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## UNION STUDENTS MAINTAIN WINNING READING TRADITION

Students from two Union Township schools were honored by the New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) with Enthusiastic Reader Awards on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at William Paterson University. Although Enthusiastic Reader Awards are presented to just nine students in New Jersey each year, Union has been home to two of those nine winners three times in the past five years. This year's two Union Township readers, Fawzy Lawal and Chenyang (James) Huang, were chosen from over three hundred nominees.

Both Union Township winners were nominated by their school librarians. Fawzy Lawal, who is a seventh grade student at Kawameeh Middle School, was nominated for the award by Kawameeh Middle School Librarian Mary Lewis. Fawzy is a regular visitor to his middle school library, sometimes coming more than once a day. In addition to borrowing books, Fawzy spends about forty minutes per week helping other students to find interesting books and helping to shelve books that have been returned. He also frequents the Union Township Public Library and enjoys trips to bookstores. According to Fawzy, "reading is another world for me, and I love that world."

Chenyang (James) Huang, grade 3, was nominated by Washington Elementary School Librarian Lynne Mancinelli. Mancinelli reports that in the two years since James started school at Washington Elementary in first grade, speaking only Chinese, he has graduated from English as a Second Language classes to Gifted and Talented classes. James's parents as well as his school librarian credit his progress to his extensive reading. In addition to using his school library, James enjoys visiting both the main and Vauxhall branches of the Union Township Public Library.

NJASL's Enthusiastic Reader Awards are presented to students who exhibit an enthusiasm for reading, sharing books, using books for a variety of purposes such as research and



*(above) 2015 Enthusiastic Reader Award Winners with author, Carol Plum-Ucci.*



*(right, l-r) Author, Carol Plum-Ucci autographs a book for Enthusiastic Reader Award winner, Fawzy Lawal.*

literature appreciation, reading independently on a voluntary basis, and using school and/or public libraries. Regional winners are selected from northern, central, and southern New Jersey at three levels: kindergarten through fifth grade, sixth through eighth grade, and ninth through twelfth grade. Union Township School District Librarians nominate several students from each of Union's schools every year. Within the past five years, Union has had one Enthusiastic Reader Award winner from Union High School, one from Burnet Middle School, two from Kawameeh Middle School, and four in consecutive years from Washington Elementary School.

The students received their awards at William Paterson University on Saturday, March 14, 2015, where they met award-winning New Jersey author, Carol Plum-Ucci. In addition, Fawzy and James will be recognized locally at a reception on April 22, 2015 together with other district nominees for this award. The Union Township Board of Education acknowledges the accomplishments of its Enthusiastic Readers each year with a resolution.



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## UNION CHAMBER PLANS 60TH ANNUAL DIAMOND BALL AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The Union Township Chamber of Commerce is marking its 60th anniversary of service to the business community with a celebratory Diamond Ball, scheduled for Friday evening, April 10, at the Galloping Hill Caterers in Union.

The event will feature a number of awards to be given to various business and community groups, including: "President's Award" to Spencer Savings Bank, the "James T. Schaefer Civic Award" to Jim Giovanni, "Spirit of Union Award" to Lt. Robert Christie and the Union Police Department Traffic Bureau Team, the "You ARE the Chamber Award" to Hayley O'Connor of Electro-America, and Business of the Year Awards" to Walgreens of Union and JAG Physical Therapy.

Additionally, the following individuals will be installed as officers of the board of directors for the coming year: President – Cecil Cates of CMIT Solutions; Senior Vice President – Angel Cartagena of Batteries Plus Bulbs; Vice President, Finance – Eugene Mitchell of Spencer Savings Bank; Vice President, Programming – Sharon Patel of Patel Printing Plus; Vice President, Economic Development – David Armenia of the Union Township Historical Society; Vice President, Community Relations – Julie D'Aloia of ConnectOne Bank; Vice President, Membership – Joseph Stampone

of Major Printing; and Immediate Past President – Sal Dovi of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Union County.

"This year, the Chamber is celebrating its 60th anniversary of service to the business and civic community," said Chamber CEO James Masterson. "Our organization is proud to honor and celebrate all that our members do for the local economy and the community in this – our special diamond anniversary year."

He added that the chamber is currently accepting ticket reservations, sponsorships, and door prize donations for the event.

Persons interested in participating in the Dinner Dance are encouraged to contact him by calling 908-688-2777, or by emailing [executivedirector@unionchamber.com](mailto:executivedirector@unionchamber.com).

In addition to the awards presentations and installation of officers and directors, the evening will feature a cocktail hour commencing at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing at 7 p.m.

Music for dancing will be provided by Xtreme DJs and a photo booth will be available to all guests, sponsored by Allan Reider Studios.

The Union Township Chamber of Commerce is a professional association founded to unite, strengthen, represent and promote the success of its member businesses in Union Township and the surrounding area.

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## APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Recently, Union Township students who are participating in a state funded inclusive Arts/Gym program known as R.O.I.D. (Recreational Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities) were joined by township Mayor Manuel Figueiredo and Committeeman/ Commissioner Anthony

Terrezza to celebrate Autism Awareness Month. The Autism Awareness signs that the children are holding up will be displayed at various stores and business to promote Autism Awareness during the month of April. Last year over 50 establishments participated in the campaign.



Photo by TV 34.

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## UNION HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING PROGRAM HONORED

The township of Union is recognizing two members of the high school wrestling community this week with the presentation of the Mayor's Award. David Brown, a junior at Union High School, and his coach Dino Debellonia are being celebrated for their

outstanding achievements in wrestling.

Wrestling in the heavyweight class, Brown finished this year with a record of 33-15, one of the school's highest individual records for a single season ever. Throughout the season, Brown saw success in various tournaments,

finishing in first at the Parsippany Holiday Wrestling Tournament and second in the District 10 Tournament. He advanced to the state tournament after finishing third place in the Region 3 tournament, where he won 4 out of the five matches, all of which had gone into double overtime or an ultimate tie breaker. Brown is the first UHS wrestler to advance to the New Jersey state wrestling tournament in ten years. In addition to wrestling, Brown is also a starter on the school's varsity football team and a dedicated member of the JROTC program.

UHS wrestling coach Dino Debellonia has also been recognized this season for outstanding work, having been voted both the 2015 District 10 Coach of the Year as well as the Region 3 Coach of the Year. This was Debellonia's 23rd year of coaching in New Jersey. Debellonia has been working at UHS since 2009 as a social studies teacher and head wrestling coach. Before joining the UHS community, Debellonia saw success as at Seton Hall Prep, where during his 6 seasons as head coach he led the team to two Essex County Team titles, one District 10 Team title, and had five state individual medalists. In 2013 he was inducted into the Seton Hall Prep Hall of Fame.

Both Brown and Debellonia have received the Mayor's Award for their accomplishments and excellent work representing their team, school, and the community.





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## 19TH ANNUAL UNION COUNTY ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

The 19th Annual Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade was held in Union Township on Saturday March 14th in celebration of the county's Irish American heritage and culture.

Kathleen Marie Matthews Holmes was the Adjutant and Corresponding Secretary for this year's parade, and has been actively involved in the parade for many years. She is also a member of the Irish American Society of Union and served as an officer for the organization for almost 20 years. She also contributes to her community through her participation in organizations like the Taste of Union, the Union Little League, and the Fifth Quarter Club.

Anthony J. "Tony" Brennan was General Chairman of the parade this year. He has been involved in the parade since 1999 and has served as First and Second Vice Chairman in the past. Brennan is well known for being the parade's lead television announcer and is passionate about promoting the parade.



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# "S.A.T. PREP CLASSES OFFERED AT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF UNION COUNTY"

Boys & Girls Clubs of Union Co., Union Club in collaboration with the Chandler Learning Center will be hosting an S.A.T. prep course on Mondays before the June 2015 S.A.T. test. Classes will be held Monday April 20, April 27, May 4, May 11, May 18, and June 1. All classes begin promptly at 7:15 and last approximately one hour. Classes will be taught by instructors from The Chandler Learning Center. For the past 19 years they have been tutoring students in Summit and surrounding areas. Its mission is to engage students using relatable yet applicable material and techniques. Chandler Learning Center strives to bridge the gap between the student and the S.A.T. by deconstructing each component and offering insight into the design of the test, while concurrently capturing the students' attention.

"We are pleased to work with Chandler Learning Center on the SAT test preparation", said Russell Triolo, Chief Executive Officer. "The SAT test is an important step in the future

of youth as they prepare for higher education."

The course is open to all Juniors and Seniors scheduled for the June 2015 test. Cost is \$150, which must be paid at the start of the first class. Chandler Learning Center will provide all the needed materials. Pre-registration is mandatory to ensure proper amount of materials are on hand for each class. Classes are held at Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County, Union Club (Teen Center): 1050 Jeanette Avenue, Union, NJ. Please contact Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County directly at 908-687-2697 ext. 0 for information or to register.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County seeks to inspire and enable young people, who need them most, to realize their full potential and have provided opportunity for youth since 1955. They are part of a national network of some 4,000 neighborhood-based facilities, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which serves more than 4.6 million young people annually, in all 50 states and on U.S. military bases worldwide.

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## UNION CENTER: CHANGES OVER TIME

“Union Center: Changes over Time,” a slide presentation—including the early development of “The Center” as a business district—will be given by Tom Beisler and Tom Haggerty, trustees of the Union Township Historical Society, at the Caldwell Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union, on Sunday, April 19, 2015, at 2:30 pm.

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; donations are greatly appreciated. For more information, please visit the Society’s websites [www.unionhistory.org](http://www.unionhistory.org) and [www.uniontwphistoricalsociety.webs.com](http://www.uniontwphistoricalsociety.webs.com) or call Barbara La Mort at 908-687-0048.



(above) Northeast corner of intersection of Morris and Stuyvesant Avenues, circa 1948.

## TOWNSHIP OF UNION COMMUNITY GARDEN ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Township of Union Community Garden is located at the Eleanor R. Erickson Park on Liberty Avenue in Union NJ. The Organic Garden has been established for the purpose of giving all Union, NJ residents access to organic vegetable or flower gardening.

The Township of Union Community Garden is a nonprofit membership organization of professionals, volunteers and supporters of community greening in our urban community. The ToUCG recognizes that community

gardening improves people’s quality of life by providing a catalyst for neighborhood and community development, stimulating social interaction, encouraging self-reliance, beautifying neighborhoods, producing nutritious food, reducing family food budgets, conserving resources and creating opportunities for recreation, exercise, therapy and education.

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CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL:\* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Please choose your Membership Level: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 plot \_\_\_\_\_ 2 plots\**

*\*based upon availability after registration deadline*

*Please note that Member Gardeners are required to volunteer at least four (4) hours each season.*

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\_\_\_\_ other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

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# UNION HS JUNIOR DESTANE WILLIAMS NAMED 2015 YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County named Union High School Junior Destane Williams 2015 Youth of the Year at the annual awards dinner held on March 26th at Galloping Hill Caterers. This year's dinner was attended by almost 200 guests. Event Sponsors include Elizabethtown Gas and United Airlines; Comcast was an Award Sponsor. The 2015 nominees included Hanson-Lee (17, Union Club); Dave Cadet (17, Plainfield Club); Al-Tahnay Wells (17, Elizabeth Club); Destane Williams (16, Union Club); Janae Morales (17, Elizabeth Club) and Tyson Dukes (17, Elizabeth Club).

Destane was chosen by a panel of 7 judges and is planning to attend University of North Carolina to pursue a career as an F.B.I. agent. At school, her favorite subjects are English and Math. She participates in softball and, and

maintains a 3.8 GPA. Destane has been a member of Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County for 5 years, and is a member of the Teen Leadership Camp and Torch Club. She is the current Vice President of our Union Keystone Club and has participated in the Stand & Deliver program. At Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County, Destane has participated in numerous community service activities and volunteers at our Buddie After-School program where she works with members 5-11 years old.

Highlights of the evening included 17 youth who received awards in areas of Buddie of the Year, Junior of the Year and Spirit of the Year. All awardees received plaques and certificates for their outstanding accomplishments. Congratulations to all who competed.

"Youth of the Year is the highest honor for Club members", Russell Triolo, CEO, proudly

stated. "Members are recognized for their contributions in promoting service to our clubs, community and family, academic success, strong moral character, life goals, and poise and public speaking ability. It is a joy to see these youth grow and develop as young adults."


Hillmann Consulting, a sponsor and supporter for the last four years, will award Destane \$2,000 towards further education. Each of the 5 runners up will receive a \$1,200 award from Hillmann Consulting. Thank you to Chris Hillmann for your ongoing support. Destane will compete against other Boys & Girls Club members across New Jersey for the state title and awards from Disney Corporation, Toyota and Taco Bell. The State Youth of the Year will then vie for the distinction of becoming one of five regional representatives across the country, and ultimately contend for the title of National Youth of the Year of Boys & Girls Clubs of America.



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## DISTRACTED DRIVER STATEWIDE CRACKDOWN APRIL 1-21, 2015

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The Monroe "Take Control" Consumer offer is a mail-in offer.  
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with any other discount, offer or rebate.

April is National Distracted Driver Month, which is a time to remind New Jersey motorists of the state's distracted driving laws, which includes a ban on hand-held cell phone use and text messaging by all drivers and a ban on all cell phone use (hand held or hands free) by novice drivers.

Distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic on America's roadways. In 2012 alone, 3,328 people were killed in distracted driving crashes. An estimated 421,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver. This was a nine percent increase from the estimated 387,000 people injured in 2011.

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger and bystander safety. Distractions include: Texting, using a cell phone or smartphone, eating and drinking, talking to

passengers, grooming, reading, using a navigation system, watching a video, adjusting a radio or MP3 player, etc.

But, because using a hand held cell phone while driving or sending text messages requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, they are by far the most alarming distraction.

From April 1-21, 2015, police officers will conduct special enforcement patrols targeting distracted drivers. The patrols will consist of roving patrols and fixed checkpoints throughout the Township of Union on all roadways.

The objective of this crackdown is to reduce the number of motor vehicle fatalities in the state with a distracted driver contributing cause by five percent from the 2010-2012 calendar base year average through targeted distracted driving enforcement and education during the 2015 Distracted Driving Crackdown. U Drive. U Text. U Pay.

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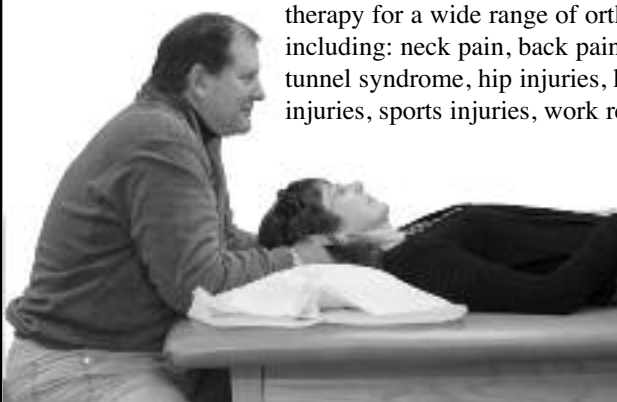
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While I will miss that wonderfully awesome TENS machine, I will miss you more and I wish all of you a Happy, Healthy and Pain Free New Year!" - Kathy

The Taste of Union Committee Presents the Eighth Annual

## “TASTE OF UNION “ APRIL 16, 2015

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Senior Center- 968 Bonnel Ct. Union, NJ 07083 (908) 851-5290

For additional Information you may contact:

Karen Caulfield (908)851-5472

Phyllis Monguso (908)851-5291

Peggy Gehrig (908)851-1925

Spirit of UNION • Page 11 • April 2015

## SENIOR RESIDENTS PROGRAM REMINDER

The Township of Union's Senior Center wants to remind you about its "TELEPHONE REASSURANCE PROGRAM". As advertised in the activities bulletin, the Senior Center will provide a daily "check-up" service via telephone call to any homebound person upon request. If interested in receiving a phone call once daily to make sure you are feeling well, simply sign up to be on the calling list. Please call (908) 851-5290 or if in residence, stop by the health desk at the senior center and ask for an application.

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Union, New Jersey 07083

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Contributions in addition to membership dues are gladly accepted. Amount of additional contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Our mission is to create public interest in the Union Public Library, to promote increased knowledge and understanding of its services and needs, and to foster public support for the necessary development of said library so that it may serve adequately the needs of the community.

We are looking for members who want to bring creative ideas and energy to the Friends.

I am interested in \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make your tax deductible check payable to the Friends of the Union Public Library. You may leave your check and application at the library circulation desk, or mail it to the address above. Membership is good for one calendar year.

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**LIBRARY HOURS:** Mon: 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. / Tue & Thurs: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
/ Wed: 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. / Friday: Closed / Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT THE MAIN LIBRARY

*No registration required.*

### Preschool Storytime

Thursdays, April 2nd, 16th, 23rd, and 30th.  
for children 3 ½ through Kindergarten

### Bedtime Storytime

Mondays, April 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th at 7:00pm.  
Come in your pajamas for songs, stories and games.  
Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited.

### Mother Goose Time

Tuesday, April 7th at 10:30am  
for children 1 ½ - 2 ½ and their caregivers

### A "Bunnies" Storytime and Craft Program

Wednesday, April 8th at 11:00am  
Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited

### "Cats" Storytime and Craft Program

Thursday, April 9th at 11:00am  
Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited

### The Union Public Library Lego Club

Thursday, April 9th at 2:30pm  
for children of all ages

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! Bring your camera to document your creations. Caregivers are asked to stay in the library and are welcome to assist.

### "Dinosaurs" Party and Craft Program

Friday, April 10th at 11:00am  
Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited.

### "Spring" Saturday Storytime and Craft Program

Saturday, April 11th at 11:00am  
Children of all ages and their caregivers are welcome.

### Saturday Storytime and Craft Program

Saturday, April 25th at 11:00am  
Children of all ages and their caregivers are welcome.

## THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT VAUXHALL BRANCH

### Bedtime Storytime

Monday, April 6th at 7:00pm  
for children of all ages and their caregivers  
No registration required.

### "April Showers Umbrella" Storytime and Craft Program

Tuesday, April 7th at 11:00am  
for children, ages 3-5, and their caregivers  
Space is limited. Signup is required.

### Spring Break Movie Presentation of, "Big Hero 6"

Thursday, April 9th at 2:00pm  
Children of all ages are welcome to attend.

### Let's play chess

Tuesdays, April 14th, 21st, and 28th at 3:00pm.  
Learn to play or improve your game with instructors, Mr. Perry and Mr. Outlaw. Children, ages 8 through 16, are invited to attend. Space is limited. Signup is required.

### "In Stitches Basic Sewing for Kids"

with Ms. Hillory Wisdom Program  
Thursdays, April 16th, 23rd, and 30th at 3:00pm.  
Children in grades 5 – 8 will learn the basics of sewing in this hands-on 6 week class for beginners. Participants will learn a variety of stitches, become familiar with machine sewing and make a sleeveless summer dress or shirt. Attendance is mandatory for each session. Space is limited and signup is required.

### Free of bullying

Monday, April 20th at 3:00pm  
Author, Felicia Capers will work with children in grades 5 on producing several skits centered around becoming free of bullying at our "Enough of Frankie" Program  
Space is limited and signup is required.

### "May Basket" Storytime and Craft Program

Tuesday, April 28th at 11:00am  
for children, ages 3-5, and their caregivers  
Space is limited. Signup is required.



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## POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT IN SCHOOLS

*Submitted by Tara Colandrea, Burnet Middle School, LPC, MA., SAC, Anti-Bully Specialist*

The PBSIS (Positive Behavior Support in Schools) Team of Burnet Middle School initiated two events for the month of March to decrease discipline and promote kindness & positive behavior. The first event was called HOMEROOM MADNESS -

You have now started in the madness!!!! Every homeroom in the school was assigned

NCAA Basketball MASCOT to coincide with the March Madness College Basketball Tournament. In the front of the building is the HUGE bracket where the students were able to watch their homerooms advance to based on good behavior ! At the end of every week in March, discipline was calculated for each homeroom and that % will be up against the

homeroom you are matched up with for that week -EVERY PERSON in the homeroom counts

The winning homeroom at the end of the tournament received a VIP Pizza Lunch party for being the kindest homeroom of all!

On March 27th Burnet Middle School ran its 3rd annual March Madness Basketball tournament where student teams of 3 compete against each other in front of staff and students to be the last team standing! There was snacks stands, music, half-time show and a half-court shot! 30 teams competed and each student that played on the 27th had to have a clear discipline record for the whole month of March while also committing to random acts of kindness throughout the month. Both of these events helped Burnet promote and establish positive relationships and behavior throughout March! It was a great way to push them through the long month of PARCC testing and no days off! We are so proud of our students and staff at Burnet!





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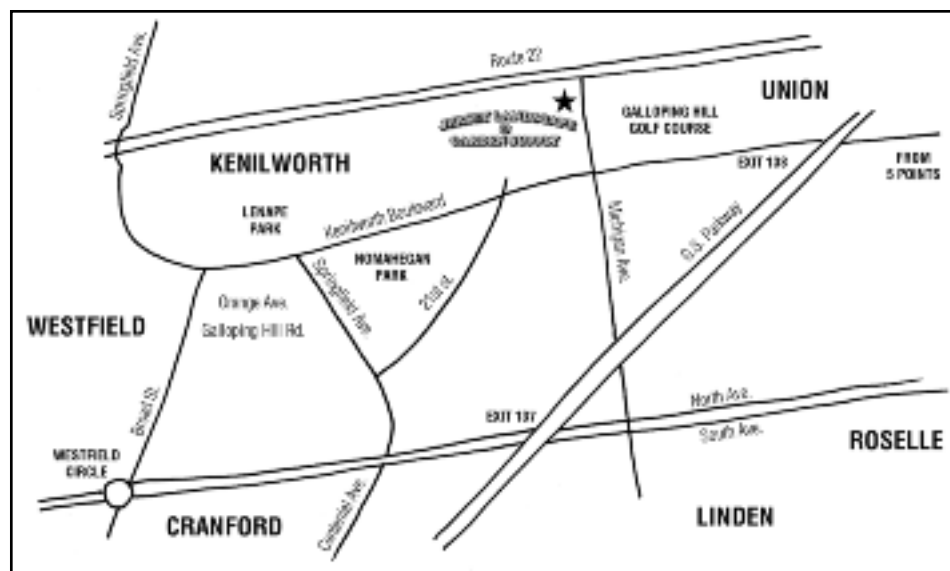
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Adult .....\$7.99	Adult .....\$10.99
Kids 7-10.....\$5.99	Kids 7-10.....\$6.99
Kids 3-6.....\$3.99	Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
2 & Under.....FREE!	2 & Under.....FREE!

### SUNDAY ALL DAY DINNER

11am - 10pm
Adult.....\$10.99
Kids 7-10 .....\$6.99
Kids 3-6 .....\$5.99
2 & Under .....FREE!

**GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE**

## SUSHI

**Fantastic range of freshly prepared sushi.**  
**Most selection and top quality among all competitors.**  
**It is far from the typical "buffet quality" sushi.**  
**At HIBACHI, you don't sacrifice taste for price.**

## BUFFET

**Elegant, modern, fresh, executed with care and confidence. HIBACHI Grill Supreme Buffet brings together 250+ of fresh-made Asian dishes in eleven buffet bars.**

## HIBACHI

**Choose your favorite ingredients from dozens of seafood, meats and vegetables. Watch our chef preparing them in our special hibachi sauce to create a full-flavored dish.**

**ASK US ABOUT CATERING YOUR NEXT EVENT!**

**We have a large party room available for birthday parties, office meetings & weddings.**

**\$125 OFF**  
**ADULT BUFFET**

With purchase of a beverage per person  
Watchung • 908-490-1600  
Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other  
offers or discounts. Expires 5/10/15.

**\$250 OFF**  
**2 ADULT  
BUFFETS**

With purchase of a beverage per person  
Watchung • 908-490-1600  
Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other  
offers or discounts. Expires 5/10/15.

**\$10 OFF**  
**ANY ONE  
PARTY**

Of \$100 or more. Monday - Thursday Only.  
Watchung • 908-490-1600  
Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other  
offers or discounts. Expires 5/10/15.

**\$500 OFF**  
**4 ADULT  
BUFFETS**

With purchase of a beverage per person  
Watchung • 908-490-1600  
Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other  
offers or discounts. Expires 5/10/15.