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(above) The Kenilworth Daisy Girl Scout Troop #40006 visited the Kenilworth Fire & Rescue Squad on January 20th, 2020 where they learned about being courageous and strong. For more information on Kenilworth Daisy Girl Scout Troop #40006 Contact Kimberly Christenson kimberly.christenson1009@gmail.com.



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BUSINESS + LIFE KENILWORTH

Kenilworth Business Life is published by Renna Media.

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Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions. Renna Media welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers put into writing and sent to:

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SEND US YOUR NEWS

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 us your news!

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REGULAR PROGRAMS

Lap Sit

March 24, and 31, 10:30 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

| Ages: 0 - 24 months |

Stories, songs and action rhymes for the youngest listeners.

Toddler Time

March 25, 10:30 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

| Ages 2 - 3 |

Stories, puppets and music just right for young listeners will be introduced

PJ Storytime

March 26, 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

| Ages 3 & up |

Children are invited to wear their pajamas to this program, and bring along a stuffed animal.

Lego

March 27, 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

| Ages 4 - 12 |

Children are invited to build with Lego bricks.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

St. Patrick's Day Craft

March 10, 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

| Ages 4 - 8 | Registration required

Children are invited to create a St. Patrick's Day craft to take home.

Cartooning with Doug Baron

March 26, 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

| Ages 8 - Adult | Registration required

Learn how to draw their favorite cartoon characters and improve artistic skills. Program funded by the Ralph Errington Foundation.

CREATING MANDALA'S AT STS

Sr. Isabel Garza, FMA vice principal from St. Theresa School in Kenilworth gave a surprise visit to the 4th grade class. The children learned

about Art Therapy using the geometric configuration of symbols with the drawings and relaxing tools of creating a Mandala.



Photo by St. Theresa School

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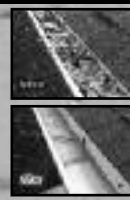
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CASA INVITES PUBLIC TO WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON MARCH 11

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County will host its second annual Women's Leadership Luncheon on Wednesday, March 11 — the heart of Women's History Month — to highlight two Union County women whose contributions positively impact their community.

Among them is Tina Renna, Cranford resident and owner of Renna Media, publisher of 21 community newspapers including Kenilworth Life.

Renna, who coordinates content for more than 135,000-issues circulated to towns in Union, Somerset and Morris counties, uses her writing, editing and photography, she says, "to tell the stories of ordinary people who do extraordinary things, big or small, that inspire others and their communities. Whether reporting news from town departments, schools and libraries,



(above) Tina Renna, owner of Renna Media, publisher of 21 community newspapers including Kenilworth Life, will be recognized by CASA at their Women's Leadership Luncheon.



(above) Sue Adler, Summit resident and CEO of The Sue Adler Team of Keller Williams in Chatham, will be recognized by CASA at their Women's Leadership Luncheon on Wednesday, March 11.

giving voice to local organizations raising awareness, or highlighting accomplishments of businesses, residents and all those who share a community — no matter strength or size — I strive to make a positive impact on each town's well-being and economic development."

Also being honored is Summit's Sue Adler, CEO of The Sue Adler Team of Keller Williams in Chatham. Currently ranked 10 worldwide out of 175,000 Keller Williams agents, Adler focuses on the community's train line towns and incorporates an in-house, team-treatment approach for clients.

Ilyse DiChiara, owner of Green Healthy Living and certified integrative nutrition, health and wellness coach, will provide the keynote address. Prior to switching professional course, DiChiara ran her nationwide trial consulting business, Litigation Support Solutions, for more than 20 years. Other participants include Summit Mayor Nora Radest and Westfield Councilwoman Joann Neylan.

Tickets are available now for the luncheon, which begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Grand Summit Hotel. Seats are \$65; tables of 10 and sponsorships are available.

To purchase, log on to casaleadershipluncheon.eventbrite.com. For luncheon details, contact Alexis at aslade@casaoofunioncounty.org.

CASA of Union County recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to advocate for abused, neglected and abandoned children placed in foster homes or residential facilities. There are more than 500 Union County youth, from birth to age 21, in foster care. With court-ordered access to a foster child and all parties in their life, volunteer advocates report findings to the judge so as to ensure best interests remain a priority, needs are met, and already experienced trauma is not exacerbated.

Contact Courtney at cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org or 908-293-8136 to learn more about CASA of Union County.



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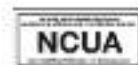
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(above) Janice Marsili, Stevanie Rhim and Megan Harrison

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“CONVERSATION MATTERS” AT DAVID BREARLEY

On January 13, 2020, The Kenilworth Board of Education recognized David Brearley student Stevanie Rhim at a Board of Education Meeting. Stevanie has been an active leader and integral part of the Race Matters Alliance for the past two years.

Last summer Stevanie began laying the groundwork to assemble a panel of students to participate in a series of videotaped discussions surrounding difficult subjects that students often face. With the help of technology teacher, Jake Ulasevich, the first two videos titled

“Conversation Matters”, were posted on YouTube and can be viewed by searching “David Brearley Conversation Matters”.

Students, teachers and administrators have all been impressed with Stevanie’s ability to bring people together and take the lead to open up conversations on sensitive topics. David Brearley teacher, Janice Marsili, stated “Stevanie is sure to make as indelible a mark on the world beyond David Brearley High School as she has made on its students and staff”.



(above) Stevanie Rhim and family with Kyle C. Arlington, Superintendent

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WHAT, WHERE, AND WHEN IN OLD KENILWORTH

EUGENE COPPOLA TURNS 100

On March 3, 2020, Eugene Coppola, a true Kenilworth legend, turns 100 years old. He is one of six children of Amadeo “George” and Rosa Coppola, who arrived at Kenilworth about 1911. He holds the honor of being the oldest male resident ever born here to be living in town. In a February interview Gene shared many memories of his home town.

“As a boy I helped my father in his vegetable store on N. 20th St. It’s Morabito’s Pharmacy now. He and my sister Sally saw John Kennedy come into the store after the war looking for Wanda Perlowski who lived on N. 22nd St. My father drove his Model T pick-up truck to Newark to get vegetables, sold them from the store, and we delivered them to homes all over. The only paved street in town back then was the

Boulevard. Except for the houses Arthur [James Arthur] built in the Park section of town there were practically no houses south of the Boulevard. Kenilworth was small; everyone knew everyone else.”

“My father was a fireman. I went with him to the Flats Fire [1927] on Passaic Ave. The building burned to the ground that winter because the fire hydrant was frozen. I went to the crash site of Jimmy Doolittle’s plane on Faitoute Ave. There was a big crowd when it happened [1929]. It wasn’t much of a secret during Prohibition where a speakeasy could be found. During the Depression marathon dances were held in the fields on Galloping Hill Road. Many boys picked water lilies behind Harding School to sell and make money for their families.”

“Kenilworth was a big baseball town for kids and young grownups. There were many ballfields. One was across the street from the McKinley School where the Methodist Church is now. When it was lunchtime just about every boy ran across the Boulevard to get in as many innings of play before the late bell rang. We didn’t always make it back on time. Small planes used to land there and later the airfield was moved up near N. 24th St.”

“I saw lots of things. Saw the Ku Klux Klan march up to the old Upsala College campus. As

a teenager and in my twenties, I worked at the Kensington Riding Stables where the Wells Fargo Bank is, and also at Neville’s Stables off the Boulevard near N. 9th St. The polo matches, rodeos, and air shows drew thousands of spectators. The shoot-out at the old borough hall in 1940 caused a tremendous stir in town. Mayor [Oswald] Nitschke lived near us. When I first saw my future wife, Evelyn, I knew I wanted to marry her. We married during the war in 1943 and have a beautiful daughter. I am a very lucky man.”

Gene served in the US Army along with his two late brothers, Vincent and George “Chickie.” He served on the planning board and rescue squad, and as president of the fire department. His two living sisters are Sally (Brokaw) and Doris (Picaroni). Sisters Elmina (DeGatano) and Lucille (Pepe), passed away some years ago. His daughter, Evelyn, is married to Gary Delatush. Gene and his wife have three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Gene is well remembered for his “Gene’s Lunch” truck business which he started after retiring as a factory supervisor in town.

Research provided by Walter E. Boright, Ed. D., historian, and Historic Signs, Inc. Persons with inquiries about this or other aspects of Kenilworth history may contact Dr. Boright at drbori@aol.com or 908-256-5200.



(above) Eugene was born home at 21 N. 20th St. on March 3, 1920. At the time his father, Amadeo (George), had a produce store downstairs in this building. The family lived above. Photo source: Historic Signs, Inc.



(above) Eugene V. Coppola with daughter, Evelyn (Mrs. Gary Delatush), and his wife of 76 years, Evelyn Dodd Coppola

Photo source: Historic Signs, Inc.



(above) Eugene V. Coppola, 1982, inside of his self-built “Gene’s Lunch” truck, a popular attraction in the Kenilworth area.

Photo source: Coppola family



(above) Gene worked at both the Kensington Riding Academy and Neville’s Stables. Photo Source: Coppola family



(above) Pfc. Eugene V. Coppola married Evelyn Dodd on November 7, 1943 while on short leave during WWII. Photo Source: Coppola family



(above) Eugene was a member of the first graduating class from Jonathan Dayton Regional HS, Springfield in 1938.

Photo source: Regionologue yearbook, 1938

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CARRIE JACKSON & THE JAZZIN' ALL STARS TO PERFORM AT NORTHERN NEW JERSEY'S MOST INTIMATE COFFEEHOUSE

The Salem Roadhouse Café proudly presents Carrie Jackson, performing on Saturday, March 14, 2020.

Ms. Jackson is a New York/New Jersey based jazz vocal stylist who performs worldwide for festivals, clubs, concert tours and clinics, both as a soloist or with her Jazzin' All Star Band. It's been said of their work, "A true ensemble performance...every tune is a musical collaboration...effortless, natural and unscripted." Carrie is considered one of the most consistently interesting singers in the metropolitan area, and is one of the top jazz artists around today providing classical performances in jazz favorites, soulful sultry pop, blues and poignant mellow gospel. She combines jazz originals, standards, pop/blues tunes, and open improvisation in an adventurous, genre-bending style that's inspirational and original; a singer with a Sound! Carrie Jackson & Her Jazzin' All Star Ensemble swing and perform the music of "Duke" Ellington, Count Basie, Lionel Hampton,

Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Dizzy Gillespie, and musical selections songs from the Great American Song Book. Carrie has performed often at the Salem Roadhouse Café, bringing a loyal, appreciative audience with her every time.

Original artwork will be on display for all to enjoy and purchase.

Fans won't want to miss this live, up front and personal show.

All ages are welcome. It's a wholesome show, so bring the entire family!

Doors open 7:30 p.m. The show starts at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$20.00

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Proceeds will help YWCA Union County Domestic Violence PALS Program, Peace-A-Learned Solution, helping children who are victims of domestic violence through arts therapy.

ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

Dedication best defines the Salem Roadhouse Café: dedication to excellent music and dedication to the community. Now in its twelfth year, The Salem Roadhouse Café reaffirms its commitment to both.


Started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth, the Roadhouse Café continues to operate as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That may be its social mission... but the Roadhouse Café is and has been a solid performance venue beloved by the musicians who play there because of its special intimacy with the audience.

CHURCH MUSIC, IT'S NOT

The Roadhouse Café has always offered its stage to local and independent main stream musicians. It's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music, in a world of clubs and bars. Jazz, rock, folk and other groups have performed. During the past eleven years well over 120 different entertainers have appeared. Local fine artists also display their works.

The Salem Roadhouse Café is located at 829 Salem Road, Union, NJ. Visit online at roadhousecafe.org or facebook.com/roadhousecafe.

Phone: 1-908-687-1028 (leave a message and a return number).



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TRINITAS NURSING SCHOOL HOLDS GRADUATION CEREMONY

One hundred and nine students received their nursing diplomas at the Trinitas School of Nursing 161st Convocation Ceremony held recently at St. Michael's Church in Cranford. Including Kareema E. Abdelfattah of Kenilworth.

Surrounded by family, friends, and staff that supported their efforts every step of the way, 99 women and 10 men proudly accepted their pins and became eligible to sit for the registered nurse licensing exam.

"The Trinitas School of Nursing is so proud of the 109 graduates- the first graduating class of the new decade, the Class of January 2020," said Dr. Rose Santee, Dean of the Trinitas School of Nursing, a collaborative nursing program with Union County College. "The graduates receive a diploma in nursing from Trinitas School of Nursing that will authorize them to sit for the RN licensing exam and Union County College

awards the graduates with the Associate in Science degree. Their determination and hard work has paid off. It's exciting for the administration, faculty, staff members, and their families when our students graduate. We will miss them, but more, we are full of the satisfaction that we have guided yet another group of capable nurses who are now ready to join the nursing workforce."

Trinitas School of Nursing, operated jointly by Trinitas Regional Medical Center and Union County College, currently holds full accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), and the New Jersey State Board of Nursing. The National League for Nursing has awarded the School of Nursing a third designation as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education status for the years 2015 - 2020 for Creating Environments that Enhance Student Learning

and Professional Development. The School also holds a 20-year, 40-class national licensing examination (NCLEX) passage rate of 86.30% on first writing.

ABOUT TRINITAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER:

Trinitas Regional Medical Center (TRMC), a major center for comprehensive health services for those who live and work in Central New Jersey, is a Catholic teaching medical center sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in partnership with Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation. With 12 Centers of Excellence across the continuum of care, Trinitas has distinguished itself in cardiology, cancer care, behavioral health, renal care, nursing education, diabetes management, maternity, wound healing and sleep medicine. For more information on Trinitas Regional Medical Center, visit: www.TrinitasRMC.org or call (908) 994-5138.



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BUS TRIP TO WIND CREEK BETHLEHEM CASINO TO BENEFIT HISTORIC NITSCHKE HOUSE

The Kenilworth Historical Society will host a bus trip to Wind Creek Bethlehem Casino (formerly known as the Sands) in Bethlehem, PA, on Saturday, April 18.

The trip will depart Kenilworth (St. Theresa's School parking lot) at 9:30 a.m. and return to Kenilworth at approximately 6:30 p.m. Cost of \$45 includes comfortable motor coach transportation, an approximate 6-hour visit to the casino and \$25 in free slot play. The casino offers more than 3,000 state-of-the-art slot machines ranging in denomination from 1 cent to \$100, live dealer stadium gaming, 200 table games, a large variety of interactive bonus screen games and a 30-table smoke-free poker room, featuring limit and no-limit Texas Hold 'Em, Stud and Omaha, with limits starting at \$3 and \$6. The Wind Creek Bethlehem site additionally houses a wide range of distinctive outlet stores and popular restaurants/eateries. There will be complimentary

door prizes on the bus.

For further information and reservations, please call 908-709-0434. As space is limited, it is suggested that reservations be made by April 4 to ensure availability. Gift certificates for the trip are also available for purchase.

Proceeds from the bus trip will benefit the Kenilworth Historical Society's historic Oswald J. Nitschke House (c. 1880) by helping defray operating expenses, including the cost of an elevator that makes the restored "living history" museum and cultural arts center fully accessible to everyone.

The Kenilworth Historical Society (kenilworthhistoricalsociety.org) is an independent, volunteer-based, non-profit, tax-exempt, 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to the research, preservation and interpretation of the Oswald J. Nitschke House, Kenilworth's local history and culture.

'SOUP'S ON' IN KENILWORTH TO BENEFIT NITSCHKE HOUSE MUSEUM

The Kenilworth Historical Society will host a soup-tasting event on Thursday, March 26, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., in the Community United Methodist Church hall, 455 Boulevard, Kenilworth. This popular annual event – "Soup's On" – will give participants the opportunity to taste a variety of favorite soups from local restaurants and others. Assorted breads and desserts also will be served.

Admission is \$12. Parking and entrance to the church hall are located at the rear and on the side of the building, respectively. Advance reservations by March 19 are requested, as seating is limited. For information/reservations, please call 908-709-0434 or visit Especially

Yours Florist (13 North 20th Street, Kenilworth), where tickets for the event are being sold.

Proceeds from "Soup's On" will benefit the Kenilworth Historical Society's Oswald J. Nitschke House (c. 1880) "living history" museum and cultural arts center by helping defray the cost of an elevator that makes all levels of the site fully accessible to everyone.

The Kenilworth Historical Society is an independent, volunteer-based, non-profit, tax-exempt, 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to the research, preservation and interpretation of the Oswald J. Nitschke House, Kenilworth's local history and culture.

K OF C TO HOLD CASINO NIGHT ON APRIL 25

Submitted by Franco Zito

The Kenilworth Knight of Columbus Council 4186 is holding a Casino Night fundraiser to benefit Knights of Columbus charities on Saturday, April 25, 2020 from 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. at 191 Market Street, Kenilworth, NJ. Admission is open to all but seating is limited. Pre-registration is highly recommended.

The first annual Casino Night will include beer, wine and snacks, food from local vendors, five gaming tables, Tricky Tray prizes from area businesses and a 50/50 drawing. Tickets are \$40 for singles and \$75 for couples. Pre-registered guests receive \$50 in chips for singles and \$100 in chips for couples. Tickets will be sold the day of the event based on availability. All day-of attendees will receive \$40 per person in chips to start the evening. Additional chips can be purchased during the event. The event is being sponsored by Mastapeter Funeral Home of Roselle Park. Climax Brewing of Roselle Park is sponsoring the beer tent. For additional information about the event or sponsorship opportunities contact:

Kevin Murphy, Past Grand Knight, 908-377-5727. Contact Joe O'Boyle, Grand Knight, at 908-956-2638 if you are interested in becoming a member.

The Knights of Columbus is an international Catholic family fraternal service organization with 1.8 million members in over 15,000 local councils. Last year, Knights donated 70 million volunteer hours and \$170 million to charitable and benevolent causes, sponsoring projects to benefit their Church, communities, councils, Culture of Life, families and youth.

Locally, Council 4186 has given their full support to The Church of St. Theresa as well as many other local organizations: Kenilworth PBA #135, Kenilworth Veterans Center, Kenilworth Volunteer Fire/Rescue, Kenilworth Historical Society, Kenilworth Little League (for which we received an award as the longest team sponsor), Kenilworth youth softball, St. Theresa's Food Bank, Hillside Food Bank, David Brearley M/H PTO, NJ Special Olympics, Center for Hope Hospice, HomeFirst and Life Choices Resource Center.

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CARING CONTACT CRISIS LINE GRADUATES 96TH CLASS NEXT TRAINING TO BEING 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 Mekbebe 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 Mekbebe, Jasmine Dursun, Michelle Mendoza, Pam Webb, Kate Gorelick, Payl Patel.



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STUDENT-VETERAN RECEIVES K-9 SERVICE DOG FROM REBUILDING WARRIORS

A special Veterans Day ceremony was held on Kean University's Union campus as senior Jason Pryor, a U.S. Army veteran, introduced the K-9 service dog that he received through an on-campus fundraiser.

Pryor, a senior from Elizabeth majoring in exercise science, did tours in Iraq and Honduras and suffers from PTSD. He received the K-9, named Keen, at the start of the Fall semester as a gift from the Kean Office of Student Government.

"Being with Keen has taught me to be more patient," said Pryor, whose dog accompanies him to class. "Keen is used as a measure to help prevent me from going through the symptoms and effects of spiraling down, by me tending to his needs and having him tend to me."

Kean is ranked first in the nation among large public schools for its programs supporting student-veterans, according to the Military Friendly Schools survey.

Student Government raised nearly \$20,000 to support service dogs through Rebuilding Warriors, a volunteer non-profit organization whose mission is to provide trained service dogs to veterans. The bulk of the funds raised went toward training Pryor's dog, and the rest was donated to Rebuilding Warriors to help train other K-9 dogs.

At the ceremony held outside Miron Student Center, Vito Zajda, director of Veteran Student Services at Kean and a U.S. Coast Guard

veteran, called Pryor a remarkable student.

"He has been a big support and influential person in our program," Zajda said. "He has helped open our eyes about how the University can best support its vets."

Vice President of Rebuilding Warriors Jeff Mullins, also a veteran, said post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a condition that can't be seen by others. "It's invisible, stays with you your entire life, and it's not easy sometimes," he said. "Our goal is to provide veterans and first responders with a service dog to help them achieve their new normal."

The University's Veterans Day event included a color guard, a performance of the national anthem by the Kean Gospel Choir, and the presentation of other honors.

Juan Leon Torres, a senior from Spotswood also studying exercise science and a U.S. Navy veteran, received the 2019 Kean Veteran's Award for Outstanding Mentor. He develops transition opportunities and initiatives, and mentors a student-veteran each semester.

"Being a veteran and going back to school is super hard because you go from one community to a different lifestyle," Torres said.

Zajda noted that it is important to support veterans at all times. "The importance of Veterans Day is to recognize that it's 365 days a year, as veterans go through different highs and lows in their lives," he said.

ABOUT REBUILDING WARRIORS

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Providing Service Dogs to Veterans

Rebuilding Warriors provides highly trained and socialized Service/Companion Dogs to Veterans diagnosed as Amputees as well as those with PTSD, (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury). Most of our dogs are bred especially for this mission and have a highly sought after demeanor. We provide these dogs to Honorably Discharged Veterans from any branch of the Armed Forces or from any service era meeting our eligibility standards as well as First Responders.

We purchase our dogs from reputable breeders. These young dogs will be trained by us and have a good foundation of obedience and manners so as to easily bond with their new owner and family. We will sponsor these Wounded Veterans with their companion/mobility dog, provide training and home set up of equipment.

These dogs become great confidence builders aiding these men and women as they return to society. It will become a challenge for the participants to raise and care for these world class animals. The unconditional love given and received by these dogs will teach these warriors to ignore their own self-imposed limitations. Please help me change the lives of these warriors one dog at a time.

For more information please visit rebuildingwarriors.com.



(above) K-9 Keen, the service dog accompanying student-veteran Jason Pryor (left of center), is part of the Kean University community. The Kean Office of Student Government raised funds to donate the dog.



(above) K-9 Keen, the service dog accompanying student-veteran Jason Pryor (left of center, in red shirt), is part of the Kean University community. The Kean Office of Student Government raised funds to donate the dog.

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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. 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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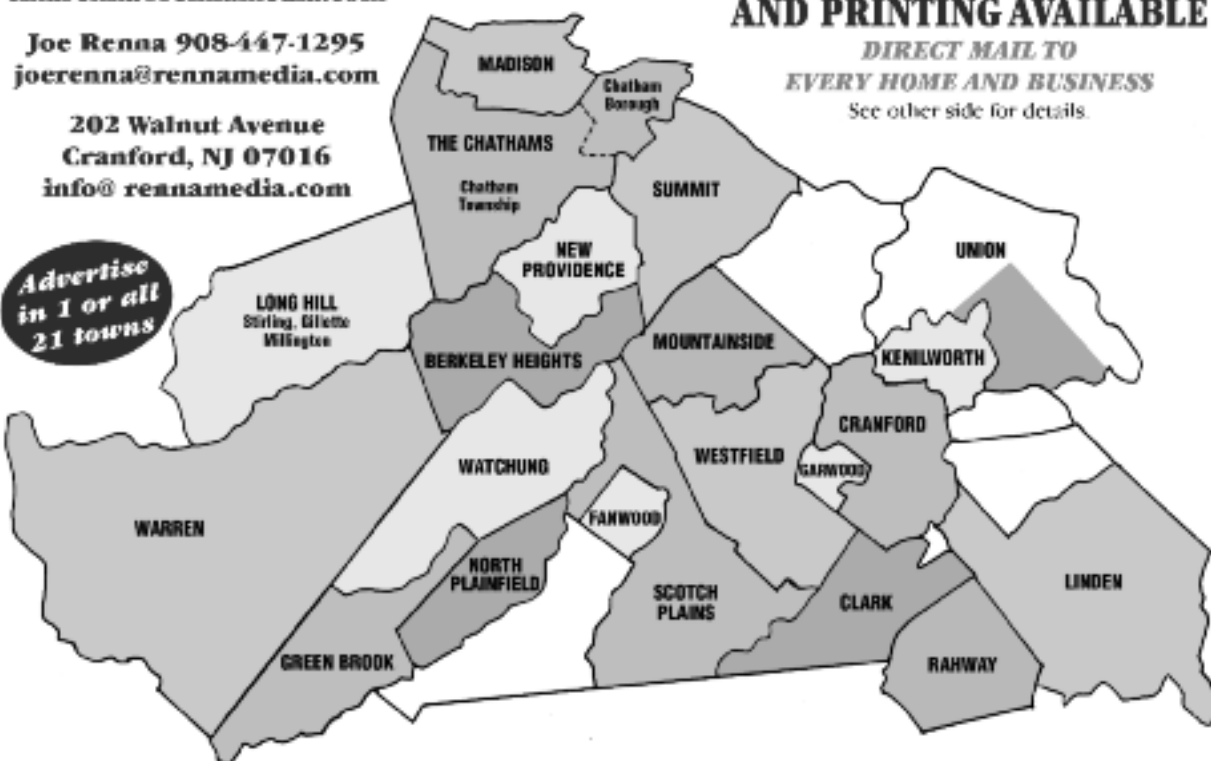
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The Academy of Continuing Education (ACE), located in Cranford, NJ, is accepting applications for its March 2-April 24 semester. ACE offers adults with developmental or physical disabilities the opportunity to pursue continuing education as an alternative to traditional day programs.

"Adults with disabilities who have graduated from the public school system or specialized schools often have limited choices when planning their future," said Robin Morris-Marano, ACE director of educational services. "Their options often are limited to generic day programs that do not offer the intellectual stimulation and growth provided by our academy. Our program also is ideal for older adults with disabilities who wish to sharpen previously learned skills."

ACE's course offerings for the upcoming semester include math, reading and creative writing, explore your world through science,

jewelry design and merchandising, visual arts and crafts, musical expression, theatre and performance, time traveler (history), career and financial literacy, media production, card-making and self-understanding/peer leadership.

Based on their interests, students may take as many or as few classes as they choose.

"ACE differs from a traditional day program, where the attendee's day is planned for them," Morris-Marano said. "We work with our students and their families to help them select the classes that will bring them the most enjoyment and from which they will get the most benefit."

Sebastian Ruiz has been attending ACE for four years, steadily increasing his classes each semester. He works six days a week at Nautica at the Jersey Gardens Mall but was bored at home when not working. He said he enjoys attending ACE because it keeps his mind active.

"I like to learn and I like to meet new people,"

he said.

Last semester Ruiz switched from math and reading into jewelry and merchandising and card-making, and now has added career and financial literacy, theater and self-understanding, bringing his classes to six spread over five days.

"Math and reading are so quiet and calm," he said. "Jewelry and card-making are fun and they make money."

Ruiz also aspires for a more challenging job and hopes self-understanding will help him get a new position somewhere.

"(Career class) helps people get jobs, like what to wear and what not to do in an interview," he said.

"Sebastian is a perfect example of the flexibility of our program and the ability for our students to tailor their classes to their personal interests," Morris-Marano said.

Whenever possible, ACE curricula are developed in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) guidelines, implementing Core Curriculum Content Standards and aligned with the most current information offered by the NJDOE, according to Morris-Marano. The ACE Program is approved by the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities for Day Habilitation through the department's Supports Program.

For more information, Morris-Marano can be reached at 908-354-3040, ext. 4671. Due to growth, ACE now has an additional director of educational services, Stacy Marshall, who can be reached at ext. 4315.

For a course catalog, visit the ACE website at caunj.org/what-we-do/day-program/academy-for-continuing-education.

The Academy of Continuing Education is a program of Community Access Unlimited (CAU), a Union County-based, statewide nonprofit that strives to integrate people with disabilities and at-risk youth into the general community through comprehensive supports.



(above) Sebastian Ruiz shows off some of the jewelry being made in his jewelry design and merchandising class at the Academy of Continuing Education for adults with disabilities.

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