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# RAHWAY NAACP COMMEMORATES "JAMESTOWN TO OURTOWN"

On Friday, November 8, 2019 the NAACP Rahway Branch hosted their 85th Annual Freedom Fund Awards, "Jamestown to Ourtown" Commemorating the 400 year anniversary of the first documented enslaved Africans arrival in the United States.

The 85th year rolled out a new and exciting event format at the Hamilton Stage that encouraged engagement, highlighted local talent and paid tribute to individuals and organizations that exemplify NAACP core values. The event also set a record, raising almost three times the amount from past years.

The Rahway Branch NAACP is regarded as the event of the year for those interested in advancing civil rights in Greater Rahway and attended by a wide array of high profile corporations, elected officials, local businesses, and community leaders. Under the guidance of Rahway Branch President, Lori E. Caughman, ESQ., the event was chaired by Shakira M. Johnson, founder of Johnson PR & Events together with The Honorable Raymond Giacobbe, Mayor of the City of Rahway, and Michellene Davis, ESQ., Executive Vice President & Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, RWJ Barnabas Health with major support from RSI Bank, City of Rahway, and RWJ Barnabas Health.



- Outstanding Achievement Award: Kevin D. Judd ESQ. Attorney & Past President National Bar Association
- Distinguished Service Award: The Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr., Congressman U.S. House of Representatives, 10th District New Jersey
- Rahway Achievers Award: Aisha Thomas Petit Corporate Executive, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist
- Community Service Awards: Sean White, Rahway Basketball League Dr. Obinna O. Mgbako, DPM, FACAS, FAPWCA Darius Singletary, Rahway Police Officer & Youth Basketball Coach
- Armed Services Award: Master Sergeant Gregory Mintz Rahway High School ROTC
- Quality of Life Awards: Christine Brown Womack, Progressive Baptist Church Richard A Williams, Second Baptist Church Derrick Knighton, Agape Family Worship Center

After an exciting awards program and live ask featuring entertainment from Agape Family Worship Center's Dance Ministry, Dance Revolution X, and We Are Rahway Arts attendees were treated to delicious desserts and dancing in the Faziolli Room.

During the program honorees and speakers told the storied journey of the 400 year African American experience highlighting many of the atrocities, injustices and victories faced as a people. Also on display were historical photographs of African Americans in Rahway dating back from the 1800s to present. Many attendees expressed it was the best Freedom Fund they had attended in years and looked forward to supporting the organization in years to come.



(above) Lori Caughman, ESQ., Congressman Donald Payne, Jr., Shakira M. Johnson, Mayor Raymond Giacobbe



(above) Honorees in the greenroom-Dr. Obinna O. Mgbako, DPM, Derrick Knighton, Richard A. Williams and Master Sergeant Gregory Mintz, USMC. Ret

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic rights of all persons and to eliminate race based discrimination. For more information or to join the local brand contact 732-340-9477 or naacpinrahway@gmail.com.



30 Brant Avenue, Clark, NJ 07066

Our Town is published by Renna Media in coordination with the Rahway Chamber of Commerce.

Over 12,600 papers are printed monthly, and mailed to every businesses and home in Rahway.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

Tina & Joe Renna, Publishers 202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016 (908) 418-5586 Fax: (908) 709-9209

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# WINTER ART CLASS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN AT THE RAHWAY RECREATION CENTER

studio art classes for adults, children and teens.

Registration can be done online at cityofrahway.org/departments/parks-andrecreation or by visiting the Rahway Recreation Center, 275 East Milton Avenue next to City Hall between 8:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

Many of these art classes are presented at The Gallery Space in downtown Rahway: 1670 Irving Street at the corner of Seminary Avenue.

For Kids ages 7-12 this winter, The Recreation Department is offering Drawing Exploration, Kids Sculpture, Kids Acrylic Painting and Kids Cartooning. For Teens ages 12-16 we have Anime/Manga Cartooning.

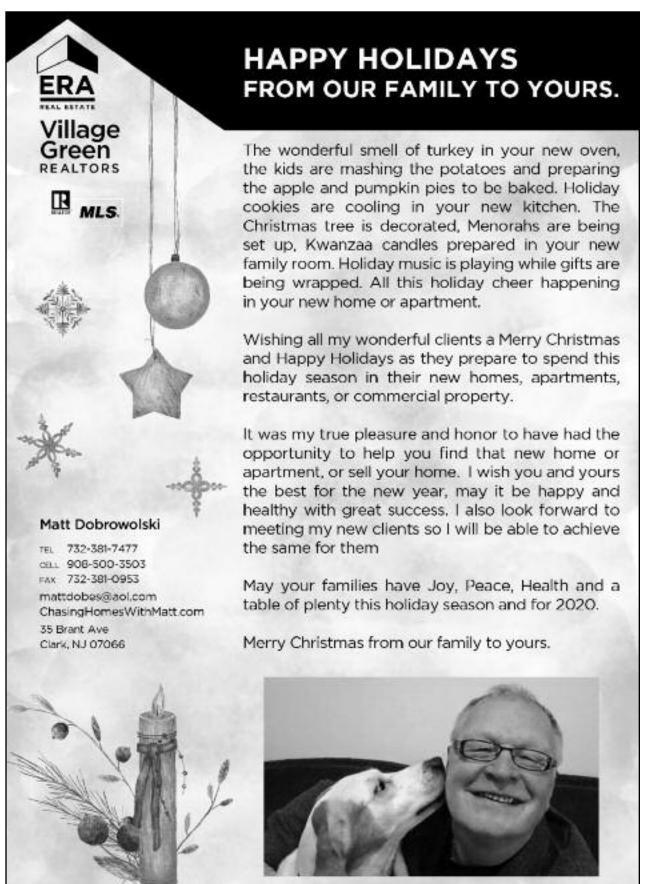
Adult Classes include Oil Painting, Basic & lcappiello@cityofrahway.com.

Registration is now open for Winter session Beyond (Thursday mornings), Oil or Acrylic Painting (Wednesday evenings), Watercolor (Wednesday evenings), Beginning Stained Glass, Intermediate /Advanced Stained Glass (Both on Thursday evenings) and Drawing Principles (Tuesday evenings).

> All classes are open to residents of Rahway and non-Residents. Fees vary slightly for nonresidents.

> Many of our adult Instructors hold advanced degrees in art and have taught at the college level. Many of our children and teen instructors are certified NJ art teachers with many years' experience teaching in public or private schools.

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For more than 30 years, Jill Guzman Realty proudly serves NJ homeowners and buyers with all of their real estate needs. Jill's trilingual fulltime staff prides themselves on their outstanding "Good Old Fashioned Service."

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## NON-PERISHABLE FOOD AND TOILETRY DRIVE YMCA

The Gateway Family YMCA and Shaping Eastern Union County are collecting non-perishable food items and toiletries for those in need this winter. Donations will directly support the local community through The Gateway Family YMCA Housing Programs in Elizabeth, NJ and The Dudley House Veterans Transitional Housing Program in Plainfield, NJ. The Gateway Family YMCA provides emergency, transitional and supportive housing and supports the Union County 24-Hour Homeless Emergency Response Hotline.

Items needed include all non-perishable canned or boxed food items such as soups, tuna, cereal, oatmeal, pasta, tomato sauce, chili, peanut butter and jelly. Toiletries and personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, shaving cream, disposable razors, tissues, diapers and baby wipes are also needed.

Donated items can be dropped at local YMCA branches through December 23, 2019:

Rahway Branch
1564 Irving Street, Rahway, NJ
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

"The Gateway Family YMCA has served the local community for over 119 years. Giving back is an important part of what the Y does every day.

Our members, volunteers, supporters and staff demonstrate the power of what we can achieve by giving back together," stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA.

To learn more about The Gateway Family YMCA or Shaping Eastern Union County, visit tgfymca.org.

For more information on YMCA services, 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 Youth Development Branch 908-355-3061.





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# THE ARC RAISES MORE THAN \$60,000 IN HONOR OF 70TH ANNIVERSARY

#### Submitted by Ellen de Havilland

Along with more than 200 families and community supporters, The Arc of Union County celebrated 70 years of service to the community on Thursday, October 10, 2019. Supporters and vendors from throughout Union County together raised more than \$60,000, which will be invested in programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Attendees enjoyed raffles donated by more than 50 vendors throughout the county, including a wine pull raffle, a cash prize 50/50 raffle and a Bermuda cruise giveaway, along with unlimited food and drinks. A favorite local band, TreeOh!, performed decade favorites that highlighted the 70 years of our past, while a lively and enthusiastic crowd danced and celebrated a successful seven decades of service.

At the event, Executive Director of The Arc of Union County, Frank X. Caragher, spoke of the importance of the "lifespan of services provided by the agency," and the "longevity that families of The Arc have come to rely on for seven decades." More stories of families and staff of The Arc of Union County were shared through video throughout the evening. Highlights of these stories can be viewed on The Arc's YouTube Channel. The mission of providing services to individuals and families of those with special needs has become a mission that our community embraces together. A supportive community

helps individuals with special needs to be empowered to live their best life, while being included in opportunities for employment, building greater independence in their residential homes and neighborhoods, accessing education, recreational and social opportunities, and being supported in realizing a full, productive and enhanced life.

Thank you to all of the sponsors and supporters who helped make this event an unprecedented success, especially Presenting Sponsor, Investors Bank and Investors Foundation. Thank you to the

community and families of The Arc for your continued support and making this evening a celebration to remember.

#### **ABOUT THE ARC OF UNION COUNTY**

The Arc of Union County is a non-profit, 501c(3) organization headquartered in Springfield, NJ, dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc serves more than 1,000 families throughout Union County. To learn more, please contact 973-315-0000 or visit arcunion.org.



(above) The Arc of Union County celebrated 70 years of service to the community and raised more than \$60,000, which will be invested in programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



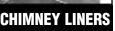






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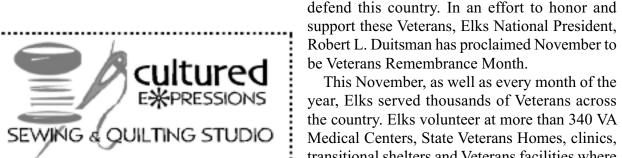
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## **ELKS VETERANS REMEMBRANCE MONTH**

Submitted by Paul Kozakiewicz, Rahway Elks Lodge #1075



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This November, as well as every month of the year, Elks served thousands of Veterans across the country. Elks volunteer at more than 340 VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Homes, clinics, transitional shelters and Veterans facilities where they plan activities, buy needed supplies, host meals and offer friendship. Elks help Veterans rehabilitate and thrive by supporting adaptive sports events and providing therapy kits and wheelchair gloves to recovering Veterans.

our communities. Each with a different story,

they all shared a common pledge: to support and

Most recently, Elks have pledged to help end Veteran homelessness by pledging millions of dollars to assist Veterans experiencing homelessness. Since we made this pledge just 5

An estimated twenty million Veterans live in years ago, we've helped thousands of Veterans exit or prevent homelessness. Our Elks Lodges are focal points for supporting local military members and Veterans and meeting their needs. Last year alone, the total value of Elks contributions to our nation's Veterans was more than \$50 million, and our members served hundreds of thousands of Veterans.

> November was Veterans Remembrance Month, and in the wake of that the Elks urge you to join them in recognition of and service to the Veterans in your community. Let us remember the words of Elk member and President John F. Kennedy who said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them."

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## **THE BLIZZARD OF 1888**

Submitted by Al Shipley, City Historian and Rahway Library Research Consultant

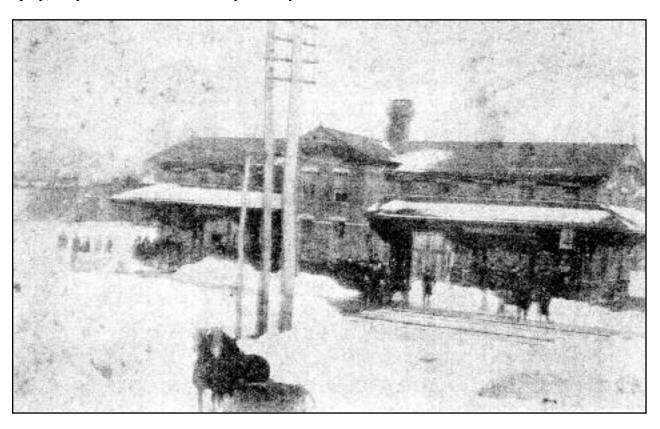
December is upon us and folks can already be heard prognosticating the amount of snow that might be heading our way as we brace for another winter season. There have certainly been some brutal storms in recent years. In fact, in 2016, just three years ago, a monster storm deposited 26.9 inches of snow on the area. The New Jersey Office of Climatology at Rutgers University considered it the worst storm to hit New Jersey since they began recording such data in 1931. The record setting storm of 2016, however, pales dramatically when compared to the Blizzard of 1888 which dropped a total of four feet of the white stuff in Rahway and as much as fifty-eight inches in some parts of N.J., making it the worst blizzard in the history of the state.

The Great Blizzard of 1888, often referred to as the Great White Hurricane, paralyzed the east coast from the Chesapeake Bay all the way to Maine. Along with the massive snowfall totals, powerful winds, averaging 40-50 mph, produced drifts reported to have been in excess of twenty feet, completely suspending highway, river, and railroad travel for days. Temperatures fell to 6 degrees Fahrenheit. Telegraph lines were disabled and fire stations were immobilized. More than 400 died as a result of the storm and the frigid days that followed. Fortunately, no storm related deaths were reported in Rahway.

The storm began on Sunday afternoon, March 11, with light rain showers. By evening the rain had increased in severity and by mid-night, temperatures had plummeted changing the precipitation to snow. When citizens awoke on Monday morning and peered out their windows, they must have been amazed at the amount of snow on the ground and the giant wind-swept drifts. To make matters worse, the blizzard would continue throughout the rest of the day.

As bad as conditions were, there were those who thought the storm would subside or that they could overcome adversity and go on with their regular routines. A number of conscientious commuters made their way to Rahway Station to catch the early trains. The 5:30 and 6:05 trains started their run from the Rahway depot so they were set to leave on time. Both left on schedule and somehow managed to slowly plow their way on the eastbound tracks. The 5:30 train did make it to New York although the trip took over six hours. As conditions worsened, it took the second train five hours just to reach Newark where it was shut down. Passengers ended up storm bound in Elizabeth, Newark, and New York City where they were stranded for several days. Many





(above) Photograph of Rahway Train Station a few days after the storm shows work had been done to clear the tracks. The blizzard shut down rail traffic to New York City from Monday morning until Wednesday morning.

camped out in hotel lobbies while others remained in the freezing cold and wet depot rooms and because telegraph lines were down, had no way to inform families of their plight. One dedicated teacher boarded the 6:05 train with hopes of reaching the east Linden schoolhouse where she was employed. She reached the school but ended up being "imprisoned" alone in the building through Monday night as it was impossible for her relatives to bring her home.

No train would pass through Rahway in either direction from Monday morning until 5:00 Tuesday afternoon. The first train out of New York City arrived at 9:30 on Wednesday morning bringing with it the sorely missed New York newspapers and the first mail since Saturday.

The storm also affected those who remained in Rahway. Several homeowners opened their homes and welcomed out-of-towners who were stranded in the city. On Sunday afternoon, a local doctor was called to a home in the neighborhood near the waterworks plant to deliver a baby and was not able to leave the snowbound residence until Tuesday. The baby was born early Monday as the blizzard raged. It was a girl. Several other babies were born during the storm and in the days that followed. All were girls.

The fierce winds snapped the stately Liberty Pole which marked the spot on the corner of Milton Avenue and St. Georges Avenue where Rahway's Liberty Tree stood during the Revolutionary War. It fell across Maple Avenue bringing down the electric wires. A baker whose shop was on Main Street tried to make deliveries Monday morning but got stalled and had to abandon his wagon on Grand Avenue. A well-known bachelor of the city lost one of his dogs and was said to be seen struggling through the

teeth of the storm trying to find it. Another family had called their dog to come in for the night on Sunday, but the pet did not return to the safety of the home. It was not until Thursday when the worried owners heard a sound coming from under a drift covered seed shed that the dog was reunited with the family.

Public schools were closed Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Bloodgoods Mill, a factory on the Rahway-Clark border which employed many Rahway workers, was unable to open until paths could be made to that remote part of town. Two funeral services had to be postponed to the end of the week. Parked on Scott Avenue, fire engine #474 was covered by eight feet of snow. Even a week after the blizzard, roads were still in such rough shape that it was difficult for fire engines to respond to a house fire on Jaques Avenue. It wasn't until Wednesday that a milkman was able to make deliveries, but had to resort to using a team of oxen instead of horses to make his way around town.

The conductor and crew of the 5:30 train that left Rahway Station on Monday morning finally made it back to Rahway on Wednesday around 4 p.m.

Local photographer, James Stacy was out much of Tuesday and Wednesday taking many photos of the storm in various parts of the city showing the immensity of the drifts, the blocked up streets, etc. Demand for copies from his collection was great and could be ordered at fifty cents for any scene desired. Unfortunately, none of his images have ever been part of this researcher's collection.

Everything eventually returned to normal, but the stories that were told in the aftermath of the storm and passed on to following generations ensured that the Blizzard of 1888 would always be remembered as the worst in the history of Rahway.



# THE HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE

It's the holiday season and the perfect time to write about one of the most festive and popular treats in the world, chocolate.

The story of humans and chocolate began well over two thousand years ago in 'Mesoamerica', the regions now known as Mexico and Central America. It is hard for historians to pin down when chocolate was first introduced, but it is clear that it was cherished from the start. The Latin name for the cacao tree, Theobroma cacao, means "food of the gods." The cacao tree is native to the North American tropics.

Both the Mayans and Aztecs believed the cacao bean was magical and even held divine properties, suitable for sacred rituals of birth, marriage and death. Aztec sacrifice victims who were feeling melancholy were given a gourd of the chocolate cocktail. This was to cheer them up enough so they could join in the ritual dancing required to make them worthy to the gods before their death.

The cacao beans were so important in these great ancient empires that they were used as currency and could buy food and fowl.

For many centuries, chocolate was a bitter drink. The pulp of the cacao fruit which surrounds the beans was fermented into an alcoholic beverage of the time.

When the Spaniards arrived, the famous king of the Aztec's, Montezuma, mistaking the conquistadors on horses for reincarnated gods of ancient lore, hosted a banquet for the explorer Hernando Cortes that included the chocolate drink. Unsuitable to the European taste they described it as "a bitter drink for pigs." In spite of this Cortes did bring the chocolate drink back to Europe where after being mixed with honey or cane sugar, chocolate quickly became popular throughout Spain.

In Spain chocolate quickly found disapproval by the Catholic Church. In spite of church preaching chocolate as the "drink of the devil" it continued to gain popularity in Spain.

By the 17th century chocolate was a fashionable drink throughout Europe believed to have nutritional, medicinal and even aphrodisiac properties. It was rumored to be the favorite drink of Casanova. In spite of its popularity, chocolate was too expensive for the masses until the invention of the steam engine which made mass production possible in the late 1700's. During the Revolutionary War in America, chocolate was highly valued and it was included in soldier's rations and used in lieu of payment.

In 1828, a Dutch chemist discovered a way to make powered chocolate by removing half the coco butter from the liquor, pulverizing it and adding alkaline salts to cut the bitter taste. This became known as "Dutch cocoa" and soon after the creation of the first solid chocolate bar.

A man by the name of Joseph Fry is credited for the first modern day chocolate bar in 1847 when he discovered he could make a moldable



(above) Past President of The Rahway Garden Club, James Keane, has been researching and answering garden questions since 1995. Visit 'Keane Gardener' blog at: keanegardener.blogspot.com

chocolate bar by adding melted cacao butter back into Dutch Chocolate. By 1868 the Cadbury Company was selling boxes of chocolate in England. Milk chocolate was soon after introduced to the public by now well known Nestle Company.

Today chocolate is a 4-billion-dollar-a year industry in the United States and the average American eats at least a half pound of chocolate every month.

Although chocolate should be eaten in moderation, research shows "dark chocolate" is a rich source of antioxidants and minerals, and it generally contains less sugar than milk chocolate. Some research suggests that dark chocolate may help lower the risk of heart disease, reduce inflammation and insulin resistance, and improve brain function. People who are interested in adding dark chocolate to their diet should keep in mind that it is high in fat and calories, so moderation is key. Many people believe dark chocolate is a mood enhancer and take it to fight the blues.

Happy Holidays,

Thanks to Smithsonian.com (Amanda Fiegl) for the historical information in this article.



(above) Cherished from the start, high quality artisanal chocolates are still a greatly appreciated hostess or holiday gift today.



# **RAHWAY GARDEN CLUB**

Invites you to join us at

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# FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS THE YMCA ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO LEARN THE RISK FACTORS FOR FALLS AND HOW TO PREVENT THEM

Submitted by Colleen Clayton

The Gateway Family YMCA is joining the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and the Falls Free Coalition to help raise awareness and prevention of falls.

Each year, it's estimated that one out of four



(above) Older adults can assess their fall risk by taking a simple test at ymca.net/fallsrisk. Through this assessment, individuals can learn how routine activities and other factors help determine their risk for falls.



Americans aged 65 or older will suffer a fall, leaving many adults with a fear of falling that can cause them to limit physical activities. This leads to reduced mobility and diminished quality of life and can increase their risk of falling. In addition, as the population ages, falls put an immense strain on the health care system, with the financial toll expected to reach \$67.7 billion by 2020.

The good news is that many falls are preventable. With a focus on healthy aging, the Y is committed to helping older adults learn their fall risk and provide resources that can help them reduce their risk for falls.

"As a leading community-based organization dedicated to improving the nation's health, the Y is asking older adults, caregivers, family members and health care professionals to raise awareness and prevent falls in the older adult population," said Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "Many falls are preventable, but many older adults and their families don't know how to safely get active. The good news is that organizations like the Y can help," added Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO.

The first step to prevention is understanding risk. Older adults can assess their fall risk by taking a simple test at ymca.net/fallsrisk. Through this assessment, individuals can learn how routine activities and other factors help determine their risk for falls.

Once assessing risk, the next step is to take action; The Gateway Family YMCA is helping to

improve the health and well-being of older adults across the country through programs like Enhance®Fitness, Action Against Arthritis, Tai Chi, Water Exercise, SilverSneakers Fitness and Gentle Yoga.

The CDC suggests these basic lifestyle and safety changes to help reduce risk and prevent falls: begin an exercise program to improve your leg strength and balance; ask your doctor or pharmacist to review your medicines; get annual eye check-ups and update your eyeglasses; make your home safer by removing clutter and tripping hazards, putting railings on all stairs and adding grab bars in the bathroom, and installing proper lighting, especially on stairs.

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 through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The Gateway Family YMCA impacts the community by providing quality services to people of all ages, races, faith or incomes. The Y does not just strengthen bodies - it strengthens people, families and communities.

To learn more about The Gateway Family YMCA programs, visit tgfymca.org or contact the Elizabeth Branch at 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622, Rahway Branch 732-388-0057, Wellness Center Branch 908-349-9622, WISE Center Branch 908-687-2995 or Youth Development Branch 908-355-3061.





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## **BAND SEEKS NEW MEMBERS**

seeking new members to join the band. "Musicians of all ages are welcome," says director Howard Toplansky. "If you are a high school musician looking for extra practice or a *AUTO PARTS* retired professional who wants to get back into music, the municipal band is a perfect fit." The band is looking for new members who play any Where Experience Counts!

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# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP AT BLOOD DRIVES**

New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS), which supplies blood to hospitals throughout the state, is in need of volunteers to help at blood drives. The blood drive volunteer is an integral member of the blood collection team whose task it is to assist donors with registration and/or at the refreshment area. No medical background is necessary. Volunteers should have the ability to relate to the public, be able to perform different

The Township of Union Municipal Band is

jobs as needed and have the willingness to follow the rules. For additional information contact, Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Manager of Volunteer Services Sharon Zetts at 732-850-

instrument, however there is an immediate need

Hannah Caldwell School in Union, NJ and

performs ten concerts throughout the year.

Musicians who are interested in joining the band

should contact the Township of Union Recreation

The band rehearses on Monday evenings at

for low brass, woodwinds and percussion.

Department at 908-686-4200.

To apply on line as a blood drive volunteer, please go to:

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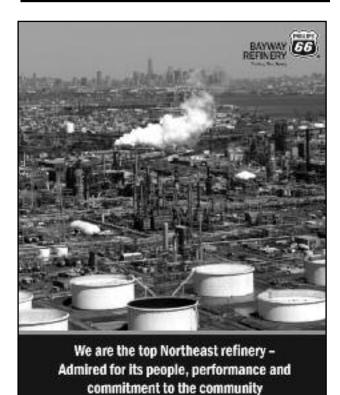
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# **CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH THE CELEBRATION SINGERS**

Submitted by Stephanie Silvestri

For 81 years The Celebration Singers have been entertaining the greater Union County community and audiences across the globe during international tours. Join them on December 6 and 7, 2019 at 8 p.m. for a winter concert celebrating the songs of the season.

Comprised of over 100 singers ranging in age from 9-90, this community choir's commitment to artistic excellence and its engaging and dynamic style provides its diverse singers and audiences with a compelling musical experience. Over the years, the choir membership has included families of all generations. Several current members of the

Adult Choir were previous Children's Choir members and singers in the Youth Choirs include children of Adult singers. It's a multigenerational community, which enhances the breadth of genres and cultures from which they draw upon in their programs.

"It's a unique opportunity to direct a group of singers ranging in age and ability who all come together once a week for two hours dedicated to creating beautiful music. For some, it's the only time in their busy lives when they can express themselves through art — it's a beautiful and truly meaningful opportunity." Said Joe Elefante, Artistic Director of The Celebration Singers.

Tickets for their winter concert "Let the Light Shine" are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children and seniors. Tickets can be purchased in advance at celebration-singers.org or at the box office located at St. Michael's Church located at 40 Alden Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

For more information, follow them at facebook.com/CelebrationSingers or contact them at celebrationsingersnewjersey@gmail.com or 908-552-4656.

Funding for the Celebration Singers is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council for the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.



(above) Join the Celebration Singers for their winter concert "Let the Light Shine" on December 6 and 7, 2019 at 8 p.m.

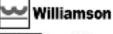
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# WHARTON INSTITUTE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES 2019-2020 CONCERT SEASON WITH A FOCUS ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

New Jersey's largest non-profit community performing arts education organization has announced its 2019-2020 season, featuring 35 public events presented by over 1,500 talented students and faculty members. And with a grant from The Catalyst Fund of the League of American Orchestras, Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA) embarks this season on an equity, diversity, and inclusion initiative to help advance its mission to create supportive and inclusive learning for a wide range of students.

"As we continue to inspire our students to strive for personal excellence through performing arts education, we desire to practice culturally responsible instruction by embracing and celebrating diversity on and off the stage," says WIPA Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Helen H. Cha-Pyo. "To this end, we will offer more intentional programming this season with works representing cultures from around the world and music written by under-represented composers, in addition to celebrating the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth with over 15 works by this beloved 19th century composer."

"Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts is committed to transforming communities through music education, a powerful tool that affects the greater education system by improving student graduation rates, college readiness, and job readiness," says incoming Executive Director and new force behind Wharton's growing community presence, Peter H. Gistelinck. "It also spurs economic development by making communities more attractive to live in, creating jobs, and improving quality of life as Wharton's programs impact communities across the state of NJ from Berkeley Heights, to Paterson, and beyond. Above all, we view our work through the lens of social justice and shared power, ensuring that the benefits of music are accessible to all students despite their ability to pay, socioeconomic background or where they come from."

On Sunday, December 8 at 3:00 p.m. The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), a Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts program,

will give a rare performance of Two Nutcrackers: Tchaikovsky & Ellington at the Union County Performing Arts Center, located at 1601 Irving Street in Rahway. The NJYS Youth Symphony and Jazz Orchestra will perform side-by-side in this holiday spectacular sure to delight the entire family. Tickets can be purchased at www.ucpac.org.

In addition to collaborating with and under the guidance of a consultant to further equity, diversity, and inclusion, NJYS will celebrate female African-American composers Florence Price and Julia Perry in a concert on Sunday, January 26 at 4:00 p.m. at Princeton University's Richardson Auditorium. A world premiere by New Jersey resident Aferdian Stephens, winner of the 2018 Bohuslav Martinů Award and 2018 ASCAP Young Composer Award, will be featured alongside the annual NJYS Concerto Competition winner on Sunday, May 3 at 7:30pm at Rutgers University's Mason Gross Performing Arts Center.

The Performing Arts School (PAS) Wharton Players will present Elf, Jr. on Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 8 at 3:00 p.m. in the Wharton Arts 100-seat black box theatre located at 60 Locust Avenue in Berkeley Heights. Tickets can be purchased at whartonarts.org. PAS will also present practical workshops and inspiring master classes with world-class artists such as Afendi Yusuf, Principal Clarinet of the Cleveland Orchestra, and Dr. Min Kwon, Professor of Piano at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University.

On March 29 at 3:00 p.m., the annual crowd-pleasing Playathon pops concert takes place at The Mills at Jersey Gardens in Elizabeth, featuring a 500-piece orchestra performing a wide range of movie and Broadway favorites. Students from NJYS, PMP, and PAS participate in this day of music making, furthering the organization's mission to make performing arts accessible to everyone.

The season culminates with the NJYS American Celebration of Music Concert Series in Italy, June 27-July 6. The tour, including four orchestral concerts and one chamber concert, will present some of NJYS' and the Garden State's most talented young musicians at Milan's Teatro dal Verme, Florence's Teatro Verdi, Rome's St.

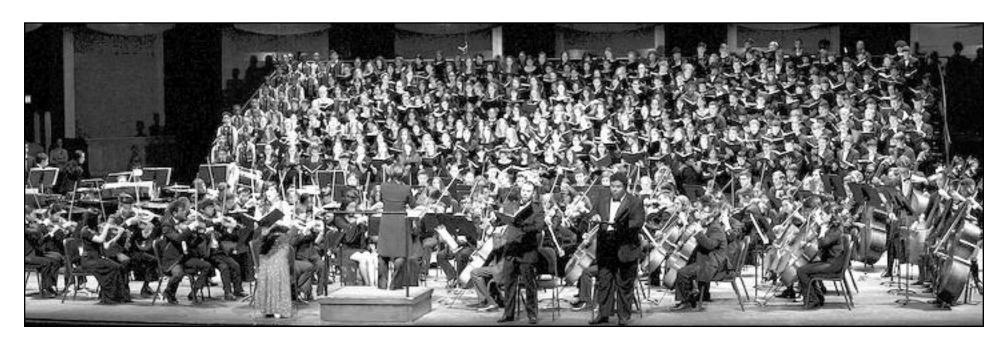
Andrea della Valle and St. Eustachio, and Albano's Festival Liszt Albano at Castel Gandolfo. NJYS will participate in a festival exchange with the Florence Conservatory of Music (Conservatorio Luigi Cherubini) in an exclusive concert series through Music Celebrations International.

For ticket information and full 2019-20 season brochure, visit www.WhartonArts.org.

The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts' mission is to provide the highest quality performing arts education to a wide range of students in a supportive and inclusive environment, where striving for personal excellence inspires and connects those we teach to the communities we serve.

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving over 1,500 students through a range of classes and ensembles including the 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve 500 students in grades 3 - 12 by audition. Beginning with Out of the Box Music and Pathways classes for young children, Wharton Arts offers private lessons, group classes, and ensembles for all ages and all abilities at the Performing Arts School. With the belief in the positive and unifying influence of music and the performing arts and that arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay, Wharton teaches all instruments and voice and has a robust musical theater program. Based in Paterson, New Jersey, the Paterson Music Project is an El Sistema-inspired program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts that uses music as a vehicle for social change by empowering and inspiring children through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing.

Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 10 counties. All of Wharton's extraordinary faculty members and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.



# MARCHING BAND COMPOSES WINNING MUSICL SCORE

#### Submitted by Rob Kinch

A litany of awards and special recognition attest to the Rahway High School (RHS) Marching Band's success in composing a winning musical score under the directorship of high school teacher Mr. Miguel Bolivar. Being part of a school district and a town which "prides itself on the arts," notes the students' beloved 'Mr. B.', "It is only fitting that the school system become a beacon of the performing arts for the entire community."

"An education in the fine and performing arts is critical to all of our children," affirms Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Camp. "It speaks to helping students develop a different way of thinking." Mr. Bolivar offers, "Our Superintendent acknowledges the hard work of the teachers and students in not only the marching band but in all the arts. She has been instrumental in allowing and endorsing not only the marching band but other ensembles comprised of Rahway Band students to perform in different competitions and events at prestigious venues such as The Cell in NYC, Carnegie Hall, The Make Music Festival, TIA Indoor Guard Competitions and Championships, along with the WGI World Championships in Dayton, Ohio. She helps to hold up the banner of the arts and preserve its status as the crown jewel of the district."

In synchrony with the spirit of Dr. Camp's beliefs, the Rahway Board of Education has also been instrumental in seeing to it that the arts are provided with what they need to flourish. In

particular, the marching band was able to receive a trailer that was budgeted and Board approved in order to make the ease of equipment transfer and rehearsals in the county park a less arduous endeavor. "It is this community's commitment to the arts which drew me to Rahway initially," explains 'Mr. B.'.

Thanks to the dedication, spirit, and talent of its music-making members, the RHS Marching Band has won 2nd place honors out of 6 bands at Ramsey HS's Tournament of Bands Competition, 2nd place out of 8 bands at the Rutherford HS's TOB competition (also garnering awards for best Color Guard and best Visual), 3rd place out of 9 bands at the Woodbridge HS's TOB competition (along with best Color Guard), as well as placing 6th out of 14 bands in the NJ States competition and 8th out of 14 bands in the Regional competition, where it also came in 3rd for Percussion and Color Guard. "This multitude of awards," comments Superintendent Camp, "is proof positive of our students' outstanding performance and of the support coming from every part of our community."

Now, crowning a season of competitive wins, the RHS Marching Band has proudly garnered First Place Group A Honors at the recent CJMEA, East Brunswick HS Competition, while also winning Best Overall Effect, Best Visual, and Best Music! "After so many hours of practice, sleepless nights, and uncountable tears," offers Drum Major Jamarlia Fuller, "placing First was just overwhelming for us all...we couldn't have done it without 'Mr. B.'!" Rahway HS

Principal Mr. John Farinella is quick to offer his praise and respect for his dedicated musicians. "The outstanding achievements of our students on the competitive marching band scene are a reflection of their strong talent, hard work, and dauntless commitment to excellence."

Speaking for both herself and for her fellow band members, Ms. Fuller also gives credit for the band's success to respected teacher Mr. Bolivar for "his support both emotionally and motivationally" as well as to "our school for providing the resources and accommodations which allow us to develop our love for music." Principal Farinella also extends his sincere thanks "to all the members of our school community for supporting the needs of our program." "Our band would not realize the outstanding success that we celebrate in the absence of the caring support of the school community at large." For 12th grade percussionist Fernando Guzman, the season's performances held a very personal significance. "I love the competition. It makes me smile and it makes me want to continue doing music." No doubt...to the tune of a very proud community.



(above) The RHS Marching Band was celebrated for their multiple wins this year.

Photos by Joseph Mudrak







## **DECEMBER 2019 EVENTS AT RAHWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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#### Holiday Open House in the Library Café

Saturday, December 14, 1 - 3 p.m.

Take a break from your hectic holiday schedule and relax by the fire in the library cafe. Snacks and beverages will be served.

#### **Readers Circle Book Club**

Monday, December 16, 2 p.m. Join us for the discussion of The Quilter's

#### **Third Thursday Movie for Adults**

Thursday, December 19, 1 p.m. Free. Call library for movie title.

Apprentice by Jennifer Chiaverini.

#### Friends' Group Meeting

Thursday, December 19, 7 p.m. The Friends of the Rahway Public Library will meet at the library

### **DISCOVERY STUDIO** (TEENS & ADULTS)

**Crochet Club** 

Thursdays, December 5 & 19, 6:30 p.m. Bring your hooks and yarn. Work on a project or learn a new technique! Ages 16+ & adults.

#### **Origami Ornament Workshop with Joy Lara**

Thursday, December 5, 2:30-4:00 p.m. For Ages 16-Adult. Registration Required at Reference Desk.

#### TEEN EVENTS

**Teen Screen** 

Monday, December 16, 5:00 p.m.

Join us in the auditorium for a recently released movie! Rated PG-13. All are welcome to attend.

## **CHILDREN'S EVENTS**

**Toddler Time** 

Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, & 18, 10:30 a.m. We will be talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing during this literacy readiness storytime. Ages birth - 4 with caregiver.

#### **Preschool Dance Party**

Thursday, December 5 at 11:00 a.m. Come on out to play instruments and dance! Ages birth -5.

#### Kids BINGO

Thursday, December 5, 4 p.m. Play BINGO and win prizes

Saturday, December 7, 2 p.m.

Ages 5-12. Gingerbread House Decorating: Come decorate a gingerbread house while supplies last. All ages.

#### **Family Fun Night**

Monday, December 9, 6:30 p.m. Bring your family to the library for a fun activity! All ages.

#### **Creation Station**

Thursday, December 12, 4:00 p.m. Work on a fun DIY project. Ages 7-12.

#### **Junior Bingo**

Friday, December 13, 11 a.m.

Bring your little one to Junior BINGO perfect for learning shapes, numbers, and pictures. Ages 1-5.

#### **LEGO Engineers - Pinball**

Saturday, December 14, 2 p.m.

Are you up to the task? Complete this month's LEGO builder challenge and test your structure. Ages 7-12.

#### **Pajama Storytime**

Monday, December 16, 6:30 p.m. Listen to some stories in your jammies!

#### **Graphic Novel Book Club**

Wednesday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Read this month's book and take part in discussion and group activities. Call the library for the title and to reserve a copy of the book. Ages 8-12. Registration required.

#### **Art Party**

Thursday, December 19, 6:00 p.m. Make a beautiful piece of art. All ages.

#### **Saturday Science**

Saturday, December 21, 11:00 a.m. Experiment with science. All ages.







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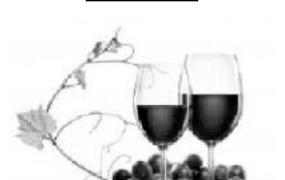


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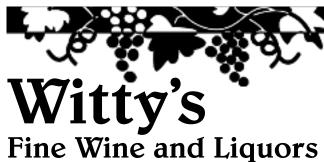
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Andre (All Types)	750ml .	\$ 6.99
Apothic Red		•
Avalon (Cabernet Sauvignon)		-
Barefoot All Types		
Bartenura Moscato		•
Barone Fini (Pinot Grigio)		
Beringer White Zinfandel		-
Beringer White Zinfandel		-
Black Box (All Types)		
Blackstone (All Types)		
Bogle (Chardonnay and Merlot)		-
Bolla		•
Carlo Rossi (Chablis, Burgundy, Sangria, Blush)		
Carnivor (Cabernet Sauvignon)		
Casal Garcia Vinho Verde		-
Chattagu eta Michalla Calumbia Vallav G. 1		
Chateau ste Michelle Columbia Valley Cabernet and Mer		
Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Chardonnay		
Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Riesling		
Clos du Bois Chardonnay		-
Cockburns Ruby and Tawny Porto		
Concha Y Toro Frontera		
Coppola Diamond Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot		•
Coppola Diamond Chardonnay		
Corbett Canyon (All Types)		
Cupcake (All types, except Prosecco and Moscato)		
Dom Perignon		
Dreaming Tree (All Types)		
Ecco Domani (Pinot Grigio)		
Fish Eye (All Types)		-
Flip Flop (All Types)		
Franzia (Crisp White, Blush)		
Freixenet (Brut, Extra, Rose, Sweet)		
Gato Negro (All Types)		_
Gazela Vinho Verde		
Ghost Pines (Merlot and Red Blend)		
J. Lohr Cabernet Sauvignon		
Josh Cabernet Sauvignon		
Joseph Carr Cabernet Sauvignon		
Kendall Jackson Vintners Chardonnay		
Kim Crawford (Sauvignon Blanc)		
Korbel (All Types except Natural and Organic)		
La Crema Sonoma Pinot Noir	750ml	\$18.99
Liberty Creek (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 7.99
Lauta ladat Daguialaia		<b>M M M M</b>

Louis Jadot Beaujolais Villages	750ml <b>\$ 10.99</b>
Louis Jadot Pouilly Fuisse	
Luna di Luna (All Types)	
Mark West Pinot Noir	
Mark West Pinot Noir	1.5L <b>\$17.99</b>
Martini & Rossi Asti	750ml <b>\$11.97</b>
Menage a Trois Red	750ml <b>\$ 9.99</b>
Merry Vale (Cabernet)	750ml <b>\$49.99</b>
Mezzacorona Pinot Grigio	1.5L <b>\$12.99</b>
Mi Amore Red	750ml <b>\$ 8.99</b>
Moet Imperial Champagne	750ml <b>\$42.99</b>
Noble Wine 337, 667	750ml <b>\$11.99</b>
Papi (All Types)	1.5L <b>\$10.98</b>
Real Sangria	1.5L <b>\$ 9.99</b>
Rex Goliath (All Types)	
Robert Mondavi Oakville Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon.	•
Robert Mondavi Private Select	•
Robert Mondavi Private Select	•
Rodney Strong Sonoma Cabernet	•
Rodney Strong Sonoma Chardonnay	•
Rombauer Chardonnay	
Ruffino Chianti	•
Ruffino Chianti	
Ruffino Pinot Grigio	
Ruffino Chianti Gold	•
Ruffino Tan label	
Santa Margerita Pinot Grigio	•
Senor Sangria (All Types)	
Silver Oak Alexander Valley Cabernet	•
Simi Chardonnay	•
Sonoma Cutrer Chardonnay	•
Sutter Home (All Types)	•
Tom Gore (All Types)	
Woodbridge (All Types)	
Yago Sangria	•
Yellow Tail (All Types)	1.5L <b>\$14.49</b>

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	SKY	<b>***</b>		& BRANDY		CORDI	_	
Ballantine			Camus V.S			Bailey's Irish Cream		
Buchanan's 12yrs old			Cardenal Mendoza			Bailey's Irish Cream		
Buchanan's 12yrs old			Courvoisier V.S.			Kahlua		
Bushmill's Irish			Courvoisier V.S.			Kahlua		
Canadian Club			E & J V.S. Brandy			Krupnik		
Canadian Mist			E & J V.S. Brandy			Licor 43		
Chivas Regal			E & J V.S.O.P. Brandy		•	Licor 43		
Chivas Regal			E & J V.S.O.P. Brandy			Patron XO Café		
Chivas Regal 18 yrs old			Leroux Blackberry			Patron XO Café		
Clan Macgregor			Leroux Blackberry			Southern Comfort (80 proof)		•
Crown Royal			Martell V.S.O.P			Southern Comfort (80 proof)	1.75L	\$28.99
Crown Royal			Paul Masson Amber		•	RUI	Л	
Dewars 12 yrs old			Paul Masson Amber			Bacardi Light & Gold		¢12 0
Dewars 12 yrs old			Paul Masson Peach			Bacardi Light & Gold		
Dewars White Label			Remy Martin 1738			Captain Morgan Spice		
Dewars White Label			Remy Martin V.S.O.P			Malibu		
Gentleman Jack			Remy Martin V.S.O.P	1.75L	\$80.99	Malibu		
Gentleman Jack			VOI	)KV				\$25.0
enfiddich 12 yrs old750ml\$43.99			<b>VODKA Absolut</b> (regular)			TEQU	ILA	
Glenmorangie 10 yrs old						Avion Silver		\$39.99
Glenlivet 12 yrs old			Absolut (regular)			Casa Noble Silver		
Glenlivet 12 yrs old			Belvedere Vodka			Deleon Blanco Tequila		
Grants			Belvedere Vodka			Deleon Blanco Tequila		
Grants			Ciroc (all types)			Jose Cuervo		
Jack Daniels	750ml	\$25.99	Ciroc (all types)			Jose Cuervo		
Jack Daniels	1.75L	\$45.99	Finlandia			Patron Silver		
Jack Daniels Fire	750ml	\$25.99	Finlandia			Patron Silver		
Jack Daniels Fire	1.75L	\$45.99	Grey Goose					φυσ.σε
Jameson			Grey Goose (all types)			BEE	R	
Jameson			Ketel One	750ml	\$19.99	Becks (12oz) 24pk	24pk	\$24.99
Jim Beam Whisky			Ketel One	1.75L	\$39.99	Bud and Bud Lite cans		
Johhnie Walker Blue			Luksusowa	1.75L	\$22.99	Bud and Bud Lite loose bottles		
Johhnie Walker Blue			Majorska	750ml	\$ 8.99	Coors Lite (24oz) cans		•
Johnnie Walker Black			Majorska	1.75L	\$13.99	Coors Lite/Miller Lite loose bottles		
Johnnie Walker Black			Pinnacle (all types)	750ml	\$12.99	Coors Lite/Miller Lite		•
Johnnie Walker Double Black		•	Pinnacle (80 proof)			Corona/Corona Lite loose bottles		•
Johnnie Walker Red			Skyy	1.75L	\$21.99	<b>Dab</b> (16oz) cans	•	
Johnnie Walker Red			Smirnoff Vodka (80 proof)			Heineken/Heineken Lite bottles		
Knob Creek 9 yrs old		•	Smirnoff Vodka (80 proof)			Land Shark		
Knob Creek 9 yrs old Knob Creek 9 yrs old			Sobieski			<b>Lech</b> (500ml)		-
Macallan 12yrs old (double cask			Sobieski			Modelo Especial cans	•	
Makers Mark(doddie cask			Soplica			New Belgium Fat Tire	-	
			Stolichnaya (all types)		•	Pabst Blue Ribbon cans		
Makers Mark		•	Svedka (all types)			Pilsner Urquell		
Old Smuggler			Svedka (all types)			Sagres		
Redemption Rye Whisky			Tanqueray Sterling			•	•	
Seagram V.O			Tanqueray Sterling			Sam Adams Boston Lager		
Seagrams 7			Three Olives (all types)			Stella Artois loose bottles		
Woodford Reserve	1L	\$39.99	Tito's Vodka			Dogfish Head 60 min	•	
G	IN					Yuengling Lager bottles		
Beefeater		\$35.99	Traveler's Vodka	1./3L	\$ IU.99	<b>Zywiec</b> (11.2oz)	24pk	\$19.99
Bombay Saphire								
			"Cold or warm Bo	an - Cama Duia	,,,			
Seagram's gin								
Tanqueray	/3Uml	\$21.99	"Visit the store for mo	oma In Stora Stora	riale!"			

