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THE WONDER BAND AT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ 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. What’s the common thread? They’re all great musicians playing the kind of music people like to hear. There’s no message, just music.

Now in it’s 16th year of operation, the Roadhouse started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth. Hey — that’s why we’re located where we are, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That’s its social mission.

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

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.



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Spirit of Union is published by Renna Media. 6,800 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Union Township, NJ. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! **Email: editor@rennamedia.com**

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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.

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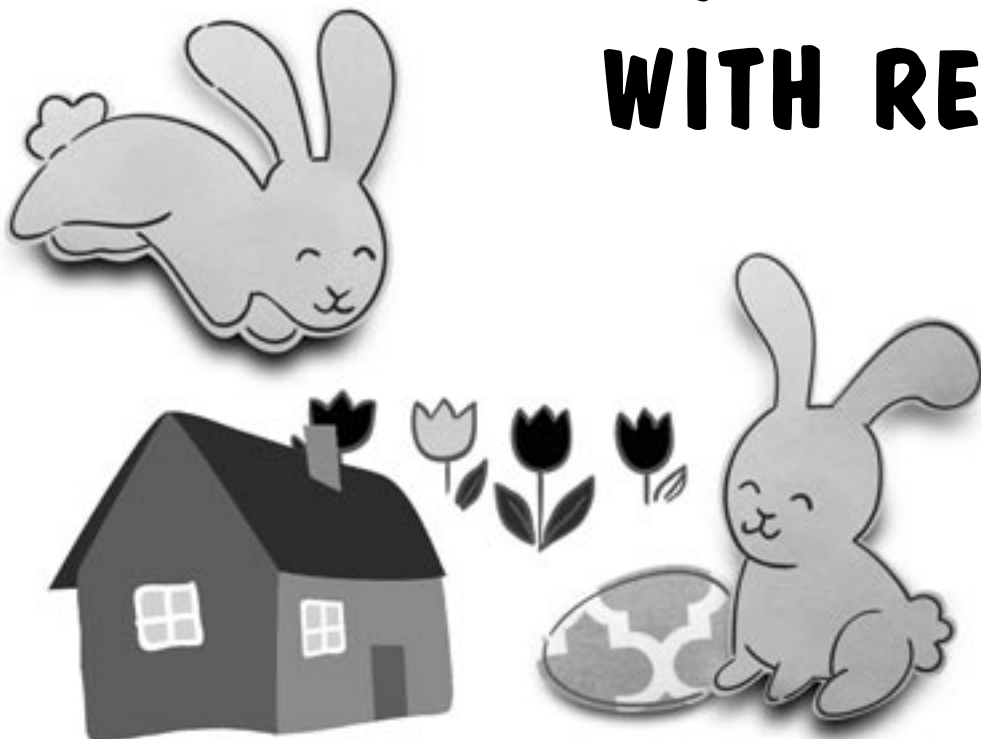
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WEBINAR ON TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT DEATH AND DYING



(above) Scan QR Code for Webinar on Talking to Kids about Death and Dying

Imagine

“A child can live with anything as long as he or she is told the truth and is allowed to share with loved ones the natural feelings people have when they are suffering.” – Eda LeShan

We often struggle to find the words to talk to kids about life changing diagnoses, illness and death. Sometimes, we feel so unsure of what to say that we don't say anything at all. But our kids need to be given the opportunity to engage in honest conversations about these life changing events.

The staff at Imagine are offering a free webinar to help community members navigate these difficult conversations. On Thursday, March 14th from 7-8:30 p.m., Imagine will offer a webinar on Talking to Kids about Death and Dying. Those attending the webinar will learn to:

- Recognize that grief begins at diagnosis
- Describe how children grieve at different developmental stages
- Develop tools for creating a safe space where children can share their feelings
- Discover ways to navigate conversations about diagnosis, illness and death

If you'd like to join us for this webinar, please visit our website at imagine-nj.org or scan the QR code below to register. Once you register, you'll receive a zoom link to join us on March 14th. Please contact Imagine's Training and Education Director, Veronica C Ortiz, LPC at veronica@imagine-nj.org with any questions.

Because loss is inevitable, it's so important that we have open conversations with our kids in these difficult moments. We hope that you can join us as we work to create a world where no child grieves alone.

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.



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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 adverting 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.



Scan for First Episode of
Mind Your Own Local Business on YouTube.



It would be a tremendous help if viewers
Subscribe, Comment, Like & Share the shows.

CAR DONATIONS HELP VETERANS

Submitted by Michael Boll, Director New Jersey Veterans Network

The New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) has received countless donations and other awesome support from Renna Media News readers. We are extremely fortunate to have so many readers that love helping our veterans live a better way of life. To date articles in Renna Media publications have resulted in 4 car

donations. Veteran “Sarge” is the most recent recipient of a car donation after the donor read an article in a March publication. We are blessed to have such a generous following, donations like this will help our veterans get to work, and their medical appointments.

ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. Help us save Vets! We are always looking for volunteers, with various skills, to join the team. If you are a veteran or family member that’s in need of assistance; or are interested in volunteering, would like us to speak at your event, or contribute to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.



(above) Diane R. recently donated a car to the NJVN. She handed the keys over to “Sarge”.

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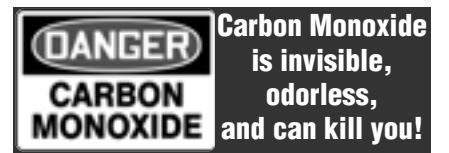
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For show or vendor information visit fishingfleamarkets.com or call 732-381-2165.



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YMCA SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Gateway Family YMCA

It's never too early to begin thinking about Summer Camp and researching the best opportunities for your child to thrive. The Gateway Family YMCA understands the unique needs of children and families, providing transformational Summer Camp experiences for hundreds of children throughout Eastern Union County each year. Learn more about Summer Day Camp at The Gateway Family YMCA this Spring at YMCA Summer Camp Parent Information Sessions.

Hosted at The Gateway Family YMCA – Elizabeth Branch, 135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, Five Points Branch, 201 Tucker Avenue, Union and Rahway Branch, 1564 Irving Street, Rahway, Summer Camp Parent Information Sessions are scheduled on March 21st 6:00-8:00 P.M., April 20 12:00-2:00 P.M. and May 16 5:00-7:00 p.m. Parents are invited to join YMCA Camp Directors for tips on getting the most out of your child's camp experience, transition from school to camp, summer safety and fun! Advance registration is optional, with



(above) The Gateway Family YMCA is offering Summer Camp Information Sessions

additional information available at tgfymca.org/events.

At Y Summer Day Camp, kids can develop skills and self-confidence, make new friendships, and gain a sense of belonging – all while having tons of fun. From games and sports to arts and crafts to outdoor adventures to STEAM and academic enrichment, a Y Summer Day Camp experience offers kids the chance to learn new things and enjoy new adventures.

Camp is available in one-week sessions for Pre-K Age 3 through Grade 6. Registration is first come, first serve and parents are reminded to register early.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a leading 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose and each other. With a focus on empowering young people, improving health and well-being, and inspiring action in and across the local community, the Y brings together people from different backgrounds, perspectives and generations, to ensure that all have access to the opportunities, relationships and resources necessary to learn, grow and thrive. The Y doesn't just strengthen bodies – it strengthens people, families and communities.

For more information on Summer Day Camp at The Gateway Family YMCA, visit tgfymca.org/day-camp or contact The Gateway Family YMCA Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622 or Rahway Branch 732-388-0057.

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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 07901. 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 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 and clocks, 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 repaircafe.org.

We are actively seeking repair volunteers for the March 16 Summit 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!

GARDEN CLUB MEETING MARCH 6

The community is invited to attend the next Township of Union Garden Club Meeting held in the Bonnel Room second floor of Union Town Hall on March 6 at 7 p.m. Speaker Paul Trader will share his expertise on insects in the garden. There is no cost to attend. Let your neighbors know about your gardening experiences. Be part of keeping Union Beautiful!

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MARCH EVENTS AT THE UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Saturday Morning Trivia: Women Rock! (Vauxhall Branch)

Sat., 3/2 @ 1:00 pm

March is Women's History Month, and we'll test your knowledge of female musicians. If you are an Easton, Latifah, or the Bangles fan, visit us at the Vauxhall Branch to play music trivia.

Computer Basics (Vauxhall Branch)

Tues., 3/5 @ 10:00 am

Do you have a computer and do not know how to use it? This presentation will assist all first-time users with understanding the basics.

Walk-in Wednesdays: One-on-One Library Technology Assistance (Vauxhall Branch)

Wed., 3/6, 3/20, 3/27 from 12:30-2:00 pm

Get help with library resources, including downloading e-books from Libby and Hoopla, using the library catalog and resources, using mobile print, the photocopier and scanner.

Chair Yoga (Main Library)

Thurs. 3/7 @ 10:00 am

Take a deep breath with friends and stretch! For beginners to professionals. Presented by the Gateway Family YMCA.

Meditation (on Zoom)

Thurs., 3/7, 14, 28 @ 11:30 am

Join Bindu Bhatt for a virtual meditation session. No experience necessary. Bindu has practiced meditation for over 30 years and would like to share her insight with you.

Basic Steps to Improve Your Financial Health (Main Library)

Thurs. 3/7 at 12:00 pm

Are you ready to transform your life and regain control of your finances? This workshop will show you how to set goals, understand your credit score and credit report, reduce debt, and save for the future. Presented by New Jersey Citizen Action.

Friends of the Library Meeting (Main Library)

Thurs. 3/7 @ 6:00 pm

Come to the Friends of the Library's monthly meeting. New members are always welcome. Support your library.

Practice Your English (Main Library)

Mon., 3/11, 3/25 @ 6:00 pm

Now's your chance to practice your English and have fun. (Must be able to speak basic English).

Not a formal class.

Mouse Skills for Beginners (Vauxhall Branch)

Tues., 3/12 @ 10:00 am

Are you a first-time computer user? This class will teach users how to manipulate a mouse.

Practice Your English (Vauxhall Branch)

Tues., 3/12, 3/19 @ 12:00 pm

Now's your chance to practice your English and have fun. (Must be able to speak basic English).

Not a formal class.

The Charles Lindbergh Baby Kidnapping (Main Library)

Tues., 3/12 @ 6:30 pm

Go beyond the headlines of the crime, investigation, trial, and execution, including conspiracies from a law enforcement perspective. Presented by James Calaski.

Build Up Your Balance (Main Library)

Wed., 3/13 @ 10:30 am

As we age, avoiding the risks of falling is more critical than ever. Learn to keep your body balanced in different situations through gentle strength exercises and stepping strategies. Give this popular class a try!

St. Pat's Concert at the Senior Center

Friday, 3/15 @ 12:30 pm

Senior Center 652 Rahway Ave, Union, NJ
Celebrate St. Peter's Day with a sing-along, band, and chance to play instruments at the Senior Center.

Email Basics (Vauxhall Branch)

Tues., 3/19 @ 10:00 am

In this introduction to email, you will learn how to use the Internet to send messages to friends and family or for your business.

Vauxhall Movie Night (Vauxhall Branch)

Wed., 3/20, @ 6:00 pm

Tonight's movie focuses on a singer considered one of the best African-American female singers who died tragically.

Off the Shelf Book Club (Main Library)

Thurs., 3/21, @ 6:30 pm

This month, we are reading *The Memoirs of Stockholm Sven* by Nathaniel Ethan Miller. Pick up your copy at the Main Library. Great way to make new friends!

The 60s: The Supremes (Vauxhall Branch)

Sat., 3/23, @ 1:00 pm

The Supremes were the most commercially successful of Motown's acts and the most successful American vocal group. They landed 12 number-one singles on the Billboard charts, and their breakthrough made it possible for future African-American R&B and soul artists to find mainstream success. Music historian Vinnie Bruno presents another informative and interactive music presentation.

Hinchliffe Stadium and the Newark Eagles (Vauxhall Branch)

Mon., 3/25, @ 6:00 pm

Join Brian LoPinto for a history of Hinchliffe Stadium and the Newark Eagles. Mr. LoPinto is the president and co-founder of the Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium.

Internet Basics (Vauxhall Branch)

Tues., 3/26 @ 10:00 am

If you are interested in understanding the Internet and its use, this class is for you!

Hilton Readers Book Discussion (Vauxhall Branch)

Wed., 3/27 @ 6:00 pm

March's book selection is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict

Women's History Event: The Schuyler Sisters (Main Library)

Thurs. 3/28 @ 6:30 pm

Four daughters of wealthy General Philip Schuyler eloped with rich men, but Elizabeth married Alexander Hamilton, a penniless orphan immigrant, for love. We will also meet two other women—Angelica Schuyler Church and Maria Reynolds—who were after him. This program features music from the Hamilton Broadway musical. Presented by Rick Feingold.



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