

Union's Hometown Newspaper

SANTA IN BLUE **Toy Collection** 

SUNDAY

**DECEMBER 16TH** 

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

UNION HIGH SCHOOL

GYMNASIUM

All the toys and gifts

collected will be donated to the victims affected

by Hurricane Sandy.

The toy drive will continue

after the event

till December 31st.

For more information

contact Union Township

Police Sgt. Michael Boll

at (973) 332-1556.

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NEW BRUNSWICK,

# **IT'S THE HAP-HAPPIEST SEASON OF ALL**

A large crowd turned out for Union Township's 29th Annual Holiday Celebration and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony held on December 2, 2012 in front of Town Hall.

Festivities included a live Nativity scene created by Crossroads Christian Fellowship Church and families were invited to pose for pictures. The church also handed out snowman balloon creations.

Holiday music was provided by the Union Municipal Band Brass Ensemble directed by Dr. John Bunnell and Chorale Groups from Franklin School's 3rd grade and Burnet Middle School. Instrumentalists performed from Washington and Livingston Schools.

After Santa's arrival on a fire truck, children had their pictures taken with Santa in the main meeting room of Town Hall by Molina Photography.

There will be free Horse Drawn Wagon Rides on Friday evenings from 5:00 to 8:00 PM on December 21 in front of the Union Movie Theater. Christmas Carolers will also be strolling through Union Center during the holiday season.



truck and was escorted by firemen.

(left) Franklin & Livingston 4th grade band

(right) Township Directors responsible for restoration after Superstorm Sandy flipped the switch to light the tree.







(above) Saxophone solo was played by Cassandra a Franklin School student.

(above) Kayla & Taylor enjoy their



202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

Renna Media, LLC

snowman Balloons

(above) The Nyaku family pose with the living nativity scene, including live stock, supplied by Crossroads Christian Fellowship, located at 2815 Morris Ave. in Union.



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Spirit of Union is published by Renna Media. Five thousand newspapers are printed monthly and 4,000 are mailed free to businesses and residents in Union and distributed free at distribution sites throughout town.

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Tina & Joe Renna, Publishers 202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016 (908) 709-0530 Fax: (908) 709-9209 E-mail: info@rennamedia.com

#### SpiritofUnion.com

The website features up to date articles, a calendar of events, archives of Spirit of Union Newspaper, photo albums, and advertisments. Businesses and residents are encouraged to submit items for publication through the site.

### **SANTA IN BLUE**

On Sunday, December 16th, the Township of Union Police Department will be hosting a Toy Collection and Sorting Event from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Union High School gymnasium. The volunteer effort will feature appearances by several notable celebrity guests such as radio DJ's and sports players. All the toys and gifts collected will be donated to the victims affected by Hurricane Sandy. "Over 75,000 people in New Jersey were affected by Hurricane Sandy and we are trying to help them out," stated Sgt. Boll who is organizing this event.

The event is open to the entire state of New Jersey a sizable turnout is expected. Everyone is encouraged to attend sporting their individual town or school colors. New or slightly used toys will be accepted; especially certain indispensable items such as video games, bicycles, skateboards, and other types of athletic equipment. The toy drive will continue after the event till December 31st. For more information contact Union Township Police Sgt. Michael Boll at (973) 332-1556.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTS CHRISTMAS PARTY & OPEN HOUSE

The officers, trustees, and members of the Union Township Historical Society will gather at the Caldwell Parsonage for their annual holiday celebration on Sunday, December 16, from 4 to 7 p.m. The Christmas tree and mantel in the meeting room were decorated for the festivities by Marie Canarelli.

On Sunday, January 6, and Sunday, January 13, 2013, from 2 to 5 p.m. an open house will be held at the Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union. The museum, once the residence of Rev. James and Mrs. Hannah Caldwell, is listed on both the National and State Registers of Historic Places. Lore Ullrich, a UTHS member, dressed in authentic colonial attire, will serve as docent. Admission is free. More information is available at one of the Society's websites, www.uniontwphistoricalsociety.webs.com or by calling Barbara La Mort at 908-687-0048.



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# **UNION WELOMES A NEW WALGREENS**



On Saturday, November 17, a ribbon ceremony was held to welcome a brand new Walgreens to the township of Union. The new store is located on the corner of Morris Avenue and Salem Avenue and sits next to another fresh addition to the community, the Northfield Bank. A convenient retailer, Walgreens stores also operate pharmacies and health centers which provide immunizations and are recognized as the number one provider of flu shots other than the federal government. Mayor Joseph Florio was proud to present Walgreens with a Mayor's Award at the ribbon cutting and wished the business continued success.

## HIFE WILL CONDUCT COLLEGE PLANNING PROGRAM AT LIBRARY

The Heartland Institute of Financial Education (HIFE), a national non-profit organization whose mission is to promote financial literacy across America, will conduct a program providing families with college planning solutions at the Union Public Library on Saturday, December 22, 2012 at 1 PM. This is an admission free program.

It is the goal of HIFE to help young Americans obtain a college education. If you have a student that is entering college or currently in college, don't miss this opportunity to find out more about how to position your student to qualify for grants, student loans and scholarships. To learn more about how to "Fund the Future" for your child's education, please join us on Saturday, December 22nd.

The Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Avenue in Union, New Jersey (www.youseemore.com/UnionPL/default.asp).



# SAL DECESARE MADE TREASURE OUT OF TRASH

#### Submitted by Pastor Anthony Rodriguez First Baptist Church of Union

First Baptist was blessed at least twice a year with remarkable paintings from Salvatore DeCesare, a gifted artist. One for every Christmas Candlelight Service and for each Vacation Bible School. As a child of the depression, Sal's canvas was the little cardboard that he could scrape up as a kid. This grew to be his means even as an adult. He still used cardboard and other material that was discarded and meant for the trash to create his art work.

Sal would often speak of how God takes such broken people and turns them into treasures of His heart. The Bible even says that we are jars of clay, simple, breakable jars full of cracks and blemishes, but that God places His light in us, that we may shine forth brightly. Sal's art spoke volumes, in the painting, on the canvas, and from his very soul.

Dedicating what talents and time he could, Sal threw himself into being our church video librarian. No inappropriate movie sneaked its way into that library. Screening every movie carefully; never once using the budget, but paying out of his own pocket for each one. A recommendation for every person, a review on

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every film, Sal did nothing half-heartedly.

Like the initials of an artist on his masterpiece, like the telling of a painter in his brush stroke, Salvatore DeCesare has left his mark on First Baptist Church of Union. A passion for God, a personality that everyone enjoyed, an unbreakable spirit forged in war and perfected in peace. We here at First Baptist remember fondly our dear brother Sal, and await to see him once more in God's heavenly kingdom.

Our beloved Salvatore DeCesare was all about redemption. With devotion both to art and to his Lord Jesus, Sal used the gifts that God granted him to paint pictures inspired by the Bible itself. Baby Jesus lying in a manger while shepherds adore the newborn king. Magi in conference with Herod as the star peeks out just outside the window. Even the angel Gabriel taking Mary by such surprise by his appearance that she drops her basket of fruit. These are the paintings of a true artist, not looking to shock or repel, but looking to inspire others.

Though this will be the first year in many that Sal will not be with us for our Candlelight service, we invite everyone to come see a display his many works of art and celebrate Christmas together at 5pm on December 23rd at First Baptist Church of Union, 525 Thoreau Terrace.





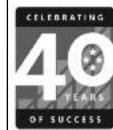
(left) First Baptist Church Pastor Anthony *Rodriguez preparing a display of paintings by* recently deceased parishioner Sal Decesare as a memorial during the Christmas season.



(left) Bible camp posters show a bit of humor in Decesare's art. Here, Jesus is shown surfing. (right) Debbie Dennis reads movie reviews for young viewers written by Decesare who managed the movie library.

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### **VAUXHALL BRANCH LIBRARY**

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### **MAIN LIBRARY CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT**

Tuesdays, December 18th,

January 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th at 10:30am.

Mother Goose Time

for children 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  and their caregivers, Wednesdays, December 12th, 19th and 26th , January 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th at 10:30am.

**Toddler Time** for children 2 ½ - 3 ½ and their caregivers Thursdays, December 6th, 13th and 20th, January

10th, 17th, 24th and 31st at 10:30am Preschool Storytime for children 3 ½ through kindergarten

Monday, December 17th at 7:00pm Bedtime Storytime

Come in your pajamas for songs, stories and games. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited. Thursday, December 20th at 3:30pm

The Union Public Library Lego Club for children, ages 5 through 12. This is an opportunity for kids to get creative and build anything they choose. The library will provide the Legos, while the kids provide the imagination! All materials must stay at the library so bring your camera to document your creations. Caregivers are asked to stay in the library and are unloced to assist

the library and are welcome to assist. Wednesday, December 26th at 7:00pm

**New Year at our New Year's Eve Party** Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to

partake of the fun, food and dancing. Thursday, December 27th at 11:00am Color and Shape Bingo

for preschoolers and their caregivers. Thursday, December 27th at 2:00pm

Book Bingo

for children who can read well, will be held on. Friday, December 28th at 11:00am

#### The children's film, "Dr. Seuss's The Lorax"

Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited. Monday, January 14th at 10:30am

Homeschooling Group

This is a place to meet and share information and ideas with other homeschoolers and also become familiar with the Library and the resources we have to offer. Families are encouraged to bring their own board games to the meetings. Please call or email Mary Pritting at mpritting@uplnj.org or 908.851.5450 x3 for more information.

Monday, January 14th at 7:00pm

"Martin Luther King's" Storytime and Craft Program Children of all ages and their caregivers are welcome. Saturdays, Dec. 22, Jan. 5 and 19 at 11:00am.

**Saturday Storytime and Craft Program** Children of all ages and their caregivers are welcome.

#### VAUXHALL BRANCH CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Call Library for more to register. Wednesday, December 26th at 5:30pm.

Annual Community Kwanzaa Ceremony and Celebration

Entertainment, children's activities and a community table will be provided. Space is limited. Please register. *Tuesdays*, *Dec.* 18th and Jan. 22nd at 11:00am.

Game Day

for children ages 3 – 5 and their caregivers. Thursdays, Dec. 27th and Jan. 24th 3:30pm

Game Day Part 2

for children in grades 1 thru 6 and their caregivers. Monday, January 7th at 7:00pm.

Bedtime Storytime for children of all ages and their caregivers. Tuesday, January 8th at 11:00am.

Preschool Craft Program

for children, ages 3 – 5, and their caregivers. Thursdays, January 10th at 3:30pm.

School-Age Craft Program

for children, grades 1 and up, and their caregivers. Tuesday, January 29th at 10:45am

**Disney Movie Matinee** "Beauty and the Beast".

Thursday, January 31st at 3:00pm Disney Movie Matinee

"Disney's Brave" Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited.



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Submitted by Bob Knecht

A new park, dedicated to Union. veterans, will be built soon, and ground was recently broken by the Township Committee am. local veterans group representatives.

The town already has its Memorial Park; which recognizes veterans who entered service while residents of Union. The Township Committee initiated a program to consider adding to that a place to also honor long-time citizens who moved to Union after they had served. It approached and received wholehearted support from the Veterans' Alliance whose membership includes the Michael A. Kelly Post 2433. Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Connecticut Farms American Legion Post 35,

the I.D. Harris Post 49 Disables American Veterans and the Milton Waldor Post 49, Jewish War Veterans. A piece of township property at the corner of Globe and Chestnut was made available, plans for the park generally formulated and authorization to go ahead was finalized.

The park will contain names of veterans who have lived in Union for over 25 years, but are not recognized in the Memorial Park. Although plans are still ongoing, funding will be provided through donations and the sale of bricks, honoring individual veterans, which will be placed in the park area. The Township will provide long term care of the facility.







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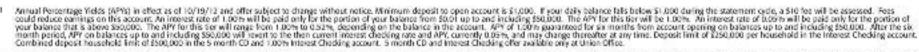




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