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2022 ALJ COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Clark Public Schools

On Thursday, June 24th, Arthur L Johnson High School held its sixty-sixth commencement ceremony. The event was attended by Board of Education President Steven Donkersloot, Board of Education members, Clark Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, Clark Superintendent Edward Grande, family members, teachers, administrators, and other community members.

As tradition dictates, Assistant Principal, Joseph Cardinale, served as master of ceremonies for the event. Ashley Belverio led the opening ceremony with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Maria Guskind singing a very moving rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.

Salutatorian Phillip Brennan gave an impassioned speech harkening back to elementary and middle school. "Remember, embracing change is not as scary as it seems."

Shannon Heaning, president of the student council, spoke about the many accomplishments the members of the class have had. "I recently read someone say 'I wish we knew we were living in the good old times before we were out of them.' She closed by saying, 'Hard work pays off. Congratulations to the Class of 2022.'"

Ashley Belverio, Senior Class President, spoke of the Covid experience that they endured since 2020, and finally reached the near-normal year of 2021-2022. "Appreciate the little things in life. Don't take anything for granted. It can be lost in an instant."

After Belverio's speech, the ALJ Select Choir under the

direction of band director Erik Krebl, sang "Time of Your Life" by Green Day.

Valedictorian Christopher Warnick encouraged the graduates to "walk your own path, no matter what that path is. Nothing is guaranteed but an unknown future doesn't have to be scary."

Steve Donkersloot, Board President, encouraged students stating, "20 years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do, than by the things you actually did. Explore. Dream. Discover."

Superintendent Ed Grande presented Sophia Argenziano with the perfect attendance award for not missing a single day in four years of high school. He followed this with his own comments to the class. "This class has received \$13.6 million dollars in scholarships. They continue their education in prestigious schools, trade schools, and let's not forget those who have committed to protect our nation in military service."

Finally, Jennifer Feeley, principal of ALJ, addressed the graduating class. This is Feeley's last graduating class of her career since she is retiring after 29 years of being a teacher and administrator in Clark Public Schools. "You are firm, compelling and driven. These are everything a Crusader is made of, she said in closing.

Following the speeches, Phillip Brennan and Christopher Warnick called out all the names of the graduates, as members of the Board of Education took turns bestowing them to the recipients. Cardinale closed the ceremony by announcing, "Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the ALJ Class of 2022!"



Photo by Clark Public Schools

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Garwood Times



BARBARA TWEEDLE PASSES

Mayor Sara Todisco

It is with an extremely heavy heart that I share the sad news of the passing of Barbara Tweedle. She was truly a one-of-a-kind person with the biggest heart I have ever met. She's been called Mrs. Garwood and she definitely was that and so much more. Barbara was a longtime member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Garwood Fire Department, was our Municipal Alliance Coordinator since 2011 and was heavily involved with DARE and Garwood Parents Draw the Line even earlier than that.

I first met Barbara when I was in 5th Grade and she was teaching DARE. I'm honored to have gotten to know her over the years and to be able to call her a friend. Anyone who had the opportunity to know her was all the better for it. We will always remember her smile and her willingness to help anyone who needed it. Please join me in keeping Barbara Tweedle in our prayers as well as her husband Allan, children, grandchildren, and friends during this very difficult time.

(left) Barbara Ann Tweedle, 63, passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, June 23, 2022, with her family by her side.

Courtesy photo



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AMANI TO PERFORM AT SALEM ROADHOUSE

The Salem Roadhouse Café presents Amani, Saturday, August, 13 2022. The doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Amani means "peace" in Swahili. The group was formed to share the concept of peace through music.

The core veteran musicians are frontmen Stephan Fuller on vocals, and Marty Eigen on woodwinds. Amani is a collective with connections to dozens of talented musicians who perform alongside them regularly.

Amani performs hits from a variety of genres including: The American Songbook, Folk, Blues, Gospel, R&B, Jazz, Bossa Nova and Broadway.

Amani brings the sounds of the Caribbean to the Salem Roadhouse Cafe! Featuring hits by Harry Bellafonte, Jimmy Buffett, Bob Marley, Sunny Rollins and more, this joyful presentation will have you singing and dancing in the aisles. Amani features: Stephen Fuller, a dynamic bass/baritone singer; Marty Eigen, tenor and baritone sax; Domo, a steel drums, piano and vocalist virtuoso who will also excite the audience with a dance; Alex Gressel, Bass; Larry Greenburg piano; Gordon Lane, drums, along with Oloye Karade, percussionist.

As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is live, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome.

Salem Roadhouse Café is located at 829 Salem Rd., Union, NJ. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$20, and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert.

ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

It's not "church music." It's music music.

Folks who've come to the Salem Roadhouse Café know that it's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music — in a world

otherwise filled with clubs and bars. The Roadhouse has always offered its stage to local and independent mainstream musicians. Jazz, rock, folk, and other groups have performed. What's the common thread? They're all great musicians playing the kind of music people like to hear. There's no message, just music.

The Roadhouse started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth. Hey — that's why we're located where we are. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That's its social mission.

But the many musicians who've played the Salem Roadhouse Café see it as a solid performance venue. They love it because of its special intimacy and great audiences. They say people here "really listen." Ask any of the musicians you meet here — they love to play the Roadhouse, and they want to come back often.

Community Involvement

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Programs, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, Ukraine disaster relief, and others. Thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities. The Salem Roadhouse Café, together with Townley Presbyterian Church, has begun a series of free outdoor concerts to help various urgent charitable causes. More are planned.

LOCAL CHORUS OFFERS FREE A CAPPELLA SINGING SESSIONS

The Hickory Tree Chorus chapter of Sweet Adelines International invites women singers to register for its free "Big Summer Sing." You can come any Wednesday, in August, 7 to 9:30 p.m. at The Shrine of St Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ for chord-ringing, fun-filled, four-part a cappella music.

Each week, guests will participate in vocal and

physical warm-ups and work on songs with the chorus. The chorus sings a variety of music, including old-fashioned love songs, Broadway, Disney, Beatles, and more.

To register for the Big Summer Sing, please email info@hickorytreechorus.org or call 908-377-1399. For more information, visit hickorytreechorus.org.





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The Garwood First Aid Squad is actively recruiting volunteers and invites you to join our team. Whether you are looking to help out the community or get a start in the medical field, we would be glad to have you join us. You can work on board the ambulance or just help out around the squad house. No experience necessary. As a squad member, you can make a difference in a person's life join today.

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STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SHARED TIME PROGRAM

Clark public Schools

Arthur L. Johnson High School students have the opportunity to participate in the Shared-Time Union County Career & Technical Institute Programs for tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade students on a part-time basis. Union County Career & Technical Institute offers a variety of shared-time programs for students interested in a vocational-technical curriculum. The ALJ Shared-Time program provides students with an opportunity to learn valuable skills and gain real-world experience in a trade program while also completing their high school graduation requirements at ALJ.

Students can take courses in Welding Technology, Culinary Arts & Hospitality, Allied

Health, and Automotive Technology just to name a few. Some programs, like Cosmetology, are three-year programs while others, like Criminal Justice, Masonry, and Commercial Art, are two-year programs.

Recently, twelfth grade students in the Cosmetology program have had the opportunity to work part-time in salons or other related businesses to improve their techniques, utilize their knowledge, and gain experience in the field.

The Union County Vocational Technical Adult School also offers an array of postsecondary programs for graduating seniors at ALJ including Automotive Technology, Cosmetology, Electrical Technology, and HVAC/Plumbing.

Photo by Clark Public Schools



(above) A few of the ALJ students who attend the Shared-Time Union County Career & Technical Institute Program at Union County Vocational Technical Adult School.

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2022 VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

Clark Public Schools

Arthur L. Johnson High School is proud to announce the Class of 2022 Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

After 7 semesters and a cumulative GPA of 4.84, Christopher Warnick has earned and been awarded the title of ALJHS Valedictorian. Chris is off to Fairfield University where he plans to study Math but on the pre-health track.

With a cumulative GPA of 4.71, Philip Brennan has earned and been awarded the title of ALJHS Salutatorian. Philip will be studying Engineering at Lehigh University in the Fall. Principal Jennifer Feeley stated, "Congratulations to both of these outstanding students."

We are very proud of your hard work and commitment, and we commend you both on your academic excellence!"



(above, left) Philip Brennan
(above, right) Christopher Warnick

Photos by Clark Public Schools

The Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield joined some students and staff members at the Jardine Academy of the Cerebral Palsy League in Cranford, NJ to make Mother's Day planters that the students could give to their families. Seventy-five colorful pots were planted with a variety of popular garden plants and decorated with the brightly colored bows that members of the Club had made.

The Jardine Academy is operated by the Cerebral Palsy League, and is approved by the New Jersey Department of Education. They provide a comprehensive educational program designed to meet the cognitive and physical

needs of children and young adults ages 3-21 with multiple disabilities.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. The club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club. Meetings feature speakers on horticulture, floral design, floral crafts, and environmental topics. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns.

For more information, call Sharon Shiraga (908) 228-2865, or visit the club's website, rakeandhoe.org or Facebook page.



(above, l-r) The Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield members Adah Levine, Susan Feldman, Mary Lou Nolas, Mary Fran Annese, Irene Greenstein, Betty Clark, and Betty Gulino.

Courtesy photo

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ARTHUR L JOHNSON MUSIC DEPARTMENT ANNUAL MUSIC AWARDS NIGHT

Submitted by Nancy Morris

The Arthur L Johnson Music Department held its annual Music Awards Night recently. Parents and students got to enjoy dinner, while giving the seniors a proper send off. Mr. Eric Krebl, Music Director, handed out gifts and awards. Mr. Andy Calo, Assistant Music Director, presented a lanyard and one pin for each music program and group the students participated in.

The following students received awards: Brandon Dias - Directors Award for Band, and Henry Varriano Music Spirit Award; Judah Gray - John Philip Sousa Award; Hailey Catron - National Color Guard Award; Kaitlyn Diaz - National Marching Band Award; Maria Guskind - National Choral Award; Mariana Milara - Fred Waring Director's Award; Judah Gray - Louis Armstrong Award; Seth Guzman - Woody Herman Award. Maria Guskind was

awarded the ALJ Vocalist Scholarship. ALJ High School has a large number of Music Programs including Concert Band, Marching Band, Jazz Band, Parade Band, Indoor Percussion, Choir and Choral. If you have a child entering 8th thru 12th grade who is interested in joining the ALJ Crusaders Marching Band please email mpaclarknj@gmail.com. Marching band camp will be held in August.



Courtesy photo

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Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041 07078	Summit NJ Times Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	Westfield NJ MONTHLY Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

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12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
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CHESS FOR FUN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Chess for Fun is a casual group of chess players who have been meeting for roughly 50 years. The group's players come from all over, and in the case of Larry Morse, as far away as Whitehouse Station. The most senior player, at 98 years old, is still playing strong.

It their earlier years the group met at the Rahway Public Library when it was located on St. Georges Avenue. In 1999 a flood destroyed the library. Chess for Fun has been meeting in

the Clark Public Library every Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. And at Max's Pizza & Bistro in Scotch plains on Monday mornings at 11 a.m.

There are no formalities to the group. It is not an established club with officers or membership. Everyone of any ability is welcome to participate. Regulars bring their own board to share so it is not necessary to bring a board, but it would be helpful if you can.



(above, standing, l-r) Players and hometowns: Larry Morse, Whitehouse Station; Mark Shoengold, Colonia; Jack Rothstein, Edison; John Foy, Scotch Plains; Bodre. (seated, l-r) David Goldstein, South Plainfield; Neil Landau, Edison; Matthew Bistis, Mountainside.


KICKBALL PROGRAM WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

Garwood Recreation

Garwood Recreation introduced a new program this spring – Kickball! The program ran for 2 consecutive Friday evenings. John Salmon recommended the program, he is a member of the Garwood Recreation Committee. John remembered playing the sport when he was kid growing up in Garwood. Over 75 children signed up from ages 6 thru 14. Parents were quick to help out to organize and run the 2 games taking place at the same time. A great time was had by all! Recreation Director Ralph Bernardo was thrilled with the turnout.

Courtesy photos





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WALK TO END LUPUS NOW SET FOR SEPT. 11

The Lupus Foundation of America, New Jersey Chapter, invites you to our 30th Annual Walk To End Lupus Now. Join us at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 11, 2022 at Nomahegan Park in Cranford, NJ as we walk for a cure and to assist people suffering from lupus. Form a team, or walk as an individual, to raise money. To register or donate visit: givebutter.com/FNpmmK or text 53-555 and type in: WALKLUPUS22. For more information, please call 973-379-3226.



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