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MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE AND CELEBRATION

The Township of Union partnered with the Golden Rule Lodge #24 for a Day of Service and Celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, as well as a celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the “I Have a Dream” speech. The event took place on Monday, January 16, at 9 a.m. at the Golden Rule Lodge, located at 221 Oswald Place in Vauxhall.

Volunteers were asked to assist with the following tasks: Sorting donated food items and clothing; Cleaning garden beds at the Vauxhall Community Garden; Cleaning a local park; Senior wellness checks (making phone calls); and Food drop-offs at senior residences.

Residents also participated by donating and dropping off non-perishable food items or new and gently worn winter clothes at locations around town.



Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on Spirit of Union page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/SpiritofUnionNJ) Feel free to “Like,” “Tag,” and “Share.”

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C.A.R. PROVIDES YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Training tomorrow's leaders to serve our country and preserve our nation's history is the mission of the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.). Members honor those who came before and paved the way for what we have today.

The nation's oldest and largest patriotic youth organization, C.A.R. offers membership to girls and boys from birth to age 22 who can prove lineal descent from a man or woman who supported the cause of American independence.

Local C.A.R. groups, known as societies, are sponsored by chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) or Sons of the American Revolution. Here in central New Jersey, Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter DAR in Green Brook sponsors the Pis-Cat-A-Qua Society C.A.R. Members may participate in state and national activities that focus on patriotism, service, and education about our

American heritage.

Harriett Lothrop, a 19th century children's author from Concord, Mass., presented the idea for a children's organization to the DAR in 1895. Organized "for the training of young people in true patriotism and love of country," C.A.R. has promoted this vision to hundreds of thousands of members over the years. These boys and girls are the leaders of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

New members are welcome. Contact Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter DAR at ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com, or learn more online at NSCAR.org.



ANCHOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

The State of New Jersey has extended the deadline for filing your ANCHOR benefit application to February 28, 2023. The Affordable New Jersey Communities for Homeowners and Renters (ANCHOR) program will provide up to \$1,500 to homeowners with 2019 gross incomes up to \$150,000, and up to \$1,000 for those with gross incomes of between \$150,000 and

\$250,000 in that year. ANCHOR is also an important program for the tenants, who can receive \$450 if their gross income was \$150,000 or less in 2019.

To apply, visit the Division of Taxation's website: nj.gov/treasury/taxation/anchor The state has also established an ANCHOR hotline at 1-888-238-1233.

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1) APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates current as of January 26, 2023. Rates are subject to change without notice. Fees could reduce earnings on the account. 2) Ultra Checking is a blended rate tiered account with dividends paid on portions of your balance falling within designated tiers: \$0.00 - \$1,000.00: 3.14% APY; \$1,000.01 - \$5,000.00: 3.14% APY; \$5,000.01 - \$10,000.00: 3.14% APY; \$10,000.01 - \$15,000.00: 3.14% - 2.09% APY; \$15,000.01 - \$25,000.00: 2.09% - 1.25% APY; \$25,000.01 - \$50,000.00: 1.25% - 0.63% APY; \$50,000.01 and above: 0.63% - 0.02% APY. \$1,000 minimum balance to open. There is a \$1,000 minimum daily balance requirement to avoid a \$15 monthly maintenance fee. Limit of one Ultra Checking account per tax identification number. 3) Ultra Savings is a blended rate tiered account with dividends paid on portions of your balance falling within designated tiers: \$0.00 - \$100,000.00: 3.45% APY; \$100,000.01 - \$250,000.00: 3.45% APY; \$250,000.01 - \$500,000.00: 3.45% APY; \$500,000.01 - \$1,000,000.00: 3.45% APY; \$1,000,000.01 - \$2,000,000.00: 3.45% - 1.72% APY; \$2,000,000.01 - \$5,000,000.00: 1.72% - 0.69% APY; \$5,000,000.01 and above: 0.69% - 0.35% APY. \$100,000 minimum balance to open. There is a \$100 minimum daily balance requirement to avoid a \$100 monthly maintenance fee. Limit of one Ultra Savings account per tax identification number. 4) No surcharge when using an Atlantic Federal Credit Union Debit or ATM Card at ATMs in the Co-op Network. Visit <https://www.coop.org/Shared-Branch-ATM> for more information about the Co-op Network.

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HOLOCAUST STUDIES INCUEDES A SPECIAL VISITOR

Township of Union Public Schools

On Thursday, January 19, 2023, Kawameeh Middle School in Union, NJ welcomed Dr. Victor Borden to speak to 8th grade English Language Arts classes. Dr. Borden shared the story of his parents' escape during the Holocaust from Poland to the Soviet Union and later their immigration to the United States. The visit was organized by the 8th grade ELA teachers as part of their Unit 2 study of the Holocaust, which centers around



Photos by Township of Union Public Schools

(above) Dr. Victor Borden spoke to 8th grade English Language Arts classes about the story of his parents' escape during the Holocaust from Poland to the Soviet Union and later their immigration to the United States.



(above) In order to help students visualize the overwhelming number of Jewish deaths during the Holocaust, Dr. Borden shared a book titled *And Every Single One was Someone* that has the word *JEW* (printed in tiny font) 6 million times.

the essential question: How do we remember the past? The event was held in collaboration with the Kean University Holocaust Resource Center.

Dr. Borden's powerful and personal account of his parents' journey provided students with a unique perspective on the Holocaust and the importance of remembering the past. The students listened attentively as Dr. Borden spoke of the challenges his parents faced and the sacrifices they made in order to survive. In order to help students visualize the overwhelming number of Jewish deaths during the Holocaust, Dr. Borden shared a book titled *And Every Single One was Someone* that has the word *JEW* (printed in tiny font) 6 million times. This concrete symbolism really resonated with both students and teachers alike.

"The Kawameeh Middle School community is so grateful for the opportunity to hear Dr.

Borden's story and for the collaboration with the KU Holocaust Resource Center in making this event a reality," said teacher and organizer, Mrs. Nikki Kelly. "Hearing Dr. Borden's personal story of his parents' escape during the Holocaust was a powerful and moving experience for our students. We believe it helped them to realize that even though the events of the Holocaust seem like a distant memory, we are not so far removed from this time period and the generational impact it has had and continues to have on so many people." Student Jordan Brooks commented, "The presentation was moving and I think it's important for people to get involved so that nothing like the Holocaust happens again."

Students are looking forward to continuing their studies of the Holocaust that will conclude with a summative activity on January 27th, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

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MUNICIPAL BAND LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

Township of Union

In honor of the 2023 season, the Union Municipal Band is holding an open call for new musicians who play any instrument.

The Township of Union Municipal Band rehearses on Monday evenings at Hannah Caldwell School. The band performs 10 concerts throughout the year, including special concerts at Ehrhart Gardens and Putnam Manor.

"The Township of Union Municipal Band is open to musicians of all ages," says Howard Toplansky, Band Director. "If you are a high school musician looking for extra practice or a retired professional who wants to get back into music, the municipal band is a perfect fit."

Musicians who are interested in joining the band should contact the Township of Union Recreation Department at

recreation@uniontownship.com
 or by calling 908-686-4200.

SUPERBOWL PARTY FUNDRAISER

Once again, the David Brearley Middle High School in Kenilworth will be running a Superbowl Party Fundraiser. The DBMHS-PTO will be raffling off a catered party for 15-20 ppl on Superbowl Sunday, February 12th. Hot and cold food items to include but not limited to; pizza, sandwich platter, wings, pasta, chips, dips, 2 cases of soda, case of bottled water, 3 dessert items, football themed decorations and paper goods and a 43" Smart TV. The second runner up will receive a \$100 gift card.

Delivery will be curbside 2/11 & 2/12. Cost to enter is \$20. Participants must live within a 6-mile radius of Kenilworth for delivery. Participants can VENMO to DBMHS-PTO@PTO-DBMHS (please include phone contact) or contact Susan @ 908-591-1481 for more details.



KEAN



Sayaka Ganz Reclaimed Creations

Produced by David J. Wagner, L.L.C., David J. Wagner, Ph.D., Curator/Tour Director



The Galleries at Kean University present Sayaka Ganz RECLAIMED CREATIONS, an amazing art exhibition featuring sculptures of animals in motion, utilizing reclaimed plastic objects, rich in color and energy.

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9 AM - 8 PM; Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM; Sunday: Closed

Beginners Yoga Flow (Zoom)

Thursdays @ 6:00 pm

This class will lead you through the foundations of yoga postures, body awareness and alignment, relaxation of the mind, and a connection with the breath. In addition, you will learn how to improve muscle strength, promote flexibility, and build your yoga program specifically for your mind and body.

Animal Crossing Open Hours (Nintendo Switch)

Fri., 2/3 @ 3:00 pm

Explore UPL Island! Check out our inclusive virtual library building that serves children, teens, and adults. Discover the Mario-themed maze, shake fruit/money trees, shop at Nooks & Abels, help craft DIYs, and leave a message on the bulletin board. As a thank you for visiting, there will be freebies! To visit our island, you must add us as a friend before entering. Our UPL Nintendo friend code is SW-4027-1837-6212. All ages and no registration is necessary. To learn more, contact jcarvajal@uplnj.org.

Adult Zentangle Class with Mimi Topping (In-person at Main Library)

Tues, 2/7 @ 6:30 pm

Learn the building blocks for creating Zentangle art. Then, experience the relaxing benefits and create a beautiful 'tile' consisting of four or more patterns. All materials will be provided. Registration will take place one week before the event.

Taking off the Mask- Breaking the Stigma of Mental Illness with the NJ Mental Health Association Players (In-person at Union Senior Center)

Wed, 2/8 @ 10:00 am

How does aging impact your mental health? What does wellness mean? How can I take care of myself? The Mental Health Players will perform some of these issues and then turn them over to the group for an interactive session. Refreshments will be served.

British Invasion Love Songs (Zoom)

Wed., 2/8 @ 7:00 pm

The Beatles were all about romance -- from I Want to Hold Your Hand to All You Need is Love -- as were many from the British Invasion. Tom Jones, the Troggs, Procol Harum, and the Rolling Stones all made their marks in affairs of the heart. Join Chuck Granata (author, music historian, and Project Director/Producer at Sony Music Entertainment), who will share his personal stories about the bands and some of their greatest hits.

Off the Shelf Book Club (Zoom)

Thurs., 2/16 @ 7:00 pm

New members are always welcome. This month's title is Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson.

Hilton Readers Book Discussion Group (In-person at the Vauxhall Branch)

Wed., 2/22 @ 6:00 pm

Members discuss their favorite books and authors, and new members are always welcome. February's title is The Talented Ribkins by Ladée Hubbard.

Google Mail: Learn to Be Efficient and Productive! (Zoom)

Thurs., 2/23 @ 12:00 pm

Did you know that Gmail has functions to organize, create events, folders, and tasks, and label and prioritize emails to maximize efficiency and find information quickly? Join us to learn to manage your email and streamline email. Presented by Susan Justiniano, Tech Support and Education Specialist.

Adult Brush Lettering Workshop (In-person at Main Library)

Sat., 2/25 @ 10:30 am

Learn the modern art of brush lettering taught by Swetha Shenoy, hand lettering and watercolor artist and owner of The Paisley Corner. No experience necessary! Registration will open one week before the event. Limited spots are available!

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NEIGHBORHOOD MATH EXPERTS SET UP SHOP IN UNION

Mathnasium Operates on Core Belief That Every Child Can Become Great at Math

Mathnasium of Union is now open for business, bringing fun and effective supplementary math programs for community children in grades K through 12. A Grand Opening Celebration is being held on Saturday February 11th, weather permitting, at 10am with light refreshments being served.

The learning center, located at 326 Chestnut St in the Five Points Shopping Center, focuses solely on math and operates on the core belief that virtually any child can excel in the subject. The Mathnasium Method™, implemented at more than 1000 Mathnasium centers in the U.S. and abroad, is a unique program that provides every student with an individualized learning plan and personal instruction in a way that makes sense to them. “Our students will work in a fun, encouraging environment to improve their number sense and computational skills, as well

as gaining an intuitive understanding of how numbers work,” said Dr. James Campora, Center Director of Mathnasium of Union.

“Our goal is simple: to teach math in a way that makes sense to kids,” Dr. Campora continued. “Mathnasium centers across the country have helped struggling students develop into ‘A’ students and ‘A’ students go on to even greater achievements. We are thrilled to be able to bring our Mathnasium Method™ to support the families of Union and the surrounding area.”

The Mathnasium experience begins with an assessment designed to pinpoint a child’s strengths and weaknesses. These results provide the foundation from which Mathnasium constructs the student’s customized learning plan. Students learn math in a friendly, productive learning environment and are taught by caring and knowledgeable instructors well-versed in

integrating Mathnasium’s techniques with the math curriculum used in Union area schools. The Mathnasium Method™ uses a unique combination of mental, verbal, visual, tactile, and written techniques to help children really understand math and has been developed over more than 40 years of practical experience with thousands of students.

Mathnasium students receive the support they need for school homework and tests while building their math foundations. “As educators, we strive to offer students a balanced math learning experience: one that fills in the gaps, keeps students on track with math taught in school, and, most importantly, makes learning math a fun and joyful experience,” Dr. Campora concluded.

Learn more: www.mathnasium.com/union

ABOUT MATHNASIUM

Mathnasium, the nation’s leading math-only learning center franchise, specializes in teaching kids’ math in a way that makes sense to them. When math makes sense, kids excel—whether they’re far behind or eager to get ahead. The proprietary Mathnasium Method™ is the result of 40+ years of hands-on instruction and research. Franchising since 2003, Mathnasium has become one of the fastest-growing educational franchises. There are over 1000 Mathnasium franchises in the U.S. and abroad.

For more information, visit www.mathnasium.com.



This is where kids come to catch up and get ahead in math.

Is your child realizing their potential in math? Results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress show an alarming decline in math scores nationwide¹ — clear evidence of the toll the pandemic has taken on students. But there’s plenty of time to turn things around, with personalized math instruction at Mathnasium. A customized learning plan will focus on what your child needs to improve their math skills and build their confidence for the rest of the school year!

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¹National Assessment of Educational Progress



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CALDWELL PARSONAGE OPEN HOUSES

On Sundays, February 12 and 26, from 2 - 5 p.m., visit 1780's Caldwell Parsonage and 1800 Carriage House Tool Museum.

- Learn about the "Veterans of Vauxhall" from Jonny Rosser, Vauxhall Historical Society and Union County Historical Society board member.
- Admire Hannah Caldwell's everyday attire.
- Student docents will conduct tours.
- Children can enjoy interactive immigration exhibit, make tricorne hats and colonial bonnets, and collect Parsonage stickers.
- Admission is free. Souvenirs are available for purchase.



(above) Caldwell Parsonage Open Houses hosted by the Union Township Historical Society; Sundays, February 12 and 26, 2-5 p.m.

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BUS TRIP TO WIND CREEK CASINO OF BETHLEHEM, PA.

The Kenilworth Historical Society will host a bus trip to Wind Creek Bethlehem Casino in Bethlehem, PA, on Saturday, March 18, 2023.

The trip will depart Kenilworth (St. Theresa's School parking lot) at 8:30 a.m. and return to Kenilworth at approximately 5:30 p.m. Cost of \$52 includes comfortable motor coach transportation, an approximate 6-hour visit to the casino and \$25 in free slot play. There will be complimentary door prizes on the bus. The casino offers more than 3,000 state-of-the-art slot machines ranging in denomination from 1 cent to \$100, more than 150 table games – and more. The Wind Creek Bethlehem site additionally houses a wide range of distinctive outlet stores and popular restaurants/eateries.

For further information and reservations, please call 908-709-0434. As space is limited,

particularly for safe "social distancing" on the bus, reservations and payment should be made by March 3 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, local history and culture.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The YWCA Union County is actively seeking new volunteers to serve our communities. Crisis Response Team Volunteers are needed to work with local police departments that are providing options, advocacy, and emotional support to domestic violence survivors reporting abuse.

IF INTERESTED, THE FOLLOWING IS REQUESTED:

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Evening or weekend availability a plus
- Bilingual a plus (Spanish, Creole, Polish & Arabic)
- Must have a valid driver's license and access to a vehicle
- Experience working/volunteering with vulnerable & diverse populations a plus
- Must complete a mandatory, free, 40-hour Domestic Violence Training session (to be held via Zoom in September)
- Background check required

For more information - please contact Amanda Gonzalez, CRT Coordinator via email at: amgonzalez@ywcaunioncounty.org.

KNOW ABOUT NJ 211?

The 211 system is found throughout the United States and is devoted to connecting people in need to the resources that can help. While each 211 operates independently, all of the more than 200 organizations provide a network of local support that people can call on with confidence when they need help and simply don't know where to turn. In New Jersey, our motto has been: Need Help? Start Here.

NJ 211 provides live assistance 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Our services are free, confidential and multilingual. There are several ways to reach us: By phone (simply dial 2-1-1); via text (send your zip code to 898-211); email (info@nj211.org); or chat on-line: nj211.org/contact-us. Whichever method you choose, you will be communicating with a community resource specialist who has been educated about federal, state and local systems created to help people who are struggling.

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SHAKESPEARE'S COMEDY TWELFTH NIGHT COMING TO CDC THEATRE

"Better a witty fool, than a foolish wit.", "If music be the food of love, play on." and "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em." are just a few of the familiar lines from William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

A talented cast is preparing to present one of the Bard's finest comedies at CDC Theatre in Cranford for seven shows running from February 10th to the 25th and is being directed by Susan Speidel. Ms., Speidel currently serves on the faculty of the Kean University Theatre Conservatory and is a lecturer for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers University. Holding a range of academic degrees, she has studied acting and directing at HB Studios in New York City and at the Globe Theater in London. She served for 20 years as Director of Education for the Tony-Award winning Paper Mill Playhouse and has directed more than 50 plays and musicals.

"A woman, disguised as a man, falls in love with her boss, only to be pursued by the woman her boss is determined to marry. Confused?", asked Ms. Speidel recently, "You're not alone, but Twelfth Night, Shakespeare's witty look at


gender confusion, invites us to put convention aside, stretch the boundaries of "acceptable" attraction, and that, in the end, love is love is love. The play is filled with relatable characters contending with mistaken identities, unrelenting desire, hilarious pranks, and unrequited love – not to mention cross-dressing, duels, and deception – all offered up with a generous dash of merriment!"

Twelfth Night combines love, confusion, mistaken identities and joyful discovery all while telling a story of fickle fortune, mourning, love and reunion. Set in the free-wheeling, mirror-ball world of the 1970s, the celebratory nature of Shakespeare's play is heightened with a series of Top-Ten hits that enhance the production and move the action forward with a disco beat. Shipwrecked twins, gender-bending romance and a bumper crop of fools, from the wise to the ridiculous, guarantee a full-blown evening's entertainment.

CDC Theatre is celebrating its 104th season in Cranford, NJ at 78 Winans Ave.

For best ticket selection and prices, visit cdctheatre.org for additional information.





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Monday February 27th
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YMCA DISTRIBUTES FREE COMPUTERS TO STUDENTS

The Gateway Family YMCA

On January 16, 2023, the Loyalty Foundation distributed 100 Chromebook laptops to School Age Child Care (SACC) participants in need at The Gateway Family YMCA in Elizabeth, Rahway and Union, NJ. The distribution event at the Elizabeth Branch was attended by David Neeman, Founder, Loyalty Foundation, Rahmean Pops, 211 Community Impact, and the entertainer Redman.

“It was a beautiful Martin Luther King Jr. Day and we were so pleased to collaborate with all the wonderful folks from The Gateway YMCA in Elizabeth, NJ to distribute the computers. The community and atmosphere was electric, and we can't thank the incomparable Redman and Rahmean Pops of 211 Community Impact enough for supporting our equity empowerment mission. Seeing all the smiles on the families faces and knowing how much these computers will help them, means the world to us,” stated David Neeman, Founder, the Loyalty Foundation

“We are very appreciative of The Loyalty

Foundation, a strong partner to The Gateway Family YMCA and the families we serve. Access to technology is imperative to provide academic success and recovery from the learning loss experienced over these past few years. This donation opens a world of possibilities for our children,” Melynda A. Disla, President/Chief Executive Officer, The Gateway Family YMCA. “It was a heartwarming event and a great collaboration. We are truly thankful to Redman for taking the time to visit with families at our YMCA and brighten the smiles of all who attended. We are thankful to Rahmean Pops of 211 Community Impact for joining the Loyalty Foundation in sharing the gift of technology with our students.”

The computer donation was made possible by The Loyalty Foundation, a New York City-based 501(c)(3) Public Charity providing computers technology-based education programs to underserved K-12 youth populations across the U.S.

The Chromebooks were distributed to SACC

families on a first-come-first-serve basis at the 3 different locations of The Gateway Family YMCA: Elizabeth Branch, Five Points Branch, and Rahway Branch.

For more information about The Loyalty Foundation visit www.loyaltyfoundation.org

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA visit www.tgfymca.org.



(above) Naldy Velarde, School Age Child Care & Camp Director; The Gateway Family YMCA, Jasmine Shaw, Housing Coordinator; Redman, Earnestine Brookins, Housing Coordinator; David Neeman, Founder, The Loyalty Foundation, Colleen Clayton, Chief Membership & Development Officer, Rahmean Pops, 211 Community Impact sharing a moment with the last Elizabeth YMCA family to pick up their laptop on Monday.



(above) Elizabeth Branch family Shannnah, Rashon, Jayceon and Jalani receive their laptop from the Loyalty Foundation.



(above) Chloe, Five Points Branch student smiles with her laptop, with mom and sister, Amber and Graisy. (Union)

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