Union's Hometown Newspaper

Issue 4 • April 2011

Union HS PTA
will be hosting
"Vendor's Night"
Fri. April 29, 2011
7:00pm - 10:00pm
HS Cafeteria
Demonstrators will
sell many different
products including
jewelry, crafts,
cosmetics and more.
Find some great gift
ideas for Mother's Day
and Graduation.

(The PTA does not endorse any of the companies or products represented.) Come join us! For info call Anne at 908-810-0341, or email @

annern9291@aol.com

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#### PATRICK MARTIN NAMED SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

Union Township School Superintendent Dr. Patrick W. Martin was named School Superintendent of the Year at the Annual Mayors Dinner hosted by the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce at the Newark Airport Marriot Hotel Monday, March 28.

Dr. Martin was nominated for his introduction of the Saturday Academy. The program began on December 4, 2010, and took place on ten subsequent Saturday mornings. Students attended instruction from 8 am through 11 am which consisted of 75 minutes of Language Arts and 75 minutes of Mathematics. There was no cost to the students who participated. The program concluded in February and boasts a completion rate of 89% with 1,054 students beginning the program, and 941 finishing.

The program was designed to increase the academic achievement of the Township's students by providing additional, no-nonsense, focused instruction in Language Arts and Mathematics in grades kindergarten through grade 8. The program was voluntary and was designed for students who were motivated to succeed, and willing to put forth the extra effort. Students had to be punctual and had to adhere to a conservative

(Continued on page 14)

# merica's anvented as

(above) Dr. Patrick Martin, superintendent of schools in Union Township, was named School Superintendent of the Year at the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce 2011 Annual Mayors Dinner, is flanked by Eric Segal, CEO of Security Business Solutions, and Lynn Crystal of Lynn Crystal Company.

#### **3RD ANNUAL CAREER DAY**

Central Five's students recently participated in their third annual "Career Day." Professionals representing ten different careers set up stations within the school auditorium. Guests included a local dentist, nurse, F.B.I agent, commercial fighters, municipal fire chiropractor, police officers, mechanics, and E.M.T. workers. The students were free to move about the various centers of their choice. It was an interesting and enlightening day for all of the students. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patrick Martin found the time in his busy schedule to see, firsthand, what a positive educational experience this was for the students. A special thanks goes out to Central Five teacher Ms. Gillian Pilone for coordinating this event.



See photo album on pages 8 & 9!

#### **JERSEYLICIOUS NITE AT RED CADILLAC**



(above) Cast members of Jerseylicious romp around the restaurant's mascot red caddy with owner Joe Montes and family. The cable show recently recorded a scene at the Union restaurant, located on Morris Avenue, and will be aired in their upcoming season.

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Sprit of Union is published by Renna Media, Five thousand newspapers are printed monthly and mailed free to every business in Union and distributed free at distribution sites throughout town.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

#### **ADVERTISING & PRESS RELEASES**

Each month 5,000 newspapers are printed and 3,000 are mailed free to every business in Union with the balance being distributed free throughout town. The ads are affordably priced with a special lower rate for members of the Chamber of Commerce. Call today to reserve your space in the next issue.

Inquiries concerning advertising and submissions of press releases can be made to Spirit of Union via email or fax to:

#### TINA RENNA

Email: TinaRenna@RennaMedia.com Phone: 908-418-5586 Fax: 908-709-9209

#### ${f Spiritof Union.com}$

The website features up to date articles, a calendar of events, archives of Spirit of Union and photo albums of events, along with advertising opportunities.

Businesses and residents are encouraged to submit items for publication through the site.

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#### **TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES & CONTACT INFO**

Dates and times can be confirmed by visiting the meetings page at www.uniontownship.com

#### **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE -**

The Township Committee meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m at the Municipal Building except in August. The meetings can also be viewed on TV Channel 34 as well as on-line. The station maintains a page with links to meetings on the Township website.

#### **BOARD OF HEALTH -**

Regular Sessions (with the exception of the August regular meeting) will be held in the Library at Union High School, North Third Street, Union, New Jersey. Formal action will be taken at these meetings and may be taken at any special meetings called by the Board of Education.

Tuesday, April 26, 2011 (Organization)

#### **ZONING BOARD -**

The Zoning Board of Adjustment meets every Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. the Municipal Building.

#### **PLANNING BOARD**

The regular monthly meetings of the Planning Board are held on the fourth Thursday of each month (except where noted) at 7:00 P.M., in the Main Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, 1976 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083.

#### **MUNICIPAL DRUG ALLIANCE -**

Meets every 4th Wednesday of the month (except June, July, and August) at 6:00 p.m. in the Bonnel Room of the Municipal Building.

#### **TOWNSHIP OF UNION**

1976 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083 Tel: 908-688-2800 Fax: 908-851-4660 Web: www.uniontownship.com

#### **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

Exchange for phone numbers	is (908)
Emergency	911
TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR	851-8500
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR	851-8500
TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY	688-9303
ASSISTANT TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY	851-5467
TOWNSHIP CLERK	851-8501
TOWNSHIP ENGINEER	851-8506
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	851-7071
FCONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
/EXEC. DIRECTOR S.I.D	851-5466
FED. & STATE AID COORDINATOR	
/PUBLIC INFO. ASST	851-5465
HEALTH OFFICER	851-8507
HUMAN RESOURCES/PERSONNEL	851-5457
LIBRARY	
MUNICIPAL ASSESSOR	851-8505
MUNICIPAL MAGISTRATES	851-5400
MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR	851-5414
PUBLIC SAFETY	
Police Director	851-5000
Fire Chief	851-5420
PUBLIC WORKS	686-1922
PURCHASING	851-5464
PUBLIC DEFENDERS	851-5414
RECREATION	
SENIOR CITIZENS ACTIVITIES	851-5290
TAX COLLECTOR	851-8508
TREASURER/CFO	
UNION TV34: WWW.UNIONTV34.COM	851-5246



#### **UNION TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PHOTOS SHOW**

On Sunday, April 17, Tom Beisler and Tom Haggerty, trustees of the Union Township Historical Society, will present a slide show at the Caldwell Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union. The photographs will offer a perspective on the Biertuempfel years. F. Edward Biertuempfel was mayor of Union from 1939-1973, one of the longest mayoral tenures in U.S. history. The program will begin at 2:30 pm, following the Society's monthly meeting at 2. Non-members are cordially invited to attend both sessions. Admission is free, and complimentary refreshments will be served.



As part of the Society's expanded program, open houses will be held at the Parsonage on Sunday, May 29, and Sunday, June 26, from 2 to 5 pm. Free guided tours will be conducted by Lore Ullrich, dressed in authentic colonial attire. A weekend-long celebration of Hannah Caldwell Day (June 7) on June 4 and 5 will be on the grounds of the Parsonage. Events will include a NJ militia encampment, tours of the Parsonage and the adjoining barn -now a tool and farm implement museum, and professional reenactors portraying George Washington, during the Revolution.



#### WHY I LIKE LIVING IN UNION



This picture was drawn by Christina Ervelli, a second grader at Connecticut Farms School in Union. It was one of the winning entries in an essay/art contest, "Why I Like Living in Union," sponsored by the Union Township Historical Society. Christina's classroom teacher is Mrs. Patricco, and her art teacher is Miss LaBorde.

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#### THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS UNION COUNCIL #4504, IS RUNNING TWO MAJOR DRIVES

Our Special Citizens Drive, along with the Food Drive, are right around the corner. Once again we will be calling upon you to try and help as much as you can. We will be standing outside one of the supermarkets that are letting us do it this year, as well as churches and streets. The drive this year is the weekend of April 15-17th. With Stop and Shop letting us do it the following weekend April 22nd and 23rd.

This year Applebees is helping with our drive. It is called "Dining to Donate" and it will happen on April 13th, If you hand in a Special Knights donation flyer, 10% of your bill will be donated back to our drive. These Flyers can be picked up at at our Council hall located at 1034 Jeanette Ave, Union, or by calling one of the Phone numbers below.

We are also having our Spring Food Drive, in the schools, and at the stores, the weekend of May 7th-8th, This is also a great endeavor and all help is greatly appreciated. We will be standing outside local supermarkets asking for donations of Non-Perishable food items to be donated to the food bank.

We are asking for you, Our Community, for all the support you can give us as we progress with these worth while drives. For any questions, comments, or "Dining to Donate" Flyers, Please Call:

Rob Salvatore, PGK, Chair, Co-Chair, SCD, Food Drive: 908-499-0743 Steve Stochlinski, Chair, Co-Chair, Food Drive, SCD: 908-477-7133

#### **MORNING STUDENT FITNESS PROGRAM**

Would students arrive at school an hour early to participate in activities that focus on improving their physical fitness and total health? The answer is a strong YES!

There are 34 students who are participating in the AM Fitness Club at Kawameeh Middle School in Union. Mrs. Devereux, teacher of health and physical education, is the supervisor of the group which meets three mornings a week at 7:00 a.m. to complete circuit training exercises on two days and on the third day, participate in sports related activities to enhance

their fitness work while incorporating sports skills and behaviors.

Kawameeh Middle School's physical education program is committed to developing the physical fitness levels of their students and the AM Fitness Club members are taking that lesson to the next level. Mrs. Devereux stated, "The students are acutely aware of the fact that there is a direct correlation between physical fitness and the ability to accomplish their goals, whether on the playing field or in the classroom."



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#### **RENN FAMILY CELBRATES THREE MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS: 100 YEAR, 1 YEAR OLD AND 1 MONTH**

The Renn Family had a three-in-one birthday 28, 2011. party for 100 year old Erika Renn, her 1 year old grandson Brandon and 1 month old great grandson Jamison. Their three birthdays were March 17, 1911, March 29, 2011 and February

The Renn family has been residents of Union for four generations since Erika, originally from Wurtzberg Germany, moved here in 1928.

The party was held at Cafe Z located on Morris Ave. in Union.



(above) The Renn family (Seated, 1-r) Ellen holding 1 year old Brandon, 100 year old Erika, her son Carl, and his daughter Erika. (standing, l-r) Ellen's son CJ, and her husband Charles, Jennifer and her husband William holding 1 month old Jamison, Carl's wife Linda, Erika's husband Kevin and their daughter Jennifer.



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(above) Mayor Florio and Dr. Muthusamy



(above) Mayor Florio and Nancy Terrezza



#### **UNION CHAMBER'S GALA A GRAND SUCCESS**

The theme of Hollywood Nights was an apt backdrop that set the stage for a fun and upbeat evening at the recent Union Township Chamber's 56 Gala. The event that has been held annually for the past 56 years is an evening to honor contributions to the community and to induct new officers onto the Chamber board, while providing the Chamber family and supporters with a memorable evening that is part fun, part business.

Over 250 people left the 56th Gala of the Union Township Chamber of Commerce feeling buoyed by the upbeat air that pervaded the evening. This year, the President's Award was given to Dr. Muthusamy of the Center for Digestive Diseases, the James T Schaefer Award for Civic Service was given to Nancy Terrezza and the Rotary Club of Union won the Community Service Award. They were all feted by family, friends, colleagues, chamber members and their guests at the local marquee venue of Galloping Hill Caterers.

Major "Oscar" sponsors of the event were Investor's Savings Bank, Center for Digestive Diseases and Union Center National Bank, "Celebrity" sponsors were Ray Catena Mercedes, and The YMCA of Eastern Union County, and "Tony" sponsors were Allstate Insurance, CMIT Solutions, Dr. Jeanette Grauer, Roselle Glass, Company and the Rotary Club of Union

Union Township Chamber of Commerce's Board President Dan Murphy presented the awards with Assemblywoman Quijano and Mayor Florio. The new members inducted to the Chamber Board were Cecil Cates of CMIT Solutions, Patrick Martin, from the Board of Education in Union, and Joseph Stampone of Major Printing. Returning Board members who also took the oath with the new members were Manuel Rey of Rey Financial Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, Joseph Paparo of Hehl and Hehl, Peter Celia of Cozy Corner Deli and Charles Minton of Fire and Security Specialists, Inc.

In keeping with the Hollywood Nights theme, guests walked down a red carpet and were interviewed by Chamber ex-President Toni Johnson and TV 34's Lexi Barrett. The theme's aura of glamour, extravagance, the spotlight, intrigue, a spirit of adventure and just plain good times and fun was more than matched by the vibrant guests and lively atmosphere. Guests were enthralled by fabulous food, a open bar, an atmosphere of splendor, and lively music and dancing. Tantalizing Tricky Tray prizes included a large flat-screen TV, an iPad, a full scale home entertainment package with 4 separate amusement options, a fully stocked wine refrigerator with cases of rare Tuscan red wine, a Golf foursome at an upscale venue and more.

The evening was felt by many to be the best gala ever!!! Truly a memorable evening.







#### **DENTAL SOCIETY POSTER CONTEST 2011**

For almost thirty years, the Union County Dental Society has sponsored a dental poster contest for National Children's Dental Health Month. All participants are fourth grade students from various elementary schools in Union County. The committee is co-chaired by general dentist, Dr. Douglas Chester (Union), orthodontist, Dr. Lee Kaswiner (Springfield), and pedodontist, Dr. Glenn Rosivack (Union). The goal of this committee is to reach as many elementary school children and teach them the importance of keeping their mouths and bodies healthy. The program involves lecturing in schools, field trips to the dental offices and the poster contest which culminates at an awards ceremony at the end of National Children's Dental Health Month. All dentists involved in National Children's Dental Health month are volunteers.

This year there were over 2000 participants in the poster contest. Posters were created by the children in their school, using the theme for this year "A Healthy Smile It's Easy To Find".

#### WINNERS OF THE 2011 ANNUAL UNION COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY'S 4TH GRADE POSTER CONTEST:

Berekely Heights- Megan Cresitello & Jacob Miller

Elizabeth- Jamine Chen, Anderson Castro,
Malasia Shockley & Ka'Ron Braxton
Hillside- Tatum Thompson & Mark Brandao
Springfield- Kayla Balke, Chris Happert,
JR Espinosa & Julia Horowitz
Union- Wayne Rooks, Jasmine Rosero,
Kaylana Lee-Chow, Daniel Delgado,
Nelson S. Val & Melanie Castineda
Westfield- Ally Excaldi & Angelina Silvester

Winners were based on 1. use of the theme, 2.creativity and 3. artistic content. Two fourth graders were selected from each school, one boy and one girl who were invited to attend the awards ceremony at the Costa del Sol Restaurant in Union. Over 200 people were present at the awards ceremony. Refreshments were served and each child received gift certificates to Sports Authority, prize ribbons, and certificates of achievement. There were also two grand prize

winners selected: Malasia Shockley of Elizabeth and Nelson S. Val of Union. In addition to the other prizes they each received \$100 savings bonds. The refreshments and all the prizes were sponsored by the Union Dental County Dental Society.

In the 30 years that Drs. Chester, Rosivack and Kaswiner have been running the poster contest over 100,000 children throughout Union County have participated in the contest.



(above, l-r, top row: Dr. Douglas Chester (Union, general dentist) Dr. Lee Kaswiner (Springfield orthodontist), Dr. Glenn Rosivack (Union pedodontist) and standing with the annual Union county Dental Society National Children's Dental Health Month grand prize winners: Malasia Shockley from Elizabeth and Nelson S. Val from Union



#### **CENTRAL FIVE'S THIRD ANNUAL "CAREER DAY."**





















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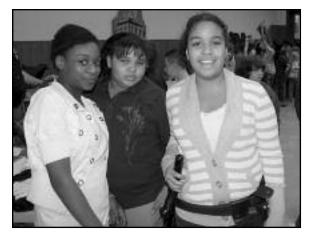
















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#### **UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY**

1980 Morris Ave. • Union, NJ 07083 - Phone: 908.851.5450 - E-mail: UnionPL@uplnj.org LIBRARY HOURS: Monday – Thursday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. / Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. / Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS AT THE MAIN LIBRARY:

No registration required for any of these programs.

#### Come in your pajamas

Come in your pajamas for songs, stories and games at our Bedtime Storytime to be held on Mondays, May 2nd, 16th and 23rd at 7:00pm. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to attend.

#### **Mother Goose Time**

For children 1 ½ - 2 ½ and their caregivers, will be held on Tuesdays, April 26th, May 3rd and 31st at 10:30am.

#### **Preschool Storytime**

For children 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  through Kindergarten will be held on Wednesdays, May 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th at 10:30am.

#### **Toddler Time**

For children 2 ½ - 3 ½ and their caregivers, will be held on Thursday, April 28th, May 5th at 10:30am.

#### **Chess Program**

Have you always wanted to learn how to play chess? Do you already know how to play but would like to get better? Then join us at our Chess Program on Wednesdays, April 20th and 27th from 3:00 – 5:30pm. Mrs. Render Cutts will teach children ages 6 and up about the game.

#### "Rebus Story-Writing" Storytime

Wednesday, April 20th at 11:00am. Children of all ages are invited to attend.

#### "Three Bears" Storytime and Craft Program

Will be held on Thursday, April 21st at 11:00am. Children of all ages are welcome to attend.

#### "Spring Checkers" Storytime and Craft Program

To be held on Saturday, April 30th at 11:00am. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to attend.

#### "Spring Flowers" Storytime and Craft Program

Monday, May 9th at 7:00pm. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to attend.

#### "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" Storytime and Craft

Program will be held on Saturday, May 28th at 11:00am. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited.

#### **VAUXHALL BRANCH LIBRARY**

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#### **LIBRARY HOURS**

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Thursday: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday: Closed

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AT THE VAUXHALL BRANCH:

#### **Mother's Day Storytime and Craft program**

For preschoolers, ages 4 - 5, and their caregivers will be held on Tuesday, May 3rd at 11:00am.

Children in grades 3 through 6 are invited to the library on Thursday, May 5th at 3:00pm to make a Mother's Day gift for their mothers.

Space is limited. Signup is required.

#### **Chess Program**

Have you always wanted to learn how to play chess? Do you already know how to play but would like to improve your game? Then join us at our Chess Program on Tuesdays, April 26th, May 10th and 24th from 3:00 – 4:00pm. Mrs. Render Cutts will teach children ages 8 and up about the game.

Space is limited. Signup is required.

#### **Preschool Storytime**

For children, ages 4 – 5, and their caregivers will be held on Tuesday, May 17th at 11:00am.

Space is limited. Signup is required.

#### "Sciencetelling: Dragons and Dreams" with Andy

Wednesday, May 25th at 3:15pm. Children of all ages and their caregivers are welcome to attend.

Space is limited. Signup is required.

No registration required for the following programs.

#### "Rebus Story-Writing" Storytime

Wednesday, April 20th at 11:00am. Children of all ages are invited to attend.

#### "Three Bears" Storytime and Craft Program

Thursday, April 21st at 11:00am. Children of all ages are welcome to attend.

#### "Spring Checkers" Storytime and Craft Program

Saturday, April 30th at 11:00am.

Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited.

#### "Three Bears" Storytime and Craft Program

Thursday, April 21st at 11:00am. Children of all ages are welcome to attend.

#### "Spring Checkers" Storytime and Craft Program

Saturday, April 30th at 11:00am.

Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited.

#### The children's film, "Beverly Hills Chihuahua 2"

Wednesday, April 20th at 2:00pm. Children of all ages are invited to attend.

#### Want to have some fun on your Spring Break?

Join us on Thursday, April 21st at 2:00pm for our Bingo Program for children of all ages.

#### **After School Movie**

"Scooby Doo: Curse of the Lake Monster" on Thursday, May 19th at 3:15pm.

Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited.



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#### KAWAMEEH MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAYERS PRESENTED STARMITES



On March 10, 11, and 12 the Kawameeh Middle School Players presented Starmites. The Tony nominated, Sci-Fi fantasy, takes the audience through a magical journey to the world of Innerspace where a young girl, with the help of her boy band type guardians, help to save not only Innerspace but Earth as well.

performances. Barry Keating, the show's month of April.

creator, writer, composer, and lyricist, attended the production. He thanked the 32 member cast as well 17 member pit for an amazing performance. He went on to add "I am so touched and moved to see everyone so passionate and committed to a dream I started over 30 years ago. Thank you for living my The show played to full and sold out dream." Starmites will air on TV34 though the

#### Spirit of UNION • Page 11 • April 2011

#### CABBAGE CONTEST WINNER

Theodora Chrysanthopoulos, a 4th grade student at Battle Hill Elementary School in Union Township, is the winner of the 3rd Grade Bonnie Plants Cabbage Contest. Theodora spent the Spring and Summer of 2010 caring for a tiny cabbage plant provided by Bonnie Plants in April of 2010. By the end of the summer her plant had grown to over two feet in diameter.



(above) Secretary of Agriculture Mr. Douglas presented an award to Theodora Chrysanthopoulos accompanied by her parents

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### TV WRESTLING STARS INVADE KENILWORTH SAT. 5/14

The Kenilworth Veterans Center, located at 33 South 21st Street (just off The Boulevard) will be the setting on Saturday night May 14th, with a 7:35pm bell time, for a night of National Pro Wrestling Superstars all-star pro wrestling, featuring two of the industry's top names in the likes of former ECW/WWE alumnus and current TNA star Tommy Dreamer, plus the selfprofessed greatest WWE Intercontinental Champion of all time, The Honky-Tonk Man.

Union County, for one reason or another, has produced a cornucopia of pro mat talent over the years, and this night will showcase many of them, such as current NWS Tag-Team Champions The Jersey Shore Jocks (Chris D'Andrea & Mike Dennis), plus area standouts Nick Talent, "Too Hot" Steve Scott, and Nick



Gregory who will be climbing the pro wrestling ladder by taking on none other than the aforementioned Honky-Tonk Man.

Also on the bill will be local standouts Ryan Angus, the mysterious Snake-Eyez plus everyone's favorite former West Virginia

hillbilly, now living in Union County, who will be serving as a special guest enforcer that evening, Hillbilly Justin Blackwell.

But the match that will have everyone talking is the "rubber match" in the brutal series of bouts between Kenilworth's Tough Tony Scorace and Union's Steve "The Gipper" Gipke, as these former friends and now foes will battle each other in the first ever Union County Lumberjack Match, as all the other wrestlers in the building will surround ring to keep both combatants inside.

Tickets are only \$19 for adults and \$17 for kids and seniors, with proceeds to benefit the Kenilworth Vietnam Veterans. For tickets please call (732) 888-1704 or please see the ad in this publication for local ticket outlets.

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dress code, (no jeans, no sneakers, shirts tuckedin), and were expected to have exemplary behavior. Homework was assigned and expected to be completed. There were nine classrooms, one for each grade level, with teachers certified by the State of New Jersey assigned to each classroom.

Dr. Martin concluded "One could argue that all the students involved in the Saturday Academy were exemplary students who had track records of doing well in school (and, therefore, they completed the program because they were predisposed to liking school), but that was not the case. Saturday Academy students came from all ability levels (including pupils in



#### SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR Continued from page 1

our district's Gifted and Talented Program, special needs pupils, and middle-range students who work hard to get "Bs"). Some Saturday Academy students had a history of poor academic performance and disciplinary difficulties in regular school classes."

"One could also argue that all the students involved in the Saturday Academy were students who had parents who encouraged their children to attend extra classes and that the completion rate has to do with the fact that the program had motivated parents, not necessarily motivated students. Without a doubt, the parents associated with the Saturday Academy wanted the best for their children and supported the program, however, the lack of negative attitudes and poor behavior exhibited by the students throughout the program brings into question whether it was just the parents who supported the Saturday Academy effort."

Along with fostering increased academic achievement, the Saturday Academy stressed teamwork and problem solving. These are known as "soft skills," and believed to be equally important in how employers view the strength of prospective employees. "Critical Hours" report pointed out that "In Teaching the New Basic Skills: Principles for Educating Children to Thrive in a Changing Economy, authors Murnane and Levy (1996) argue that employers today are interested in filling entry-level jobs with applicants who do well on tests of basic skills in math and English. However, companies are equally interested in whether prospective employees posses the 'soft'

skills – communication, teamwork, and problem solving - needed for success in today's workplace." Saturday Academy teachers were asked to present lessons in a constructivist fashion so that, as much as possible, students would learn through exploration and trial-and-

The Saturday Academy students greatly enjoyed two special activities that occurred during the ten weeks. During one Saturday, Everett Johnson, a Union High School senior who will be attending Yale University in the fall, came to speak with the Saturday Academy students. Everett talked with the students about setting goals and pursuing them - not just dreaming about them. He also talked about remaining focused and working hard, no matter what the "crowd" is encouraging one to do.

On another Saturday, James Mosser, the award-winning drama advisor from Union High School brought a crew of student actors from the high school to engage the younger Saturday Academy students in a theater workshop experience. Again, the Saturday Academy pupils were thrilled to be involved with this effort.

Future Academies are planned and will strive to engage students in the exploration of the world – outside of the schoolhouse.

Dr. Martin stated "Though I am thrilled to have won the award, there really are many more deserving people than me. I am glad, however, that this distinction shines a spotlight on the Union Township Public Schools where great things are happening everyday!"



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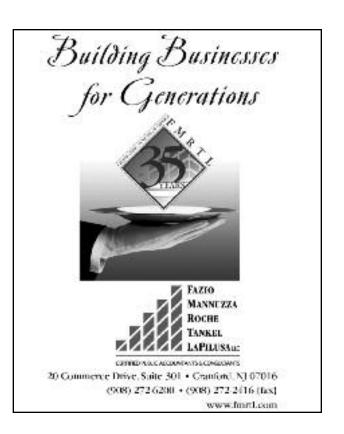
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