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## STUDENTS TAKE A STAND AGAINST MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

Submitted by Gary Miller

World history students at Linden High School recently took action to spread awareness about the problem of human trafficking, and in the process raised their own social consciousness.

On Friday, January 25, 2019, about 90 freshmen in Derrick Potts' classes went around the school putting magnets on lockers with messages from the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking. The goal of the "Locker Slam" is to shine a spotlight on a problem that is often hidden in the shadows.

Human trafficking is the exploitation of a person through force, fraud or coercion, and can include sex trafficking, forced labor or domestic servitude.

The students took photos of the magnets and shared them on social media with the hashtag #NJStudentsForFreedom.

"Combining the locker magnets with social media was a great way to engage students on this critical topic," said Superintendent Danny A. Robertozzi. "Of course, they are all familiar with social media, but this project helped to show them the power it has to spread important messages. So they learn about the problem of human trafficking, but also learn about their own capability to bring about change."



(above) Students from one of Derrick Potts' world history classes showing the locker magnets they distributed to help raise awareness about human trafficking.



(above) World history teacher Derrick Potts handing out locker magnets to his students for distributing around Linden High School.

The magnets came in seven colors, each with a different message, including "Be a Voice for the Voiceless," "Slavery Still Exists," and "Your Voice Can Change the World." They also have the organization's website [njhumantrafficking.org](http://njhumantrafficking.org) so students will know where to go for more information, and a number to text for help or to report human trafficking.

Potts said it's an important message to get out and that the "Locker Slam" is a great way to engage his students in a way that goes beyond classroom lessons.

"We talked about the African slave trade, then to put a more modern connection to it, we went over human trafficking," he said. "What is it? What are the signs of it? What are different types?"

"But kids like to move around, so they're out of the room doing something different. And they get to use social media in class, so that really helps it as well."

Potts said the magnets also made an impact on other students who saw them around the building.

"I was in the cafeteria and I had a girl ask me, 'Are you Mr. Potts? What is this?' So I told her about it, and she said, 'This is really cool.' I don't know who this girl was, but the goal is to get other students to take a picture of this and use the hashtag. So not only my classes but other students put it out there."

"The more people who see it, the more interest, and it brings more awareness of the issue."

Photos by Linden Public Schools

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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.

17,400 newspapers are printed monthly, and are mailed to every postal patron in Linden.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Linden Chamber of Commerce assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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## BAKER TAX & ACCOUNTING SERVICES NAMED SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Linden business owner Mary Baker of Baker Tax & Accounting Services was presented with the Small Company of the Year award during the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce annual awards dinner held on February 11, 2019. The Linden Chamber of Commerce is one of several chambers that belong to the Gateway.

Baker Tax & Accounting is credited with helping set up several non-profit organizations in the Linden community and has assisted several businesses in making meaningful financial decisions. Mary Baker has mentored people to turn their "passion into wealth" and has helped her clients start their own successful businesses by educating business owners on how to make their businesses "bankable."



(above, r-l) Mary Banker with her husband Curtis and grandson Rajah.



(above) Linden Chamber of Commerce members turned out to congratulate Mary Baker on being named Small Business of the Year.



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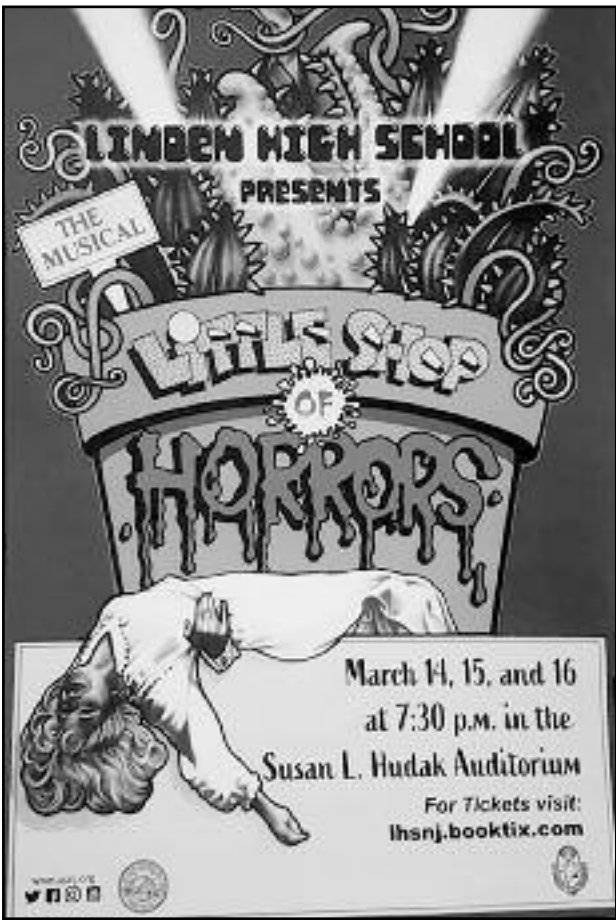
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## LOCAL RESIDENT'S CHILDREN'S BOOK NOW ON AMAZON



Long time resident of Linden, Judy England-McCarthy now has her children's book, "Amazing Petunia's Adventures," on Amazon. Judy, who has resided in the Trembley Point area since July of 1993, is a professional storyteller, poet, workshop facilitator and nurse. A member of several guilds, she has been a professional storyteller since 2009, a workshop facilitator since the late 1990's, and currently works for the Linden Board of Education as a per diem school RN. She volunteers for the Linden Shade Tree Commission and co chairs with councilman Ralph Strano for the Trembley Point Civic Group, which was instrumental in making the area a Quiet Zone. In 2013 she was asked to tell one of her original tales at the National Storytelling Conference and a video presentation of one of her poems was presented at "The Just Listening Event" by The Missouri Arts Council in 2016. This year of her poems will be included in the 2019 GLVWG Anthology.

It was out of her desire to create some original stories for her craft that the idea for Petunia the pig was born. Amazing Petunia's Adventures is a children's fable geared towards the early level reader group (5-9), however the beautiful, childlike watercolor illustrations by Mariya Kovalyov found throughout the book make it wonderful picture type book for younger children to be read as well. The story is about a pig who is different and goes on a journey, because she doesn't want to roll in the mud, but she does want to stay cool.

The story is about the importance of being yourself and following your dreams, something all of us would benefit to remember.

Judy is currently working to make "Amazing Petunia's Adventures" into a children's animation series.

If you are interested in more details about her, check her out on [jemjtt10.wixsite.com/jestthething](http://jemjtt10.wixsite.com/jestthething).

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## RETIRED POLICE OFFICER RETURNS TO SERVICE AT LINDEN HIGH SCHOOL



(above) Keith Aslin, retired police officer and a former commander of Linden's Juvenile Aid Bureau, started as a Special Law Enforcement Officer Class III to provide security at Linden High School's Academy of Science and Technology.

Photo by Linden Public Schools.

Keith Aslin retired from the Linden Police Department three years ago, but now he's back on patrol at Linden High School.

Aslin took his post on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 as a Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) Class III providing security at the LHS Academy of Science and Technology.

Aslin served for 28 years with the Linden Police, retiring as a detective lieutenant in charge of the Juvenile Aid Bureau in 2016.

The Board of Education and City of Linden agreed in October to hire retired law enforcement officers to provide security at the city's largest schools. Aslin is the first to begin working.

"We couldn't have asked for a better candidate than Officer Aslin," said Superintendent Danny A. Robertozzi. "As an LHS graduate and former head of the Juvenile Aid Bureau, he knows our schools, he's familiar with the security procedures, and he's experienced at working with students. It's reassuring to have someone so knowledgeable and experienced watching over our students and staff. Welcome back to the Linden Public Schools family!"

The Board of Education began discussing the possibility of hiring retired officers after a shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida, last year. That was also a galvanizing moment for Aslin.

"I had so much training in this that after the incident in Parkland I wanted to give back a little bit," he said. "When this came along, it was a good opportunity to come back. I like working in the schools and I like the kids. I'm excited to come back."

Aslin grew up in Linden, attending School No. 8 and McManus Junior High School, and graduating from Linden High School in 1983. He graduated from Rutgers University-Newark in 1987 and joined the LPD in 1988.

"As the former commander of our Juvenile Aid Bureau, Keith has a comprehensive understanding of our schools, and I am confident he will do a tremendous job," said Police Chief

David Hart. "We are very pleased that he decided to use his considerable experience to once again serve our community."

Before heading the Juvenile Bureau, Aslin was in charge of the Community Policing Unit and taught DARE to elementary school students. He later was instrumental in starting the "Pass the Message On" anti-bias program at LHS, in which older students design creative ways to teach younger students about fighting bias and bullying.

"I've always cared about Linden," he said. "I enjoyed working for the city. I had a great career, and this was just a great opportunity to come back and do what I like."

New Jersey established the Class III Special Law Enforcement Officer position in 2016. Only retired law enforcement officers are eligible for the position, which authorizes them, on a part-time basis, to provide security on school premises during normal school hours or when occupied by students or staff.

These officers operate under the authority of the local chief of police, and while they have the same authority and duties as regular, full-time police officers while providing school security, they cannot replace regular law enforcement officers or school resource officers currently employed in schools.

Aslin will be working closely with LHS Resource Officer Detective Leon Pastor, a member of the Juvenile Aid Bureau, who works with students on various initiatives in addition to providing security.

"He's not leaving," Aslin said. "He's there for good, and I'm here to help."

Considering his background, he would also like to be heavily involved with the school.

"Along with the obvious security part, walking around the building, talking with the kids, Dr. Robertozzi's hope was that I would get involved," Aslin said. "I told them I'd be willing to teach or whatever they want me to do."

"I missed working with the schools. That was one of the things I enjoyed the most in policing."

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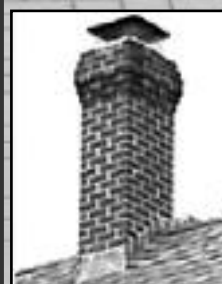
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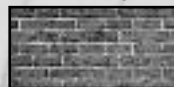
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# YMCA SUMMER DAY CAMP OPEN HOUSE AT THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA SUMMER CAMP KEEPS YOUTH MOVING, LEARNING AND EXPLORING

The Gateway Family YMCA is gearing up for a summer of fun with the theme, "Every Summer Has a Story," and is inviting the public to learn more about summer day camp at an open house this spring. Summer day camp and Power Scholars Academy open house dates are scheduled for March 21 from 6-8 p.m., April 27 12-3 p.m. and May 15 6-8 p.m. Summer day



(above) Learn about the Gateway Family YMCA's summer camp options at one of their upcoming open houses: March 21 from 6-8 p.m., April 27 12-3 p.m., or May 15 6-8 p.m.

camp is available at the Elizabeth Branch, 135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth; Five Points Branch, 201 Tucker Avenue, Union; and Rahway Branch, 1564 Irving Street, Rahway.

The Gateway Family YMCA camp programs offer youth fun and unique experiences with an opportunity to explore the outdoors, meet new friends, discover new interests and create memories that last a lifetime. Attending an open house is a first step in selecting a summer camp experience that complements your child and their interests. Optional specialty camp experiences include sports camps, arts camp, dance camp and swim camp along with opportunities to meet your child's unique skills and interests.

The Gateway Family YMCA offers summer day camp experiences for preschool through grade 11 and specialty camps for varying ages. To ensure that all youth have the chance to experience camp, The Gateway Family YMCA offers financial assistance to those in need, as well as a multi-sibling rate for families.

"Summer day camp is a place where everyone can participate, get healthy and make lasting friendships. We provide caring role models in a safe environment where children can develop character and discover their potential," says Krystal R. Canady, CEO of The Gateway Family YMCA. "We encourage parents to give their kids the experience of summer camp and provide financial assistance so that every child can benefit

from the unique and beneficial activities," added Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO.

Summer is the ideal time for kids to get up, get out and explore the world around them. Unfortunately, for some kids summer means no access to recreational and educational activities to help them learn, grow and thrive during out-of-school time. As a result, some kids can experience summer learning loss and gain weight twice as fast than during the school year. A leading nonprofit committed to nurturing the potential of youth, the Y has been a leader in providing summer camp for nearly 130 years. Through summer camp, The Gateway Family YMCA is helping to combat childhood obesity, summer learning loss and food insecurity.

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 doesn't just strengthen bodies – it strengthens people, families and communities.

For more information, [tgfymca.org/day-camp](http://tgfymca.org/day-camp) or contact The Gateway Family YMCA Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622 or Rahway Branch 732-388-0057.

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Thousands of people have lost millions of dollars and their personal information to tax scams. Scammers use the regular mail, telephone, or email to set up individuals, businesses, payroll, and tax professionals.

Scammers and cyberthieves continue to use the IRS as bait. The most common tax scams are

phone calls and emails from thieves who pretend to be from the IRS. Scammers use the IRS name, logo, fake employee names and badge numbers to try to steal money and identities from taxpayers.

Taxpayers need to be wary of phone calls or automated messages from someone who claims to be from the IRS. Often, these criminals will say taxpayers owe money and demand payment right away. Other times, scammers will lie to taxpayers and say they're due a refund. The thieves ask for bank account information over the phone. The IRS warns taxpayers not to fall for these scams.

Below are several tips that will help filers avoid becoming a scam victim.

IRS employees will not:

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- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to contact local police or similar agencies to arrest taxpayers for non-payment of taxes.
- Threaten legal action, such as a lawsuit.

If taxpayers don't owe or don't think they owe any tax, and they receive an inquiry like this, they should:

- Contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. Use TIGTA's "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page to report the incident.
- Report the incident to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on [FTC.gov](http://FTC.gov). Add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your report.

In most cases, an IRS phishing scam is an unsolicited, fake email that claims to come from the IRS. Some emails link to sham websites that look real. The scammers' goal is to lure victims to give up their personal and financial information. If the thieves get what they're after, they use it to steal a victim's money and identity.

For those taxpayers who get a phishing email, the IRS offers this advice:

- Don't reply to the message.
- Don't give out your personal or financial information.
- Forward the email to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). Then delete it.
- Don't open any attachments or click on any links. They may have malicious code that will infect your computer.

For more information visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or call your local police department non-emergency number.



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# ACADEMY OF CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES ENROLLING FOR MARCH-APRIL CLASSES

The Academy of Continuing Education (ACE) in Cranford is accepting applications for its March 4-April 26 semester. ACE offers adults with developmental or physical disabilities the opportunity to pursue continuing education as an alternative to traditional day programs.

"Adults with disabilities who have graduated from the public school system or specialized schools often have limited choices when planning their future," said Robin Morris-Marano, ACE director. "Their options often are limited to generic day programs that do not offer the intellectual stimulation and growth provided by our academy. Our program also is ideal for older adults with disabilities who wish to sharpen previously learned skills."

ACE's course offerings for the upcoming semester include math, reading and creative writing, history, science, jewelry design and merchandising, card making, visual arts and crafts, music, performing arts, career and financial literacy, media production and self-understanding/peer leadership.

Based on their interests, students may take as many or as few classes as they choose.

"ACE differs from a traditional day program, where the attendee's day is planned for them," Morris-Marano said. "We work with our students and their families to help them select the classes that will bring them the most enjoyment and from which they will get the most benefit."

Whenever possible, ACE curricula are developed in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) guidelines, implementing Core Curriculum Content Standards and aligned with the most current information offered by the NJDOE, according to Morris-Marano. The ACE Program is approved by the New Jersey Department of Developmental Disabilities for Day Habilitation through the department's Supports Program.

For more information, Morris-Marano can be reached at 908.354.3040, ext. 4671.

The Academy of Continuing Education is a program of Community Access Unlimited (CAU), a statewide, Union County-based nonprofit providing support programs and services to adults with disabilities as well as youth served under the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to enable them to live independently in the community, providing supports in areas including housing, vocational skills and life-skills training, education, advocacy and recreation.

## ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 40th year in 2019, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization

and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil right. CAU currently serves more than 6,000 individuals and families, with the number served growing each year.

For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908.354.3040, online at [www.caunj.org](http://www.caunj.org) or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



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# LINDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

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## MARCH EVENTS AT THE LINDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

### MRB Jazz Project in Concert Wednesday, March 13

The Linden Public Library proudly presents the MRB Jazz Project in concert on Wednesday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Linden Library, who will provide light refreshments at the event. Admission is free to the general public.

This program is recommended for audiences ten years old and up.

Based in Union, the MRB Jazz Project is a trio comprised of Michael Pasqua on piano, Bruce Riccittelli on percussion and Gerry Babo on acoustic bass. They have performed at numerous private clubs, corporate events and fund-raising affairs, as well as libraries, colleges and universities since the group's inception in 2005. Their repertoire encompasses music that spans the past ninety years of American songwriting, including classic jazz compositions, as well as their unique interpretations of the Great American Songbook. From romantic ballads to up-tempo swing tunes, be-bop to jazz waltzes, MRB Jazz always weaves a diverse tapestry of music to appeal to a wide variety of musical tastes. The trio often further seasons their music with some sultry Brazilian bossa novas or other Latin inflected tunes.

### Friends of the Linden Library to Hold Their Annual Meeting March 9

The Friends of the Linden Public Library will hold their annual meeting on Saturday, March 9 at 1:00 p.m. at the Linden Public Library, located at 31 East Henry Street. All members of the public are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

Agenda items for this meeting will include a regular business meeting; the election of new officers for the coming term; a special musical performance; and a tribute to honor the memory of Bernice Bedrick, the founder of the organization, who passed away in January at the age of 102.

The Friends of the Linden Library was founded in 1980 and serve as the fundraising arm of the Linden Public Library. Membership is open to all members of the community who use and enjoy the many services provided by the Linden Public Library. For any questions regarding this event, please call Dawn Beviano, president of the Friends, at 908-298-3830 x17.



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## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH FILMS

Every March, the world recognizes International Women's History Month. The Linden Public Library will again commemorate this occasion with our annual film series that celebrates women in a variety of roles in motion pictures over the years. This year, we celebrate six living, Oscar-winning octogenarians and four other acting and entertainment legends. All films are shown free-of-charge in the Columbia Bank Room.

### The Iron Lady (2011; PG13; 105 mins) March 5 - 2:00

Meryl Streep won her third Oscar for this role as she portrays Margaret Thatcher, Great Britain's first woman Prime Minister. Streep marks her 70th birthday on June 22.

### Shakespeare in Love (1998; R; 122 mins) March 8 - 1:00

This film won seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actress for Gwyneth Paltrow and Best Supporting Actress for Judi Dench, who turns 85 on December 9.

### Terms of Endearment (1983; PG; 132 mins) March 12 - 2:00

Winner of five Academy Awards overall including Best Picture and Director, this film earned Shirley MacLaine her Best Actress Oscar. MacLaine turns 85 on April 24.

### One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975; R; 133 mins) March 15 - 1:00

This film became the second motion picture to win the "Big Five" Academy Awards, including Best Actress for Louise Fletcher, who turns 85 on July 22.

### The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (1969; PG; 116 mins) March 19 - 2:00

Maggie Smith won her first Best Actress Oscar for this film as a headstrong teacher in a 1930s Scottish private school for girls. Smith turns 85 on December 28.

### Elmer Gantry (1960; NR; 146 mins) March 22 - 1:00

Shirley Jones won her Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in this film about a travelling salesman-turned-preacher played by Burt Lancaster. Jones turns 85 on March 31.

### Two Women (1960; NR; 100 mins) March 25 - 2:00

Sophia Loren became the first performer to win Best Actress in a foreign language film about a widow and her daughter in worn-torn Italy. Loren turns 85 on September 20.

### Lady Sings the Blues (1972; R; 144 mins) March 26 - 2:00

We celebrate Diana Ross on her 75th birthday with her Oscar-nominated performance in this biographical film about legendary jazz singer, Billie Holliday.

### Mother (1996; PG13; 104 mins) March 29 - 1:00

We remember the late, great Debbie Reynolds with her Golden Globe-nominated role in this movie as her neurotic, twice-divorced son, played by Albert Brooks, moves back in with her to solve his personal problems with her. Frustration and comedy ensue.

**Little Miss Sunshine (2006; R; 101 minutes)**  
This two time Academy Award winner tells the story of a family determined to get their daughter into the finals of a beauty pageant, driving cross county in their VW van. It stars Greg Kinnear, Toni Collette, Abigail Breslin and Oscar winner, Alan Arkin.

**Wrinkle in Time (2018; PG; 115 minutes)**  
Kicking off the Friends of the Linden Library's Books to Films Series is this recent movie based on the timeless young adult classic novel by Madeleine L'Engle.  
This film stars Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon and Mindy Kaling.

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## BAYWAY COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL (CAP) OFFERING SCHOLARSHIPS

For the year 2019, the Bayway CAP has elected to offer High School Seniors who are residents of Linden, Rahway, Elizabeth, and Staten Island the opportunity to be awarded a CAP scholarship. Several one-year scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1,000 each to students in the four municipalities represented by the CAP. This scholarship is open to candidates who will be pursuing a college, university, career or vocational school education in the Industrial, Process Technology, or Engineering (Chemical, Civil, Mechanical, Environmental, Computer) fields. Please see your high school guidance

counselor for more information and the application forms.

The Bayway CAP is a committee of community representatives from Linden, Rahway, Elizabeth, and Staten Island including neighbors, educators, retirees, public officials, emergency responders, and environmentalists who attend quarterly meetings that serve as a forum for dialogue between the community and company representatives from Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery, Infineum USA L.P., Linden Cogen Plant, Veolia North America, Eastman Chemical Company, and Linden VFT LLC.

## KIWANIS CLUB OF LINDEN MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Kiwanis Club of Linden was chartered on January 23, 1947 and has been serving the community for more than 61 years. Our club is actively seeking new members as many have retired or relocated.

Please consider learning more about the Kiwanis Club of Linden at a complimentary luncheon to be held on March 14, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. at Primavera Restaurant in Linden. To reserve your seat, contact June Lazaro at (908) 930-8310 or email at junlazaro@verizon.net.

Thanks, also, to the City of Linden and our community for their support of our Signature Project, "The Taste of Linden." The video is now available on the official City of Linden website under event videos. Enjoy the show and we will share updates for the 7th Annual Taste of Linden when available.

Please interact with us and like our Taste of Linden and our Kiwanis Club of Linden Facebook page. See you soon.

Thank you!

## JERSEY VOICES' CALL FOR ORIGINAL WORKS - DEADLINE MARCH 15

*Submitted by Chris Furlong*

The Chatham Community Players is seeking original, one-act plays, short musicals, and/or original dance pieces, written by New Jersey authors, for Jersey Voices' 25th annual production.

Submissions should be roughly 15 minutes in running time, and will be accepted through

March 15, 2019 by e-mail only to: jerseyvoices@chathamplayers.org.

Selected pieces will each be performed in our Black Box Theater in Chatham on the last weekend in July and first weekend in August.

If you have any questions visit chathamplayers.org, or email jerseyvoices@chathamplayers.org.

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## AMBASSADORS GIVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS A VOICE IN ADMINISTRATION

*Submitted by Gary Miller*

They are the voice of the students, and the ears of the administration.

The Linden High School Student Ambassadors are a small group that acts as a conduit to allow students to voice their ideas and concerns, and allows the administration to stay in tune with the needs of the student body.

The group holds working meetings to brainstorm and develop their ideas for improvements in the school. Some of the ideas are their own, but many come from other students who talk to the ambassadors about what they want.

“We ask other students, because they are more comfortable with us, what they would like to change or if there are things we can improve in the school,” said Katrina Charles, a junior member of the Student Ambassadors.

The group meets once a month with Superintendent Danny A. Robertozzi, Principal Yelena Horre, and Director of Human Resources Michele Dorney to go over an agenda developed by the students.

“Sometimes I am amazed at the ideas the Student Ambassadors bring to me,” Robertozzi said. “They suggest responsible, informed initiatives that are well-reasoned and really have the best interests of the school at heart. Being with the Ambassadors allows me to feel closer to our students and lets them know that they have a place at the table in shaping the policies that affect them.”

The Student Ambassadors’ mission statement sums up the group:

“The Student Ambassadors’ mission is to be the voice for every student. Our goal is to inform the Superintendent and Administration of our aspirations, continue to create new initiatives, and foster a positive environment for the student body of Linden High School.”

Teacher Nicole Campo and school social worker Ryan Devaney, who are in their first year as advisers to the group, say the members have a great opportunity to do good for the school and for themselves.

“It gives them an opportunity to speak with their peers and gather those ideas, and at the same time it allows them to sit with the administration and have their ideas heard firsthand,” Devaney said. “It allows them to understand how to work with different groups of people, whether it be students, peers, teachers, or administrators.”

The group, which has been around for three years and has 17 members this year, has an impressive list of accomplishments: a year-end school picnic, a breakfast for honor roll students, a quiz bowl, and a new student code of conduct are a few.

Also, the ideas for last year’s rally for gun safety were developed and implemented by the Student Ambassadors and discussed with the administration beforehand.

“Everyone was able to express themselves, and the administration was open to that,” said ambassador Janee Bailey, a junior. “So that made it OK, and students loved that.”

Other ideas in various levels of development include “IB for a Day,” which allows underclassmen to shadow International Baccalaureate students for a day to learn about the rigorous academic program; “Tiger for a Day,” which would allow middle-schoolers to shadow a high school student; a Wall of Honor that would honor graduates who go on to serve in the military; and the use of debit cards in the school cafeteria.

In February the group participated in a sock drive, which it is organized with other student organizations at the school. They collected packs of new socks to donate to area shelters for those in need.

“It’s a small group, but our goal is to benefit our entire school,” Campo said.

Students say they feel empowered by having the ear of the superintendent on issues that are important to them.

“Dr. Robertozzi has received us great,” Bailey said. “He has taken and listened to everything we’ve said. We know that some things can’t happen overnight, or some things just can’t happen. But everything we have brought to him he understands and discusses with us and Mrs. Horre.”

Besides all the good the Student Ambassadors can do in improving the school culture, they also get a lot out of being in such a key role as go-between for students and administrators.

“For me, there’s more to school than just coming here for classes then going home,” Bailey said. “It’s an important role for me to play, where I can relay student messages to higher-ups to

maybe open their minds.”

Devaney and Campo say they’ve seen a substantial amount of growth in the students.

“Just seeing the way that they work together,” Devaney said, “and their ideas ...”

“... and the way that they listen to each other and feed off each other,” Campo finished. “It’s amazing to see that.”

The Student Ambassadors are working hard to spread the word so that more students know about them, centered on the rallying cry, “Who we are, what we do, revolves around you!”

“I want the students to know that we’re here and how to recognize us,” said Sarah Mostafa, a junior. “If they want to change anything about the school they can come to us to talk about it.”

Students have been given orange golf shirts with the school district logo that identify them as Student Ambassadors, as well as thick orange “Student Ambassador” lanyards for their ID cards, to help them stand out to other students.

They are working with the LHS TV/Digital Media class to develop a segment for the TNT News student broadcast to help spread the word about their role.

“A lot of people don’t know about us,” Charles said. “So we want to get the word out. When they see big things like the picnic or the honor roll breakfast, they don’t know where it comes from. So we want to let them know that it’s us doing it, so that they will come to us if they want to change something.”

Bailey added, “We’ve been given this title to relay the message, so come talk to us. We want to help.”

Photos by Linden Public Schools



*(above, l-r) LHS Student Ambassadors meeting with district administrators: Ambassadors Katrina Charles, Pierette Foy-Kougha, Makenzi Henry, Makenzie Kuntz, Syrai Anderson, and Nylah Hughes-Green, and advisers Nicole Campo and Ryan Devaney.*



*(above, l-r) Linden High School Student Ambassadors meeting with district administrators: Linden High School Principal Yelena Horré; Sherri Heskeyahu, doctoral intern with Superintendent Danny A. Robertozzi; Robertozzi; Director of Human Resources Michele Dorney; and Ambassadors Ariana Rodriguez, Jaclyn Beviano and Jorge Flechas.*

# LINDEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AMBASSADORS



(above) The Linden High School Student Ambassadors posing with their advisers and administrators, including Superintendent Danny A. Robertozzi (left).



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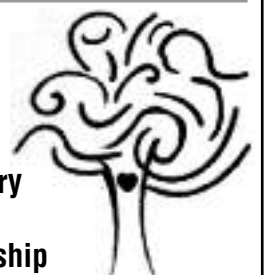
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– 605 S. Wood Ave. Linden, NJ  
– 330 Helen St. Linden, NJ

You can also download an application from our website:  
<http://www.linden-nj.org>  
(Scroll down, Click on Forms;  
Scroll down to Public Property and Community Service –  
Click on Seasonal Employment Application)

Please submit your completed application to  
Nancy Braxton, Recreation Supervisor  
at the Community Center Building,  
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# LET 'EM ROLL AT PATHWAYS 25TH ANNIVERSARY CASINO NIGHT CELEBRATION

Pathways, a women's cancer support program at The Connection, is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a Casino Night Event held on Saturday, March 30, from 7 – 10 p.m. at the Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit. Please join us for an exciting evening in support of the myriad services Pathways provides women with cancer. In addition to casino games with great prizes, there will be Hors D'oeuvres, dinner, wine, champagne and beer, plus \$100 in Casino Cash, are included with each ticket. For tickets, information and donations go to [BIDPAL.NET/PATHWAYS25](http://BIDPAL.NET/PATHWAYS25).

The Pathways 25th Anniversary fundraising event will help Pathways continue to provide our programs free-of-charge to women with cancer:

Pathways Cooks serves organic, nutrient-rich, delicious meals weekly to women undergoing cancer treatment and their families. The Pathways

Financial Assistance Fund helps women undergoing treatment for any type cancer who are in critical need of financial assistance pay utility, rent, medical and other bills.

The variety of programs offered by Pathways allow every woman to feel at home, regardless of her diagnosis and no matter where she finds herself in her cancer journey. She also knows how much Pathways can help a survivor find the strength to persevere and make meaning of her disease, as it did for her.

For more information about Pathways, or to make a tax-deductible donation to support our invaluable free programs and the women we serve,

call Lesley Andrews

@ 908-273-4242 ext. 154, write to her at [pathways@theconnectiononline.org](mailto:pathways@theconnectiononline.org) or visit our website at [TheConnectionOnline.org](http://TheConnectionOnline.org).

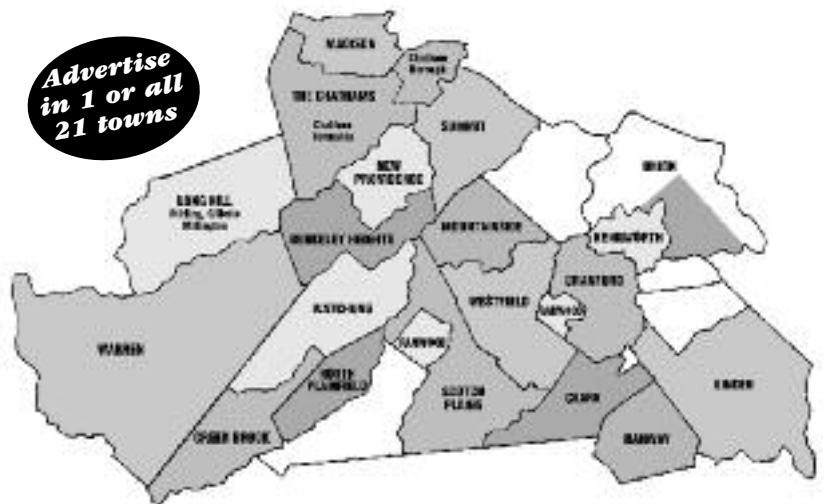
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## DONATE USED CELLULAR PHONES FOR SOLDIERS

Rahway Lodge #1075 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the nonprofit Cell Phones For Soldiers are asking local residents to help troops call home by donating gently-used cellular phones. Although the military landscape is ever changing, as many as 200,000 troops are serving in the United States military overseas around the world. By donating to Cell Phones For Soldiers, local residents can provide a lifeline for America's bravest.

Residents can donate their phones and/or tablets at the Rahway Elks Lodge located at 122 W. Milton Ave., Rahway.

Cell Phones For Soldiers was founded in 2004 by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Bergquist at the ages of 12 and 13. The charity has since provided more than 300 million minutes of free talk time to servicemen and women stationed around the world through its calling card program, Minutes That Matter. Funds raised from the recycling of

cellular phones are used to purchase prepaid international calling cards. On average, Cell Phones For Soldiers distributes 1,500 calling cards each week to bases around the world, care package programs, deployment ceremonies and VA hospitals.

For every donated phone, Cell Phones For Soldiers is able to provide two and a half hours of free talk time to deployed troops.

Since 2004, more than 15 million phones have been recycled or repurposed. Approximately half of the phones processed are reconditioned and reused. Phones and components that cannot be refurbished are dismantled and responsibly recycled into reclaimed materials, including: gold, silver and platinum from circuit boards; copper wiring from phone chargers; nickel, iron, cadmium and lead from battery packs.

For more information, please visit [cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://cellphonesforsoldiers.com).

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Paul Masson Amber	1.75L	\$20.99
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Remy Martin V.S.O.P.	1.75L	\$76.99

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