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Issue 15 • December 2016

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HAL DAUMÉ TO RECEIVE NATIONAL EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

Hal Daumé of Berkeley Heights will be recognized by the Boy Scouts of America with the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. Upon nomination by the Patriots' Path Council to the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, this recognition is granted to those who, after 25 years following their earning the Eagle Scout rank, have distinguished themselves in their life work and who have shared their talents with their communities on a voluntary basis.

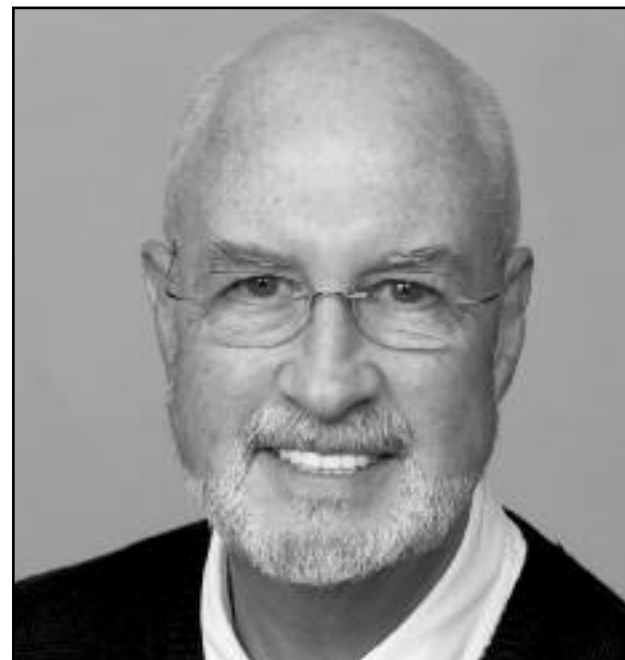
Dr. Daumé has distinguished himself through his career in marketing research and consulting, and through his continued service to God, his country, his community, and humanity by exemplifying the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

He is President of The Daumé Group, a consulting practice serving major Fortune 1000 clients throughout the U.S. and internationally. He was formerly Managing Director and Executive Vice President of Research International-USA, headquartered in New York City, and a member of the RI-USA management and operations boards of directors. Prior to this, he was principle of an independent marketing research firm in Southern California for 17 years, where he received two Marketing Success of the Year awards presented by the American Marketing Association. During that time he also taught graduate-level advertising, marketing, and marketing research courses at Cal State-LA, UCLA, and USC. Earlier corporate positions include Director of Research at Marschalk Advertising, Cleveland; VP-Communications Research and VP-Survey Division at Audits & Surveys, Inc.; and Director-Marketing Development and Director-Print Studies Division at Ipsos Worldwide-ASI, both in New York City. He began his more than 40-year career at Gallup & Robinson, Inc. and McGraw-Hill, Inc.

For the Advertising Research Foundation, a non-profit professional organization, Dr. Daumé served as seminar speaker, and ARF Market Measurements Council and ARF Futures Committee member. He has also served as Director of three separate chapters of the American Marketing Association, and as a featured speaker at the 52nd Congress of the European Society for Opinion and Marketing Research. He is a member of the Alumni Association and Metropolitan Club of Stevens Institute of Technology, and was a National Umpire and International Official at the 1996 Centennial Olympics-Atlanta.

The U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Command recognized his outreach development work with a special commendation in 1995. In Scouting, he is a 2001 recipient of the Silver Beaver Award, and the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter and the Cliff Dochterman Rotarian Scouter awards, among other significant recognitions. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout at age 15, in 1957, and the Explorer Silver Award a year later. He was inducted into the Eagle Scout Hall of Fame of the Patriots' Path Council-BSA in 2008.

The Distinguished Eagle Scout Award was created in 1969. The National Eagle Scout Association Committee, under the direction of Alumni Relations at the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America



and all of whom are themselves recipients of the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, selects all recipients. As of 2015 only 2,150 nominations from among over one million Eagle Scouts who earned the rank 25 years prior have ever been approved.

For more information on the National Distinguished Eagle Scout Award and the Scouting program nationwide and locally, go to visit www.ppcbsa.org or call (973) 765-9322.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP BLOOD DRIVES

New Jersey Blood Services, a division of New York Blood Center, which supplies blood products and services to 60 hospitals throughout the state, is in need of volunteers at blood drives. The blood service volunteer is an integral member of the collection team whose task it is assist donors with registration, escorting and canteen duties, and to watch for post donation reactions. Volunteers should have the ability to relate to the public, be able to perform different jobs as needed and have the willingness to follow the rules. For additional information contact, Manager of Community Relations, R. Jan Zepka at 732-616-8741 or rzepka@nybloodcenter.org.

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Berkeley Heights News is published by Renna Media. 4,800 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Berkeley Heights.

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HOLLYWOOD HEADLINES

NAME THE MOVIES THAT FEATURED THESE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

Headlines appear on 19 newspapers published by Renna Media

1. Berkeley Heights News
CANDIDATE KANE CAUGHT IN LOVE NEST WITH "SINGER"

2. Clark Monthly
VITO CORLEONE FEARED MURDERED

3. CRANFORD MONTHLY
KRIS KRINGLE KRAZY? KURT KASE KOMING "KALAMITY!" KRY KIDDIES

4. Fanwood Post
GALLAGHER KEY SUSPECT IN DIAZ DISAPPEARANCE

5. Green Brook Gazette
CLOCK TOWER STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

6. Kenilworth Business Life
KENILWORTH LIFE SOPHOMORE DIES IN KILN EXPLOSION

7. LIFE IN LINDEN
JOHN HAY FORREST KILLED IN ACCIDENT

8. Long Hill LEADER
PRESIDENT DECORATES HARRY BAILEY

9. MOUNTAIN SIDE VIEW
PENGUIN FORGIVES PARENTS

10. New Providence NEWS
THIRD GOLDEN TICKET FOUND

11. The PRIDE of North Plainfield
APOLLO CREED TRAINS FORMER RIVAL

12. OUR TOWN
ALIEN STOLE MY HUSBAND'S SKIN!

13. Scotch Plains
INCREDIBLE RESCUE AT SEA

14. Summit Times
STORM OVER "CRIME CURE" BOY

15. Spirit of UNION
ROXIE ROCKS CHICAGO

16. WARREN MONTHLY
WHO'S THAT GIRL?

17. Watchung Post
CAPED WONDER STUNS CITY

18. Westfield Monthly
NAME JOHNNY FRIENDLY AS WATERFRONT MURDER BOSS

Answers can be found at RennaMedia.com

- Berkeley Heights News
- Clark Monthly
- Cranford Monthly
- Fanwood Post
- Green Brook Gazette
- Kenilworth Business Life
- Life in Linden
- Long Hill Leader
- Mountainside View
- New Providence News
- The Pride of North Plainfield
- Our Town Rahway
- Scotch Plains Monthly
- Summit Times
- Spirit of Union
- Warren Monthly
- Watchung Post
- Westfield Monthly
- Peterstown Newspaper

Have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Thank you,
Joe and Tina Renna

ATTORNEY SETTLES HOME EXPLOSION LITIGATION FOR \$975,000.00

Attorney David C. Bendush announced settlement 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 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. The defense had little choice but to settle quickly and on favorable terms, in order to avoid a trial.

LAW OFFICE OF DAVID C. BENDUSH, ESQ. www.berkeleyheightslawyer.com



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BERKELEY HEIGHTS ROTARY CLUB'S PURSES FOR PROGRESS

The Berkeley Heights Rotary Club was recently visited by Adriana Camunas, Kean University student and a founding member of the Rotaract student service club there, with her grass-roots idea, Purses for Progress. Adriana is collecting gently used purses and personal products for homeless women throughout northern and central New Jersey. When she discovered that many homeless women die of diseases due to lack of access to cleansing products as simple as soap and toothpaste, she made up her mind to change this. The purses and products are donated by a variety of civic organizations including many Rotary Clubs in the area. Her dad disinfects all purses first, and then Adriana fills them with small, travel-size products for cleanliness and delivers these to homeless shelters. The Berkeley Heights Rotary Club's members brought a bevy of items and purses to lend a hand, and will be collecting more for this Rotaract Club over the coming holiday season.

For further information contact club member Stephanie Bakos at 908-963-9092 or sbakos@bhplnj.org. To learn more about Rotary go to BHRotary.com.



(above, l-r) Stephanie Bakos, Purses for Progress Champion; Adriana Camunas; and Linda Sausville, Rotary Club President.

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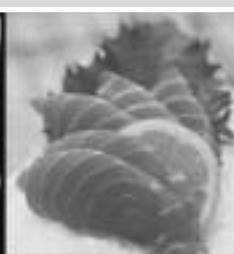
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FRIDAY - SATURDAY

Lunch 11am - 3:30pm

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

Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm

Adult\$11.59
Kids 7-10.....\$6.99
Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
2 & Under.....FREE!

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Mark your calendars and plan to join the BHEF on Friday, January 20th 2017 as we again host our Fundraiser featuring The NERDS. It will be a fun-filled night of drinks, dinner and live performances by local favorite cover band, The NERDS. The BHEF will also feature a basket raffle including 2 tickets to Hamilton. You do not need to be present to win and admission tickets and raffle tickets are available online now at www.BHedFoundation.org.

Don't miss our Early Nerd Special – starting November 14 thru December 5 – Admission tickets are reduced to \$85 per person. Prices will be \$100pp after December 5. Tickets will go quickly! Purchase yours today at www.BHedFoundation.org.

The event will feature music performed by The

Nerds and DJ Justin Klausner, Basket Raffles, a 50/50 raffle, 4 hours Open Bar, Passed hors d'oeuvres and a full buffet dinner, free valet parking and a fun time for all. It's a great deal, tons of fun and you will be supporting a great cause at the same time.

The BHEF is a nonprofit, volunteer fundraising organization that, for over 20 years, has helped provide innovative hands-on educational programs and cutting edge technology to students across all six schools in Berkeley Heights. We work to enhance educational excellence for all students in Berkeley Heights. To learn more about the BHEF, how you can get involved and how you can donate to our organization, please visit www.BHedFoundation.org

AUDITIONS FOR NOEL COWARD'S BLITHE SPIRIT

CDC Theatre, New Jersey's oldest continuously operating community theatre will hold auditions for Noel Coward's Blithe Spirit on December 12 and 13 at 7pm. All auditions and rehearsals will take place at the theatre's home at 78 Winans Ave., Cranford, NJ. The production is scheduled for February 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 2017.

Winner of the 2009 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Revival, the smash comedy hit of the London and Broadway stages, this much-revived classic from the playwright of Private Lives offers up fussy, cantankerous novelist Charles Condomine, re-married but haunted

(literally) by the ghost of his late first wife, the clever and insistent Elvira who is called up by a visiting "happy medium", one Madame Arcati. As the (worldly and un-) personalities clash, Charles' current wife Ruth is accidentally killed, "passes over", joins Elvira and the two "blithe spirits" haunt the hapless Charles into perpetuity.

Additional information can be found by visiting www.cdctheatre.org. Funding has been made possible in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts, Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs.

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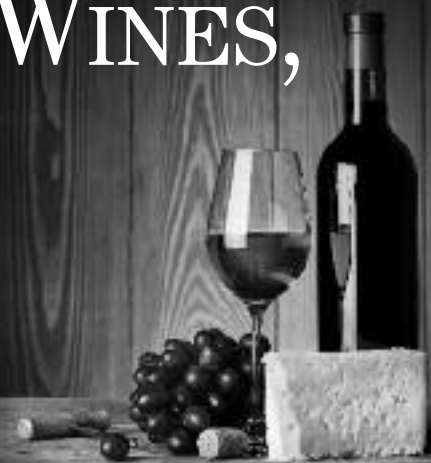
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RESCUE SQUAD CADETS SEEK SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS VETS

The Berkeley Heights Volunteer Rescue Squad Cadets have teamed up with Backpacks for Life to support our homeless veterans. Backpacks for Life is a new non-profit group that aims to provide homeless veterans with the basic life essentials that they cannot provide for themselves. With each backpack, they not only provide the homeless veterans with daily essentials, but also give the veterans hope and resources for the future.

How can you help? Donate these items for the backpacks: Toiletries: toothbrush, toothpaste, wipes, soap, hand sanitizer, shampoo, conditioner, lip balm, first aid kits, tissues, body powder and deodorant.

Also, you can choose to send a tax-deductible donation of \$25 for the purchase of one-full

backpack. Checks payable: "Backpacks For Life," and mail BHVRS, Cadet Committee, 378 Snyder Ave., Berkeley Heights, 07922.

Items can be dropped off at inboxes at the following locations:

Any of the Berkeley Heights Public Schools
Berkeley Heights Public Library

The following businesses: Pure Movement Dance Center at 111 Industrial Road; DeFabio Chiropractic, Spine & Sports Rehab, 308 Springfield Ave., #1; Advyzsom LLC at 335 Snyder Ave.; and ReNew Salon & Spa at 550 Mountain Ave., Gillette.

All donations are due by Dec. 16. Any questions, please contact BHVRS and leave a message for Cadet Committee at (908) 464-1141. Thank you for your support.

2016 LEAF PICK-UP PROGRAM

Curbside pick-up of leaves by the Department of Public Works will be held for eight (8) weeks this Fall. The pick-up will end Friday, December 16th, 2016. Residents can direct questions to the Department of Public Works at 908-464-2700 extension 2123, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

NEW 2016 PROCEDURES

1. Leaves must be placed in Paper Biodegradable Bags Only.

No plastic bags or open containers will be accepted. Bags are to be left at the curblin and should not be placed in the street (gutterline). This will allow proper storm water flow and will not impede street cleaning. Leaves are not to be raked into the street.

2. Department of Public Works employees will pick up All paper Biodegradable Leaf Bags left at curbside. DPW crews will return for subsequent pick-ups once the remaining four sections are completed. Pick-up will be continuous until the end of the program.
3. Residents are reminded that the Paper Biodegradable Bags must contain Leaves Only. No trash, branches, twigs, or brush

will be accepted in bags. Bags found to contain this material will be rejected.

4. Due to new collection procedures, please place brush

(NO LOOSE LEAVES !) such that it is accessible to be picked up by large equipment from the street. The largest size branches shall be limited to four (4) inches in diameter. Lumber, building materials, leaves, roots, stumps, briars, vines, decayed branches and other debris which can damage the equipment will not be accepted. Material of this nature will be left for your disposal. Residents are advised to place at curbside only the wood items listed above. There have been instances where metal items such as posts, wire and metal bands were found mixed with the brush. This can cause severe injury to employees and damage to equipment. Should metal or other unsuitable material be found, the pile will be rejected.

5. Only one collection of branches will be made. In order to minimize co-mingling of leaves and branches, resulting in higher disposal costs, branches will only be collected once. Residents are advised to get their branches out for the October 24th start of the program.

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DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Sunday Eucharists at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Eucharists at 12:15 and 7:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE
December 24-Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. Children's Service of Lessons and Carols
6:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist with Soloists
8:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist with Sanctuary Choir,
Bells and Instrumentalists

DECEMBER 25
Nativity Eucharist and Carols at 10:00 a.m.

JANUARY 1, 2017
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On December 13, Boy Scout Troop 368 of Berkeley Heights is inviting all boys in grades 5-12 to check out the exciting experiences on offer with the Boy Scouts – no prior experience required! Boys from the Troop will be on hand to talk about past and upcoming real-life adventures that Troop 368 Scouts have experienced, from SCUBA diving in the Bahamas to rafting the Grand Canyon, from zip-lining through the Costa Rican jungle, to backpacking in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, to rafting and spelunking in West Virginia.

"Where else can you watch whales breaching, sit atop a Green Monster, tread in the footsteps of Paul Revere, read the Declaration of Independence at the site of a Revolutionary battle, sit in Teddy Roosevelt's seat, inspect grenades, wear a bomb disposal suit and try out a bomb disposal robot... all in the space of a week? Boy Scout Troop 368, that's where!", says Scoutmaster Howard Lee.

"I have seen the good that Scouting has done for generations of young men. I believe that Scouting reinforces positive citizenship in our community, nation and world," says former Scoutmaster Joe Allegra. "People think that the Boy Scouts is just some kind of camping club," says veteran and former Scoutmaster Rick Jurgens, "It's not! Our guys live the adventure – they do all kinds of cool stuff!"

Boy Scouts has always been focused on encouraging boys to be prepared – for life. Modern life is full of technology, so Boy Scouts

these days emphasizes STEM skills as just as important to know as first aid skills. In these days of hectic schedules filled with work, school, sports and other time-intensive activities, Scouting offers quality experiences that entertain, build character and teach skills that will take them into adulthood.

The Troop 368 Open House will be on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:30 PM at Mountain Park School, 55 Fairfax Drive in Berkeley Heights. Boys who attend the Open House will be able to check out the inside of an ambulance and robotics, learn more about backpacking, white water rafting and kayaking. Scouts who are also active sportsmen and marching band members will be on hand to talk about how Scouts works together with sports and helps them achieve a balance in their school life.

For more information email howard@h-lee.com or visit bhtroop368.com.





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The Berkeley Heights Public Library has the following monthly programs:

Book Group

First Friday 10:30 am - monthly

Book Group

Second Tuesday 7:30 pm - monthly

Film Night

Third Thursday 7:00 pm - monthly

Monthly lobby displays of local artists and collectors, please call us if you would like to display your art or collections.

The library also hosts workshops like our Sunday Knitting Clinic:

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Children's Storytimes

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Thursday mornings

check our website or call the library for details.

SPECIAL FAMILY PROGRAMS

with STEM and STEAM topics will be offered in 2016 and 2017:

Sports Science

Thursday, December 29, 2 – 3 pm,

by Mad Science for grades 6 and up

For details on these and other upcoming events, please check the Berkeley Heights Public Library website for details of our programs www.bhplnj.org and check our website calendar at <http://www.bhplnj.org/event-calendar/>

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SANITARY SEWER SURVEYS IN DECEMBER

Beginning in December, Berkeley Heights Sewer Department Personnel will conduct site surveys of Sanitary Sewer Easements throughout the Township. This work will include clearing overgrown areas to maintain access to the sanitary sewer infrastructure, as well as cleaning and video inspection of the underground piping. Completing this work is anticipated to have no adverse effects on sanitary sewer service to the surrounding areas, but in the event of a service disruption, please notify the Berkeley Heights Sewer Department immediately.

To complete this work, crews will be utilizing motorized and mechanical equipment, with some associated noise. While Township Residents are encouraged to partner in the care and maintenance of the sanitary sewer system

through responsible usage, residents are requested to keep children and pets away from these work areas during the activities.

Sanitary Sewer Easements are located in various neighborhoods throughout the Township where underground piping is located in backyards, or natural areas. These are identifiable on a residential property survey, or on Municipal Tax Maps. Further, permanent structures such as swimming pools, children's swing sets, or sheds; that inhibit access to the underground piping are prohibited to be constructed within the confines of an easement.

For any questions or concerns regarding this, please contact: Tom McAndrew, Berkeley Heights Sewer Department Superintendent at (908) 464-5700 or Tmcandrew@bhtwp.com.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT BODY-WORN CAMERAS

www.bhpolice.org

On November 4, 2016, The Berkeley Heights Police Department began full deployment of body-worn cameras (BWCs). The department has purchased the Axon Body 2 cameras from Axon/Taser International Inc.

The department has been working on the operational, technical and legal issues associated with equipping officers with BWCs, establishing policy for officers' use of BWCs, training officers to use BWCs, store BWC data, release BWC footage and ensuring that constitutional and other legal requirements are met. The Berkeley Heights Police Department's standard operating procedures – including when an officer turns a camera on or off – are based on standards set by the New Jersey Attorney General's Office. These standards apply to all New Jersey police agencies that use BWCs.

WHY BODY CAMERAS?

- To improve public safety
- To enhance transparency, accountability and trust
- To reduce complaints against officers
- To make prosecutions more efficient and effective



WHO WILL WEAR BODY CAMERAS?

The department's plan calls for uniformed officers to wear body-worn cameras.

WHAT WILL BODY CAMERA FOOTAGE SHOW?

BWC footage is similar to footage from a cell phone camera. BWCs will be mounted to an officer's uniform (the chest or shoulder area). The cameras will point away from the officer and will capture images in the camera's field of vision. Citizens who interact with police officers will be recorded on body camera footage. BWCs are also equipped with audio.

LIMITATIONS OF BWC FOOTAGE

Body-worn camera footage is a useful tool in providing clarity about police interactions. However, camera footage cannot provide all the information needed to make a fair and accurate judgment about police activity. Footage is part of a thorough investigation; it does not replace a thorough investigation. Limitations of BWC footage include:

- The camera does not necessarily reveal what the officer perceived or what was in his mind. The camera does not follow the officer's eyes; see exactly what he sees, or record physiological and psychological stress that may affect the officer's perceptions.
- The camera cannot record sensory cues (such as physical resistance or tension), only visual cues.
- In low light, the camera may see more clearly than a human being.
- Cameras record two-dimensionally. This means viewers may not be able accurately to judge distances from footage.

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THIRD UNION COUNTY DAY OF PRAYER DRAWS NEARLY 600

At a time when the nation is gripped by divisiveness and intolerance for those who differ from us is worn by many like a badge of courage, nearly 600 people from all walks of life came together for the Third Annual Union County Day of Prayer, held October 6 at The Parish Community of St. Helen in Westfield.

"Day of Prayer and Reflection: Honoring People of All Faith Communities" drew speakers and readers from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh faiths. They were joined by people of all races and nationalities, as well as more than 100 people with disabilities. The event featured prayers, meditations and songs.

The Annual Union County Day of Prayer is planned and orchestrated each year by the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council, an organization comprising interfaith congregations and community-based nonprofits, including Community Access Unlimited (CAU). The council promotes inclusion of all people within the community and creates a clearing house of faith-based, nonprofit and government community services available to the public while bringing greater awareness of these services to the wider community, according to Sid Blanchard, CAU executive director.

"In these times when families are being rendered asunder, when communities are being torn apart, when someone who is different is being rejected, it is essential to come together," Blanchard said.

Rabbi Joel Abraham of the Temple Sholom in Scotch Plains said, "I think it's important to stand

with people of other faiths whenever possible. Especially now when there is a force of division...we want to reach across the pew and see how we are more alike than different yet also celebrate the ways we are different."

Reverend Cynthia Cochran-Carney of the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains, said, "There are many misunderstandings in our country about different faith groups, many stereotypes. I want to promote the vision we are all called by God and need to respect each other."

The Venerable Klint Kaevalin from the Buddhist Dhammakaya Meditation Center in Fanwood, said, "It's nice when we can come together and share peace and have a true commonality that we want to have goodness in the world."

Dr. Mohammad Ali Chaudry of the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge said, "Interfaith cooperation is critical for not only the Muslim community but all communities. I've been talking about how to confront and counter bigotry. I will know I am making a difference when I see a Muslim say something hateful about another group and another Muslim stand up and say, 'That's not right.' When a Jew says something hateful and another Jew says, 'That's not right.' And a Christian and so on."

Chaudry encouraged everyone in attendance to sign a pledge to "stand up for the other" that reads: "While interacting with members of my own faith or ethnic community, or with others, if I hear hateful comments from anyone about members of any other community, I pledge to

stand up for the other and challenge bigotry in any form." The pledge form is available online at www.standupfortheother.org.

"If you hear something hateful and bigoted, if you don't speak out they'll think you agree with them," Chaudry said. "If we can all take enough of a stand speaking out that that's not right, we can make a difference."

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, providing supports in areas including housing, vocational skills and life-skills training, education, advocacy and recreation.

About Community Access Unlimited

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 37th year in 2016, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil right. CAU currently serves more than 6,000 individuals and families, with the number served growing each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908.354.3040, online at www.caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



(above) Members of the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council and other invited speakers at the Third Annual Union County Day of Prayer.

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CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA!

On Saturday, December 10th at 7pm at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, New Jersey Festival Orchestra, under the baton of David Wroe, kicks off the holiday season with a bang and plenty of bling with Home for the Holidays, a family festival of traditional and contemporary songs and music, sing-alongs and more guaranteed to make the season merry.

This year's concert features special guests The Three Holiday Tenors who are set to dazzle and captivate with a beautiful selection of renowned tenor classical fare to welcome in the holidays. Their performances of a host of traditional carols and wintertime curiosities are also sure to delight.

"We are thrilled to welcome these gifted tenors to help us celebrate the Holiday season," said Maestro David Wroe. "We believe they will bring something for everyone. Our program is a vessel for children, parents, grandparents and friends -- indeed the entire community -- to come together through music at this unique time of the year."

American tenor Cody Austin has been lauded as one the most promising singing actors of his age. A 2009 graduate of the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, his voice has been described as "warm and rich ... produced with an evenness that's rare." Mr Austin has already undertaken a variety of leading roles in opera houses throughout the United States including the Duke in Verdi's Rigoletto for Opera Santa Barbara, Alfredo in Verdi's La Traviata for Pittsburgh opera, Virginia Opera and Utah Opera, Lensky in Eugene Onegin for Des Moines Metro Opera and Don Jose in Carmen for Shreveport Opera. He was recently featured as tenor soloist with Peter Nero and the Philly Pops in a program entitled 'The Great American Tenor'

Rising tenor Limmie Pulliam has been praised for his captivating stage presence and his "stentorian yet beautiful" voice. A former artist-in-residence with Cleveland Opera, Opera Delaware and Opera Memphis, his recent engagements include multiple appearances Delta Symphony Orchestra, a much acclaimed performance with Vashon Opera as Canio in I

Pagliacci and a lauded debut at the Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice as the title character in Verdi's masterpiece Otello. He also recently presented a series of concerts featuring Negro Spirituals with The Concord Chorale.

Kevin Ray is praised by Opera News for his "commendable style" and abilities with "subtle coloristic nuance." An alumnus of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, the tenor recently starred in the company's new commission of Iain Bell's one-man opera, A Christmas Carol. Other recent engagements include the title role of Peter Grimes with Chautauqua Opera, Roderigo in Otello, Beadle Bamford in Sweeney Todd, and Don José in Carmen with Wolf Trap Opera. Last season, he made his Los Angeles Philharmonic debut singing Beethoven's Choral Fantasy under the baton of Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla.

This seasonal stroll of timeless classics and sentimental favorites, sure to bring joy, smiles, and distinctive holiday memories to one and all, has been made possible in part by a Union County Heart (History, Education and Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant and generous support from The Westfield Foundation.

Tickets prices range from \$28 to \$76 for adults and there is a special discount price of only \$15 for students K-12.

Tickets are also available for NJ Festival Orchestra's New Year's Eve musical celebration. This year's performance, On The Town, promises a superb revue of American musical theater classics from stage and screen and features renowned guest vocalists direct from the Broadway stage and beyond. Special discounts are available for children under 18, making this event (which starts at 7pm and ends at 9pm) a perfect way for the entire family to join together to welcome in the new year. Patrons are advised to purchase tickets well in advance as this concert has been a sell out for the past five years.

Tickets for both concerts are available on line at www.njfestivalorchestra.org. Tickets may also be purchased by calling (908) 232-9400 or visiting the office at 224 E. Broad Street, Westfield. Gift certificates are also available.

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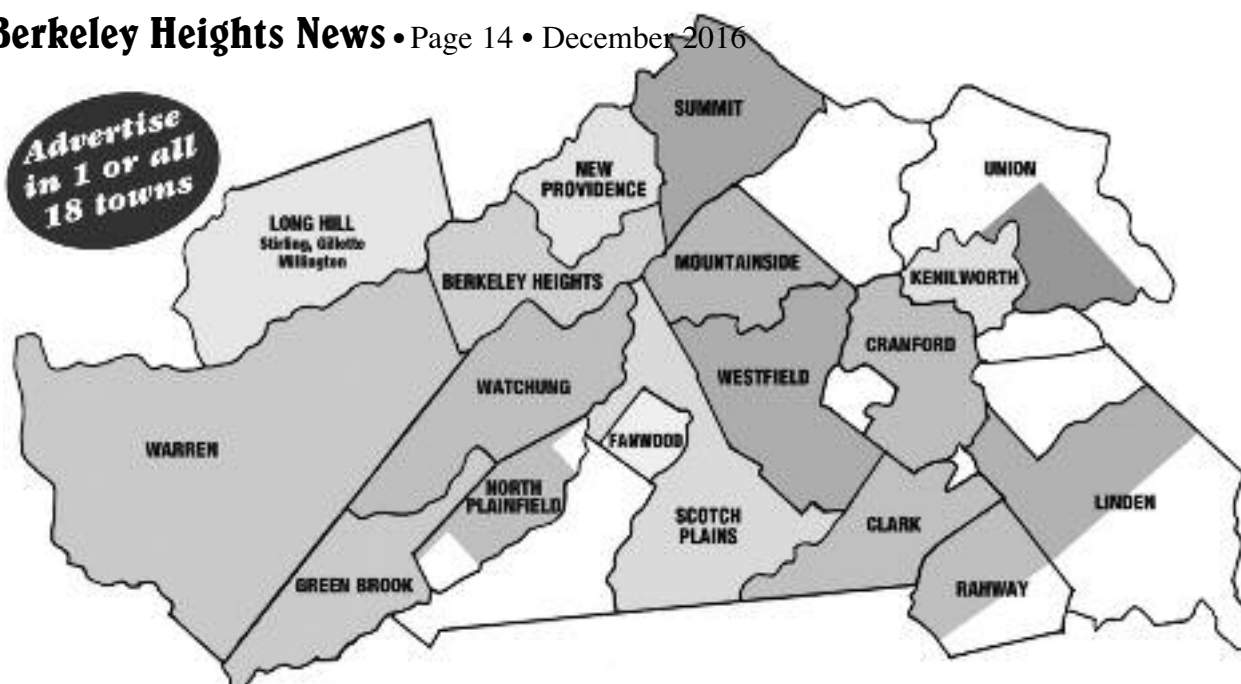
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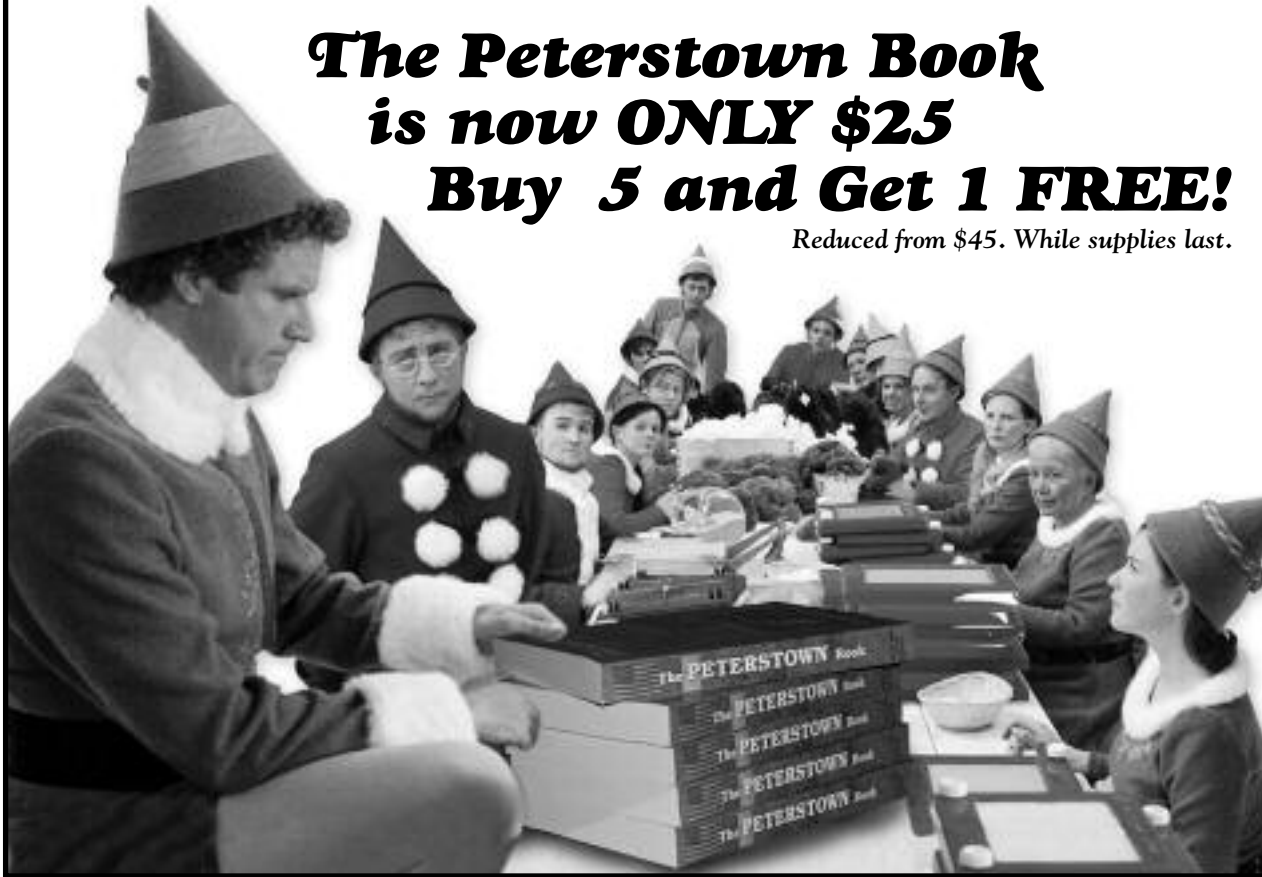
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Know the Bear Facts

Black Bears in New Jersey Bear Safety Tips.

**NJ Department of Environmental Protection Division
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- Never feed or approach a bear!
- Remain calm if you encounter a bear. Do not run from it. Make the bear aware of your presence by speaking in an assertive voice, singing, clapping your hands, or making other noises.
- Make sure the bear has an escape route.
- If a bear enters your home, provide it with an escape route by propping all doors open.
- Avoid direct eye contact, which may be perceived by a bear as a challenge. Never run from a bear. Instead, slowly back away.
- To scare the bear away, make loud noises by yelling, banging pots and pans or using an airhorn. Make yourself look as big as possible by waving your arms. If you are with someone else, stand close together with your arms raised above your head.
- The bear may utter a series of huffs, make popping jaw sounds by snapping its jaws and swat the ground. These are warning signs that you are too close. Slowly back away, avoid direct eye contact and do not run.
- If a bear stands on its hind legs or moves closer, it may be trying to get a better view or detect scents in the air. It is usually not a threatening behavior.
- Black bears will sometimes "bluff charge" when cornered, threatened or attempting to steal food. Stand your ground, avoid direct eye contact, then slowly back away and do not run.
- If the bear does not leave, move to a secure area.
- Report black bear damage or nuisance behavior to the DEP's 24-hour, toll-free hotline at 1-877-WARN DEP (1-877-927-6337).
- Families who live in areas frequented by black bears should have a "Bear Plan" in place for children, with an escape route and planned use of whistles and air horns.
- Black bear attacks are extremely rare. If a black bear does attack, fight back!

A Department of Environmental Protection podcast, which focuses on bear safety in New Jersey, can be found at www.nj.gov/dep/podcast

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