

# OUR TOWN

RAHWAY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Issue 170 • September 2024

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## RAHWAY RESIDENT CHETAN 'CHET' CHAWADA HAS A PASSION FOR COMPETING & COACHING TENNIS

Submitted by Bob Markey

Chet Chawada's family immigrated to the United States from India in 1986, seeking a better life for themselves and their children. Upon arrival in our country, the family moved into a small apartment in Jersey City, where Chet and his sister soon learned 'city street smarts'. Chet studied hard and became not only an 'A student' but also a top player on his Jersey City High School's Tennis Team.

Chet, his wife and children, and his parents moved to Rahway in 2001, purchasing a lovely and spacious home in the town's Milton Lake section.

Chet works as an IT specialist for a major financial company, and when he's not on the job, you might find him in warm weather, either on a tennis court or working alongside his father, tending the family's vegetable garden.

"I wanted to share my passion and love for the game of tennis with others, so after the COVID-19 pandemic, I started coaching tennis to kids, teenagers, and adults. It has been a great journey so far, and some of the kids I have coached have made it to their high school's varsity team.

"I'm also proud to add that each of my players has developed mental and physical strength through the game of tennis" Chet noted. In addition to coaching and competing in tennis, Chet is also a full-time dad to two beautiful daughters.

"I have been trying for a long time to be selected for Team Tennis by the US Tennis Association (USTA) but always fell short each year by a set or game. This summer, I got over that hurdle by being part of USTA's 'Over Forty Years of Age' 'Notty Shotty' team, beating NY's best five 'Over 40 Teams', thus sealing a victory and becoming eligible for the upcoming National USTA competitions being held this October in Orlando, Florida



Courtesy photo

Congratulations Chet, and we look forward to updates soon from your national competition in Orlando.

Chet can be reached at his instagram handle - @chetstringer.

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## THE GALLERY SPACE RAHWAY

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September Exhibit  
**iSALUDOS! From Our Neighbors**  
6th Annual Celebration of Hispanic & Latin Artists

**Exhibition Dates:** September 15 – October 11, 2024  
**Opening Reception:** Sunday, September 15, 1:00PM – 4:00PM  
**Gallery Hours:** Monday – Friday 1:00PM – 4:00PM  
or by appointment for groups of 4 or more  
**Admission is Free to the Public**



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# OUR TOWN *Rahway*

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# SALUDOS! FROM OUR NEIGHBORS: ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF LATIN & HISPANIC ARTISTS

The City of Rahway will present Saludos! From Our Neighbors: The 6th Annual Celebration of Latin & Hispanic Artists. This exhibit will be available from September 15 to October 11, 2024, at The Gallery Space at 1670 Irving St. There will be an Opening Reception on Sunday, September 15 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and light refreshments will be served. During the run of this exhibit, Gallery Hours will be Monday to Friday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Limited parking is available in the lot behind the building.

Artists featured in this exhibit are Judyann Affronti, Robert Avila, Lucas Barraza, Yesi Argueta Flores, Fernando Mariscal, Ann Tirado, Stanley Gavidia Tolentino, and Maria Valdivia. The artworks will include paintings, drawings, felt collages, and digital collages.

The presence of Latin and Hispanic residents

in the US dates back to the early days of the colonies; including those established by Britain and those settled by Spain, France, and Portugal. The Latin and Hispanic populations of the United States have become active in many facets of American life. These residents have created businesses, schools, and social organizations and brought their cultural richness to our communities. In many cases, Latin and Hispanic Artists are inspired by their cultural and artistic history. Their work reflects familial values, traditions, social and political issues and their unique view of American culture.

For further information on the exhibit, please contact [lcappiello@cityofrahway.com](mailto:lcappiello@cityofrahway.com) or call 732 827-2210.

This exhibit is made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.



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## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AT THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA

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



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

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.

### Welcoming Week

YMCA Open House September 13-22

Open to the Community! Take a Swim, Shoot Some Hoops, Try a Class! Learn More at [tgfymca.org/events](http://tgfymca.org/events)

**SO JOINER FEE** on Family Memberships September 13-22 Join the Y & Use Code WW24 at [tgfymca.org/join-the-Y](http://tgfymca.org/join-the-Y)

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

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## ELKS FAMILY FUN DAY TO HELP HOMELESS VETS

The NJ Elks East Central District is proud to announce the 2nd Annual Family Fun Day event on September 28, 2024 from noon to 6pm at the Stirling Elks Lodge at 1138 Valley Road in Stirling. This event aims to bring the community together for a day of food, fun, and entertainment for all ages to help support a crucial cause.

Included with entry, all attendees will enjoy a delicious pig roast, grilled burgers, hotdogs, pulled pork, sausage & peppers, sandwiches, sides, desserts, water, soda, beer, wine, sangria, and more. Kids' activities will include DJ Mr. Socks, contests, games, a bounce house, magic performances, a fire truck, and more. Adults and teens can participate in a professionally run cornhole tournament, a golf pitching contest, volleyball, and bocce ball. Additionally, the event will feature a special rendition of the National Anthem, a NJ State Police helicopter, World War II vehicles, bagpipers, a dunk tank, 50/50s, a Silent Auction, and a paratrooper parachuting the American Flag into the event.

Admission is \$25 (donation) for adults. Children under 12 are free.

There are thousands of homeless veterans in New Jersey which is a tragic reality that the NJ Elks are determined to change. Over the past five years, the New Jersey Elks have successfully helped to move over 2,400 homeless veterans into homes, providing them with a fresh start and

a sense of stability.

The Elks National Veterans Service Committee operates on a 100% volunteer basis, ensuring that all proceeds from this event will go directly towards improving the lives of our American heroes who have fallen on tough times. In addition, they are actively seeking sponsors and donors to support their efforts and their public relations committee will work hard to acknowledge them through several sponsorship packages.

Donations and advanced ticket purchases can be made at: <http://donate.njelks-eed.org> or mailed to Elks ECD Veterans Committee, 87 Harrison Ave., Colonia, NJ 07067. Checks should be made payable to: ECD Veterans Committee, with 'homeless vets' in the memo. (If a 501(c)(3) receipt is needed, please make checks payable to: NJSEA, with 'homeless vets' in the memo).

For sponsorship interest or more information about this event, please contact Apollo Hrehorovich at [funday@njelks-eed.org](mailto:funday@njelks-eed.org), call or text 732-540-0062, or visit <http://funday.njelks-eed.org>.

Elks pledge "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

For more information about the Elks and how to join, please visit <http://elks.org> today.

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Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant sights, sounds, and flavors of Greece at the 47th Annual Greek Festival, taking place at the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Union, NJ. This eagerly anticipated event, the largest and longest-running Greek Festival in Union County, will delight attendees from September 5th to September 8th, 2024, with a weekend of cultural immersion, culinary delights, and family-friendly entertainment.

**What to Expect:**

**Authentic Greek Cuisine:** Indulge in a feast of traditional Greek dishes including souvlaki, moussaka, pastitsio, spanakopita, loukoumades, and baklava, all freshly prepared on premises with the finest ingredients reminiscent of your Greek Yia-yia's cooking.

**Live Music and Dance:** Experience the lively rhythms of Greece with live music and dance performances featuring traditional Greek folk music and dances such as syrtaki and kalamatianó.

**Artisan Marketplace:** Browse through a bustling marketplace offering handmade jewelry, clothing, and imported goods from Greece.

**Event Details:**

Dates: September 5th to September 8th, 2024  
Location: St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 721 Rahway Ave, Union, NJ 07083 (Free Parking in neighboring lots)

Admission: \$2 general admission; a portion of admission proceeds benefit local Union Township/Union County charities

"We are thrilled to invite the community to join us for our 47th Annual Greek Festival," said Betty Spiropoulos, Festival Committee Co-Chair "This event is a celebration of our Greek heritage and a wonderful opportunity for everyone to experience the warmth and hospitality of our culture."

About the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church:

Established in 1928 in Newark and relocated to Union in 1984, the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church has been a cornerstone of the Union Township community, celebrated for its rich diversity and dedication to promoting Greek culture, faith, and community spirit. Over the years, it has warmly welcomed people from various backgrounds, fostering an inclusive environment that embraces cultural diversity and unity among its members.

**Social Media:**

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and behind-the-scenes looks at the festival: @stdemetriosunion

Don't miss out on this unforgettable celebration of Greek culture and community! Join us at the 47th Annual Greek Festival in Union, NJ, for a weekend filled with delicious food, vibrant music, and family-friendly fun

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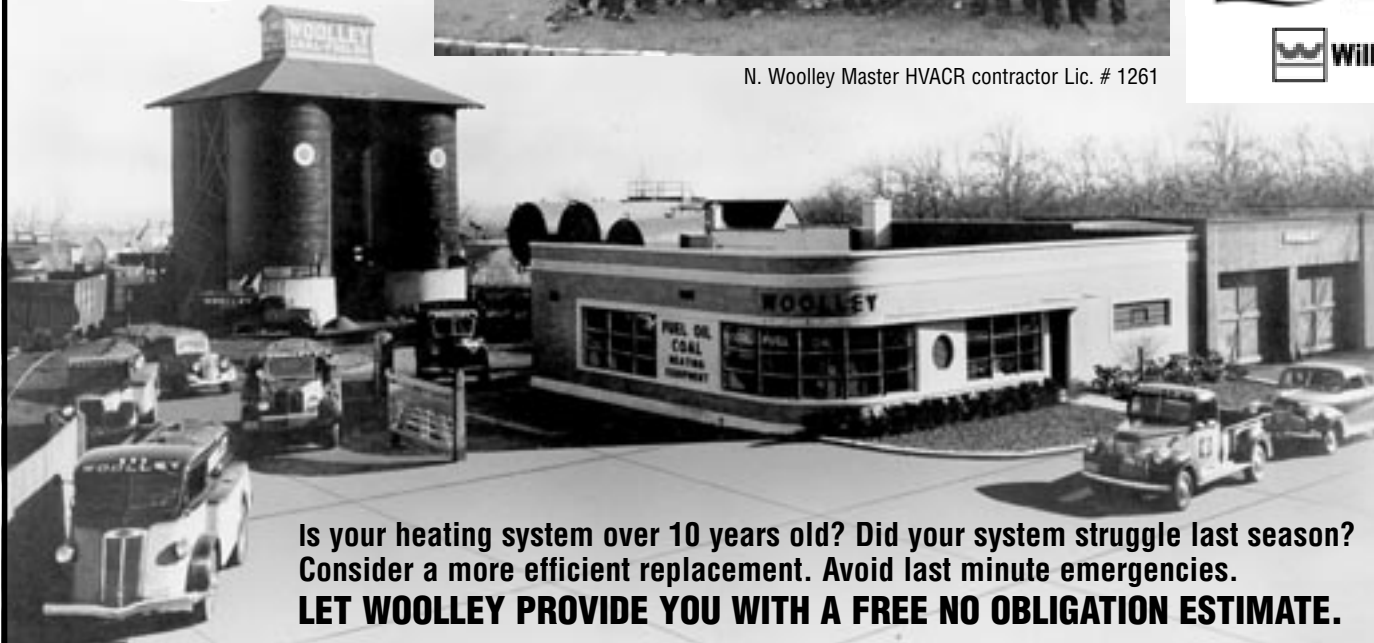
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## GRANT TO HELP EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery provided a \$20,000 grant to the Rahway Community Action Organization to support early childhood education programs. Phillips 66 continues to strive to be a trusted community partner. At Phillips 66, we understand that we share our communities and take responsibility for our neighbors' safety and well-being. To learn more about RCAO visit [rahwaycao.org](http://rahwaycao.org).



(above, l-r) David Schoenthal – Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery, Aneasha Ghaly – Rahway Community Action Organization, and Lisa Barra – Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery

## GRANT WILL HELP VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery provided a \$25,000 grant to the YWCA Union County supporting temporary housing for domestic violence victims. Phillips 66 continues to strive to be a trusted community partner. At Phillips 66,

we understand that we share our communities and take responsibility for our neighbors' safety and well-being.

To learn more about the YWCA Union County visit [ywcaunioncounty.org](http://ywcaunioncounty.org).



Courtesy photo

(above, l-r) Kathryn Lynch – YWCA Union County, Lisa Barra – Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery, Patricia Mejas – YWCA Union County, Ann Janson – Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery

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# LOCAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMAN WAS A SPY FOR GEORGE WASHINGTON

Submitted by Al Shipley, City Historian an Rahway Library Research Consultant



(above) This 1777 military map shows American and British encampments in the Rahway area. The road running from the top right corner to the bottom middle is today St. Georges Avenue. The intersection of St. Georges and Westfield Avenue is about 1/3 down, just below the name Raway. Note the American camps of General William Sterling to the north and west and the British camps of Generals Cornwallis and Howe to the south.

An article from the archives of the New York Times dated 1857 records the death of an elderly Black woman, known to Rahway's "Bricktown" residents as Aunt Phillis, who perished in a house fire while she slept. Back in those early days, newspaper obits were rare and only written for very well-known members of the community or for those who had achieved prominence in a given field. The death of a woman, an average citizen, would have gone unrecorded if not for a number of curious items that were found in the ashes of what was left of her home. Sifting through the debris, authorities found papers and a small box that indicated she was a spy during the Revolutionary War and that she served under the direction of General George Washington.

It was a common practice for both American and British Armies to use spies and spy teams to go behind enemy lines to secure information. General Washington himself assembled a number of spy rings that became an important and organized intelligence operation. These secret agents might include merchants, tailors, farmers, slaves, and young women. They not only gathered clues concerning the imminent plans of the enemy forces, but also spread misinformation to confuse them. They worked under secret identities, used secret codes, and were familiar with the locations of secret "dead drops," spots where information could be deposited. This was dangerous and risky work. Death by hanging or firing squad was the punishment for those who were not clever enough or lucky enough to conceal their stealth. Washington became so adept at using his spy teams that one defeated British intelligence officer was recorded as having said, "Washington did not really outfight the British. He simply out-spied us."

Rahway's location during the war years made it a strategically important and dangerous area. Woodbridge, Perth Amboy, and Staten Island were British strongholds which put Rahway and neighboring rebel towns in precarious positions. Following the Battles of Trenton (December, 1776) and Princeton (January, 1777) Washington

directed his officers to drive the Redcoats out of Central Jersey. The need for advance knowledge of enemy plans became essential which created the perfect training grounds for a young woman to hone her spying skills. A young woman like Aunt Phillis, might be able to more easily infiltrate enemy lines under the guise of doing her routine chores. Moving around openly in an enemy camp could enable her to get close enough to overhear important conversations without arousing suspicion. The full extent of her work as a spy is not known and it was not until some 80 years later that some light was shed on her past.

Late on a Friday night in 1857, a home located on the eastern end of Rahway on the banks of the Rahway River, a section of the town where bricks were made, went up in flames. Before the volunteer firemen could arrive, the structure was entirely destroyed. The body of Aunt Phillis was found the next morning and removed in the custody of the County Coroner. It was while moving through the remains that items were found linking her to Washington and her service during the war. Charred papers indicated that, though only in her teens, she contributed considerable service to the American troops. The papers outlined how Aunt Phillis spent the winter of 1777-78 with Federal troops camped at Bound Brook and might have been in the special service of Washington who at that time was carefully monitoring the events in that region. Along with the papers, a gold inlaid snuff-box was found in the rubble giving more credence to the Aunt Phillis story. The box was a presentation gift to her given by Governor William Livingston "in recognition of her services." Livingston, who lived in Elizabethtown, was a signer of the United States Constitution and New Jersey's first governor.

As is the case with the spying exploits of Aunt Phillis, nothing is known about her life after the war, but the relics found on the morning after her death, reveal the existence of an American patriot who was lost in time.

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# PANCAKE BREAKFASTS AT AMERICAN LEGION

# WELCOMING WEEK CELEBRATION – SEPT. 13-22

The Gateway Family YMCA



## PANCAKE BREAKFAST – SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

Come to a Pancake Breakfast, hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary - Unit 102, on Sunday, September 15, 2024 at the American Legion Post 102, located at 112 West Elizabeth Ave. in Linden, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. This month's special is French Toast. Donations: Adults \$8.00 / Seniors & Children \$7.00 / Ages 5 & Under Free. Take outs are available.

This event is open to the public, so come out and enjoy a home cooked breakfast, and support our veterans!

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST - SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

Come one, come all to the VFW#1397 Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, September 28, 2024 for the VFW Post #1397, which will be held at the American Legion Post 102, located at 112 West Elizabeth Ave in Linden from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Donations: Adults \$7.00 / Seniors & Children \$6.00/ Ages 5 & Under Free. Take outs are available.

This event is open to the public, so come out and enjoy a home cooked breakfast, and support our veterans!

The Gateway Family YMCA will join Welcoming America, other organizations and YMCAs across the country to celebrate Welcoming Week, September 13-22. Each year, Welcoming Week elevates the growing movement of communities that fully embrace new Americans and their contributions to the social fabric of our country.

This week-long celebration is an opportunity for neighbors – both immigrants and US-born residents – to get to know one another and celebrate what unites us as a community. At The Gateway Family YMCA, the community is invited to visit the YMCA Open House with details and schedules available at [tgfymca.org/events](http://tgfymca.org/events) including fun family programs, social events for all ages, a Community Health Fair with vaccination information, Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring and programs open to the community. In addition, the Y will be celebrating with themed events for program participants in Child Care, YMCA Residential Housing, Aquatics, Group Exercise and WISE Community Services programs.

“At The Gateway Family YMCA, we truly believe that belonging begins with us and that our community is stronger when everyone feels welcome and collaborates for the common good,” said Melynda A. Disla, President/CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. “We are proud to participate in Welcoming Week, showcasing how people from all backgrounds come together in communities both large and small to build stronger connections. This is a time to celebrate the shared values that unite us as neighbors, parents, and colleagues, making our community more welcoming to all.”

In addition to a YMCA Open House for all

September 13-22, The Gateway Family YMCA is offering a Membership Special with \$0 Joiner Fee. Individuals and families are invited to tour and join at any YMCA branch in Elizabeth, Rahway and Union, and can join online at [tgfymca.org/join-the-Y](http://tgfymca.org/join-the-Y) with code WEL4 during Welcoming Week.

The Gateway Family YMCA, along with Shaping Eastern Union County, Shaping Elizabeth, Shaping Rahway, and Shaping Union, celebrate Welcoming Week with the local communities each year, as part of a commitment to the mission of serving all. Every day, The Gateway Family YMCA offers a complimentary Community Membership for access to select programs and events for every member of the community focused on chronic disease prevention and social opportunities for seniors and families.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a leading 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose and each other. Working locally, the Y focuses on empowering young people, improving health and well-being, and inspiring action in and across communities. By bringing together people from different backgrounds, perspectives and generations, the Y ensure that all have access to the opportunities, relationships, and resources necessary to learn, grow and thrive.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA or Welcoming Week, visit [tgfymca.org](http://tgfymca.org) or contact the Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622, Rahway Branch 732-388-0057 or Wellness Center Branch 908-349-9622.



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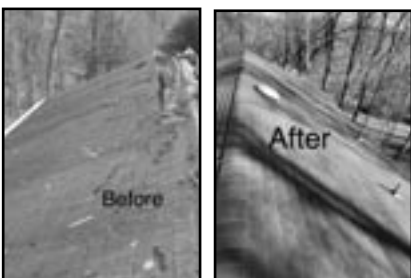
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## WELLNESS EXPO SEPTEMBER 22

The Mally Gaines Foundation is excited to host a Health and Wellness Expo for the City of Rahway! This community event is open to everyone and promises to be a day full of fun, learning, and connection. Join us on Sunday, Sept. 22nd, doors open at 11:30 a.m. at the Recreation Center, for an afternoon of engaging activities, delicious food from local food trucks, and a variety of vendors offering valuable resources. Our goal is to help young people navigate life's changes, trauma, and everyday challenges. Through our partnerships with local businesses and organizations, we aim to address the needs of the whole person and help our community embrace all the good things life has to offer. Don't miss out on this opportunity to come together, learn, and grow as a community!

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## PIKTORS METAMORPHOSIS – SEPT. 14

The Salem Roadhouse Café presents Piktors Metamorphosis, Saturday, September 14th, 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.

Piktors' Metamorphosis takes you on a journey back to the incendiary sounds of the Jazz/Rock fusion era injecting their improvisational craft. The Jazz/Rock/Fusion heyday of experimental creativity has inspired it's fans and other great musicians alike to push music further to its limits. This exciting music is challenging to execute, understandably a reason why many have not approached it. That is until now. Whether it's exciting tributes or their ambitious original pieces this ensemble delivers with passion and warmth.

Piktors overall sound departs from just another stage show to a level of cerebral and tonal excitement that comes with Fusion rock/jazz. They are masters at what they do, and they continue the traditions of modern fusion started

by the likes of Mile Davis, Weather Report and Pat Metheny, just to name a few. Piktors is a group made up of four extremely talented and precise musicians who have brought the extremely intricate tenets of Fusion Jazz to the stage at the Roadhouse Café, always to the delight and enthusiasm of audiences who love this fantastic musical genre.

Original photographic artwork by MANSA MUSSA will be on display for all to enjoy.

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

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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.

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## SQUIRRELS

Rather than toss away an overripe peach, I put it on top of a birdfeeder. I'm glad I did, because I enjoyed watching a squirrel figure out how to get it, which it finally did.

Squirrels...love them or hate them. If we watch them long enough, they are going to make us laugh.

Squirrels are familiar to almost everyone. More than 200 squirrel species live all over the world, with the notable exception of Australia.

A group of squirrels is called a scurry. A baby squirrel is called a kit or kitten.

The tiniest squirrel is the aptly named African pygmy squirrel—only five inches long from nose to tail. Others reach sizes shocking to those who are only familiar with common tree squirrels. The Indian giant squirrel is three feet long.

Like other rodents, squirrels have four front teeth that never stop growing so they don't wear down from the constant gnawing. Tree squirrels are the types most commonly recognized, often seen gracefully scampering and leaping from branch to branch. Other species are ground squirrels that live in burrow or tunnel systems, where some hibernate during the winter season.

Ground squirrels eat nuts, leaves, roots, seeds, and other plants. They also catch and eat small animals, such as insects and caterpillars. These small mammals must always be wary of predators because they are tasty morsels with few natural defenses, save flight. Groups of ground squirrels work together to warn each other of approaching danger with a whistling call.

Tree squirrels are commonly seen everywhere from woodlands to city parks. In our area they are grey, but they can also be black, brown or red. Although they are terrific climbers, tree squirrels do come to the ground in search of food such as nuts, acorns, berries, and flowers. They also eat bark, eggs, or baby birds. Tree sap is a delicacy to some species.

Flying squirrels are a third, adaptable type of squirrel. They live something like birds do, in nests or tree holes, and although they do not fly, they can really move across the sky. Flying squirrels glide, extending their arms and legs and coasting through the air from one tree to another. Flaps of skin connecting limbs to body provide a wing-like surface. These gliding leaps can exceed 150 feet. Flying squirrels eat nuts and fruit, but also catch insects and even baby birds. Unlike other squirrel species, tree squirrels don't hibernate. They instinctively bury food in hundreds of caches to dig up during leaner months—some of those stored acorns and other seeds are forgotten, making squirrels one of the most effective (if accidental) tree planters on the planet. Most people are unaware that Flying Squirrels are native to our habitat here in the Northeast. If you are alert it is easy to spot the white 'wings' gliding overhead on a moonlit night.

Many people enjoy watching the antics of squirrels playing and scampering up and down trees. At backyard bird feeders squirrels are tricksters figuring out new ways to get to the seeds. During the winter backyard bird watching season these clever creatures spend hours figuring out how to break into our expensive squirrel proof bird feeders. These larger creatures scare away the smaller birds that the feeders are meant to attract. There are feeders and gadgets designed to deter squirrels.

The main concern is to exclude squirrels from entering the home. Keep your garage door closed and don't leave open windows unattended.

Years ago, I had a problem with squirrels in my garage. The recommendation I got from Rutgers's Cooperative Extension (at that time) was capture them in a Have-a heart trap. Then take them outside and release them by a tree close by. Hopefully they will reunite with their family and live happily ever after.

If you do develop a squirrel problem, react swiftly to resolve it. If they store food or in the worse case, have kittens, they will be much harder to eject.

Trapping and relocating squirrels is the last resort. This is not easy and usually ends up poorly for the squirrel. In fact, a 2004 study of grey squirrels that were trapped and relocated from suburban areas to a large forest showed that a staggering 97 percent of the animals either soon died or disappeared from the release area.

Chipmunks are small squirrels with stripes. Chipmunks have cheek pouches which help them carry food. Many chipmunk species hoard food such as nuts, berries, egg and grains for the winter.

Remember that just like every other animal, squirrels are just trying to survive.

Information & photograph in this article thanks to National Geographic.

Happy Autumn,

*James*



(above) Past President of The Rahway Garden Club, James Keane, has been researching and answering garden questions since 1995.

Visit 'Keane Gardener' blog at: [keanegardener.blogspot.com](http://keanegardener.blogspot.com)



(above) Tree squirrels do not hibernate. Instead they depend on body fat and hidden stashes of food. Their advantage lifespan is approximately 5 to 6 years.

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# JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR COMING TO CRANFORD

The 106th season at CDC Theatre in Cranford will open with the seminal rock musical, Jesus Christ Superstar which will run from October 11 through the 27th.

The legendary score, which includes 'I Don't Know How to Love Him', 'Gethsemane' and 'Superstar', began life as a groundbreaking rock double-album, with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber who, at the ages of 25 and 21 respectively, were just embarking on what

would become extraordinarily long and successful careers. Though originally conceived as a theatre piece, no one was interested in producing it on stage, so the pair created a concept album instead. Jesus Christ Superstar is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary series of events during the final week in the life of Jesus Christ, as seen through the eyes of Judas Iscariot, one of his twelve apostles.

Released in 1970, the album's popularity

rocketed with thousands of plays on FM radio. It became a #1 hit on the USA Billboard album charts 4 months after its release. It went on to be the biggest-selling album of 1971 beating the likes of such masterpieces as 'Sticky Fingers' by the Rolling Stones, 'Santana III' and John Lennon's 'Imagine'. Jesus Christ Superstar also received a 1972 Grammy nomination for Album of the Year, but lost to Carole King's Tapestry. On October 12th, 1971, Jesus Christ Superstar opened at the Mark Hellinger Theatre on Broadway with Tom O'Horgan, who had previously directed the original production of Hair, directing.

The cast is led by Jared Milian as Jesus, Blaze Levario as Judas, Melissa Calicchio as Mary, Corey Chichizola as Caiaphas, Shane Long as Herod, Robbie Stevens as Peter, Michael Fleischer as Pilate and Danielle Bouie as Simon. Joining them as Apostles, Priests and Ensemble will be Asher Cerreto, Arielle Dance, Alex Foreman, James Hahn, Ranai Jones, Gene Juanich, Kaite Kane, Alexandra Marcinak, Erica Vieira, Edgar Hidalgo, Joe Rodriguez, Michelle Sblendorio, Christina Cruz, Haley Deluna and Nikki Scavone.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting [cdtheatre.org](http://cdtheatre.org). Jesus Christ Superstar is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Really Useful Group - [concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com).

**CDC Theatre's**  
community theatre production of

**JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR**

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber  
Lyrics by Tim Rice

78 Winans Ave., Cranford, NJ

[cdtheatre.org](http://cdtheatre.org)

Fri/Sat-Oct. 11-26/8pm  
Sun-Oct. 20,27/2pm

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