

Summit NJ Times

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SUMMIT SCOUT BSA TROOP 67 OPEN HOUSE - MARCH 4



(above) As part of Community Service Troop 67 Scouts helping with Annual Food Drive for Loaves & Fishes

Boy Scout Troop 67 is hosting an Open House for prospective Boy Scouts and their parents. A informational session will be held on March 4th, at 7:30 p.m., at St. Teresa's School, in the Avila Room, 306 Morris Ave., Summit.

Attendees will get a glimpse into some of the troop activities from fun-packed outdoor treks to organizing various community service projects and learning important leadership skills. No prior Scouting experience is required.

The troop has boys between the ages of 11-17. Trek activities include white water rafting, snow skiing, ice climbing, backpacking, cooking campout and a lot of other outdoor fun adventures. The Troop has been sponsored by

St. Teresa of Avila Parish since 1933, and has helped more than 100 boys earn the rank of Eagle Scout -- Scouting's highest honor.

Boy Scouting is designed to offer a unique program for today's young men that complements sports and extracurricular activities. Through an emphasis on outdoor skills and boy-led activities, boys learn life skills in a supportive environment, grow self-confidence, and develop a life-long love of the outdoors. The aim is to build character, train tomorrow's leaders in the responsibilities of participative citizenship, and develop personal fitness.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Boy Scouts (BSA) is encouraged to attend.

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After answering 2,379 calls in 2023, Summit’s EMS volunteers began the new year by responding to 210 emergency calls in January.

Responses included 122 medical emergencies; 27 falls; 19 motor vehicle accidents, including 4 on routes 24 or 78; 21 traumatic injuries; four allergic reactions; 12 cases of overdose or poisoning; three responses to a medical alarm; two pedestrians struck by a vehicle, and three responses to fire scenes. Squad Volunteers also provided four “lift assists” to patients who did not require transport to a hospital.

Seven emergency calls were answered by an off-duty “back-up crew” of volunteers responding from home or work when the on-duty crew was busy. Summit volunteers also provided mutual aid assistance to neighboring towns nine times. 12 patients transported to a hospital by Squad members also received advanced life support care from hospital-based paramedics who accompanied the Squad’s ambulance. During January, Squad volunteers transported 156 patients to three different hospitals.

Squad mutual aid responses included the January 5 major warehouse fire in Elizabeth where a crew was on scene for 8 hours. On 2 occasions during the month, all 3 Summit ambulances were responding to simultaneous calls. The Squad also provided 2 non emergency ambulance transports for Summit residents and hosted 3 public CPR classes.

The Squad answers calls for help 24 hours a day and at a variety of locations. January responses included 78 to a patient’s home or apartment; 24 for accidents or medical emergencies on streets or highways; one in a public park; five in public buildings; 15 at a local business; eight at a bar or restaurant, and 10 to a health care professional’s office. There were also 20 medical incidents at Summit’s train station; 13 at a local behavioral health facility; three on the grounds of Overlook Medical Center; 13 to an assisted living facility, two in a house of worship; 15 on a sidewalk; five in a parking lot; one at Summit’s Public Library; and two at a school.

The all-volunteer First Aid Squad, responds to emergency calls 24/7, is entirely funded through private donations and does not bill for service. The Squad is always looking for new volunteers to join its ranks. All needed training, uniforms and equipment is provided. For information on becoming a volunteer, or donating to the squad please call 908-277-9479, or visit their web site at: summitems.org.



(above) Summit EMS crews at the scene of an electrical explosion during a heavy storm on January 9, 2024.

Courtesy photo

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THE DOMINICAN NUNS CLOISTER SHOPPE

For Westfielder Pat Colbert, volunteering at the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary in Summit “brings me peace no matter how my day is going.”

She began volunteering at the Cloister Shoppe more than four years ago after another Westfield resident, Marge Roeck, told her about it.

The well-stocked gift shop is operated by the Dominican nuns who reside on the Rosary Shrine grounds that include a large chapel that is open to the public. Several years ago, the cloistered nuns began making a number of products to sell, including candles, soaps, face and foot crème, etc. Those items are available, along with a host of religious goods, at the gift shop and online at cloistershoppe.com. Proceeds provide funds needed to support the 20 nuns who live at the monastery.

Many people come to the shop to secure perpetual enrollments that provide prayers for individuals.

“These are beautiful cards that people usually buy to give to families of recently deceased individuals or for any living person who might need prayers,” says Tina Leshner, of Westfield, who along with her husband, John, volunteers at the shop. “We print out these lovely enrollments and include a special holy card.”

Morris Township resident Kathy Sette has been a dedicated volunteer for 20 years.

“We’re more blessed being here,” says Sette. “There’s just a feeling about it.”

Her feelings are echoed by decades-long volunteer Dorothy Shanahan of Summit.

“Curiosity led me as a young woman to investigate that big church on the hill...Simply put, God’s grace and love began a lifelong association with the monastery...this journey has been a very special privilege and gift to my life and my family.”

Many of the volunteers are members of the Rosary Guild, an auxiliary that assists the nuns in such undertakings as raising funds, driving the nuns to appointments, shopping with the sisters, etc. The current president is Joan Brinkerhoff of Summit. She argues that working in the shop “can give me and all the volunteers an Evangelizing ministry---a time to care for others emotionally in a loving, Christian way. We reach out to our shoppers to help them find a special gift for a new grandchild, a sick friend or help them with a loss of a friend, child, parent or even a life-altering illness...we are the lay hands and voices of the nuns.”

While handling the shop duties, volunteers

also answer calls coming into the Rosary Shrine and relay the messages to the nuns.

“Many of the callers are seeking the nuns’ prayers for a variety of reasons, often because of illness or loneliness or depression. As I listen to the pleas, I feel so lucky,” says Tina Leshner.

The Summit monastery was founded in 1919 when a group of sisters from a Union City monastery moved to the current site. As contemplatives, the nuns use prayer and penance to spread the Kingdom of God. The average age of the current 20 sisters in Summit is in the 50s.

The monastery chapel houses the only copy of the Shroud of Turin. The 400-year-old shroud copy can be viewed during the open chapel hours from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Mass for the public is celebrated daily at 7:30 a.m and Sundays at 8 a.m. The Cloister Shoppe is open Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Monastery is located at the corner of Springfield and Morris Avenues in Summit.



(above) Volunteer Tina Leshner from Westfield



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JUNIOR LEAGUE HOSTS INTERGENERATIONAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Submitted by Anita Tung

The Junior League of Summit (JLS) hosted its third annual Intergenerational Leadership Summit (ILS) on February 4th at Summit High School. This year's theme was Building Bridges, Sharing Stories: Together We Rise. The ILS is a free community event that encourages people of different generations and backgrounds to come together for an afternoon of conversation, collaboration and community building. The event, organized by JLS members Anita Tung and Jee-Hoon Krska, celebrates the voices of girls and women and aims to inspire and empower attendees to make a difference in their communities. JLS President, Rachel Zucker, commented, "It is incredibly powerful when you bring together folks of all different generations to talk about making a difference. The JLS is so proud to host this event because it brings our mission of 'advancing women's leadership for meaningful community action' directly to the community."

This year's event began with an inspiring keynote address by Meg Zucker, activist, founder and president of Don't Hide It, Flaunt It and celebrated author of Born Extraordinary: Empowering Children with Differences and Disabilities. Additional workshop offerings included Creating Life Balance in Today's Busy World with Emily Seamone, What's Your Story? with Colleen Markley, Mindfulness of Emotion with Beth Watson, Vision Board - Create Your

Life with Alicia Kopp, and El Poder de las Narrativas/ The Power of Cultural Storytelling, a bilingual workshop, with Lynnette Diaz.

The program also included a multigenerational panel discussion featuring women, who have made an impact in their communities. Attorney and JLS member, Sarah Fehm Stewart, served as moderator. Panelists included Paola A. Acosta-Díaz, advocate and co-founder of Empowering Kids Organization, Patricia Campos-Medina, activist, political leader and educator, Elizabeth Christou-Woodall, educator and founder of Girls'

Leadership Institute at Kent Place School, Abigail Franco, co-founder of Linking Initiatives for Neighborhood Change, and Rabbi Hannah Orden, author, faith and community leader.

The Junior League of Summit, Inc. is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer actions, collaboration and training. For more information about the Junior League of Summit, and future events, please visit www.jlsummit.org or follow the organization on Instagram @jlsummit.



(above, l-r) Sarah Fehm Stewart, moderator, and panelists Paola A. Acosta-Díaz, Patricia Campos-Medina, Abigail Franco, Elizabeth Cristou-Woodall, and Rabbi Hannah Orden.

Photo Donna Fisk.



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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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DONOVAN TUNG NAMED OUTSTANDING SQUADRON CADET OF THE YEAR

Lone Eagle Composite Squadron of CAP
Recently, Cadet CMSgt Donovan Tung, Lone Eagle Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, was presented with the “Civil Air Patrol Outstanding Squadron Cadet of the Year Award” by Lt Col Howard Leach, Jr., CAP and NJ VP/Treasurer of the Shooting Star Chapter 195 of the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA).

Cadet CMSgt Donovan Tung, the Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Tung of Summit, NJ, is in the 10th grade at Summit High School where he participates on the Junior Varsity Football and Track teams.

Within the Lone Eagle Composite Squadron, as a Cadet NCO, he assumed the leadership responsibility for the squadron’s cadets. In this role, he has become a valuable source of inspiration and information, especially for the Squadron’s many new cadets. He was instrumental in organizing the Squadron’s 2023 Open House and he has participated in Cadet Orientation Flights, the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church, and the annual Maryland Cadet Basic Encampment. Most recently, he was appointed lead representative for the Squadron at the NJWG Cadet Advisory Council.

The Lone Eagle Composite Squadron meets on Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. at the Morristown National Guard Armory, NJ. Youth can start the cadet leadership, aerospace education, and emergency services program at age twelve and adults can

join as senior members starting at age 18. For more information about the Lone Eagle Composite Squadron, contact Capt J. Peter Hinge, Commander, at 201-590-5371 or jens.hinge@njwg.cap.gov. Also, visit the Squadron web site at loneeagle.org.

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(above, l-r) Cadet CMSgt Donovan Tung, CAP, of Summit, receives AFA Outstanding Cadet Award. Pictured are Lt Col Howard Leach, Jr., Mrs. Anita Tung, C/CMSgt Donovan Tung, and Capt Peter Hinge, Commander.

Photo by Dale Leppard





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(above) Sandy Bloom is Recipient of 2024 Volunteer Award for Outstanding Service to the Summit Community

Courtesy photo

SANDY BLOOM HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

City of Summit

Sandy Bloom, a 45-year resident of Summit, received the City of Summit 2024 Volunteer of the Year award for her decades of dedicated service to the Summit community, through both city boards and service organizations.

The award was presented at the January 3, 2024, Common Council organization meeting. “It was so nice to begin my term as mayor with such a positive celebration at the Organization Meeting,” explained Summit Mayor Elizabeth Fagan, MD. “Sandy Bloom is a highly cherished member of our community, and we are incredibly grateful for all she has done for our city. Mayor Nora Radest summed it up best when she said, ‘Summit is a better place because of the time and energy Sandy has shared with our community. We are honored to recognize Sandy as our Volunteer of the Year.’”

Sandy has been the driving force behind many initiatives that have greatly benefitted the Summit community over the years. As the Co-chair of the Summit Foundation’s Grants Committee from 2014 to 2018, Sandy led several initiatives to improve the lives of many Summit residents; she brought key stakeholders together to discuss basic needs in Summit including housing, hunger, health, and poverty.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sandy spearheaded the foundation's effort to start Sustain Summit to support small businesses. Over \$700,000 in grants were awarded to local business owners and employees during this unprecedented time.

Sandy has served on the Board of Education, Zoning Board, Library Board, Summit Foundation, and the Wilson School Task Force. She has been deeply involved in her faith congregation, Temple Sinai, serving as Vice President, President, and the co-chair of the Cantor search committee.

Mayor Fagan continued: “The Volunteer of the Year award is presented annually to a volunteer who has shown exceptional dedication and commitment to the City of Summit. The award is a testament to the importance of volunteerism in our community and the impact that individuals can make when they give their time and talents to support worthy initiatives.”

Past recipients of the Volunteer of the Year Award include Donna Puzella, Annette Dwyer, Reverend Dr. Denison Harrield, Beth Lovejoy, Marian Glenn, and Tom O’Rourke.

For more information on the City of Summit or volunteer opportunities, please visit the city website.



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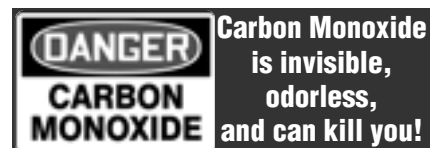
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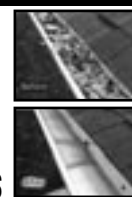
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SUMMIT'S REPAIR CAFÉ EVENT – MARCH 16

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@repaircafes.org.

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

BOOK AND MEDIA DONATIONS SOUGHT

The Summit College Club will be accepting donations of gently used books and media. Donations should be brought to the American Legion Post 433, 357 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence (right next to the public library) during the following dates and times: 4/12, 1 – 7 p.m.; 4/13, 4/14 & 4/15, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

"We accept books on almost every subject, including foreign language books, as well as sheet music, vinyl records, DVDs, and CDs," said Lynne Rogerson, SCC president: "The only things we do not want are magazines, manuals, textbooks, multi-volume encyclopedias and VHS tapes. Naturally, all items should be in good condition."

SCC members and volunteers will categorize and sort the donations and sell them at the annual Summit College Club Book Sale to be held April 17th through the 21st. The money from the sale will be used to fund Summit College Club Foundation scholarships, which go to young women graduating from local high schools. Summit College Club, a branch of the American Association of University Women, has been granting local scholarships for more than one hundred years.

Anyone interested in volunteering for a few hours between April 12 and 21st please visit summitcollegeclub.org, click on "Events/Book Sale," and scroll down to "Volunteer with Us."

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ANYTHING GOES, FEB. 28 - 29 AND MAR. 1 - 2, 2024



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Anything Goes at SHS Feb 28 to Mar 1.
Also Livestreaming!

The Summit High School Performing Arts Program welcomes the community to the great seas with their classic musical, *Anything Goes* February 28-29, and March 1-2. Originally produced in 1934, *Anything Goes* has been revived 3 times and its 2011 revival won 3 Tony Awards, including Best Revival. The Guardian praised the thrilling production as, “a delightful musical escape”!

Set in 1934, a group of passengers board the S.S. American to sail from New York to London. Their journey, however, is packed with quirky characters (including evangelist turned nightclub singer Reno Sweeney and gangsters disguised as missionaries), crazy hijinxes, nautical nonsense, and unexpected romances. This glitzy musical serves as the perfect escape from the mundane modern world.

After seeing *Anything Goes*’ electrifying dance numbers, and its funny yet poignant story, audiences of all ages will find that in the glitz and glamor of the 1930s, “*Anything Goes!*” Don’t miss your chance to see another production by the award-winning Summit High School Performing Arts program!

Performances are in the SHS Auditorium, 125 Kent Pl Blvd in Summit on Wednesday, February 28 at 6 pm; Thursday, February 29, & Friday, March 1 at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, March 2 at 1 pm and 7 p.m. Livestream is available for purchase for Friday and Saturday 7 p.m. shows.

Tickets are \$15 for students and seniors and \$20 for adults.

They may be purchased by visiting Hilltopper Stage Productions at: showtix4u.com/events/hilltopper

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TAP WORKSHOP

Summit Public Schools

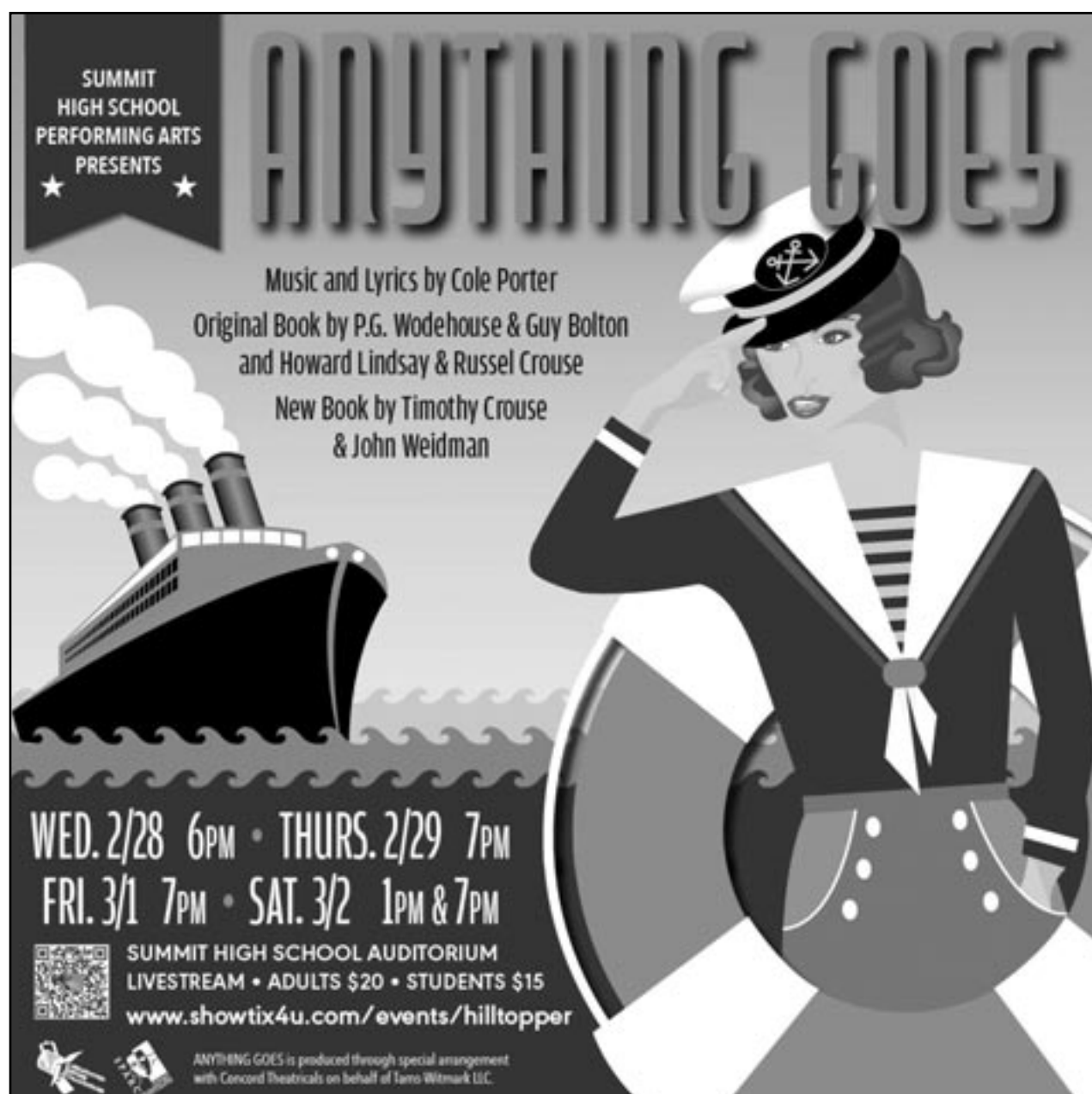
The cast of Summit High School’s upcoming musical *Anything Goes* recently hosted an exciting tap workshop for more than 50 students from elementary schools across the district. In attendance were fourth and fifth-graders from Brayton, Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln Hubbard, and Washington schools.

The elementary school students were given a preview dance performance from the cast before splitting into small groups and learning a short tap dance from the show’s titular song, “*Anything Goes!*” The evening concluded with a performance for parents, who watched their children execute their new tap skills with the help of their student instructors. In partnership with Summit Performing Arts Resource Committee (SPARC), Anne Poyner, SHS Director of Theatre and Forensics, wanted to provide an opportunity for the next generation of Hilltop’s best to immerse themselves in the high school’s award winning theater environment.

Daily rehearsals in preparation for Summit High School’s production of *Anything Goes* are underway. Staterooms are being polished and decorated, the pit orchestra is getting into shape, and actors continue to sing, dance, act, and prepare to be transformed into the glamor of the 1930s!

Originally produced in 1934, *Anything Goes* has been revived three times and its 2011 revival won three Tony Awards. Set in 1934, a group of passengers board the S.S.

American to sail from New York to London. Their journey, however, is packed with quirky characters (including evangelist turned nightclub singer Reno Sweeney and gangsters disguised as missionaries), crazy hijinxes, nautical nonsense, and unexpected romances. With its electrifying dance numbers, and its funny yet poignant story, audiences of all ages will find that this glitzy musical serves as the perfect escape from the mundane modern world.



SUMMIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT

The Summit Symphony Orchestra, celebrating 85 years of free concerts in Summit, continues its 2023-24 concert season with a concert on Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 p.m., at Summit High School, 125 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit. Admission to all Summit Symphony concerts is free.

Music Director Michael Avagliano will lead the orchestra in exciting performances of Beethoven Symphony No.4, Arriaga Symphony

in D and Bach Concerto for 2 Violins in D featuring our very own Claire Caponigro, Concertmaster and Michael Avagliano, Music Director.

The Summit Symphony has been providing free orchestral concerts for the Summit area since 1938. For more information about upcoming concerts or about the Summit Symphony Orchestra please visit our website summitsymphony.org.

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LIBRARY COLLECTION ENHANCED WITH GLOBAL MAGAZINES

The Summit Free Public Library is proud to announce the expansion of its magazine collection, reflecting its commitment to multilingual accessibility and global learning. As part of their recent periodical renewal, the Library has added magazines in Mandarin and Spanish, along with Easy English News for those learning English.

Many of the newly added periodicals cater to a multilingual audience. Duzhe, a bimonthly Chinese general interest magazine, offers insights into Chinese culture and society. High Five Bilingüe, a Highlights magazine in Spanish & English, provides a learning opportunity for young individuals studying either of these languages. India Today, a weekly Indian English-language news magazine, provides readers with a comprehensive overview of current events in India. Vanidades, one of the most popular Spanish language women's magazines, brings fashion, beauty, and lifestyle content to Spanish-speaking readers. Other periodicals added to the collection include Crochet World, Galerie,

Interweave Knits, New Scientist, Opera, Star Wars Comics, and many more.

Librarian Debbie Abrams has spearheaded the effort to diversify the library's collections. Abrams expressed her enthusiasm for the expanded collection, stating, "Checking out a magazine from the library offers a commitment-free way to catch up on the latest and best journalism from around the corner and around the world. Whether you want concise insight into current events or inspiration for your home or favorite hobby, we have the magazine for you."

The library also circulates popular titles such as The Economist, The Atlantic Monthly, and BBC History, and it provides digital borrowing options through the Libby app. All previous issues of the magazines are available for circulation, and their collection typically retains a year's worth of most titles.

The Summit Free Public Library invites patrons to explore these new additions. For more information, visit the library's website at summitlibrary.org.

LANTERN HILL STAFF HELPS AT FOODBANK

Lantern Hill, the Erickson Senior Living-managed community in New Providence, NJ, provides a robust package of benefits that reflect its commitment to financial stability, health and well-being, and work-life balance. In addition to multiple health care plans and choices, Lantern Hill offers 40 paid community volunteer hours. Other benefits include tuition reimbursement, 401K with company match, generous paid time off, online training classes, advancement opportunities, and more.

(right, l-r) Lantern Hill Business Office Manager Debra Vlahakis, Director of General Services Ed Zappile, and Housekeeping Manager, recently volunteered at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey in Hillside.





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PASSAIC COUNTY CASA EXPANDS TO UNION COUNTY

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Passaic County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), a leading child advocacy organization focused on protecting the best interests of abused and neglected youth, has announced the expansion of its service footprint to include Union County. With this expansion, critical volunteer advocacy for child victims removed from home and living under the jurisdiction of the family court will be made available to even more of New Jersey's most vulnerable children. This expansion allows for greater community impact, efficiency in operations, and greater long-term sustainability.

CASA recruits, screens, trains, and supervises community volunteers to advocate for local abused, neglected, and abandoned youth from birth to age 21 involved in the child welfare system through no fault of their own.

Executive Director Erica Fischer-Kaslander, who continues to lead the expanded advocacy organization, said, "There's no doubt this expansion will reap even greater rewards for Union County's vulnerable youth. The synergy created from two experienced programs allows far greater community impact and enhances its agility to withstand today's shifting landscape as a strengthened, multi-county program." Acknowledging the nearly two-decade impact of the previous Union County CASA organization, Fischer-Kaslander adds, "The dedicated advocates in Union County remain focused on

fulfilling CASA's mission: quality advocacy, continuity of presence, and increased access to services for local vulnerable youth-victims. As a combined force, we will build on that good work. I remain grateful to all professionals involved in these cases for their support – judges, attorneys, caseworkers, and more – and look forward to the collaboration required for us all to do our best for the children depending on us."

Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan, Content Director for CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, added, "In my 11 years working with CASA in Union County, I have seen the organization pivot to meet unforeseen needs, adapt to changing trends, and persevere through recent challenges faced by all nonprofits, including a global health pandemic. Ultimately, the expansion of Passaic County CASA to include Union County breeds a strengthened organization that bolsters CASA's impact throughout the county. For our local youth, that's what matters."

Considered extra "eyes and ears" for judges hearing abuse and neglect cases, CASA volunteers are assigned to a youth or sibling set by court order, granting access to all parties in the youth's life. Advocates use unbiased observations to make fact-based recommendations to judges deciding the future of each youth. Often, CASA volunteers are the only long-term, caring, and informed adult in the corner of a youth awaiting a safe, stable, and permanent placement.

Volunteer advocates need no prior experience

in child welfare. All prospective volunteers complete a 36-hour training course, extensive application, and screening process in addition to background checks. Volunteers with the newly expanded CASA of Passaic and Union Counties program are supported by a 26-person professional staff with extensive experience in child welfare. For details on becoming an advocate or other ways to get involved, visit casapassaicunion.org.

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ADDRESSING RECENT INCREASE IN HOME BURGLARIES

Dear Summit Residents,

I am writing to you today to address a critical concern within our community: the recent increase in home burglaries. This trend is not only alarming but also a disruption to the sense of security we value in Summit.

The Summit Police Department is taking these incidents very seriously and responding proactively to them. We have already increased our strategic patrols in key areas and are



(above) Steven Zagorski Chief of Police

constantly analyzing regional and local patterns and trends to prevent future occurrences. Additionally, we are implementing advanced technology such as surveillance at our borders and license plate readers to identify potential perpetrators in stolen vehicles that will ultimately aid in their swift capture.

As we recognize that this issue extends beyond our city limits, collaborating with neighboring towns that are experiencing similar challenges is another key strategy. By sharing intelligence and resources, including participating in the Union County Prosecutor’s Office Municipal Task Force initiative, we aim to create a broader network of deterrence and detection, making it harder for criminals to operate across town lines.

To further strengthen our efforts, we seek your active participation. Here are some specific recommendations for residents to enhance the security of their properties:

Upgrade Locks and Security Systems: Invest in high-quality locks for doors and windows. Consider installing a reputable home security system, ideally doorbell and driveway cameras, and remote monitoring capabilities.

Lighting and Visibility: Ensure that your property is well lit. Motion-sensor lights can be an effective deterrent especially in the driveway and rear of the home. Keep shrubs and trees trimmed to avoid potential hiding spots for burglars.

Secure Valuables: Keep valuables in a safe. Avoid leaving spare keys outside your home.

Community Vigilance: Be aware of and report

any suspicious activities in your neighborhood. Share contact information with neighbors on your block. If possible, discuss routines and upcoming schedules, so unusual activities can be spotted more easily.

Sign up for alert notifications: There are several options to receive alerts and advisory information from Summit Police that include Everbridge Nixle, Smart911 and website notifications. Please consider signing up for all three services to stay safe and informed.

Beginning on March 1, 2024, Summit Police Department will offer free home security assessments. Members of our team are participating in training to enable them to provide property owners with professional, targeted recommendations on safeguarding against burglaries. More information on this program and a home safety assessment checklist can be found on the city website prior to March 1.

The Summit Police Department is committed to doing everything in our power to maintain and uphold the safety and security of our community. Your awareness and cooperation are invaluable in this endeavor; remain vigilant, look out for your neighbors, and engage actively with our initiatives.

Please feel free to contact the SPD for any assistance, especially if you see something suspicious.

Thank you for your attention.

Steven Zagorski
Chief of Police



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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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THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE SUMMIT FOUNDATION

The Summit Foundation recently announced the election of three new members to its board of trustees and the retirement of four trustees.

Mary Sheehan Cummins, Christopher Gerard, and Christine Gottesman joined the board, effective January 1, 2024.

Mary Sheehan Cummins is the owner of Marigolds, a restaurant in downtown Summit. She currently sits on the board of directors of the Other Fellow First Foundation and is a former member of the advisory board at Central Presbyterian Church Weekday Nursery School & Kindergarten. Cummins is a former social worker and high school teacher.

Christopher Gerard is a shareholder in the New York office of the Anderson Kill law firm and is chair of its Wills, Trusts & Estates practice group. He has served as a coach of numerous Summit sports teams and has assisted with administrative responsibilities for Summit Soccer Club.

Christine Gottesman is an attorney at Nukk-Freeman & Cerra specializing in employee benefits and compensation matters. Her past community involvement includes serving as a trustee of the Overlook Hospital Foundation, a trustee of SAGE Eldercare, co-president of the Summit Junior Fortnightly Club, and co-chair of the Reeves-Reed Arboretum Holiday House Tour.

Julie Adams, Jonathan Betz, Chris Bonner, and Drew Maldonado left The Summit Foundation's board at the end of 2023.

Julie Adams served as a trustee for six years, including as chair of the public relations committee from 2018 through 2022, as a member of the grants committee from 2020 through 2022, and as a member of the scholarships committee in 2023. She previously served as co-president of the Summit Junior Fortnightly Club.

Jonathan Betz served as a trustee for three years, including as chair of the public relations committee in 2023, and as a member of the grants committee in 2022 and 2023. He previously led

grantmaking and financial operations for Sustain Summit and Jumpstart Summit, a pair of programs that provided financial support to local Summit businesses early in the pandemic.

Chris Bonner served as a trustee and a scholarship committee member in 2023. Bonner retired from the board at year-end following his appointment as executive director of The Connection beginning in 2024. He served as a member of the Summit Board of Education from 2016 to 2022, including one year as president.

Drew Maldonado served as a trustee for six years, and as a committee member of development from 2018 to 2023, investments from 2020 to 2023, and grants from 2018 to 2019. He previously co-chaired the fundraising committee for the Summit Community Center, and has served on the boards of the Summit Educational Foundation and Summit Junior Baseball.

"Chris, Drew, Jonathan, and Julie helped advance The Summit Foundation's presence and capacity to build philanthropic resources to support the Summit area. We greatly appreciate their combined 16 years of dedicated service and valuable contributions. We extend a warm welcome to our new trustees, Chris, Christine, and Mary, each of whom brings a breadth of community commitment, professional expertise, and life experiences to advance our mission," said Dana Turk, president of The Summit Foundation.

The Summit Foundation fosters philanthropy by identifying local needs and offering donors flexible ways to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors. In the past decade, The Summit Foundation has invested \$10.3 million in the community through strategic grants, scholarships, donor-advised distributions, and pass-through funds.

For more information visit summitforever.org. WE'RE HERE FOR GOOD.

Courtesy photos



(above, l-r) Mary Cummins, Christine Gottesman, Christopher Gerard



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Renna Media offers a full range of marketing services, in print and online, hyper-local to regional, for every budget and market size.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTS

We mail 160,000 newspapers to every home and business in 24 towns. You can advertise in any number of towns. Ads start at \$60.

FULL COLOR PRINTING

We print flyers and menus, full color, two sided, on coated stock for only \$45 per thousand.

DIRECT MAIL

Insert your flyer into the newspapers and get it mailed to every home and business for \$60 per thousand and as low as \$30 per thousand for higher quantities.

ONLINE MARKETING

Online ads and press releases designed and placed to drive traffic to your website and get your phone ringing.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We can design and/or manage your social media campaign from passive to aggressive plans customized to work within your budget.

WEBSITE AND SEO SERVICES

Start with an audit/analysis of your website giving you a report and recommendations for \$250.

It is highly recommended to have a marketing plan and budget before spending.

CALL JOE RENNA FOR A
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RENNA MEDIA NEWSPAPER RATE SHEET

WE MAIL 160,000 NEWSPAPERS MONTHLY!

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Online at RennaMedia.com
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Call today for FREE consult on marketing and business plans.



Berkeley Heights COMMUNITY NEWS Qty: 4,700 Zip: 07922	THE CHATHAMS NJ Qty: 7,500 Zip: 07928	Clark Monthly NJ Qty: 6,700 Zip: 07066	CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ Qty: 9,900 Zip: 07016	Elmora Hills ELIZABETH, NJ Qty: 5,400 Zip: 07208 Section of Elizabeth, NJ	Fanwood Post NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07023
Florham Park Press NJ Qty: 5,500 Zip: 07932	Garwood Times NJ Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	Green Brook Gazette NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 08812	BUSINESS • LIFE KENILWORTH NJ Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	NJ LIFE in LINDEN NJ Qty: 17,900 Zip: 07036	Long Hill LEADER NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980
MADISON MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	MOUNTAINVIEW NJ Qty: 2,900 Zip: 07092	New Providence NEWS NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	OUR TOWN Rahway, NJ NJ Qty: 13,000 Zip: 07065	ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY NJ 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 Times NJ Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION NJ Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	Westfield MONTHLY NJ Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

Rates are per month. Artwork included in price. Newspapers are black on white.

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"	2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	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"	2"	\$320								
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5" x 4.5"		\$240								

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PREPAY 12 MONTHS AND GET 3 MORE FREE

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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.

To learn more call me, 908-447-1295, or email joerenna@rennamedia.com.

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For quantities more than 50,000 cost is \$55 per thousand.
11"x17" / Full color / 2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock. Min. order \$850
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\$60 per thousand. (as low as \$30 per thousand depending on quantity.)
Minimum order \$400

Joe Renna at 908-447-1295

email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com



FLYERS

\$45

PER 1,000

MENUS

\$85

PER 1,000

WEBSITE / SEO SERVICES

• STARTER WEBSITE: \$500

Basic static site that can be developed further

• WEBSITE CREATION/UPDATE: \$2,400

Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design

• WEBSITE HOSTING: \$300 PER YEAR

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• SEO SERVICES: AVERAGE COST \$1,000 - \$2,000 PER MONTH

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