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THE SANDWICH RUN - MOTHER SETON GOES THE DISTANCE



(above) Pictured here is Sister Mary Anne Katlack along with students who donated sandwiches.

Many of us think of "running" as an activity to bring about a healthy change in our lives. We may head out early in the day before the sun shines hot in the sky or maybe later so that we can move in the cool air surrounded by beautiful colors of the day's sunset. Either way, we typically "run" to make a change for the better.

Mother Seton Regional's (MSR) Sandwich Run was inspired by this same thing—a desire by the students and faculty of the high school to make a change in the lives of those in need. Sister Mary Anne Katlack, MSR's Campus Minister, helps to coordinate the efforts of students, teachers, faculty, alumnae, and any others concerned with those less fortunate than themselves. Every Monday morning since school started this year, the school community is invited to "RUN" sandwiches in and drop them off at a collection spot in the Food Sciences

classroom. Sister Mary Anne then gathers and "RUNS" the sandwiches each week to the Saint Joseph's Social Center in Elizabeth soup kitchen—which is in desperate need of donations. Weekly, on average, Mother Seton High School "RUNS" 170 sandwiches from Clark to Elizabeth.

So maybe, on Sunday, before the sun rises into the sky or starts to set on the bountiful day you have had, you too may want to consider a "RUN." You are welcome to drop the sandwiches off in the Main Office of the school at 1 Valley Road in Clark before 9 a.m. on Mondays; or you may want to start your own "RUN" for a food pantry near where you live. Either way, the students of Mother Seton Regional High School will be happy to know that they have inspired you to go the distance and help stop hunger in our surrounding communities!

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Clark Monthly

Clark Monthly is published by Renna Media. 6,700 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Clark.

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Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (accomplishment, honor, award, etc.). Do you have an event that you need help publicizing? Then send Clark Monthly your news!

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THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING **BEE IS COMING TO CDC THEATRE IN CRANFORD**

and winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee has charmed audiences across the country with its effortless wit and humor. Featuring a fast-paced, wildly funny and touching book by Rachel Sheinkin and a truly fresh and vibrant score by William Finn (Falsettos, A New Brain), this bee is one unforgettable experience.

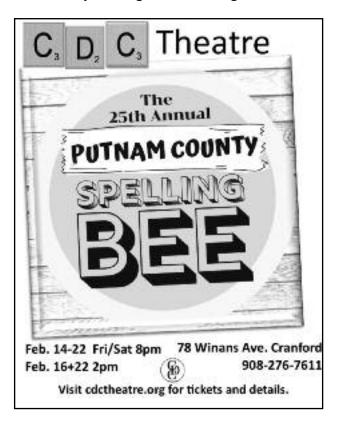
An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, poutinducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Part of the fun of the show is that no two performances are ever the same. Audience volunteers are selected at each show to participate onstage in scenes, songs and choreography.

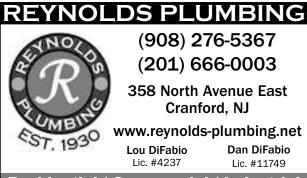
The cast features some familiar faces at CDC Theatre and some new ones: Sean Lynch-Littlejohn as Chip Tolentino, E. Rachel Valovcin as Logainne Schwartzandgrubenier, Zach Mazouat as Leaf Coneybear, Zach Love as William Barfee, Mallory Ann Wu as Marcy Parks, Patrina Caruana as Olive Ostrovsky, Alexa Teebo as Rona Lisa Peretti, Ian Federgreen as Vice Principle Panch and Brendan Lynch-

Running from February 14th through the 22nd Littlejohn as Mitch Mahoney. The show is directed by Nevil Schwartz with choreography by Michelle Massa and musical direction by John Brzozowski.

> Six spellers enter: one speller leaves! They learn that winning or losing isn't everything and at least the losers get a juice box.

> Links to tickets and additional information can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org.



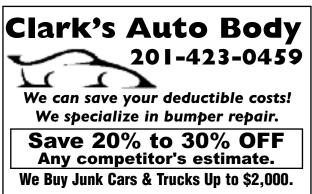


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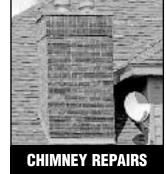


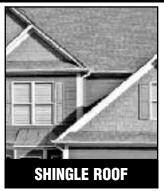




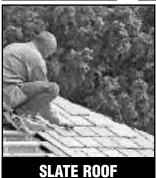






















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HOLIDAY DONATION THANK YOU

Submitted by Nancy Raymond, Health Officer

Program in conjunction with St. John The Apostle Food Pantry would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who donated food for the Bag of Sides program.

The Bag of Sides program provides Thanksgiving and due to an overwhelming response, Christmas trimmings to accompany a family's holiday meal.

Special thanks to all the anonymous elves who dropped bags of food off at the Clark I need new shocks. Health Department, Donna Kircher and the Frank K Hehnly K-Kids, ALJ Builder's Club,

The Clark Health Department Give and Share Steve Wisnewski, the Disporto Family, Carl H. Kump Middle School staff and student body, Susan Belluscio for her generous monetary donation and Acme of Clark for their wonderful spend a \$100 and get a free turkey program.

> I would like to personally thank Kim Belverio and the entire staff and student body of Valley Road School for their massive food drive and donations. I do not know how I was able to drive my van after we loaded it up, but I do know why

Thank you and God bless all!

STEAK DINNER SLATED FOR CLARK AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Submitted by Judy Doran

328 in Clark will host a steak dinner on February 22, 2020 at 6 p.m. The dinner will include steak, potato, veggies, and salad. A cash bar is available. The cost is \$20.

Unit 328 is helping a fellow Auxiliary member to progress to Department President in Trenton. Sharon Knight, a Past-President of The Union County Auxiliary, is currently campaigning for Department President. Ms. Knight has been active in the Union County Auxiliary for many

years. All candidates for higher office in the New The Clark American Legion Auxiliary Unit Jersey State American Legion Auxiliary must provide their own funds to progress. All Union County Auxiliary Units wish Ms, Knight a successful campaign.

> February is a good time to enjoy a steak dinner with friends. Join us at American Legion Post 328 on Westfield Avenue in Clark for a fun evening that also helps an Auxiliary member continue to serve the veterans of New Jersey. You can't miss our helicopter on the front lawn. Parking is at the rear of the building.



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ALEXIS RUDNICKI'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Submitted by Judy Doran

The Ladies of the Clark Unit 328 American Legion Auxiliary celebrated the 100th birthday of long standing member Alexis Rudnicki during their annual Christmas Party. Mrs. Rudnicki's birthday coincides with the celebration of the American Legion Auxiliary's 100 years of service to American Veterans and their families. Alexis Rudnicki served as Auxiliary President from 1976-78, 1988-90, and 1997-2000. The members

of the Auxiliary are grateful for her many years son, Tammi Angelo, Auxiliary President and Karen Fink, Past President from 2009 - 2012 as

The Christmas party held at the Clark American Post 328 on Westfield Avenue was a joint celebration of the Auxiliary, the American Legion, and the Sons of the Legion. The party was attended by Ted Rudnicki, Mrs. Rudnicki's son, Tammi Angelo, Auxiliary President and Karen Fink, Past President from 2009 - 2012 as well as many auxiliary members. Also pictured are Maureen Rieilly, Diane Mott, Florence Roberts, Jody Burns, Kathleen Switek, and Margaret Alago. Mrs. Rudnicki was presented with a special past presidents pin for her birthday.





(above) Alexis Rudnicki was celebrated on her 100th birthday by the Ladies of the Clark Unit 328 American Legion Auxiliary.



UC BASEBALL ASSOC. TO HONOR HALL-OF-FAMERS AND LITTLE LEAGUERS AT AWARDS DINNER, SUNDAY, FEB. 9 - GUEST SPEAKER: MOOKIE WILSON

induct four new members into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame at the organization's 84th annual Hot Stove League Dinner on Sunday, February 9, 2020, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at The Gran Centurions in Clark, New Jersey.

"We have a special program planned for this year's awards dinner, beginning with our featured speaker, former New York Mets outfielder, Mookie Wilson," said Jim Iozzi, UCBA president. "In addition, special tribute will be paid to the players and coaches from the Elmora Youth League, who brought honor and excitement to the residents of Elizabeth, Union County, and the state of New Jersey this past season by finishing as a top-four team in the country at the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania."

The four new inductees into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame include:

Jim Dietz of Summit, an All-American catcher at Moravian College (and starting quarterback) and minor leaguer with the Philadelphia Phillies, who returned to Summit to teach math and coach baseball and football for more than 30 years;

Alexander Mirabella of Fanwood, a Union County Freeholder since 1998 and five-time Chairman of the Board, who has been a longtime advocate for youth baseball leagues

Union County;

Gene Mirabella of Roselle Park, an outstanding high school wrestler, All-State pitcher, and captain of the football team, whose pitching success at Brookdale College earned him Region 19 Tournament MVP and Pitcher of the Year, and a stint in the minors with the Cleveland Indians;

Karen Pedersen, formerly of Berkeley Heights and Scotch Plains, the longtime Secretary of the Union County Baseball Association, who has helped administer the numerous activities of the UCBA for decades.

Scholastic athletes from throughout Union County also will be honored at the afternoon awards ceremonies on Feb. 9 for their accomplishments in high school, college and Union County Youth Baseball leagues.

Tickets for the 84th annual Hot Stove League awards dinner may be purchased online at www.UCBA-NJ.org or by writing to the Union County Baseball Association, PO Box 176, Fanwood, New Jersey 07023.

Sponsored by the Union County Baseball Association, in cooperation with the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Hot Stove League awards dinner is the primary annual fund-raising effort for the Union County

The Union County Baseball Association will and other recreational opportunities throughout Youth Baseball Leagues. The summer and fall leagues have given more than 40,000 boys and girls an opportunity to participate in an organized baseball program for the past 70

> For more information call Jim Iozzi, UCBA president, at 908-917-2523.

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CAR DONATION PROGRAM GIVES WHEELS TO REAL PEOPLE

What does it mean to have your own car? For longtime Community Access Unlimited (CAU) member Brian Shapiro, it means both stability and freedom. Before he had a car, Brian had to get a ride from a friend or take an Uber to his job driving a cab in Bloomfield.

"It's a lot easier," Brian said, thanks to the Volvo he received as a donation through Community Access Unlimited this fall. "I go to work and take my son places."

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CAU started the vehicle donation program as a way to aid youth and individuals with disabilities who wished to complete their drivers test and gain the independence that comes with owning a vehicle. Now Brian can easily travel to the job he has had for nearly 20 years. Many have already benefited from the donation of reliable cars to get them where they need to go- from work and school to social functions.

"I've known about it for a while and it finally worked out," Brian said.

Unlike other car donation programs, CAU does not sell or scrap donated cars, receiving only a percentage of their value. By donating a vehicle



(above) Brian Shapiro shows off his Volvo Cross Country.

to CAU, 100% of your donation will go to a person with transportation needs.

Those interested in donating a car should contact Mercedes Pagan, fundraising and event director, at 908-354-3040 x4376 or mpagan@caunj.org.

Vehicles that may qualify for donation include those that are new, gently used, or vehicles needing minor body or mechanical work. The owner of the car must have the title at the time of donation. Car donors will receive a donation letter which can serve as a charitable donation, which is tax deductible.

Learn more about donating to or volunteering with CAU at caunj.org/support-us.

ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 40th year in 2019, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU gives a voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little power in society, assisting its members with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. Currently serving more than 5,000 individuals and families, CAU continues to grow each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, info@caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



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ADOPTION DAY IN UC: 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 to learn more.



(above, l-r) CASA staff and their table of gifts for each adoptive family: Courtney Green,
Recruiter/Advocate Supervisor; Natalie Deo, Program Director; Kim Stocco, Advocate
Supervisor; Lisa Poris, Trainer/Advocate Supervisor; Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan, Development and
Communications Manager and CASA's Adoption Day Committee member;
and Abby Gallego, Advocate Supervisor.



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ADOPTION DAY SUPERHEROES



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



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KIDS FISHING SEMINAR SET FOR MARCH 3

founded in 1907 and remains one of the oldest fishing clubs in the nation. We are listed on Amazon Smile and are a recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit. We provide outings to support veterans, adults and children as well as people with disabilities which focus on environmental education, fishing knowledge and practice. A complete list of our upcoming events can be found at www.nbfcc.org.

We are always looking for new members, donations, and volunteers if anyone would like to get involved.

Our monthly meetings are held at the

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club was Kenilworth VFW, located at 33 S. 21st St., Kenilworth, NJ, on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (except July and August).

> Our Annual Kids Seminar will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., at the Kenilworth Veterans Center, V.F.W.33 South 21st street Kenilworth, NJ. A Guest speaker to be announced and topics of discussion will be safety while fishing, fish identification, and practice casting. Prizes will be awarded and snacks will be served.

> For more information visit www.nbfcc.org, or contact Bob Jones, BJonesJRNJ@hotmail.com, 908-272-3545

SINGLES DISCUSSION GROUP

The Sunday Morning Singles Discussion Group will meet for a lively discussion on a myriad of topics February 2, 9, 16 and 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at The First Baptist Church (lower level), 170 Elm Street, Westfield.

This nondenominational group of people 55 plus, enjoy a Continental breakfast followed by engaging conversation every Sunday. \$2 donation.

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ATLAS-PYTHAGORAS LODGE #10

Submitted by Christopher Sands

Atlas-Pythagoras Lodge #10 Free and Accepted Masons, which meets at 1011 Central Ave, Westfield, recently held our annual Charity Night. We donated to eight worthy groups in our community.

The Masonic Services Association, which supports Veterans in the three NJ State Veterans home and both VA Veterans homes.

Tree of Hope, which the Sheriff of Union County runs, which collects toys for needy children in Union County.

Keystone Community Living, which helps people with developmental disabilities to lead fulfilling lives. It runs a group home in South Plainfield.

Bonds of Courage, which supports Veterans and the 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry from the Westfield Armory.

Union County Meals on Wheels, which provides meals to the housebound or those who cannot cook themselves.

Every 15 Minutes, from Kenilworth High School, which teaches Juniors and Seniors about the consequences of drinking and driving.

The Children's Dyslexia Center, Scotch Plains, which uses the Orton-Gillingham curriculum to help children with dyslexia read and flourish.

The George Washington Masonic Memorial, A museum which is used to tell the world about George Washington, a Mason, General of the Armies and our First President!

ABOUT FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry constitutes the world's oldest and largest fraternity. The masonic experience focuses on enlightened fellowship. It encourages members to become better citizens. The fraternal bonds formed in the lodge help foster life-long friendships among men with similar values. Virtually all occupations and professions are represented. Brothers come from diverse political ideologies, but we meet as friends. Freemasons come from varied religious beliefs and creeds and believe in a supreme being.

Atlas-Pythagoras Lodge #10 meets the first and third Fridays every month except during the summer.

If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information about Freemasony, visit atlaspythagoras.com, or call (908) 233-7349.







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10:30 am to 3:00 pm Sign-in/setup starts at 10:00 am **Registration Closes 2-21-20**

Cranford Community Center

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Registration is \$15 • Note: this is a non-rated tournament. Limited to 40 players who must know how to play chess, age 11 and older. For More Information: Email Jim Parlapiano at jim.parlapiano@hotmail.com Or Will Adams at will.adams@scouting.org or 973-765-9322 x234 Scouts can use Patriots' Path Council Munsee District Double Knot link to register on-line at ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2583007 Scouts can email Will Adams at Will.adams@scouting.org for more info.

> Trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers. Lunch will be provided for all players.

This tournament meets the 6a requirement for earning a Chess merit badge.



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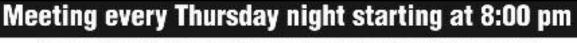
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www.kenilworthchessclub.org

CARING CONTACT CRISIS LINE'S NEXT TRAINING TO BEGIN MARCH 17



(above, l-r) Back row: Ryan Hinderliter, Amit Trivedi, Michael Coleman, Shailesh Lal, Carolyn Paznek, Derek Cooke, Marc Julius, David Burman, Charles Christophel. Middle row: Laurie Feinberg, Sarah Lindell, Sasha Singh, Ananya Jain, Kaelin Stoll, Kacie Neilson, Jaimie Radakovich, Larry Kornreich, Arlene Klemow. Front row: Bisrat Mekbeb, Jasmine Dursun, Michelle Mendoza, Pam Webb, Kate Gorelick, Payl Patel.

Submitted by Mary Claire Givelber

Six area residents completed training in December 2019 to become volunteers on the Caring Contact crisis hotline. During the 52 hours of training the graduates developed the ability to listen actively, assess the needs of someone in crisis and provide empathy and support. The training included dynamic and interactive presentations by guest experts in active listening, grief recovery, mental health issues and suicide intervention. Volunteer Listener Training is taught by trainers who are long-time listeners and nationally certified instructors in Mental Health First Aid and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training.

"I trained to become a caring contact listener in an effort to connect with those that need to feel human connection in order to cope with whatever struggles they are going through whether it be mental health, family crisis, chronic physical pain or economic hardship," stated Bisrat Mekbeb of Scotch Plains. "I am fortunate to be in a position to give back to my community through Caring Contact in this way."

When asked why he was drawn to this work, Ryan Hinderliter of Westfield said, "I wanted to channel my love for psychology and my passion for making a difference in the community into something meaningful."

Caring Contact is an award-winning, volunteer-staffed crisis hotline and listening community that supports the Nation Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Located in Westfield, NJ, they provide active listening support and best-inclass education to central and northern New Jersey.

The next volunteer training will begin on March 17, 2020. For more information about this training call 908-301-1899 or visit caringcontact.org.

NAMI UNION COUNTY EVENTS

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Union County has two events this February: For more info, call 908-233-1628, email namiunioncounty@yahoo.com or visit online at facebook.com/NAMI.unioncounty.

Family Support Group

Tuesday, February 18, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

For family members and caregivers of a person with mental illness. Monthly peer-led group meetings and gain insight from others facing similar challenges. First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave., Cranford, NJ.

Circle of Friends

Tuesday, February 25, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Join the Conversation on Mental Illness - The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Union County invites all area residents to the Circle of Friends gathering led by Joyce Benz, LCSW, Director of the Intensive Family Support Services of the Mental Health Assoc. in NJ. Bring your questions and hear from other caregivers on insights learned from their own experiences. At RWJ Rahway Fitness and Wellness Center, 2120 Lamberts Mill Rd., Scotch Plains.



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FEBRUARY EVENTS AT THE CLARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

303 Westfield Ave, Clark, NJ 07066 Tel: 732-388-5999 Visit us at www2.youseemore.com/clarkpl/
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.
The library will be closed on Monday, February 17 for President's Day

Friends of the Library Indoor Mini-Golf Fundraiser

Saturday, February 1, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The Friends of the Clark Public Library will be holding their annual indoor Mini-Golf Fundraiser. Join us for a round of golf for just \$5 per golfer. Fun for all ages! Last tee time is 2:00 p.m. Snow date is February 8.

Homeschool Lego and Board Games

Tuesday, February 4, 1:00 p.m.

Homeschooling families are invited to come to the library to play with legos or board games.

We will be meeting the first Tuesday of the month. Legos are provided. Feel free to bring your favorite board game, but we will have some as well.

[Drop-In Craft] Valentine's Heart Decoration

Tuesday, February 4, 2:00-4:00 p.m. We are making a Valentine's heart and bead decoration to make your house more festive. Registration is not required. Open to all teens (in Grades 6-12) and adults.

Who Was...Book Club

Wednesday, February 5, 3:30 p.m. Kids in 2nd-6th grade are invited to attend our "Who Was..." book club! For February, choose someone to celebrate Black History Month.

LEGO® Club

Friday, February 7, 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. No registration required.

Sunday Family Movie Matinee

Sunday, February 9, 2:00 p.m.

Join us for popcorn and a movie. An arctic fox works in a mailroom but longs to become one of the top sled dog couriers. After coming across an unusual package, he decides to steal a sled and deliver the package to prove himself.

Rated PG.

Union County Division on Aging Services

Monday, February 10, 10 a.m.-Noon
The Union County Division on Aging will be at
the Clark Public Library to answer them.

Chess Club for Kids

Mondays, February 10 and 24, 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.

Registration requested.

Adult Book Club

Monday, February 10, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for our next book club meeting. We will be discussing Little Faith by Nickolas Butler.

Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy.

Family Thursdays: Drop In Board Games

Thursday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.
Come play some board games at the Clark
Library Kid's Corner! We will have board
games and instructions set up on our tables.
Come at your leisure! No registration required.
Perfect for working families!

Finger Painting Friday

Friday, February 14, 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!

Please register.

Drop in Valentine's Day Craft for Kids

Friday, February 14, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Elementary students are invited to hear a Valentine's story and make a craft.

Please register.

Read to Sophie

Saturday, February 15, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Children will each get approximately 15 minutes of reading time with Sophie the therapy dog. Please register for your 15 minute slot.

Tinker Tuesday

Tuesday, February 18, 3:30 p.m.
Elementary aged children are invited to join us for our monthly afternoon of tinkering / crafting. Each month will be something new!
All materials provided just bring your imagination and sense of fun! Please register.

Graphic Novel Book Club

Thursday, February 20, 4:30 p.m. Come join our graphic novel book club! Each month we will read a new graphic novel and discuss it together. This month's book is Bone by Jeff Smith. For grades 3-6 only. Please register at clarklibrary.org or with a librarian

Tinker Tots

Friday, February 21, 11:00 a.m.
Come join us for a morning of fun science activities perfect for infants through pre-k. In honor of Black History Month we will be learning about famous black scientists.

Black History Month Storytime

Friday, February 21, 3:30 p.m.

Come join us for an after school storytime. We will be reading books about famous black artists and making collage art!

All ages welcome. Please Register

Take Your Child to the Library Day

Sunday, February 23, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Bring your child to the library today! Each child that checks out a book will get a raffle ticket for a chance to win a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card! Also, ice cream sundaes will be available to children following the Eyes of the Wild show provided by the Friends of the Clark Library.

Eyes of the Wild

Sunday, February 23, 2:00 p.m.
Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library day with a visit from live animals with our special guest: Eyes of the Wild! Families will get a chance to meet and learn about unique animals.

Acrylic Painting Sunset and Moonrise

Tuesday, February 25, 2:00 p.m. We are getting to know acrylic paintings by doing some series of challenging projects. Materials provided. Registration required.

Family Thursdays Minute to Win It!

Thursday, February 27, 6:30 p.m.

Come play Minute to Win It games with us! We will have some fun with short challenges using everyday household objects. All ages are welcome. Perfect for working families.

Tales for Tots

Mondays, 10:00 a.m. or 11:00 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, 10:00 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, 10:00 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, 1:30 p.m.

Stories, movement, songs and a craft for active listeners ages 3 -5 years old. Please register.

Moms Meet-Up Play Group

Wednesdays, 10:30- Noon

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

Grown-Up Coloring Club

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, 1:00 p.m.
Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Newly released DVDs are featured.

EVENT BENEFITS THE BURN CENTER AT SAINT BARNABAS AND THE NJ STATE FIREFIGHTER'S MUTUAL BENEVOLENT ASSOC

On Monday, February 24, 2020, firefighters from around New Jersey will compete at the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival benefiting the New Jersey State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center. This event, which draws people from throughout New Jersey, will be held at The Pines Manor, 2085 Route 27, Edison, NJ from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Last year more than \$50,000 was raised from the event which was attended by more than 1000 people.

The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off will be an integral part of the evening as firefighters from 25 departments will compete in three different categories: Gourmet, Firehouse and Dessert.

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where participants will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of more than 40 of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers and dessert shops all in one location.

If you are looking for an entertaining evening of great food and wine, don't miss this event. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$65 at the door. Visit cookedanduncorked.com to order tickets, view participating restaurants and wine/spirits and for more information.

Tickets can be also be ordered by calling the NJ FMBA at 908-499-9250.

READERS FORUM BOOK CLUB MEETINGS

The popular Readers Forum book club meets monthly in the Cranford Public Library. New members are always welcome. Sessions are on Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Fridlington Room. Questions? Call the Reference Desk at 908-709-7272, or email library@cranfordnj.org. The library can't guarantee a copy of each book for every participant, but every effort will be made to obtain multiple copies.

HERE ARE THE UPCOMING DATES AND TITLES FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2020.

February 24 - There There. Tommy Orange (2018)

A meditation on identity and its broken alternatives as American Indians travel to a powwow.

March 23 - Where the Crawdads Sing. Delia Owens (2018)

In a quiet town in the North Carolina coast a young woman who survived alone in the wild becomes a murder suspect.

April 27, 2020 - The Lost Girls of Paris. Pam Jenoff (2019)

A remarkable story of friendship and courage centered around three women and a ring of female secret agents during World War II.

May 18 - Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Caroline Fraser. (2018)

An elegant portrait describes how Wilder adapted her life into a tale of self-reliance and perseverance.

June 22 - The Tattooist of Auschwitz. Heather Morris (2018)

An extraordinary tale of a concentration camp detainee who was forced to tattoo numbers onto the arms of thousands of incoming prisoners.

BAND SEEKS 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.



Tickets available for purchase online at cookedanduncorked.com

This event sells out so get your tickets early and don't be locked out. Call Jason Lombardi at 732-489-4665 or buy online at www.cookedanduncorked.com

Check out the event video here at https://youtu.be/5hqlrquVBRE



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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 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 732-850-8906.

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

nybc.org/support-us/

volunteer-nybc/volunteer-application/

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AUTISM NONPROFIT RECEIVES \$1 MILLION DONATION

Submitted by Deb DeFago Turso

Autism Think Tank can now expand their reach. After being recently given a \$1 million donation, the nonprofit launched new innovative programs on November 22, 2019. They want families who face medically complex autism that have nowhere to turn for help — no matter where they are, including rural and underserved areas — to present their cases to them. It's all done by videoconferencing with the family and local doctor, collaborating with five medical specialists throughout the country. No travel expenses or inconveniences, as many autistic children cannot travel.

The NJ-based nonprofit Think Tank is the only organization that focuses on medically complex autism. Think Tank was founded by Warren's Dr. Paul Abend, who was inspired by his son living with medically complex autism. Think Tank not only helps individuals and their families, but also educates their physicians about commonly occurring complex medical conditions, so that knowledge can trickle down from the experts to the boots on the ground to reach more individuals that are affected with medical issues that co-occur with autism.

ASD profoundly affects the entire family. When families present their case to the Think Tank, they have the opportunity to get muchneeded relief for the entire family. Did you know that families living with ASD have more health issues and that autism moms have stress hormone levels similar to that of combat soldiers?

ASD affects 1 in 35 New Jersey Children. According to the NJ Health Department Autism Registry, ASD affects 1,944 Union County

residents, 1,057 Somerset County residents, and 2,537 Middlesex County residents.

Autism Think Tank does not provide direct patient care. They provide Autism Think Tank medical experts. Families get a neurologist, gastroenterologist, psychiatrist, immunologist and a neuropsychologist to consult with at the same time for one hour. And, all those doctors weigh in on what's going on and advise the family's doctor who is participating in the conference call on how to treat the individual. Because local physicians report a lack of proper education when it comes to complex medical ASD, they welcome the knowledge of experts and use it in their practice with other ASD cases they see.

For information visit more AutismThinkTankNJ.org.

DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTES GRANTS

Submitted by Thomas Trezza

The Drive for Autism Foundation is pleased to announce the distribution \$37,500 in the form of eight grants to school-based programs providing education and training to individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Each program received funds based on a "wish list."

The Drive for Autism foundation holds an annual golf outing each September, as well as several other smaller fund-raising events throughout the year. The Drive for Autism Golf Outing, which has been held since 2002, has raised and distributed over \$750,000 to local school programs. This year's grants were awarded to: Morris Union Jointure Commission (New Providence, NJ), Salt Brook School (New Providence, NJ), AW Roberts School (New Providence), Union County Educational Services Foundation/Crossroads School (Westfield, NJ), Educational Partnership for Instructing Children, (Paramus, NJ), Eden II/Genesis Programs (Staten Island, NY), Spectrum360 formerly The Children's Institute (Verona, NJ) and Seton Foundation for Learning (Staten Island, N.Y).

Grant recipients use the money to fund health and fitness programs, social skills programs, assessment tools, educational curriculum and teacher training, a van for community trips and transportation to job training centers, laptop computers, computer touch screens, SMART boards, iPads, video projectors and educational toys and games.

DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF OUTING 2020

The Drive for Autism XIV is scheduled for Monday September 21, 2020 at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, New Jersey. The event consists of a morning round of golf followed by lunch. Special events include golf contests, raffles and a silent auction of sports memorabilia, game tickets and golf trips.

For additional information please visit their website at DriveForAutism.org or email driveforautism@comcast.net.

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Tanqueray			Coors Lite/Miller Lite loose bott	•	
Tanqueray			Coors Lite/Miller Lite	•	
• •		•	Corona/Corona Lite loose bottles	•	
COGNAC	& BRAN	DY	Dab (16oz) cans	•	
Courvoisier V.S.			Heineken/Heineken Lite bottles	•	
Courvoisier V.S.			Land Shark	•	
Remy Martin V.S.O.P.			Lech (500ml)	•	
Remy Martin V.S.O.P.			Modelo Especial cans	-	
,		Ψ.σ	New Belgium Fat Tire		
COE	RDIALS		Palsa Blue Ribbon cans	•	
		¢20.00	Pilsner Urquell	•	
Bailey's Irish Cream Duggan's Irish Cream			SagresSam Adams Boston Lager		
Kahlua			Stella Artois loose bottles		
Krupnik		•	Dogfish Head 60 min		
	/30ml		Vicinities Language		

Bartenura Moscato

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

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