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## LOCAL STUDENT TEACHERS NAMED TOP IN STATE

### *Kean University*

Three new teachers who recently graduated from Kean University were recognized as among the top student teachers in the state this year.

They were among 16 new teachers who received the highest commendation, Awarded with Distinction, from the New Jersey Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (NJACTE) and the state Department of Education (DOE) as clinical interns, or student teachers. In all, 63 new teachers who recently graduated from 22 New Jersey colleges were recognized as Distinguished Clinical Interns at a festive ceremony held recently at Kean University.

“I know the importance of what takes place in classrooms every day, and I am so proud of each of you,” Kean President Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., told the group. “You are stepping into your role at a time when teachers are needed more than ever. I have no doubt you will have a profound impact.”

Kean graduate Cristiana Rodrigues '24, who completed her student teaching in a third grade classroom at Washington Elementary School in her hometown of Union, said it was “surreal” to receive the top honor. In the fall, she will be a full-time teacher at the school, which she also attended as a child.

“I get to go back and thank all the teachers who made me want to be a teacher,” said Rodrigues, who is also beginning studies at Kean this fall for a master’s degree in special education - learning and behavioral disabilities.

Each student teacher spent two semesters working alongside cooperating teachers as part of their training. Stationed in classrooms throughout the state and across grades, they taught classes, prepared lessons, conducted labs and served as role models to children.

The state education department and NJACTE also recognized the cooperating classroom teachers who worked with the student teachers. New Jersey Acting Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer and Assistant Commissioner Jordan Schiff, Ed.D., both took part in the



*(above) Kean University graduates Ryen Hagg and Cristiana Rodrigues with Kean President Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., and education officials. Kean graduate Lillianna Ramos, also awarded with distinction, is not pictured.*

Photo by Kean University

ceremony.

“This collaboration between cooperating teachers and clinical interns exemplifies how much we can accomplish for New Jersey’s students by working together,” Dehmer said. “These remarkable individuals stand at the intersection of learning and teaching, and their commitment serves as an inspiration to many.”

Monmouth Regional High School social studies teacher Joseph Nappi, the 2023-2024 State Teacher of the Year, also spoke at the ceremony. Nappi, who works closely with the Holocaust Resource Center at Kean and teaches an elective class on the Holocaust, genocide and humanity that gives his students Kean credit, congratulated both the new teachers and the cooperating teachers.

“This is an amazing profession,” Nappi said, “one that will impact, by the time you’re done, thousands of minds.”

The Kean students who received top honors – recent graduates Ryen Hagg '23 '24 M.A., Lillianna Ramos '23 '24 M.A., and Rodrigues '24, all said they were honored to receive the awards. They also expressed thanks to their cooperating teachers.

Hagg, of Garwood, interned in a Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School chemistry classroom with teacher Swati Bulusu. A third-generation teacher – Hagg’s mother and grandfather, who both attended the ceremony, are educators – she will teach chemistry at Cranford High School in the fall.

Ramos, of Colonia, interned with Rahway High School math teacher Toni Robertelli. She will begin a full-time job teaching algebra and geometry there this fall.

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# 23RD ANNUAL DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF EVENT

Drive for Autism Foundation

The Drive for Autism Foundation is pleased to announce that its annual golf event, Drive for Autism XXIII will be held at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ on Monday September 16, 2024.

The Drive for Autism Golf Outing, which has been held since 2002 has raised and distributed over \$855,000 to local school programs. Previous beneficiaries of grants were Morris Union Jointure Commission (New Providence, NJ), Salt Brook School (New Providence, NJ), AW Roberts School (New Providence, NJ), Union County Educational Services Foundation/Crossroads School (Westfield, NJ), Educational Partnership for Instructing Children (Paramus, NJ), Young Life (greater Summit area), Eden II/Genesis Programs (Staten Island, NY), Spectrum360 - formally The Children's Institute (Verona, NJ), and Seton Foundation/Mother Francheska Elementary School (Staten Island, NY).

Grant recipients use money to fund Health and Fitness Programs, Social Skills Programs, educational curriculum and teacher training, a van for community trips and transportation to job training centers, laptop computers, computer touch screens, iPads, video projectors and educational toys and games

The golf event is the main fundraising function for the foundation. Single golfers and foursomes

are welcome as well as, product donations and corporate sponsorships. To register online please go to: [birdease.com/DriveforAutismXXIII](http://birdease.com/DriveforAutismXXIII)

## ABOUT DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION:

Based in New Providence, New Jersey, The Drive for Autism Foundation (EIN#20-1760417), is a 501(3)(c) tax exempt public charity that was created in the Spring of 2002 for the sole purpose of raising and distributing funds for educational facilities specializing in students with autism.

## DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF OUTING 2024

The Drive for Autism XXIII is scheduled for Monday Sept 16, 2024, at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ. The event consists of a morning round of golf followed by a barbeque. Special events include golf contests, raffles and a silent auction of sports memorabilia, game tickets and golf trips.

To register or for additional information please visit [birdease.com/DriveForAutismXXIII](http://birdease.com/DriveForAutismXXIII), call 908-451-8033 or email [driveforautism@comcast.net](mailto:driveforautism@comcast.net).



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Do you have a Cub Scout or Boy Scout uniform hanging in your closet that is not used anymore? Please consider donating it to the uniform exchange maintained by Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23 at St. Genevieve's Church. With several new Scouts expected to join in September, now would be a great time to put that old uniform back in use.

Like everything else, the cost of Scout uniform parts has risen greatly in recent years. Through its uniform exchange, the Scouting program at St. Gen's helps to ease that burden for its member families. Scouts are often able to find a shirt, pants, belt, hat, neckerchief or neckerchief slide that has been donated by a former member, or by a current member who has outgrown the uniform.

Donations can be placed at any time in the American flag retirement box next to Webby's Wood Shed, behind the church Rectory..

If you know a child who is anywhere between a Kindergartener and a high school senior, please encourage them to get in on the fun of Scouting. The Scouting program instills character, good citizenship and physical fitness in youth through outdoor activities such as campouts and hikes, involvement in community activities, and just plain FUN!

Cub Scout Pack 23 provides activities and training for boys and girls in Kindergarten

through fifth grades. Boy Scout Troop 23 is for boys who are at least 11 years old or graduated from the fifth grade. New members are welcome at any time, all year round. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfootroop@gmail.com.



(above) Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23 are looking for uniform parts that can be put back into use by new Scouts.

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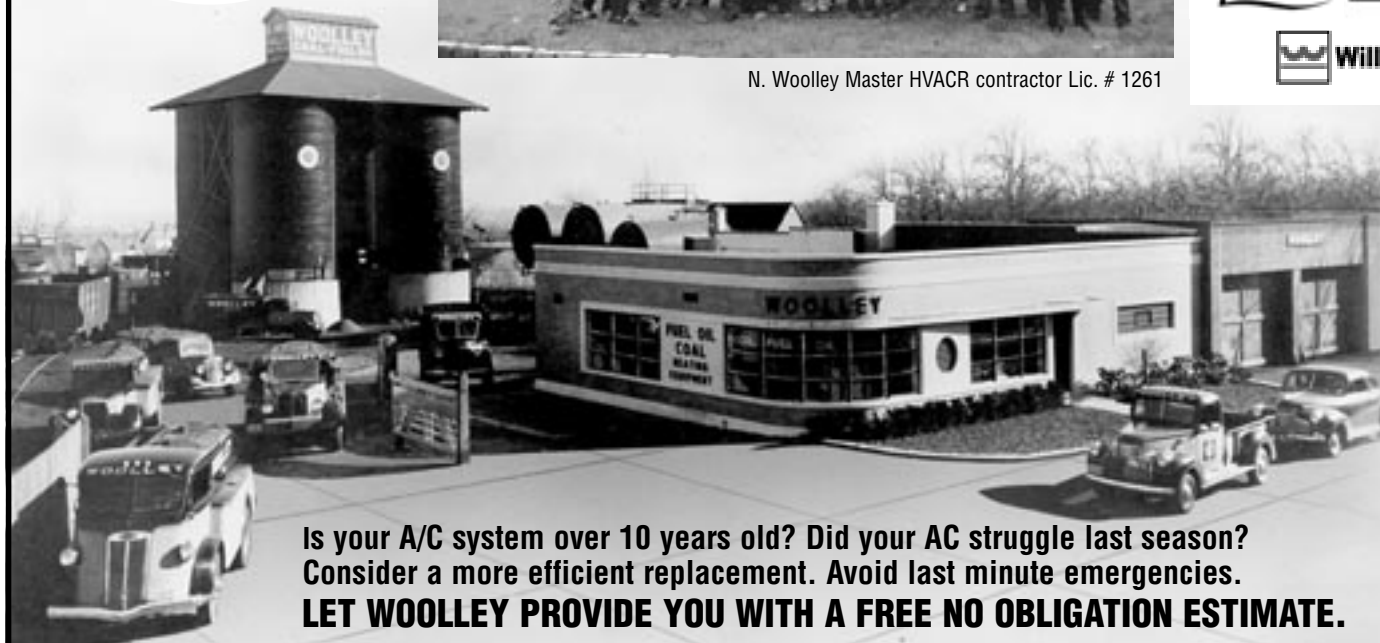


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## URGENT NEED FOR ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

*Information sessions are scheduled for August*

The afternoon that five-year-old Bella's mom failed to pick her up from kindergarten, she and her little brother Ethan, age two, would see their lives change. As Bella waited at school, calls were made to locate mom – who suffers from schizophrenia. When it was learned mom had been hospitalized, the Division of Child Protection and Permanency became involved and, upon arriving at the family home, it was discovered there was no food, furniture, or other necessary items. It was then that life in foster care for Bella and Ethan began.

Bella and Ethan are among more than 500 children who need to be removed from their homes in Passaic and Union counties each year due to abuse and/or neglect. Separated from all

they've ever known, the road ahead is long, and they need a caring, consistent adult in their corner to protect their best interests. That's where Child Focus comes in. Specifically, its Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program and, right now, there is an urgent need for volunteers – including those bilingual in both English and Spanish – to step up and train as child advocates for waiting children.

The next advocate training series will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays September 12 through October 22 in Clark. Those interested must first attend any one of the following information sessions: Wednesday, August 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Colleen Fraser Building, 300 North Avenue, Westfield; Thursday, August 22 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rahway

Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, Rahway; and Wednesday, August 28 at noon at the Child Focus office, 1143 East Jersey Street, 2nd Floor, Elizabeth. Register now at [casapassaicunion.org/info-session](http://casapassaicunion.org/info-session).

Said Executive Director Erica Fischer-Kaslander, "We are committed to recruiting, screening, and training advocates for every child in both Passaic and Union counties who needs one. It is difficult to overstate the difference a CASA volunteer can make in the life of a child removed from home through no fault of their own, due to abuse or neglect." She added, "Children with volunteer advocates are more likely to have needed services ordered on their behalf, spend less time in the foster care system, and experience significantly better outcomes than those who go without. Becoming a CASA volunteer requires a significant time commitment and training, but volunteers often find the work as life-changing for themselves as it is for the children they help."

CASA volunteers receive professional training on the ins and outs of advocating for children in foster care and are fully supported by CASA staff members. No special background in child welfare or law is necessary; successful CASA volunteers are dedicated community members with varied life experiences. CASA volunteers visit the children, make unbiased observations, interview others in the child's life, and make recommendations to the judge. They often are the only consistent adult in the life of a child involved in the child welfare system, as caseworkers, professionals, and placements can be ever-changing. A CASA volunteer provides continuity during a time of chaos and unknowns.

### ABOUT CHILD FOCUS:

Child Focus champions the needs and well-being of infants, children and teens impacted by, or at risk of, abuse or neglect by amplifying their voices and working toward lasting, permanent solutions that address their unique situations and provide support needed to thrive. This critical work is accomplished through three distinct but complementary programs: CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, NJ Safe Babies Court Team, and the Open Door Store. For more information, log on to [childfocusnj.org](http://childfocusnj.org).

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## SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ: JAZZ ON AUG 10

The Salem Roadhouse Café presents Radam Schwartz and his Jazz Quartet, Saturday, August 10th, 2024. The doors open at 7:30 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 Bailey Hall, below Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for carefully chosen local charities.

Radam, a Hammond B3 Organist and Jazz pianist, has built his reputation over the last 30 years playing with such great artists as Arthur and Red Prysock, Eddie Lockjaw Davis, Al Hibler, David Fathead Newman, Russell Malone, Cecil Brooks III and Jimmy Ford. He has been featured on over 40 albums as a sideman and has recorded 9 albums as a leader.

Backing up Radam at this special jazz instrumental show will be Rodrigo Romero (aka RoD) who is a Peruvian woodwind player, composer and educator active in Lima, Miami and New Jersey; Guitarist Ilan Eisenzweig who studied under renowned jazz guitarist Vic Juris and frequently performs at venues throughout New Jersey and New York City; Philadelphia born musician Dave Gibson who is paving his way toward that pantheon of jazz greats. Paying all the dues required to develop his prodigious talent. Gibson has earned an impeccable reputation in the jazz world.

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.

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.

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.

## ELKS SEND CARE PACKAGES TO NJ TROOPS

Submitted by Jon Joshua

Area Elks Club members recently teamed up with Girl Scouts from New Providence and Chatham at the Stirling Elks Lodge to assemble and mail 22 care packages packed with cookies and "Thank You" cards to troops from NJ who are currently deployed overseas.

They were joined by Air Force 2D Lt. Mitchell Horn from the New Jersey Air National Guard and a member of American Legion Post 322 in Summit who explained how receiving a care package can have a huge positive impact on the morale of someone who is serving thousands of miles away from home.

The National Veterans Service Committee of the NJ Elks East Central District, with Lodges in Stirling, Summit, Springfield, Mountainside, Cranford, Union, and Rahway, spent approximately \$1,200 to purchase the cookies and postage. Elks members help to support programs like this through grants, donations, and fundraising events.

Elks pledge "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." The same holds true for active duty military members and their families. Please visit Elks.org for more information about the Elks and how to join.



(above) Area Elks recently teamed up with local girl scouts to send care packages to NJ Troops that are stationed overseas.

Courtesy photo

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# FAMILY FUN DAY DRAWS RECORD ATTENDANCE

## Community Access Unlimited

The 26th Annual Ira Geller Family Fun Day, hosted by Community Access Unlimited (CAU), drew an enthusiastic crowd of over 800 supporters, members, and staff to Warinanco Park on Saturday, May 18th.

The event delivered a day filled with joy and community spirit, with an aim of supporting CAU's essential services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) and at-risk youth. Activities offered enjoyment for all ages and all abilities; the park was made more accessible with a path for those using wheelchairs, and a new sensory station engaged attendees to stimulate and regulate their senses.

Mayor of Elizabeth, J. Christian Bollwage joined the celebration, lauding CAU Executive Director Bernadette Griswold for her dedicated leadership.

"Community Access helps direct services and housing opportunities to those who may have been on the margins—and because of all of you, you make this a reality," Bollwage said.

Participants enjoyed a variety of activities, including over a dozen games, two bouncy slides, a free photo booth, and lively music from CAU's resident DJ. The atmosphere was alive with families and friends reveling in the day's festivities, all while supporting a meaningful

cause and commemorating CAU's 45th year of service to the community.

Tonya Hopson of Hillside, a CAU member since 1987, shared her personal journey and the profound impact CAU has had on her life.

As a teenager, Hopson aged out of the foster care system and found a lifeline in CAU, which provided housing and essential services. As an adult with a disability, employment support from CAU assisted her in securing a job at a Target where she has thrived for over 20 years. Reflecting on her experience, she said, "CAU has benefited me in growing better and growing up, and I have a place to live." On having a job coach, she added, "They come and see how I'm

doing, and if I need anything they're there to help me."

This year's Family Fun Day not only celebrated the memory of Ira Geller, a former CAU member and advocate, but also highlighted the significant contributions of CAU in improving the lives of over 3,000 individuals and families across New Jersey. Through housing, education, support services, employment, support coordination, and the Day Program, CAU continues to make a tangible difference in the community.

For more information on CAU and its programs, or to make a donation, please visit [caunj.org](http://caunj.org).



(above, l-r) CAU members, Tonya Hopson, Dianna Simms, and John Drescher attended CAU's Ira Geller Family Fun Day.

Courtesy photo

## ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating 45 years in 2024, supports people with disabilities in achieving full lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. For more info about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908.354.3040, online at [caunj.org](http://caunj.org) or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



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- **Personalized Q&A Sessions:** Have questions about the hiring process or what it's like to work with us? Our team is here to answer all your inquiries.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- **Aspiring Firefighters:** Whether you're just starting your career journey or looking to transition into firefighting, this event is for you.
- **Community Members:** Curious about what our department does for your safety? Join us to gain a deeper understanding of our role in the community.

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## 7TH GRADE STUDENTS RECEIVE SUPPORT THROUGH PROGRAMS

### *The Gateway Family YMCA's*

Registration begins on August 15th for the 2024-2025 class of 7th Grade Initiative at The Gateway Family YMCA. As part of the NJ YMCA 7th Grade Initiative, a state-wide strategy designed to support and encourage teens to maintain a healthy lifestyle, The Gateway Family YMCA offers a complimentary membership for all 7th Grade Students in the local community as well as a supportive 7th Grade Leaders Club. Incoming 7th Grade students are invited to visit the YMCA and join with proof of grade and a guardian's signature. Registration is available in person at The Gateway Family YMCA – Elizabeth Branch - 135 Madison Avenue, Five Points Branch -201 Tucker Avenue, Union, Rahway Branch – 1564 Irving Street, Rahway and Wellness Center Branch – 1000 Galloping Hill Rd, Union.

All 7th Grade students are provided a complimentary full YMCA membership including wellness and fitness access, group exercise programs, basketball, pickleball, soccer, swimming, virtual YMCA360 and a variety of other programs specifically created based on their interests and feedback. The goal of the 7th Grade Initiative is to increase physical activity and support teens in the development of lifetime healthy habits, volunteerism and leadership skills



*(above) The Gateway Family YMCA's 7th Grade Initiative Begins Registration on August 15th. 7th Grade Students Receive Support Through Membership and Programs.*

while providing a safe and supportive environment with role models at the YMCA.

“We know that 7th grade is a pivotal time in youth development, and teens begin to make their own decisions on life choices. We remain committed to support the youth in our community and work together to ensure a bright future for all,” stated Melynda A. Disla, President and CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. “As they approach their teens and sports become more competitive, there is a chance of becoming sedentary. The Y is here to provide activity, socialization, leadership skills, and staff role models to encourage healthy habits to last a lifetime.”

The 7th Grade Leader's Club, a structured program offering teens leadership and volunteer opportunities is also available for registration on August 15th. With a focus on team building, personal growth, character and job skill development, service and volunteerism, the 7th Grade Leader's Club empowers teens to create a chart of work and volunteer projects specific to the needs in their community, identified and

completed by students.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening the foundations of community and stands For Youth Development, For Healthy Living and For Social Responsibility. The Y impacts the community by providing quality services to people of all ages, races, faiths or incomes. Providing services for Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex County, for 123 years, The Gateway Family YMCA has six YMCA branches in Elizabeth, Rahway and Union, serving the communities of Avenel, Carteret, Clark, Colonia, Elizabeth, Hillside, Kenilworth, Linden, Plainfield, Port Reading, Roselle, Roselle Park, Sewaren, Union, Vauxhall, Winfield Park and Woodbridge, NJ.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA's 7th Grade Initiative, visit [www.tgfymca.org](http://www.tgfymca.org) or contact the Elizabeth Branch at 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch at 908-688-9622, Rahway Branch at 732-388-0057 or Wellness Center Branch at 908-349-9622.

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Gateway Family YMCA Offers School Age Child Care Programs in Local School Districts. At the Y's Before and After School Programs, kids have a safe place to explore their interests and discover their passions, learn to work and play together and turn classmates into friends. With programs run by caring adult role models who are invested in helping every kid reach their full potential, The Gateway Family YMCA Before and After School Care Programs are a safe place for working families.

“We are committed to the youth in our care, providing staff role models, opportunities for innovative STEAM activities, healthy living, arts and youth sports,” stated Melynda A. Disla, President and CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. “As an organization dedicated to youth development, we understand how important it is that our children have a safe and enriching environment for learning, both in and out of school.”

Registration is ongoing for the 2024-2025 school year Before and After School Programs

offered in collaboration with the Rahway Public School District, Elizabeth Public School District and Union Township Public School District. School age child care programs are a place where children can remain active, extend their learning and continue to be engaged during their time out of school – a critical time for youth. Programs are held in local elementary and middle schools as well as at YMCA for children attending on-site Preschool at the YMCA in the Union Township Public School District and the Rahway Public School District. The YMCA also offers Vacation Day programs during school holidays.

“We are pleased to be able to provide these programs to the families in our community, allowing their invaluable social, emotional, physical and academic growth to continue long after the school day ends,” stated Melynda A. Disla. “Through a balanced approach to youth development, the curriculum offers activities, mentorship and academic support, nurturing the potential of all participants throughout the year.”

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening community through Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. The Gateway Family YMCA impacts the community by providing quality services for all, with financial assistance available to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential. The Y doesn't just strengthen bodies – it strengthens people, families and communities.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA's school age child care programs, visit [tgfymca.org](http://tgfymca.org) or contact the Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622 or Rahway Branch 732-388-0057.



*(above) The Gateway Family YMCA's offer safety, enrichment and fun in after school programs.*

**FIND YOUR PASSION!**  
the Y

**YMCA Annual Support Campaign**  
Your Support is Greatly Needed to Ensure YMCA Financial Assistance for:

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- WISE Senior Programs
- Membership for ALL
- Youth & Teen Mentorship
- Child Care for Working Families

**THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA** [tgfymca.org](http://tgfymca.org)

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The Gateway Family YMCA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening community.



# AUGUST EVENTS AT THE UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

## Monday Night Trivia: 90's Music (Vauxhall Library)

Mon. 8/5 @ 6:00 pm

Are you a fan of REM or the Spice Girls? Do you still dance the Macarena or the Cabbage Patch? Come join us as we test your music knowledge for fun and prizes.

## Voter Registration Table (Main Library)

Mon. 8/12 @ 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Union County Board of Elections host a voter registration event. If you are not signed up to vote in this upcoming election, stop by and get registered to vote. Gain information on the election and get any of your election / registration questions answered.

## Celebrating 100 Years of James Baldwin: A Community Discussion (Vauxhall Library)

Mon. 8/12 @ 6:00 pm

Join us as we honor the life of iconic American writer and civil rights activist, James Baldwin.

## Adult Zentangle Workshop (Main Library)

Tues. 8/13 @ 6:00 pm

In a 90 minute color Zentangle class with Mimi, you will explore meditative drawing with the use of different color options,

## Build Up Your Balance (Main Library)

Wed. 8/14 @ 10:30 am

Through gentle exercises and stepping strategies, learn to keep your body balanced in different situations. Give this popular class from the YMCA a try!

## Taste of New Orleans (Vauxhall Library)

Wed. 8/14 @ 6:00 pm

Please join us as Chef Jesse Jones returns to the Vauxhall Branch Library for another informative and tasty cooking demonstration.

Chef Jesse Jones will be preparing a New Orleans favorite, Chicken and Turkey Sausage Jambalaya. Chef Jesse Jones is a renowned chef and author known for his modern approach to southern cuisine.

## Chair Yoga (Main Library)

Thurs. 8/15 @ 10:00 am

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

## Adult Origami Workshop (Main Library)

Thurs. 8/15 @ 6:00 pm

Join us for a summer themed origami class at the Main Library! Instructor Joy Ann will teach us how to make a new origami fold.

Registration will be limited and open at the beginning of August.

## Off the Shelf Book Club (Main Library)

Thurs. 8/15 @ 6:30 pm

August's reading will be House of Ghosts by W.C. Ryan. Pick up your copy at the Main Library. Great way to make new friends!

## Boogie Woogie Adult Dance Fitness (Vauxhall Library)

Mon. 8/19 @ 6:00 pm

Get your exercise in with a fun cardio workout featuring hip-hop inspired dance moves, presented by Tiffany Taylor!

## Animal Crossing Open Hours (Virtual on Nintendo Switch)

Fri. 8/23 @ 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Check out our inclusive virtual library building that serves children, teens, and adults. As a thank you for visiting, there will be freebies! You must add us as a friend before entering the island. Our UPL Nintendo friend code is SW-4027-1837-6212. All ages are welcome. No registration is necessary.

## Do you have Unclaimed Property? (Vauxhall Library)

Wed. 8/28 @ 6:00 pm

The Unclaimed Property Administration of NJ will be coming to the Vauxhall, learn what is called unclaimed property and what documents are needed to claim yours. refund, bonds, unredeemed gift certificates, or any other funds that are not claimed or considered abandoned after a certain time frame. T

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

Weds. @ 12:30 - 2:00 pm  
 on 8/7, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28

Get help with library resources, including downloading e-books from Libby and Hoopla, using the library catalog and resources, using mobile print, and using the photocopier and scanner. Reservations are not required.

## Hula Hooping for Adults (Vauxhall Library)

Weds. @ 6:00 pm on 8/7, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28

Hoopling conditions your core, works on proper body alignment, boosts flexibility and stability and lowers stress with an exhilarating aerobic total body weight loss workout. Please join us outside the Vauxhall Branch Library for this unique and fun adult exercise program. Please bring your own Infinity Hula Hoop as supplies are very limited.

## Meditation (Virtual on Zoom)

Thurs. @ 11:30 am  
 on 8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22, 8/29

Join Bindu Bhatt for virtual meditation sessions. No prior experience is necessary. Bindu has practiced meditation for over 30 years and wants to share her insight.

**MOUNTAINSIDE TOWN WIDE GARAGE SALE**

**SATURDAY - SEPT. 9**  
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## OLD GUARD - AUGUST 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.

**August 6th - Jerry DiFrancisco.**

His topic will be the theory and practice of international law. Jerry brings extensive experience from the private sector, academia, and eleemosynary organizations to bare on the subject. He holds an MBA and Doctorate in Management and has worked as President,

Humanitarian Services for the American Red Cross, at AT&T for three decades in several senior administrative positions and currently serves as Distinguished Civic Leader in Residence at Siena College. In addition, he has served on numerous non-profit boards.

**AUGUST 13TH = GENE PASCUCCI**

Owner of Empire Antiques. Gene has lived all over the world and is an expert in appraising and collecting antiques. Much of his inventory is derived from high-end estate sales and he also holds auctions from time to time at his facility. Gene will discuss a wide range of topics about antiquing and will be accompanied by an associate, Sonnie Benson, who will review some of their vast inventory.

**AUGUST 20TH - LESLIE WORKMAN**

On August 20th we will learn about turning an old barn into a community Arts Center. Our speaker will be Leslie Workman, board president, Farmstead Arts in Basking Ridge. Leslie will take us through the roughly three-hundred-year history of a Basking Ridge farm and its ultimate transition into a community cultural center which features many services ranging from art classes to live theatre.

**AUGUST 27TH - SYDNEY LEVIT**

Finally, our speaker for August 27th will be a 100-year-old (on July 17th), World War II combat veteran, Sydney Levit. Mr. Levit will be interviewed by Summit resident Suzanne Currie and she will ask him about his experiences before, during and after his wartime service – should be fascinating.



(above, l-r) Jerry DiFrancisco, Leslie Workman, Gene Pascucci, Sydney Levit

Courtesy photos

## MONTH-LONG STOREFRONT ART WALK

The Township of Union is proud to announce the launch of the Township of Union Art Tour, a storefront art walk through Union Center. Produced by Main Street Pops, a woman-owned pop-up Arts Programming business, the event will showcase the vibrant creativity of local artists while fostering community engagement and supporting local Special Improvement District (SID) businesses.

This month-long public event—running from July 30 to August 31—will transform Union Center into an expansive live public gallery with works from local artists displayed in storefront

windows. Attendees are encouraged to explore the Art Tour at their own pace, discovering the rich tapestry of artistic expression that NJ and the Township of Union has to offer. This further reinforces the Township and Union Center as a place for the arts, culture, dining, and a retail destination.

“Main Street Pops is pleased to work with the Township of Union to showcase talented local artists while encouraging residents and visitors to explore the dynamic businesses of Union Center and experience all it has to offer, “ said Tracy Gavant, Main Street Pops co-founder.

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