

# Spirit of UNION NJ

**FREE**

UNION'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Union's Hometown Newspaper

Issue 61 • January 2016

**UNION ROTARY MEETING**  
**JAN 7TH**  
 12:15 pm  
**SURBURBAN GOLF CLUB**  
 1730 Morris Ave.  
 Union, NJ 07083  
**Meets Every Thursday at 12:15pm**



## UNION MIDDLE SOCCER TEAM GOES UNDEFEATED

“Undeclared!” cheered the boys of the Union Middle Soccer Team as they triumphantly ran off the field after beating Springfield 7-2 in their final contest of the year. A year, deemed as a rebuilding year, turned into one of destiny. By scoring on average 3.2 goals per game and surrendering a paltry .67, the team was able to stay focused in their quest to be the 4th undefeated team under coach Petras in his 22 years at the helm. “Being undefeated does not come easily in any sport,” commented coach Petras. “13 to 14 year-old boys sometimes have trouble staying focused long enough to eat a bowl of cereal, let alone through 15 complete soccer matches.” He added that the team used a combination of athleticism, leadership, and above all, heart, to propel them to victory. With only 4 returning players from last year’s squad that went 11-1-1, the onus fell on captains Justin Novoa and Kevin Couto to keep players eyes on the prize. They were helped in large by the positive presence of the morale leader of the team- Matthews Possidonio, who lit the fire to compete in every player before each game. In addition, the net was meticulously minded by Michael Simoes and his defense that set a record with 7 shutouts this year. Overall, the team looks forward to next year with great anticipation to see if they can duplicate the success they experienced this year.

First	Last	Sch	Gr	
Joshua	Brito	K	7	
Nick	Correia	B	7	
Kevin	Couto	B	8	Captain
Jayson	Cubukcu	B	7	
Justin	Cubukcu	B	7	
Lucas	Dias	B	7	
Chidera	Egwuonwu	K	7	
Jeremy	Fonseca	B	7	
Joel	Genao	B	7	
Daniel	Mota	B	8	
Nicholas	Neme	B	7	
Justin	Novoa	B	8	Captain
Dereck	Olarte	K	8	
Matthews	Possidonio	K	8	
Stayon	Samuels	B	7	
Steven	Sanchez	K	8	
Michael	Simoes	K	7	
Gianmarco	Solano	K	8	
KJ	St. Claire	K	7	
Pedro	Vale	B	7	
Brandon	Valencia	K	7	
Cesario	Varoyoe	K	8	

(right) 2015 Union Boys' Middle School Soccer Team with Coach, Mr. Larry Petras. Wins - 13 Loses - 0 Ties - 2



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# Spirit of UNION NJ

Spirit of Union is published by Renna Media. 5,500 newspapers are printed monthly and 5,000 are mailed free to businesses and residents 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.

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## January is Disney Month at AAA Travel

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# OSAGE ORANGE-THEMED DECORATIONS REMAIN UP AT CALDWELL PARSONAGE

The Caldwell Parsonage, still decorated for an 18th century-style Christmas, will host open houses on January 10 and January 17 from 2 pm to 5 pm. The house is located at 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union.

The decorations include Osage oranges (a round, green fruit) from an old female Osage orange tree on the Parsonage grounds. (See third picture above.) Osage oranges have a citrus fragrance, are a natural insect repellent, and last

for about six months.

Osage orange trees are not native to New Jersey. Immature Osage trees, planted close together to form a thicket, were used as windbreaks on the prairies; their wood was used by Native Americans to make bows because it's strong but flexible. Settlers used the Osage orange wood to make wagon wheels for the same reason.

The Osage oranges will be available to visitors while supplies last.

For more info, please visit the Union Township Historical Society's website [www.uniontwphistoricalsociety.webs.com](http://www.uniontwphistoricalsociety.webs.com) or call 908-687-0048.



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

Union 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](http://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 3003.

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.

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## J. MCLAUGHLIN & MORPHMOM HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE BENEFITS BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF UNION COUNTY

Carols were in the air, Santa made a special visit, oh what fun we had at J. McLaughlin of Summit with Morphmom on Tuesday! Thank you to all in the community who visited and donated a new, unwrapped toy for members of our Plainfield Club; more than 30 toys were donated. Everyone enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies while shopping. It was a great day of community in Summit. Congratulations to Dianne White, who won the autographed jersey from New York Giants Quarterback, Eli Manning. Thank you, too, Kathleen Smith of Morphmom, for your enthusiasm and commitment to supporting our organization. Members of Morphmom and

students from Summit are hosting a Holiday Party for members of our Plainfield Club, where the toy donations will be distributed. The party will also include games and a group art project.

“Thank you J. McLaughlin and Morphmom for continuing to bring awareness to our Clubs,” said Russell Triolo, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County. “This is a wonderful collaboration that allows us to connect with new supporters in Union County.”

We would also like to give a special thank you to the youth of Summit who graciously volunteered as Carolers. They were fantastic and added a special touch of holiday cheer: Sarah, Nicholas, Gregory, Bess, Grace and Sophie, as

well as others who contributed their talents.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County is celebrating 60 years of changing lives in Union County! Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County offers youth programs in 5 communities in Union County: Plainfield, Elizabeth, Union, Hillside and Roselle. Teen leadership programs for ages 14-18 are available in Union, Elizabeth and Plainfield. Members participate in character, leadership, career preparation and community service activities throughout the year. Aquatics instruction is available at our Union Club. For information on our clubs and programs, please visit our website [www.bgcuc.org](http://www.bgcuc.org) or contact us 908-687-2697.



(above) Santa with Carolers.



(above l-r): Ruth Sutton, BGCUC Corporate Advisory Board; Kathleen Smith, Morphmom Founder; Carol Regner, J. McLaughlin; Lisa Sepetjian, BGCUC Director of Development; Christy Fischetti, Manager, J. McLaughlin.

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# WHAT DO PANCAKES AND THE ENVIRONMENT HAVE IN COMMON?

Ask any seventh grade student at Kawameeh Middle School and he or she will tell you that they are both themes in the novel Hoot, by Carl Hiaasen.

The novel, which is about an endeavor to save the environment from a greedy pancake chain restaurant, served as the perfect opportunity to challenge the students to take a stand themselves. After reading the book, Language Arts teachers proposed a deal to their students: raise enough funds to contribute to a worthy cause for the environment, and be rewarded with a pancake breakfast! Students eagerly accepted the task and decided that their donations should go to the Nature Conservancy. As the donation money poured in, a question emerged—where to get enough pancakes to feed over two hundred and fifty children? The answer to this came from a generous manager at the IHOP of Union (Route 22). After hearing about the project, the restaurant jumped on board to support not only the environmental cause, but also the students of Kawameeh Middle School. IHOP provided five hundred pancakes, butter, and syrup for the students to enjoy as a result of their efforts in raising almost two hundred dollars for the Nature Conservancy.



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## JANUARY EVENTS

### ADULT

#### HILTON READERS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, January 25 at 6:00 – 7:45 PM

This month's selection is "The Silent Wife" by A.S.A. Harrison. Bring dinner, beverage and dessert are provided. Please contact the Vauxhall Branch Library Circulation Desk for help in obtaining a copy of the book.

All are welcome to attend. No registration required.

### TWEENS AND TEENS

#### GIRLS S.T.E.M. ACADEMY

Saturday, January 2 at 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Introduction to nontraditional career paths for tween and teen girls in science, technology, engineering and media. For more information or to register call 908-937-4613 or the Vauxhall Branch at 908-851-5451.

Registration required!

### TWEENS MAKE IT @ YOUR LIBRARY: SNOW GLOBE CRAFT

Thursday, January 14 at 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Ages 9-12 are welcome to come and make a craft in celebration of winter. Sign up required.

### UNDERSTANDING COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID SEMINAR WITH FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATOR DOROTHY GILLIARD

Wednesday, January 20 at 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Presented by Jenkins Outreach for Youth (J.O.Y.) "Club for Teens: college, career and beyond series" For high school students and their parents/guardians.

### GAME TIME FOR TWEENS

Thursday, January 28 at 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Ages 9 – 12 are welcome to try their hand at board games, card games and more! Sign up required.

### PRESCHOOL

#### PRESCHOOL GAME TIME: BINGO

Tuesday, January 19 at 11:00 AM – 11:45 AM

For children ages 3 – 5 and their parent/guardian. Sign up is required.

## VAUXHALL BRANCH

123 Hilton Avenue, Vauxhall, NJ.

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### ADULT

#### TUESDAYS AT TWO MOVIES: FROM PAGE TO SCREEN

Tuesdays, January 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 2:00 PM

The popular free movie series continues with four film adaptations of favorite novels. Second floor Activities Room doors open at 1:50 PM. Elevator access available.

#### SCORE: STARTING A HOME BASED BUSINESS

Monday, January 11 at 7:00PM

SCORE is a nonprofit association with over fifty years of experience in helping small businesses gets off the ground. Join us for a 90 minute seminar for those seeking to start a home based business or those who are presently engaged in operating a home based business.

#### 'RELEASE YOUR POWER' WITH LILISA WILLIAMS

Tuesday, January 19 at 7:00 PM

Corporate Trainer and Professional Life Coach Lilisa Williams offers motivational techniques for pursuing your dreams and discusses her book, "Release Your Power:

Eight Strategies for Becoming Who You Really Are".

#### OFF THE SHELF BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Thursday, January 21 at 7:00 – 8:15 PM

Now in its 16th year! January's selection, "Euphoria" by Lily King will be discussed.

Contact the Reference Desk for help in obtaining a copy of the book. New members welcome.

### KIDS

#### BEDTIME STORYTIME

Monday, January 11 at 7:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Bedtime stories and sing-along rhymes and songs for children of all ages, family, friends and caregivers. No registration required.

#### BABY RHYMES AND STORYTIME

Friday, January 15 at 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Sing-along rhymes and songs for babies and their caregivers. No registration required.

#### PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AND CRAFT

Tuesday, January 19 at 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Storytime and related craft for children ages 4 to 6 and their caregivers. No registration is required.

#### SATURDAY STORYTIME AND CRAFT

Saturday, January 23 at 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Listen to "Where the Wild Things Are", a Caldecott Medal winner and design a "wild thing" mask.

#### BEDTIME STORYTIME

Monday, January 25 at 7:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Bedtime stories and sing-along rhymes and songs for children of all ages, family, friends and caregivers. No registration required.

#### PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AND CRAFT

Tuesday, January 26 at 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Storytime and related craft for children ages 4 to 6 and their caregivers. No registration

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View, share and download photos of Union events and others at [www.RennaMedia.com](http://www.RennaMedia.com)

# FREE SEMINAR

## Starting a Home Based Business

Monday, Jan. 11th  
7:00pm

### UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY

1980 Morris Avenue • Union, NJ

Working from one's house has become the most popular means of starting a business.

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Barbara La Mort,

President

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# STUDENTS SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER WITH POSITIVITY

With the holiday season in full swing, Union High School Student Assistance Counselor Lucille Williams along with Physical Education and Health Teacher Adriane Damiano wanted to help spread holiday cheer with positivity. The assignment: tell your fellow classmates what pride means to you. The display: “Deck the Halls with Union Pride.” In the fall, the senior class got

together to help welcome their fellow classmates back for another school year with their messages of encouragement; it was now the junior classes turn. During their health classes students wrote down their thoughts in an effort to unite their classmates and teachers. Williams shared, “in light of all the negativity we hear on the news these days, we wanted to do something simple to

help force out the negativity and shine a positive light throughout the school. It worked wonderfully with the seniors at the beginning of the year; and now with the juniors. I hope to continue with the sophomores and freshman as the year goes on. It’s important for students to share their thoughts and create a welcoming environment for students to attend school every day.”

Throughout out the hallways near the school’s cafeterias, colorful Holiday Lights adorned with positive messages of what Union Pride means including: “Be proud of your work,” “Be proud of what you do,” “Work together as a family,” “Be proud of who you are,” “Stay strong,” “Stay positive,” “There is only you;” and simple messages including: “Teamwork,” “Understanding,” “Family,” and more. Damiano added, “It was really wonderful to see how the students reacted to the project. They worked together and really showed us what pride means to them. I am happy to have been a part of such a special project, and I hope we can continue these messages throughout the rest of the school year.”



(above) Students discuss a special holiday project worked on by the Junior class of Union High School. Top Row left to right- Jason Romano, Kya Smith, Summer Chaudry, Nicole Losada, Ashali Kumar, Theresa Nnoli, Briana Young Bottom left to right- Jordan James, Ishmeil Scott, Dasia White, Isaiah Vaughn

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Adult .....\$7.99	Adult .....\$11.59
Kids 7-10.....\$5.99	Kids 7-10.....\$6.99
Kids 3-6.....\$3.99	Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
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## 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 2/10/16.

**\$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 2/10/16.

**\$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 2/10/16.

**\$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 2/10/16.