

Summit NJ Times

Published by Renna Media

Issue 53 • February 2020



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13TH YEAR OF MENORAH LIGHTING AT FAITH LUTHERAN

On the evening of Sunday, December 22, 2019, the first of the eight days of Hanukkah, Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence and the three synagogues of Summit, Temple Sinai, Congregation Ohr Shalom-Summit Jewish Community Center and Congregation Beth Hatikvah, lit the first candle of the Menorah on the lawn of Faith Lutheran. This was the thirteenth consecutive year that Faith and the synagogues have partnered in the lighting of the Hanukkah Menorah at Faith.

In view of the recent horrific anti-Semitic actions in the United States and throughout the world, the evening was especially meaningful to the persons attending from the four houses of worship.

The evening began with an address by Rabbi Dennis Ross of Temple Sinai. He expressed the gratitude of the members of the three synagogues to Rev. Jane McCready, pastor of Faith, for the long-term partnership that the synagogues have had with Faith. Rabbi Ross' words were followed by prayers and songs of Hanukkah, the latter being led by Cantor Janet Ilene Roth of Congregation Ohr Shalom.

Cantor Roth also spoke of the great respect and love that the Jewish community has for the memory of Rev. Dr. Murdoch MacPherson, who was pastor of Faith for thirty-five years and passed away in August 2017. In response to an anti-Semitic incident in the community in 2007, Pastor MacPherson initiated discussions with Rabbi William Horn, now Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Ohr Shalom and Rabbi Stuart Gershon, now Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Sinai. The result was the first lighting of the Menorah at Faith during Hanukkah later that year. Accompanying the Menorah was a sign saying, "In Celebration with our Jewish Brothers and Sisters." The sign has continued at each subsequent Hanukkah.

Also, on Faith's lawn during the Christmas season was a manger, lying on straw within a small, open wooden stable. On early Christmas morning, a wrapped gift was placed within the manger. This represented the birth of Jesus, a gift



(above) Volunteer Cantor, Steve Wetter of Congregation Beth Hatikvah, Rabbi Dennis Ross of Temple Sinai, Cantor Janet Ilene Roth of Congregation Ohr Shalom-Summit Jewish Community Center, and Rev. Jane McCready, pastor of Faith Lutheran, conduct the lighting of the Menorah ceremony.

from God to all people. Christianity was born from the Jewish tradition.

Subsequent to the lighting ceremony, everyone went to the sanctuary of Faith where all sang fun Hanukkah songs. Leading the singing were Cantor Roth and Steve Wetter, volunteer cantor at Beth Hatikvah. At the conclusion of the songs, Cantor Roth described the kosher refreshments of fruits, cheeses, breads, nuts, cookies and jelly donuts, which are traditionally served at Hanukkah celebrations, that were waiting for all on a buffet table in Faith's Educational Hall. The congregants responded to the singing and the food with a round of applause.

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SUMMIT FIREFIGHTERS SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER TO CHILDREN AT OVERLOOK MEDICAL CENTER

The Summit Fire Department and its FMBA Local 54 members escorted Santa Claus to Overlook Medical Center for an annual Christmas Eve visit with pediatric floor patients.

On the morning of Christmas Eve, Summit firefighters contact the pediatric floor to determine how many presents are needed for children that have been admitted to the hospital. Once they have a list, firefighters shop for and wrap presents. Santa Claus joins the firefighters

to help spread some Christmas joy and gifts to hospitalized children.

“The Summit Fire Department appreciates the doctors, nurses and medical center staff who help to make these special holiday visits possible,” explains Fire Chief Eric Evers. “Summit FD has been participating in this event for the past 31 years, and it is a highlight of the holidays for us all.”

For more information on the Summit Fire Department, go to cityofsummit.org/fire.



(above) The Summit Fire Department on its annual Christmas Eve visit to the pediatric unit at Overlook Hospital.

Anthony Paterno



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MASTERS OF THE ORCHESTRA ON FEB 23

Submitted by Julia Corso

The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) will showcase various works by masterful composers with its annual winter concert on Sunday, February 23 at Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School, 272 Morris Ave, Summit, NJ. The performance will begin at 3:00 p.m., and will feature performances from all three of NJIO's orchestral ensembles, beginning with Prelude's onstage performance, as well as its Flute Choir in the lobby during intermission. Admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted at the door.

NJIO's Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Artistic Director Warren Cohen, will be performing Sergei Prokofiev's Symphony No. 7. Written in 1952, one year before Prokofiev's death, this was the last of his symphonies. Symphony No. 7 was originally written with a quiet ending to the final movement, but due to pressure from Russian officials at the time, Prokofiev added an energetic coda to be played at the end. This addition earned him the coveted Stalin Prize, although Prokofiev noted that he did prefer the original, quieter ending himself.

NJIO's Symphony will also perform Maurice Ravel's Tzigane featuring Dylan Hamme, our 2019 Concerto Competition Winner, on violin. The piece features a virtuosic violin solo alongside the orchestra, and its characteristics mirror traditional Gypsy music (the title, Tzigane, comes from the French word for "gypsy"). Ravel completed Tzigane only days before it was

premiered by famous violinist Jelly d'Arányi in 1924, where it was universally praised by critics. Intermezzo Orchestra will be performing the first movement of Johann Stamitz's Sinfonia in D Major along with the first of Ludwig van Beethoven's German Dances.

NJIO is committed to ensuring that its programs and concerts are accessible to all. For more information regarding the Open House rehearsals, the concert, or NJIO as an organization, please contact Mary Beth Sweet at 908-603-7691, info@njio.org, or visit NJIO's website at njio.org or follow us on Facebook.

ABOUT NJIO

NJIO, now in its 26th season, has been recognized as a national leader in intergenerational excellence through its unique approach to teaching musical performance. Not only do the members aged 8 to 80 play together, but they also mentor one another. In addition to providing free concerts and outreach to the community, NJIO has been invited to perform at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. and at the United Nations, and was a finalist for the Eisner Prize for Intergenerational Excellence. NJIO welcomes new members of all ages and abilities each concert period to one of its several orchestras - no auditions needed!

This program is made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



(above) Artistic Director of NJIO, Warren Cohen



(above) The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra will perform their annual winter concert on Sunday, February 23 at Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School.

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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SUMMIT CELEBRATES 90 YEARS OF SERVICE

Submitted by Dana Felmet

Junior League of Summit is celebrating its 90th Anniversary of service to the community this year. The success of the League can be attributed to hundreds of dedicated volunteers,



(above) The Junior League of Summit Thrift Shop, located at 37 DeForest Avenue in Summit, is the oldest retail business in downtown Summit, having been established in 1933. The Thrift Shop is the primary source of income for the Junior League of Summit.

supportive community partners and the trust of the community throughout its nine decade tenure.

The primary source of income for the League is the Junior League of Summit Thrift Shop located at 37 DeForest Avenue in Summit. The Thrift Shop was established in 1933, making it the oldest retail business in downtown Summit. All profits generated by the shop are used to support and develop local interests in the form of grants, scholarships, projects and programs. Earlier this year, the Junior League awarded over \$65,000 in grants and scholarships, which is in addition to the funds provided to support the League's signature outreach initiative, GRACE (Giving and Receiving Assistance for our Community Essentials).

The Thrift Shop manager, Marie Avigliano, has been at the forefront of the shop's success since she joined the team in July 2010. Marie has brought the shop into the 21st century by creating various events and sales incentives throughout the year, increasing revenue by \$120,000 over her 9-year tenure.

A major renovation in 2015-2016 allowed the staff to sort and process merchandise more efficiently, which increased sales. The shop recently underwent a basement underpinning which created additional storage space for donations. Marie relied on her previous retail experience to design the shop to be organized and aesthetically pleasing to the shop's dedicated customers, many of which are on a first name basis with the shop staff.

In addition to the shop's incredible sales history, the shop has donated items such as books to start libraries in communities in Africa and South America through local ministries, clothing to natural disaster victims, and baby items for mothers that are not able to otherwise provide for their children.

"It's super rewarding and heartwarming to have such a great experience at work," says Ms. Avigliano. "I am just grateful to have the opportunity to be connected with the community in the way the shop connects. We have shared so many experiences with our customers from the birth of a baby to even the loss of some of our elderly patrons. It's all very meaningful to me and I feel blessed to be a part of it."

The Junior League is incredibly lucky to have Marie at the helm of such an important part of the Junior League's legacy in the community and looks forward to what the future holds.

The Junior League of Summit is a nonprofit, charitable, and educational organization of women who are committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

For more information about the Junior League of Summit or to inquire about becoming a member, please visit the website at jlsummit.org or contact the office at 908-273-7349.

Those interested in donating to the League, please visit jlsummit.org/?nd=donate_summary.

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ANNUAL SMPA DANCE SET FOR FEB. 7

The Summit Music Parents Association's 48th Annual 'Big Band Dance' will take place on Friday, February 7, 2020, from 7 - 11 p.m., at the Grand Summit Hotel, 570 Springfield Avenue. The event is headlined by the Summit High School Big Band under the direction of Alex Bocchino.

In addition to the get-on-the-dance floor

soundtrack provided by the Hilltopper Big Band, the evening will feature a cash bar beginning at 7 p.m. and a buffet dinner that starts at 8 p.m.

Tickets are priced at \$75 each and are available by visiting smpasummit.org. For further information, contact Kate Speer at kmspeer1@gmail.com.



(above) Summit High School Big Band Seniors, from left: Josh Khanin, David Lombardi, Christina Wilson, Jeffrey Fowler, Robert Zhao and Ronnie Faris

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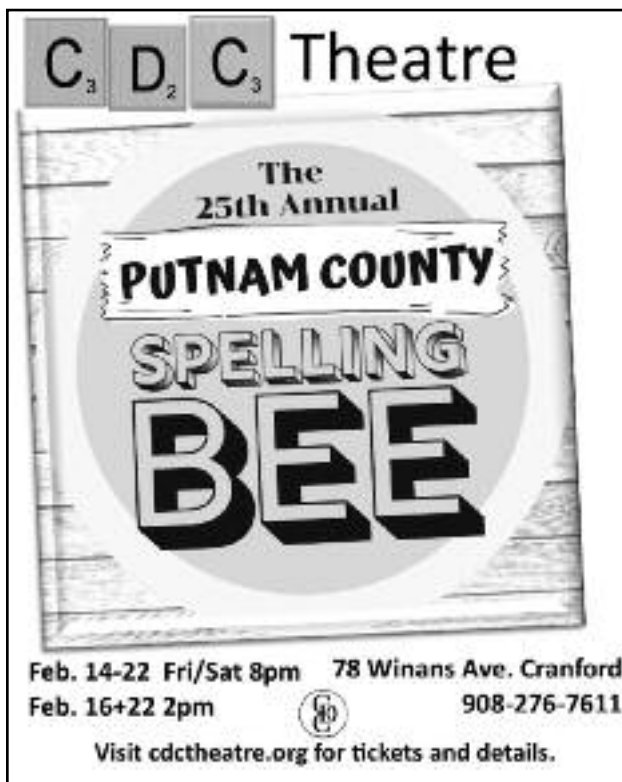
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THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE IS COMING TO CDC THEATRE IN CRANFORD

Running from February 14th through the 22nd 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-pubescent 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, pout-inducing, 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-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.

VFW SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

All Veterans of Foreign Wars have had similar experiences during wars....and after.

The Berkeley Heights VFW is comprised of mostly Vietnam, Korea, Iraq, and Afghanistan vets, along with a couple from WW2, but all veterans who have served in a combat zone, and have been honorably discharged, are welcome to join.

This friendly post, located at 15 Locust Ave. in Berkeley Heights, NJ, is looking for veterans who would like to become members.

You can get involved in yearly activities, stop in to watch a game, enjoy a beverage, or just chat with new friends who share similar past experiences.

The lodge features a pool table, shuffleboard, darts, and a full-service bar.

VFW members host dinners, holiday parties, a summer pig roast, cooking contests and other fun activities!

Most importantly, visits to other vets at Lyons VA Hospital and one of the local rehabilitation centers.

The facility has an upstairs hall for party rentals, which accommodates up to 70 people and is very reasonably priced. Use of the kitchen is also available for your party.

For further information:

Hall Rentals: Contact Marty Miles, at 908-337-8486, martymiles46@gmail.com.

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Free tax counseling and preparation for middle- and low-income taxpayers, with special attention to those who are 60 years of age and older, is available at SAGE Eldercare, located at 290 Broad Street in Summit, on Thursdays from February 6 through April 19, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Dates include: February 6, 13, 20, 27; March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2 and 9. During the ten-week program, SAGE will host IRS-trained volunteer tax preparers from AARP.

The assistance is provided by AARP as part of a national Tax-Aide program through its foundation in conjunction with the IRS. Area residents in Essex, Morris, Somerset, and Union Counties do not need to be a member of AARP or a retiree to use the service.

This is a confidential service and preparation is by appointment only. To avoid end of tax season rush, earlier appointments are encouraged. For more information and to schedule an appointment, please call SAGE at 908-598-5502.

Taxpayers should bring a copy of their 2018 Federal and State income tax returns; 2019 income tax packets; 2019 real estate tax bills;

Federal information forms for 2019 (W-2 forms; SSA-1099 form; 1099s for interest, dividends and other income; 1099 for pension, annuity and IRA distribution; 1099-B forms for assets sold during the year); receipts or cancelled checks if itemizing deductions; Social Security numbers for dependents; and, a photo ID, such as a driver's license or passport.

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PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER



(above) Yoga class participants at the Summit Community Center

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The Summit Department of Community Programs offers classes and programs for seniors ages 60 and older at the Community Center, located at 100 Morris Avenue, for an annual fee of \$10 for Summit residents. Each month a newsletter containing information about upcoming activities and events is distributed to members. The Community Center also maintains a card room, lounge and game room for daily use. Non-resident rates are available by request. For more information, call 908-277-2932.

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS:

Forever Fit Class Classes

February 6 through March 26

\$40 for eight weeks. This fun and gentle workout includes light cardio, stretching and Arthritis Foundation-approved exercises to improve balance and flexibility. Register online at summitcommunityprograms.com or call 908-277-2932.

Valentine's Day Bingo

Friday, February 14, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

A few games of bingo, snacks and coffee. Winners of each game will have a chance to win a grand prize. Please call 908-277-2932 or email Gretchen at gmasterfano@cityofsummit.org if you plan to attend.

Union County History Classes at the Summit Community Center

Tuesday, February 18, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Tuesday, March 24, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Please join us at the Summit Community Center as Union County Celebrates Black History Month and Celebrating Union County Women's History. The free classes are taught by John Prescott, a History Program Coordinator with the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

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Mondays, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Fridays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Instructor Kati Walker draws from various styles of yoga, modifying the positions for seniors with balance and range of motion issues. She teaches stress management breathing techniques with guided image visualization. This is an opportunity for members to learn a new form of exercise and relaxation all while safely seated in a chair.

T'ai Chi

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Learn to relax and de-stress using the gentle, low-impact motions of T'ai Chi with instructor Ayriel Germanton. Many health benefits are attributed to this ancient health practice beyond stress reduction.

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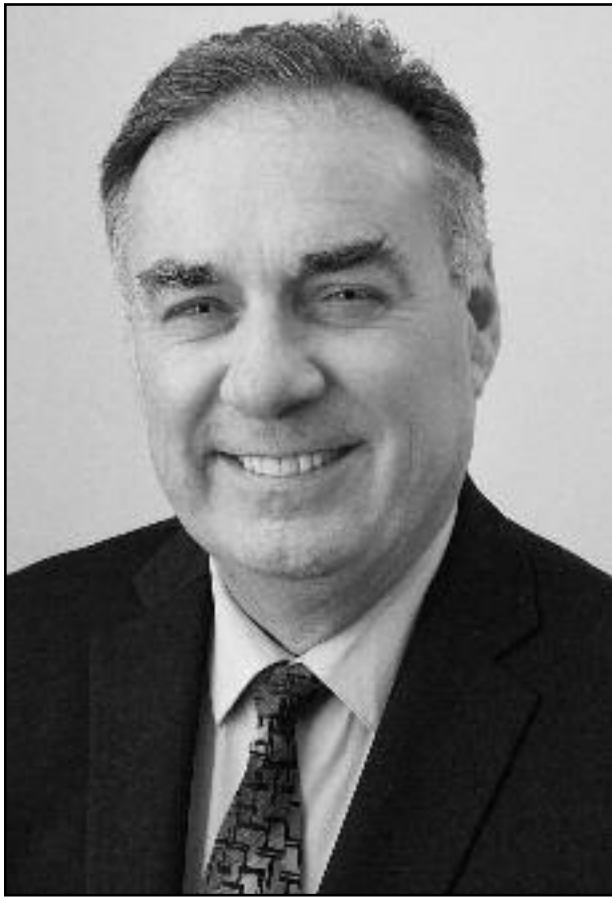


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THE GRAND SUMMIT HOTEL APPOINTS THOMAS RICCARDI AS GM



(above) Thomas Riccardi has been named the new general manager of Grand Summit Hotel.

The Grand Summit Hotel, a historic hotel serving the greater New York area, has appointed 34-year hospitality industry veteran Thomas Riccardi as general manager, responsible for overseeing the hotel's operations, sales, marketing, security, maintenance, housekeeping and accounting.

Riccardi most recently was general manager of Due Mari Restaurant in New Brunswick, NJ, a 200-seat, upscale restaurant that also hosts private dining events. Under his leadership, the restaurant received the prestigious AAA Four Diamond award in 2018 – the first in its 10-year history. Due Mari was one of just 11 restaurants statewide to be so honored that year.

"Thomas Riccardi is a dynamic professional with extensive operational and leadership experience spanning a three-decade career," said Robert Gelber, hotel president. "His record in hotel operations, knowledge of the local market and wealth of catering experience is a perfect match for the high standards of service guests can expect at The Grand Summit Hotel.

"He will play a critical role in ensuring the property's success following our multimillion-dollar room renovation and transformation of our Hat Tavern restaurant.

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WINTER EVENTS AT THE RAPTOR TRUST

The Raptor Trust is a 501c3 organization that provides free medical care to thousands of injured and orphaned wild birds each year. Located at 1390 White Bridge Road, Millington, NJ, The Raptor Trust is offering the following events this winter. To register please visit TheRaptorTrust.org.

Trivia – Animal love languages

Saturday, February 15th, 2 p.m.

This quiz-style competition will include two rounds of questions and the opportunity to meet one of our education birds. Ages 14 and up. \$10 per person.

Great Horned Owls in Love!

Saturday, February 8th, 2 p.m.

Discover how this important and thriving NJ species gets an early start at growing families and preparing for spring during snowy winters. \$10 per person.

Frosty Feathers

Sunday, February 23rd, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Families with children ages 3-8 are invited to huddle into our heated classroom for a warm cup of cider and a fun filled program on the fashionable fluff birds use to keep out the cold.

Education Open Houses

Sunday, February 16th

Monday, February 17th,

Pop on in to visit the education staff inside our warm and cozy classroom full of avian artifacts, interactive games, craft projects, and informational exhibits. You may even meet a special feathered guest. No advanced registration required.

Focus on Raptors

Saturday, March 28th, 2 p.m.

An opportunity for committed shutterbugs to take close-range photographs of our educational raptors perched in an outdoor setting. \$150 per person.

Private group tours

Weekend and weekday availability.

Join one of our staff educators for a guided outdoor tour of the Raptor Trust's aviary trail. Learn about the Raptor Trust's mission and history, as well as the life stories of some of our resident raptors before being introduced to one of our ambassador birds. \$100 per group, Maximum 10 people per group.

Call or email Shari Stern at 908-647-1091 or Education@theraptortrust.org to schedule.

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Saturday, February 22, 2020

10:30 am to 3:00 pm

Sign-in/setup starts at 10:00 am

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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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COOL JAZZ, VALENTINE SWEETS, AND MORE

Whether the groundhog sees its shadow or not this Groundhog Day, the Summit Free Public Library has a series of programs that will help you get through the winter no matter how long or short it might be!

Join filmmakers Marylou and Jerome Bongiorno, for a fascinating look at Newark, the largest city in New Jersey, as they present From Revolution to Solutions: Informed Cinema and Conversations about Newark on Thursday, February 6 from 7-8:30 p.m. Clips from three acclaimed, award-winning documentaries by the filmmakers will be shown: Revolution '67 (explores the 1967 Newark Riots/Rebellion), The Rule (examines urban school reform using the model of St. Benedict's Prep), and Rust (investigates solutions to intergenerational poverty including prisoner reentry) – will allow a look at the past, present, and future of Newark. Participants will be able to learn about and discuss the opportunities and challenges of urban environments by examining Newark as a microcosm.

Get ready for Valentine's Day at our Make Your Own: Valentine Chocolate Roses class! Instructor Marge Barkan will be teaching a delicious class and everyone will be creating roses made from Hershey's Kisses! What is better than beautiful roses made from chocolate kisses for your Valentine? Join us as we learn this technique to create a special Valentine treat on Sunday, February 9 from 2-4 p.m. Seating is limited and registration is required. Call the library at 908-273-0350, option 3. Our Make Your Own craft programs are made possible through funds from the Friends of the Summit Free Public Library.

The last lecture in our Sustainable Living Series wraps up on Tuesday, February 11 from

7:30-8:30 p.m. as Jen Milnes, from Green Summit, returns to talk about Laundry and Bathroom. Learn about toxic-free cleaners and other options for both laundry and bathroom. Jen will discuss products to switch to that are healthier for your body and the environment, with the goal of minimizing waste. Registration is requested. Please call us at 908-273-0350, option 3 to register.

What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than at our latest Explore Your World Minicourse for Adults! Join instructor Robert Comeau as he presents a six week minicourse on Novels of America in the 1920s on Friday, February 14 from 2-4 p.m. Professor Comeau will cover this very prolific period in American literature, reviewing the works of such authors as Willa Cather, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, and William Faulkner. Seating is limited and registration is required. Call the library at 908-273-0350, option 3 to reserve a spot. Our Explore Your World Minicourses are funded through a generous grant from the Summit Area Public Foundation.

Sit back and relax to the cool jazz sounds of the James Austin, Jr. Jazz Trio on Sunday, February 23 from 2-3 p.m. James, originally from Chicago, is an accomplished pianist and bandleader. James and his accompanying musicians will perform jazz standards as well as selections from his debut album, Songs in the Key of Wonder, which showcase his tasteful instrumental arrangements of a selection of classic compositions from the songbook of the great Stevie Wonder. This musical program is made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Fit or Fat? It's All in Your Head! Join Jay



(above) James Austin, Jr. Jazz Trio will be performing at the library on February 23 at 2 p.m. Photo credit: James Austin, Jr.

Jacobs, former contestant on season 11 of NBC's The Biggest Loser on Tuesday, February 25 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. as he shares how he lost 181 lbs. on the show, and more importantly, how he navigates and supports others each and every day to not only lose weight, but keep it off for life! Jay's inspirational talk will offer practical advice for getting into shape sensibly, through a combination of both diet and exercise. He'll motivate you to be your best YOU.

Would you like to get more out of your Instant Pot? Register for our Instant Pot Meals: Beyond the Basics class on Saturday, February 29 from 10-11:30 a.m.! Learn how the Instant Pot can be used to create fast meals. You will learn various cooking techniques and watch cooking demos of several foods including tortellini and sausage, a chicken dish, and chili. Enjoy tasting the samples, too! Registration is limited. Please call us at 908-273-0350, option 3 to reserve a spot. This program is funded through the generosity of our Friends of the Summit Free Public Library.

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CARING CONTACT CRISIS LINE GRADUATES 96TH CLASS NEXT TRAINING TO BEGIN MARCH 17

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-in-class 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.



(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.

GREEN SUMMIT SEEKS REPAIR VOLUNTEERS

Repair Café returns to help the public restore their beloved but broken items to working order, while also keeping them out of our landfills. Now in its third year, Repair Café seeks volunteers with various skills who can be repairers during their upcoming event. Any skill is appreciated but we are especially looking for people who are handy with jewelry and bicycles. The event will be hosted on March 28, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Christ Church, 561 Springfield Avenue, in Summit. Repair Café is co-sponsored with the Summit Area GreenFaith Circle.

Have questions? Interested in volunteering or repairing items? Reach out to Green Summit via their website greensummitnj.org or by email at GreenSummitNJ@gmail.com.

FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL BENEFITS THE BURN CENTER AND THE NJ STATE FMBA

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.

TRICKY TRAY FUNDRAISER & DESSERT CABARET

For 81 years, The Celebration Singers, a local multi-generational community choir, has entertained audiences within Union County and across the globe. On February 7 and 8, 2020, they will hold their Annual Tricky Tray Fundraiser & Dessert Cabaret at Union Elks Lodge 1583, 281 Chestnut Street in Union, NJ. Doors open at 7:15 p.m. and guests can immediately start placing their tricky tray tickets in for the prizes. The show, "Are We There Yet?," begins around 8 p.m. and features songs about places performed by members of its adult choir.

Artistic Director Joe Elefante, along with Collaborative Pianist, James Lubrano artfully cast the showcase which features a musical review of solos, duets, trios, as well as small and full ensemble pieces. Co-Hosts Kathy Gordon and Daniel Frieri emcee the evening. Their witty humor and playful banter are sure to bring a smile

to your face and fill the room with laughter and enjoyment.

"I love singing with the choir throughout the year, especially for our Cabaret – it's a chance to feature our singers' vocal talents individually," said President Nicole Pepe. "The tricky tray and 50/50 gets bigger and bigger every year. We've had guests leave with \$1,000+ in their pockets and vacations to Florida, the Hamptons, and even tickets to a Knicks game!"

In addition to door prizes, a 50/50 raffle and exciting tricky tray baskets, homemade desserts and a cash bar will also be available. Tickets are: Adults - \$25, Seniors - \$20, and 10% discount with advanced purchases of full tables of 10.

For ticket reservations, please visit: celebration-singers.org. For questions or seating requests, please call 908-552-4656 or email celebrationsingersnewjersey@gmail.com.



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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.

VOLS 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



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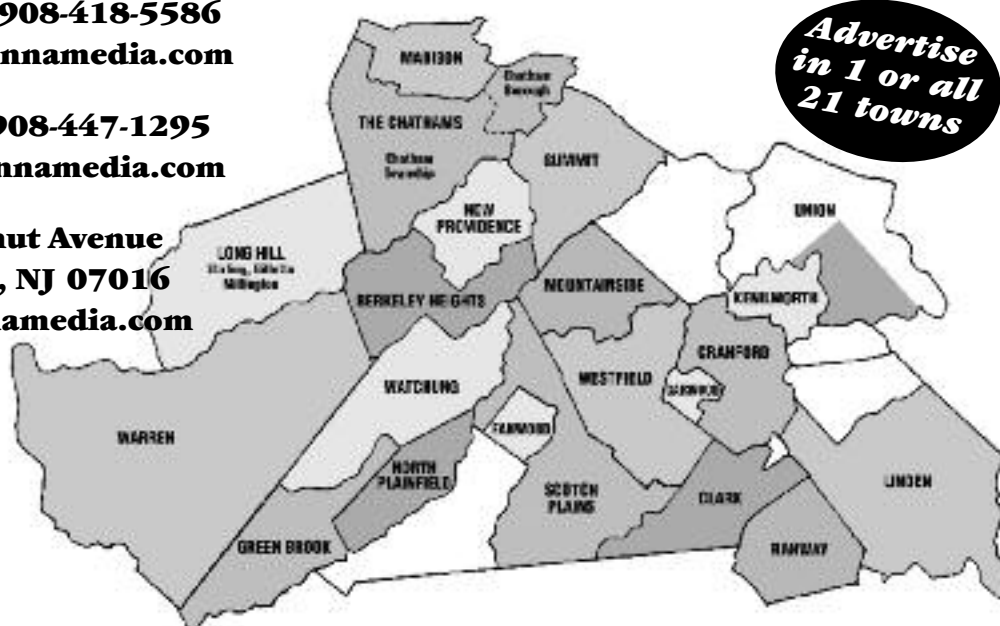
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KENILWORTH NJ Qty: 3,600 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07033	LIFE in LINDEN NJ Qty: 17,400 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07036	Long Hill LEADER NJ Qty: 3,600 Mailed to every home and business in Gillette, Millington and Strickland. Zip: 07933, 07946, 07988	MADISON MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07940	MOUNTAINVIEW NJ Qty: 2,900 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07092	New Providence NEWS NJ Qty: 4,900 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07074	The PRIDE of North Plainfield NJ Qty: 8,300 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07060, 07062, 07063
OUR TOWN Rahway, NJ Qty: 12,400 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07065	Scotch Plains NJ Qty: 9,600 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07076	Summit Times NJ Qty: 9,600 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION NJ Qty: 5,500 \$1,000 mailed to homes and businesses. Zip: 07083	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,800 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07069	Westfield MONTHLY NJ Qty: 11,800 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07090

NEWSPAPER AD RATES

Rates are per month. Adwork included in price.
*Newspapers are black on white.

Units	Size	RATE FOR ANY 1 NEWSPAPER	RATE FOR ANY 3 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ANY 6 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ANY 9 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ANY 12 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ANY 15 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ANY 18 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ALL 21 NEWSPAPERS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 8" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000
2 PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700							
BACK PAGE	10" x 14"	\$500							
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320							
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5" x 4.5"	\$240							

Back cover, front page banner and front box reserved on first come, first served basis. Current advertiser has right of first refusal.

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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.

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SUMMIT'S ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

The Junior League of Summit is thrilled to announce its fifth Annual Trivia Night. Join the Junior League of Summit on February 29, 2020 for an evening of trivia fun at Chatham Fish & Game. Tickets will go on sale at noon on Wednesday, January 29. Teams of up to ten people may register for a table for an entrance fee of \$600. All competitors must be 21 or older. For more details and ticket information, visit jlsummit.org.

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