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AMERICAN REPERTORY BALLET SELECTS SIX LOCAL RAHWAY STUDENTS TO PERFORM IN NUTCRACKER AT UCPAC

American Repertory Ballet, New Jersey's top professional ballet company, will return to Rahway, NJ this year with two performances of Nutcracker at Union County Performing Arts Center. To further connect with the Rahway community, American Repertory Ballet recently held auditions for local Rahway children in grades K-2 to perform alongside its professional dancers in Nutcracker on Saturday, November 21 and Sunday, November 22 at 2:00pm.

On Saturday, October 3, 2015, twelve children auditioned for the role of the mice in ARB's Nutcracker. The mice take part in the famous battle scene in the ballet, where the main character Clara dreams that tiny mice in her living room grow giant and take on the army of toy soldiers and the Nutcracker

The six children that were selected to perform as this year's Nutcracker Community Mice are: Madison Ferreira (1st Grade) and Elisha Mena (2nd Grade) from Franklin School, Raquelle Reinoso (K) from Madison School, Kyra Jones (K) and Evan Martin (2nd Grade) from Roosevelt School, and Anastasia Rachinsky (1st Grade) from St. John Vianney.

The mission of American Repertory Ballet (ARB) is "to bring the joy, beauty, artistry and discipline of classical and contemporary dance to New Jersey and nationwide audiences through public performances and to dance students through artistic and educational programs." This year's "Community Mice Initiative" aims at fulfilling this mission in an immersive way that will expose children to a professional environment and challenge them to achieve performance goals.

"We are thrilled to bring this opportunity to the children of Rahway," says Lisa Beth Vettoso, Director of Educational and Community Programming. "Rahway is an incredibly supportive and artistic community, and the 'Community Mice Initiative' offers local children not only an exciting performance opportunity, but also a wonderful, immersive learning experience with role models in the arts."

Rahway Community Mice rehearsals begin Saturday, October 10, 2015.

In a continuing effort to reach all types of audiences, ARB will also offer its first Sensory Friendly performance of Nutcracker on Sunday, November 22 at 1:00pm at UCPAC. Eden Autism Services is pleased to partner with the American Repertory Ballet in its efforts to make the thrill of professional ballet and live dance accessible for individuals with autism. For more information about Eden Autism Services visit www.edenautism.org or call 609.987.0099.



(above) Students from Rahway Public Schools practice for the role of community mice in the upcoming American Repertory Ballet's The Nutcracker to be performed at the Union County Arts Center on November 21 and 22.







Our Town is published by Renna Media in coordination with the Rahway Chamber of Commerce.

5,500 papers are printed monthly, 4,500 are mailed to businesses and homes in Rahway and 1,000 are distributed free at the Rahway Public Library and other distribution sites throughout Rahway.

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

Tina & Joe Renna, Publishers 202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016 (908) 418-5586 Fax: (908) 709-9209

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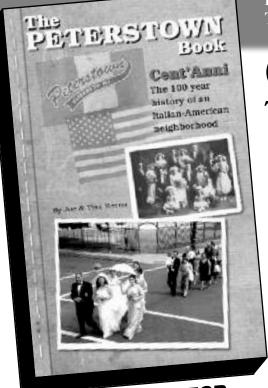
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CROCUS

The white, blue, lilac, pink, purple, striped or yellow crocus flowers poking through the snow are often the first sign that spring has arrived in our area. To most people this sight is a great delight after a long dreary winter.

Crocus can be naturalized anywhere, in lawns, rock gardens, flower boarders or around trees. If planted it a lawn you should wait until the leaves fade away before mowing. When planted in good, well drained soil with organic material such as compost or chopped leaves with a pinch of bone meal, you can count on your crocus to return every spring for years to come.

Because of its smaller size crocus can be planted just three or four inches deep which makes it ideal for people who want spring color but don't have much time, or do not want, to dig the deeper holes required for larger blubs such as tulips and daffodils. This also makes crocus a good choice for gardening with children. Planted in groups of seven or more makes a more spectacular display than single flowers scattered around the garden. If left undisturbed crocus corms* will increase by multiplying and by seed.

When planting crocus it is easy to tell the pointy top where the flower will bloom from the bottom which will develop the root system. A major mistake is to plant them upside down or sideways then all your efforts will quickly go to waste. Placing them correctly in the soil is well worth the few extra seconds it takes.

Crocus like to be planted in full sun where the soil warms up sooner and encourages an early bloom period. When planted in the lawn the cooler soil will force the flowers to bloom later extending your season.

There are 'autumn' crocus which bloom in September and October. These will also be a nice addition to any garden.



(above) President of The Rahway Garden Club, James Keane has been researching and answering garden questions since 1995. Visit 'Keane Gardener' blog at: keanegardener.blogspot.com



(above) Crocus are the first flowers of spring many people notice, often popping up through the snow.

*Crocus is a 'corm', which is similar to a bulb but is actually the solid base of the stem of the plant.,

Happy Gardening, James

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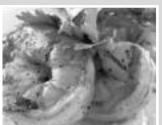
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11 CRITICAL HOME INSPECTION TRAPS TO BE AWARE OF WEEKS BEFORE LISTING YOUR HOME FOR SALE

Rahway NJ - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To order a FREE Special Report, visit www.njhomeinspectiontraps.com or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-888-243-5861 and enter 3000.

You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

This report is courtesy of All Towne Realty Realtor. Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract. Copyright © 2014.

RAHWAY BRANCH OF NAACP RECENTLY FEATURED BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ronald McCray, President of Rahway's Branch of the NAACP, recently was the featured speaker at the Chamber's General Membership meeting.

McCray updated the Chamber on his desire to inspire local youth, teens and young adults to obtain a more rewarding and positive outlook on their future. His initiative will include recruiting additional members to assist him in providing leadership and entrepreneurial opportunities and quarterly workshops for local Youth.

Ronald McCray recently attended the National NAACP Convention that was held this past summer in Philadelphia. President McCray was particularly moved by the Youth & College Division workshops and forums that took place throughout the week. Emerging youth from across the nation were featured in the annual Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics competition. McCray shared that students competed in 26 categories including sciences, humanities, performing arts, visual arts, and business over the course of the event.

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is the nation's oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. NAACP Rahway Branch holds meetings every 3rd Monday at 6pm – at the Ebenezer AME Church on 253 Central Avenue.

Membership is open to persons of all races and cultures. Additional info at

Rahway.Naacp@Yahoo.com

or like us on Facebook: Rahway NAACP.



(above,l-r) Ronald McCray President of Rahway Branch of NAACP and President of the Rahway Chamber of Commerce Andy Baron, Esq.

SAVE THE DATE 2015 TREE LIGHTING FRIDAY, NOV 27TH

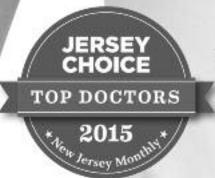
4:00-8:30pm

The event is taking on the theme of "A Winter Wonderland" throughout Rahway's downtown district. It's an afternoon of fun for all ages with inflatables, crafts and much, much more.

The tree lighting ceremony to be held at City Hall.
Festivities to end betw 8 and 8:30pm.



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RAHWAY CITIZENS PURCHASE WAR BONDS TO "BUY A BOMBER"

Submitted by Al Shipley, City Historian and Rahway Library Research Consultant

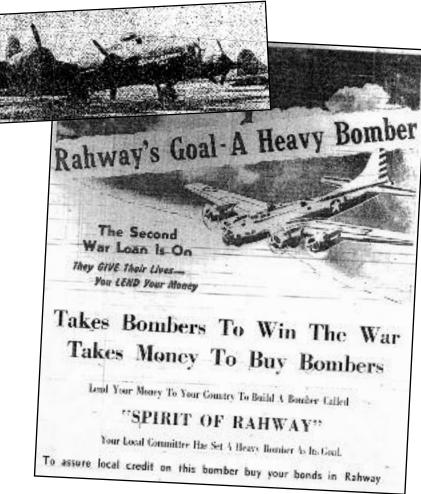
Each year on the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, when we observe Veterans' Day, we take time to remember and honor the men and women who served their country in any one of the five branches of our military. The day might also give an opportunity to note the contributions of the countless number of civilians whose patriotic and dedicated work on the "Home Front" aided our troops throughout the periods whenever the United States was at war.

During World War II, while our soldiers, sailors and airmen were fighting overseas, communities were collecting scrap metal, aluminum and rubber, families were planting Victory Gardens, women were taking the place of men on factory lines, and everyone was sacrificing with the rationing of food items, gas, and clothing. To help finance the war effort, the Treasury Department issued government bonds that were sold for as little as \$18.75. The benefit to those buying the bonds, besides the gratification that one was doing their duty to help the cause, was that in ten years the bonds would

mature, and the government would pay the bond holder \$25.00.

The Treasury Department created several promotional programs to help encourage citizens and students to purchase these "War Bonds." One unique program was the "Buy a Bomber" incentive, a campaign in which the city of Rahway would take part.

The "Buy a Bomber" campaign was initiated by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, a National organization whose two million club members nation-wide set a goal to sell enough bonds to "create a bomber fleet capable of blasting a pathway to victory in conquered Europe in the invasion clean-up." Any local women's group that successfully raised a quota



(above) ad that appeared in the Rahway News Record April 15, 1943 to encourage purchase of bonds.

of \$300,000, would be rewarded by having a name of their choosing painted on the nose of a bomber. The one stipulation was that all bonds and stamps that would be counted towards the purchase had to be bought and the sale registered within the city limits of the community sponsoring the drive.

In April of 1943 the Executive Board of the Rahway Women's War Savings Committee joined the national group's effort and began their campaign for the sale of war bonds. Their concrete objective was to sell enough bonds to entitle Rahway to have a bomber in the war service that would be named "the Spirit of Rahway." To accelerate the sale, the women planned a Victory Easter Parade that was held at

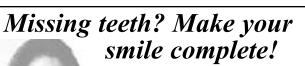
Rahway River Park on Sunday, April 25. Students in the Rahway Public Schools and St. Mary's Parochial School also joined the campaign. Students could buy ten cent savings stamps in their schools which they would collect and paste in savings books until they accumulated enough for a bond.

By the middle of April, over half the total needed to buy the bomber had been raised, and before the Easter Parade had even taken place, Rahway had raised \$1,933,122.50 in bond sales. By mid- May, the totals were even more outstanding. The sale of bonds and stamps during the drive reached an astounding total of \$2,370,485. The Easter Parade brought in \$18,250, and the students at Roosevelt School led the public schools with a grand total of \$17,369. But it was the St. Mary's students who amazed everyone when they announced that their school had sold \$52,411.05 in bonds and stamps.

With the quota of \$300,000 having been reached and surpassed, the City of Rahway was eligible to fund and thus name a Boeing B 17 F Flying

Fortress, a high altitude, daylight precision bomber that would be deployed in the Mediterranean theatre. The four engine bomber flew at a top speed in excess of 300 miles per hour and carried a bomb load of ten tons. The city's vision of having a war plane doing battle over enemy lines in support of the troops had become a reality in "The Spirit of Rahway."

On the national level, the "Buy a Bomber" campaign proved to be a huge success. The Treasury Department reported that \$154,459,132 had been raised in cities across the country, enough to produce 431 bombers. Over the course of the war, 85 million Americans purchased bonds in the various programs totaling approximately \$185 billion.



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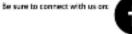
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THE CRUCIBLE AT RAHWAY THEATRE

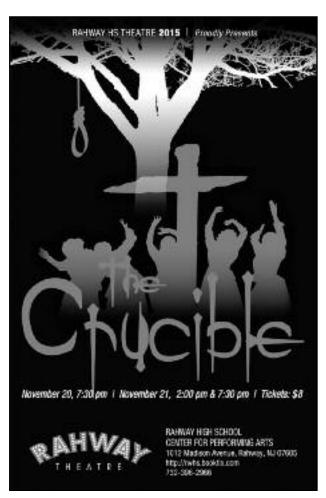
Rahway Theatre will proudly present Arthur Miller's "The Crucible," November 20, 2015 at 7:30pm and November 21, 2015 at 2:00pm and 7:30pm in the RHS Center for Performing Arts. The play debuted on Broadway in 1953 and received the Tony Award for "Best Play" that year. As part of its ongoing educational outreach initiative, Rahway Theatre will be offering in school performances for eligible English classes with a post-performance discussion to encourage cross curricular connections.

"The Crucible" is set in the 1600s during the infamous witch trials of Salem, Mass., where a colony of righteous individuals caught in the middle of a heathen wilderness grapple with their faith, looking for someone to blame. In a crucible of searing heat, a man's soul must submit to relentless examination where his character will be forged or destroyed.

Mrs. Modero, theatre teacher and director, said it seemed fitting to produce an Arthur Miller play this year since it is offered in the English curriculum for Sophomores.

Tickets are \$8 and are limited.

For complete ticket information please visit http://rwhs.booktix.com.











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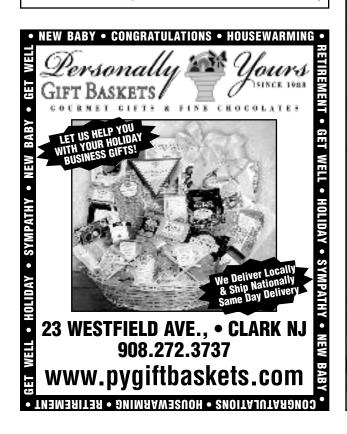
To commemorate the recent phenomenon known as "Back to the Future Day," on Tuesday, October 21, 2015, 5th grade students from Mrs. Laura Lopez's class at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway, NJ were transported into a futuristic-style classroom for the day.

Utilizing a variety of Google-based

technologies and Chromebooks, the learning activities were designed to engage studentswithout the use of pens, pencils, paper or books. Activities included online quizzes, interactive Q&A discussion boards, online reading passages and voice typing experimentation.









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Audra Loccisano (Rahway resident)

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POETIC POWER

in Rahway participated in the National Day of Writing last week by writing haiku poems about people that inspire them. A haiku is a three line poem with 5 syllables in the first line, 7 syllables

The fourth grade students of Roosevelt School in the second line, and 5 syllables in the last line. After writing and typing their poems in the classroom, the students in Mrs. Prakapas's class wrote them with chalk on the blacktop during recess for everyone to enjoy.



(above) Jaylene Tineo proudly displays the haiku about her mom who inspires her to learn.

WHAT'S MY ANTI-DRUG?

Sixth grade students from Franklin Elementary School in Rahway participated in the Prevention Link's countywide 2015 "What's My Anti-Drug" Poster Contest in honor of Red Ribbon Week. The students created a lot of amazing posters and did a great job explaining what keeps them drugfree. Franklin School is proud that two of their students were selected as finalists in this countywide contest. As finalists, their artwork was displayed on the Prevention Links website so that people could vote for their favorite poster. These students went on to win 2nd and 3rd place.



(above) Congratulations to Naomi Giles and Ejay Kearney. Wonderful job!

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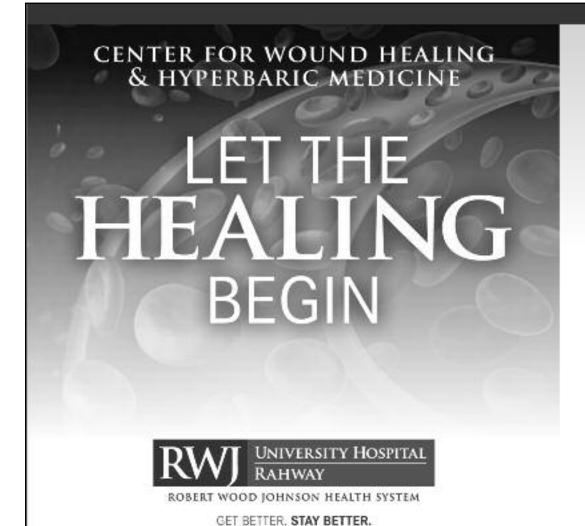
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RESPECTFUL SUPERHEROS



(above) Mrs. Prakapas and her fourth grade students at Roosevelt School in Rahway rock Respect Week in their Roosevelt Superhero shirts. (back row, l-r) Zainab Akinsanya, Jorden McKelvey, Mrs. Prakapas, Anthony Wysocki, Manny Martinez, (front row, l-r) Giselle DoCarmo, Natalia Velez, Natalie Nardone, Jalene Tineo, Sophia Hidalgo, Jewel Hicks

RAHWAY FIRE DEPT VISITS FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY



(above) Captain Rob Fleischman from the Rahway Fire Department recently visited Franklin Elementary School in Rahway during Fire Safety Month. Mrs. Jacqueline Gallo's Pre-Kindergarten class was so exciting when this special visitor arrived. The children learned very important things such as, how to stop, drop, and roll, crawl under smoke to exit a building, and dial 911 in case of an emergency. Captain Fleischman dressed in all of his gear to help the children to recognize a firefighter and alleviate any fears they may have during a rescue.



MARCHING BAND 'TOPS THE CHART' WITH A FIRST PLACE WIN

"Yes, there's winning...but my students' joy, excitement, and unbridled emotion was an unexpected thrill for me to see," offers Miguel Bolivar, who is now serving his second year as director of the high school's marching band. On Saturday, October 10th the Marching Band competed at the USBands North Brunswick Competition and finished first place in its group, winning the caption awards of Best Music and Best Percussion

out of five competing bands with a score of 80.375. With four more shows left in the season, the band members are optimistic that this achievement will only be the first in a series of award winning performances. Drum Major, Cassidy Starr, explains why band members believe they will continue to earn first place honors: "We're really a family and we have a fantastic band director...how can we lose?!" (story by Rob Kinch)



(above) Rahway High School Marching Band pictured with awards.



DAY OF PRAYER DRAWS TOGETHER LEADERS FROM MULTIPLE FAITHS

Oct. 9, 2015 – Amidst a time of international, national and local violence and crises, leaders from more than 40 houses of faith throughout Union County came together this week for the second Union County Day of Prayer, held Wednesday at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield. More than 300 people were in attendance.

"Praying for peace in the midst of violence" featured readings and comments from religious leaders of a number of faiths, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism, as well as music.

The Union County Day of Prayer is an interfaith gathering of the faith-based, nonprofit and government communities to unite people from throughout the county regardless of race, religion or disability and to bring greater awareness of the support services available to them, according to Sid Blanchard, executive director of Community Access Unlimited (CAU), which supports people with disabilities and atrisk youth.

The event is sponsored by the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council, an organization comprising 40 interfaith congregations and community-based nonprofits, including CAU. The council promotes inclusion of all people within the community, without regard to race, religion or disability, and creates a clearing house of faith-based, nonprofit and government community services available to the public, according to Blanchard.

"We come together to help bring the community together," Blanchard said. "You can't have community unless all people are included in that community and are respected for their worth as humans.

"We see today a lot of violence taking place in the community. For a lot of us, violence is not a one-time occurrence, it's an everyday occurrence," he added, noting that people with disabilities are among the most prevalent victims of violence in the community.

Cantor Matthew Axelrod of the Congregational Beth Israel in Scotch Plains, was one of the religious leaders who participated in the event.

"I think these interfaith events are very important," he said. "They bring the community together and give us access to each other's traditions. It de-emphasizes what divides us and shows us what we have in common, bringing us together."

Pastor Carmine Pernini of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rahway, said, "There is a lot of violence in community and it's a good sign that various religious traditions can come together and pray. That is a sign of peace. I'm here to pray with my brothers and sisters in a sign of peace."

Father Jack Martin, Priest Emeritus, said, "We debate. We argue. We take sides and defend our rights. Among all the anger and violence, let us remember there is reverence in the face of the other."

Ven. Duhk-Song Sunim of the So Shim Sa Zen Center in Plainfield, added, "The Buddhist teachings are based on kindness and love of all living creatures. The Buddhist view is we are all part of the larger community."

Imam Ali Jaaber of the Masjid Darul Islam Mosque in Elizabeth, said every community must embrace those in the greatest need at times of crises, citing the needs of the 600,000 refugees pouring into Europe.

"We have to reach out to see what support we have and the attitudes and dispositions of people of other faiths. We have to build on that," he said, adding that the mosque will be holding coats drives for refugees and will look across denominations for support, something the Interfaith Coordinating Council has made possible, he said.

"It has benefitted our community," he said.
"Jobs, education, training, record expungement.
As a person serving the community I have to stay active with those in the county who do the same."

Added Blanchard, "It's great to have a Thanksgiving dinner. It's great to have a holiday collection and a Day of Prayer. But there are 362 other days of the year we have to be here for each other."

CAU is a statewide Elizabeth-based nonprofit providing support programs and services to adults with disabilities as well as youth served under the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to enable them to live independently in the community, in areas including housing, vocational and life-skills training, education, advocacy and recreation.



(above) Leaders from multiple religions and houses of faith from throughout Union County.



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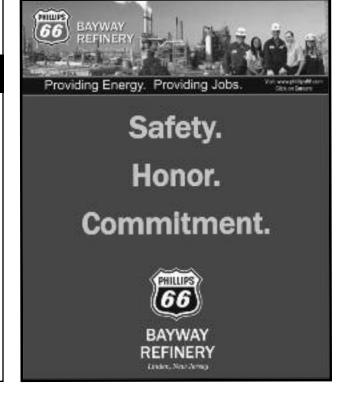
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