Union's Hometown Newspaper

**Issue 75 • March 2017** 

# Place Your Ad 9n This Space! A GREAT ATTENTION GRABBER

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# HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY PRESENTS: ROGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA

The enchantment and magic of Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella is coming to the Union High School stage this spring. Originally presented on television in 1957 starring Julie Andrews, this timeless tale has been entertaining audiences for decades. The original telling was watched by over 100 million people, subsequently being brought back to the format in 1965 starring Leslie Ann Warren and 1997 staring Brandy and Whitney Houston. Cinderella officially came to Broadway in 2013 with a new book by Douglas Carter Beane. Don't miss your chance to see this classic fairy tale retold live on stage March 31, April 1st, 6th, 7th, and 8th at 7:30pm and April 2nd and 9th at 2pm, at the Theater at Union High School, 2350 North Third Street, Union. Tickets are available by visiting www.uhspac.com. Student pricing will be available to all Township of Union Students with a valid Union Township ID, tickets will be available to them for \$10 at any performance, purchased in person. A group rate of \$12 will be available for sale to groups of ten or more sold for any one single performance. Regular priced tickets are \$15.

The show features Paper Mill Rising Star Nominee Crystal

**KEVIN BOYLE BASKETBALL CAMP** 

Wright in the title role of Cinderella, and NJACT Perry Award Winner, Joseph Laurino Jr. as her prince. The cast also features Leanne Laurino as the ever whimsical Marie/Fairy Godmother, Jason Rivera as the Prime Minister Sebastian, Paper Mill Rising Star Nominee Lisette Serrano as the Evil stepmother, Christopher Erdman as the revolutionary student Jean Michel, Ashley Phillips and Brianna Rivera take on the roles of Cinderella's step sisters, and Jason Yanto rounds out the cast as the Royal Cryer Lord Pinkleton. As with any UHSPAC show you can expect a talent ensemble of singers and dancers ready to share their story with you.

In addition to the show, on Sunday, April 2nd, the UHSPAC will be hosting Cinderella's Royal Reception, an event perfect for children and adults of all ages giving guests the chance to dine on the set of Cinderella and the opportunity to meet the cast! With a help from some local Union vendors such as Magic Fountain and Van Goh's Ear, Cinderella's Royal Reception is a once in a life opportunity! Choreographer Jennifer Williams shared "We are so thrilled

(Continued on Page 2)

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(above) The Cast of Union High School Performing Arts Company Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella.

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# Spiriton

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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Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

### **CINDERELLA** (continued)

to be presenting Cinderella this season. It's the perfect chance to bring our community together through this classic story that has been passed on to generation after generation. We are even more excited to host Cinderella's Royal Reception, which a great way for our young audiences to get to experience live theater, and get a chance to meet the characters they know and love!" During the show, there will also be a tricky tray featuring baskets and gifts, all proceeds from both events are used to sponsor the production as well as educational needs and scholarships for the students. For more information regarding the events, please visit www.uhspac.com.

The Union High School Performing Arts

Company continues to remain one of the strongest arts training programs for high school students in the state of New Jersey. The UHSPAC is inclusive of an award winning theater department, a nationally rated instrumental music program, and a top-notch choral music group. The Theater Department has been nominated for over 116 prestigious Paper Mill Rising Star Awards, an event that recognizes excellence in high school theater, similar to the Tony Awards. They have won 28 awards and currently hold the record for the most wins ever won by a single show for their 2015 production of Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies, winning 9 awards.

#### **SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFE MARCH SHOW**

The Salem Roadhouse Café, 829 Salem Road, Union, NJ, proudly presents Piktors Metamorphosis on Saturday, March 11, 2017. Doors open 7:30PM. The music starts at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$20.00/\$10.00 for students with ID.

For their 4th engagement at the Roadhouse Café, Piktor's Metamorphosis takes you on a journey back to the huge, solid sounds of the Jazz/Rock fusion era injecting their incredible improvisational craft.

Piktor's will be performing classic compositions spanning Pat Metheny, Return to Forever, Mahavishnu Orchestra, Jan Hammer, Barry Miles, and David Sancious & Tone. PIKTORS METAMORPHOSIS is: Neil 'NAIL' Alexander (Piano/Synths), Danny Pagan (Drums), Brian Mooney (Basses), Monroe Quinn (Guitars) Original art by local artists will be on display at the Roadhouse Fine Arts Gallery for all patrons to enjoy and purchase.

All ages are welcome. It's a wholesome show, so bring the entire family. Plan now for an evening of great music in Northern New Jersey's Most Intimate Coffeehouse<sup>TM</sup>.

#### **ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ**

Shh! The Roadhouse may be the best-kept secret in Northern New Jersey — the area's best jazz, rock, and even the occasional folkie in an intimate coffeehouse venue. The Roadhouse only

opens to the public on the second Saturday evening of the month. It's where the area's musicians go to hear other musicians, and you might find yourself sitting next to a famous jazz drummer or a vocalist from Australia. You never know.

Musicians love the audience that takes the time to find the Roadhouse, and when musicians love their audience, they play their hearts out. Why does it take time to find the Roadhouse? We've cleverly hidden it in a church basement, where audience and musicians are within touching distance of each other. The acoustics are great.

The Roadhouse serves real coffee and tea — it's a coffeehouse, not a bar, after all. Hot and cold snacks and desserts are included in the admission.

There's art, too, because art and music go together. You can sip your coffee while perusing original works available for purchase at the Roadhouse Fine Arts Gallery. Works change with each opening.

As a fun, creative, community outreach mission of the church, show proceeds always benefit local NJ charities. Admission includes the show, snacks, beverages and desserts, plus the art gallery.

Union 34TV records the shows for broadcast — so check out past shows on cable.

See the Roadhouse on Union TV Channel 34's "Union After Dark" nightly music series.



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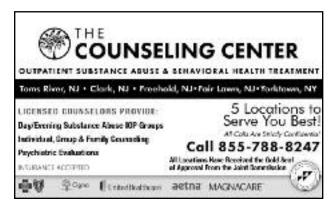














#### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HOST AUTHOR**

"Black Women's Christian Activism: Seeking Social Justice in a Northern Suburb" at 2 pm on Sunday, March 19, at Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, 888 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union. The event will be hosted by the Union Township Historical Society. This is a free event and is opened to the public. No registration is required.

Dr. Adams' talk will be based on her book of the same title. One of the women featured in the book is Violet Johnson, a domestic servant, who moved to Summit, in 1897. She was one of less than 100 black residents in a town of 6,000. Summit was then a liberal Protestant community, yet observed some race and class barriers. But Violet didn't accept the status quo. She established Fountain Baptist Church in 1898—"a seemingly moderate act" that affected more that religious services. Miss Johnson challenged thinking on gender and race and worked for an equal place for African Americans in the U.S. She was only one of many working-class activists integral to the birth of the civil rights movement.

Dr. Adams said Miss Johnson and her colleagues used their religious convictions to work for social change and helped turn New Jersey's women's suffrage movement into a "multiracial, cross-class movement" and started a statewide women's Republican club.

Dr. Adams holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University and a Master of Divinity degree from Drew University. She researched 20th-century African American/American religious and social history from gender, race, and class perspectives. She received a post-doctoral fellowship at Rutgers

Dr. Betty Livingston Adams will present University and a Ford Foundation Doctoral Fellowship. Dr. Adams was a Global Scholar at the Rutgers Institute for Research on Women and a Fellow at the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis. She serves as an Associate Minister and on the Board of Drew University's Theological School Alumni Association.



(above) Dr. Betty Livingston Adams will present "Black Women's Christian Activism: Seeking Social Justice in a Northern Suburb" at 2 pm on Sunday, March 19, at Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, 888 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union.



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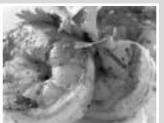
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#### FRIDAY - SATURDAY

Lunch 11am - 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm				
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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#### LITTLE RED HATS WARM HEARTS IN A BIG WAY AT TRINITAS

Trinitas Regional Medical Center is joining the American Heart Association's Little Hats, Big Hearts program to raise awareness of family heart health and congenital heart defects, the most common type of birth defect in the country. The campaign coincides with Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week in February, and aims to empower new moms to take charge of their own wellbeing while starting a healthy lifestyle for the entire family.

As part of the Little Hats, Big Hearts program, babies born at Trinitas during the week of February 7 received a red knitted or crocheted hat, and a kit full of heart-healthy information for mom and baby. The kit includes tips on raising aware that she is pregnant. Defects range in healthy children, heart-healthy workouts that can be done at home, recipes, and information on congenital heart defects.

congenital heart disease each year. At Trinitas all of our newborns receive a critical congenital heart disease screening before they go home, but there are an estimated 2 million CHD survivors some heart defects don't become known until the child is months or years old," states Gary S. Horan, FACHE, President & CEO of TRMC. "This is why we are so pleased to be part of a program that educates parents on congenital heart disease and informs them of symptoms they should look out for as their child ages."

Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week. Congenital heart defects are structural problems with the heart present at birth. They result when a mishap occurs during heart development soon after conception and often before the mother is February.

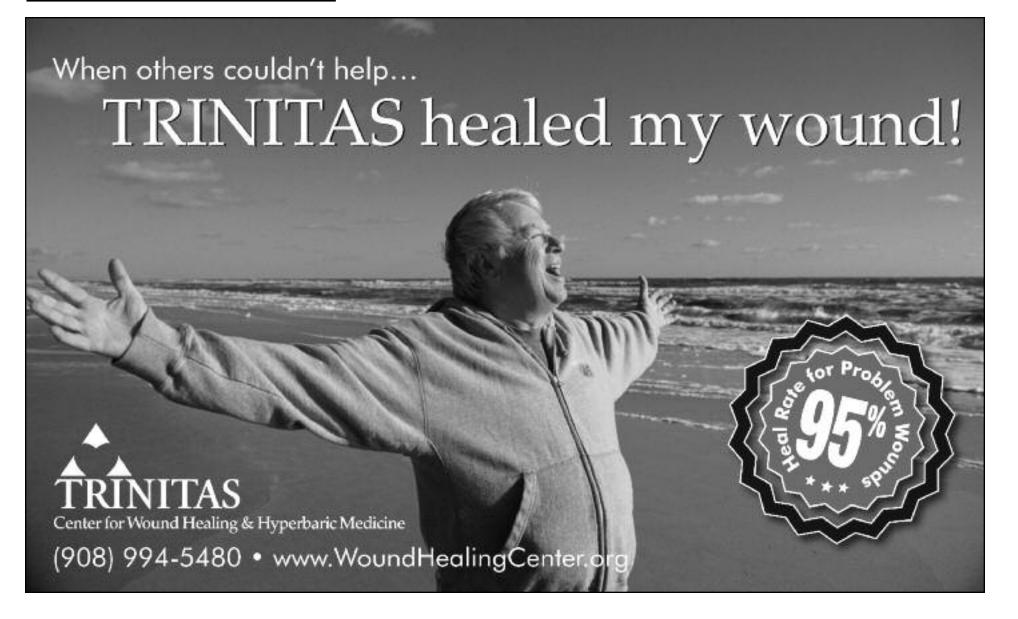
severity from simple problems, such as "holes" between chambers of the heart, to very severe malformations, such as complete absence of one "More than 40,000 infants are diagnosed with or more of the heart's chambers or valves. According to the American Heart Association, it's possible to fix most congenital heart defects and in the United States.

Trinitas maintains a full-service cardiac facility as well as facilities for the intensive nursing care of patients with cardiac disease. These include a cardiac care unit, intermediate coronary care unit, cardiac catheterization lab, non-invasive cardiology services, full-service emergency Trinitas distributed nearly 100 kits during department, and cardiac rehabilitation services. Trinitas and the American Heart Association hope to spread awareness about the advantages of a heart healthy family lifestyle to new mothers and families during American Heart Month in



(above) Babies born at Trinitas in February will receive a red knitted or crocheted hat, and a kit full of heart-healthy information for mom and baby!





# If you or someone you love is a senior, we've got something we'd like to talk with you about.

Bradley & Son Funeral Homes, Barnabas Health Home Care and Hospice, Drinker Biddle, The Mavins Group, and SAGE Eldercare have joined forces in a new educational campaign for our senior community: **Twilight Done Right**.

Our mission is to bring you the latest and most helpful information in eldercare, estate law, housing, healthcare/hospice, and funeral planning to show you how to live smart today and ensure a cherished legacy tomorrow.

Join us for a free seminar in March!

MONDAY, MARCH 6 6:30pm to 8:30pm MONDAY, MARCH 27 9:30am to 11:30am

Seminars are held in the Hickcock Room at The Summit Public Library on Morris Avenue. After the presentation, attendees are invited to walk across Cedar Street to Bradley, Brough & Dangler Funeral Home to pick up their free 40-page Twilight Planner, a gift card from Charlie Brown's, and to meet and chat one-on-one with our partners.

Find out more about Twilight Done Right by attending one of our free seminars or hosting one of your own.

RSVP at www.TwilightDoneRight.com or by calling (844) 733-6532.



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#### **UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION RECEIVES GRANT TO FURTHER MUSIC PROGRAM**

the Township of Union Education Foundation. The donation will be used to off-set the cost of a grant awarded to Marianne Deczynski and Mike Malanga, music teachers at Battle Hill Elementary School in the Township of Union, for materials for a music program that incorporates Orff instruments and drums.

According to Marianne Deczynski, "Students are able to come together to work as a team to develop skills such as listening, cooperation, focus and analyzation combining 3 different musical parts into a good performance." Susan Lipstein, President of the Township of Union

Investor's Foundation has awarded \$1,000 to Education Foundation, stated that "The Foundation appreciates the generosity of the Investors Foundation. With this donation, the Education Foundation can continue to support the teachers in our public schools. When the community works together, we can achieve so much."

> The Township of Union Education Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to raise funds for grants to teachers for creative and innovative educational programs in the public schools of the Township of Union. Follow the Education Foundation on our web site, www.tuef.org



(above l-r) Susan Lipstein, President, Township of Union Education Foundation; Donna Steinmetz, Vice-President, Investors Bank; Barbara Birger, Secretary, Township of Union Education Foundation



#### **BATTER UP WITH BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF UNION COUNTY COME JOIN** THE 2017 TEE - BALL LTTLE LEAGUE!

Do you have children ages 5 and 6 ready to any other equipment and apparel they feel being the next star on your favorite baseball team. Well it's your lucky day! The 2017 Tee – Ball League starts in April and runs until June. Practice will be held once a week with games every Saturday or Sunday depending on the schedule rotation. All games will be held on Hickory Manor Field. Children will be taught the basic skills of hitting and catching along with the rules of the game.

"We are all excited and ready for this year's annual tee-ball season," said Russell Triolo, CEO. "I hope to see some familiar faces and am excited to meet this year's new players. See you on the field!"

Uniforms are provided, which includes a tee – shirt and hat. Parents are responsible for mitts,

score home runs? Maybe you see your child necessary. Registration is open until March 15; \$75 per child with a valid BGCUC membership. Volunteer coaches are needed. For more information or an online application visit www.unionlittleleague.org or call 908-686-5722.

> 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 characterbuilding, 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 or contact us 908-687-2697.



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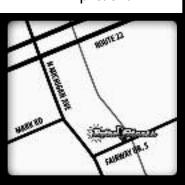
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### **PROGRAMS AT UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY (MN)**

The Main Library is located at 1980 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083. For additional information call 908-851-5450, or find us on the web at www.uplnj.org

#### **ADULTS**

#### **NEW\*\*ADULT MEDITATION CLASSES**

Thursdays from 10-11am March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Together, we will embark on a journey into
understanding our own selves. We will learn to de-stress,
relax, and explore the workings of our minds.

#### **SCORE: WOMEN IN THEIR OWN BUSINESS**

Monday, March 6 at 6:30 pm

This seminar covers this process from a woman's perspective and discusses both the unique advantages and disadvantages often faced by women entrepreneurs starting and running their own business.

Registration required.

#### **LINCOLN CENTER LOCAL PRESENTS:**

Thursday, March 9 at 1pm (run-time 2 hours)
Romeo & Juliet performed by the San Francisco Ballet.
Join us for this prerecorded film screening from Lincoln
Center Local. With its passionate choreography and
spine-tingling swordsmanship, celebrate this colorful and
emotional retelling of Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet.

### Mozart Festival performed by the Chamber Music Society

Thursday, March 23 at 1pm (run-time 1 hour)



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Join us for a second time in March for a prerecorded screening of this festive all-Mozart program, featuring the exquisite Piano Trio in B-flat major, K. 502; the charming Horn Quintet in E-flat major, K. 407, and the exuberant Viola Quintet in C major.

#### HISTORY ALIVE PRESENTS ROSA PARKS:

#### FIRST LADY OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Thursday, March 9 at 7pm

The American Historical Theatre specializing in first person living history, presents a fully staged, one woman show on Rosa Parks.

#### **MOVIES FOR ADULTS: TUESDAYS AT TWO**

March 7, 14, 21, & 28

Join us Tuesdays at 2pm for free movies. Doors open at 1:50pm and elevator access is available.

Please call the Library for specific titles and more information at (908)-851-5450.

#### WRAPPED IN LOVE KNITTING GROUP

Monday, March 13 from 6:30-8pm

Love to knit or crochet? Always wanted to learn how? Join our monthly group from the NJ sharing Network. Bring your own material or we can get you started.

Please register in advance.

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: UNION COUNTY CLERK JOANNE RAJOPPI DISCUSSES HER NEW BOOK

Tuesday, March 14 at 7pm

Northern Women in the Aftermath of the Civil War: The Wives and Daughters of the Brunswick Boys tells the story of the perseverance and stamina of women facing an altered world after the Civil War, many of whom were confronted by widowhood, burdened with returning soldiers addicted to alcoholism or drugs or strained by the care of men suffering from post-traumatic stress. A lifelong resident of Union County and former journalist, Joanne Hamilton Rajoppi is a history aficionado.

#### **OFF THE SHELF BOOK GROUP**

Thursday, March 16 at 7pm

This month's book selection will be Just Kids by Pattie Smith. New members always welcome.

#### **BLUEBERRIES: NEW JERSEY'S WONDER FRUIT**

Monday, March 20 at 7pm

Join Food Historian Judith Krall Russo to discover the history of this fascinating berry and the contributions NJ has made to its cultivation.

#### UNION COUNTY'S MOBILE AGING SERVICE KIOSK (ASK)

Tuesday, March 21 from 12-2pm

Union County's new mobile Aging Service Kiosk (ASK) will host free information events at the library on a monthly basis.

The next date will be Tuesday, April 18 from 12-2pm.

#### AARP SAFE DRIVING CLASS

Saturday, March 25 from 9:30am to 4:30pm
Registration is required and space is limited. Please call
908-851-5450 x2 to sign up. A course fee of \$15 AARP
members/\$20 non- members will be collected on the
morning of the class.

#### **CHILDREN**

#### **BABIES IN THE LIBRARY**

Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, & 22 from 10:30-10:50am

Stories, puppets, and songs for babies under 2 with parent/guardian. No sign-up required.

#### **LEGO IN THE LIBRARY**

Mondays from 3:30-4:15pm March 6, 13, 20, 27 Ages 5- up can have fun building with LEGO.

#### **TODDLER TIME**

Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21, & 28 from 10:30-11am Stories, puppets, and songs for 2-3 year olds with parent/guardian. No sign-up required.

#### PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 11:30am Ages 3-5 with parent/guardian

#### **READ TO WALDI THE DOG**

Monday, March 13 and March 20 at 4:30pm
A program for independent readers. Waldi is a certified therapy dog who loves to be read to by children.
Advance registration is required for this program and must be done by phone or in-person at the Union Public Library.

#### **TEEN TRIVIA**

Thursday, March 16 at 3:30pm

Teens in grades 9-12, come join us for teen trivia with chances to win cool prizes. Registration required.

#### **UPL PAGETURNERS:**

#### **BOOK DISCUSSION FOR 4TH AND 5TH GRADERS**

Thursday, March 16 from 7-8pm

Love to read? We will read and discuss a different book each month. This month the group will discuss Wonder by R.J. Palacio. Pick up your copy at the Children's Desk. Sign up required.

#### **TEENS**

#### TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

Friday, March 17 at 3:30pm

Teens ages 13+ help us make Union Public Library a place for you! Let us know what programs and events you want to see. Earn community service hours by coming to meetings. Sign up required.







#### PROGRAMS AT VAUXHALL BRANCH (VH)

The Vauxhall Branch Library is located at 123 Hilton Avenue, Vauxhall, NJ 07088. (908)851-5451.

#### **ADULTS**

#### TAI CHI FREE EXERCISE PROGRAM

Tuesdays from 12:30-1:30pm March 7, 14, 21, 28 For mature adults. Wear sneakers and comfortable clothing. Sign up required.

#### **SHOPRITE OF UNION**

Monday, March 13 at 7pm Join Shoprite of Union for National Nutrition Month

#### **HILTON READERS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

Monday, March 27 from 6-7:45pm

This month's book will be Glory Over Everything: Beyond the Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom. Bring dinner & beverage, dessert will be provided. Please contact Vauxhall Branch Library for help obtaining a copy of the book. All are welcome to attend, no signup required.

#### PRESCHOOL PROGRAM: READ ACROSS AMERICA

**CELEBRATION** with a special guest reader

Tuesday, March 7 from 10:45am-11:45am Children ages 3-5 and their parents/guardians. Sign-up required.

#### **PRESCHOOL GAMETIME**

Tuesday, March 21 from 11:00 am -11:45 Children ages 3-5 and their parents/guardians. Sign- up required.

#### **FAMILY DROP-IN CRAFT**

Saturday, March 25 from 2-3:00pm

Drop in to the Vauxhall Branch Library for some art making fun for children of all ages. While supplies last, No sign-up required.

#### **TWEENS AND TEENS**

#### **GAME TIME FOR TWEENS**

Thursday, March 23 from 4:00-5:00pm Ages 9-12 are welcome to try their hand at board games, card games and more! Sign up required.

#### **SOMEONE'S DAUGHTER YOUNG LADIES ACADEMY**

Saturday, March 4 from 11am - 1pm

"F.A.B." Fashion Against Bullying. First Saturday of the month through June. Young ladies in middle and high school will learn how creative solutions like fashion can be used as a tool against bullying. For more information or to register, please call (908) 937-4613 or the Vauxhall Branch at (908) 851-5451.

Sign up is required.

#### TWEEN MAKE IT @ YOUR LIBRARY: "PAPER PLATE FRISBEE" CRAFT

Thursday, March 16 from 4-5pm Children ages 9-12 are welcome to come and make a craft. Sign up is required.

#### **CLUB TEEN: "BUDGETING AND MONEY MANAGEMENT"**

Wednesday, March 29 from 6-8pm

Hey High School Students, this course is designed to introduce and discuss the importance of creating budgets and managing money wisely. Contact Vauxhall Library (908) 851-5451 for more information.

#### No sign-up required.

#### **AFTERNOON MOVIE FOR TWEENS**

Thursday, March 9 from 3-4:55pm

Join us for new Disney animated film about a spirited teenager who sails out on a daring mission to prove herself a master wayfinder and fulfill her ancestors' unfinished quest. Rated PG, 113minutes.

#### PAINT AND SIP AND SUPPORT THE LIBRARY

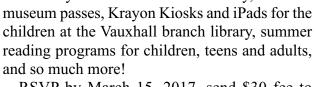
Please attend our fundraiser on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at the American Legion Hall, 3 Bond Drive, Union, New Jersey, doors open at 6:30 pm and ends at 10 pm, (but the painting would finish around 9 pm).

We will be instructed by a local art teacher on how to create a stunning picture that you will paint yourself! Bring a friend for a fun, relaxing evening.

The cost of the event is \$30. Feel free to bring your own beverages and snacks - plates, cups and napkins will be provided.

The proceeds of our fundraiser will go to continued support of the various programs being offered by the Union Public library, such as and so much more!

RSVP by March 15, 2017, send \$30 fee to Friends of the Union Public Library, 1980 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ, 07083 or visit our libraries for tickets both at the main or local branch. Please include your Name(s), total # attending, Amount enclosed (\$30 each) and make checks payable to Friends of the Union Public Library. We are a 501(c)3 organization, \$15 of your fee is tax deductible.





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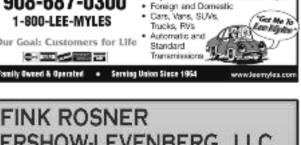
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or call Paulette at 908-241-0702 bmp@warshauer.com • Bruce Pilger 732-978-3217 donforce@aol.com • Don Gray 484-522-8537 or Facebook Donald Gray to become a friend go to Battin/Jeff/Edison 50th reunion, class of 67 Anyone who knows the whereabouts of anyone in the 1967 class please give them this information.

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#### **INFORMATION ON MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY**

To align with the Next Generation of Science Standards (NGSS), a multi-state effort to create new education standards, arranged in a coherent manner across all disciplines and grades, Township of Union School District has begun the Academy for Policy, Publishing and Debate. The program is offered to students at both Burnet and Kawameeh Middle Schools grades 6 to 8. The district's mission for the program is to supplement scientific writing, language arts, and to improve conflict resolution skills utilizing research and public debate. This will also support the benchmarks required for success in various district assessments.

The program will run on Wednesdays and Fridays, from 2:50 p.m. to 3:50 p.m., at the students respective Middle Schools. The academy officially began Wednesday, January 11, 2017 for all students who met the requirements, and will conclude on May 15, 2017.

The Academy was initially implemented by the Township's former Superintendent with the help and knowledge of Mr. Tommy Harrell, Vice Principal at Burnet Middle School, and current writer and administrator of the revamped program. Mr. Harrell worked with the former Superintendent to successfully run the academy for four years until funding issues caused it to cease. In early 2016, Central Office Administration along with Mr. Harrell began work on the first edit of the re-initiation of the program.

Students starts each day off with the following mantra: "Seeds of Greatness," a reminder to students that they are gaining the knowledge needed each day to become great. Over the course of the next five months, students will be placed into different groups to research a variety of topics they will prepare for a debate. They choose an affirmative or negative stance and write a narrative describing their views. With the guidance of the academy's facilitators and mentors, students will begin to formulate their opinions and work together to find their voice, culminating with a formal debate where both sides can present their case. After both sides have presented, the groups will then go into a rebuttal phase where the opposing side will use research

to show why their position is better. At the end of the debate session, a panel of facilitators will give feedback to each group based on the established rubric. Feedback will include areas of strengths and weaknesses and students will also be given the opportunity to give each other feedback (peer editing).

Those facilitators and mentors include current Union High School students who attended the academy while they were in middle school. In addition, industry leaders from JP Morgan Chase, Procter and Gamble, and Broadway have also signed on as mentors and educators. Students will learn about public speaking and communication skills from the likes of Actress Allison Williams as well as James Pazzaglia, Executive Director of Global Real Estate Development at Procter and Gamble in Cincinnati.

Mr. Harrell also met with educational leaders at several universities including Kean, Fairleigh Dickinson and Stockton to discuss the retooling of the program and to seek their expertise to help achieve success. Dean Claudine Keenan, Dean of Education at Stockton University was intrigued by the idea of the program and has offered to send staff members to help with the academy as well as be a panelist for the debates.

"Through the program, we are looking to instill confidence and self-assurance in our students not just academically, but also personally.

We want students to learn to research their points before making them," stated Harrell. Part of the re-initiation approach is to closely observe pre and post data to see how the students perform on the PARCC test as well as other assessments in comparison to other students.

The culminating activity for students will include a final debate for families and community leaders. There will also be an overnight stay at Stockton University where students and their mentors will engage in a debate with the top ten debaters from Burnet and Kawameeh competing. It will be competitive, but educational, and of course fun!

For more information on the academy, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Tommy Harrell directly at tharrell@twpunionschools.org, (908) 851-4693





#### **EDNA BAILEY CELEBRATED 55TH ANNIVERSARY AS DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES**

celebrated her 55th anniversary as Director of Music Ministries at Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Road in Union. It was also a celebration of her retirement.

The congregation welcomed former choir members and other guests, to celebrate and honor Edna Bailey for fifty five years of music ministry at the church. The special service featured mostly music, led by Mrs. Bailey.

Former Pastors have commented "Edna is a consummate professional, and that the church's best energies were located primarily in the Chancel".

Bailey, a New Jersey native, graduated from

On Sunday, January 29th, Edna Bailey Wyoming Seminary and Westminster Choir College. She moved to Union in 1960 with her husband James W Bailey Jr., and their daughters Sharon and Lynn.

> Soon afterwards, she accepted the position of Director of Music Ministries at Townley Presbyterian Church. In addition to serving the church, she taught vocal music in the Roselle Park school system for 25 years. She also sang for many years with the Choral Art Society of New Jersey.

> The Bailey family is a musical one - not only with daughters, but also with son-in-law Craig, grandchildren Sarah and Kyle, and Kyle's wife, Candace.



(above) It was a joy and a blessing to hear current and former choir members of Townley Presbyterian Church praise God in song, while celebrating the generous gifts of their director and friend, Edna Bailey.



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Spirit of UNION • Page 13 • March 2017

#### **REV. DR. LL DUBREUIL TO BE HONORED AS WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

It was recently announced that the Township of Union will honor Rev. Dr. LL DuBreuil as "Woman of the Year" as a part of their Women's History Month Kickoff event on March 8th at 7:00pm at Town Hall, 1976 Morris Ave.

"Rev. DuBreuil is a shining example of leadership, compassion, unity and womanhood," said Mayor Suzette Cavadas. "She is a champion of people's rights and has left an undeniable impact on our community in her capacity at Faith United Church of Christ."

The March 8th event is centered on protecting women's rights - making her honor at this event that much more appropriate, Cavadas noted.

In addition, the program will feature a keynote speech by Diane DuBrule, Interim Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, and a panel discussion featuring Elizabeth Meyer, Organizer of the Women's March on NJ; Lizette Delgado-Polanco, Deputy Political Director of the North Carpenter's Council; and Christine Sadovy, Advocacy Director of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund of NJ.

Rev. Dr. LL DuBreuil is the Pastor of Faith United Church of Christ in Union, New Jersey. She is graduate of Rutgers University and New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Dr. DuBreuil has also had careers in theater, business, and education.

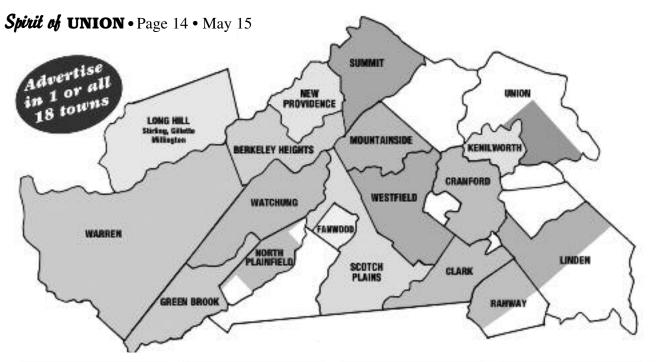
The central theme of her life has been one of service and dedication to social justice issues. She is a frequent speaker at interfaith events and public forums as a community activist and advocate.

A native of Bristol PA, Dr. DuBreuil has lived and worked in Union for over 12 years.

She is delighted to be a part of this Women's History Month celebration and is dedicated to continuing to teach and preach the importance of community and justice.



(above) Rev. Dr. LL DuBreuil of Faith United Church of Christ will be honored as Woman of the Year by the Mayor and Committee of Union during Women's History Month.



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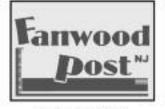
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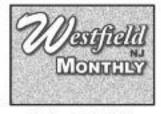
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