

Family Craft: Mitten Wreath

Saturday 12/15 at 11:00 a.m.

All ages; Registration required
Create a beautiful mitten wreath to celebrate
the arrival of winter!

Club Teen Pajama Movie Night: This Christmas

Wednesday 12/19 at 6:00 p.m.

Ages 14 and up; Registration required
Join us for a showing of This Christmas (Rated
PG-13)! We'll supply the popcorn and a
beverage.

Tween STEM Builders Club

Thursday 12/20 at 3:00 p.m.

Ages 9 - 13; Registration required
Play around with Legos and 3-D magnetic tiles
to create amazing shapes and structures!

Lunch and a Family Movie: Frozen

Saturday 12/22 at 1:00 p.m.

Ages 9 - 13; Registration required
Stop by for a screening of Frozen (Rated PG)!
Bring your lunch, and we'll supply the popcorn
and a beverage. Children must be accompanied
by a parent or guardian.

Annual Kwanzaa Ceremony & Celebration

Wednesday 12/26 at 6:00 p.m.

All ages; Registration required
Celebrate family, community, and culture
during this special holiday program!
Families are encouraged to sign up in advance
to bring a dish for our community food table.

Tween Game Time

Thursday 12/27 at 1:00 p.m.

Ages 9 - 13; Registration required
Join us for an afternoon of friendly
competition. We're breaking out the Wii U and
our collection of boardgames. Feel free to bring
your own games too!

Family Prize Bingo

Saturday 12/29 at 3:00 p.m.

All ages; Registration required
The whole family is invited to play bingo
for a chance to win some cool prizes!

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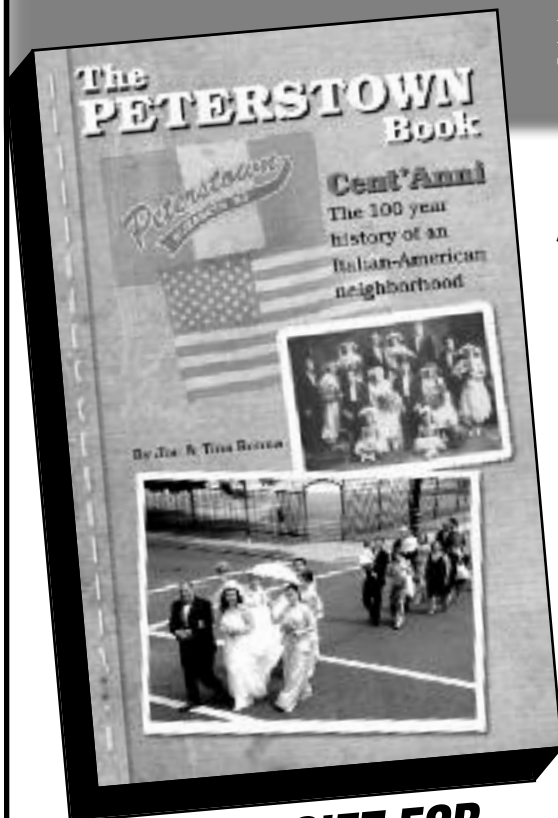
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Lunch 11am - 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:00pm
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Kids 7-10.....\$5.99	Kids 7-10.....\$7.49
Kids 3-6.....\$3.99	Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
2 & Under.....FREE!	2 & Under.....FREE!

FRIDAY - SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY ALL DAY DINNER

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Kids 7-10\$7.49
Kids 3-6\$5.99
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