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CIVILIAN VALOR AWARD GIVEN TO MARK KLUCZNYK

On February 28th, 2012 Mr. Mark Klucznyk was honored with the Civilian Valor Award during the Township Committee Meeting for his heroic act removing resident Nicole Corto of 2763 Meister Avenue by ladder from her burning home. On January 31, 2012 at 9:20AM, the Union Fire Department responded to multiple 911 calls for a house fire at 2763 Meister Avenue. Arriving firefighters and police officers found a home well involved in fire and smoke. The 2 alarm fire caused heavy fire damage to the entire house, before being brought under control at 10:09AM.

"If it wasn't for the heroic actions and quick thinking by Mr. Klucznyk, the victim would have sustained much greater injuries or death," stated Mayor Joseph Florio. "The Township of Union is very grateful for his selfless act." Mr. Klucznyk found a 20 foot ladder in the victim's yard. He placed the ladder up against the back of the house, went up the ladder, pulled the victim from the burning house and helped her safely back down to the ground.

"I commend Mr. Klucznyk for his unselfish action and personal courage that was beyond the expectation of any citizen," stated Fire Commissioner Suzette Cavadas, "His quick actions and disregard for his own safety saved his neighbor's life and I commend him for his heroic actions."



(above) Union Township committee and Mayor present Mark Klucznyk, third from left, with Civilian Valor Award.

The sole occupant of the home, Nicole Corto, was on the second floor when the fire started. She was unable to make it down stairs due to the heat and smoke conditions; she found a bedroom window, opened it and screamed for help. "I wasn't supposed to be at home, I had to be at work at the time," stated Mr. Klucznyk, "I wasn't thinking, I was shocked that no one heard her screaming since she was on the other side of the block. I'm just glad I was there."

Nicole Corto was taken to and admitted to St. Barnabas Hospital for smoke inhalation and has since recovered.

UNION TOWNSHIP MORN'S LOSS OF CONGRESSMAN PAYNE

Submitted by Mayor Joseph Florio

On behalf of the Township Committee I would like to express our deepest and sincerest sense of loss with the passing away of Congressman Donald Payne. As the Mayor of our township and committeeman for the past 16 years, I have personally seen the hard work and dedication Congressman Payne has given to the citizens he represents.

The Congressman was passionate in helping people whether in his district, in our country and or in some of the war torn countries in Africa where his voice was heard trying to address the suffering and pain many of the people,

especially the children, were enduring. Congressman Payne was a national leader on such issues as the Sudan Peace Act which facilitated famine relief in Sub-Saharan Africa as well as his supportive record regarding the Northern Ireland peace process. Although Congressman Payne was a leader on the international stage, he never stopped caring for the people of our township.

I will miss the personal conversations we had about our days at Barringer High school in Newark. My condolences go out to his family. We will all miss him.

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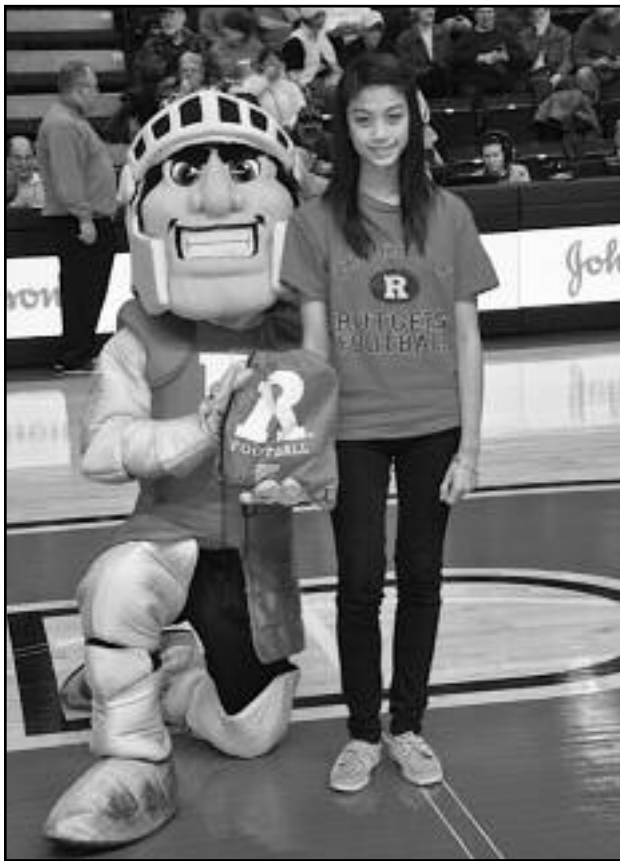
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"KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR"-STEPHANIE NG!



On Sunday, February 12th, Stephanie Ng, an eighth grader at Burnet Middle School in Union, NJ, was honored with Rutgers University's "Knight in Shining Armor Award" at half-time of the Rutgers University Women's Basketball Game against St. John's University. This award pays tribute to an individual who represents their school and demonstrates outstanding service to their school and community. Stephanie is President of the Builders Club, the service organization at Burnet. She is also President of the Student Council and the Junior National Honor Society. Stephanie's family, Mr. Raymond Salvatore, principal of Burnet, Mr. Chester Czaplinski, former vice-principal, Ms. Sharon Drayton, current vice-principal and many other faculty members were in attendance at the game supporting Stephanie.

KMS PLAYERS PRESENTS: 13, THE MUSICAL:

*A real life story of growing up
March 15, 16, and 17th*

Geoffrey Zurka, Veronica Del Valle, and Hunter Criollo lead the Kawameeh Middle School Players cast of 13. This rock musical, by Jason Robert Brown is a real life story of growing up. 13 will be presented on March 15, 16 and 17 at 7:00 pm in the Kawameeh Middle School auditorium, 490 David Terrace. Tickets are \$8.00 and can be purchased at the door or through the school.



(above, l-r) Geoffrey Zurka, Veronica Del Valle, and Hunter Criollo.

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Students in Mrs. McCarthy's Kindergarten class at Franklin Elementary celebrated Read Across America Day by enjoying Dr. Seuss classics from guest readers Gwen Jackson and Tehyma Williams.



(above) Gwen Jackson



(above) Tehyma Williams

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Sun: Closed

Late appointments are available by request.



HAMILTON TAKES FIRST PLACE IN NATIONAL THINKING COMPETITION

Students from Hamilton School's Fifth Grade Gifted & Talented Program recently competed in the Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl competition and earned a magnificent score of 1284 giving them a first place finish of all fifth grades participating in the national competition. In fact that score placed them second overall to all schools competing in the Northeast division which included sixth grades as well. That was indeed quite a feat for these young brainiacs. Incidentally the combined fifth grade team from Hannah Caldwell School and Connecticut Farms School also placed in the top ten finishers. To see the actual results you can visit... thinkingcapquizbowl.com/results.shtml

just select the "Northeast 5,6" contest, use the password "northeast" (with no quotation marks) to see the competition's results.

"Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl" competition is a national event held each year in which fifth and sixth grade classes from across the country compete against one another in a rigorous test of general knowledge. The competition took place February 16th on the Internet... completely in cyberspace! Some of the subjects covered include math, geography, government, sports, spelling, science, literature, English, history, current events, general information and trivia.



(right) Hamilton School Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl competition team members standing (l-r) Dylan Donahue, Mateo Alves, Jash Patel, Nuno Rodrigues and Aaron Tyra; (seated, l-r) Adesanya Mojisola, Caroline D'Addario and Jada Matthews.

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GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The Garden Club of Union will meet on Wednesday, April 4, at 7 pm in the Bonnel Room, located in Town Hall on Morris Ave. Our guest speaker will share all about seeds. Learn more about the history of seeds and the Landreth Seed Company at our meeting. Refreshments will be served. Guests are welcome.



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

TAKE A STROLL DOWN MEMORY LANE THROUGH UNION CENTER

Tom Beisler and Tom Haggerty will give an original slide presentation, entitled "Union Center," at the Caldwell Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union, at 2:30 pm on Sunday, March 18, 2012.

The production, including photos such as those shown here, will be a pictorial history of the evolution of "the Center," from the time when it extended up the hill from the present-day intersection of West Chestnut Street and Stuyvesant Avenue (near Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church); through its growth in the 1920's, 30's, and 40's; into the "colonialization" of the store fronts; until today.

Mr. Beisler and Mr. Haggerty, trustees of the

Historical Society, created their program from photographs and old newspaper clippings found in the archives of the museum at the Parsonage and those housed in the Township of Union's Department of Economic Development.

Their program will be part of the meeting of the Union Township Historical Society, which will begin at 2 pm. Non-members are cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free. For more information, please call Barbara La Mort at 908-687-0048.

On Sunday, April 1, 2012, an open house will be held at the Parsonage from 2 to 5 pm. Lore Ullrich, a member of the Society, dressed in authentic colonial attire, will serve as tour guide.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO MEET WITH DEBORAH PARK

**Deborah Park Union Guild Chapter and the Covenant House for Runaway Children
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Deborah Park Union Guild Chapter in Union, New Jersey meets every second Wednesday at 7:30pm at the Michael Jay Post VFW in Union, New Jersey. We welcome anybody that would like to join - both members and non-members.

On March 18, 2012, we are having a trip to Mount Airy Casino. The cost is \$28.00 with a return of \$25.00 slot play and a \$10.00 food voucher. The bus will leave from Westfield, New Jersey at 10:30am sharp.

On May 9, 2012, we are having a trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. We are going to the Sight and Sound Theater to see Jonah - an amazing and wonderful play. We have the best seats in the theater! The cost is \$110.00 which includes the bus, lunch buffet, theater tickets, refreshments and snacks on the bus, games and more. Both of these trips are fundraisers to help kids in need.

For more information on joining Deborah Park Union Guild Chapter or on the upcoming trips, please contact Nina at 908-577-8212.



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EDWARD GRAF NAMED OUTSTANDING TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Edward Graf, school teacher at Kawameeh Middle School in Union, NJ, and US Army Infantry Veteran was named by the V.F.W. as Outstanding Teacher of the Year in the state of New Jersey. He was also honored with a resolution by the New Jersey Legislature.

Edward Graf is being awarded these honors for continued support and patriotism of our nation. This has been witnessed each year for the past four years as Mr. Graf has organized an event called "Proud to be an American Day" at Kawameeh Middle School in Union, NJ. This event honors the men from Union who were killed in action while in the service of our country. The entire student body is present

outside on the athletic field. Flags are waived by the students, speeches are given, names of fallen soldiers are read, Taps is played, a 12-gun salute is fired, and a Civil War cannon is fired. Each year a unit of the US Army is present, such as the US Army Golden Knights Parachute Team and/or a US Army Blackhawk helicopter lands on the field.

Mr. Graf's students have sent hundreds of boxes of supplies and letters to our soldiers serving in the combat zone.

Mr. Graf is also credited with helping revive Union's Memorial Day Parade. It has gotten bigger each year honoring more and more of our fallen men from Union. He is also working on

honoring recently injured servicemen from the war who are Union residents.

Mr. Graf works tirelessly to teach America's youth the importance of the American Revolution. Each year as the Vice President of the Union Township Historical Society, he works with a large number of Kawameeh Middle School students to re-enact the Battle of Connecticut Farms at the Caldwell Parsonage in Union.

Mr. Graf is motivated by love of country, dedication to duty, and the desire to help others. He brings credit upon himself, Kawameeh Middle School and the United States of America.



(above) Edward Graf, second from left, being awarded for continued support and patriotism.



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NJ HAIR SALON AND SPA HOLDS GRAND OPENING

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(above, l-r) Starasia Lauderdale, Mekka Hale, Zakaiyyah Bankston, Jalonda Deck, Saleemah Staten (owner), Andrea Dixon (manager), and Chavon Butler.



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SOUNDWAVES RECORDING STUDIO OF UNION OPENS MUSIC VENUE 10TH STREET LIVE

Saturday, April 14th 2012 will witness the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony at “10th Street Live” in Kenilworth. The newly renovated venue, located at 104 N. 10th Street, has made fast progress in establishing itself as the premier spot for “Music, Food, & Drink” in the area. Kenilworth Mayor Kathi Fiamingo will perform the honors of cutting the ribbon.

The bar formerly known as “Apples” was purchased over the summer and given a complete facelift from top to bottom. Construction on “10th Street Live” was completed in November, and little by little the surrounding community has come into its doors to experience first hand the plan to transform the establishment from another local bar to a full service pub and grill that caters to many different demographics.

There is a deep respect and passion for the arts within the facility. In 2009, the owners at 10th Street Live opened “Soundwaves Recording Studio” in Union, which has been host to creative projects from many areas of the arts. “Little Steven” Van Zandt chose Soundwaves to launch his video project “Fuzztopia,” which over time has hosted over 50 bands and songwriters. Most recently, Hollywood Records artists “Allstar Weekend” completed production on an upcoming EP.

Soundwaves also features rehearsal studios that are booked solid on most nights. The artists had a constant gripe: “there is nowhere around here to make an honest buck doing what we

love.” The purchase of “Apples” was made in response of this desire.

There are four partners in this venture, all of which are life- long residents of Cranford and Springfield. Bobby Vetter and Steven Blau have been in business together for the better part of a decade. Their other businesses are in construction and delivery services respectively. Tommy Stratton and Kevin Bryan were brought into the mix at the inception of the Soundwaves project. They came in as music industry veterans, spending their coming of age traveling around the world performing and recording albums with their band “Socratic.” Their insight into the music business, combined with the business experience of Vetter and Blau has emerged into a truly unique and productive partnership. They also strive to have a family-oriented attitude in all of their decisions, oftentimes relying on their seven collective children and families when deciding how to move forward. This philosophy has gone a long way towards providing the community with a positive place to spend time, and the reception from the community has been nothing but positive since the project began.

Currently, live music can be enjoyed at 10th Street Live almost every day. The schedule is up on the website at 10thstreetlive.com.

The event on Saturday April 14th is open to the public, and all are encouraged to come. Festivities run from 3pm – 6pm. Please call (908) 272-2664 for more information.



(above, l-r) Barmaid Erin Leonard and Manager Ryan McNulty lean on the newly designed bar made from the original from Apples. Half of the bar was recycled and serves as trim and wood accents throughout the club.

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DUNCAN MARTIAL ARTS OPENS ON CHESTNUT



(above, left, right) On March 3, 2012 Deputy Mayor Cliff People, Jr. attended the Grand Opening of Duncan Martial Arts, Karate and Wellness Center located on 627 Chestnut Street in Union. After the ribbon cutting ceremony Instructor and Owner Gregory Duncan demonstrated a few techniques of Jujutsu, Taijutsu and Ninjutsu.

GATEWAY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NAMES 2011 BUSINESSES OF THE YEAR

What recession? Three Union County businesses that ignored the economic drums of doom and enjoyed successful years in 2011 were recognized by the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce at the chamber's 100th Annual Awards Dinner, held January 30 at the Newark Airport Marriott Hotel.

W.B. Mason was named the Large Company of the Year; Fazio, Mannuzza, Roche, Tankel LaPilusa earned Medium Company of the Year honors; and Maffey Security Group was recognized as Small Company of the Year.

Margaret Spellings, Secretary of Education under President Bush and senior advisor to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and President of its Forum for Policy Innovation, was keynote speaker and offered the crowd of 400 business professionals her ideas of an improved business

climate through education for New Jersey under the Christie administration.

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With 1,200 members, The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce is the largest business association in the New York/Northern New Jersey Region, comprising 10 regional and local chambers.

For additional event information call the Chamber at 908-352-0900 or visit our website at www.gatewaychamber.com

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“GASLAND” TO BE SCREENED ON MARCH 13, 2012

“Gasland,” a film by Josh Fox will be shown at the Union Public Library on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 7 PM. Admission is free.

The largest domestic natural gas drilling boom in history has swept across the United States. The Halliburton-developed drilling technology of “fracking” or hydraulic fracturing has unlocked a “Saudi Arabia of natural gas” just beneath us. But is fracking safe? When filmmaker Josh Fox is asked to lease his land for drilling, he embarks on a cross-county odyssey uncovering a trail of secrets, lies and contamination. A recently drilled nearby Pennsylvania town reports that residents are able to light their drinking water on fire. This is just one of the many absurd and astonishing revelations of a new country called GASLAND. Part verité travelogue, part exposé, part mystery, part bluegrass banjo meltdown, part showdown.

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES IN THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

Financial Advisor, David Larkin, will lecture on “Investment Strategies in the Current Environment” at the Union Public Library on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 7 PM. The public is invited to this admission-free program. Mr. Larkin is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™, a designation awarded by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards. His focus within the Larkin Group at Merrill Lynch is to ensure client accounts are taking advantage of the latest changes in estate laws, and retirement strategies. Prior to joining Merrill Lynch, David spent several years working in the Boston area for Fidelity Investments. At Fidelity he was a product specialist and retirement consultant.

FEATURE FILMS SERIES

A Film series Featuring Phonies, Flim-Flam Men and Con Artists To be screened at the Union Pubic Library Beginning March 13, 2012

The Union Public Library will present a “Film Series Featuring Phonies, Flim-Flam Men and Con Artists” with four selections beginning Tuesday, March 13, 2012 and continuing through April 3, 2012. The films will be screened on Tuesdays at 2:00 P.M. Admission to the programs is free.

THE GREAT IMPOSTOR

starring Tony Curtis – March 13, 2012

THE FLIM-FLAM MAN

starring George C. Scott – March 20, 2012

STOLEN HOLIDAY

starring Claude Rains and Kay Francis --

March 27, 2012

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

starring Will Smith – April 3, 2012

Spirit of **UNION** • Page 9 • March 2012

PET BEHAVIORALIST TO SPEAK AT THE UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY

Pia Silvani, CPDT-KA, Vice President of Training and Behavior at St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center in Madison, NJ will lecture on “Pet Behavior Modification” at the Union Public Library on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 7 PM. The public is invited and admission is free.

Ms. Silvani has developed various courses focusing on positive, reward-based techniques, which are extremely effective in the enhancement of the bond and relationship of the dog and her human companion. Pia also developed a canine coach program where volunteers and apprentice trainers work with shelter dogs on a daily basis to help the dogs become more adoptable by achieving and maintaining good manners, as well as offering behavioral wellness. Pia oversees St. Hubert's very successful private consultation department for pet owners specializing in aggressive and anxiety-related problems for dogs and cats.

Pia lectures internationally, has been written up in many magazines, appeared on television and is the author of “Raising Puppies and Kids Together – A Guide for Parents.”



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UNSIGHTLY ROOF STAINS CAN BE REMOVED SAFELY AND INEXPENSIVELY

All over New Jersey, the appearance of black streaks on roofs is becoming more and more evident. Dark streaking and staining make a perfectly good roof appear to be in need of replacement as well as unattractive. There is a safe and inexpensive solution to homeowners who are frustrated by this problem.

The most common cause of these unsightly stains on asphalt roofs is a blue-green algae called *Gloeocapsa Magma*. Over the past 25 years this strain of algae has become hardier. It has now become a common sight on asphalt roofs across 80% of the United States. The unsightly growth usually occurs on the north or

west side as well as shaded areas of the roof. As the algae grows and decomposes, it holds moisture, which accelerates its growth.

Contributing to this problem is the change that occurred about 30 years ago in the way asphalt shingles were manufactured. In the early 70's roofing manufacturers began using a fiberglass mat. With the fiberglass mat, and higher oil prices, came the use of finely crushed limestone. It was added to the asphalt coating as a filler or extender. Unfortunately, limestone is a favorite food source for this strain of algae. Often, these black or dark brown stains are mistakenly thought to be dirt, tree droppings, mold, fungus or mildew. Actually, they are caused when the algae begins to decompose.

Although most homeowners are concerned about aesthetics or curb appeal, the algae is actually eating away at the limestone filler in the asphalt which in time will loosen up and the granules will begin to fall away much faster than they should, taking away years of the expected

life of the roof. The dark growth also draws in more heat, which will also shorten the life of the shingle. Curb appeal is a big consideration to anyone who may be looking to sell their home. A potential buyer may truly believe they will need to replace that roof for thousands of dollars, when in reality it could be taken care of for a small fraction of that.

Roof Cleaning Pro's of Clark, NJ has developed a safe, inexpensive system of removing roof stains caused by algae. In only a few hours, an unsightly roof can be restored to its natural state. Roof shingle manufacturers do not recommend powerwashing a roof as it damages the granules of the shingle. The system used by Roof Cleaning Pro's is the only system recommended by manufacturers such as GAF. The results we have seen have been stunning. The before and after pictures say it all.

For more information and to view the before and after photos go to: Roofcleaningpronj.com or call 732-499-0814



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