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## ADOPTION DAY: AS SIX YOUTH JOIN FAMILIES, LOVE TEEMS

*Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan*

On the morning of Friday, November 22, 2019, more than 25 youth gathered to celebrate the long-awaited end to living in foster care with adoption into a forever family.

National Adoption Day is the Saturday before Thanksgiving every year; Union County's Family Court celebrated on Friday, November 22, as six youth ranging from one to nine years old, entered the courtrooms of Superior Court Judges Richard C. Wischusen or James Hely as foster youth — accompanied by their foster families and other loved ones — but left as official members of their new family. More than 20 other recent adoptees returned to participate in the program.

Adoption Day is a national movement to raise awareness of children in foster care awaiting a family. Since its inception 20 years ago, more than 75,000 children have found that permanency. Still, more than 125,000 youth in the United States need a permanent home and the average wait is four years. For more than 23,000 youth nationwide, that permanency doesn't happen before they age out of the system and must face life on their own.

The family courts see complex issues fraught with loss or discord nearly every day, yet Adoption Day is eagerly anticipated by all at Union County's Family Court, as fresh

starts and ample smiles fill the courthouse. Festivities included balloon headwear creations donated by nonprofit A Birthday Wish; super-human Heroes 4 Heroes, an organization of area corrections officers in costume seeking to brighten the lives of children facing medical and other adversities; photo booth area for children to select a superhero cape and mask gifted by family court personnel, pick photo props and pose with family and their favorite superheroes. Approximately 30 students from Elizabeth's Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy A Cappella Choir performed pieces they selected especially for the occasion.

Each adoptive family received a gift basket from CASA of Union County, with collaboration from David Brearley High School's Bears that Care, The Race Matters Alliance and Peer Leadership Groups; Seton Hall Law Professor Kevin Kelly; and the Union County Bar Association. Items included board and card games, blankets, jars of popping corn, movie candy, bowling passes and WalMart gift card. In addition, every adoptee received handpicked books by Kappa Alpha Theta's Westfield Chapter and bike certificate redeemable by the Albanese family of Plainfield's Dairy Queen.

For details on CASA of Union County and becoming an advocate for a foster youth, reach Courtney at 908-293-8136 or log on to [casaofunioncounty.org](http://casaofunioncounty.org) to learn more.



(above) The Heroes4Heroes group, a nonprofit comprised of corrections officers who dress as superheroes and visit children.



(above) The adoptees, each wearing superhero capes, ready to pose for a picture with their favorite superheroes.



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**Call: 908-418-5586**

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## UNION MUNICIPAL BAND UPCOMING CONCERT

The Union Municipal Band, under the direction of Howard Toplansky, will present a free concert on Monday evening, February 3, 2020. 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.

Some of the selections will include: Zampa Overture, George M. Cohan Patriotic Fantasy, Bonds of Unity, Palm Leaf Rag, Amazing Grace, Say It With Music, Hungarian Dance # 5, La Bella Roma and many other fine musical classics.

The band would like to invite musicians, including High School students from Union and the surrounding communities to join the group. If you are interested please call the Recreation Department at 908-686-4200.

### BAND SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Township of Union Municipal Band is 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 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 instrument, however there is an immediate need for low brass, woodwinds and percussion.

The band rehearses on Monday evenings at 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 Department at 908-686-4200.



(above) The Union Municipal Band, under the direction of Howard Toplansky, will present a free concert on Monday evening, February 3, 2020. Sponsored by: The Township of Union Recreation Department; Suzette Cavadas, Commissioner of Recreation; and Michele Delisfort, Mayor.

## ANNOUNCING: THE CONNIE DWYER BREAST CENTER AT TRINITAS

Trinitas Regional Medical Center has partnered with The Connie Dwyer Breast Cancer Foundation to open a new breast center in Connie's name at Trinitas. The brand new \$3.4 million facility will offer a highly empathic approach to screening, diagnosis, treatment, community outreach and education to all women, regardless of financial status.



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## WINTER PROGRAMS AT THE YMCA

*Submitted by Colleen Clayton*

The Gateway Family YMCA Winter Program Session registration is underway visit online at [tgfymca.org](http://tgfymca.org). Winter programs begin January 2, 2020, and includes family wellness programs, youth sports, swim lessons, active older adult programs and chronic disease self-management. In addition, The Gateway Family YMCA is offering a membership special through January 15 including No Joiner Fee when joining in person or online for all membership types. The YMCA is also offering an Open House January 4-5, free to the community.

“Providing a place where families come together in a safe and healthy environment, creating shared memories is at the heart of our mission here at the Y,” stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO. “Throughout the year we provide financial assistance to ensure that everyone has access to programs and services to ensure the Y is available for all.”

“We have a fundamental desire to provide opportunities for every family to build stronger bonds, achieve greater work/life balance, become more engaged with their communities, and have fun together,” stated Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO. “We provide programs to meet the needs of the communities we serve, including opportunities for our youngest members in childcare, swim lessons and parent/child programs, through the continuum of youth and teen programs in the arts or sports, through adult group exercise, chronic disease programs and adult social day services.”

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 about programs and services provided by The Gateway Family YMCA, visit [tgfymca.org](http://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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(above) Check out your local YMCA's upcoming programs and offerings.

## FREE CITIZENSHIP CLASSES OFFERED AT LIBRARY

Union Public Library, in partnership with The Jewish Vocational Service of MetroWest NJ, is offering free preparation classes for the US Citizenship Exam beginning on Saturday, January 11 through Saturday, March 14, 2020. These classes will help prospective citizens pass the civics test, which covers important U.S. history and government topics.

Participants must bring their Green Card to

class. Because the class is limited to 25 participants, registration is required. Please call 908-851-5450 x3 to register.

For more information, please call Inna Kramers at 862-704-2283 or Lynn Sternstein at 862-704-2291.

Classes will be held at the Vauxhall Branch, 123 Hilton Avenue in Vauxhall.



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## OPEN HOUSES AT HISTORIC CALDWELL PARSONAGE

The Union Township Historical Society will host two open houses at the Caldwell Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union, on Sunday, January 12, and Sunday, January 26, 2020, from 2 to 5 p.m. both days. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

### VISITORS CAN ENJOY:

- wearing colonial bonnets and tricorn hats and faux colonial children's outfits for photos for social media;
- collecting Union County's Hannah Caldwell, James Caldwell, and Battle of Connecticut Farms trading cards;
- receiving Union County Passport booklets and having them stamped--the Parsonage, part of the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area, is an official National Park Service cancellation site;
- History of Union, an original video produced by the UHS History Club and partly taken from a drone, showing notable sites in Union;
- a new historic Union map exhibit--36" x 48" reproductions of the 1860 Union farm map will be available for purchase;
- a new exhibit on long-time Township Clerk, Mary Miller, a descendant of the Miller family, who lived in Connecticut Farms (aka Union) at least since 1730; and
- an exhibit of historic household conveniences; farm implements; old TV's, radios, and office equipment in the Tool Museum in the carriage house.



### VALENTINE CRAFT WORKSHOP

The Union Township Historical Society will host a Valentine Craft Workshop on Saturday, February 1, 2020, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Caldwell Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union.

Children of all ages, accompanied by a guardian, are welcome to attend. Members will assist the children in creating and decorating historic Valentine cards. An optional tour of the museum and the adjacent barn for the adults will be available.

Refreshments will be served. Admission is \$5 per child, payable at the door.

Reservations are required by January 25. Event is limited to 12 participants.

To register, please send an email with your name, child's or children's names and a phone number to Marie Canarelli at [mcanarelli1331@aol.com](mailto:mcanarelli1331@aol.com).

## MADRIGAL SINGERS TO PRESENT POST-CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Madrigal Singers will present their Our Annual "Last Chance at Christmas" Concert, "A Child is Born", on Sunday, January 5, 2020 at the United Methodist Church, 17 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, New Jersey at 4:00 p.m. General admission, available at the door, is \$15; admission for students and seniors is \$10.

The program will feature music by Melchior Franck, Jean Mouton, Tomas Luis de Victoria and many others, along with traditional favorites and Christmas Readings.

The Madrigal Singers are an a capella choral group specializing in Mediaeval and Renaissance music.

The group, founded in 1948, is currently under the direction of John Sichel, and is comprised of sopranos Martha Desmond and Amy Wechsler; altos Donna Brumbaugh, Roberta Lichtenberg, Jennifer Melick, Holly Hartline and Sarah Riffel; tenors Richard DeVany, Christopher Ferro and Thom Reese; basses Greg Hartline, Scott Hobson, Kirk Robbins and Gordon Rowan. Kirk Robbins will perform the readings and flutes will be played by Eugenia Cline and Clarissa Nolde.

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**Sign up and information session:**  
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**Location:**  
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118 Division St. Elizabeth, NJ 07201

**Contact:**  
Celleste Liccardi or Iris Rodriguez (908) 353-1045 Ext. 8,  
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Wed: Closed  
Thur: 10am to 6pm  
Fri: 10am to 6pm  
Sat: 9am to 2pm  
Sun: Closed  
Late appointments are available by request.

## UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

1980 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083. Tel: 908-851-5450 • Visit us at [www.uniontownship.com/379/Union-Public-Library](http://www.uniontownship.com/379/Union-Public-Library) Library hours are Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Friday & Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (Saturdays Closed in the Summer), Sunday, Closed

### **Meditation**

**Thursday, January 2, 11:30am - 12:30pm**  
Instructor Bindu Bhatt has practiced meditation for over three decades and looks forward to sharing her insights with you. No experience necessary, no reservations required.

### **Friends of Union Public Library Meeting**

**Thursday, January 2, 7:00pm - 8:30pm**  
Come learn what the Library is all about and take part in making it even better.

### **Les Malamut Gallery Opening Reception**

**Saturday, January 4, 12:30pm - 2:30pm**  
Opening Reception for artist Joseph Patrick who presents an exhibit of marketplace photography. Exhibition on view from January 4-28, 2020.

### **Connect Explore Discover: RBdigital**

**Monday, January 6, 1:30pm - 2:30pm**  
With your UPL Library card, you can download audio and eBooks, magazines, comics, movies, TV shows and more. Learn how! Please bring your mobile device and Union Public Library card. No reservation required.

### **Adult Movie Night**

**Monday, January 6, 6 - 8pm**  
Watch a movie with friends.  
Please call 908-851-5451 for movie title.  
Reservations required.

### **Tues. @2 Movies (Adults)**

**Tuesday, January 7, 2 - 4pm**  
Watch a movie with friends.

### **Evening Meditation**

**Thursday, January 7, 7 - 8pm**  
Instructor Bindu Bhatt has practiced meditation for over 3 decades and looks forward to sharing her insights with you. No experience necessary, no reservations required.

### **Chair Exercise Class**

**Wednesday, January 8, 11:15am - 12:15pm**  
Get nimble with our wonderful instructor, Natalia Belyakova, a former professional dancer who has performed all over the world.  
No experience necessary.

### **Meditation**

**Thursday, January 9, 11:30am - 12:30pm**  
Instructor Bindu Bhatt has practiced meditation for over 3 decades and looks forward to sharing her insights with you. No experience necessary, no reservations required.

### **Writer's Support Group**

**Thursday, January 9, 7 - 8pm**  
Are you looking for feedback on the book you're working on, trying to overcome writer's block, or determine your personal writing style? Join our group of writers whose mission is to encourage, support and promote authorship. No reservations required.

### **MGM Star Musicals**

#### **(Movie Musicals Lecture #1)**

**Saturday, January 11, 2 - 3pm**  
In this first installment of a series of lectures about the History of Movie Musicals, featured clips include stars such as Gene Kelly, Lucille Ball, Lena Horne, June Allison, Fred Astaire, and Judy Garland. Reservations required.

### **Developing a Successful Business Plan**

**Monday, January 13, 1:15 - 3:15pm**  
Learn how to develop a successful business plan by identifying what should and should not be included. Reservations required, please call 908-851-5451. Presented by SCORE.

### **First Time Home Buyers Program**

**Monday, January 13, 7 - 8pm**  
Find out about the real estate market in Union Township and the pros and cons of renting vs. buying. Reservations required. Presented by Cynthia Chambers, Realtor & Sales Representative from Signature Realty NJ.

### **Tues. Movie @2 (Adults)**

**Tuesday, January 14, 2 - 4pm**  
Watch a movie with friends.  
**Shoprite: Healthy Eating in the New Year**  
**Tuesday, January 14, 4:30 - 5:30pm**  
Join Shoprite Retail Dietitian Kelsey Pezzuti for tips on how to eat healthy in the New Year. Reservations required.

### **Microsoft Office: Word Basics**

**Thursday, January 16, 11am - 12pm**  
Learn how to create and edit a document with Microsoft Word. This class is for people who have little or no experience using the program. Limited to 8 participants. Reservations required. Computers provided.

### **Meditation**

**Thursday, January 16, 11:30am - 12:30pm**  
Instructor Bindu Bhatt has practiced meditation for over 3 decades and looks forward to sharing her insights with you. No experience necessary.

### **Off the Shelf Book Group**

**Thursday, January 16, 7 - 8:30pm**  
January's pick is Educated by Tara Westover. New members are always welcome. Books are available at the Main Library.

### **Tues. Movie @2 (Adults)**

**Tuesday, January 21, 2 - 4pm**  
Watch a movie with friends.  
**Chair Exercise Class**

**Wednesday, January 22, 11:15am - 12:15pm**  
Get nimble with our wonderful instructor, Natalia Belyakova, a former professional dancer who has performed all over the world. No experience is necessary.

### **Microsoft Windows 10 Basics**

**Thursday, January 23, 11am - 12pm**  
Learn the basics of the Windows 10 operating system. Limited to 8 participants. Reservations required, call 908-851-5450 x3. Computers provided. Presented by UPL Staff.

### **Meditation**

**Thursday, January 23, 11:30am - 12:30pm**  
Instructor Bindu Bhatt has practiced meditation for over 3 decades and looks forward to sharing her insights with you. No experience necessary, no reservations required.

### **Thursdays@2 Movies(Adults)**

**Thursday, January 23, 2 - 4pm**  
Watch a movie with friends.

### **AARP Safe Driving**

**Saturday, January 25, 9:30am - 3:30pm**  
Refresh your driving skills with the AARP Smart Driver Course. Upon completion you could receive a multi-year discount on your car insurance. The cost of the course is \$15 for AARP members/\$20 for non-members. Space is limited to 25 participants.

Reservations required.

### **Improve Your Memory!**

**Saturday, January 25, 3 - 3:30pm**  
Take charge of your brain health. Participants will learn about practical, brain-boosting behaviors. Reservations required, please call 908-851-5451. Presented by AARP.

### **Connect Explore Discover: Hoopla**

**Monday, January 27, 1:30pm**  
Want to download Movies, TV, music, eBooks and more? Try Hoopla. Learn how to access UPL's digital resources! Please bring your mobile device and Union Public Library card. No reservations required. Presented by UPL Staff

### **Hilton Readers Book Discussion Group**

**Monday, January 27, 6 - 8pm**  
New members are always welcome. January's pick is The Couple Next Door by Shari Lapena. Books are available at the Vauxhall Branch. Reservations required, please call 908-851-5451.

### **Google Drive and Google Apps**

**Monday, January 27, 7 - 8pm**  
Curious what all this talk of the cloud is about? Learn how to use Google Drive's suite of free apps to type letters, make spreadsheets, put together a slide presentation, and more. Limited to 8 participants. Reservations required. Computers provided. Presented by UPL Staff.

### **Mobile Aging Kiosk**

**Tuesday, January 28, 11:30am - 1:30pm**  
Union County's mobile Aging Service Kiosk (ASK) provides residents, their families and caregivers with a convenient, friendly way to find out about services for the aging. Staffed by professionals with the Union County Department of Human Services Division on Aging and Disability Resource Connection. No reservations required.

### **Tues. Movie @2 (Adults)**

**Tuesday, January 28, 2 - 4pm**  
Watch a movie with friends.

### **Meditation**

**Thursday, January 30, 11:30am - 12:30pm**  
Instructor Bindu Bhatt has practiced meditation for over 3 decades and looks forward to sharing her insights with you. No experience necessary, no reservations required.

Union Public Library, in partnership with The Jewish Vocational Service of MetroWest NJ, is offering free preparation classes for the US Citizenship Exam beginning on Sat., Jan. 11 and ending on Sat., March 14. Participants must bring their Green Card to class. Because the class is limited to 25 participants, reservation is required.

# UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY YOUTH PROGRAMS

1980 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083. Tel: 908-851-5450 • Visit us at [www.uniontownship.com/379/Union-Public-Library](http://www.uniontownship.com/379/Union-Public-Library) Library hours are Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Friday & Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (Saturdays Closed in the Summer), Sunday, Closed

## WEEKLY/REGULAR PROGRAMS

### Construction Zone

**Mondays, 3:30 p.m.**

All ages - No registration necessary  
Learn, play, and build every Monday using Legos, K'Nex. Program not on January 20.

### Alphabet Soup (Storytime)

**Mondays, 4:30 p.m.**

Ages 3 - 6 - Registration required  
We explore phonics, letter recognition & numbers all while reading fun stories, singing songs, doing crafts & making new friends!

Program on January 20.

### Tiny Tots (Storytime)

**Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.**

Birth - 18 months - No registration necessary  
Listen to stories and singing songs & rhymes, followed by free play & socialization.

Program not on January 1.

### Toddler Tales (Storytime)

**Fridays, 10:30 a.m.**

| 18 months - age 3 | No registration necessary  
Enjoy stories, singing, and movement, following a different theme each week!

## ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

### Teen Game Time

**Friday, January 3, 3:30 p.m.**

Ages 14 and up - Registration required  
Breaking out the Wii U and our collection of board games. Bring your own games too.

### Saturday Stories

**Saturday, January 4, 11:00 a.m.**

All ages - No registration necessary  
Spend your Saturday morning listening to some fun stories, singing songs, and more!

### Homeschool Hangout

**Wednesday, January 8, 1:00 p.m.**

Ages 5 and up - Registration required  
Meet, learn, and engage with other local homeschooling families through a variety of fun and interactive activities!

### Kidoodlers

**Thursday, January 9, 3:30 p.m.**

| Ages 5 - 13 | Registration required  
Stop by after school and join us for a fun art activity! All materials will be provided.

### Tween Game Time

**Friday, January 17, 3:30 p.m.**

| Ages 8 - 13 | Registration required  
Join us for an afternoon of friendly competition. We're breaking out the Wii U and our collection of board games. Bring your own games too!

### Kids' Masterpiece Studio

**Saturday, January 18, 12:00 p.m.**

Ages 5 - 13 - Registration required  
Learn about a well-known artist, then paint your own masterpiece based on their unique style. All materials will be provided.

### Teen De-Stress Fest

**Saturday, January 18, 2:00 p.m.**

| Ages 14 and up | Registration required  
Take a break from studying for midterms and relax with a cup of hot cocoa, games, art and a chance to win a cool giveaway!

### VolunTEENS

**Saturday, January 25, 2:00 p.m.**

Ages 14 and up - Registration required  
Earn community service hours and help us make the library a better place! E-mail [teens@uplnj.org](mailto:teens@uplnj.org) if you have any questions.

### ShopRite Kids Cuisine

**Wednesday, January 29, 4:00 p.m.**

Ages 6 - 13 - Registration required  
Learn more about healthy eating and prepare some delicious snacks!

### Kidoodlers

**Thursday, January 30, 3:30 p.m.**

Ages 6 - 13 - Registration required  
Stop by after school and join us for a fun art activity! All materials will be provided.

### SciFri (Science Friday)

**Friday, January 31, 3:30 p.m.**

| Ages 8 - 13 | Registration required  
Explore engineering principles as you build a geodesic dome using newspaper! All materials will be provided.

## UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY - VAUXHALL JANUARY 2020 YOUTH PROGRAMS

123 Hilton Avenue, Vauxhall, NJ 07088. Tel: 908-851-5451

• Visit us at [www.uniontownship.com/379/Union-Public-Library](http://www.uniontownship.com/379/Union-Public-Library)

Library hours are Monday, & Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.,

Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Friday, Closed,

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (Saturdays Closed in the Summer), Sunday, Closed

## WEEKLY/REGULAR PROGRAMS

### Toddler & Pre-K Time

**Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m.**

**January 7: Story & Craft: Bathtime**

**January 14: Music & Movement**

**January 21: STEM Story & Activity:**

**Winter, Part 2**

**January 28: Interactive Learning Time**

18 months - age 5 | Registration required  
Interactive storytimes, crafts, and more for young children and their parents/guardians.

## ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

### Family Craft

**Saturday, January 4, 11:00 a.m.**

| All ages | Registration required  
Create a cute and easy sock snowman to celebrate winter! All materials will be provided.

### Club Teen's Teen Advisory Board Meeting

**Wednesday, January 8, 5:00 p.m.**

| Ages 14 and up | Registration required  
Help us make UPL the place for you! Let us know which programs and events you want to see at the library. Recommend books, movies, and music you want to see on the shelves, and earn community service hours by coming to TAB meetings and participating in programs!

### Canvas Art with Club Teen

**Wednesday, January 8, 6:00 p.m.**

| Ages 14 and up | Registration required  
Get in touch with your creative side as you make a beautiful piece of monogrammed canvas art! All materials will be provided.

### Homeschool Hangout

**Thursday, January 10, 11:00 a.m.**

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

### Family Prize Bingo

**Saturday, January 11, 3:00 p.m.**

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

### Club Teen Book Discussion

**Wednesday, January 15, 6:00 p.m.**

| Ages 14 and up | Registration required  
Join us for an engaging book discussion of the award-winning novel *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas.

### Tween STEM Builders Club

**Thursday, January 16, 3:00 p.m.**

| Ages 8 - 13 | Registration required  
Play with LEGO and 3-D magnetic tiles to create amazing shapes & structures.

### Family Movie Showing

**Saturday, January 18, 2:00 p.m.**

| All ages | Registration required  
Join us for a movie showing! We'll supply the popcorn and a beverage. Call library for movie title. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

### Tween Game Time

**Thursday, January 23, 3:00 p.m.**

| Ages 8 - 13 | Registration required  
We're breaking out the Wii U and our collection of board games. Feel free to bring your own games too!

### Designing a Blueprint for College Preparedness

**Wednesday, January 29, 6:00 p.m.**

| For high school students and their parents/guardians | Registration required  
In this workshop led by Retention Strategies Unlimited, participants will implement a family engagement approach and learn best practices from the field as they embark on their journey towards post-secondary education.

### Tween 'Make it at Your Library'

**Thursday, January 30, 3:00 p.m.**

| Ages 8 - 13 | Registration required  
Paint a beautiful winter tree scene during this Canvas and Cookies workshop! All materials will be provided.



## CHess CLUB DRAWS MEMBERS FROM FAR AND WIDE

The Kenilworth Chess Club has kicked off its 2020 season with a new slate of officers. Jack McCorkell of Cranford is incoming President. Outgoing president Dave Lazarus of Fanwood will serve as Vice President. Treasurer Geoff McMauliffe of Dunellen and Webmaster John Moldovan of Garwood will continue in their positions. Trustees are Pat Mazzillo of Union and Greg Tomkovich and Joe Renna, both from Cranford.

The club was formed in 1972 amid the chess craze in America, spearheaded by Bobby Fischer's march to the world championship. For 47 years the club was a force to be reckoned with as its member roster included many Master level players, including State Champions.

The club has a reputation for being friendly and accommodating. It welcomes non-members with no obligation or cost. It's a place where beginners can learn in a casual setting without being intimidated. Strong players are generous with their time in analyzing and giving instruction.

The club's website, [kenilworthchessclub.org](http://kenilworthchessclub.org), is well read and features an award-winning blog by Michael Goeller and other instructional features. Players are welcome to just pop into the Kenilworth Chess Club with no formalities every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the Kenilworth Community Center, located next to Borough Hall on the Boulevard and the corner of 24th Street.

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(above, l-r) Kenilworth Chess Club President Jack McCorkell, Vice President Dave Lazarus, John Moldovan, Treasurer Geoff McMauliffe, Web Master John Moldovan, Trustees Ed Selling, Greg Tomkovich, Pat Mazzillo, and Joe Renna.



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**[www.kenilworthchessclub.org](http://www.kenilworthchessclub.org)**



## UNION CHAMBER JOINS TO HOST MULTI-CHAMBER NETWORKING EVENT

The Union Township Chamber of Commerce invites its members and friends to a special multi-chamber business-to-business networking event on Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., at the Galloping Hill Caterers, 1085 Galloping Hill Road, Union, NJ.

The event offers an opportunity to mix and mingle with members of 11 local chambers, including the Union Township Chamber

Cranford Area Chamber  
Springfield Patriot Chamber  
Linden Chamber  
Maplewood Chamber  
Greater Westfield Area Chamber  
Gateway Regional Chamber  
Greater Elizabeth Chamber  
Woodbridge Metro Chamber  
Suburban Chamber  
Edison Chamber of Commerce.

The evening will feature a sumptuous buffet, cash bar and the chance to meet with hundreds of colleagues from all types of businesses. Last

year's event sold out weeks early, with almost 300 attendees.

Those interested may register online at the home page of [unionchamber.com](http://unionchamber.com). Admission is \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members. Pre-registration is strongly recommended, as the charge for walk-ins is an additional \$15.

Further information may be had by calling the Union Chamber at 908-688-2777 or by emailing [executivedirector@unionchamber.com](mailto:executivedirector@unionchamber.com).

"We are excited to join with 10 additional local chambers for this unique opportunity to interact with our business colleagues," said Union Chamber CEO James Masterson. "We encourage our members to come out to enjoy some great food and great company, and also to broaden their business network."

The Union Township Chamber of Commerce is a professional association dedicated to uniting, strengthening, representing and promoting the interests of its members in Union and the surrounding area.

## PLAY READERS' CIRCLE

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### FIRST MEETING:

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*Snow Date: January 23*

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## TERRY FOPPERT SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR



(above) Terry Foppert

Submitted by Maureen Wakeman

Ms. Terry Foppert, Superintendent of Union County Educational Services Commission, has been selected as Union County's 2019 Superintendent of the Year. "I am humbled and honored to be named Union County Superintendent of the Year. This award reflects the commitment and dedication of our staff, administration and community partners, working collaboratively to improve the lives of students with special needs," said Superintendent Foppert.

Ms. Foppert has served as Superintendent of Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) since August 2013. Under her guidance, UCESC, a public school district for students with special needs, has expanded services and become a leader in special education. The innovative programs that have been introduced over the past six years have improved student outcomes including increased graduation and employment rates.

UCESC offers rigorous academic and therapeutic support to students with special needs ages three through twenty-one. Crossroads School, Westlake School, Lamberts Mill Academy and the Work Readiness Academy are uniquely designed to meet the needs of students who have autism spectrum disorders, multiple disabilities and emotional/behavioral disabilities.

In addition, UCESC operates two alternative high schools serving students from Elizabeth, provides supplemental instruction and related services to students who attend non-public schools and coordinates over 800 transportation routes for districts throughout Union County.

Ms. Foppert is proud of the services provided by UCESC and passionate about her work. According to Ms. Foppert, "We strive to make a difference in our students' lives. Everyone deserves an education and everyone should be given an opportunity to achieve their goals. It is our mission to create school environments and services where students can work hard and go beyond expectations."

Please visit UCESC.org to learn more about our schools and programs.

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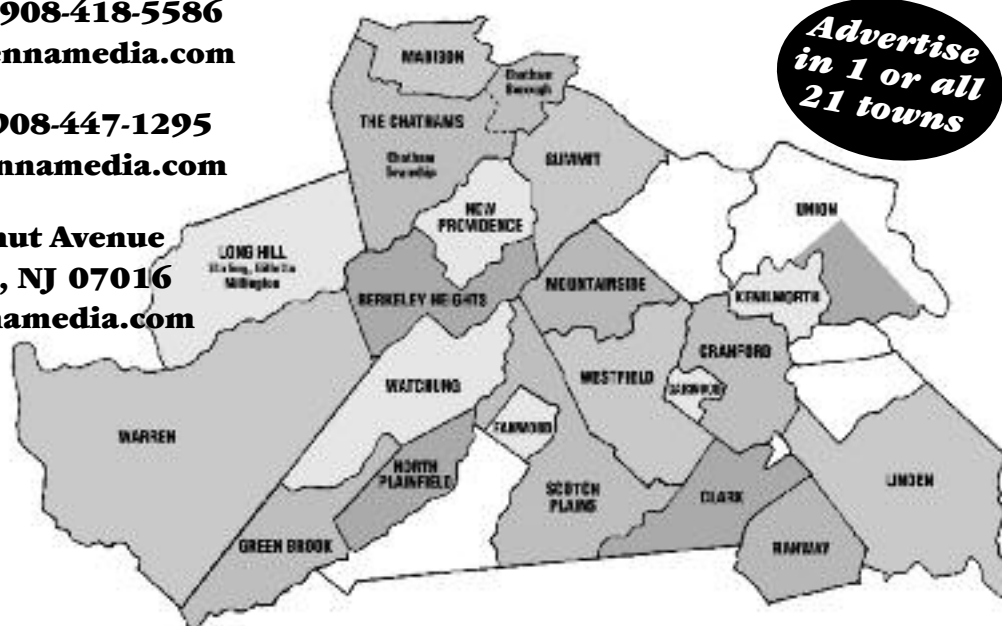
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# ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE 2020

*Spirit of UNION* • Page 11 • January 2020

St. Michael's School in Cranford, celebrating over 90 years of academic excellence, will host a series of open house events. Parents and prospective preschool through grade eight students are invited to visit during two sessions: Thursday, Jan. 23, from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 26, from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The school is located at 100 Alden St. in Cranford.

Parents and students will have the opportunity to tour the school and enjoy conversation with Principal Sandy Miragliotta. Parents and current students will be assisting with each tour. Teachers will also be available in their classrooms to answer questions.

Any family that registers during one of the Open House sessions for the 2020-2021 academic year will receive \$50 off first child's registration and \$25 off registration for each additional child.

St. Michael School, established in 1929, is a thriving, faith-based school where children become independent thinkers and grow into responsible young adults grounded in Catholic values

St. Michael School is a member of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) and accredited by the Middle States Association Commission on Elementary Schools. Primary, elementary and middle school curriculums are based on guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese of Newark to prepare students for high school and beyond.

Controlled class sizes and average 16:1 student-teacher ratio fosters individualized attention and offers students the ability to engage in classroom inquiry, discovery, and learning.

The early childhood education program offers pre-kindergarten 3 & 4 (full and half day) and full-day academically-based kindergarten. On site before and after care is also available.

Extracurricular activities include instructional and competitive sports programs, instructional music, drama and Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

For more information about St. Michael School, please contact the school at 908-276-9425. For a copy of the St. Michael's School brochure and for more information about the school, visit: [smscranford.com](http://smscranford.com)

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- Full Day academically based Kindergarten
- Primary, Elementary, and Middle School curriculums
- Controlled class size
- Average 16:1 student-teacher ratio
- 1:1 chrome books for grades 4-8
- Before and after care programs are available daily on site
- Member of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA)
- Accredited by the Middle States Association Commission on Elementary Schools

### OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

Thurs., 1/23 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Sun., 1/26 from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**PLEASE CALL**  
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