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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2000 - SECTION B

http://www.localsource.com

True believers

Union County Detective Robert McQuire stood at his post Saturday morning at the corner of Morris Avenue and Johnson Place in Union Township. The 40-degree cold rain wasn't going to dissuade him, knowing in two hours the St. Patrick's Day marchers would pass right by him as they had done the past three years of the parade. This special duty he loves.

In between guiding motorists off the empty Morris Avenue, giving precise directions to Joe's Pub down the street, and waving to the law enforcement officers chauffeur dignitaries to the parade route, McQuire spoke about the true believers.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

From his own childhood in attending the parade in Newark, and later bringing his own kids to watch, he knew a few basic facts. Bad weather "would never stop this parade." More practically, McQuire knew that the St. Patrick's Day Parade circuit, which started a week ago in Belmar and ends this week in New York, didn't permit rain outs.

McQuire makes the stereotype come to life. He really is the big Irish cop; big, soft spoken, laughs easily with a slew of relatives who are cops and firemen. He's the first guy you run to when you get in trouble. One local resident comes from her house to give him coffee. Later a merchant brings him warm soup. "There are still people who like cops," he remarks.

A mile or so down Morris Avenue, the dignitaries and some wet people passing by marshall at the Knights of Columbus on Jeanette Place. Even though the usual 3,000-plus parade watchers weren't going to be on Morris Avenue this day, plans proceeded at pace.

In charge of the clipboard, Mary Lou Lenahan solved problems big and small. At one point consulting with James Dougherty, number two guy at the Union County Jail and this day adjutant to the Grand Marshall, it was determined that only a unit from Mother Seton was missing from the five divisions who would march.

In morning coat attire, Dougherty switches back and forth between shaking hands like a candidate to making snap decisions like the life-long law enforcement professional that is his persona. The year of planning, cajoling and working on this event made him even more focused despite the on and off downpour. His executive decision to keep the bar open was considered especially wise judgment under the circumstances.

Lenahan from Elizabeth is a trustee of the nonprofit committee that works all year to make the event happen. "We are not canceling for any rain," she tells me. On the day Bill Gates is announcing a new family entertainment center cocon, Lenahan is speaking about the "family aspects of this event and its tradition" even for generations to yet born. Pride in heritage also needs a lot of work and education. She was doing her best.

Lenahan repeats a few times that both State Senate President Donald DiFrancisco and Woodbridge Mayor James McGreevey were invited. In fact, McGreevey does show and marches, showing off a handshaking wave that borders on perfection, even in the rain.

The freeholders, led by Chairman Dan Sullivan and Chester Holmes, also make the trek in the now considerably heavy rain. Walking alone, Assemblyman Alan Augustine seems less interested in being seen than just enjoying the give and take with the parade watchers.

Lenahan also emphasizes the presence of dignitaries from Ireland, including those from County

See RAINING, Page B2

Deer hunt thins herd by 53

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

Hunters removed 53 deer from the 2,000-acre Watchung Reservation during a two-day period last week as the fifth and final year of Union County's Deer Management Program came to an end.

The county's goal for 2000 was to remove 18 deer from the reservation but there was no upper limit, only "to remove as many deer that safely presented themselves," said Charles Sigmond, director of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The county will conduct an aerial infrared survey sometime next week to determine approximately how many deer are in the reservation. The last time an infrared survey was done was March 25, 1999 which showed 50 deer in the reservation along with 52 on the grounds of Balaurof Golf

Course in Springfield.

The survey includes a 4,600-acre study area, approximately one-quarter to one-half mile from every border of the reservation from Route 22 in Mountaintop to Mountain Avenue in Summit and from New Providence Road in Watchung to Balaurof Golf Course in Springfield.

The survey is conducted beyond the borders of the reservation because deer spend a good portion of the day in the backyards of neighboring homes, said Daniel Bernier, director of the Division of Park Maintenance. Deer migrate back and forth from the reservation to the nearby golf course, he said.

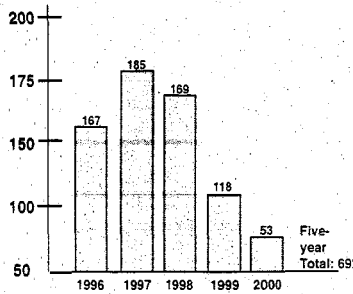
The 12-member Deer Management Subcommittee — comprised of municipal and county representatives, wildlife management experts, animal rights advocates and Parks and Recreation staff — plans to meet in June to develop a long-term plan for maintaining the deer population. Any plan would be subject to the adoption of the Board of Freeholders.

The subcommittee was appointed by freeholders in 1994 to study potential solutions for thinning the deer herd. The freeholders adopted the five-year plan in 1995. The goal of the program was to reduce the white-tailed deer population from 180 per square mile in 1993 to 20 per square mile.

Nearly 700 deer have been killed since the plan began in 1996, according to the county's figures. The cost to the county is approximately \$60 per deer.

The venison is eventually donated to the Community FoodBank of New Jersey.

Deer Removed From Watchung Reservation



The Union County Deer Management Program aimed to reduce the herd to a density of 20 per square mile, or a total of 60 in the Watchung Reservation.

Annual county parade



Rain didn't stop marchers in Union County's fourth annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Union on Saturday, including Todd and Timmy Mooney, 5.

Photo By Jeff Grant

Union County Legal Services Corp. offers help to low-income citizens

By Cathleen Taub
Correspondent

On the second floor of the old Chemsol building on Elizabeth-Prince Street is a busy office. Several women sit in the waiting room either reading magazines or examining the posters on the walls or simply staring ahead waiting for their turn to be called by a secretary.

At first glance, this could be any dental or medical office. Yet, when one carefully looks at the posters on the walls, it is easy to see that these are not posters that warn against tooth decay or high-fat foods; these are posters that discuss legal rights.

Welcome to the Union County Legal Services Corporation. This private, not-for-profit corporation serves low-income Union County residents who need help with civil matters such as housing and entitlement, family law, senior and health concerns, as well as consumer and unemployment issues. The group's executive director, Richard Bennett, notes that out of the 500,000 residents of Union County, 10 percent are eligible for the UCLSC's services. All services are free.

Born out of the 1960s civil rights movement, the UCLSC was created largely by lawyers who had gone to America's South and "saw the need for lawyers to help people who could not retain their own lawyers," said Bennett.

When the lawyers returned, they recognized that the same needs existed at home. They envisioned a solution to urban discontent as they felt that perhaps through an "intensive advocacy position with respect to the people," problems in America's urban cores could be dealt with by the residents, Bennett said.

Bennett was attending Rutgers-Newark during this period and, like that group of lawyers, was fully conscious of the climate of great social upheaval. He then attended Rutgers Law School, where he was encouraged to perform legal clinic services for those who could not afford typical legal fees.

With President Lyndon Johnson's war on poverty in full

swing, neighborhood legal services offices were created with some help from a special executive branch department created by Johnson. By 1967, Union County neighborhood legal offices merged to form the UCLSC.

News of the office grew both through advertising and by word-of-mouth. "We're not new kids on the block," jokes Bennett. Besides this, anyone who gets sued is quick to discover the UCLSC — if you receive a summons in Union County, the group is listed as a place to inquire about proper legal proceedings.

Anyone who is having trouble securing housing also is quick to find this building in Elizabeth's downtown area. Since Union County is the most densely populated area of New Jersey, a shortage of affordable safe housing has erupted. Thus, the majority of issues that the UCLSC takes on are related to housing.

Also, with the recent onslaught of welfare reforms, it has become harder and harder for UCLSC clients to devote time to find and pay to provide for housing.

UCLSC has represented clients in more than 37,000 cases since 1983 when numbers were first tabulated by computer. These services are performed largely by several full-time attorneys and by full-time paralegals and are heavily funded by both state and federal government, along with private contributions.

Still, Bennett lets out a knowing giggle when asked if this funding was ever in danger of being lost. Explaining that the quest for funding has been a constant battle, Bennett said "Everything was cool in the late '60s when Johnson was president. Then came a fellow called Nixon."

During the Nixon administration, a similar California group sued the state of California when Ronald Reagan was governor. Under both Nixon's and Reagan's conservative influences, the "program came under scrutiny and political attack" and Reagan certainly did not forget his experience with legal services when he became president. In fact, Reagan tried to end the program entirely in 1982 by pulling federal funding when he declared that such civil

See UCLSC, Page B2

Second annual conference to address shade trees

The Board of Freeholders will sponsor the second annual Urban Forestry Conference on Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The conference will focus on the county's shade tree inventory and efforts to acquire open space and plant trees throughout Union County.

Mayors, municipal officials and shade tree commission representatives from all 21 municipalities in the county are invited to attend the conference at the Union County Administration Building in downtown Elizabeth.

"Last year's shade tree conference helped coordinate local and countywide efforts to increase the number of trees in the county and keep our existing trees healthy," said Freeholder

Linda Stender, liaison to the county's Shade Tree Advisory Board.

"We are determined to continue these replanting efforts as we work to improve our existing parks and look for ways to acquire more open space."

"It's important to recognize the impact of trees on the global environment," Stender added. "But, closer to home, we will address the problems that effect our state's forested areas, especially those that threaten the health of trees in our Watchung Reservation."

Other topics of discussion at the upcoming conference will include the legacy of famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted;

the financial hurdles to the acquisition of open space; and recent improvements to the 26 parks in the Union County parks system.

Guest speakers at the second annual Urban Forestry Conference will include:

- Michael Oppenheimer, a senior scientist with the organization Environmental Defense, who will speak about the effects of trees on the global atmosphere;

- Faye Harwell, a landscape architect and historian from Virginia, who will discuss the influence of Frederick Law Olmsted;

- Holly Hoffman, a botanist and director of Union County's Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountaintop, who will discuss the

flora of the Watchung Reservation;

- Richard Negro, Bureau Chief of the Union County Bureau of Shade Tree and Conservation, who will talk about the county's program to plant hundreds of trees along county roadways;

- James Lynch, Natural Resources Manager for the City of Rahway, who will speak about the organizational realities of a municipal tree-planting program.

The conference will be at the Union County Administration Building, 6th Floor Freeholders Meeting Room, Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth. A question-and-answer period will follow the guest speakers' presentations.

Bureau of Mosquito Control issues precautions

Spring is the beginning of the mosquito breeding season in New Jersey, and Union County residents can help reduce the number of mosquitoes by eliminating the locations where they breed.

The Union County Bureau of Mosquito Control is asking county residents and businesses to take precautions to reduce mosquitoes, including:

- Change water in birdbaths every three days;
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools and remove water that collects on pool covers; and
- Use landscaping that eliminates standing water. Mosquitoes can breed in puddles that last just four days. New Jersey is host to more than 63 species of mosquitoes, and about 20 species call Union County home. Since mosquitoes breed in standing water, the key to reducing the number of mosquitoes is eliminating stagnant water.

"We're asking all residents and businesses in Union County to do their part in reducing mosquito populations this year," said Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan.

A part of Union County's Department of Operational Services, the Bureau of Mosquito Control removes standing water throughout the county.

The bureau also sets 30 mosquito traps throughout the county, from which they identify species and monitor mosquito populations.

To report any concerns, call the Bureau of Mosquito Control at (908) 654-9834. The staff can inspect a location within 24 hours and all mosquito control services are performed free of charge.

For information and reservations call George Young at (908) 232-4181 or Susan Barr at (732) 680-0520.

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Educational Services Commission hosts two-day conference

This is the dawn of a new millennium for technology in education. In recognition of the potential of technology to create innovative learning environments for educationally challenged students, the Union County Educational Services Commission will present a two-day conference Monday and Tuesday at Westlake School, Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

It is anticipated that more than 300 special educators and support persons will attend the over 40 workshop sessions. In addition, keynote speakers who have achieved national recognition, will share ideas about "Teaching in a Web Based Society," and present a multimedia view of the topic "Digital Velocity for a New Millennium."

Participants will see how technology can create a magical classroom where special education children can engage in powerful learning experiences as an everyday event. They will view products that will read aloud text or Internet program. They will play with products that permit pupils to speak to the computer and hear their own voices back as they learn to decode the printed word. They will examine voice-activated word processing products that assist children with spelling, grammar and writing.

Educators will explore the Internet in a quest leading to dynamic and novel curriculum materials, which will appeal to the most reluctant learner. They will investigate adaptive devices that permit all handicapped students to access the power of technology.

Between the rain drops



Photo by Jeff Givens

Rick Mansfield of Berkeley Heights dodges the rain drops along with other marchers who participated in the county's fourth annual St. Patrick's Day parade in the Township of Union on Saturday.

UCLSC marks decades of helping low-income residents

(Continued from Page B1)

... matters were not federal, but state responsibilities.

However, roughly one decade earlier, Nixon was clearly not too pleased with these legal services groups. Yet, when faced with the choice of signing the Legal Services Corporation Act or with having a special prosecutor investigate his activities in the near future, Nixon chose to sign the bill. This helped the program to thrive so that there was a local Legal Services office in every county in America.

Besides this, the state of New Jersey was so supportive of the program that the UCLSC actually managed to occasionally receive more money than they had originally received in the pre-Reagan years.

The program was threatened once again when the Republicans recently took control of the House of Representatives, but Bennett is quick to emphasize that the program has had many enthusiastic Republican supporters, especially in New Jersey where Republican Gov. Thomas Kean

helped to fund the program when Reagan did not want to.

"Legal services is not a Democratic or Republican issue," Bennett said. He goes on to point out that the U.S. is founded upon "neutral premises of equal justice" and that everyone is supposed to have access to the courts.

Bennett rapidly saw the value of his work when he first arrived at UCLSC in the 1970s. The very first case he encountered at UCLSC went all the way to the Supreme Court.

The case, *Brezina vs. Gambino*, allows a tenant to see a "rent rebate" if rent has been paid on time and the apartment's air conditioner, heating or water system, or electricity does not work and is not fixed by the landlord.

The case helped Bennett to recognize his favorite part of working where he does: "You can really do significant substantial work."

People who reside in Union County seeking help may do so by calling (908) 354-4340. UCLSC is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Stable ready for spring

Spring weather is just around the corner and Union County's Watching Stable in Mountainside is busy preparing for the beginning of riding lessons.

"Horseback riding in the Watching Reservation is a real treat, and our less-on program at the Watching Stable is a great way to learn how to ride," said Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan. "I am proud to say that more than 400,000 girls and boys have participated in this wonderful program."

Classes for young beginners start Friday and all applicants must be between 9 and 18 years of age. Assignments to classes are based upon riding ability as determined by the stable management. Applicants with previous experience may be asked to demonstrate their riding ability to be able to be placed in the appropriate group.

Classes are available at various times, Tuesday through Saturdays. Required uniforms and helmets must be provided at the student's expense.

The stable has been in existence since 1935. Lessons for adults, 18 years older, are also featured, beginning in mid-March. Classes for adults are available on Sundays at 12:45 p.m. for advanced beginners through advanced riders only; and on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

All registration forms and fees must be submitted in person at the Watching Stable, 1160 Summit Lane, Mountainside. Office hours are 9 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 4:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

A sale of used riding clothes and helmets will be March 4 from 9 a.m. until noon at the stable.

For more information and to obtain registration materials call (908) 789-3665.

Magnet Student Council officers named

The Magnet High School Student Council officers and representatives have been announced for the spring semester. Jennifer Phillips of Westfield continues to serve as president; Camille Alston of Plainfield, vice president; Madhav Sukumaran of New Providence, treasurer, and Jaemi Ong of Rahway as secretary.

Junior vice president is Laura Rosenberg of Plainfield while Rahul Bansal of Fanwood and Meghan Paglia are the junior class representatives. Sophomore class vice president is Ashley Biscardi of Rahway while Kevin Chen, James Cramer and Joana Sowinski, all of Union are the sophomore class representatives.

Freshman vice president is Esther Ognyemeri of Scotch Plains while the freshman representatives are Shezha Khan of Hillside; Diane Park of Westfield, and Elizabeth Paterek of Roselle.

Peter Jankovich is liaison of the Parents-Students Association.

The Student Council advisor is Meredith McGuire, a member of the Magnet High School faculty.

Friends of Lenape Park look to attract bluebirds

The Union County Board of Freeholders and members of Friends of Lenape Park have teamed up to attract bluebirds to Lenape Park in Cranford. Recently, county park maintenance personnel erected poles for the mounting of bluebird boxes to encourage nesting.

"The boxes were built and donated by members of the volunteer organization, Friends of Lenape Park," said Freeholder Deborah Scanlon, liaison to the Union County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. "Friends of Lenape will be monitoring the bird houses and recording the species using them."

In the 1950s and 1960s, bluebirds experienced serious population declines due to the loss of nesting sites in field and orchard habitats and competition with non-native species, including house sparrows and European starlings. It is also believed that pesticides were a factor in the decline since the bluebird is an insect eater.

Lenape Park's open fields provide the perfect habitat for nesting birds. Additionally, the park has been designated a "New Jersey Watchable Wildlife" site

and has educational signage which illustrates the wildlife activity.

Funding for the signs was provided by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and proceeds from the sale of "Conserve Wildlife" license plates.

Friends of Lenape Park and Union County staff have been working on other measures to foster the wildlife habitat in Lenape Park. These efforts include the addition of "no-mow zones," lawn areas allowed to revert back to field habitat to encourage the attraction and retention of a variety of birds and other wildlife; and the reduction of non-point source pollution.

Lenape Park is accessible from Kenilworth Boulevard in Cranford.

For more information about Project Bluebird of Lenape Park, call Betty Ann Kelly at (908) 527-4231.

For information regarding the Friends of Lenape Park, call Frank Budey at (908) 687-2169 or email: dbdwn@aol.com.

County seeks \$1 million more in highway funds

The Union County Board of Freeholders will seek more than \$1 million in additional state highway dollars in 2000 to be used for road paving, repairs and safety measures throughout the county.

Work on many of the projects would begin in the spring.

One of the largest projects is a complete rebuilding of the Milton Avenue Bridge, which spans the Rahway River in Rahway.

The bridge was originally built in 1916 and the road surface and top of the bridge was built in 1954. It is 181 feet long and 42 feet wide. Originally the bridge was designed to open, by rotating on a circular pier in the middle of the river to allow boat traffic to go up and down the Rahway River.

In the \$3.2-million project, the county would rebuild the bridge and widen the roadways from 42 to 52 feet wide. The bridge, which is normally about 8 feet off the top of the river, also would be raised an additional three feet to ensure that they would be well above the level of a possible 100-year storm. Approach road would

be rebuilt and raised to meet the bridge.

"I'm glad to see this project come on the heels of our highly successful improvements to the Lawrence Street Bridge," said Freeholder Chester Holmes.

In addition, the county plans to mill and repave more than 13.4 miles of county roadways. The roads slated for improvement include:

- Portions of Raritan Road through Clark, Cranford and Linden;
- Springfield and Centennial avenues in Cranford;
- Central Avenue in Westfield;
- Mountain Avenue in Scotch Plains;
- Tucker Avenue and Gallop Hill Road in Union;
- North and South Broad streets in Elizabeth;
- Westfield and Hazelwood avenues in Rahway;
- Locust Street in Roselle Park; and
- Horseshoe Road in Berkeley Heights.

"These projects make this a better, safer county to live, work and do business," said Freeholder Vice Chairman Alexander Mirabella. "It's something we do that has an impact on everyone who lives and works here, and it is one of the primary responsibilities of county government."

Last year Union County resurfaced more than 20 miles of county roads and rebuilt the Lawrence Street Bridge in Rahway, and made an additional \$800,000 in repairs to smaller bridges and culverts.

Union County, with a land area of just over 100 square miles, has more than 172 miles of county-owned and maintained roads and more than 470 bridges and culverts.

County poster contest deadline March 27

A poster contest to promote County Government Week, April 9 to 15, entitled "My County" is being sponsored by the constitutional officers of Union County in conjunction with the Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey.

The contest is open to all fourth-grade students throughout the state's 21 counties and "here in Union County we're hoping for an enthusiastic response," said Union County Clerk Janine Rajopji. Rajopji, who is serving as coordinator for the project, is sponsoring the event with her constitutional colleagues, Sheriff Ralph Froehlich and Surrogate James LaCorte.

Detailed information and guidelines on the contest have been sent to principals and teachers in all public, private and parochial schools in the county. The basic guidelines instruct students to create a poster that depicts the special and unique characteristics of Union County and how this relates to county government. The deadline to submit posters is March 27.

A winner will be selected by a group of judges, and first, second, and third runners up as well as an honorable mention selection, will be awarded. Winners will receive a certificate, and attend an awards ceremony at the County Courthouse in Elizabeth with their parents and teachers.

For more information on the contest call the County Clerk's Office at (908) 527-4787, Monday through Friday. A sample of posters submitted by the students will be exhibited in the rounds of the Union County Courthouse during County Government Week.

The Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey is composed of the county clerks, sheriffs, surrogates and registers of deeds in the state's 21 counties. The mission of the association is to establish and foster a cooperative effort to improve services provided to constituents.

For more information about The Arc, call (908) 754-7826 or visit www.Arcnjunion.org.

The Arc maintains 19 residential programs, a summer day camp, five work centers, two child development centers, a private school, and five special needs and adult day programs including an adult medical day care program and a wide menu of family supports.

For more information about The Arc, call (908) 754-7826 or visit www.Arcnjunion.org.

Counselor of the year awarded to Bassinski

Bob Bassinski, Union County College alumnus and counselor of The Arc of Union County, "Counselor of the Year" at the New Jersey Community College Counselors Association Conference. Held in December, almost 100 counselors from various community colleges were in attendance and saw Bassinski receive the award.

COUNTY NEWS

Bassinski is a senior member of the Student Services staff and through the years has been successfully involved with all facets of the Counseling Services Department of UCC. His current responsibilities are focused on the academic advising services component of the department. Bassinski trains new staff members and faculty and serves as a resource for current staff and faculty.

Bassinski also assisted with the development of and implemented an innovative faculty advising program. The program utilizes the services of faculty members as mentors/advisors to current students. Students with 15 or more credits and a minimum of a 2.5 grade point average are eligible to participate in the program.

Participants are assigned to a faculty member in their particular program of study. The faculty member reaches out to the student assisting and mentoring the student as they pursue their educational career at the college. To complement this program and to assist faculty and staff, Bassinski created an advising handbook, a comprehensive guide to the key elements of academic advising at Union County College.

Thomas Brown, president of Union County College, said, "Robert Bassinski's creativity, dedication to the mission of the college and the goals and objectives of the Counseling Services Department, as well as his assistance to an endless number of students, faculty and staff makes him a true asset to our college."

Blood drives scheduled

The Blood Center of New Jersey is asking people to make a special effort to donate over the upcoming holiday season. The following blood drives are scheduled in Union County:

- Monday, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Gallop Hill Road.
- March 24, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Gallop Hill Road.
- For more information or to sign up to donate, call (800) BLOOD-NJ.
- The American Red Cross Greater Union County and Plainfield Area sponsors the following blood drives:
 - March 30, 3 to 8:30 p.m., Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad, 875 Kartan Road, Clark.

For information call (908) 353-2511 or (908) 756-7190.

For more information or to sign up for a blood drive, call the blood center at (800) 652-5663, ext. 140.

Raining on the parade

(Continued from Page B1)

Clare. Prior to the parade, they saw Morris Avenue in the morning without traffic; now that's something to take back across the Atlantic.

Back at Morris and Johnson, McGuire speaks with Mountainside resident Joan O'Berle. Another true believer, O'Berle says watching parades on TV is nothing more than "background music." O'Berle also emphasizes, "the family and the basic need to be here."

George Russell the Irish poet commented to "I'll hold the thought once held wise." I never smiled so much standing in the rain.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

The Union County Educational Services Foundation, the fund-raising arm of the Union County Educational Services Commission, is celebrating its fifth anniversary and fifth annual awards reception at the Primavera in Stilling, on March 29 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Proceeds from the reception go directly to support programs and services which enhance the independent living skills of students in Union County who are physically, socially, emotionally, and/or intellectually challenged.

For ticket information, call the foundation at (908) 233-9317, ext. 925.

Services foundation celebrates anniversary

For information call (908) 353-2511 or (908) 756-7190.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Irish tenor keeps eyes smiling

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

If any member of the Paper Mill Playhouse audience Monday night was not Irish coming in, he or she certainly and magically was Irish coming out.

In the theater's celebration of St. Patrick's Day this week, it took the thrilling voice of tenor Frank Patterson, the splendid piano playing of his wife, Eily O'Grady, the superb sounds of the violin on Geraldine O'Grady's shoulder, the uproarious comedy of Al Banim and the marvelously entertaining young dancers from the Pike School of Traditional Irish Dancers to turn everybody into Irish enthusiasts.

The concert program had an excellent array of Irish offerings, and the theater, nearly filled to capacity, rang with laughter, toe tapping, thunderous applause, and music nearly unheard of because of its beauty, delighting in the hearts and souls of every person there. It was one of the most unique experiences this reviewer ever had.

Beginning the joyous moments of Monday night was the heart-pounding dancing of the Pike School Dancers, ranging in age from 5 through adult. In spectacularly colorful costumes, the talented students, two boys and the rest girls, danced the cultural dances of Ireland with agility, and oftentimes one was reminded of a sort of ballet form. And when it came time to take bows to the rear of the crowd, the dancers were politely elegant.

For comic relief, there was Banim, from Dublin, Ireland, who is known to audiences around the world as "Ireland's Master Comedian," and a master comedian he is. With his calm, unemotional, handsome face, he can utter a word or sound in a deep Irish brogue, and turn the audience inside out with laughter. He talked about everything — mainly in one liners — and



Frank Patterson

and when the fantastic voice of Patterson filled the theater and delightfully bounced off the walls of the Paper Mill Playhouse, it was an entrancing moment. To hear this man sing is a blessing in itself, and the songs he presented included such favorites as "When You and I Were Young, Maggie," "Mother McCree" — and out came the handkerchieves — and no Irish tenor could sing "Danny Boy" quite the way Patterson does — more handkerchieves.

In his most imitable style, this fantastic tenor gave forth his rendition of "The Music of the Night," and it was a dizzy, dazzlingly wonderful moment that one wished would never end. Patterson also offered a John Denver song, "Annie's Song," filling up the senses of the patrons.

The finale, of course, was "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," and Patterson was accompanied by the principal performers and the audience, and when he expressed the wish to return to this theater in Millburn, the audience howled its invitation.

Every eye was smiling when the lights came on because, suddenly, every eye was Irish and every smile, genuine.

harpist, her sister, Eily O'Grady. Together they offered classical music from around the world, and Geraldine brought out every available emotion from her beloved violin, from Hungarian music written by an Italian composer to an Irish melody, "The Last Rose of Summer" which cried out to the souls, and "The Flight of the Bumblebee," which lifted the audience right out of its seat.

And when the fantastic voice of Patterson filled the theater and delightfully bounced off the walls of the Paper Mill Playhouse, it was an entrancing moment. To hear this man sing is a blessing in itself, and the songs he presented included such favorites as "When You and I Were Young, Maggie," "Mother McCree" — and out came the handkerchieves — and no Irish tenor could sing "Danny Boy" quite the way Patterson does — more handkerchieves.

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Every eye was smiling when the lights came on because, suddenly, every eye was Irish and every smile, genuine.



David Edwards as Don Quixote, left, and Benjamin Salinas as Sancho Panza weave a magic spell in 'Man of La Mancha,' on stage at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway through March 25.

'La Mancha' is what theater is all about

Theater View

By Bill Van Sant
Associate Editor

When theater is bad, it's often unbearable. When it's good, it entertains. And when it's great, it transports.

Well, to those lucky theatergoers headed to the Union County Arts Center in Rahway for the current production of "Man of La Mancha," prepare to be transported.

UCAC's sole in-house-produced offering this season, "Man of La Mancha" is stark, yet mystical; harsh, yet romantic.

With the grand curtain raised as the audience enters the theater, one is greeted by Joseph A. Mikojc's stunning set design depicting a prison operated by the Spanish Inquisition, complemented beautifully by Rich Bishop's haunting lighting. The network of catwalks and towering grid-like walls, with light filtering in at angles through misty smoke, serve well as the prison setting, but are conceptualized enough to lend themselves to the "storytelling" in store for the prisoners, courtesy of one Miguel de Cervantes, imprisoned for imposing a lien against a church.

It is from these beginnings that the tale is afoot. Cervantes — who penned the original tale and who was, himself, imprisoned by the Inquisition — must defend himself to his fellow prisoners and, in doing so, elicits their aid in weaving the tale of Alonso Quijana, aka Don Quixote de la Mancha.

In this pivotal role — which is really three roles in one — is David Edwards, who delivers one of the most mesmerizing performances this reviewer has ever seen — on any level, in any medium. No qualifiers necessary. Simply, one of the best — ever.

His Cervantes/Quixote completely entrances the audience, making the paying patrons willing participants, even if his cellmates at first are not. His magical transformation — before our eyes — from storyteller to character in the tale is just the beginning of

female roles written by men — and Jugetta is not immune. Her upper and lower registers serve her beautifully, nowhere more so than the almost-jarring "What Does He Want of Me?" but her mid-range does not have the blend necessary to achieve a "chest voice" sound in "head voice" territory, a requisite of this role, especially in the trade scenes. To her credit, she works the situation well and relies on her acting talents to rise to the occasion. Unfortunately, we sense this talented actress working, and that's not what theater is about. Hopefully, UCAC will bring her back in a role that better showcases her obviously considerable talent.

The sound design by Paul Adams demonstrates forward strides from past UCAC shows, which suffered from tinny reproduction and a lack of clarity in the body microphones. While there is still a certain separation from speaker to speaker — perhaps imperceptible from further back than Row D — and a degree of tininess, the actors were nailed to precision, capturing every nuance, sigh and whisper. However, the orchestra — out of sight and wonderfully led by Mark George — suffers in amplification, sounding incredible, but somewhat "canned."

The wisdom of UCAC's decision to move it's in-house shows from a New Jersey community-theater base to New York City is nowhere more vindicated than on the showplace's stage itself. This is what theater is all about — magic, pageantry, heroes and villains, romance — and all right before your eyes with an ease and polish you don't even notice, but rarely come across! This is why we go to the theater, and why you should head to the Union County Arts Center in Rahway before March 25!

Supporting roles are ably filled, most notably by Kyle Bradford as The Padre. His tenderness is beautifully demonstrated by his quiet devotion to Quijana/Quixote, and his lilting voice and a gentle demeanor crystallize in "To Each His Dulcinea." The tears in his eyes as he sings "The Psalm" were almost too much to bear.

As Manservant/Sancho Panza, Benjamin Salinas turns in a solid sidekick performance — two, actually, Christine Jugetta, though physically perfect for the role and a dynamite actress to boot, is let down at times by her voice. Arguably, Aldonza/Dulcinea is one of the most vocally demanding female roles in musical theater — the curse of many great

For information on tickets, see the "Theater" listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B8. Owing to mature subject matter, this production is not suitable for young children.

'Queen Esther' reigns at Forum Theater

What could be more appropriate to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Purim in March than a musical play that tells the story of Queen Esther, particularly with music?

The Forum Theater in Metuchen, just around the corner from Rahway, Clark and Linden, has leased its facility for the month of March to Patrick J. Conway's Arts of Annapolis Productions to bring to the public, Jewish and non-Jewish, a delightful little musical that has emotional appeal, a wonderfully entertaining and talented cast, and some knowledge of what life must have been like in the sixth century BC in the Persian Empire, particularly in the eyes of playwright Leonora Webb, who wrote the book and collaborated on the lyrics with composer William Whitefield.

For decades, producers, directors and writers have borrowed excerpts from the Bible and redesigned them to fit a script — from Cecil B. DeMille's original film, "The Ten Commandments," to the current "Queen Esther," which is a thoroughly satisfying piece of theater that could actually attract an off-Broadway audience.

Even more satisfying is the fact on a gloomy, damp and cold afternoon, with the wind furiously blowing and the threat of rain in the air, the mes-

Theater View

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

sage of Purim, the freedom of the Jews, came through bright and clear. Purim, incidentally, will be observed from sundown Monday to sundown Tuesday.

In "Queen Esther," the story of cultures and races represented at court, where provinces from India to Abyssinia were in turmoil, a musical tale is unfolded. Queen Vashti, beautifully played by Heather Olt, leads the women of ancient Persia in the city of Susa in a revolt against male domination, not unlike the forthcoming women's liberation. Her rendition of "There's Work to Be Done" and "Insurrection, Finally Free," are beautifully sung. She is swiftly banished by King Xerxes, wonderfully and sensitively portrayed by a fine actor and singer, Terence Archie. The king immediately puts the word out that he is seeking another queen — one that will provide a pure love in addition to loyalty.

The emergence of Esther, charm-

ingly played by the lovely Kim Dimasi, whose soothingly lyrical voice entrances the audience, arrives, orphaned, to her Uncle Mordcaai's home, to be warmly accepted by him and by his family. The moment of Esther's arrival, and her tender cry to her uncle to be accepted, "I Was Sent to You," brought goose bumps to this reviewer. Esther is ultimately accepted by the king as a prospective queen, and they fall in love. He is unaware of the fact that she is Jewish, and is the ferocious Haman — the prime minister who uses Jews as scapegoats to assist him in his hunger for royal power — who tries to expose Esther as a Jew.

Director-choreographer Sam Scalomino does an exceptional job, and musical director Tom McDonough, who also plays the keyboards, takes charge of an orchestra that appropriately features flute, clarinet, violin, percussion, oboe and the French horn. Andrew Hall provided the simple scenic setting, and the stage needed that and nothing more.

"Queen Esther" is appealing in its simplicity, entertaining in its fine cast and music and lyrics, and it gives a lift to audiences who know — or do not know — the basic story of Esther. It's really worth a visit to the Forum Theater.

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Variety and 'joie de vivre' define chanteuse's appearance at cabaret

By Bee Smith
Staff Writer

It was a lovely spring-like evening last Thursday when Bobby Richards, pianist at the Manor in West Orange, played the tuneful "Spring Fever" for an elegant dinner crowd. It was even lovelier when the versatile, talented, beautiful Susannah McCorkle entertained up at the Le Dome featuring some of the sweetest French and English songs in addition to a varied repertoire.

Selecting a four-course dinner from an attractive cabaret soiree menu presented by an exceptionally friendly head waiter, Kevin, was a wonderful experience, especially after being escorted by our now good friend, maître d' Sammy Odeh, to a table by a window that brought forth the beauty of the Manor grounds. And when Richards assisted by playing "All the Way," my companion and I went all the way with the Manor cuisine. While waiting for the first course, which for me, was an exquisite Maine lobster bisque, and for my companion, a very tasty prosciutto-wrapped mozzarella with heirloom tomato tartare, artichoke hearts, with balsamic reduction, Kevin brought a taste of the chef's delicacy, red pepper mousse with couscous and peas.

Following a fine salad of mixed baby greens with Prociotti vinaigrette, I especially enjoyed the pallard of herb-but over Oriental stir-fry vegetables with lemon grass sauce, while my companion marveled over the sauteed Maryland crabcakes, with melted Roma tomatoes and lime-scented herbs. And we dined to the tunes of "The Entertainer" and "Begin the Beguine."

It was especially easy to concentrate on the most unbelievably

marvelous strawberry swirl cheesecake with mocha sauce with fine Manor coffee and petits fours while Richards played "I Concentrate on You." Dabbling at our napkins, we enjoyed "The Wee Small Hours of the Morning," "How Deep Is the Ocean" and other Irving Berlin tunes, and Cole Porter's "Night and Day."

Then up to Le Dome to watch the fabulous McCorkle — tall and beautifully gowned in red — offer her special program "From Broken Hearts to Blue Skies." She was accompanied by an equally versatile pianist, Allen Farnham, who has degrees in classical piano and jazz studies. Following her rendition of "Blue Skies," which would make Bing Crosby jump for glee, McCorkle told her attentive audience that she has always been "fascinated by the power of songs ... the good times and the bad times" in life, and "there's a great song for every step of the way."

Then another Crosby song filled the little cabaret, where every table was occupied. "Accentuate the Positive." Following her striking "I Want to Be a Sideman," in a sultry, deeply emotional voice, McCorkle captured the emotions of every cabaret patron with the French and English words to "What Can You Say When the Love Affair Is Over." There really is nothing more beautiful than the French language when it is sung properly, and McCorkle can tear your heart out with her offerings.

There was such a variety of songs — jazz, pop, torch, Billy Holiday, Bessie Smith, Johnny Mercer — that the audience was caught in a whirlwind of Susannah McCorkle. Some of her numbers included "Feet, Do Your Stuff," and one that would turn Frank Sinatra's ears to hear her sing "One

More For the Road," then "Look For the Silver Lining," "I Wish I Were in Love Again," "Skylark," so sad and beautifully sung; and "My New Celebrity Is You," which was absolutely great. Then there was "Everybody Gets Scars," and everybody in the audience remembered scar-filled episodes in life while McCorkle reached into the depths of the audience. "Bye Bye Blues," which came next, chased the blues from the audience's heart.

The finale, "The Waters of March," about the return of spring after a long, barren time, brought McCorkle's audience back to normal, and suddenly there was happy applause and a happy feeling to have had such a unique, musical experience from broken hearts to blue skies.

A note to the Manor — we suggest that you invite McCorkle back. She's nothing less than great!

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UCC preps for comedy's opening night

The Theater Project at Union County College will present "The Golden Fleece," two one-act plays by A. R. Gurney, in the Roy W. Smith Theater on the Cranford Campus. A comedy, it is a classic love story with a twist: Boy meets girl, boy gets girl, boy meets another girl, and the first girl gets back! Performances are scheduled for March 23 through April 1, Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. with one matinee April 1 at 3 P.

Directed by Mark Spina, the cast include Andre DeSandies, Barbara Guidi, Daimah Talley, and Gary Wood. Following each performance, a "meet the actors" reception will take place at which refreshments will be sold. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors and \$10 for general admission. Senior citizens will receive

'The Golden Fleece' will be presented at UCC March 23 through April 1

Free tickets March 23. For tickets and reservations, call (908) 659-5189.

The funding for this performance has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and by a HEART Grant — History Education Arts Reaching Thousands — from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Newark Boys Chorus School seeks auditioners

The Newark Boys Chorus School will be auditioning boys for September enrollment. There will be 16 openings for the fourth grade and very limited space for fifth grade.

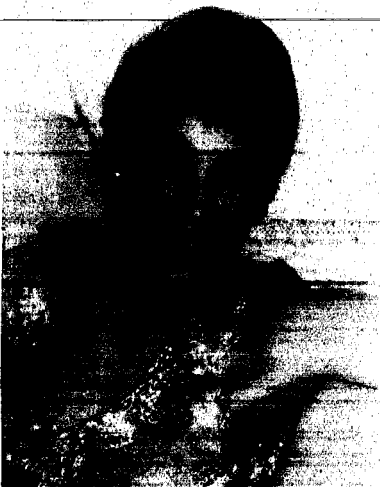
If there is a third grader who enjoys singing and shows good academic potential, the Newark Boys Chorus School would like to meet him. The school is a 4th- to 8th-grade, fully

accredited and formal academic/school. There are no resident requirements and formal singing training is not required. Tuition is

nominal and financial assistance for qualified students is available. For more information, call (973) 621-8900.

Bill Van Sant, Editor

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A standing ovation for 'The Leading Ladies'

Upon listening to the CD of "My Favorite Broadway: The Leading Ladies Live at Carnegie Hall," only one word comes to mind.

Music Notes

By Bill Van Sant
Associate Editor

For fans of show music or cabaret vocals, a few tracks stand above the rest. Of those, McArdle's rendition of "Tomorrow," from her breakout performance in "Annie" some 20-plus years ago, is beautiful and tender.

Gone is the strident, plucky belt — which, to this reviewer's ears, always sounded rather bug-like. What replaces it is a richer tone and a maturity that reminds us that "tomorrow" gets sweeter when we've made it through yesterday.

Eier, who is not usually among this listener's favorites, practically stops the album with her rendition of "The Man of La Mancha." Her gender-bending of the lyrics is imperceptible next to her unbelievable vocal gymnastics and range. Lea Delaria delivers a sizzling jazz version of "I Can Cook, Tex," from "On the Town," bringing it home with the spoken words "Here's some cookin'," whereupon she seats the house down. Debra Monk slays the audience with "Everybody's Girl" from "Steel Pier," wherein she proudly makes "easy" sound fun, even desirable.

The highlight of the album, however, is billed as "The Webber Love Trio," with McDonald on "Love

Changes Everything" from Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Aspects of Love," Mazzeo on "Unexpected Song" from "Song & Dance," and Kuhn on "I Don't Know How to Love Him" from "Jesus Christ Superstar." Arguably three of the best actresses currently working in theater, McDonald, Mazzeo and Kuhn each seem born to sing their respective songs, although none of them has done so on the professional New York stage.

With each selection and singer billed separately on the liner notes, one expects to hear three complete and separate — songs. Not so. What begins with each woman delivering a dazzling, if shortened, solo rendition, evolves into a fantasia of the three songs and, most especially, these three incredible voices, with each melody and lyrical line weaving in and out of the other two. This track alone, with David Loud's stunning arrangement, is worth the purchase price.

The one track that didn't quite cut the mustard, though, is unfortunately the finale. With a cast of women singing it, "One" from "A Chorus Line" lacks the punch to be found with male voices thrown in. By the end, hardly any of the women were belting the material, leaving the number almost anemic, sounding something like the canned, homogenized MGM chorus of days gone by.

Despite this one song, Paul Gemignani, this reviewer's vote for Broadway's all-time best musical director, has worked wonders here, coaxing

performances which are both as comfortable as an old sweater and as unexpected in their power as a summer storm.

Also featured are Faith Prince, Karen Ziemba, Bebe Neuwirth, and Priscilla Lopez. One question, though: with this impressive lineup, where are such leading-lady staples as Bernadette Peters, Chita Rivera, Patti LaBelle, Sally Mayes and Betty Buckley? Ah, well, perhaps the next album.

For those who would like to "sample" the album first, the concert was videotaped by event co-producer PBS and is currently showing on many PBS stations, with even more DVDs. But even without the pleasure of actually watching these ladies strut their stuff, "My Favorite Broadway" deserves to be on everyone's list of favorites.

Singles Night is planned at Paper Mill's 'Deathtrap'

Single theatergoers are invited March 30 to join in the fun at the Paper Mill Playhouse presents "Deathtrap," Broadway's longest-running comedy-thriller. This is the theater's 13th successful "Singular Sensation," which includes a specially-priced ticket for the 8 p.m. performance as well as a post-show reception.

The reception will take place in the Renée Foosaner Art Gallery at Paper Mill immediately following the performance. This event has been made possible by the sponsorship of Zane Veddis, Ling Ling Chinese Restaurant and Jerome Scott Fine Foods & Catering. Single theatergoers will be able to enjoy various samplings of food and drink.

"Deathtrap" is written by Ira Levin, author of "Rosemary's Baby," "The Boys From Brazil" and "The Stepford Wives." Jonathan Hadary makes his Paper Mill debut in "Deathtrap" as Sidney Bruhl, a writer of stage mysteries who's suffering from writer's block. Directed by Leonard Foglia, director of Broadway's "Master Class," "Deathtrap" also stars Amy Hohn, Adrian Rieder, Lewis Airl and Marilyn Sokol.

"Deathtrap" runs through April 2 at Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn. Don't miss this opportunity to experience wonderful live theater while meeting new people. Call the box office at (973) 376-4343 or buy tickets online at www.papermill.org.

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Grammy-winner Stoltzman to appear in Westfield

World-renowned clarinetist Richard Stoltzman and his son, pianist Peter Stoltzman, will come to Westfield to perform a concert of classical, jazz and contemporary music Sunday at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 414 E. Broad St.

This concert is being produced by the Arbor Chamber Music Society in cooperation with Young Audiences of New Jersey. It will feature music by Bach, Stravinsky, Messiaen, Monk, Ellington, Gershwin and others. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for seniors, \$5 for students, and can be obtained through www.CultureFinder.com or by calling (908) 232-1116.

Richard Stoltzman is a two-time Grammy Award-winner whose virtuosity, musicianship, and sheer personal magnetism has catapulted him to the highest ranks of international acclaim. He is one of today's most sought-after concert artists. Dedicated to nurturing the next generation of musicians,

Stoltzman is a national board member of Young Audiences, an organization that brings professional artists into schools and communities for performances and residency programs. Board members of Young Audiences of New Jersey will be on hand at Sunday's concert to share information about their organization.

The Arbor Chamber Music Society is also known for its commitment to encouraging a life-long interest in and enthusiasm for music. In addition to its concert and pre-concert lecture series in Westfield and Maplewood, Arbor runs the Mentoring Program and the Humanities-Music Link in the Westfield public schools. This is the first family event that Arbor Chamber has produced. It is recommended for audience members 10 years old and older.

This event is made possible by Simpson's Home Improvement and by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, under Chairman Daniel

P. Sullivan, through a HEARTY grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. St. Paul's Episcopal Church is handicapped-accessible.

WCP offers memberships

Westfield Community Players Membership Director Letty Hudak announced that membership for the remaining two shows of the 1999-2000 season are now available for \$20. She noted that this represents a savings of \$7 over purchasing tickets individually for the last two shows.

To purchase individual membership for \$20 each, make checks payable to Westfield Community Players and send to Letty Hudak, 409 Harrison Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090.

Westfield Community Players, founded in 1934, is one of the oldest continuously operating community theaters in New Jersey and has brought to life more than 180 comedies, dramas and musicals in their own 150-seat theater in Westfield, 1000 North Ave. West.

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Lookers
 Whether you're out for a night with the guys or planning a working man's business lunch, hearty appetites are sure to be satiated at Lookers in Elizabeth. This is not just another "gentlemen's club," but an establishment offering a wide variety of food, drink and entertainment.
 By Bill Van Sant
 Staff Writer
 The menu features standard bar fare, but in generous portions sure to make your mouth water. The sampler platter of hot appetizers enjoyed by a friend and me featured hot wings, mozzarella sticks, assorted shrimp, and hot peppers, all delicious and complemented nicely by a draft beer.
 For our main courses, we went the sandwich route. Daynon had fish, and I opted for chicken. Served in hearty portions — my sandwich was almost more than I could finish — the platters also featured crispy French fries. Both of us were left full and satisfied by these robust meals. The "meat and potatoes" simplicity only adds to the dining experience; haute cuisine is definitely for another day.
 But the menu doesn't stop there. In addition to daily specials — which, when we were there, included grilled chicken Caesar salad — the bill of fare also offers a variety of hero and club sandwiches, as well as an array of hot sandwiches and platters. If our meals were any indication, one is as good as the next.
 The management also spreads out two buffets daily — from 4:30 to 6 p.m., and again at midnight — perfect for an after-work pit stop or some late-night revelry. Private parties and corporate functions are welcomed.
 The full-service bar runs the gamut from tap beer — about a half-dozen varieties — to Dom Perignon and Moet. In between, you'll find a full selection of top-shelf liquors. Shot specials also abound.
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Have Dinner At Our Place & Enjoy

Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to Arts and Entertainment Editor Bill Van Sant, *Worral Community Newspapers*, P.O. Box 3189, Union, NJ 07083.

Stepping Out

ART SHOWS

SUMMIT FRAME & ART will exhibit five newly acquired paintings by W.P.A. artist Louis Wolochok. Gallery hours are Mondays to Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Thursdays until 7 p.m. The gallery is located at 485 Springfield Ave. in Summit. For information, call (908) 273-8665.

COLOR, LINE & FORM, the paintings of Alice Bryan Hondru of Maplewood, will be on exhibit with the watercolor wildlife paintings of Christopher Pasco of Murray Hill at the Donald B. Palmer Museum in the Springfield Public Library through today.

Gallery hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Sundays from 11 to 3:30 p.m. The

gallery hours are Tuesdays to Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays until 4 p.m. The gallery is located at 703 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield. For information, call (908) 756-1707.

RETROSPECTIVE, the work of Mark Metcalf, will be on exhibit at the Tomasso Gallery at Union County College, Cranford, through April 13.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays from 11 to 4 p.m.; Tuesdays to Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. The gallery is located on the first floor of the Mackay Library on the Cranford campus, 1033 Springfield Ave. For information, call (908) 709-7155.

CONTEMPORARY FIGURE PAINTING and Portraiture will be on exhibit at the Gallery at the Arts Guild of Rahway Sunday through April 14, featuring the works of Loretta Kiefer, Tim Gaydos and Lora Shelley. An opening reception with the artists will take place Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m.; Thursdays from 1 to 5 and 5 to 7 p.m.; and by appointment. The Arts Guild is

will conduct auditions April 14 and 15 for its summer music camp, June 26 to July 1 at the NJYS Music Center in New Providence, with other programs June 1 to 23. The camp is designed for grades 4 through 8. Deadline for audition applications and application fee of \$25 is April 1. For information, call (908) 771-5544, ext. 15.

CARNIVAL PRODUCTIONS of Rahway will conduct auditions for "Joined at the Head" by Catherine Butterfield April 2, 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m. at El Bodegon Restaurant, 169 W. Main St., Rahway. Being sought are two women and one man, late 20s; plus three women and three men, various ages, to play assorted ensemble roles. For information, call (732) 388-0647 or send e-mail to camcpr1@aol.com.

WESTFIELD YOUNG ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE THEATER will conduct auditions for the July production of "Brigadoon" by Lerner and Loewe at Westfield Community Players, 1000 North Ave. West in Westfield, April 29, and in Newark at NJPAC April 30. Callbacks will be May 6 at WCP and May 7 at NJPAC.

CONCERTS

YOUTH BAND NIGHT will take place Friday at 5:30 p.m. in Barnwell Hall at Christ Church in Summit, 561 Springfield Ave. Featured will be The Overnights, Stig Figure Studio, LWL, Sai Alpha Six, prent falls, The Drama Boys, and Senobax. Admission is \$7.

CLARINETIST RICHARD STOLTZMAN will be presented in concert with his son, pianist Peter Stoltzman, Sunday at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 414 E. Broad St., Westfield. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for senior citizens, and \$5 students. For information, visit www.CultureFinder.com or call (908) 232-1116.

AIR SUPPLY will be presented in concert Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn. Tickets are \$45 and \$25. The Paper Mill Playhouse is located on Brookside Drive in Millburn. For information, call (973) 376-4343 or purchase tickets online at www.papermill.org.

MID-DAY MUSICALES at the First Congregational Church of Westfield, 125 Elm St., will feature flautist Laura George, clarinetist William Shadel and pianist Ron Levy Wednesday at noon. Following the concert will be a soup-and-sandwich luncheon at a cost of \$4.50. For information, call (908) 232-2494.

LYRICA CHAMBER MUSIC will present a concert featuring the Pro Nobis Chamber Singers March 26 at 9 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township. Tickets are \$18 for general admission and \$14 for senior citizens. For information, call (973) 701-1734.

OUTRIGGERS, the outreach chorus of the Summit Choral, will be presented in concert March 31 at 8 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 140 S. Finley Ave. in Basking Ridge. All proceeds will benefit the Manville victims of Hurricane Floyd. Suggested donations are \$20 for adults, and \$10 for senior citizens and students. For information, call (908) 359-1620.

TRO PASIONAL, Yas-Cortez and Fabiola Cortez will offer a professional concert at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway April 8 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25. UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call (732) 499-8226.

ages 3 to 7 years old; April 29 and 30: "Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping and Other Stories In a Story Salad," ages 5 to 10 years old; May 6 and 7: "Hansel and Gretel" and "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," ages 3 to 7 years old; May 13 and 14: "Snow White," ages 3 to 7 years old; and May 20 and 21: "Peter and the Wolf," ages 5 to 10 years old.

All performances are at 10 a.m. at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Brookside Drive in Millburn. Tickets are \$9 for orchestra seats, \$8 for mezzanine. For information, call (973) 376-4343 beginning Monday.

UNION RECREATION Department will sponsor weekly ceramics classes for children between the ages of 7 and 12 at the Recreation building, 1120 Commerce Ave., Union, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. For information, call 964-4828.

SINGLES

INTERFAITH SINGLES, for single adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. — for discussion and continental breakfast at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St. in Westfield. Donation is \$2. For information, call (908) 888-5269 or (908) 889-4751.

KISMET SINGLES will sponsor several events in the coming weeks.

For information, call (908) 232-8972 or visit the website at www.whatiskismet.com.

THEATER

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE will continue its 1999-2000 season with the comic thriller "Deathtrap" by Ira Levin now through April 2.

Evening performances are Wednesday through Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 7:30 p.m. Matinees are Thursdays and Sundays at 2 p.m., and Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. The Paper Mill Playhouse is located on Brookside Drive in Millburn. For information and reservations, call (973) 376-4343; for groups of 20 or more, call (973) 379-3636, ext. 2438.

UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER in Rahway will present "Man of La Mancha" through March 25 at the Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway. Shows are 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$19 and \$24. For information, call (732) 499-8226 or visit the website at www.ucac.org.

WESTFIELD COMMUNITY PLAYERS will present "The Price" by Arthur Miller Saturday through March 25. Shows are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets are \$12. The WCP Playhouse is located at 1000 North Ave. Westfield. For information, call (908) 232-1221.

ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE will present "The Foreigner," a comedy by Larry Shue, Friday through April 7. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$8 for general admission, \$5 for students and senior citizens. The playhouse is located at 1100 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. For information, call (908) 355-0077.

THE THEATER PROJECT at Union County College will present "The Golden Pheasant" by A. R. Gurney March 23 to April 1 in the Roy Smith Theater at the UCC Cranford Campus, 1033 Springfield Ave. Shows are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., and April 1 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$5 for students and senior citizens. Reservations are recommended. For information, call (908) 659-5189.

CRANFORD REPERTORY THEATER will present "Fiddler on the Roof" April 1 at 8 p.m., April 8 at 8:25 p.m., and April 2 and 9 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for reserved seating, \$10 for general admission, \$8 for students and senior citizens, and \$5 for children younger than 10 years old. Performances will take place at Cranford High School, West End Place. For information, call (908) 276-9231 or (908) 276-5053.

VARIETY

THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mike Night every Tuesday at 9 p.m. In addition, the following musicians will appear at the Back Porch in March:

March 17: Markus Matloz
March 18: The Boogifiers, 10 p.m.
March 24: Will Power, 9 p.m.
March 25: Not in That Order, 10 p.m.

The Back Porch is located at 1505 Main St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 388-7871.

CROSSROADS in Garwood will present a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts.

Crossroads is located at 78 North Ave. in Garwood. For information, call (908) 232-5656.

EAT TO THE BEAT Coffeehouse in Rahway will feature musical appearances during the month of March.

Sunday: Groove Apparatus, 8 p.m.
March 25: Open Mike Night, 8 p.m. to closing.

Eat to the Beat Coffeehouse is located at 1465 Irving St. in Rahway at the corner of East Cherry Street. For information, or to sign up for Open Mike Night, call (732) 381-0505.



AIR SUPPLY, proclaimed the 'most successful pop group of the 1980s' by Billboard magazine, will appear in a one-night-only concert at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn Tuesday. For information, see the 'Concert' listings on this page.

Springfield Public Library is located at 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information, call (973) 476-4930.

WETNAM: A PEOPLE AND A WAR, works by photographer Jay Cheung Smith, will be on exhibit in the Fresheners Gallery on the sixth floor of the Union County Administration Building through Friday.

The Fresheners Gallery is coordinated by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. Gallery hours are weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Administration Building is located at Elizabethtown Plaza on Rahway Avenue in downtown Elizabeth. For information, call (908) 558-2550.

NJ HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ART SHOW will be on exhibit through Friday at the du Cret School of Art. An opening reception will take place Friday from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. The school is located at 1030 Central Ave., Plainfield. For information, call (908) 757-7171.

LARGE-PAINTING RETROSPECTIVE will feature the work of Frank Carilli in an exhibit in the Member's Gallery at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through March 29.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and 7 to 9 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays, 2 to 4 p.m. CVA is located at 68 Elm St. in Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

PLEIN AIR LANDSCAPES by Jared Clackner will be on exhibit at the Swain Galleries in Plainfield through March 29.

located at 1670 Irving St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-7511.

ANTIQUE ARCHITECTURE DETAILS OF ELIZABETH will be on exhibit at the Fresheners Gallery, featuring the works of photographer Owen Kanzler, Monday through April 20.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, and Thursday evenings. The gallery is located on the 6th floor of the Union County Administration Building, Elizabethtown Plaza at Rahway Avenue, Elizabeth. For information, call (908) 558-2550.

HOMAGE will be on exhibit at the Les Malumet Art Gallery in Union, showcasing the work Jeannette Chubotovsky and other artists associated with the gallery, Saturday through May 3. An opening reception will take place Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Union Public Library is located in Friberger Park on Morris Avenue, next to Union Town Hall. For information, call (908) 851-5480.

CLASSES

WESTFIELD YOUNG ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE will offer professional classes in the performing arts.

Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced Acting classes will concentrate on improvisation, character development and scene study. Also offered are four levels of tap and three levels of musical theater, which focuses on song selection and interpretation, ensemble work, voice, and musical theater movement and dance. Private lessons in voice and/or acting are available.

The Westfield High School is located at 728 Westfield Ave., Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-3200.

UNION COUNTY TORAH CENTER will offer a Judaic art metalsmith course Sundays through April 9, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The course is for children between the ages of 9 and 12 years old; the cost is \$100 per child and includes all materials. For information, call (908) 789-5252.

THE WESTFIELD "Y" will be currently conducting classes in cardio box and kick art appreciation, and ballrooming. The "Y" is located at 220 Clark St. in Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-2700.

FESTIVALS

RECORD & CD EXPO will take place Sunday at the Springfield Holiday Inn, Route 22 Westfield, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens; children younger than 12 years old are admitted free. For information, call (908) 486-3303 or (908) 928-9667.

FILM

UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER in Rahway continues its Film Series through May. Unless otherwise noted for double and triple features, tickets are \$3 for 1 p.m. screenings, \$5 at 8 p.m.

The series continues with the following schedule:

- March 29: "Hitchcock Turns 100" Double Feature — "To Catch a Thief" and "Vertigo," 7 p.m., \$7 for both films
- April 12: "Ben Hur," 1 and 8 p.m.
- May 3: "Leave 'Em Laughing" Comedy Double Feature — "A Night at the Opera" and "Some Like It Hot," 7 p.m., \$7 for both films

UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St. in Rahway. For information and reservations, call (732) 499-8226 or visit the UCAC website at www.ucac.org.

FILMMAKERS SYMPOSIUM will be sponsored by Monmouth University at the Loews Mountaintide Monday evenings, now through March 27 and April 3 through May 8. Cost is \$103 for six weeks, \$194 for the full 12 weeks. For information, call (800) 222-7719.



CLARINETIST RICHARD STOLTZMAN will appear in concert with his son, pianist Peter Stoltzman, Sunday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield. For information, see the 'Concert' listing on this page.

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We are a group of weekly newspapers with an office in Maplewood looking for a person to work in our production department. Primary duty will be to produce art work, halftones and negatives on our Camery. Experience helpful, but not required. Entry level position. Benefit plan.

(973) 763-0700
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 Production Director
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 P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, N. J. 07040

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Would you like to make a difference? Sylvan Learning Center is coming to Cranford. We have immediate openings for full and part time teachers at our new location. Sylvan provides diagnostic and prescriptive instruction to students K-12. We emphasize building academic skills and increasing self-esteem. Certification mandatory. Positive attitude and a good rapport with students required. Fax resume or call:

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A free press is the strength behind democracy.

At Worrall Community Newspapers, reporters learn what it takes to become good reporters. Why? Because reporting for one or more of our weekly newspapers means becoming involved in the communities we serve. From news stories to features, from council coverage to police blotters, from community events to the Board of Education, reporters are the eyes and ears of all of our readers. Worrall Newspapers, which publishes 18 newspapers serving 26 towns, has openings for reporters in its Essex and Union County regions. If you think you have what it takes to be a reporter, send resumes and clips to Editor Tom Canavan, P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J., 07083, or fax to (908) 686-4169.

Be part of a company whose mission is to preserve democracy. Worrall Newspapers is an equal opportunity employer.

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Local Livery Service is looking for help in the evening hours. Weekdays from 4:00pm to 10:00pm. Some weekend hours also available. Please call 873-762-5700.

DRIVERS WANTED: No experience necessary. Very good pay. Training provided. Average 1st year pay \$500 weekly. Benefits! Must be 21 years old. Call: 1-800-872-7405

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30 YEAR FIXED	8.25	0.00	8.29	APP 30 YR FIXED	8.25	0.38	8.25
15 YEAR FIXED	7.88	0.00	7.91	FEF 15 YR FIXED	7.75	0.00	7.73
31-30 YR	6.75	0.00	7.31	31-30 YR JUMBO	8.29	0.38	8.35

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15 YR FIXED	7.88	0.00	7.90	FEF 15 YR FIXED	8.00	0.00	8.00
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AUTOMOTIVE

Continued from Page B11

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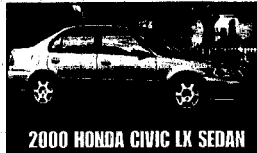
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