

Clark Monthly NJ

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CUB SCOUT PACK 145 ASSISTS UNICO FEAST CLEANUP



Scouts from varying ranks of Clark-based Cub Scout Pack 145 and members of their families came out in record numbers to give back to their community through cleanup efforts on Columbus Day following the Clark UNICO Italian American Feast.

Over the past several years, Pack 145 has worked with Clark Recreation Director Ralph Bernardo and the Clark Department of Public Works to organize the service project

for scouts to assist with the post-feast cleanup. Nearly 50 Cub Scouts and family members participated in the morning activity, walking the grounds and picking up debris in the spirit of the scouting outdoor code that scouts will "be clean in (their) outdoor manners" while also observing their pledge to "leave no trace behind."

For more information about Cub Scout Pack 145 of Clark, NJ, please visit www.cubpack145.info

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CLARK GIVE AND SHARE SPECIAL HOLIDAY COLLECTION

The Clark Give and Share Program is sponsoring a special holiday program entitled "A Bag of Sides". During the last few years we have collected over 400 bags of sides to supplement the holiday meals of the needy.

The program is seeking to collect the following to make up a "Bag of Sides": Instant mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, (2) canned vegetables, turkey gravy, and cranberry sauce.

We also have the capacity this year to collect turkeys, hams and chickens.

Please call ahead before dropping off perishables.

Collection began in October and will end on November 15, 2019.

Anyone wishing to donate a "Bag of Sides" can simply drop the bag off at the Clark Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Ave., room 18 between 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. or call to schedule a pick up of donations.

Anyone with questions can contact Nancy Raymond, Health Officer at 732-428-8405.



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FUNDRAISER FOR JOHN MULROY FAMILY

Submitted by Ralph Bernardo

The township of Clark recently lost one of our own, resident John Mulroy who left us way too soon. Sadly he was the only caregiver and provider for his 4 boys ranging in ages 12-21. John's 2 sisters are now doing their best to take care of the boys and provide as best they can for their current needs and potential future needs. They have set up a fundraising page to help with this difficult situation.

We have heard from some of you and many

others that want to help, so we are distributing the link below if you want to contribute. More importantly we're asking that if we could get the word/link out to as many people as you can through social media, word of mouth, Little League, contacts in town, school, community, etc. to help the cause. So many of us are blessed, please consider helping with this cause.

Web Link to Donate is

www.freefunder.com/campaign/mulroy-boys



(above) John Mulroy and family. Please visit www.freefunder.com/campaign/mulroy-boys

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ISABELLA SCIPIONI RECEIVES SILVER AWARD

Submitted by Linda Lospinoso Lampert



(above) Westfield Cadette Girl Scout, Isabella Scipioni, poses with her completed Buddy Benches, which she made for Franklin Elementary School in Rahway to earn her Silver Award.

Photos courtesy of Alicia Scipioni

Clark resident and Cadette Girl Scout, Isabella Scipioni, from Troop 40186 in Westfield, made Franklin Elementary School in Rahway two hardwood Buddy Benches as part of her effort to complete her Silver Award Project for Girl Scouts.

The Silver Award is the highest award a Cadette Girl Scout can earn. The award requires a Cadette to spend at least fifty hours or more completing a sustainable community project.

Isabella decided she wanted to promote kindness and inclusion on the playground by creating Buddy Benches. Isabella met with Franklin School's Principal, Aleya Shoieb, who jumped on board with the idea. Principal Shoieb invited Isabella to speak about the concept of Buddy Benches and how they promote social-emotional learning to the Rahway Public School's Education Committee this past May.

Now, after working hard all summer, Isabella's project is finally complete. Isabella proudly delivered the two benches in time for the school's opening day.

Franklin School's students and staff were very excited to learn about the new additions to their playground. Isabella's PowerPoint presentation, along with a movie that she made, demonstrated and helped train the students and staff about the Buddy Bench's proper use.

Isabella said she is very thankful for all the donations and support she received to create her benches. Home Depot in Colonia donated all the wood, nails, glue and blueprints to build the benches. Lowe's Home Improvement in Woodbridge donated all the exterior paint. Principal Shoieb expressed her gratitude for the Buddy Benches and can't wait to see them in action.



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KAMRAN TASHAROF NAMED NEW TRUSTEE OF UC COLLEGE

Submitted by Nicole Torella

At the September 24, 2019 Joint Meeting of the Union County College Boards of Trustees and Governors, two new members were sworn in. Dr. Kamran Tasharofi, of Clark, will serve as a new Trustee. Gordon L. Vickers, of Westfield, will serve as a new Governor. Union County College Board of Trustees Chair Victor M. Richel welcomed Dr. Tasharofi and Mr. Vickers to the meeting and initiated their swearing in.

Dr. Kamran Tasharofi is a specialist in internal medicine and is a faculty member at Rutgers School of Medicine. He is also a certified medical review officer in Union County and a civil surgeon for New Jersey's Department of Homeland Security. Dr. Tasharofi serves as the Medical Director at MD Care Urgent Care Center in Elizabeth and Amber Court of Elizabeth.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from California State University at Northridge and earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from Ross University School of Medicine. Dr. Tasharofi is a member of the American College of Physicians and the American Medical Association.

Gordon L. Vickers recently retired from Express Scripts Holdings, Inc., where he served as a National Account Executive, technical support team leader, and technical consultant since 1999. He served as a team leader and was responsible for maintaining and expanding overall business relationships with large health plans in the Eastern and Central markets in the U.S. During his career he also worked for Merck

and Co., Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., and Public Service Electric and Gas Co.

Mr. Vickers earned his M.B.A. from Boston University and holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of New Hampshire.

"Both Dr. Tasharofi and Mr. Vickers bring valuable personal and professional experiences to the boards. The College will greatly benefit from their unique perspectives," stated Union's Board of Trustees Chairman Victor M. Richel.

Union County College is a public comprehensive community college providing

quality, affordable, accessible educational programs that serve the greater Union County region. It is the first of New Jersey's 18 Associate Degree colleges, serving both career-minded and transfer-oriented students since 1933. The College enrolls almost 20,000 credit, non-credit, and continuing education students and is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Many programs lead to an Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, or an Associate in Applied Science degree.

For more information about Union County College, go to ucc.edu.



(above) Union County College President Dr. Margaret M. McMenam, Dr. Kamran Tasharofi, Gordon Vickers, and Union County College Board of Trustees Chair Victor M. Richel.

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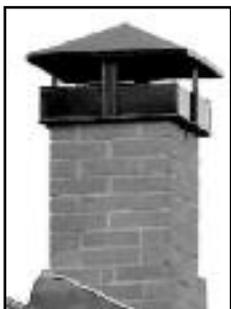
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The Annual UNICO Bowl was held on Saturday, September 21, 2019, featuring the ALJ Crusaders versus the Hillside Comets. The 17 year old traditional football game takes place each year between the two UNICO chapters. The winner holds onto the trophy until the

following year. After three consecutive years the majority winner keeps the trophy, and a new trophy is purchased for the next three years of competition.

The Clark Crusaders lost 28-7, but put up a good fight against the state champions.



(above) Clark UNICO members Joe Arancio, Henry Varriano and Ralph Bernardo.

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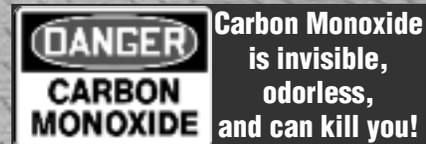
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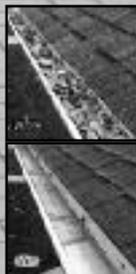
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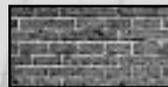
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ALJ PROUDLY PRESENTS BAD SEED

ALJ High School will be presenting the psychological thriller *Bad Seed* on November 21 and 22, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$5.

at Arthur L. Johnson High School

365 Westfield Avenue, Clark, New Jersey.

The play centers around an 8 year-old girl who has an odd penchant for murder. As the play unfolds, it is slowly revealed that little Rhoda Penmark is not the sweet and innocent young girl that all believe her to be.

Bad Seed, written by Maxwell Anderson and based on William March's novel of the same

title, was originally produced on Broadway in 1955 and turned into a highly successful Academy Award nominated film in 1956.

ALJ's production boasts some outstanding performances, especially those given by ALJ seniors Hannah Vargas as Rhoda Penmark, and Mia DeSantis as her unsuspecting and distraught mother, Christine.

Director Peter Nevargic says, "I am extremely proud of this talented and dedicated cast, and the audience will be riveted to their seats and shocked by what is a truly unexpected twist ending." He asks that all who see Bad Seed do not reveal its secret ending.

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DESIGNER HANDBAG BINGO & TRICKY TRAY

Music Parents Association of Clark's annual "Designer Handbag Bingo & Tricky Tray" is being held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at the Polish Cultural Foundation, located at 177 Broadway, Clark. The doors open at 6:30 p.m., with the event starting at approximately 7:30p.m. The cost of the tickets are \$35 per person, which includes starter bingo boards. \$280 will reserve a table for 8 people. Tickets are non

returnable. Coffee and cake will be served. Tickets for the tricky tray, 50/50, calendar raffle, and Scratch off board (\$150 value) will be sold separately. Additional bingo boards will be sold separately. Seating is limited, get your tickets early.

The ticket order form can be found at facebook.com/events/1749101451889448/?ti=as or by emailing MPAClarkNJ@gmail.com.

ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES NEEDED

In preparation for the upcoming holiday season's festivities, Clark Recreation is seeking donations of artificial Christmas trees to be used in the holiday decor throughout the municipal building. Sorry to be so specific – but, we are only in search of slightly used - in good condition

trees - no taller than 5' and prefer them to be pre-lit. Also, no individual branch insertion trees. Trees should be only 2 or 3 pieces to assemble. If you have a tree to donate, with the above specifications only, please call the Recreation Department at 732-428-8400.

UNION MUNICIPAL BAND CONCERT NOV 11TH

Invitation for new members.

The Union Municipal Band, under the direction Howard Toplansky will present a concert on Monday evening, November 11, 2019. The concert will be held 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. This autumn concert will feature music from the Broadway stage, marches and overtures.

Beach March, Amazon Overture, Gypsy Fantasy, Variag March, Amazing Grace, Strenuous Life Rag, The Girl From Ipanema and Third Man Theme.

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. Please call the Recreation Department at 908-686-4200 with any inquiries.

The concert will include the following selections: The Star Spangled Banner, Brighton

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BEGIN HOLIDAY SEASON WITH IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE AT CDC THEATRE

The fully staged version of the classic holiday movie *It's A Wonderful Life*, adapted by Philip Grecian, will bring George Bailey, his family, friends and the town of Bedford Falls to life on the CDC Theatre stage beginning December 6, 2019. Located at 78 Winans Ave., in Cranford,

NJ the theatre is celebrating its 101st season.

The beloved Everyman, George Bailey, who had dreams of adventure and travel has given his entire life to his community, only to have it unravel through the machinations of the selfish banker Mr. Potter. In his despair, George

questions whether it would have been better had he never been born. Clarence, a befuddled angel who hasn't earned his wings yet, arrives to show him exactly what this wish might really mean.

When asked what inspired him to return to direct at CDC Theatre, Maurice Moran responded "I have always loved the movie version of this story – and the play follows that script very well – because I think it is important that we stop and take stock of our lives now and then. How did we get from there to here? Who changed our lives by a word or work? And more importantly, whose lives have we touched along the way? And, keeping that in mind, how do we continue to affect people we meet? When my parents passed away, I was comforted by those who attended the funerals, illustrating how much these two people touched so many lives from so many walks of life. And I thought, wouldn't it have been nice for them to see that, too? George gets to see that and discovers that we all make a difference on this earth."

Boasting a large cast that ranges from 8 to 80, including a children's chorus of carolers singing holiday favorites, *It's A Wonderful Life* is a great way to usher in the holiday season! Running from December 6-15, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. with 2 p.m. matinees on December 8, 14, 15. Ticket and group sales information can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org.



(above, l-r) The Bailey family is getting ready for Christmas at CDC Theatre. Ben Bouffard as George Bailey, Rachel Zuckerman as Mary, Geovanna Ayala is Tammy, Olivia Kelly is Janie and Katia Bergstrom-Shaw is Zuzu.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CLARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sunday, 1:00pm - 5:00 p.m.

Books & Brews Book Club

Monday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m.

The Clark Public Library & Whole Foods Market invites you to join us for our bi-monthly book club at The Clark Bar inside Whole Foods Market, 1255 Raritan Road, Unit 150, Clark. We will be discussing "The Strange Case of Dr. Couney" by Dawn Raffel.

Afternoon Book Club

Tuesday, November 5 at 1:00 p.m.

We will be discussing "The Fallen Architect" by Charles Belfoure.

Magic Show with Muscle Man Mike

Thursday, November 7 at 10:30 a.m.

Enjoy the day off of school with a fun-filled interactive magic show with Muscle Man Mike! This show is energetic and captivating, even for toddlers! Fun for the whole family!

Family Book Club

Thursday, November 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Come to the introductory session of our family book club! We'll be reading and discussing a story, announcing the next month's book theme, and making a craft. For children k-2nd grade.

Teen Tech Help

Saturdays, November 9 & 23 Noon- 2 p.m.

Come to the reference department for basic assistance with computers and smartphones from our teen volunteers. No registration required, just drop in.

Tinker Tuesday

Tuesday, November 12 at 3:30 p.m.

Elementary aged children are invited to join us for our monthly afternoon of tinkering / crafting. All materials provided just bring your imagination and sense of fun! We will be making Sneaky Art to celebrate Kindness Day.

Chess Club for Kids

Tuesday, November 12 and Monday, November 26 at 6:30 p.m.

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.

Trivia Night for Adults

Thursday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Tinker Tots

on Friday, November 15 at 11:00 a.m.

Come join us for a morning of fun science activities perfect for little ones. This month we are making leaf impression pictures and doing flower dissections! For children ages infant through pre-k.

LEGO® Club

Friday, November 15 at 3:15 p.m.

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.

Read to Sophie

Saturday, November 16 from 10:00-11:00

a.m. and Thursday, November 21 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

If you have a young, reluctant or struggling reader, we want you to meet Sophie! Sophie is a therapy dog that will be a non-judgmental listener and furry friend to read to that won't laugh if they make a mistake or stumble over a word. Children learn to associate reading with being with the dog, and begin to view reading in a positive way. Over time, the child's reading ability and confidence can improve because they are practicing their skills. Children will each get approximately 15 minutes of reading time with Sophie. Please register for your 15 minute slot.

Union County Division on Aging Services

Monday, November 18 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 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. 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.

Instant Pot Demo: Soup Recipes

Tuesday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Story & Craft for Kids

Wednesday, November 20 at 3:30 p.m.

Elementary aged students are invited to hear a Thanksgiving story and make a Thanksgiving craft. This craft will have a higher level difficulty, so younger children are invited to attend either Toddler Story and Craft on Thursday, November 21 at 10 a.m. or Stories and More on Thursday, November 21 at 1:30 p.m., both have a Thanksgiving theme.

Graphic Novel Book Club

Thursday, November 21 at 4:30 p.m.

Come join our graphic novel book club! Each month we will read a new graphic novel and discuss it together. For grades 3-6 only.

Finger Painting Friday

Friday, November 22 at 10:00 a.m.

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!

CoderDojo

Saturday, November 23 from 2-4 p.m.

CoderDojo is a free programming workshop. Our goal is to help kids understand how to code and teach them to love coding. This event is for children ages 9 - 14 years old. For more information about CoderDojo, please visit coderdojo.com/about/.

Friends of the Library Holiday Shopping & Craft Sale

Saturday, November 30 from

10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Shop local at our annual Friends of the Library Vendor and Craft sale. Local vendors will be on hand selling their wares.

Storytimes begin again

on Monday, November 18

Tales for Tots

Mondays at 10 a.m. or 11 a.m.

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 a.m.

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

Toddler Story and Craft

Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Ignite your toddler's creativity and work on fine motor skills at our weekly craft program for little ones! We will read a story or two and make a craft. This program is designed for children ages 18 months-and up. Please register.

Stories & More

Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

Stories, movement, songs and a craft for active listeners ages 3 -5 years old. Registration is requested.

Moms Meet-Up Play Group

Wednesdays from 10:30 - Noon

An informal session where moms, toddlers and babies can meet for playtime in a relaxed environment.

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.

Free Movies for adults

most Mondays at 1:00 p.m.,

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.,

and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

Newly released DVDs are featured each Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. No registration is required for movies.



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THE STARLET LETTER – SONGS FROM THE SILVER SCREEN

Hickory Tree Chorus is excited to present their 2019 show, The Starlet Letter: Songs from the Silver Screen on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 3 p.m. at the West Morris Mendham High School, 65 E Main St Mendham. Come hear movie favorites like Seasons of Love, Beauty and the Beast, Aquarius, and many more, sung in

four-part acapella harmony. The show also features guest quartet Taylor Made and student singers from West Morris Mendham H.S. Buy tickets at tickets@hickorytreechorus.org, \$22 adults/\$17 students. Tickets also available at the door for an additional \$5/ticket.

The Hickory Tree Chorus, an award-winning

chapter of Sweet Adelines, International, performs fun-filled popular music, barbershop style. Founded in 1968 in Chatham Township, NJ, HTC currently rehearses in Stirling, NJ. Rehearsals are open to guests and auditions are held year round. More info at hickorytreechorus.org.



(above) Hickory Tree Chorus will present their 2019 show, The Starlet Letter: Songs from the Silver Screen on Saturday, November 23, 2019.



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HEARING SOCIETY SPEECH READING CLASSES

The Hearing Society, a local not-for-profit organization serving people with impaired hearing, is offering weekly classes in speech (lip) reading. These classes are held at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, 170 Elm Street, each Thursday, September through May, 10:30 - 11:45 a.m., unless otherwise announced. Light refreshments are served before each session.

These informal classes will again be under the direction of Morgan Orłowski, speech pathologist, and will provide strategies for coping with hearing loss as well as techniques for

improving individual communication skills.

The sessions also serve as a support service for Hearing Society members experiencing problems associated with hearing loss, and include discussions concerning developments in the ever-expanding technology of hearing enhancements now available.

Anyone in the greater Union County area who is interested in membership in the society and participating in these classes may contact Alice Knecht at azknecht@gmail.com for more information.

VETERANS DAY SERVICE

A Clark Township Veterans Day memorial service will be held in front of ALJ high school at 11 a.m. on November 11, rain or shine. Floral tributes from many organizations in town will be placed by the flag to honor those who served our country. It is important to thank all servicemen and women for their contribution to our freedom and way of life.

CLARK RABIES CLINIC

The Clark Health Department will be sponsoring a free rabies clinic for dogs and cats on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 between 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Clark Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Ave. Parking is available in front of the building.

Dogs must be on a leash and under the control of an adult at all times. Cats must be in carriers.

Pre-registration is required by calling Nancy Raymond, Health Officer at 732-428-8405. Pre-registration will close once all reservation slots have been filled.

WHO SUPPORTS THE CARETAKER? - NOV.19

The National Alliance on Mental Illness invites all who care for a loved one with a mental health illness to join our peer led group meetings and gain support and insight from others facing similar challenges.

Time: Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford.

For more info: call 908-233-1628 or email: namiunioncounty@yahoo.com.

SHOPPING AT THE CLARK LIBRARY

The Friends of the Clark Library invite you to enjoy a day of shopping at the Clark Library on Saturday, November 30, 2019, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Items for sale will be holiday items and decor, jewelry, clothing, make-up and hair products, accessories, handcrafted jewelry, books, and much more. Enjoy food by Latin Bites. Admission is free.

All adults will receive 3 free raffle tickets for door prizes. Support Small Business Day by shopping with us.

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CELEBRITY AMBASSADOR HELPS RAISE FUNDS FOR IMAGINE, A CENTER FOR COPING WITH LOSS

Submitted by Val Stierhoff

Imagine, A Center for coping with Loss, was extremely grateful that Kimiko Glenn, from Orange is the New Black, volunteered once again to be its celebrity ambassador at this year's Cantor Fitzgerald Charity Day on September 11. Each year Cantor Fitzgerald and its affiliates, BGC Partners and GFI Group, in conjunction with the Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund, commemorate their 658 friends and colleagues and 61 Euro Brokers employees who perished on September 11, 2001, by distributing 100% of the charity day's global revenues to the Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund and selected charities around the world.

Imagine was honored to be selected to participate in this event for the second year in a row and to once again have actor Kimiko Glenn as its celebrity ambassador. "We are so grateful to Cantor Fitzgerald and to Kimiko for saying yes to our request to participate in the day on behalf of Imagine," said Mary Robinson, Imagine Executive Director. "Year after year, Cantor Fitzgerald, through grit and perseverance, has been able to turn the trauma and devastation of the day into a contribution to the world, donating millions to charities around the world. Our nonprofit, which offers grief support services to children and families, is so fortunate to be one of them."

ABOUT IMAGINE

Imagine offers free year-round grief support groups for children age 3-18 who have had a parent or brother or sister die, and for families caring for a family member living with a life-altering physical illness. Concurrent groups are available for parents and guardians, and young adults 18-30. Support groups meet on weekday nights for an hour and a half. Dinner is provided prior to the group meeting. To schedule an orientation for yourself or your family or for more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imagineinj.org.

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(above) Mary Robinson, Imagine's Executive Director and Kimiko Glenn from "Orange is the New Black" at Cantor Fitzgerald Charity Day on 9/11. Kimiko, along with other celebrities, helped raise millions of dollars for charities around the world and for Cantor Fitzgerald's Emergency Relief Fund.

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CLARK UNICO HOSTED 13TH ANNUAL ITALIAN-AMERICAN FEAST

The Clark Chapter of UNICO held their 13th Annual Italian American Feast over the Columbus Day weekend on the Clark Municipal Grounds. Mother Nature cooperated over the four-day carnival which brought out huge crowds. "We broke all records" said Chapter President Joe Arancio. The feast headlined nightly entertainment, rides, games, novelty vendors, beer, wine, demonstrations and of course lots of food selections. The 50/50 paid out a whopping \$6,300 to the winner. The feast concluded on Sunday starting with a Columbus Day tradition of the reading of the Columbus Day essays from the children of Clark Schools. Mayor Sal Bonaccorso thanked the organization and expressed the appreciation for all the club does, especially bringing this wonderful family event to the town for the last 13 years. The money raised from the feast supports town organizations, clubs and departments, high school scholarships, national scholarships and charities, hardship and special need cases.



(above) The feast tradition of the reading of the Columbus Day essays from the children of the Clark schools. The contest, sponsored by UNICO, asks students to write about an Italian who made a positive contribution to society.



Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Clark Monthly page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."



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TICKETS ON SALE FOR SHINING STARS GALA, CHRISTMAS SHOW

Shining Stars Network, a non profit organization shining the light on the special needs community through the performing arts and other activities, has two exciting events planned over the next few months.

Shining Stars will be hosting their inaugural "Reach for the Stars" Gala on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at the the elegant Park Savoy Estate in Florham Park, featuring a 5-star dinner and show featuring the Shining Stars special needs cast members.

The night will feature a cocktail hour, dinner and a Venetian hour, all highlighted by a 45-minute performance from the amazing and talented Shining Stars cast, along with a 50/50 raffle and auction items.

"This is a night we've been dreaming of having for quite some time," noted Shining Stars Network co-founder and President Mike Curci. "As we continue to expand our mission of providing opportunities in the performing arts, we felt a gala would be a wonderful way to introduce our special stars to the corporate community and other donors while raising funds that will allow us to grow our programs."

Shining Stars Network is an expansion of the successful Shining Stars talent shows which began in Cranford more than eight years ago with 15 cast members. That number has grown to 50 and there are new requests each week from those who want to become a part of the Shining Stars family. While the majority of cast members live in Union County, there are cast members from seven different counties who have taken the stage.

"It's an exciting time for our organization and we continue to receive requests from those who want to join our cast," said Curci. "We know there's a need for what we are providing and our goal is to continue our mission of creating even more opportunities to be on stage in the future."

"Being on stage builds self-confidence and self-esteem, which is something our stars take into their everyday lives," noted Shining Stars Network co-founder and co-director Sally Curci. "Friendships are built between cast members and our volunteer 'buddies' and these long-lasting bonds are just as important as the performing. Our goal is to provide more opportunities as possible for the special needs community."

Tickets for the "Reach for the Stars" gala are available at shiningstars.booktix.com or you can email your ticket request to shiningstarsgala@gmail.com. The cost to attend is \$150.00 per person.

In addition, Shining Stars Network is also excited to present their second annual "Christmas Spectacular," a not to be missed evening of holiday favorites presented by their incredible cast and filled with sing-a-longs and audience participation, including the return of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," which includes every audience member and instantly became an audience favorite.

Because of the success of last year's show, this year's "Christmas Spectacular" will be presented at the beautiful and historic Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway on Thursday, December 5, 2019.

Tickets for the Shining Stars "Christmas Spectacular" are on sale now at UCPAC.org/events. There will be a 10% discount on tickets through November 1 by using the code "holiday stars."

Shining Stars Network, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non profit organization that shines the light on the special needs community by creating opportunities in the performing arts and other events. In addition, our Shining Stars Ambassadors basketball team travels to play local first responders and organizations with the goal of building friendships and understanding in an inclusive environment. The successful Camp Shine — a two-week special needs performing arts summer camp, just concluded their 3rd year.



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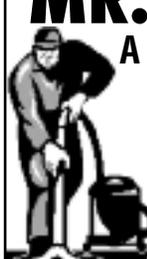
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Johnnie Walker Double Black	750ml	\$34.99
Johnnie Walker Red	750ml	\$19.99
Johnnie Walker Red	1.75L	\$32.09
Macallan 12yrs old (double cask)	750ml	\$54.99
Makers Mark	750ml	\$26.99
Makers Mark	1.75L	\$49.99

GIN

Beefeater	1.75L	\$35.99
Bombay Sapphire	1.75L	\$36.99
Seagram's gin	1.75L	\$17.99
Tanqueray	750ml	\$21.99
Tanqueray	1.75L	\$36.99

COGNAC & BRANDY

Courvoisier V.S.	750ml	\$26.99
Courvoisier V.S.	1.75L	\$46.99
Remy Martin V.S.O.P.	750ml	\$42.99
Remy Martin V.S.O.P.	1.75L	\$80.99

CORDIALS

Bailey's Irish Cream	1.75L	\$39.99
Duggan's Irish Cream	1.75L	\$24.99
Kahlua	1.75L	\$36.99
Krupnik	750ml	\$13.99
Licor 43	750ml	\$22.99
Licor 43	1.75L	\$40.99

VODKA

Absolut (regular)	750ml	\$19.09
Absolut (regular)	1.75L	\$29.09
Belvedere Vodka	750ml	\$27.99
Belvedere Vodka	1.75L	\$44.99
Ciroc (all types)	750ml	\$29.99
Ciroc (all types)	1.75L	\$57.99
Finlandia	750ml	\$15.99
Finlandia	1.75L	\$24.99
Grey Goose	750ml	\$27.99
Grey Goose (all types)	1.75L	\$49.99
Ketel One	750ml	\$19.99
Ketel One	1.75L	\$39.99
Lukusowa	1.75L	\$22.99
Pinnacle (all types)	750ml	\$11.99
Pinnacle (80 proof)	1.75L	\$17.99
Skyy	1.75L	\$21.99
Sobieski	750ml	\$11.99
Sobieski	1.75L	\$18.99
Stolichnaya (all types)	1.75L	\$29.09
Tanqueray Sterling	750ml	\$19.99
Tanqueray Sterling	1.75L	\$30.99
Three Olives (all types)	1L	\$19.99
Tito's Vodka	1.75L	\$29.99

RUM

Bacardi Light & Gold	750ml	\$12.99
Bacardi Light & Gold	1.75L	\$19.19
Captain Morgan Spice	1.75L	\$25.99
Malibu	750ml	\$17.99
Malibu	1.75L	\$25.09

TEQUILA

Deleon Blanco Tequila	750ml	\$29.99
Deleon Blanco Tequila	1.75L	\$59.99
Patron Silver	750ml	\$42.99
Patron Silver	1.75L	\$85.99
Patron XO Café	1.75L	\$29.99

BEER

Becks (12oz) 24pk	24pk	\$24.99
Bud and Bud Lite cans	30pk	\$21.99
Bud and Bud Lite loose bottles	24pk	\$19.99
Coors Lite (24oz) cans	12pk	\$14.99
Coors Lite/Miller Lite loose bottles	24pk	\$19.99
Coors Lite/Miller Lite	30pk	\$22.99
Corona/Corona Lite loose bottles	24pk	\$28.99
Dab (16oz) cans	24pk	\$21.99
Heineken/Heineken Lite bottles	24pk	\$28.99
Land Shark	24pk	\$24.99
Lech (500ml)	20pk	\$28.99
Modelo Especial cans	24pk	\$25.99
New Belgium Fat Tire	24pk	\$33.99
Pabst Blue Ribbon cans	30pk	\$18.99
Pilsner Urquell	24pk	\$29.99
Sagres	24pk	\$24.99
Sam Adams Boston Lager	24pk	\$32.99
Stella Artois loose bottles	24pk	\$28.99
Dogfish Head 60 min.	24pk	\$33.99
Yuengling Lager bottles	24pk	\$19.99
Zywiec (11.2oz)	24pk	\$19.99

WINE

Bartenura Moscato	750ml	\$11.99
Barone Fini Pinot Grigio	750ml	\$11.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	750ml	\$ 4.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	1.5L	\$ 8.69
Black Box (All Types)	3L	\$19.99
Carnivor Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$10.99
Casal Garcia Vinho Verde	1L	\$ 5.99
Cavit (All Types)	1.5L	\$14.99
Clos du Bois Chardonnay	1.5 L	\$19.99
Dom Perignon	750ml	\$152.99
Dreaming Tree (All Types)	750ml	\$11.99
Ecco Domani Pinot Grigio	750ml	\$ 9.99
Fish Eye (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 9.95
Freixenet Brut, Extra, Extra Dry	750ml	\$10.99
Gato Negro (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 9.99
Gazela Vinho Verde	750ml	\$ 4.99
Joseph Carr Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$26.99
Kendall Jackson Vintners Chardonnay	750ml	\$12.09
Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc	750ml	\$13.99
Louis Jadot Beaujolais Villages	750ml	\$ 10.99
Louis Jadot Pouilly Fuisse	750ml	\$21.99
Martini & Rossi Asti	750ml	\$11.97
Menage a Trois Red	750ml	\$ 9.99
Mi Amore Red	750ml	\$ 8.99
Moet Imperial Champagne	750ml	\$42.99
Noble Wine 337, 667	750ml	\$11.99
Papi (All Types)	1.5L	\$10.98
Ruffino Chianti	750ml	\$ 8.99
Ruffino Chianti	1.5 L	\$13.97
Ruffino Pinot Grigio	1.5L	\$12.99
Ruffino Tan label	750ml	\$19.99
Santa Margerita Pinot Grigio	750ml	\$22.09
Silver Oak Alexander Valley Cabernet	750ml	\$76.99
Simi Chardonnay	750ml	\$12.99
Woodbridge (All Types)	1.5L	\$11.49

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