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HOMELESSNESS KNOWS NO SEASON IN UNION COUNTY

What do the world's religions tell us about the homeless and the needy?

Leaders of different faiths shared prevailing teachings on charity, generosity and poverty at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rahway on December 19. The memorial vigil honored the lives of people who have died due to homelessness in Union County.

The 4th annual vigil was held just before the longest night of the year, the winter solstice, to symbolize the struggle of those who are homeless and who often live out their lives on cold streets or in dangerous abandoned buildings. The Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council organized the event with local agencies involved in the fight against homelessness: Community Access Unlimited (CAU) and The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless. CAU is a Union County-based, statewide nonprofit that strives to integrate people with disabilities and at-risk youth into the general community through comprehensive supports.

The city of Elizabeth is losing federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding in 2020 for homelessness-related services under the Emergency Solutions Grant initiative.

"The fact that we have lost this money in Elizabeth will increase demand for county funds that will be spread thinner," said Carolee Marano, assistant executive director of development at CAU, which will lose \$40,000 in grant funding. "The cuts in HUD funding decrease our budget for homeless prevention programs and we are concerned about a rise in homelessness in the county. We are also concerned about a rise in homelessness among youth."

CAU operates the only youth-only shelter in Union County and runs services to support their health and future independence. In addition to the County youth shelter, CAU also operates 3 federal programs under the federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act: one shelter, a transitional living program for females, and one for males. CAU also provides rent assistance to prevent homelessness.

Linda Flores-Tober, executive director of the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, reflected on circumstances that can push a person or family into homelessness.

"There's more to the story than 'I couldn't find a job,'" Flores-Tober said. "What we see are a lot of people who didn't get engaged in the Division of Developmental Disabilities system and now the parents are not able to take care of them."

Flores-Tober attributed 5 deaths in Elizabeth to homelessness in 2019.

Faith speakers quoted teachings that the faithful are called



(above) Attendees hold candles in memory of people who have died who were homeless at a vigil at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rahway on December 19, 2019.

by God to relieve the less fortunate of their trials or difficulties. Father Sebastian Obando of St. Michael's Church in Cranford acknowledged that Jesus Christ would fit the modern description of homelessness.

"It's really a service of remembrance, because frankly if we didn't remember them, nobody would," said Rev. Carmine Pernini of Zion Church.

Parishioners at his church took people in this winter as part of Operation Warm Heart – an emergency winter sheltering program run by the Elizabeth Coalition.

"It's lifesaving work – not very many people are willing to open their doors, so people of faith come together to do it," Pernini said.

Attendees sang and lit candles for 45 people who have died due to homelessness.

Pernini and Flores-Tober acknowledged a strong correlation between funding for homelessness services and saving people from the cold.

On the night of January 22, 2019, a total of 438 people were experiencing homelessness in Union County, according to the 2019 Point-In-Time Count. A total of 39 persons were unsheltered on the night of the count, and 375 of the total homeless persons were in Elizabeth.

Rev. Ron Thompson of Townley Presbyterian Church in Union spoke about the universal responsibility to care for people in need.

"All faiths agree on the dignity of people," he said.

For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, online at caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

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Tina & Joe Renna, Publishers

202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

(908) 418-5586

Fax: (908) 709-9209

E-mail: info@rennamedia.com

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MADISON SCHOOL GARDEN CLUB IMPACTS THE COMMUNITY OF RAHWAY

Submitted by Jaclyn Basso

Madison School Garden Club is an after-school club at Madison Elementary School that helps students learn how to plant, nourish, and grow vegetables. The members of the Garden Club along with their advisors have taken it a step further by playing a vital role in the community.

Karen Lewis, one of the founders of the Madison School Garden Club, initiated a relationship with the Divine Mercy Kitchen and Pantry. This is a food pantry that is accessible to those in need in the Annex Build of the Divine Mercy parish on Central Avenue in Rahway. Mrs. Lewis and the Garden Club have donated the fresh produce that they have grown through the Garden Club. This enables Joanne Reinhart of the Divine Mercy Kitchen and Pantry to supply those in need with fresh produce every Sunday during the growing season.

Reinhart states that “This is very beneficial to those with lower incomes because of the relatively high cost of fresh produce, which makes it cost prohibitive.” It allows those in need to have access to nutritionally dense produce.

In addition, members of the Garden Club have now taken their learning a step further by learning how to contribute to the community by providing healthy food to those people that are in need of good nutrition. To expand on the donation of food, the Garden Club has also donated socks with the help of Madison School’s Kindergarten and First Grade classes. The Madison School Garden Club is making a positive impact on the community of Rahway as well as the Madison School Community.

According to Lewis, “The students enjoy working in the garden and are very happy that they are becoming important members of the community.”



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FEBRUARY EXHIBIT AT THE GALLERY SPACE CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS

Submitted by Lawrence Cappiello

The City of Rahway presents The Bridge: The Second Annual Celebration of African American Artists. The Exhibit will be held at The Gallery Space, 1670 Irving Street, Rahway, NJ (at the corner of Irving St. & Seminary Avenue). The exhibit runs from February 5 through March 6, 2020. There will be an Opening Reception on Sunday February 9, 2019 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Dunbar Repertory Company will be performing “The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass: an eloquent account of a young man’s life under slavery and his eventual escape” at the Opening Reception.

Admission is free to the public; light refreshments will be served.

February Gallery Hours are Monday through Friday, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Wednesday 7:00-9:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 10- 11:30 a.m.

This exhibit features a wide variety of Artworks by: Bisa Wendy Washington, Kimberly Camp, Kara S. Rice, Onnie Strother, Mel Holston, Derek J. Dent, Tino F. Cook, Gannon Crutcher and Xplore Freedom.

Art is a bridge between people and culture. In a world where there are so many divisions, it becomes imperative to find ways that we can all come to a greater understanding of the people

around us. Art provides insights into the experiences of the artist and the tone and tenor of their life.

Curator, Lawrence Cappiello relates, “In searching for artworks for The Bridge exhibit, I was particularly on the lookout for a variety of artworks and styles that address differing aspects of the experience of African American Artists. Some of the featured artworks focus on community: home, family, neighborhood. Some works deal with the culture particular to African Americans. Other art addresses historic significance of events and people who propelled the evolution of African Americans in society or toward freedom or toward Civil rights. The issues presented are the collective aspects of life for these African American artists and have been transformed through their art into often powerful statements about our society and the lives of a significant percentage of the population.”

This Art Exhibit includes a wide range of artworks by veterans of the New Jersey Art Community, whose works have been frequently exhibited and, in some cases, have been award winners. The artworks highlight daily life, social and at times political issues facing the African American community.



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Other community groups that shared the grant are the Rahway High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC, Rahway Police Athletic League and the Rahway Bandits, a Special Olympics basketball team.



FRANKLIN STUDENTS GIVE "MUGS OF LOVE"

Students from the Blue and Gold Club at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway recently volunteered their time and gave out "Mugs of Love" at the Food for Friends soup kitchen located

at the Second Presbyterian Church in Rahway. The school-based volunteer club does this a few times a year. The students really get a lot of pleasure out of serving their community.



(above, l-r) Students Betsy Roman, Isabella Milano, Julita Niemiec, Angelina Martinez, and Marley Gallman take a quick break to pose for a picture.

Photo by Rahway Public Schools



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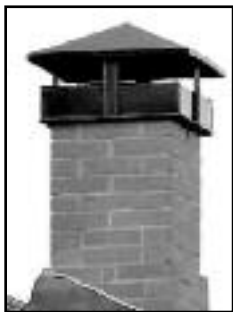
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NEW KIWANIS CLUB OFFERS OPPORTUNITY TO HELP KIDS

Whether you're a young professional, a new parent or a retiree, you can make a difference in the lives of children and expand your social network.

A new Kiwanis club in Rahway will help kids thrive, prosper and grow.

"There are too many kids in Union County who need help learning to read, who need mentors to guide them and who need help finding their opportunity to shine," said Daniel Vigneron, 2019-20 Kiwanis International president. "People who want to help children are invited to join us in forming this new club."

Kiwanis exists to help children around the world. Some popular projects that help kids include installing reading rooms in schools, packing backpacks with school supplies and establishing student-run programs such as Key Club in schools to teach students leadership skills. The members of this new Kiwanis club will look at the needs of children in the community and decide the projects that will benefit local kids.

Community members are invited to attend the club's meetings at 5 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the Gateway Family YMCA — Rahway Branch,

1564 Irving St, Rahway.

"Kiwanis clubs provide a great opportunity to meet new friends who believe in serving their communities, networking with business professionals and making a significant impact on

the community through volunteering," said Gordon Meth, governor of the New Jersey District of Kiwanis. "Kids need Kiwanis in Rahway and in communities around the world so they can grow up in a world where they are happy, healthy, safe and loved."

"We understand the changing needs of today's busy volunteers, and encourage members to give time when they can, whether that's at a service project or at a meeting," said Meth. "We hope that men and women of all ages will join us and help make a difference for children in our community."

Those interested in membership but unable to attend the meeting can email the group at membership@kiwanis.org.

ABOUT KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

Kiwanis International is a global organization of clubs and members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs, including Circle K International for university students, Key Club for students age 14-18, Builders Club for students age 11-14, K-Kids for students age 6-12 and Aktion Club for adults living with disabilities, annually dedicate more than 18.5 million service hours to strengthen communities and serve children. The Kiwanis International family comprises nearly 558,000 adult and youth members 82 nations and geographic areas. Visit kiwanis.org for more information.



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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.



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RAHWAY HIGH GRAD TOOK PART IN 1961 CIVIL RIGHTS SIT-IN

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

Sixty years ago, in February 1960, a pivotal event occurred that would become a catalyst in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, when four black students were denied service at a lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. The incident sparked protests throughout the south and within a few short months, northern cities, including Rahway, were staging protests of their own. The country-wide protests would continue and on January 31, 1961, Charles E. Taylor, a Rahway High School graduate, class of 1958, along with a group of fellow college students, would participate in a sit-in that would have a lasting impact on the strategy of civil rights activists.

The vile practice of segregation was the law of the land throughout the south and had been an accepted part of the culture for decades. Several sit-ins had taken place in the 1930s, 40s, and 50s, but it was the one on February 1, 1960, that fueled a movement. At 4:30 on that February afternoon, four young black men, all students at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, took seats at a “whites only” lunch counter at the local Woolworth’s 5 & 10. After their order was refused, the four remained at the counter until the store closed. They returned each day for the next six days, each time bringing more protesters. By the sixth day, over 1,000 protesters from around the state packed themselves into the store. Soon, students from other parts of North Carolina staged their own sit-ins in any store that followed segregation practices.

The protests became national news as newspaper and television coverage began changing public opinion by shedding light on the cultural inequalities that were a way of life in the south. As a result, cities throughout the country began staging protests at nationally owned chain stores who allowed segregation in their southern businesses. In Rahway, marchers picketed in front of the Woolworth store on Main Street to put pressure on the Woolworth brand. The

marchers carried placards that read, “Segregation in any form is Un-American.”, “Support the Southern Negro Cause.”, and “The NAACP Supports Southern Students against Jim Crow Lunch Counter.”

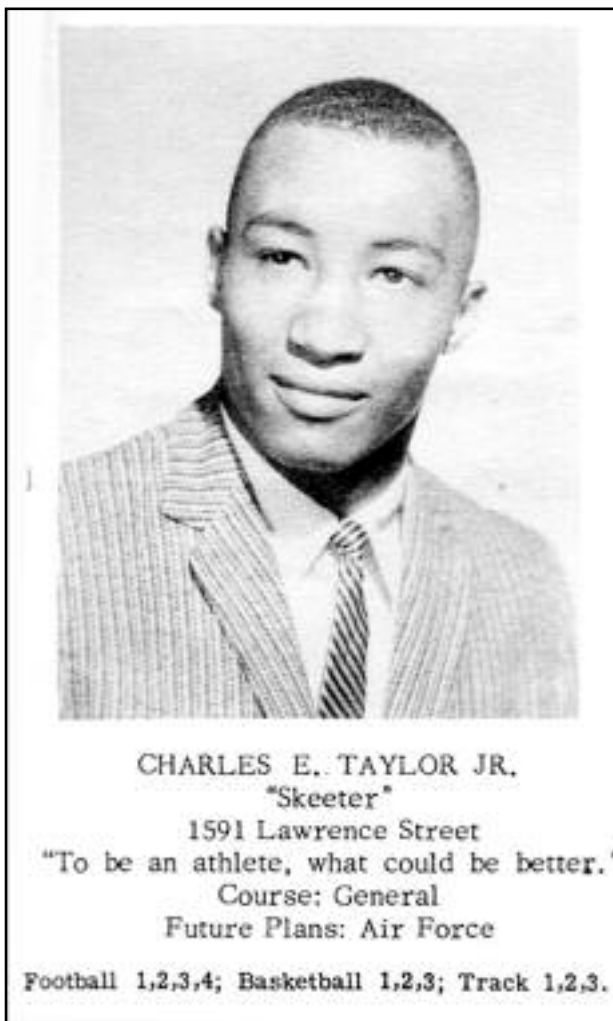
Changing culture, however, is not easy and takes time. Although the Woolworth Company actually did begin to abandon their segregation policies (nation-wide, their sales had dropped over one-third), many chain stores in the south held fast to their “whites only” rules. It was not until 1965 that federal laws were finally enacted

to end segregation.

Of the protests that would take place after the Greensboro sit-ins, the one which occurred on January 31, 1961, involving Charles Taylor, the Rahway grad, gave activists a new weapon to use in the fight for equal rights. Taylor had been on his Christmas break from Friendship Junior College in Rock Hill, South Carolina and upon returning to the campus was asked to join a group of students who were headed downtown for a protest. Ten students entered a McCrory’s 5 & 10 and took seats at the counter. The store manager asked them to leave and when they refused, they were arrested and sentenced to thirty days in jail. All ten students refused to accept bail and were sent to a prison farm where they experienced the harsh brutalities of the southern penal system. Taylor, the only northerner in the group, spent five days on a chain gang encountering for the first time the unjust legal system of segregation and hatred. Fearing his scholarship would be forfeited, he received money from home, paid his bail and was released. The other nine remained in jail.

The event had historical significance in that the concept of “jail, no bail” relieved the civil rights groups from the financial burden of posting bail for the release of activists and reversed the burden to the white authorities who had to take on the expense for jail space and food. This ploy became a strategy that was used throughout the civil rights movement.

In 2007, a historic marker outlining the story of the ten students was placed in front of the establishment that housed the McCrory’s back in 1961. Inside the building, which was still a restaurant, the names of all ten students, including Charles Taylor, were inscribed on the backs of the counter chairs. Justice was further served in 2015 when a South Carolina judge (who happened to be the nephew of the judge who sentenced the ten in 1961) overturned the convictions stating, “We cannot rewrite history, but we can right history.”



(above) Rahway High School year book photo (1958), Charles E. Taylor Jr. “Skeeter”



(above) Pickets walk in front of the F.W. Woolworth store at 1433 Main Street Rahway, NJ, in protest against the segregation policy practiced by chain store lunch counters in the south.

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JADE PLANTS (CRASSULA)

Crassula, pronounced 'Krass-ew-la' is a large order of over 300 succulent plants native to the Eastern Cape of South Africa and Mozambique, and the KwaZulu-Natal province.

Jade plants are one of the most popular members of the Crassula family worldwide. Also called money plants, jade plants have a miniature, tree like appearance. They have thick, woody stems and oval-shaped leaves that makes them very appealing for use as a decorative houseplant. In some cultures, Jades are a sign of good luck and prosperity.

While traveling in warmer climates you will see them growing in landscaped areas around hotels and in gardens. Jades are very susceptible to cold damage, so in locations where temperatures dip to freezing or below, it's best to grow jades in containers and take them indoors when it gets below 50°F. Jade plants adapt well to the warm, dry conditions found in most homes and office windows. Jades require bright light and do best with four hours of direct sunlight every day. The edges of the leaves turn red in direct sunlight which adds interest to the plant.

Jades are easy to care for when given their proper required conditions. They live for a very long time, often being passed down from generation to generation and reaching heights of three feet or more when grown indoors.

Proper watering is the key to a happy, healthy jade plant. All succulents prefer drier conditions and are prone to root rot when overwatered. It is important to keep the plant watered during the growing season, spring and summer, but allow the soil to dry out between watering. During the dormant season, fall and winter, the plant may go latent, causing it to slow or pause growth entirely. The soil should be allowed to dry out fully before



(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

watering again. Try to avoid splashing water on the leaves while watering, as this can expose them to rot in a humid environment.

Jade plants can be sensitive to salts in tap water, so water with filtered or distilled water if your tap water is not ideal.

Planting or repotting jade is an easy project, but if the plant is large you may need a helping hand to keep it steady. Choose a wide and sturdy pot with a moderate depth, as jade plants have a tendency to grow top-heavy and fall over. Clay pots are perfect for jade plants root development.

Use a soil based* potting mix that will drain thoroughly, as excessive moisture may promote fungal diseases like root rot. Avoid popular mixes that contain fertilizer. An all-purpose potting mix will work, though you will want to mix in additional perlite or sand to improve drainage. A 2:1 ratio of potting mix to perlite, is ideal. Alternatively, use a pre-made succulent or cacti potting mix.

After planting a jade plant, don't water it right away. Waiting anywhere from several days to a week before watering lets the roots settle and recover from any damage.

To persuade a jade plant to flower, keep it root-bound in a small pot and hold back water. Cooler temperatures in the winter promote blooming, too. The flowers are small and inconspicuous, but any flower during the winter is a delight. Enjoy Gardening All Year Long,

James

*Finding the proper soil may be the hardest part of planting jades. Many popular name brand potting soils contain fertilizers which promote leaf growth rather than roots.

Soiless potting mixes are very popular now but the soil is replaced with peat which is lighter but has no nutritional value for the plant.

**Information in this article is from:

'The Farmer's Almanac' & Wyman's Gardening Encyclopedia



(above) Jade plants elegant tree like appearance and easy care has made them a popular house plant around the world.



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(above) The Gateway Family YMCA will be offering Senior Wellness Events during the month of February 2020 at their various locations.

FREE SENIOR WELLNESS EVENTS AT THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA

The Gateway Family will be hosting free Senior Wellness Events during the month of February 2020. This is an open house for the local community, including special events, free trial senior classes, general health and nutrition information, various health screenings and information on membership options at little or no cost to local seniors.

“The Gateway Family YMCA is a place where everyone can participate, get healthy and grow their social circle by making new friends. We offer trained and knowledgeable instructors and Wellness Coaches to partner with our members in their journey to better health, and include specially tailored programs to combat chronic disease or active older adult fitness,” stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. “We invite the community to explore a number of classes that are chair-based and do not involve getting up from the floor, as well as Water Exercise Options. These programs are particularly conducive to those less mobile. And for those who are more active, we offer over one hundred group exercise programs every week.”

The Gateway Family YMCA’s Free Senior Wellness Events will take place on:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Five Points Branch,
201 Tucker Avenue, Union

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Wellness Center Branch,
1000 Galloping Hill Rd, Union

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Elizabeth Branch
135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Rahway Branch, 1564 Irving Street, Rahway
Tours by appointment at the WISE Center YMCA Branch, 2095B Berwyn St, Union – please call 908-687-2995 to schedule a tour or assessment.

In addition, there will be health information, YMCA tours and membership information available at all branches throughout the month of February. YMCA staff will assist community members to determine the best course of action to improve their health and join the Y.

“In addition to many programs and services offered free to the community, The Gateway Family YMCA provides financial assistance ensuring that everyone in need can benefit,” stated Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO. “The Y participates in many insurance reimbursement programs, offers senior membership pricing for individuals and a senior couple membership.”

Serving communities in Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex County since 1900, The Gateway Family YMCA specializes in health and wellness options for those with chronic disease and anyone who needs a little extra support. The Y offers Enhance Fitness – an evidence based program for those with arthritis, LiveSTRONG at the YMCA – a free community program in support of cancer survivors, Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring and programs for Diabetes Prevention and Maintenance.

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 or the Senior Wellness event, visit tgfymca.org or contact the Elizabeth Branch 908-355-922, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622, Rahway Branch 732-388-0057, Wellness Center Branch 908-349-9622 or the WISE Center YMCA Branch 908-687-2995.

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Elizabeth Branch
2/19

Wellness Center & Five Points Branch
2/14

Rahway Branch
2/20
10-12pm

Spring I Program Registration
Begins February 10th
THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA tgfymca.org

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH THROUGH QUILTS

Submitted by Lisa Shepard Stewart

As the colder temperatures settle in, February is generally a great time of year to explore the art of quilting, known by some as the world's greatest indoor sport! And since February is also designated as Black History Month, celebrating African American culture through quilting makes perfect sense, beginning with a brief overview of some prominent traditions:

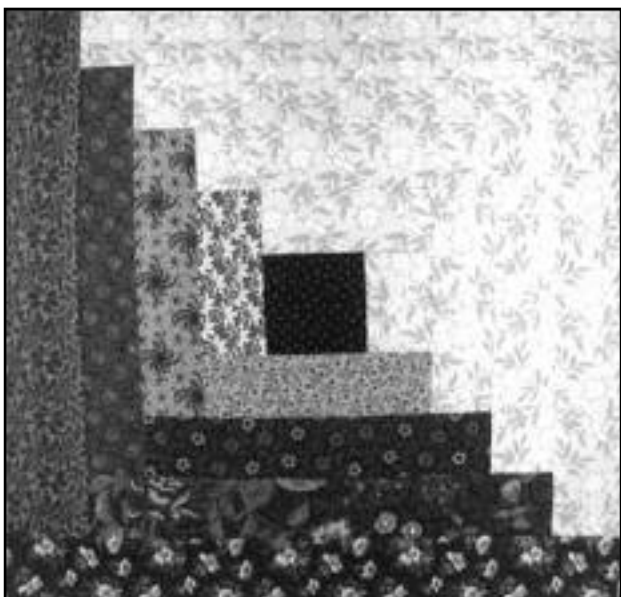
Underground Railroad Quilts – Quilts were stitched by the enslaved as well as abolitionists as a method of communication along the Underground Railroad routes. Specific blocks suggested the best routes, warnings, and safe houses providing food, clothing and shelter along the way. Once stitched, the coded quilts were hung from windows of slave cabins, acting as secret maps for those who escaped to make the dangerous trek northward, from slavery to freedom.

Gees Bend Quilts – The women of Gee's Bend, a small, remote, black community in Alabama, have created hundreds of quilt masterpieces dating from the early twentieth century to the present. The seven hundred or so inhabitants of this small, rural community are mostly descendants of enslaved Africans.

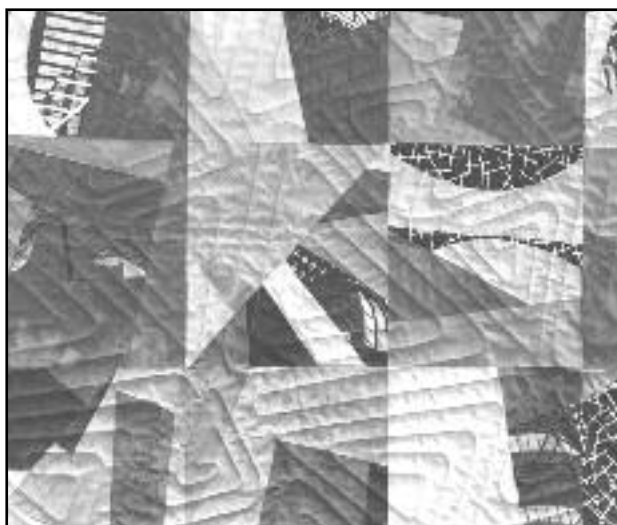
Quiltmakers there have produced patchwork masterpieces beginning as far back as the mid-nineteenth century, with the oldest existing examples dating from the 1920s. The overall "Gee's Bend style" can best be described as artistic and improvisational, enlivened by a visual imagination that extends the expressive boundaries of the quilt genre.

Today, African American quilting styles vary as much as the quilters themselves, from traditional blocks and fabrics to gallery-bound art quilts to mixed-media masterpieces. One of the most exciting contemporary styles to emerge recently is known as "AfroModern", rooted in part on the growing interest in African fabric prints throughout fashion and pop culture. Carole Lyles Shaw is an author, quilt artist and designer who actually coined the term. She travels the country to lecture and teach AfroModern techniques to quilting enthusiasts of all backgrounds. She will come to Rahway to teach a weekend-long Master class in May, sponsored by Cultured Expressions Sewing & Quilting Studio in Rahway.

For details call 866-MUDCLOTH (866-683-2568) or visit the studio at 1417 Main Street.



(above) The log cabin block indicated a safe house along the Underground Railroad.



(above) AfroModern is an artistic style, the newest among African American quilting traditions.



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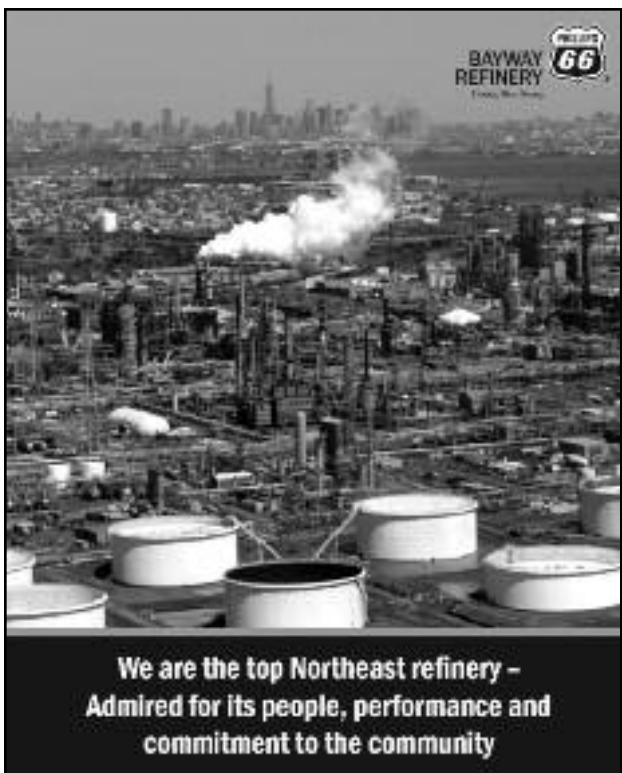


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An Evening of Live Acoustic Blues with Grammy nominated artist Junior Mack

Wednesday, February 5, 6:30 p.m.

Join us in celebration of Black History Month as we travel from Mississippi to Chicago, with a few stops in between. The library offers this rare opportunity to hear, free of charge, the man the Village Voice called, "...the real deal".

Space limited, arrive early.

Alice's Ordinary People, Documentary screening with filmmaker Craig Dudnick

Saturday, February 8, 2:00 p.m.

The story of an unsung heroine of the Civil Rights Movement whose political education classes through Operation Breadbasket trained thousands to work in political campaigns. Alice Tregay's activism spanned five decades, from the marches of Dr. King to the election of Barack Obama.

Chico, The Singing Entertainer in Concert

Saturday, February 17, 1:30 p.m.

Enjoy the smooth, soulful sounds of the man sometimes called the "Unknown Living Legend". Bring a date, bring your Mom, they won't be disappointed! Free, open to the public.

Light refreshments served.

Third Thursday Movie ~ Black History Month

Thursday, February 20, 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a screening of this hit film, fresh from the theaters. We can't print the title here, but it tells the story of the heroine of the Underground Railroad. Rated PG-13, 2hr 5 min (2019).

DISCOVERY STUDIO (TEENS & ADULTS)

Cookie Decorating Workshop

Thursday, February 6, 6:00 p.m.

Come learn the ABC's of cookie decorating with Summer's Smart Cookies! You will be taught the basics of royal icing, outlining and flooding. Have fun decorating cookies and bring home your creations! This program is free for ages 16+. Registration is currently full, but you can sign up for the wait list at

732-340-1551 ext. 212.

Crochet Club

Thursdays, February 6 & 20, 6:30 p.m.

Bring your hooks and yarn. Work on a project or learn a new technique! Ages 16+ & adults.

Imagine. Explore. Create.

Monday, February 24, 6:00 p.m.

Make something in the Discovery Studio using our art materials! For teens ages 13-18.

African American Genealogy Research

Saturday, February 29, 1:00 p.m.

Come learn African American family history research tips from an expert! Presented by Gene Armstead of the Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society of New Jersey Chapter. AAHGS-NJC. All are welcome to attend this free program.

TEEN EVENTS

Teen Screen

Monday, February 10, 5:00 p.m.

Join us in our auditorium as we show a recently released DVD that is based on the thrilling and inspirational life of an iconic American freedom fighter. Free and all are welcome! Rated PG-13.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Toddler Time

Every Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

We will be talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing during this literacy readiness storytime. Ages birth - 4 with caregiver.

Introducing Discovery Studio, Jr.

Wednesdays, February 5 & 19

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Calling young makers ages 3-12! Come explore our newest addition to the library, our Discovery Studio Jr. Sponsored by Union County Freeholders.

Kids BINGO

Thursday, February 6, 4:00 p.m.

Play BINGO and win prizes! Ages 5-12.

Art Party

Thursday, February 13, 6:00 p.m.

Make a self-portrait inspired by black artist, Kehinde Wiley. Ages 2-12.

LEGO Engineers - Upside Down Building

Saturday, February 15, 2:00 p.m.

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

Saturday Science

Saturday, February 22, 11:00 a.m.

Learn about the black women that made space travel possible and make your own straw rocket! Ages 3-12.

Graphic Novel Book Club

Wednesday, February 26, 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.

BLUE AND GOLD CLUB COLLECTS 268 COATS FOR JERSEY CARES

Submitted by Linda Lospinoso Lampert

Recently, the Blue and Gold Club at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway collected a whopping 268 coats for their annual coat drive. The coats were delivered to Jersey Cares, an organization which helps people in New Jersey.

This is the 23rd year that Jersey Cares has collected coats. This year, they plan to collect and distribute more than 31,000 “gently used” winter coats to men, women, and children in need throughout New Jersey. Over the past twenty-one years, Jersey Cares has collected, sorted and distributed more than 500,000 coats to New Jersey residents through their annual drive.

Companies, churches, fire departments, police stations, schools, and other organizations set up sites across the state to collect coats. Coats are then delivered by collection site representatives to the nearest container site. Volunteers then sort the donated coats at the container site and bag them for pick-up, after which nonprofit organizations pick up their coats and distribute them to people in need.

For more information about Jersey Cares, check out jerseycares.org.

Photo by Rahway Public Schools



(above) Pictured here is Blue and Gold Club member, Valeria Castillo. This 6th grader was very helpful in assisting with the collection and delivery of the coats. Blue and Gold is a school-based, volunteer club. Students organize and take part in various projects throughout the year to help their community.

STUDENTS COLLECT FOR SOLES4SOULS



(above) Pictured here are Blue and Gold Club members, Nicole Orejuela, Betsy Roman, Joy Munoz, and Valeria Castillo. They felt good knowing that they were doing something good to help others. The Blue and Gold Club is a school-based club. Students volunteer their time and help with numerous community-based projects throughout the year.

Photo by Rahway Public Schools

Franklin Elementary School in Rahway is doing its part to help the environment and the world. They collected 270 pairs of used shoes for the Soles4Souls organization. Soles4Souls is an organization that creates sustainable jobs and provides relief through the distribution of shoes and clothing around the world. They collect new and gently-worn shoes to help individuals start and sustain small businesses to lift themselves out of poverty. Donated shoes are a viable resource to help entrepreneurs provide crucial necessities for their families. The sale of 1 single pair of shoes can provide 5 meals for a family in Haiti.

For more information about Soles4Souls, check out: <https://soles4souls.org>

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 10:30 am to 3:00 pm
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 Registration Closes 2-21-20

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Registration is \$15 • Note: this is a non-rated tournament.
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 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.
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KENILWORTH CHESS CLUB



www.kenilworthchessclub.org

GROVER CLEVELAND SCHOOL CELEBRATES MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

Photos by Rahway Public Schools

Submitted by Dyan McMillen

The staff and students of Grover Cleveland School celebrated their cultures with each other on 'Multicultural Night' held recently. The

evening included music, dancing, poetry and delicious food from various cultures provided by the parents, staff, and local restaurants. A fantastic time was had by everybody!



KIDS FISHING SEMINAR SET FOR MARCH 3

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club was 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 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

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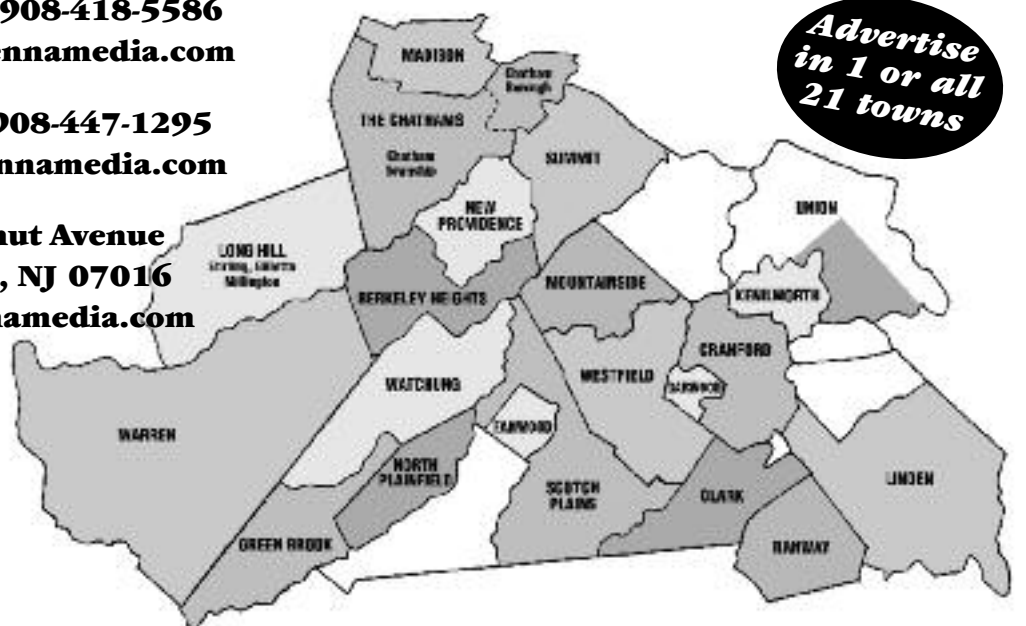
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Tricky Tray *Door opens @ 7:15pm, Show starts @ 8:00pm*

50/50

Are We THERE Yet?
A Musical Journey

Ticket Admission includes:
Cobaret Performance,
Family Style
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and
1 Door Prize ticket.
(Cash Bar Available)

Tricky Tray Super Saver
Ticket Bag for \$100
(\$220 Value)

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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.”

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 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.



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

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.

NAMI UNION COUNTY EVENTS

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Union County is offering two events this February:

Family Support Group

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

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

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

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.

For more info, call 908-233-1628, email namiunioncounty@yahoo.com or visit online at facebook.com/NAMI.unioncounty.

Online Marketing Made Easy



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Events get posted on RennaMedia.com calendar

and included in weekly newsletter shared on our Facebook network

ONLINE PRESS RELEASE: \$130

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Bushmill's Irish	1.75L	\$42.99
Chivas Regal	750 ml	\$28.99
Chivas Regal	1.75L	\$58.99
Chivas Regal 18 yrs old	750 ml	\$72.99
Crown Royal	750ml	\$27.99
Crown Royal	1.75L	\$48.99
Dewars 12 yrs old	750ml	\$25.99
Dewars 12 yrs old	1.75L	\$45.99
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Dewars White Label	1.75L	\$32.99
Gentleman Jack	750ml	\$29.99
Gentleman Jack	1.75L	\$52.99
Glenmorangie 10 yrs old	750ml	\$40.99
Glenlivet 12 yrs old	750 ml	\$45.99
Glenlivet 12 yrs old	1.75L	\$86.99
Grants	750ml	\$13.99
Grants	1.75L	\$23.99
Jack Daniels	750ml	\$25.99
Jack Daniels	1.75L	\$45.99
Jack Daniels Fire	750ml	\$25.99
Jack Daniels Fire	1.75L	\$45.99
Jameson	750ml	\$29.99
Jameson	1.75L	\$54.99
Jim Beam Whisky	1.75L	\$29.99
Johnnie Walker Blue	750ml	\$185.09
Johnnie Walker Blue	1.75L	\$379.99
Johnnie Walker Black	750ml	\$32.09
Johnnie Walker Black	1.75L	\$62.09
Johnnie Walker Double Black	750ml	\$34.99
Johnnie Walker Red	750ml	\$19.99
Johnnie Walker Red	1.75L	\$32.09
Macallan 12yrs old (double cask)	750ml	\$54.99
Makers Mark	750ml	\$27.99
Makers Mark	1.75L	\$49.99

GIN

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

COGNAC & BRANDY

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

CORDIALS

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

VODKA

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

RUM

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

TEQUILA

Deleon Blanco Tequila	750ml	\$29.99
Deleon Blanco Tequila	1.75L	\$59.99
Patron Silver	750ml	\$42.99
Patron Silver	1.75L	\$85.99
Patron XO Café	1.75L	\$34.99

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

WINE

Bartenura Moscato	750ml	\$11.99
Barone Fini Pinot Grigio	750ml	\$11.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	750ml	\$ 4.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	1.5L	\$ 8.69
Black Box (All Types)	3L	\$19.99
Carnivor Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$10.99
Casal Garcia Vinho Verde	1L	\$ 5.99
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Clos du Bois Chardonnay	1.5 L	\$19.99
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