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LINDA FULLER SWORN IN AS FOSTER CHILD ADVOCATE

Union County Superior Court Judge Daniel R. Lindemann recently administered oaths to 16 Union County residents — among them Linda Fuller of Berkeley Heights — to serve as extra eyes and ears for Family Court judges on cases involving abused, neglected or abandoned children currently in foster care. This marks the 30th training class since Court Appointed Special Advocates of Union County began in 2005. A 17th volunteer was sworn in at a later date.

The new CASA volunteers completed 30 hours of training over six weeks. After performing the oath, Judge Lindemann stepped off the bench and thanked each advocate for committing to serve children in need of a voice. A member of the nonprofit's board participated, and each new advocate was provided a commemorative pin and certificate. During a celebratory luncheon that followed, advocates were matched to their new case. Before starting that work, though, they observed court proceedings to see other CASA volunteers in action. Already, most are in the trenches, working their cases and making inroads for their assigned youth.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds and experiences make successful advocates, and this class is no exception: Ages

range from 33 to 80 and include parents, empty-nesters and non-parents; careers include health professionals, school personnel, attorneys and stay-at-home parents. Several experienced abuse in their own childhoods, and one was a CASA years ago who returned to help another child now that her schedule allowed. 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 time spent with the youth. Volunteers advocate both in the community and court to ensure their youth's needs are met and time in care is as short as possible. There are 600 Union County children in foster care; CASA of Union County provides advocates for approximately one-quarter of those and its mission is to provide an advocate for every child that needs one.

The next training class kicks off Sept. 27 in Westfield. For details on that training class, or other ways to help stand up for foster children, contact Lisa at (908) 527-7048 or lporis@casaoofunioncounty.org.

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(above) Shown with CASA of Union County's Interim Director Lori Morris, far left, is the newest graduating class of volunteer advocates, Team 30. From left are Vanessa Chivers, Summit; Susan Boykin, Scotch Plains; Cynthia Galligan, Summit; Linda Fuller, Berkeley Heights; Delores Perkins, Roselle; Caroline Parker, Elizabeth; Erica Sack, Summit; Sharyn Perlstein, Springfield; Kristin Sanborn, Summit; Anne Koons, Westfield; Nicole DellaVecchia, Cranford; Tracy Forsyth, Summit; Janice Fusaro, Westfield; Lorraine Loza, Kenilworth; and Bev Luehs and Ellen Moore, Summit. Not shown: Tawana Love of Linden, sworn in at a later date.

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BARK-A-QUE TO FIND DOGS FOREVER HOMES

Non-profit organization Home for Good Dog Rescue will launch its Sixth Annual “Bark-a-Que,” a celebration of the 4,500 dogs the organization has rescued since its inception in 2010, on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 11 AM to 4 PM on the Village Green in Summit, NJ.

The event, which is open to the public, features food and merchandise vendors, family activities, dog contests, including the annual Mr. and Mrs. Bark-a-Que Costume Contest, on-site prizes and raffles, and live music by New York-based rock, funk, and soul band Deep C Revival.

“The support of our local community is really what allows us to keep doing what we do,” Rich Errico, Home for Good’s co-founder and treasurer, said. “And for the past six years, this fun-filled day has been our way of welcoming all our friends and neighbors back to celebrate the successes they helped create!”

For families seeking to welcome a dog of their very own into their homes, the annual Bark-a-Que also hosts Home for Good’s largest adoption event of the year, with last year’s festivities placing nearly 30 dogs in loving permanent households.

“It’s always so wonderful to see our dogs go home with families who really love them,” volunteer Anna Newmark said. “After working with so many of these pups and getting to see their journeys, I always look forward to seeing Bark-a-Que create so many more happy endings!”

Along with inviting the local community and



potential adopters for a day of family fun, Bark-a-Que also reunites Home for Good’s southern and local foster families with the dogs they looked after prior to adoption.

“Our foster program is truly our cornerstone,” Foster Coordinator Susan Strell explained. “Many of these families have welcomed tens or even hundreds of dogs into their lives, and seeing them reconnect with those animals after they’ve grown so much is truly a sight to behold!”

The 100-percent foster-based Home for Good Dog Rescue is committed to rescuing dogs from high kill shelters throughout South Carolina and Georgia. Once rescued, all dogs stay in southern foster homes until they are transported to New Jersey for adoption.

For more information on Home for Good Dog Rescue, the Sixth, Annual Bark-a-Que, to see available dogs, or to apply for adoption, visit www.HomeforGoodDogs.org.

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BHYSC GALAXY SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Berkeley Heights Galaxy U12 Girls soccer team ended the 2015 – 2016 season as five time tournament champions, winner of flight 1 Mid New Jersey Youth Soccer Association in the fall, and third place team for the Jersey Area Girls Soccer League (JAGS) during the spring season. The hard work and effort of the girls, coaches, and trainers proved that a local travel team can have success against high level competition.

The Galaxy girls started the fall season strong winning in the Piscataway Soccer Club Annual Fall Classic and then clinching the New Jersey title for the President Cup. In the winter, the team won the regional Global 5's tournament (5v5). As a result of these wins, the team advanced to the regional championship for the President Cup in

Maryland and national championship for the Global 5's in Hoboken. At the President Cup, the girls placed fifth out of twelve teams from Region 1 (nine states from Virginia to Maine). Advancing to this level of competition was an honor for the girls but also motivated them to continue to work harder as a team.

In June, the team won all three games (including beating a top 15 NJ team in the finals) at the Football Club of New Jersey Summer Invitational tournament held at the Pingry School. It was their first time playing 11v11 yet the girls played with determination and grit. In July, the Galaxy girls crushed their opponents at the Pocono Cup Premier 2016 tournament to claim the championship. At this tournament, they

did not let their opponents score any goals against them by maintaining a clean sheet in all four games.

Galaxy 2015- 2016 Players: Victoria Cardiellos, Gianna Ciccimarra, Reagan DeMarco, Gillian Ham, Danielle Kang, Catherine Meisner, Julia Meisner, Lauren Paprocki, Katie Paliwoda, Abby Pereira, Allie Post, Sarah Szalus.

Guest Players: Abby Biegel, Emily Brogan, Ally Cabe, Caitlin Foti, Caroline Freer, Tess Kessler, Maddie McGowan, Mary Grace Ping, Shannon Ryan, Sam Ward.

Coaches: Kristen Cicimarra, Rick Ham, Ed Kang, Jose Pereira, Jay Post.

Team Manager: Kirsten Post.



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BH RESIDENTS NEEDED AS ADVOCATES FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Just as the kids head back to school, you may find yourself with more free time — and thrilled at the possibilities! How about changing the life of an area foster child? Train in Westfield later this month with like-minded locals and enjoy a light dinner, guest speakers and a team of trainers that equip you with all the tools needed to become a successful Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer. While many Berkeley Heights students happily settle into school routines, buoyed by active parents readying for Back to School Night, there are foster youth without that support system who face educational challenges. Your commitment to their success helps ensure access to an education that meets their specialized needs:

Five-year-old Samantha is severely autistic and almost completely nonverbal. Due to excessive violence in the family home, a concerned neighbor called for help and, after investigation, Samantha was removed from her parents' care and placed in foster care. Although primarily nonverbal, the two phrases Samantha does say graphically depict the violence she witnessed at home and confirm the trauma she

endured. Since entering care, it has become clear Samantha also is a victim of educational neglect. At age three, Samantha was entitled to an Individualized Education Plan from the Department of Education to ensure continued in-home speech and behavioral services to move her toward enrollment in a half-day educational program. Unfortunately, Samantha's parents neglected to utilize these services and she is now two years behind others her age! A CASA volunteer can advocate for Samantha's educational rights and needed services, among other things, and make recommendations to the family court judge that will ensure her best interests remain prioritized.

CASA of Union County is seeking Berkeley Heights residents to be the voice for one of the nearly 600 Union County youth, ages 0-21, in foster care through no fault of their own, as there are currently only enough volunteers to serve one-third of those youth. Trained CASA volunteers are sworn in by a judge and empowered to speak to foster parents, teachers, doctors, lawyers, tutors, therapists and more. They visit the youth regularly, incorporate

findings into court reports and attend court hearings quarterly, working to ensure best interests are considered and a safe and permanent home is secured as quickly as possible. Although not required, there is a particular need for advocates who speak Spanish.

Fall training kicks off Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2016 and includes 10 sessions over several weeks. A swearing-in at the Union County Courthouse by a family court judge and luncheon follows. Training is 6 to 9 p.m. at the County Clerk Building, 300 North Avenue East in Westfield, across from the diner. A light dinner is provided.

Attend an information session to learn more: Evening sessions are Tuesday, Sept. 6 and Wednesday, Sept. 21 at the County Clerk Building in Westfield; morning sessions are 10 a.m. Sept. 9 and Sept. 23 at CASA's offices, 1143-45 East Jersey Street in Elizabeth. Berkeley Heights residents are encouraged to contact Lisa at (908) 527-7048 or lporis@casafunioncounty.org for details or to RSVP for an information session.

HUGHES NAMED DIRECTOR OF LEARNINGRX

LearningRx in Warren is happy to announce that Ingrid Johannsen Hughes has been named the center's Director, as of August 1. Ingrid will now be responsible for day to day management of the center. Because she is an adept communicator, Ingrid will also play a bigger role in marketing and communications. Owner Mike DiCristino said, "Ingrid has been indispensable in helping the center to transition after I purchased LearningRx Warren in November, 2015. She continues to display an impressive ability to maintain and enhance the high quality service LearningRx Warren is known for, while also making the center an enjoyable and fun place to work."

About LearningRx-Warren: At LearningRx, we target and train the weak cognitive skills that make learning and life harder than it needs to be for children and adults. Our programs work on the causes, not just the symptoms, of learning struggles. We use intense mental exercises, done with a personal brain trainer, to work on the skills the brain uses to think, learn, and perform. Come to our Center and take a cognitive skills assessment. The assessment will identify the root cause of your struggle and allow us to create a brain training program that's right for you. Schedule your assessment today!

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NANCY ORI LEADS TOUR OF JERSEY ARTISTS' PHOTO EXHIBIT OF CUBA

Berkeley Heights photographer and tour director Nancy Ori, led several groups of photographers to Cuba over the past two years. She has chosen artwork from 14 workshop participants to exhibit in "Cuba: Working and Waiting" during the month of September at the Watchung Arts Center. The artists' reception will be September 11, from 1-4pm with talks beginning at 2pm. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. The arts center in Watchung is open Tues, Wed, Thurs, and Friday from noon to 5pm, and on Saturdays from 10-3pm.

Curator Nancy Ori said: "We learn a great deal by studying where we have been and the things that have challenged us and others along the way. The photographs presented in our exhibit have been collected from 14 participants who attended one of the several photography workshops that I have run in Cuba over the past two years. As a collection, the photographs paint a portrait of a group of people, symbolizing the life and spirit of their culture. The old, as well as the young are united by a look of life experience. The images reveal vulnerability and yet endurance. We were able to uncover a wonderful beauty in these observations. Many of the people featured appeared to be waiting for something, while others worked very hard using ancient tools to work the land".

"Our amazing journey around the island of Cuba included walking down dirt paths through fields of tobacco and sugar cane, meeting the farmers and photographing their homes, families and farms. It was an amazing experience of communication for everyone on both sides of the camera. We visited traditional colonial towns, with red tiled roofs and an array of pastel colored houses lining cobbled stone

streets. In Old Havana, we were overwhelmed with sights of antique American cars, children playing in the streets, views of the harbor, beautifully restored hotels or the paint peeling off dilapidated buildings. Early morning shoots allowed students to wander safely on their own to capture the sights off the beaten path. We also visited and toured Ernest Hemingway's former home."

The photographers participating in the exhibit are from all around New Jersey. They are: Ben Wolkowitz, Caryn Seifer, Bob Campbell, Jerry Dallia, Rosemarie Reinman, Denise Stagnari, Howard McGinn, Karen Bonislowski, Marilyn Menago, Frank Parisi, Rita Klachkin, Ron Stagnari, Robert Menago, Ken Curtis and Nancy Ori.

Ori has curated and juried numerous exhibits at a wide variety of locations including: The Morris Museum in Morristown; Rahway Arts Guild in Rahway, Liberty Science Center in Jersey City & Watchung Arts Center in Watchung. Ms. Ori's work has been widely exhibited in museums & galleries throughout the globe & has been chosen to participate in numerous grant projects and fine art exhibits including the prestigious New Jersey Fine Arts Annual. She is the owner of New Jersey Media Center, LLC in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey where she continues to do produce, portrait and event photography. She also enjoys teaching photography and painting workshops each year throughout the United States, New Zealand, Cuba and Europe as well as exhibiting her work. Nancy was taught by Ansel Adams and was then affiliated for many years with the Ansel Adams Workshop in California and in New Jersey. She is currently on the faculty of numerous museums and art centers as well as teaches privately.



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ATTORNEY SETTLES HOME EXPLOSION LITIGATION FOR \$975,000.00

Berkeley Heights attorney David C. Bendush announced the settlement this week of a lawsuit arising from a home explosion in Hunterdon County in September of 2014. The blast was caused by a contractor who was converting the home of his clients, from oil to natural gas. The clients were in the home with their infant daughter at the time of the explosion and fire. Davis Heating and Cooling had recently installed gas lines inside the home, and the time of the blast was attempting without success to purge the new gas lines. Large amounts of natural gas were caused to accumulate inside the basement until the gas exploded, nearly levelling the structure and knocking the clients to the ground where they stood. Mr. Bendush litigated the liability issues aggressively, and attained the unusual result of summary judgment for plaintiff on liability based on the legal doctrine of res ipsa loquitur. The defense had little choice but to settle quickly and on favorable terms, in order to avoid a trial.

The initial blast lifted the house off the foundation, blew out windows and doors, and started a fire. Although the clients were tossed about by the initial blast, they sustained no serious or lasting physical injuries, other than emotional distress. Other losses claimed included lost time from work, loss of use of their family home, and damage to portions of a comic book collection which had been stored in the basement. Evidence demonstrated that many original rare and valuable comic books and other collectibles were either partially or totally damaged in the fire.

This litigation was also unique because the homeowners insurance carrier asserted a lien of \$715,000.00 for the damages paid out on behalf of the insured (to demolish and rebuild the house, etc.) , and that lien was reduced significantly with the carrier receiving \$287,500.00 of the overall settlement, leaving the balance to compensate the homeowners for emotional distress and other losses.

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TMC'S BOUTIQUE OPENS IN NEW PROVIDENCE

TMC's Boutique, formally located in Stirling, NJ for 6 1/2 years, has brought her unique store to New Providence and invites the public to celebrate a grand opening on September 17th at 2 p.m. Located on 1259 Springfield Avenue.

TMC was created by Linda Tribuna because being an artist herself she wanted to create a unique store selling the beautiful work of both local and national artists. Since Linda was part of many art shows she asked artists she met through the years to sell in her store. During her time in the Stirling location she sold the work of over 20 local and 10 U.S. artists.

Now here in New Providence, with a much larger location, Linda is representing 13 additional artists bringing her total to 30+ local and 10 national artists. TMC's Boutique carries

(right) Linda Tribuna invites the public to meet local artists at the grand opening of her boutique located at 1259 Springfield, Avenue, New Providence on September 17th at 2 p.m.

jewelry, handbags, frames, knitwear, bottle holders, bottle openers, lighted glass boxes, pottery and so much more!



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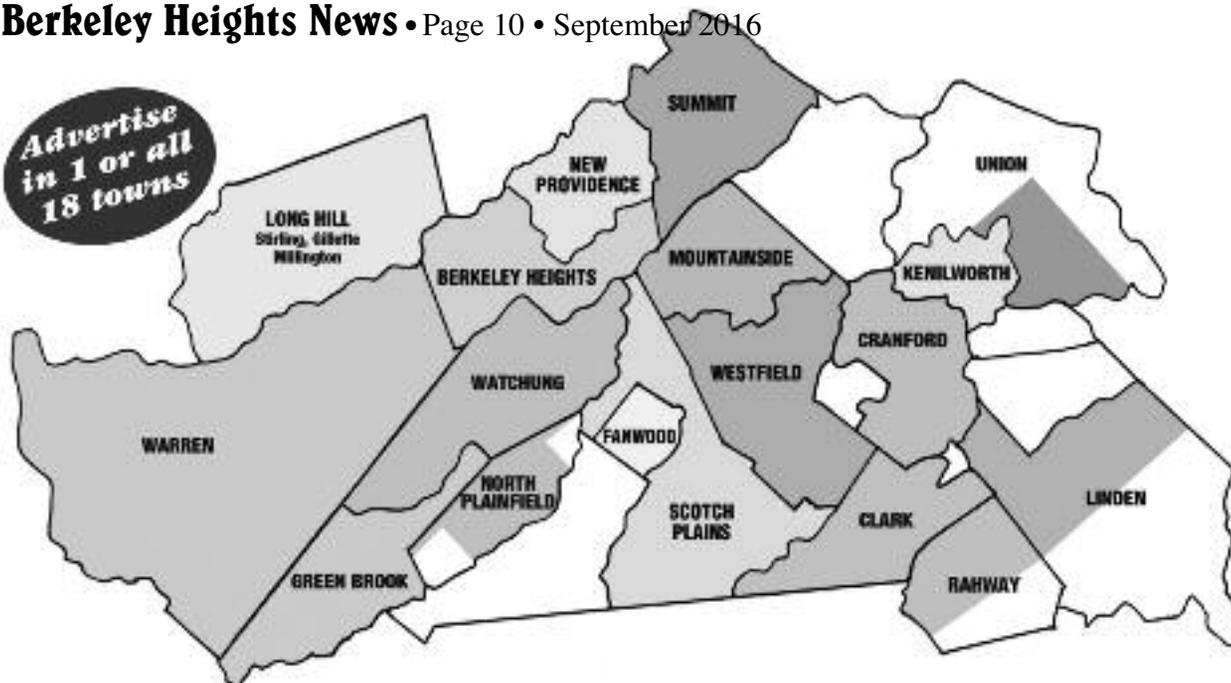
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