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Issue 127 • June 2021

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EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Submitted by Kathy Arminio

The Township of Union Education Foundation proudly announces two macro-grants and three mini-grants will be awarded to teachers in the Union school district for the 2021-2022 school year.

A macro-grant, "New York Times for These Times," was awarded to Lisa Krauze, librarian at Union High School. This grant is for a digital subscription to the New York Times to allow all 2,300 students and 250 teachers access to international, national and local news. The grant opens unlimited access to all articles published by The New York Times back to 1851. This scholarly database will be available to students and faculty both at school and at home for the entire year.

Marianne Deczynski, instrumental and general music teacher at Kawameeh Middle School, was awarded a macro-grant for "Enrichment Through Percussion". This grant provides wooden xylophones and mallets for use in the Kawameeh World Band and Orchestra. The grant allows the purchase of six 2-2/3 octave xylophones and six keyboard mallets. Since these are actual concert xylophones, they will prepare the students to participate in the high school marching and concert bands as well as college and community bands.

The first micro grant was awarded to Cindy Valia, Kindergarten, Livingston School, to set up a culturally relevant classroom library with flexible seating. The books purchased will represent diversity in the classroom, different interests and reading levels. Floor cushions will complete the new reading section of the classroom.

"Around the World" is the second grant, awarded to Patricia Frazier, Burnet Middle School, and will allow all Spanish I students to participate in painting a flag of their choice, choosing from all of the 21 Spanish speaking countries. The geographic location of all the Spanish speaking countries, as well as their capitals, will be identified. All students will see their family's country of origin represented in the classroom.

Mary Ellen Patricco, 4th grade at Livingston School, was awarded a grant for "Learning Through Lego Play" to provide a digital print SuperScience magazine to help children develop problem solving, creativity, critical thinking and communication skills. The magazine uses current topics and photos in articles about life science, earth science, physical science and engineering. Students will have hands-on investigations as well as do-it-yourself projects. They will plan and carry out experiments, collect data and draw conclusions.

Grants are awarded based on four criteria: critical thinking is promoted; cooperative learning experiences are emphasized; interdisciplinary lessons address all ability levels; the educational experience is above and beyond the curriculum with an innovative and creative approach.

The Township of Union Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to raise funds for grants awarded competitively to teachers for creative and innovative educational programs for children in the public schools of the Township of Union. For further information, please visit our website at tuef.org.

STUDENTS COMMIT TO PLAY COLLEGE SPORTS

Congratulations to Union High School seniors that recently signed with colleges.

Kerin St. Clair, for soccer, at Holy Family University
Ronaya Moore, for volleyball, at Bloomfield College
Patricia Falar, for volleyball, at Alvernia College
Ryan Lin, for volleyball, at NJCU
Spencer Boakye, for volleyball, at D'Youville College
Mike Cross, for wrestling, at NJCU





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

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Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

WALK OR RUN TO SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS JUNE 21-26

Hop on a treadmill, go to a local park, or walk ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED or run in your neighborhood to support services for people with disabilities and youth at risk in New Jersey!

The Community Access Unlimited virtual Ira Geller Walkathon runs the week of June 21-June 26. On June 26, individuals living near Warinanco Park in Roselle are invited to walk or run in the park. Registration details are available at caunj.org and on our event flyer.

Walker or runner tickets are \$30 and include a Walkathon t-shirt & race bib.

All event proceeds will support CAU programs serving more than 3,000 individuals and families in New Jersey, including housing, academics, employment training, day program and support

services for people with disabilities and youth at risk. These programs serve the agency's mission to create an all-inclusive, accessible world where everyone can lead a fulfilling life as part of the greater community.

CAU's annual Walkathon is named in memory of Ira Geller, a CAU member known for his advocacy for people with special needs who worked tirelessly to raise funds for the agency.

Walkers and runners are encouraged to invite friends, family and coworkers to join them virtually in the Walkathon June 21-26. Run or walk a route of your choosing and share your success on social media using #CAUWalk2021. When you're done, make sure to submit your photos to sthana@caunj.org for a chance to win a prize! Prizes will be awarded for: most dollars raised, best team photo and most creative challenge.

To learn more about CAU, visit www.caunj.org or follow the agency on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Learn more about supporting the agency and become a monthly donor at www.caunj.org/support-us.

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating more than 40 years in 2021, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people 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. CAU currently serves more than 3,000 individuals and families, with the number served growing each year.

For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908.354.3040, online at www.caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.









(above) Walkathon 2020 at Warinanco Park.

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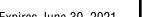


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UNION TOWNSHIP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Union Township Chamber of President, Marie Maguire of BCB Community Medical Center Commerce recently elected its slate of officers and installed new Directors. Members of the Board of Directors are a group of dedicated volunteers, representing a cross-section of local businesses, who help the Chamber in its mission of promoting and serving its members.

Elected each year, officers have ultimate responsibility for chamber operations, policy, and overall direction. They also oversee and support proposed activities, events and projects that best serve the interests of members. The incoming Executive Board consists of: President, David Arminio of the Friends of the Union Library; Senior Vice

Bank; VP of Finance, Julie D'Aloia of ConnectOne Bank; VP of Programs/Special Events, Sharon Patel, Patel Printing Plus; VP of Membership, Joseph Stampone, Major Printing Company; VP of Economic Development/Community Relations, Laura Bretzger, City Fire Equipment Company; Immediate Past President, Eugene Mitchell of RSI Bank.

Also inducted were new members: Frank Cesaro, M&T Bank; Gerry Benaquista, Union Township Schools; Barbara La Mort, Union Township Historical Society; and Julie Olmsted, Atlantic Health System/Overlook

"The Chamber's Board of Directors is composed of dedicated individuals who represent the interests and needs of all of our member businesses," said James Masterson, Chamber CEO. "We are grateful for the ways in which they generously give of their time and talents for the betterment of the professional during community, especially tumultuous and challenging times."

The Union Township Chamber of Commerce is a professional association dedicated to strengthening, uniting, promoting and representing member businesses located in Union and the surrounding area.









(above, l-r) David Arminio, President, Director Frank Cesaro, Director Julie Olmsted, Director Julie Barbara La Mort,

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NETWORK HELPS VETS AND FAMILIES LIVE BETTER LIVES

Submitted by Michael D. Boll, President

Memorial Day weekend is one of the most challenging for the New Jersey Veterans Network and its team of volunteers and mentors. This is a difficult time for many veterans because they reflect on their brothers and sisters that didn't make it home. Every day our nation loses 22 veterans to suicide, and it seems that number isn't coming down. If you are a veteran, or a family member, who is feeling alone, or are in need of assistance, we are here for you. Please reach out to us.

Our team focuses on helping our veterans and first responders have a better way of life through our volunteer mobile outreach mentoring program. We believe by aggressively seeking out veterans in need and contacting them before they are in crisis, we can really have some positive results. Contacting a person in need first is a great way to build trust and make it easier to begin a friendship. People will do better when they have human contact in their lives, too many programs are automated and lack the empathy and compassion needed to help someone in crisis.

We are not afraid to tell our veterans and first responders that they are loved and we strive to give them purpose. The team immediately empowers and gives its members a new family unit to be part of again. Nearly everyone that joins the team wants to help others and make a difference in someone else's life. Helping others definitely is a medicine that will make you become a better person, and you'll feel really good about it.

New Jersey Veterans Network is constantly keeping active thru our Operation Rebound Racing Team which hosts numerous hikes, runs, bike rides and all other types of physically challenging events. However, we also focus on non athletic events like hosting a BBQ, comedy show, tailgate, camping trip, and several other fun outings throughout the year. But it doesn't stop there, the team works well with other charities and hosts numerous food drives and clothing events which normally take place at

our veteran hospitals and shelters. If you would where their funds go and the volunteers get to like to help, there is something for you to play an active role in changing someone's life. contribute.

Most recently, in April, our outreach director Frank "Doc" Schupp spearheaded our "Helping Heroes" program, and "Hero Day". These two programs were responsible for providing over 3.000 veterans and National Guardsmen throughout the state with food, PPE, and personal items.

In the last few years New Jersey Veterans Network has grown and has been able to save lives, provide cars, employment, housing, clothing, food, toiletries, and so much more to heroes.

In the next few weeks, we will be launching a statewide anti-suicide and PTSD awareness campaign. We have joined forces with the NJ VFW, NJ American Legion, NJSPBA, NJ FMBA, NJ FOP, NJ Veterans Affairs, State Legislators, and numerous other groups and organizations.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Financial donations are great but we mostly rely on volunteers and donated resources. Our charity allows donors the opportunity to choose

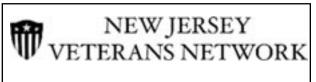
If you are interested in joining the team as a volunteer, or are a veteran in need of assistance or comradeship, please contact us at NJVN1775@gmail.com or call 973-332-1556. Visit online at NJVN.org.

ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our team is raising awareness of our veterans needs by organizing public speaking engagements, meeting with business and political leaders across the state and sponsoring fundraising events. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. To ensure that EVERY single one of our veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this great country, receives the resources that they require and deserve. If you are interested in joining our team, would like us to speak at your event, or contribute to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.



(above) The operation Rebound Racing Team road 25 miles before the Union Memorial Parade and then marched with the veterans. If you are interested in donating, joining the team as a volunteer, or are a veteran in need of assistance or comradeship, please contact us at NJVN1775@gmail.com or call 973-332-1556. Visit online at NJVN.org.



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for more information about our services, and ways you can make a difference in a heroes life.





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CONGRATULATES CEO RUSSELL TRIOLO ON 50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY



(above) Chief Executive Officer, Russell Triolo, of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County celebrated his 50th Anniversary of being a part of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Movement.





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Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County

It all started in 1956, when a 7 year old boy attended his first swim lesson at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Clifton, his hometown. Sixty-five years later, he never left the Club!

Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County (BGCUC) is excited to announce the 50th Anniversary of Chief Executive Officer, Russell Triolo, in the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Movement. Russell began his career with Boys & Girls Clubs in 1970 and has never looked back. His first stop was as Program Director for Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark, NJ. He then moved to Boys & Girls Clubs of Garfield in 1974, where he was the Assistant Director of the club. In 1980, Russell found his home with Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County where he has served as CEO for 41 years.

Russell has many career highlights and has been recognized for the amazing work he has done with Boys & Girls Clubs. When Russell started with BGCUC there was only one club in Union County which served 800 members. Now there are three clubs serving youth in Union, Elizabeth, and Plainfield, NJ which reach over 3,000 members annually and thousands more over the years.

In 2012 Russell was one of only four exceptional professionals recognized as a Masters & Mentors recipient from the Academy of Boys & Girls Clubs Professionals during the 106th Annual Boys & Girls Clubs of America's (BGCA) National Conference in San Diego, California. In the past 100 years, this honor has been awarded to a select group of Boys & Girls Club professionals. The Masters & Mentors Award is the highest honor bestowed on Boys & Girls Club Professionals by the Professional Association and it recognizes and honors exceptional professionals who dedicate their lives to Clubs, have been integral to the success of the Boys & Girls Club Movement, and have shown a commitment to professional growth and excellence.

He was a member at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Clifton from the age of 7-18, and was inducted into the Inaugural Class of their Hall of Fame.

"Russell is a tireless champion for kids," said Jim Clark, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. "His passion and drive to improve the lives of youth has impacted countless young people in Union County, he is always willing to share his expertise to advance the mission of Boys & Girls Clubs nationally. Russell truly does 'whatever it takes' to support great futures for youth. Thank you for 50 years of dedicated leadership and commitment to the Boys & Girls Club family!"

Congratulations Russell Triolo on 50 years with the Boys & Girls Club Movement! BGCUC is so happy to have you as our leader and mentor.

Summer Programs registration is now open at our Union, Elizabeth, and Plainfield Clubs. "Virtual School" and After- School programs are now open at our Union, Elizabeth, and Plainfield Clubs. Contact us at 908-687-2697 for information and registration. Aquatics, stroke development, and water safety instruction is available at our Union Club. Teen Leadership Club programs are available at our Clubs in Plainfield, Elizabeth, and Union. Teen members participate in character, leadership, career preparation, and community service activities throughout the year.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF UNION COUNTY

Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County seek to inspire and enable young people, who need them most, to realize their full potential and have provided an opportunity for youth since 1955. They are part of a national network of some 4,000 neighborhood-based facilities, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which serves more than 4.6 million young people annually, in all 50 states and on U.S. military bases worldwide. Clubs provide guidance-oriented character development programs on a daily basis for children 6-18 years old, conducted by a full-time professional staff. Key Boys & Girls Club programs emphasize leadership development, education and career exploration, financial literacy, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation, and family outreach.



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THE GIFT OF SIGHT - SAYING YES! CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE

"I am passionate about spreading the important lifesaving and enhancing message of organ and tissue donation because I know the powerful impact it can have," said Peter DeSarno, member of the New Providence Lions and double cornea transplant recipient. "It is an honor to bring together two organizations (The Lions Club and Eversight) that do so much good and have personally impacted my life".

That was the way the presentation at the November 4 New Providence Lions Club meeting began as members heard the personal story of one of its own members receiving the gift of sight and discussed the 50-year history of Eye Banking in New Jersey with Jennifer Rosenblatt, Director of Philanthropy at Eversight.

Peter went on to share that when he was in high school, he was diagnosed with a condition called Keratoconus that affected both of his eyes and at the age of 24. He then received two cornea transplants that restored his vision and forever changed his life.

The gift of his first donor cornea in his left eye came to him with the assistance of the Lions Eye Bank of Texas. The second transplant in his right eye was procured with the assistance of the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey (now Eversight) working in conjunction with the New Providence based, NJ Sharing Network.

Peter put his experience into perspective by saying that today he looks out of the eyes of two other individuals. Peter explained that unfortunately he has not been able to make contact with and thank his donor families. He said what he does know is that they were two heroic human beings who came from two loving, caring and generous families who in their darkest hour displayed an incredible amount of love and compassion in providing him with the gift of sight. He said that he doesn't think humanity gets any more beautiful than that.

The Lions Club's work in fighting blindness goes back many years. In 1925, as an ambassador for the newly formed American Foundation for the Blind, Helen Keller addressed the Lions Club International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio hoping that the Lions would partner with the American Foundation for the Blind and lend their support as an organization to those who had lost their sight.

It was at that convention where she appealed to the Lions and challenged them to become "knights of the blind in this crusade against darkness."

She had no idea just how far the association would take her challenge. Before the convention was over, the association dedicated itself to making Keller's dream a reality and the Lions would become Keller's Knights of the Blind.

Since 1925, millions of lives have been changed through the vision-related work of Lions around the world, and today the association is as dedicated as ever to hastening the day when no one should suffer unnecessarily from vision problems. Lions work to end preventable blindness and aid the visually impaired through eye centers and hospitals, medicines and surgeries, eye glasses and eye banks.



(above) Peter DeSarno, member of the New Providence Lions and double cornea transplant recipient, recently shared his personal story with the Lions Club.

Jennifer Rosenblatt, Director of Philanthropy of Eversight, shared with the New Providence Lions Club an inspiring presentation about the Eye Bank in New Jersey and the work of her organization. Specifically, the work at Eversight to restore sight and prevent blindness through the healing power of donation, transplantation and research.

From its home in Clark, NJ, Eversight proudly partners with NJ Sharing Network, Lions Clubs, surgeons, businesses and philanthropists throughout New Jersey to advance its mission.

In 2019, Eversight worked with the families of 882 New Jersey residents who gave the gift of sight for transplantation, research and education. Through outreach and programs, Eversight provided donated tissue for 8,176 sight-restoring corneal transplants in 2019 in New Jersey and around the world.

Saying "yes" to donation can change someone's life.



(above) Jennifer Rosenblatt, Director of Philanthropy of Eversight, shared with the New Providence Lions Club an inspiring presentation about the Eye Banking in New Jersey and the work of her organization.

For details about donation visit eversightvision.org/our-work/donation.

For how to register to become a donor, visit eversightvision.org/get-involved/#join-registry.

The New Providence Lions Club is a 501(c)3 organization, giving back to the community 100% of the proceeds raised. Being a Lion empowers you to help others in a way that no one person could alone. The Lions are dedicated to helping others. Lions make a difference! For more information/membership please email info@nplions.org and visit nplions.org.







epression and mood disorders can affect an individual's ability to carry on a normal life. They can leave a person feeling unusually sad, depressed, anxious, manic and generally not able to live life to its fullest.

One of the state's largest and comprehensive hospital-based Behavioral Health programs is offering new hope to patients with life-affecting mood disorders.

The new Mood Disorders Program at Trinitas Regional Medical Center has centralized all major treatments into a single, customized delivery system – one that now includes, medication, psychotherapy, esketamine and Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT).

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GREEKFEST "TO GO" JUNE 4 – 5

If you're looking for some good homemade Greek food, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield is hosting their Annual GreekFest but it's "TO GO". Get some delicious take-out on Friday, June 4th from 4-9 p.m., and Saturday June 5th from 11 a.m. -9 p.m.

Some of their specialties like Pasticcio, Souvlaki, Gyros, and desserts like Baklava and Galatopuriko will be available to order on-line at NJGREEKFEST.COM.

So, order online at NJGREEKFEST.COM, and pick up your food in the parking lot of the church located at 250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ. Who knows? There may be dancing in the isles!!

And remember, everyone can be Greek for a day at NJGreekFest!

VINTAGE & ANTIQUES CRAFTS FAIR – JUNE 13

Hosted by the Borough of Fanwood, two Vintage & Antiques Crafts Fairs will be held on Sundays June 13 and October 24, 2021 in the Fanwood Train Station (south side). Featuring 50+ exhibitors selling vintage items from days gone by along with hand made items from artisans and craftspeople. This free event is open to the public from 10 a.m. -5 p.m. There will be a selection of food so come hungry and enjoy.

For more general information, or on becoming an exhibitor please, contact JC Promotions at 201.998.6311, events@jcpromotions.info.

Vintage & Antiques & Craft Fair 50+ exhibitors | COVID guidelines enforced Sun. June 13 - 10AM-5PM Fanwood NJ Train Station 256 South Ave. side, (park on 238 North Ave side) 201.998.1144 www.jcpromotions.info



COMMEMORATION OF HANNAH CALDWELL DAY

Hannah Caldwell Day will be commemorated at the Caldwell Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union, on Sunday, June 6, from 2 to 5 p.m. Rev. James Caldwell, portrayed by Doc Burkhardt, will recall the heroism of his wife during the American Revolution on that fateful day--June 7, 1780. Tours will be conducted of the Parsonage and of the adjacent carriage house. Admission is free. Souvenirs will be available for purchase.

Children can: Create their own tricorn hats and colonial-style bonnets; Make "church" dolls; Play colonial and Native American games; Collect Hannah Caldwell (pictured), James Caldwell, and Battle of Connecticut Farms trading cards; Get Union County passport booklets and have them stamped--the Parsonage is part of the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area and an official cancellation location.



(above) Hannah Caldwell Day will be commemorated at the Caldwell Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union, on Sunday, June 6, from 2 to 5 p.m.





YARNIES FIBER CRAFTS GROUP

The Yarnies are back every Thursday, weather permitting, from 2-4 p.m., the group will meet in front of the Kenilworth Public Library on the Boulevard. Bring your own chair.

You don't need any crafting experience to enjoy the company of other crafters and creative exploration. Feel free to bring a project to work on, and / or a finished item to show others. If you

enjoy the fiber arts, or want to learn more about them, this group is for you.

Led by the multi-talented crafter, Kenilworth library assistant Kathleen Czarnecki, this award-winning program attracts participants from surrounding towns and newcomers are always welcome.







(above, l-r) Luann Schneider of Cranford is a regular attendee, Linda Horning of Kenilworth is a regular attendee.

(above) Library assistant Kathleen Czarnecki demonstrated how to spin yarn with a drop kindle.



(above) Tina Renna of Cranford brought a finished crochet project to show the group.



(above) The Libraries of Union County Consortium honored "Yarnies" of the Kenilworth Public Library as the 2019 Adult Services Program of the Year.

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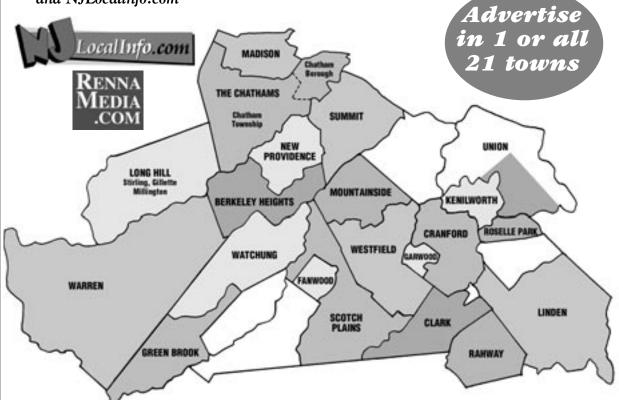
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Tribute to Stephen Sondheim: A Gay Pride Event

Tuesday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m. Robert McLaughlin, author of Stephen Sondheim and the Reinvention of the American Musical, shares his appreciation of Sondheim's work and many contributions to the Great American Musical.

How to Write a Resume to Get Hired

Wednesday, June 16 at 1:30 p.m. Join this resume training designed by a recruiter and land your next job faster. Lisa Rangel, founder of the executive resume writing and job landing company Chameleon Resumes, walks you through the exact steps and proven layouts you need to land multiple interviews. She'll cover both resume requirements and

mistakes to avoid.

Off the Shelf Book Club

Thursday June 17 at 7 p.m. All books available to UPL cardholders on Hoopla. New members are always welcome. Call the library for this month's selection.

Vision Board Project -

Using the Power of Intention and Visualization to Achieve Your Dream

Monday, June 21 at 6:30 p.m. A Vision Board is a collage representing things you would like to manifest in your life. Certified Life Coach, Beverly Braxton-Cannon will help you identify achievable, and realistic short-term and long-term goals, and show you how to create a vision board. Call the Vauxhall branch 908-851-5451 for (limited) supply kits.

Get Off the Couch and into Shape

Tuesday, June 22 at 12:00 p.m.

After the long winter, don't be afraid to get off the couch and into shape! Join Paul Mickiewicz, from The Gateway Family YMCA, for a few exercises and stretching techniques that you can easily do every day. Learn AND have fun!

Smart DriverTEK Virtual Workshop

Monday, June 28 at 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Technology is changing the driving experience. Learn about the latest high-tech safety features in your current or future car including what's new available, how they work and how they can make driving safer and more enjoyable.

Presented by AARP.

Genealogy Research Stories

Wednesday, June 30 at 6:30 p.m. Are you trying to research an NJ female ancestor but don't know how? Regina Fitzpatrick, Genealogy Librarian at the NJ State Library, will show you using popular New Jersey genealogical collections. Learn smart research strategies and new resources to find your ancestors and hear stories from the past.

Meditation

Thursdays, June 3, 10, 17, 24 at 11:30 a.m. Join Bindu Bhatt for a virtual meditation session. No experience necessary. Bindu has practiced meditation for over 30 years and would like to share her insight with you.

Beginners Flow Yoga

Thursdays, June 3, 10, 17, 24 at 6:00 p.m. This class leads you through the foundations of yoga postures, body awareness, and alignment, relaxation of the mind, and connection with the breath. You will learn how to improve muscle strength, promote flexibility, and build your own yoga program.

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