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VFW POST 2433 CELEBRATES LOYALTY DAY

Loyalty Day is celebrated across the nation as an opportunity to honor people who performed some heroic act or a group of patriotic acts in their communities. It generally includes, but is not limited to, fire, police and EMT personnel, post members and active local citizens. At a well-attended luncheon and awards presentation program held on May 1, 2016, the Veterans' Alliance of Union and the Michael A. Kelly Post 2433, Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary honored three township people.

Life-long Union Township resident Sally Straus was honored for her extensive volunteerism, including her work in the program "Let No Veteran Die Alone", which provided radios to the veterans in hospice care at the VA hospital. Bob Johnsen, past Commander of the VFW, presented Sally's award and read an extensive list of her volunteer work and recalled her family's long history in the township. Her father started the Volunteer Fire Department. Sally admitted that if it happens in Union she either knows about it, or she's there. She stated "It is a pleasure and a privilege that I do from my heart." She also

encouraged others to get involved, "You have to step up to stand out."

Fire Battalion Chief Michael Scanio, a veteran of the US Airforce, received the "Veterans of Foreign Wars Loyalty Day Award". Chief Scanio was 21 when he started his career with the Union Township Fire Department. He has won numerous accommodations and awards throughout his over 25-year career. In 2014 he was appointed as Union County Deputy Fire Coordinator and is on call 24-7. He thanked his family for being supportive, particularly his wife Shannon for being his rock and sounding board.

Police Captain Dave Tyms Is a third generation police officer. He said his family has been maintaining and promoting the safety of citizens for over 100 years. He credited his father and grandfather for setting an example for him to follow and stated in part, "if it weren't for them, I wouldn't be here today." His father and grandfather served the Milburn and West Orange Police Departments respectively. Captain Tyms is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Emergency Management.



(above) On May 1, 2016, the Michael A. Kelly Post 2433, Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary honored three township people. Sally Straus, Fire Battalion Chief Michael Scanio, and Police Captain David Tims.

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MEMORIAL DAY PARADE MAY 30TH

The Veteran's Alliance invites the public to come out and pay tribute to our veterans at the annual Memorial Day Parade to be held on May 30 beginning at 10 a.m.

The parade begins on Stuyvesant Ave. and High Street. The streets will be closed at 9 am. The extended parade route is in front of Connecticut Farm School. At the conclusion, a

ceremony will be held at the grandstand at Pearl Harbor Square. The parade will include floats, cars, Clydesdale horses, military units and military vehicles, motorcycles, Civil War reenactors and many civic and youth organizations as they march for our military. There will be live cannon fire at Honor Roll Park at the end of the parade.

THREE RESIDENTS BECOME CASA VOLUNTEERS

Union County Superior Court Judge Daniel R. Lindemann last month administered oaths to 16 community members who stepped up to serve as extra eyes and ears for family court judges on cases involving abused, neglected or abandoned children currently in foster care. Among them are Union's own Lillie Chadwick, Wigeby Toussaint and Tom Whelan.

The new Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers completed 30 hours of training over six weeks and will next observe court to see other CASA volunteers in action. After performing the oath, Judge Lindemann stepped off the bench and personally thanked each advocate for committing to serve children in need of a voice. Several of the nonprofit's board members participated, providing each new advocate a commemorative pin and certificate. During a celebratory luncheon that followed, each advocate was matched to their new case.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds and life experiences make successful advocates, and this class is no different. They range from age 23 to 81, some are parents, some empty-nesters, and others have no children. Some have lived out of

the country or elsewhere in the United States, and careers include business, real estate, education and stay-at-home parents. Most have no prior knowledge of the foster system.

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a child's life, including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, and incorporate into court reports findings from these contacts, as well as, observations from time spent with the youth. Volunteers advocate both in the community and in court to ensure that while the youth is awaiting a safe and permanent home, their needs are met, their best interests are priority and their time in care is as short as possible.

There are currently 600 Union County children in foster care; the nonprofit serves approximately one-quarter of those youth and its mission is to provide a volunteer advocate for every child in care. CASA of Union County trains three times a year.

For details on the next opportunity or for other ways to help the organization stand up for foster children, contact Lisa at (908) 527-7048 or lporis@casaoofunioncounty.org.



(above, standing, l-r) The newest CASA of Union County volunteers are Emily Aschenbach of Cranford, Tom Whelan and Wigeby Toussaint of Union, Rose Franco and Craig Grosswald of Summit, Deborah Mathis of Rahway, Cheryl Barr of Summit, Doug Loffredo of Westfield, Lillie Chadwick of Union, and Julaine Bianculli of Rahway; (kneeling, l-r) Rupa Motwani of Westfield, Isabella Blumberg of Springfield, Phyllis Karp and Mary Ann Foster of Westfield and Ildi Grundmann Coon of Cranford. Not shown is Maryanne Grycan of Westfield.



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SHOW US YOUR TALENT!!!!

Auditions for the 4th Annual fundraising event "Union's Got Talent"

Saturday, May 14th, 2016. Win cash prizes and help support education in Union Township!

Auditions for the 4th Annual Union Township Talent Show Union's Got Talent will be held Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 10am to 3pm in the Theater at Union High School, 2350 North Third Street, Union. Union's Got Talent, similar to those popular hit television programs, aims to showcase the talent of Union residents of ALL AGES! Produced by the Union High School Performing Arts Company and Douglas Michael Krueger Scholarship Fund, this year's event will include a partnership with the Township of Union through their "We Are Union" coalition, with Union's Got Talent being featured as one of the main highlights during "Mayor's Weekend." All proceeds will help directly benefit the two organizations that directly give back to the students of Union Township. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top acts.

Interested participants can head over to www.uhspac.com (click on the Union's Got Talent tab) for more information, contest rules

and a registration application. Acts may range from solo acts to groups providing at least one member of each group lives or works in Union Township; or attends or is an alumnus of Union Township Schools. The following categories will be permitted for performance: singing, dancing, instrumentals, comedy, drama and novelty acts. All acts must be appropriate for a family audience.

Contestants of all ages are eligible to audition, with parent/guardian present for any performers under the age of 18. There is no charge to audition, and the producers are looking for a wide range of acts to showcase, so SHOW US YOUR TALENT!

Mark your calendars! The live show will be held on Saturday, September 24th, 2016 at the Theater at Union High School, hosted by Doc Burkhardt and featuring Celebrity Guest Judges. Come out and support some of Union's biggest and brightest future stars!



"S.A.T. PREP CLASSES OFFERED AT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF UC

Boys & Girls Clubs of Union Co., Union Club in collaboration with the Chandler Learning Center will be hosting an S.A.T. prep course for the new, redesigned S.A.T. Classes are open to Juniors and Seniors registered for the June 4th, 2016 (or later) S.A.T. test. Classes will be held Mondays and Thursdays as follows: Monday May 16th & 23rd; Thursday May 16th, May 26th and June 2nd. All classes are from 6:30PM to 8:30 PM. Classes will be taught by instructors from The Chandler Learning Center. For the past 20 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 teens as they prepare for higher education."

Pre-registration is REQUIRED to attend the class. Cost is \$250, which must be paid at the start of the first class May 16th. Classes are held at Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County, Union Club, 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.

Summer Program registration is now open at our Union, Plainfield and Elizabeth Clubs. 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 is available at our Union Club.

For information on our clubs and programs, please visit our website www.bgcuc.org or contact us 908-687-2697.

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Kids 3-6.....\$3.99	Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
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BATTLE HILL STUDENT GROWS 36 POUND CABBAGE

Submitted by: Alison Brehm, 4th Grade Teacher

Each year, 3rd grade students across the country participate in the 'Bonnie 3rd Grade Cabbage Program.' Bonnie is a leading producer of vegetable and herb plants for the garden. The program began in 2002 to inspire a love of vegetable gardening. Each year, Bonnie Plants distributes more than one million free cabbage plants to 3rd Grade classrooms across the country. As part of the program, Bonnie Plants awards a \$1,000 scholarship to one student in each state.

This year, MaLé Slater, a current 4th grader from Battle Hill Elementary School in Union, NJ, took home the coveted prize for the 36 pound cabbage she nurtured at home over the summer of 2015. MaLé's appreciation for gardening is partially due to her third grade teacher Patricia Bogda. Ms. Bogda along with third grade teachers Cara LeBlond and Katie Ballard often brought their classes outside to tend to the Battle Hill Garden of Knowledge. This garden was granted to Battle Hill School in the 2013-2014

school year by the Union Township Educational Foundation. MaLé, along with her classmates, learned the importance of caring for the garden. MaLé also gained her green thumb from her mother and grandparents. They actively watched the plant together to ensure that it received the love necessary to grow such a large plant.

Bonnie Plants has delivered over 11 million cabbage plants nationwide since 2002, fostering an interest in gardening, healthy eating, and the environment along the way.



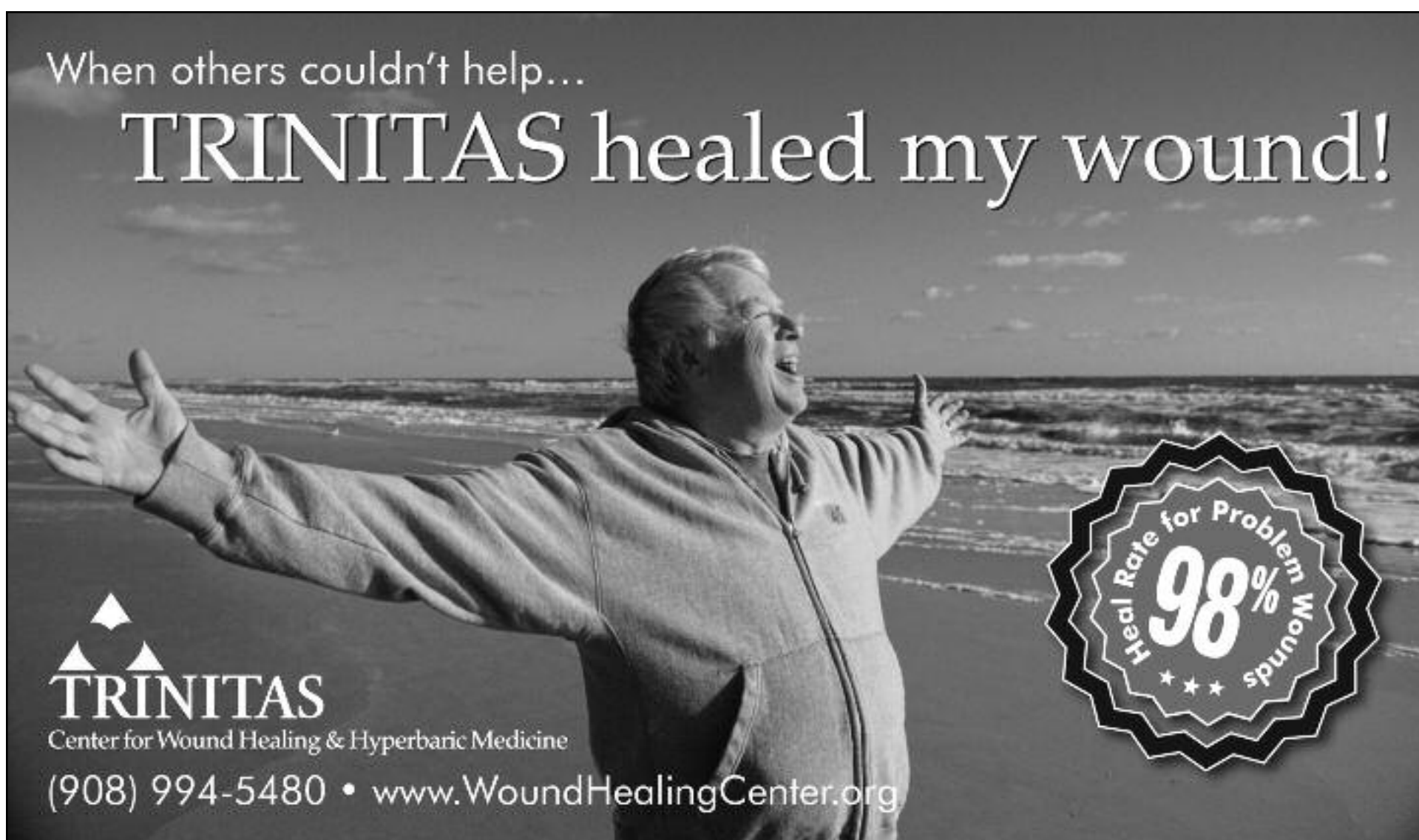
(above) MaLé Slater with 36 pound cabbage.



(above) MaLé, her mother, grandmother, grandfather, nephew and Joe Atchison and Bonnie Rep.

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UNION'S VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN ACCEPTED TO A COMBINED 5 IVY LEAGUE SCHOOLS

Township of Union Schools are excited to announce the Class of 2016's Valedictorian and Salutatorian, Jessenia Class and Anthony Okolo; respectively. Both students head into the final months of school with strong finishes, and opportunities for the future that are made out of academic dreams. Between them, they have been accepted to nine schools, five of them being Ivy League. It's an exciting time for Union High School, marking such a banner year of academic success for the senior class.

This year, UHS Valedictorian Jessenia Class and Salutatorian Anthony Okolo are set to attend Ivy League colleges in the fall.

Jessenia applied to eight universities, receiving admittance into every single one she applied, including four Ivy League institutions: University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Columbia, and Harvard. Among her top choices—Harvard.

Her process for applying was to make sure she approached each school singularly and uniquely. She refrained from recycling her essays, endeavoring to be as creative, honest and open as

possible. Currently Jessenia works two jobs and is a member of several extracurricular activities at UHS including: President of the National Honor Society, Key Club Editor, Intercultural Student Organization Secretary, Optimist Club, 'The Canon' Newspaper, Spanish National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society and Model U.N. to name a few! Regarding her future, Jessenia commented "I would like a career in Neuroscience, but my preference is relatively fluid as per the actual profession right now. I could become a surgeon, a researcher, a professor, or an author—as long as I'm happy doing it."

Anthony's road to the Ivy's was a little different with two words - Early Decision. Anthony is a student athlete and was actively being recruited by different schools, making his process much easier. He received interest from schools including Yale, Brown, Villanova and several others. In the end it was the University of Pennsylvania that won, he made his choice, applied Early Decision and the rest is history.



(above, l-r) Township of Union Schools Class of 2016's Valedictorian Jessenia Class and Salutatorian Anthony Okolo.

Outside of track and of course school, Anthony and a group of friends have started their own start up company, Seek Vehic, which they manage with the help of some college students.

Through the app, they plan to revolutionize the ridesharing industry and oppose the powerhouses such as Uber and Lyft. To learn more about Anthony's company visit them at www.seekvehic.com.



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5K RUN/WALK FOR A BETTER US TO SUPPORT THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA

The Gateway Family YMCA is inviting the community to support their cause at a Fundraiser 5K Run/Walk hosted by Generosity Series on Sunday, June 5, in Oak Ridge Park – 136 Oak Ridge Rd., Clark, NJ 07066. To register as a participant, volunteer or supporter, visit www.generosityseries.com/tgfymca

The 5K event is part of the Generosity Series and will include other local non-profit organizations as well as The Gateway Family YMCA. Registration is \$20 per person and each participant commits to raising a minimum of \$200 for the YMCA Annual Support Campaign, to directly benefit Financial Assistance for members of the local community.

Dedicated to building a healthy community, The Gateway Family YMCA provides free Diabetes screening programs, a Diabetes

Prevention Program and LIVESTRONG at the YMCA, a free program for cancer survivors. The Gateway Family YMCA provided over \$690,000 in financial assistance for programs, services and membership in 2015.

In addition to the 5K Run/Walk, the YMCA will be kicking off a seasonal raffle at the event, including big-ticket prizes, all to support the Annual Support Campaign. "Everyone is invited to cheer on our members, staff and supporters as they participate in the 5K, and celebrate together after," added Danielle Cioffi, District Executive Director.

For more information, or to register for the 5K Run/Walk for a better us, visit www.generosityseries.com/tgfymca. For more information on The Gateway Family YMCA, visit www.tgfymca.org.



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COMMUNITY GARDEN HAS A NEW ADDITION

The Union Community Garden has a new addition in the corner of the butterfly garden. The garden is located at the Eleanor R. Erickson Park on Liberty Avenue in Union NJ. The entrance is directly across from Bancroft Ave.

Please welcome our awesome new pollinators, the mason bees. Mason bees are solitary bees and because they have no hive to defend, they are very unlikely to sting (they are not aggressive at all - you'd have to actually step on them or squish them). And if they do sting, it's about as bad as a mosquito bite and does not produce the severe anaphylactic reaction that honey bees have.

Unlike honeybees (which were brought over by European settlers) mason bees are native to the U.S. and are much better pollinators too. We're hoping having these gentle bees around will help our garden grow better than ever!

Mason bees are spring bees, so in June they will be replaced with leafcutter bees, which are active in the summer. Like the name implies, they do cut leaves to make their nests but don't worry, they won't harm the plants. They take just as much as they need. Also solitary and not aggressive, the leaf cutters will continue to help

us with our pollination after the mason bees are done for the year.

Check out this informative page on mason bees. And if you want, you can learn how to host them in your own back yard!

crownbees.com/learn-mason-bees



(right) The wooden block is for bees to nest in.

Each bee will pick one hole and stick with it until it's full of eggs. The reeds are just to make it more visually interesting for them.

The blue cloth is doused with mason bee attractant, to help them stay (and maybe attract some wild ones). The little cardboard box is full of bee cocoons. In the back is a cotton ball soaked in sugar water so they have some food for when they first awaken. They're tired and hungry after not eating all winter!

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UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Main Library is located at
1980 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083.
For more information call 908-851-5450.

ADULTS

ADULT COLORING CLUB

(New Time)

Wednesdays - May 18, 10:15-11:15am.

Coloring is no longer just for kids, relax and de-stress.

OFF THE SHELF BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Thursday, May 19 at 7pm

Our book selection this month is We Are Our Mothers' Daughters by Cokie Roberts. Please contact the Reference Desk at the Main Library for help in obtaining the book.

MOVIES FOR ADULTS: TUESDAYS AT TWO

Tuesday, May 17 at 2pm Joy

(2015, rated PG-13, 124 minutes).

Admission is free and doors open at 1:50pm. Elevator access available.

LIBRARY LOGO CONTEST

Deadline Extended! Through May 15, 2016

What does the library mean to you? Help design a new logo for the Union Public Library.

"Like" us on Facebook

facebook.com/UnionPublicLibraryNJ/ for more information, check our website www.uplnj.org or stop by the Reference Desk. Original design submissions accepted via email to: unionpl@uplnj.org

WRITE YOUR MEMOIR 5 MINUTES AT A TIME

Monday, June 6 at 7pm

Thinking about writing your own story, but don't know how to get started? Join us for a hands on workshop presented by Dr. Edvige Giunta, Professor of English at NJ City University.

This program is funded by the Horizons Speakers Bureau of the NJ Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

FAMILY MOVIES

Goosebumps

Monday, May 9 at 7pm

(2015, rated PG, 103 minutes)

Cinderella

Thursday, May 26 at 7pm

(2015 live action, rated PG, 105 minutes)

CHILDREN ACTIVITIES

Bedtime Story and Craft

Thursday, May 5, 7:30-8pm

Color your own night-light. Wear your PJ's.

Mother's Day Story and Craft

Saturday, May 7, 11am-12:30pm

Make a card for Mother's Day

Lego Club

Tuesday, May 17, 5-6pm

Memorial Day Story and Craft

Saturday, May 28, 11:30am-12:30pm

Color the American Flag

VAUXHALL PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Vauxhall Branch is located at 123 Hilton Avenue, Vauxhall, NJ 07088.

For additional information call 908-851-5451.

ADULTS

TAI CHI – FREE EXERCISE PROGRAM FOR

MATURE ADULTS

Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 from 12:30-1:30pm

Wear sneakers & comfortable clothing. Space is limited.

Sign-up required.

HILTON READERS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, May 23, 2016 6-7:45pm

This month's selection is "The Dinner" by Herman Koch. 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

CLUB TEEN: CLOSING CEREMONY

Wednesday, May 18, 6-7 pm.

"Putting the Pieces Together". Sign-up required.

TWEEN MOVIE

Tuesday, May 26, 3:30-5:15pm

The Good Dinosaur (2015, Rated PG, 101 minutes.)

Vauxhall Branch Library

May 2016 Page 1 of 2

KIDS

BEDTIME STORY AND CRAFT

Wednesday, May 11, 7-7:30pm

Ages 8 and under with parent/guardian

Wear your PJ's and bring your favorite stuffed toy as you get ready for sweet slumber. Sign-up required.

PRESCHOOL GAME DAY: Bingo

Tuesday, May 17, 11-11:45am

Ages 3-5 with parent/guardian. Sign-up required.



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JUST FOR TEENS VOLUNTEER AT THE LIBRARY!

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Volunteer Meeting

Tuesday, May 10 @7pm

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Join the Teen Advisory Board!

If you have ideas, help us create the teen library programs that you want to see. Earn community service hours and enjoy snacks.

UHSPAC WINS BIG AT HERITAGE FESTIVAL IN WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

The students and staff of the Union High School Performing Arts Company recently traveled to Williamsburg, Virginia to compete in the National World Strides Heritage Festival. World Strides Onstage programs aim to fuel the passion of aspiring artists of all ages by providing world-class performance opportunities in music, drama, and dance. Groups competing for the UHSPAC were the Swing Choir, Symphonic Band, Indoor Color Guard, and Marching Band. Ensembles from across the USA competed over two days ending with an awards ceremony at Bush Gardens Parks.

Overall, there were twenty-two choral and twenty instrumental ensembles competing, with the UHSPAC ranking at the top of the pack. The UHSPAC show choir lead the groups finishing with a Gold/Superior Rating, the highest score of the entire competition giving them the title of Best Overall Choral Ensemble. Their fifteen minute show, comprised of the music of Earth, Wind and Fire was a hit with the judges, earning them the adjudicator award. Swing Choir Director James Mosser shared, "The Swing Choir is a great opportunity for our students. They get to apply the skills they have been learning in production and apply it to more main stream material like Earth, Wind and Fire. They work very hard with Melissa Abbate, our musical director to master they style and harmony. The competition is an excellent opportunity for students to share their work with other students who do the same thing as them from across the country. We

are extremely proud of the work that they have accomplished."

The Indoor Color Guard had a strong showing with a Gold/Superior rating, and the adjudicator's award as the judges favorite ensemble. The symphonic band and the marching band finished with Gold/Superior and Silver/Excellent respectively.

Director Laura Muller added "We are fortunate here in Union. Our performing arts students represent their school with such pride and enthusiasm. The efforts they put into their competitive performances are what set them apart. I am so proud of not only how well they performed, but how they carried themselves, and their enthusiasm for sharing the performing arts with others. It is wonderful to bring home awards, but even better when they can share their joy with others. I would also like to take a moment to thank all of our chaperones and the UHSPAC parents for continuing to support us."

Here are all the results:

UNION HIGH SCHOOL SWING CHOIR

- Gold- Superior Rating
- Adjudicator Award
- Best Overall Choral Ensemble

SYMPHONIC BAND

- Gold- Superior Rating
- 2nd Place

INDOOR COLOR GUARD

- Gold- Superior Rating
- Adjudicator Award

MARCHING BAND

- Silver- Excellent Rating





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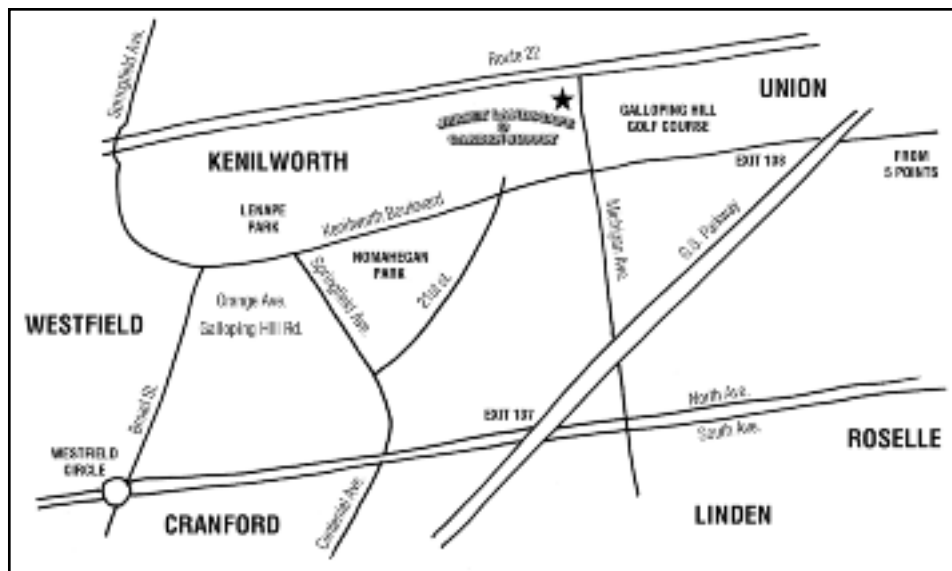
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