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SENIORS CELEBRATE VALENTINES DAY

Love, laughter, and fond memories filled the air as Berkeley Heights Senior Citizens gathered on Friday, February 9th, 2024, to celebrate Valentine's Day in style. The

Multipurpose Room at the Municipal Building transformed into a hub of joy and affection as seniors came together to share in the spirit of love and camaraderie.



Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on Berkeley Heights Community News page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/BerkeleyHeightsCommunityNews) Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."



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A WEEKEND OF CANS, CREATIVITY, AND COMMUNITY



Submitted by Lucia Triolo WGS

Westfield Girl Scouts successfully hosted its first Canstruction Jr. event on Saturday, Feb. 10. Seven teams of Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Scouts took on the challenge of using canned goods to build various structures. The 4th-12th graders had up to six hours to complete the designs, with the goal of bringing attention to food insecurity in our area.

On Sunday, the same teams returned to the Presbyterian Church in Westfield to sort and distribute the near 2,500 shelf-stable items. Recipient organizations included:

- Presbyterian Church in Westfield, Westfield
- Church of the Immaculate Heart Food Pantry, Scotch Plains
- Valerie's Soup Kitchen, Plainfield
- Little Flower Church Food Pantry, Berkeley Heights

- David Brearley High School Care Closet, Kenilworth
- St. Anne's Food Pantry, Garwood
- St. Joseph's Social Services, Elizabeth
- Osceola Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, Clark
- El Centro Hispano Americano, Plainfield

Canstruction® is an international campaign that raises awareness about hunger while facilitating the donation of thousands of pounds of canned food to those in need. Participants incorporate engineering, visual arts, mathematics, project management, and 3D rendering principles all while learning the importance of community service.

Congratulations to the participating Girl Scouts on their hard work and creative approach to the design challenge.

ARM PAIN

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THE GREAT DUBOIS: WORLD'S MOST UNIQUE TWO-PERSON CIRCUS SHOW

Step right up, The Great DuBois are coming, and they are ready to dazzle you with their unparalleled talent and boundless creativity! The Great DuBois, the two-person circus act, that captivated audiences in the film The Greatest Showman, is coming to The Sieminski Theater in Basking Ridge for two spellbinding performances on

**Saturday, March 23rd, at 7:30 pm
& Sunday, March 24th, at 2:30 pm.**

This is not your ordinary circus! It is a breathtaking display of talent, energy, and sheer magic that will leave children of all ages astounded. Just imagine a world where juggling balls defy gravity, hula hoops spin with otherworldly grace, and unicycles glide through the air with such effortless ease. Picture daring acrobatics that take place high above the stage, as bodies twist and soar with a grace that seems almost mystical. All of this, intertwined with ribbons of comedy and audience interaction, will have you laughing, cheering, and on the edge of your seat throughout the entire show. These extraordinary performers Michael DuBois and Viktoria Grimmey possess a combined heritage of circus talent spanning five generations. Together, they have crafted a one-of-a-kind family show that showcases their immense talent and undeniable chemistry.

Michael, with his magnetic stage presence and impressive resume, includes appearances on The

Tonight Show, Jay Leno Show, and The Late Show with David Letterman. His talents have taken him around the world, entertaining audiences on cruise lines and halftime shows. Before teaming up with his wife, Viktoria, he wowed audiences with his one-man circus act, "Solo Circus."

Viktoria brings unparalleled grace and skill to the stage, born into a multi-generational Circus family that toured with the Soviet Circus, Ringling Brothers, and the Barnum and Bailey Circus. She has achieved international acclaim as an aerialist, earning notable awards. Her talent

has taken her on tour with Britney Spears to the bright lights of Broadway in the hit musical "Pippin.", and to the movies with "Burlesque" and "The Greatest Show on Earth" with Michael.

From the moment the lights dim, and the vibrant tapestry of their performance begins to unfold, you will find yourself transported to a world where dreams defy gravity, and anything is possible. So, mark your calendars and prepare for an experience that will leave you breathless. Get your tickets at Sieminskitheater.org or call the Box Office at 908-580-3892. Ask about our Family Discount offer.





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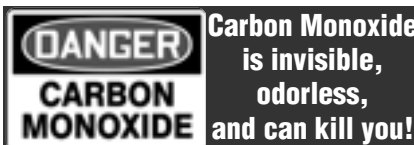
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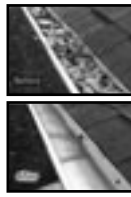
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PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE PERFORMS AT KEAN COLLABORATIVE CONCERT

Berkeley Heights Public Schools
Students from the Berkeley Heights Public Schools Percussion Ensemble recently performed at a collaborative concert at Kean University recently. A video of the DHH (Deaf and Hard of Hearing) Percussion Workshop Ensemble was also shown to highlight the class.

The concert was a collaboration of students from Union County Public Schools, Kean University alumni/current students and faculty, as well as the Community Access Unlimited's Academy of Continuing Education. CAU provides support and gives a voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society.

The event was a culmination of their musical experiences up until the event. It was a special evening for everyone involved and everyone in attendance. Congratulations to Berkeley Heights Public Schools Staff Members Josef Ellis, Joseph Laurino, Scott Jonach (Student Teacher) and all of the student performers for being a part of this special event.



(above) GLHS Percussion Ensemble

Photo by Berkeley Heights Public Schools



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Ages 4-7

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July 8 - 12

Piano Explorers

Ages 4-7

Designed for the beginning pianist, campers will learn how to locate notes on the piano, correct hand position and posture, rhythms, music symbols, note values and solfeggio through musical games and movement activities. Come hear your camper perform in Wharton's piano lab on the last day of camp!



July 15 - 19

Violin Explorers

Ages 4-6

Our youngest campers will explore all things violin from building their own box violin to being fitted for their very first instrument. This is a wonderful opportunity to try out the violin in a fun and nurturing environment. Instrumental rental fee not included in camp tuition.

Suzuki Violin Program

Ages 5-10

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SENIOR CITIZENS' ST PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

A Senior Citizens' St. Patrick's Day Party and Luncheon will be held on Sunday, March 17th from 1 – 3:30 p.m. at the Church of the Little Flower in Berkeley Heights, located at 310 Plainfield Ave. It is open to seniors aged 65+ (whether parishioners or not) and admission is free. Please plan on coming to enjoy senior companionship and have some fun.



STUDENTS CELEBRATE THE GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE

Berkeley Heights Public Schools

Last month, Students at Thomas P. Hughes School joined schools from around the world in the Great Kindness Challenge. The challenge was created to help create positive school culture and share kindness throughout our communities. The week started off with a pep rally to get kids excited about all of the fun challenges that were planned and throughout the week students engaged in a variety of kindness themed activities.

At the beginning of the week, students were given a kindness checklist. Students who completed their 50 acts of kindness from the checklist were entered into a random drawing and several students were selected to receive Amazon gift cards.

Among the activities that students participated in were group projects where each class partnered up with a class of a different age level where

students worked together on tasks and made new friends. Then there was the fun and hilarious "Kindness never gets old" spirit day where students and staff were invited to dress up. Students were also invited to morning mindfulness and journaling activities before school.

Throughout the week, students also worked on a 'kindness chain'. Each time students performed or witnessed an act of kindness they wrote it on a link and turned it in so it could be hung up. Each grade level had a different color chain and the goal is to connect all three chains with the abundance of kind deeds that took place.

Finally, students were able to give SPARKLE tickets to staff members who show kindness. Third grade teacher Mrs. Guyton and Music Teacher Mr. Laurino were selected in a random drawing at the end of the week and won gift cards.



(above) "Kindness never gets old" spirit day where students and staff were invited to dress up.

Photo by Berkeley Heights Public Schools

VETERANS COFFEE, BAGELS, AND CAMARADERIE

VFW Post 6259 is inviting all Veterans to come for coffee, bagels and camaraderie

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2024
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SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN VOLUNTEERS

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield (JLEP) is pleased to announce that in 2024 we will be awarding three \$4,000 scholarships to college bound women who reside in Union County and demonstrate a passion for volunteerism.

The JLEP believes that volunteerism is a vital force in our community, and we support young women who share our passion by awarding scholarships to college-bound high school seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to volunteer activities. The scholarships will be awarded in May 2024.

To be considered for a scholarship, applicants are asked to complete the application form, write a 300-to-400-word essay about their volunteer experiences, and provide two letters of recommendation. The application form is available on our website, jlepnj.org, or can also be obtained by sending a request via email to scholarship@jlepnj.org or by leaving a message with your address and/or email address at 908-709-1177.

The deadline for submitting applications is April 5, 2024. There will be a formal presentation of the scholarships to the recipients at the JLEP's Annual Dinner on May 22, 2024.

To find out more about the League's scholarship program or about how to join as a member, please contact the League at 908-709-1177, via email at scholarship@jlepnj.org, or visit our website at jlepnj.org.

ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ELIZABETH PLAINFIELD

The Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield is a chapter of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. and is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Learn more: jlepnj.org.

THE OLD GUARD MARCH SPEAKERS PROGRAM

The Summit Area Old Guard is a social, educational, and recreational organization that serves men of retirement age. We meet most Tuesdays at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave. Our dues are minimal, and members manage all aspects of the operation. Our motto is "Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends." The organization was founded in 1930.

March speakers include Gregory J. Kaczorowski, PhD., Jessica Arkel, Dr. Dennis Liotta, and Dr. Lenny McDonald. Please join us. Our programs are free to the public, and we welcome you!

Our speaker on Tuesday, March 5th will be Dr. Greg Kaczorowski (ex-Merck) discussing the importance of ion channels vis-a-vis our health. Ion channels are a large family of membrane proteins that are present in all cells of the body. These proteins span the plasma lipid bilayer membrane and contain an internal pore structure which can be opened/closed by various stimuli to allow the gated passage of ions (e.g., sodium, potassium, calcium, or chloride ions) into or out of a cell. Nature has used this rather simple mechanism to modulate all major biological activities, both somatic responses like voluntary muscle movement and autonomic actions like cardiac and respiratory activities. Because of their fundamental importance in systems biology, Greg will discuss how ion channels can be modulated for therapeutic benefit or be targeted to kill an organism.

Our speaker on March 12th will be Jessica Arkel, the development officer at Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation. She will discuss the history of Children's Specialized Hospital in New Jersey from its early days in 1891 in Westfield to becoming a preeminent provider of pediatric rehabilitation with 15 facilities across New Jersey serving more than 35,000 children annually who are living with a

variety of complex pediatric medical conditions—from chronic illnesses and complex physical disabilities like brain and spinal cord injuries—to a full scope of developmental, behavioral, and mental health concerns.

Our speaker on March 19th will be Prof. Dennis Liotta. Prof. Liotta has led a group of synthetic/medicinal chemists at Emory University for over four decades. He will provide an overview of his research in the antiviral arena, featuring stories of three highly successful antivirals he developed in collaboration with his academic colleagues and biotech partners. Dr. Liotta has contributed to 18 FDA-approved therapies, with perhaps his biggest impact coming in the HIV/AIDS field. He will also highlight recent drug discovery endeavors in various therapeutic areas, including oncology and neurological diseases.

Finally, on March 26th, our speaker will be Dr. Lenny McDonald discussing the importance of experimentation and creativity in photography and sharing his journey from science (ex-Wyeth/Pfizer) to his present avocation. Macro and close-up photography are his favorite styles, and he will discuss the impact of exploiting minute details. He will also show some of his non-macro abstract work. Lastly, he will briefly share his perspective on AI in photography and how it fits into his workflow. Lenny has exhibited his work in various venues across New Jersey, including Reeves-Reed Arboretum, Mayo Performing Arts Center, and the Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion. You can review some of his work on his Instagram page at [instagram.com/lennysfineartphotos/](https://www.instagram.com/lennysfineartphotos/).

Past speakers and much, much more can be viewed at SummitOldGuard.org, but we encourage people to drop in on our meetings which take place at the church at 10:00 AM most Tuesdays. "Come for the Speakers. Stay for the Friends." We look forward to meeting you.



(above, l-r) Prof. Liotta, Dr. McDonald, Ms. Arkel, Dr. Kaczorowski

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SUMMIT'S REPAIR CAFÉ EVENT – MARCH 16

Join us at Summit's Repair Cafe event, where we breathe new life into your beloved but broken items, for free. Diverting an average of 421 pounds of items from landfills per event by simply repairing them, this initiative contributes significantly to both the community and the environment.

On Saturday, March 16 we invite you to Barnwell Hall at Christ Church from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., located at 561 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ. Please note that the final items for repair will be accepted at 2:30 p.m.

Our repair services for this event encompass a wide range, including new repair services of sewing machines and watch battery and band replacement as well as sewing/textiles, clocks, woodworking, PC computers, knife sharpening, lamps, electronics, and bicycles. To ensure equal opportunities for everyone, each person may bring a maximum of 2 items for repair.

For lamps, clocks and watch batteries, replacement parts will be available at a nominal, at-cost fee. Please ensure you can carry your items unassisted when bringing them to the event. No appointments are necessary, although wait times may vary as this event is not a drop-off service.

This impacting event is co-sponsored by the Summit Area Green Faith Circle and Repair Cafe Garden State. For a comprehensive schedule of upcoming Repair Cafe events across New Jersey during the ongoing 2024 repair season, visit

www.repaircafe.org.

Repair and event volunteers are always welcome at this event, as well as all future repair events. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to us via email at summit@repaircafesg.org.

Thank you for being part of this transformative movement that celebrates sustainability and community engagement through repair and restoration!



LOSS OF A CHILD PRAYER SERVICE

Parents who have lost a child at any age, under any circumstances, are invited to a time of prayer and remembrance to be held on Sunday, March 10th at 2 p.m., at Church of the Little Flower, 310 Plainfield Avenue, Berkeley Heights, NJ. The program will also be livestreamed at littleflowerbh.org.

For any questions contact Dan Grossano, Pastoral Associate for Outreach and Ministries at 908-464-1585, pastoral110.lf@gmail.com.

BLOOD DRIVE - MAR 5

There is a critical need for life saving blood! Join our Community Blood Drive to save lives. Co-Sponsored by The Woman's Club of Berkeley Heights and Berkeley Heights Volunteer Rescue Squad. Place: 378 Synder Ave. Berkeley Heights, NJ. Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Register with the QR code, or call: 1-800 Red Cross and/or visit redcrossblood.org.
















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BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM OPINION

Submitted by Simone Palermo

The Blue Envelope Program’s purpose is to raise Union County’s police departments’ awareness of special needs (such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, dementia, and anxiety) and how to best communicate with a special needs driver. One point of interest for me in this news article is how all police officers in Union County's twenty-one municipalities will go through a specialized training course on special needs, as well as learning the best methods in engaging with special needs drivers during a traffic stop. These specialized training courses will be vital in not only developing a deeper understanding of special needs, but also on how to best approach special needs drivers to minimize potential misunderstandings and escalations in conflict when pulled over. They will also better communication to special needs drivers that are non-verbal to provide a safer, unprejudiced community that can ensure trust in its police force.

According to one source within the Clark Township’s Police Department, the process of getting a blue envelope is very easy, as the special needs driver can simply call their local police department, press the number for their helpdesk, and ask to receive a blue envelope either directly from the local police station or having it delivered to them in their mailbox. A copy of their driver’s license and vehicle registration, insurance details, and (if necessary) emergency contact card are placed inside the envelope, which is then placed onto the dashboard of their vehicle so that officers do not make the driver even more nervous than normal under a traffic stop. However, it does concern me deeply how easily accessible these blue envelopes can be as there is a possibility of individuals not in the spectrum to abuse them for their own benefit.

According to the same source, there are other towns in Union County that have implemented the Blue Envelope Program in their police departments; said source however does not know if it has currently spread throughout the entire state of New Jersey. Regardless, my source said

that the Clark Police Department has managed to hand out several of these blue envelopes to special needs drivers, which is a promising start for the program’s progress. Upon further research, I have discovered on various websites – such as Crimewatch and the Montgomery County website – that it is being employed in police departments in California, Pennsylvania, Connecticut.

Overall, my opinion on the Blue Envelope Program is incredibly positive. I am advocating for the Blue Envelope Program for Union County’s police departments and hope that it spreads beyond just Union County and the state of New Jersey.

Having lived most of my life with Autism Spectrum Disorder – specifically Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) – I was personally intrigued when I came across the Clark Monthly’s “Blue Envelopes for Drivers with Autism” newspaper article. As someone who has lived with autism for years, I feel as though I have a voice in this matter, and I would like to let it be heard.

If you or a loved one are a special needs driver looking for more information regarding the Blue Envelope Program, contact your local police department and ask them how you can get started with your blue envelope today.

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LIBRARY MARCH PROGRAMS

Berkeley Heights News • Page 17 • March 2024

29 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor • 908-608-8603 • bhplnj.org

Monday - Thursday: 9 AM - 9 PM; Friday, Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM; Sunday: 2 - 5 PM

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

Story Time with Grandma Pauline
for ages 3 - 5

Tuesdays, March 5 - 26 at 9:30 am

Fun with Friends: Stories & Play for ages 1 - 3

Thursdays, March 7 - 28 at 9:30 am

Dr. Seuss Bookmark Craft

Make Thing 1 & Thing 2 bookmarks for Dr. Seuss' 120th Birthday

Sing & Sign Story Time with Danielle Neri

Sunday, March 10 at 3 pm for ages 2 - 6

Good Tyme String Band

Tuesday, March 12 at 10:30 am

Yoga Story Time with Pam Nixon for ages 3 - 5

Thursday, March 19 at 10:30 am

Read to Morrigan the Dog

Wednesday, March 20 at 3:30 pm

TEEN PROGRAMS

(for grades 6-12 unless otherwise specified):

Teen Library Council

Thursday, 3/7 at 7 pm

receive volunteer hours and make suggestions for the library - registration suggested.

Navigating the College Process

Thursday, 3/14 from 7-8 pm

registration required

Tween & Teen DIY Bouncy Ball

for grades 4-12 (ages 9-19)

Saturday, 3/16 from 3-4 pm

Take and Make Craft "Gem Picture Keychains": pick up a kit starting Thursday, 3/21 at 3pm

while supplies last.

Teen Volunteer Training Session

Thursday, 3/21 from 7-8 pm

for teens interested in volunteering at the library.

Teen Book Club discussion meeting

Tuesday, 3/26 at 6:30 pm

for The Radium Girls: Young Readers Edition.

Please call Ann-Marie Sieczka at 908-608-8603 x1 for more information.

For more information, see the monthly Teen Events calendar at <https://bhplnj.org/teens/teen-events/>. Email Rachel Talbert, the Teen Services Librarian at rtalbert@bhplnj.org with any questions

ADULT PROGRAMS:

The Morning Book Group

Friday, 3/8 at 10:30 am

Discuss Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See.

Evening Book Group

Tuesday, 3/12 at 7:15 pm

Discuss The Island of Missing Trees by Elif Shafak.

Books Speak Volumes Book Group

Thursday, 3/21 at 7:00 pm

Discuss The Wager: a tale of shipwreck, mutiny and murder by David Grann.

Call the library or email reference@bhplnj.org with any questions about the library's book groups.

LOCAL ARTIST EXHIBIT

Berkeley Heights resident Katie Weiss will exhibit a recent print at Prince Street Gallery in New York. The exhibition, titled "Fracture," features work by 30 gallery artists and runs from February 27 through March 23, 2024. The gallery is located at 547 W 27th St, Suite 504, NYC.

Weiss's print is a monotype, made by a process that produces only one image. Many famous painters, such as Degas, worked with monotype. She is a member of Frontline Arts in Branchburg and works with the presses in their studios. Her work has been exhibited nationally and can also be seen at katieweissart.com.



(above) Monotype by Katie Weiss. 2023

New Providence
Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday
SERVICES

6:30 AM - Sunrise Service

9:30 AM - Traditional Service

11:00 AM - Contemporary Service

New Providence Presbyterian Church
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www.TheCornerNJ.com



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Sunday Mornings

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Liturgies with Eucharist
8:45 a.m. Education Hour

Passion/Palm Sunday - March 24

8:00 a.m. Spoken Liturgy with Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Festival Liturgy with Eucharist

Holy Thursday - March 28

12 noon Spoken Liturgy with Eucharist
7:30 p.m. Liturgy with Rite of First Holy Communion

Good Friday - March 29

12 noon Ecumenical Community Service
7:30 p.m. Service of Tenebrae

Holy Saturday - March 30

A Day of Silence, Prayer & Reflection

Easter Celebration - March 31

7:00 a.m. Memorial Garden Liturgy
8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Liturgies with Eucharist

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Florham Park Press NJ Qty: 5,500 Zip: 07932	Garwood NJ Times Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	Green Brook NJ Gazette Qty: 3,000 Zip: 08812	BUSINESS • LIFE KENILWORTH NJ Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	NJ LIFE in LINDEN Qty: 17,900 Zip: 07036	Long Hill LEADER NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980
MADISON MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	MOUNTAINSIDE NJ VIEW Qty: 2,900 Zip: 07092	New Providence NEWS NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	OUR TOWN Rahway, NJ Qty: 13,000 Zip: 07065	ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,400 Zip: 07076
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

NEWSPAPER AD RATES

Units	Size	1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
2-PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700								
BACK PAGE	10" x 14"	\$500								
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320								
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THE WONDER BAND TO PLAY MARCH 9

The Salem Roadhouse Café presents The Wonder Band – a Tribute to Stevie Wonder’s Music, Saturday, March 9, 2024. The doors open at 7:15 p.m., the show starts at 8 p.m. Admission is \$20 and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. The venue is located in the basement of Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities.

The Wonder Band is made up of three extremely talented performers who are well known to the Metro NY/NJ area music scene. Ed Alstrom, leader, is the organist for Yankee Stadium, as well as keyboard player for many famous performers such as Bette Midler, Chuck Berry, Leonard Bernstein, Herbie Hancock and others. The list goes on and on.

Accompanying Ed will be guitarist Al Orlo. Al has recorded with the legendary Ben E. King and was his musical director for 25 years. Al also held the #1 chair at Broadway shows, such as Kinky Boots, Carol King Musical, Hairspray and Smokey Joe’s Café, to name a few.

Bobby Deitch on drums rounds out the trio. Bobby has performed on several recordings such as Richard Sorce’s Latin album “A Place I’ve Never Been” and Richie Hart’s “33 1/3” album.

States Ed Alstrom, “Obviously, Stevie’s music is even more fun to play than it is to listen to. This group does a mix of the hits and some lesser-

known things, without the vocals, and it doesn’t hurt the music one bit not to have them, because they’ll be playing in your mind!

Original artwork by local artist James Spath will be on display at the Roadhouse Gallery of Fine Art for all to enjoy before, during and after the show.

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

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.

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 Program, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, and others. Many thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.



RENNA MEDIA LAUNCHES YOUTUBE PODCAST

Joe Renna

Renna Media has posted its first episode of “Mind Your Own Local Business,” a podcast that gives advice on how to run a successful local business.

This is my 40th year in business and I draw from my experience and expertise to give advice. I have received so much help in my career from mentors and seasoned business owners, and this is a way to pay it forward.

I already offer free one-on-one consultation on putting together business plans and marketing plans. The show would be a way to reach many more people.

I started in business in 1984 as a graphic designer and grew into a full-service marketing and advertising company. Now, along with my wife Tina, we publish twenty-four community newspapers mailing out 160,000 to homes and businesses monthly.

Like the newspapers, the show will serve as a venue to support local community service organizations and events and production costs will be covered by advertisers. There are several marketing and advertising opportunities for businesses to be included with the freedom to be unique and creative.

I am looking forward to having a lot of fun doing the show. It is another application of my Do-What-You-Love mentality. The show is a free-form magazine format production that is flexible. I welcome business owners to join in the fun.

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