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UNION TO HOST 1ST LANTERN RUN AND FOOD TRUCK FEST

Township of Union residents are invited to “light up the night” at the Township of Union’s 1st Annual Lantern Run 5k and Food Truck Festival on Saturday, May 6th, 2017. Proceeds from this event will be donated to Union High School’s Project Graduation.

This family friendly event will feature a nighttime 5k, where residents can dress up in costume, decorate themselves with glow-sticks and flash lights, and run a certified course that culminates with a festival complete with food trucks, beer tent, an epic battle of the DJ’s and much more!

Early-bird Registration is now open but will close on April 14th. Cost to register is \$32 for individuals and \$30 for teams of 3 or more.

The run will kick off from Hendricks Drive and follow a certified 5K route through Union ending at Rabkin Park where runners can enjoy the festival.

For non-runners, optional admission solely for the festival portion of the event is available for \$5. The festival grounds will be open with a kid-zone, food and entertainment from 2:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

For more information, visit uniontownship.com/764/Lantern-Run-5K-Food-Truck-Festival or contact Natalie Pineiro, Public Information officer, at 908-851-5096. To register, visit luminatteevents.redpodium.com/unionrun.

Project Graduation is the annual alcohol, drug and tobacco free



(above) The Township of Union is hosting its first ever Lantern Run 5K and Food Truck Festival on Saturday May 6th. Photo Lantern Run

celebration for graduating seniors given on graduation night. Activities and events are held throughout the year which create an atmosphere for the class to bond together, as well as raising all funds needed to insure that Project Graduation is a gift from a “caring community” and is free for all graduating seniors.

AUTHOR KWAME ALEXANDER VISITS UNION HIGH SCHOOL

On March 7, 2017, Kwame Alexander visited with the students of Union High School. Alexander, a New York Times Bestselling author, and a winner of the Newbery Award has over 24 published books, including poetry, novels in verse, and children's books. He was accompanied by guitarist Randy Preston.

Mr. Alexander found ways to weave his personal stories throughout what became a poetic conversation with students and staff. At points, he captivated students with his poems, morphing them into call and response

poems; and even captivating administrators who wanted merely to peek in to see the assembly.

His goal was to empower the students by helping them to discover an excitement for reading and writing. Overarching his talk was the powerful message: "Don't let the NOs define your life. Saying YES opens doors." He emphasized this message with a simple rhyme about basketball that the students and staff joined in to chant:

Dribble, fake, shoot - miss.
Dribble, fake, shoot - miss.
Dribble, fake, shoot - miss.
Dribble, fake, shoot - swish!

Union High Media Specialist Lisa Krauze shared "It was wonderful to see how positively the students reacted to Mr. Alexander. I would like to make author visits a regular event offered by the UHS Library Media Center. This type of event helps students to develop an appreciation for how reading and creative writing can enhance their lives."



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AMER LEGION SPONSORS COLORING CONTEST

Each year the American Legion Post #35 of Union sponsors a coloring contest for all fifth grade students in the Township of Union, encompassing Jefferson School, St. Michael's and Holy Spirit.

The students were provided with a coloring sheet and a theme, which this year was the "High Point Monument" located in High Point, New Jersey.

Mr. Blank and Mr. Yesenko, past commanders, awarded certificates to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners which for the second year in a row were

Stapleton's class at Jefferson School.

Stapleton shared "I am ecstatic to have winners chosen from my classroom two years in a row. It is a testimony to them following directions and paying attention to the details. All of the students worked diligently and precisely on the coloring contest. All of the winners, are leaders within in our classroom."

The winners are: 1st Place (\$75.00 award) - Jimena Fonseca; 2nd Place (\$50.00 award) - Jordan Benjamin (missing from photo-just moved out of district); 3rd Place (\$25.00 award)



(above l-4) Mr. Yesenko, Mr. Stapleton (back), Jimena Fonseca, Jonathan Castillo, Mr. Blank, and Ms. Calderone.

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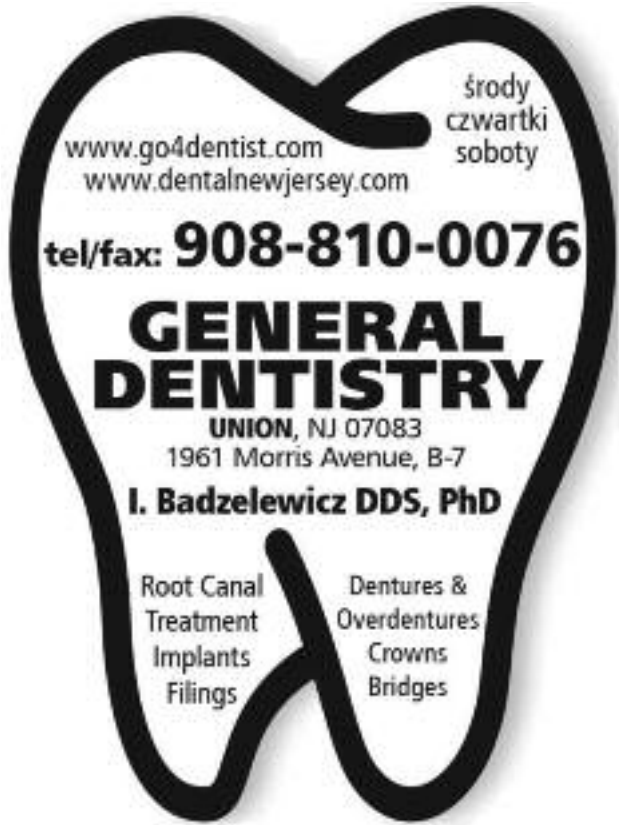
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UNION FIREFIGHTERS COMPETE AT COOKED AND UNCORKED FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

On Monday, February 27, 2017, the Township of Union firefighters joined together with firefighters from around New Jersey to compete in The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off, part of the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival. The event, sponsored by Allied Beverage Group, ShopRite, Bayonne Community Bank, and Autoland, benefited the New Jersey State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

The Fire Department Cook-off is part of a culinary extravaganza where participants were able to experience the tastes and flavors of more than 40 of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers and dessert shops all in one location. This event, held at The Pines Manor in Edison, NJ, drew more than 900 people from across New Jersey. The Cooked and Uncorked event has provided The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center with over \$139,042 in the past 6 years.



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(above) Union Fire Department team: Chef Henry Sisbarro III, Chef Thomas Holder, Chef Michael Davitt, Chef Gunther Guerra.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Spirit of Union page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share".



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UNION WILL CELEBRATE EARTH DAY ON SAT. 4/22

The Mayor and Committee of the Township of Union invite residents to participate in the Township of Union's 1st Annual Earth Day Celebration, featuring a day-long series of events to entertain, educate and more importantly- keep Union clean!

The event will feature:

- A Waterway cleanup- Check-in beginning at 9:00 a.m. followed by a "Touch-A-Truck tour. Waterway Clean-up begins at 10:00 a.m., supplies will be provided- bring your own rubber boots.
- A seedling giveaway (variety of shade tree seedlings) and planting demonstration, beginning at 12:00 p.m.
- Tours of the Community Garden- 822 Liberty Ave, Union, NJ, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- A screening of "The 11th Hour," a documentary film, made, handled and depicted by Leonardo DiCaprio, on the state of the earth. Featuring ongoing dialogues of experts from all over the world, including former Soviet Prime Minister Mikhail Gorbachev, renowned scientist Stephen Hawking, former head of the CIA R. James Woolsey and sustainable design experts William McDonough and Bruce Mau in addition to over 50 leading scientists, thinkers and leaders who discuss the most important issues that face our planet and people. The screening will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Union Public Library, 1980 Morris Ave Union, NJ.

All are welcome and there will be activities for all age groups.

All activities are free of charge to attend however pre-registration for the Waterway

Cleanup is required. Register today at UnionEarthDay.eventbrite.com.

For additional information, please contact Natalie Pineiro, Public Information Officer at 908-851-5096, or via email at publicinfo@uniontownship.com.



(above) Committeeman Manuel Figueiredo with two volunteers at last year's Operation Clean Sweep. This year, in addition to the Clean Sweep event, the Township of Union will host a similar community cleanup on Earth Day, focused on Union's streams and waterways. Photo Courtesy of the Township of Union.

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UNION THEATERS - BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

The Mayor and Committee of the Township of Union honored Union Theaters at their last Committee Meeting with the Business of the Month award, a prestigious award bestowed upon local businesses based on their longevity, quality of service and/or community partnership.

Located at 990 Stuyvesant Ave, Union Theater has been a staple of our community for as long as residents can remember.

Empire Cinemas took over the theater two years ago under the management of Dana Johnson. Since Ms. Johnson's arrival at the location, the Theater has actively sought to make themselves a valuable part of Union.

"Not only have they maintained the small-town, local feel that so many of us cherished, but they have become one of the most sought-after community partners," said Mayor Suzette

Cavadas.

On February 21st, the Theater went above and beyond for the residents of Union during the Township's Black History Film Festival where they hoisted a free screening of "Hidden Figures." The event was supposed to be a first-come, first-served event limited to two theaters, but when about 700 residents turned out for the event, Johnson and her team graciously cancelled every movie in order to accommodate as many people as possible.

In addition, they donate numerous items to businesses and schools all around Union including popcorn for movie nights, movie passes for trick trays, and contributions to the Senior Center. They also participate in festivals with the S.I.D., giving out popcorn and helping in any way they can.



(above) Dana Johnson, Manager of Union Theaters. Union Theaters was named the February 2017 Business of the Month by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Union.

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“THE BATTLE OF CONNECTICUT FARMS” APRIL 30

Rosemary Hilbert, professor of English at Caldwell University, will present “The Battle of Connecticut Farms” at 2 pm on Sunday, April 30, at Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, 888 Stuyvesant Avenue. The event will be hosted by the Union Township Historical Society, as part of its commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the settlement of Connecticut Farms—aka the Township of Union.

Ms. Hilbert’s talk will be based on one that she gave last year at Washington’s Headquarters in Morristown for the North Jersey American Revolution Roundtable, of which she is a board member. She will demonstrate—through photos and maps the routes taken by Patriot forces on June 7, 1780, to prevent the British Army and its Hessian allies from reaching Gen. George Washington and his troops encamped in Morristown. Anyone familiar with Union’s geography will recognize the areas around Galloping Hill Road, Colonial Avenue, Morris Avenue, and Vauxhall Road—to name a few.

Miss Hilbert, a Union resident, holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and a

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies. She is the author of a biography of Katharine Gibbs, the founder of the Katharine Gibbs Schools and a partner in the On-Q Court Reporting Agency. Ms. Hilbert is president of historic Woodland Cemetery in Newark, and a member of the Washington Association of New Jersey.

Refreshments will follow the presentation. Admission is free. For more information, call Barbara La Mort at 908-687-0048.



(above) Artist Larry Felder’s depiction of a scene from the Battle of Connecticut Farms. The painting is on display at the Caldwell Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union.

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Are you a person with Medicare living with diabetes or know someone who is? Quality Insights Quality Innovation Network, supported locally by Healthcare Quality Strategies, Inc. (HQSI), is partnering with The Gateway Family YMCA to provide free diabetes workshops as part of the Everyone with Diabetes Counts (EDC) program. The EDC program is a national initiative of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The program offers free self-management workshops that are open to people with Medicare who have diabetes, their family members and caregivers.

The free workshops follow the Diabetes Self-Management Program developed at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Workshops are designed to help individuals learn how to manage their diabetes and take control of their health through behavior modification and coping techniques. Participants will learn about diabetes and its risks, preventing complications, the importance of healthy eating, the role of exercise,

how to deal with stress and difficult emotions, managing medications, effective communication with healthcare providers, and much more.

This free six-week workshop will be offered at The Gateway Family YMCA, Wellness Center Branch on 1000 Galloping Hill Road in Union, New Jersey. Workshops are on Fridays from April 21 to May 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

All attendees must register by the second workshop session. Each participant (one per household) will receive a free book, *Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions* (4th edition) at the second workshop session.

For more information, or to register for these workshops, call Jarmaine Williams at (732) 955-8168.

Visit www.qualityinsights-qin.org to learn more about Quality Insights Quality Innovation Network, or to read real success stories about people with diabetes in New Jersey who have completed this program and made motivational improvements to their health and lives.

CLASS OF '67 50TH REUNION West Side High School Newark, New Jersey

Saturday

OCTOBER 7, 2017

7:00pm - 11:00pm

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Anyone who knows the whereabouts of anyone in the 1967 class please give them this information.

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JAZZ FESTIVAL TO BENEFIT ST. JOSEPH SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER - APRIL 29

Jazz Festival to benefit St. Joseph Social Service Center - April 29

A one night Jazz Festival to benefit St. Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2017, 8 p.m., Union Catholic High School Auditorium located at 1600 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ.

This event is a jam-packed evening of high quality jazz entertainment, presented by five musicians and three singers, all of whom are outstanding talents in jazz, "America's music." The show will be approximately two hours, not including the intermission. General admission is \$25, Premium Ticket is \$40.

Tickets can only be obtained through Brown Paper Tickets. Order online (AOneNightJazzFestival.brownpapertickets.co) or by phone (1-800-838-3006 Ext. 1), and pay

by credit card or PayPal. You can receive your tickets by the method of your choice: physical tickets by mail, printable file emailed to you to print out, through mobile devices, or will-call (held at the gate.)

For questions about the show or the performers, email Bob at fairwayproductions@att.net.

Tickets at the door, if still available, are the same price. Cash only, please. The doors open at 7:15 pm.

If you care to inquire about becoming a sponsor of the event, contact Phil Michel at pmichel@sjeliz.org.

To make a donation to support the work of St. Joseph's www.sjeliz.org. Please do not call St. Joseph's or Union Catholic High School for show tickets or information.



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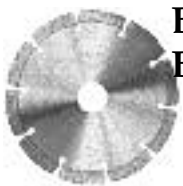


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