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WORRLAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1999 - SECTION B

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Potomac Fever II

Union County may be at the center of national attention in the coming year. Major political interest is being generated over the soon-to-be-vacated seat of U.S. Rep. Roben Franks.

While pundits predicting that control of the House of Representatives could hinge on five votes, Union County's open seat in the politically competitive 7th District means we could be making some important decisions.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

Along with the national interest has come a group of Washington wannabes. Within this list is a group of people who have had zero contact with Union County, which compromises the lion's share of the district.

While both the Republicans and Democrats have been hit by the new carpet baggers, my fellow Democrats look pretty stoic when compared to the stalling going on by the Republicans.

Democrats have started hearing from J. Brooke Horn of New Providence whose past includes working for a Bergen County congressman, a Mercer County legislator and a cabinet officer in Trenton. A Union County road map for this guy, as well as Warren Township Councilman Jeff Colkin who also wants the nod, is in order. Thankfully the two leading Democratic contenders, Michael Lapolla and Maryann Connelly, have a history of involvement in Union County and appropriately have the right to seek the nomination. Neither of them need a course in geography.

Meanwhile, the Republicans seem to be shopping the seat like the blue light special at K-Mart. Both Michael Ferguson and Thomas Kean Jr. have just moved into the district for the purpose of running for the seat. It was just a little more than a year ago that Ferguson was spending huge sums to defeat Frank Pallone and represent New Jersey in the shore district. After getting trounced with his wing campaign, Ferguson sees greener pastures in the 7th District.

Young Tom Kean Jr. needs to learn the lessons of baseball player Jesus Alou. It takes more than a famous name to make it in the major leagues. While the real estate agents love all these movements, the question is what do these two guys know about Union County except what their pollsters and fund-raisers tell them.

Also troubling is the lack of concern of the GOP big wigs for the home grown talent. Rather than the imports, how about considering
See NO, Page B2

Freeholders grant residency waivers

Less than half of all requests granted

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

Ten county employees were granted residency waivers by the Board of Freeholders last week and the board is expected to be presented with several more at its tonight's meeting, the final one of 1999.

County Manager Michael Lapolla received 49 waiver requests but only recommended the 10 last week and said he likely will submit less than five to the freeholders tonight. The 10 waivers granted last week were approved by a 6-3 vote with Chairman Nicholas Scutari, Donald Goncalves and Chester Holmes dissenting.

The freeholders are scheduled to meet tonight at 7 p.m. in the sixth-floor meeting room of the Administration Building.

Employees in the Division of Corrections who were granted waivers included Eugene Fabio Jr., Brian Murphy, Germano Pinio, Iris J. Torres, Ralph Turre, Lachelle Hamright and Ramon Feliciano in addition to Shu Ping Chan, a civilian non-uniformed employee, and County Police Officers William J. Carey and Gary Kowalczyk.

Holmes was not satisfied with the explanations he received from the county manager and employees' attorneys, one reason why he voted down the requests. The freeholder said there were issues he raised in closed session which were not adequately addressed.

The county has been consistent in enforcing the residency requirement, said Vice Chairman Daniel Sullivan, and there have only been a handful of waivers granted by the board. "When you have a policy, you need some flexibility," he
See EMPLOYEES, Page B2

Tree lighting fun



Three-year-old Dylan Bonina of Westfield takes a closer look at the Christmas lights during Union County's tree lighting festivities at the Watchung Stables on Friday.

Parks and recreation employees ask for settlement

Union working two years since last contract expired

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

More than 30 employees of the county Division of Parks and Recreation appeared before the freeholder board last week to ask for a contract settlement. Union members have been working without a contract since their

last one expired Dec. 31, 1997.

United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Local 494 represents 110 employees in the Division of Parks and Recreation, which includes employees in the parks, stables and golf courses, plumbers, electricians, carpenters and masons.

Joseph Petrosky, president of UE Local 494, said employees do a good job in the parks and want some help.

"Our membership is seeking a fair agreement. The top Union County officials received percentage wage increases of between 3.5 and 4.5 percent."

"If a percentage wage increase is good enough for county officials then it ought to be good enough for us too."

The county offered a flat wage increase of \$0.36 per hour while union members are seeking a percentage increase of 4 percent.

Freeholders deserve raises and do a commendable job, said union member Joseph Marella of Linden during last week's freeholder meeting. "I feel our jobs are just as important. We would like a little consideration."

Members recently rejected the county's final offer overwhelmingly and filed for fact-finding with the Public Employees Relations Commission in Trenton. The union rejected the county's offer because of the method in which the county proposed to apply wage increases. The union rejected an earlier offer in June as well.

The union and the county jointly filed an impasse in April after 12 months of negotiations. Six sessions were held with a mediator.

The fact-finder assigned by PERC will offer a non-binding recommendation on how to settle the dispute which the county can accept or ultimately implement what it wants to.

Freeholders approved three-year contracts in September for Health Professionals and Allied Employees, AFT, AFL-CIO and the International Union of Operating Engineers AFL-CIO Locals 68, 68A and 68B through 2001.

A three-year contract through 2000 was approved with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 102/Secondary Supervisors representing 12 top-level welfare supervisors in the Department of Human Services. The pattern established with county

contracts, said Director of Administrative Services Joseph Salenne, involves lowering starting salaries for future employees and offering flat wage increases versus percentage increases.

The savings from lowering starting salaries is shared with longer-term employees, in addition to adding steps to the contracts, Salenne said.

The health professionals union, which represents 60 registered nurses at Runells Specialized Hospital, received salary increases of \$0.25 an hour in each year of the three-year deal for employees with up to nine years experience. Employees with more than nine years' experience will receive \$0.65 per hour increases in 2000 and \$0.70 per hour increases in 2001.

It is the first contract with the nurses, who organized last year, Salenne said.

The International Union of Operating Engineers AFL-CIO Locals 68, 68A and 68B represent plumbers, steamfitters, foremen, maintenance repairmen, which is approximately 24 employees.

Members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 102/Secondary Supervisors received a \$975 salary hike in 1998 and 1999 and can expect a \$1,075 increase in 2000. The increment increases for employees in range 24A to 27A were reduced by approximately 35 percent. The number of steps in the salary guide were increased by three.

Union members received a \$500 bonus for 1999 and 2000, exclusive of their base salary and will receive a one-time \$250 bi-weekly pay transition bonus within the first week of January.

Board approves salary hikes

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

The Board of Freeholders approved, by a 7-1 vote last week, 3.5-percent salary increases for themselves and county department heads for 1999. By a separate 9-0 vote, the board approved a resolution doing the same for the county's constitutional officers.

Freeholder Donald Goncalves, in his next to last meeting as a freeholder, voted no while Linda Siender was absent for the vote.

All freeholders will receive an \$875 increase, raising the freeholder salary to \$25,875, fourth-highest in the state. The chairman and vice chairman will earn \$26,875 and \$27,875, respectively.

The county clerk, "surrogate and sheriff" will earn increases of \$3,559, raising their annual salaries from \$101,679 to \$105,238.

Last year freeholders approved a \$1,000 increase which was preceded by a \$1,000 increase in 1997.

In addition to salaries, freeholders are offered health benefits similar to that of the state, according to Deputy County Manager George Devaney, and are included in the state pension plan. While freeholders do not receive county cars, they do have access to them, if needed.

Freeholder boards in the Garden State generally offer some type of health and retirement benefits, according to Celeste Capiano, executive director of the New Jersey
See FREEHOLDERS, Page B2

Urban center crime rates

Municipality	1996	Diff.	1997	Diff.	1998	Diff.
Union County	48.9	+0.6	49.2	-6.9	45.8	-6.4
Plainfield	71.1	-10.0	63.9	+1.5	64.8	-9.0
Average	78.9	-3.0	79.6	-7.5	70.1	-10.0
Elizabeth	86.7	+3.0	86.2	-14.0	76.9	-11.0

Source: Uniform Crime Report 1997, 1998

Crime rate is the number of incidents reported per 1,000 residents. Municipalities classified as "urban centers" by the Uniform Crime Report are "densely populated with extensive development." The columns labeled "Diff." indicate the percent change from 1996 to 1997 and from 1997 to 1998. The column on the far right indicates the percent change from 1996 to 1998. The average represents the average figures for Union County's "urban center" municipalities while the Union County row is the county's overall rate.

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Formally dedicating the the TEC 2000 Partnership Program between Bell Atlantic and the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools are, from left, Gail Iannatello, vice president of the Vo-Tech school board; state Senate President Donald DiFrancesco; William Freeman, president and chief executive officer of Bell Atlantic, and Charles Mancuso, president of the Vo-Tech school board.

Partnership with Vo-Tech dedicated

State Senate President Donald DiFrancesco and William Freeman, president and chief executive officer of Bell Atlantic, were recently at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools to formally dedicate the TEC 2000 partnership program between Bell Atlantic and the vo-tech schools. TEC 2000 is a nationally-recognized program that prepares students, as well as adults entering the job market, for network-related jobs in New Jersey's ever-expanding telecommunications industry.

of the newest TEC 2000 program in the state. In September, more than 15 high school and post secondary students began a 960-hour program that will prepare them for entry-level jobs in telecommunications. Started by Bell Atlantic in 1994 with just 12 students at one school, Tec 2000 has now expanded throughout New Jersey and is playing a major role in the state's preparation-for-employment picture. Official dedication ceremonies began at 9:45 a.m. in Barel Hall on the Raritan Road Campus with Super-

intendent of Schools Thomas Bistoch extending a welcome to all in attendance. The program then relocated to the TEC 2000 classroom and Telcom Laboratory in West Hall Annex where DiFrancesco and Freeman officially dedicated the project. Following the formal agenda, there were guided tours of the facilities with an Open House in progress. Full details regarding the TEC 2000 Program can be obtained by calling Patrick Mauro, director of admissions and curriculum at the Vo-Tech schools at (908) 889-2999.

Authorities warn of unique holiday thefts

Warnings about "skimming," a new method of stealing credit information with a small device about the size of a booper, have been issued by the Union County Prosecutor's Office as part of the annual warning about theft protection during the holiday season.

He said police agencies throughout the county are aware of the latest information about "skimming," which takes place when a legitimate credit card is used for typical purchases at a store, gas station or restaurant. Using the small reading device, the thief swipes the card through a normal credit card reader and then a second "skimming" device which electronically captures the card holder's name, address, credit limit and validation data and transfers it to plain card.

a statewide seminar on identity theft earlier this year.

"What can you do? You should be certain that when you use any credit card it does not leave your sight and you should check all your purchases carefully and report anything unusual to authorities."

Deputies in the Special Prosecutions Unit at the office have assisted in training authorities on handling such cases and a new article on the subject is in the current newsletter now being distributed to all 1,800 officers in the county, said First Assistant Prosecutor James Keefe. Springfield Detective Judd Levenson, an expert on identity theft, said businesses along Route 22 are becoming more savvy in avoiding being victimized since they may have to share in the losses.

"We get calls from stores in our township when the bad guy uses a dead card with stolen data on it," Levenson said. "What is a bit more difficult is when the merchant is in on the scam because then any card with magnetic tape can be used to hold someone else's credit data."

The Arc awarded for 50th anniversary video

The Arc of Union County, a not-for-profit organization that serves individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, has been honored with The Arc of New Jersey's 1999 Communicator's Award for its 50th anniversary video.

For more information on The Arc call (908) 754-7826.

Employees waiting on waivers

(Continued from Page B1) said. "I believe these are for extraordinary circumstances."

Many of the waiver requests that were granted, Lapolla said, were for medical and personal situations. The "vast majority" of the requests, however, were for reasons such as not being able to find a home, or an affordable home within the county, something the county manager did not

consider reason enough to recommend the waiver.

Concalves said he has always believed that people who work for municipal government should be residents of that municipality. The same rule, he said, should apply to county employees.

Holmes may vote differently on the latest requests but his decision will be

"based on my concept of information that is given to me."

Last week's decision leaves approximately 33 employees from the Division of Corrections and seven from the County Police who still seek residency waivers; said David Fox, an attorney representing the group.

The county postponed a Nov. 1 deadline to Feb. 1 to allow employees to apply for the residency waivers.

Freeholders approve salary increase

(Continued from Page B1) Association of Counties. A majority of counties have private health and retirement programs while others are part of the state health and pension plans.

As far as offering county cars for freeholders, Capriano said it depends on the county. Some may have reimbursements for freeholders who use their own cars while other counties give them county cars to attend certain events.

Joseph Dougherty of Elizabeth said he opposed the salary increases "as a beleaguered and overburdened taxpayer."

The average taxpayer has a difficult

time making ends meet, he said. "I am confident the salary you're being paid is adequate."

Batrice Bernzouf of Linden said she is "probably the only individual here that thinks you deserve a raise."

"I never ran for freeholder because it is much too complex a job."

Based on the amount of time put in to represent the county, Freeholder Chester Holmes said, a raise was justified but, "I would base it on the cost of living more than anything else."

There are times, he said, that freeholders make two or three meetings per night. "It's a matter of representing the county an equitable and dignified fashion so we maintain the level of service to county residents."

"I still think freeholders are doing a very good job as far as protecting the interest of the county residents," Holmes said. "That is the issue that I base

my concerns on" when he is up for re-election next year, not salary hikes.

"It's one of those 'I told you so's," said Richard Rovilla, a Republican who unsuccessfully ran for freeholder this year. "It's another Christmas gift. It looks like it's going to happen every year."

"To really put it in perspective, a freeholder now earns about \$1,000 a meeting," Rovilla said. With two-hour meetings, freeholders earn roughly \$500 an hour, he said, where items are determined beforehand and everything gets approved. "I wish the freeholders would be more receptive" to Union County constituents.

The average freeholder salary in New Jersey is \$21,472 while the median salary is \$20,675, in Middlesex County. The average chairman's salary is \$22,558.



Rebecca Printz
Printz named chair of ELC

Rebecca Printz, esq., has been named Chair of the Union County Employer Legislative Committee for 2000. The Union County ELC is one of 18 voluntary employer groups active in New Jersey State and county legislative affairs. Ms. Printz is a partner in the law firm of Tamborlane and Printz, P.C., Mountainside.

"Union County ELC provides an opportunity for businesses to have direct contact with county and state elected representatives and government officials," said Printz. ELCs are sponsored by the New Jersey Business and Industry Association and are instrumental in bringing business and industry concerns to state and county legislators.

The ELCs present various legislative, government and industry forums at their monthly meetings. The Union County ELC holds its meetings at L'Affaire in Mountainside, on the last Wednesday of every month from 12:15 to 2 p.m. All members of the business community are invited to attend. Call Printz at (908) 789-7977 if you or members of your organization would like to know more about the ELC or receive meeting notices.

Tamborlane and Printz, P.C., located at 1044 Route 22 West, in Mountainside, offers a full range of legal services to businesses in New Jersey, New York and Florida.

No cure for Potomac Fever

(Continued from Page B1) Kenilworth Mayor Michael Trippi, former Cranford officials Paul Lacorete and Ed Force, or Councilman Martin Marks in Scotch Plains? While you may or may not agree with them philosophically, their love for and commitment to the county is undeniable. More importantly, they have a track record on policy issues.

The fight for control of Congress will be about more than just personalities. The Texas Congressional Republicans who control the federal agenda, have little compassion on subjects like mass transi-

ding of our harbor, or the pollution problems we face. The next congressman we elect needs to be someone who understands and cares about our needs.

I'm reminded of the words of another Republican, the late Earl Henwood of Union Township. He used to speak about Potomac Fever as a disease for which there is no known cure. There is a bevy of carpet baggers who have the disease. We should deny them the fix they desire.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

Lodge awards donate to local groups

Atlas Pythagoras Lodge 10 F&AM held its annual Charity Night in Westfield on Oct. 28. Invitations were extended to numerous community organizations to attend the program for the purpose of receiving donations to assist them in continuing their respective charitable efforts.

Continuing a tradition of many years, the lodge distributed checks to representatives of 15 groups to recognize their charitable endeavors and to illustrate that charity is one of the principles upon which the Masonic fraternity is founded.

Included among the recipients were the Union County Sheriff's Office Bread Basket Program, Keystone Community Residence, Greater Plainfield Habitat for Humanity, Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad, Masonic Service Organization, Contact We Care, Muhlberg Foundation Inc., Meal Meals of Westfield, Union County Sheriff's Officers Tree of Hope, Occupational Center of Union County, Inter American Conductive Foundation, First Aid Explorer Post 22, Scottish Rite Masonic Learning Center, 13th Masonic District Scholarship Fund and the Mill Hill Child Development Center.

Following the distribution of the checks, all of the recipients gave a brief synopsis of the types of work that their organization is performing.

To conclude the evening, refreshments were served which afforded an opportunity for those present to exchange thoughts and ideas, so as to obtain a better understanding of their respective organizations.

The Charity Fund was established by the lodge in 1970 and is administered by a five-member committee chaired by R.W. Nicholas L. Pagnetti.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Music groups fill county with sounds of the season

**By Bill Van Sant
Associate Editor**

Perhaps one of the most eagerly anticipated aspects of the December holiday season is the music, whether one sings of a virgin birth, the miracle of Hanukkah, or a visit from St. Nick.

This past weekend, Union County was alive with the sounds of the season with concerts being presented by many of the county's musical organizations. It would be physically impossible to attend every presentation by every church and band, but this reviewer set out and was able to take in three such concerts, each with its own distinct flair and flavor.

Everybody sing!

The weekend of music began Friday evening at the First Baptist Church of Westfield with the annual "Messiah Sing" sponsored by the Choral Art Society of New Jersey.

This was not a traditional concert presentation, but rather a sing-along. While the majority of those gathered at the church were members of the Choral Art Society, the complement was comprised of singers from various choirs and church groups in the area. Divided into sections by parts — soprano, alto, tenor, bass — we raised our voices as we sang the entire first section of the oratorio, the "Christmas section," and selections from the second and third parts under the direction of conductor James S. Little and to the accompaniment of organist Sandor Szabo.

Written in only 25 days, the "Messiah" is perhaps the oratorio most often performed by church choirs and choral groups. The result is that most choral singers are familiar with the work. While this musical knowledge was evident Friday night, there was a few occasional "rain checks," particularly in the solo sections, which were sung by the entire voices section

for which the piece was written. While most of us in the church Friday have sung the choruses, not all of us have sung the arias, and that lack of experience made itself known once or twice. Moreover, Handelian runs are quite a workout, and keeping an entire section together on — on some what unfamiliar ground — is no easy feat.

However, the purpose of this concert was not really to entertain a passive audience. It was to bring people together to share their love of singing in general, and their passion for this piece in particular. And that purpose was more than accomplished. This reviewer has not had the pleasure of singing some of this material in more than 20 years and, yes, it is like riding a bike. And Little's good nature made even the near-misses just one more part of an entirely pleasurable evening.

Even if predictable, the highlights of the evening were "Worthy is the Lamb," the finale of the oratorio complete with a spectacular six-page "Amen" section, and, of course, the "Hallelujah" chorus. Almost everyone who has performed the "Messiah," even if their experience is limited, is familiar with these two sections and the result was exhilarating. To hear an entire church filled with singers surmounting these pieces was awe-inspiring and raised quite a few goosebumps.

For those who prefer to listen, the Choral Art Society will present its winter concert, featuring Bach's Mass in B minor, Jan. 22 at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

A child's shall lead them.
Saturday afternoon brought holiday entertainment of another sort, with the Celebration Singers of Cranford performing their first-ever staged concert.

Under the able direction of Tom Pedas, the group broke from the tradition of aural choral presentation and mounted Gian Carlo Menotti's one-act opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors."

Commissioned by NBC in 1951 to write an English-language, Christmas-themed opera for television, Menotti wrote "Amahl" to tell the story of a crippled shepherd boy and his widowed mother whose poverty-stricken lives are interrupted when they provide overnight shelter to three travelers — the three kings on their way to the Christ Child. Before the kings depart, miracles occur for this impoverished family, thus proving the sanctity of the Child they were to nurture for the ride.

This was an excellent choice for the Celebration Singers for many reasons. Being in English, it was accessible to all audience members, many of whom may have staid away from a foreign-language presentation. Furthermore, the central character being a child gave the youngsters in the audience a surrogate on stage, someone to whom they could relate. When Amahl's mother laments her son's exaggerations by singing, "What shall I do with this boy?," many parents in the audience smiled their identification with the woman, as many children rooted for their hero to be believed. And when the lad's claim that there are kings at the door proves true, vindication was vicariously shared by all.

Singing the role of Amahl was Jarrod Schlenker, who alternated performances with Paul Sawicki. This is a very difficult role to cast: Amahl is a boy soprano and, outside of a professional arena, it's difficult to find a young man who is old enough to understand his tasks as a performer, and young enough not to be plagued by a changing pubescent voice. While Schlenker's vocal performance was

not flawless, his characterization of this boy was quite effective, making this youngster from two millennia agreeable and approachable in 1998. Like many a kid since and to come, he was simply a boy letting his imagination take him to uncharted territory. And we gladly went along for the ride.

Deborah Eberts brought a rich operatic voice to her performance as his mother. Although some of her physical gestures were superfluous and sometimes distracting — the beseeching, hands-outstretched, "I'm-singing-opera" movement should be stricken from the classical stage — her voice filled the church with beautiful soprano tones and her dramatic performance perfectly mixed drama and emotion and love.

Both vocalists were especially effective in the recitative sections, performing some of the best "sung conversation" this reviewer has heard in quite some time.

Singing the roles of the kings were Nuno DeSouza, Manuel Gonzalez Jr. and Khy Garner. All three were a delight to watch, incorporating tiny details which fleshed out the whole, especially when Garner superciliously checked for dust upon entering the home. Their voices blended as beautifully as their acting, nowhere more so than in "Have You Seen the Child?" when they and Eberts soared in breathtaking harmonies.

Adding to the quality of the presentation, the acoustics at the Cranford United Methodist Church are astounding, making it possible to hear the tiniest note and subtlest vocal nuance.

The second half of the presentation was a traditional concert, much like those in Celebration's past repertoire. Accompanying the opera and concert was Conrad Erdt.

One can only hope that Pedas and Celebration Singers will keep

"Amahl" as part of their holiday traditions. It is rare to see such singing talent in a group dedicated ostensibly only to choral performance, and it would be a shame for this light to be under a bushel.

Sirings attached

Rounding out the musical weekend was the winter concert presented by the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra at Cranford High School Sunday afternoon.

The orchestra's first selection of its program — titled "Mainly Mozart" — was three movements from "Toy Symphony" by Leopold Mozart, father of the famed Wolfgang Amadeus. Several of the orchestra's younger members left their cellos and violins behind and surrounded Marks' podium, playing toy instruments. The juxtaposition of the classic — courtesy of the conventional instruments — and light-hearted made for a thoroughly entertaining start, and perfectly demonstrated the orchestra's intergenerational mission.

Marks' able conducting was most evident in the first movement of "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" by Wolfgang Mozart, particularly in the unity and precision of the grace notes played by several musicians at once.

With a program that included "Shaker Hymn," "Donna Nobis Pacem" and "He Shall Feed His Flock," the highlight came near the end of the first portion when Cranford composer Mario Lombardo took the stage. After a rendition of Lombardo's "Winter Frolic" under Marks' baton, the mood turned reflective with a second Lombardo piece, "Elegy," which was commissioned through a Union County HEART grant expressly for the orchestra. The piece, for string orchestra and viola solo, was conducted by the composer with the solo part played by Marks, who dedi-

cated her performance — as well as the entire concert — to the memory of a former member, the Rev. Joseph Kucharik, who died in June.

The personal connection to the mournful piece resulted in a truly moving and impassioned performance. In a recent interview with this newspaper, Marks commented that when she began the orchestra nearly five years ago, she knew — as an intellectual concept — that the day would come when a member died. That day did not arrive until Kucharik's death and the dedication of "Elegy" to his memory moved many audience members.

Prior to the beginning of the musical program, several dignitaries spoke from the podium, each paying tribute to the work done by the orchestra and Marks. Cranford Superintendent of Schools Ermalene Rema, a staunch supporter of the orchestra since its inception, commended Marks for her contributions to the community through the orchestra's work.

Rema was followed on stage by Virginia Hazzard, the chairperson of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organization's Committee on Aging. Pointing out NJIO's singularity, she presented a certificate of recognition from the U.N., commending NJIO for its work in bridging the generations.

Assemblyman Richard Bagger presented Marks with a resolution from Gov. Christine Whitman and the Legislature, and Kathleen Willis, executive director of Cranford Family Care, thanked the orchestra for its support of her agency.

For information on these musical organizations, call the Choral Art Society at (908) 232-2455, visit the Celebration Singers' website at <http://communitynjio.com/celebratingsingers.htm>, or call NJIO at (908) 709-0084.

'Sleepy Hollow' draws millennial parallels

While director Tim Burton's "Sleepy Hollow" is a widely loved adaptation of Washington Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," nonetheless will manage to capture much of the spirit of the original story, thanks mainly to the inventive screenplay by the ingenious Andrew Kevin Walker, who also wrote "Seven" and "Sam." In choosing to emphasize witchcraft for this new adaptation, not only does Walker score a coup by adding yet another feather to his cinematic cap, he — I say it? — also manages to complete Irving's original tale.

Of course, Irving, who authored "The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayne," in 1820, of which "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" serves as the climax, may very well be spinning in his grave by now, but what if? "Sleepy Hollow" is, after all, just a movie, and a fine movie it is, with Burton no doubt having great fun paying homage, if you will, to his favorite Hammer horror films of the '50s and '60s, which — let's face it — weren't so scary so much as they were atmospheric, and "Sleepy Hollow" has plenty of atmosphere, thanks mainly to some gorgeous cinematography by Emmanuel Lubezki. Besides being largely filmed in England, where Hammer was based, the movie features a cameo appearance by the great Hammer film star Christopher Lee. Horror buffs will also recognize a tribute to 1958's "The Monster of Piedras Blancas," starring '50s blonde bombshell Jeanne Cruger.

As Ichabod Crane, Johnny Depp gives us a terrific performance, and he adds a bit of umidity and squeamishness to the role of this scholar of witchcraft, who in Irving's original story was a shy schoolmaster who originally hailed from Connecticut but who is here transferred into a constable from New York City. In both cases they wind up in Tarry

Fade In

By Jonathan Franklin

Town, N.Y. — or simply Tarrytown, as they now say, the former to become the aforementioned schoolmaster, and the latter to use his talents as a kind of forensic specialist to investigate a series of grisly beheadings attributed by some to a Hessian mercenary soldier from the Revolutionary War. The ghost of Hessian leader Van Tassel is said to be haunting an area known as Sleepy Hollow, and who has been seen riding on horseback in the dead of night.

Set in 1799, just before the dawn of a new century, the film obviously draws parallels with our own so-called millennialism. In circa 1719, as this screen adaptation goes, a Hessian mercenary, played here by Christopher Walken in an uncredited cameo role, was hired by the British to do battle against the American colonists. He's stationed here as having recovered from death, and Walken does the epitome of his role just by wearing a typically wild-eyed. He goes on a wild rampage, beheading every soldier in his path, until fate befalls him, resulting in his own death and beheading. This was witnessed by two mysterious young sisters, one of whom grows up to become the bewitching Miranda Richardson. As Lady Van Tassel, she's the wife of Balinus Van Tassel, played by the always brilliant Michael Gambon, and the stepmother of Katrina Van Tassel, played by independent film queen Christina Ricci, a beautiful young girl of about 20 who is thought to possess occult powers.

Ichabod is of course bewitched by Katrina, as he is in the original story, but his bewitchment here takes on a

new twist: his own mother, played by Lisa Marie, was something of a certifi-cally mother who fled Katrina's early days with magic and wonder, which Ichabod himself looks back upon as a half-remembered, distant dream within a dream; until one day his own father accuses his mother of witchcraft, for which he subjects her to the most excruciating, inhuman forms of torture, resulting in her own horrible, grisly death. From that day onward, Ichabod grows in the audience's mind the idea of sympathy for witches, whether they were real or imagined to be so.

Ichabod, of course, dismisses as hogwash the theory that a Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow has had anything at all to do with the series murders that are currently under investigation. Always the scientist, he instead chooses to believe that the murders are rather the result of a conspiracy on the part of a certain group of town elders, who, with the exception of Balinus, are nowhere to be found in the original story. They are Reverend Slenewyck, played by Jeffrey Jones, Magistrate Phillip, played by Richard Griffiths, James Harbison, played by the esteemed Michael Gough, and a Doctor Lancaster, played by Ian McDiarmid. Constable Crane theorizes that one or all of these worthy gentlemen have in one way or another resorted to murder in order to inherit a big bundle of money. Or are they? And what does Miranda Richardson know that she's not telling us?

As the faint-hearted Crane, Depp is seen losing consciousness at least twice in the film, once when he spots a very large spider in his bedroom, and again at the culmination of an epic battle between the headless horseman and Bron Bones, the squire of Katrina, resulting in a rather horrific splattering of Bron, played by Casper Van Dien, at the hands of the evil Walken. In all, it's a bloody good show.

'King Island' rich in traditions

Original musical offers inspirational tale

By Bill Van Sant
Associate Editor

The December holiday season is replete with holiday traditions of the entertainment sort, mostly TV specials. Last week, the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn threw its hat into the ring with a one-night-only staged reading of "King Island Christmas," an one-act musical based on the book of the same name by Jean Rogers. Paper Mill Artistic Director Robert Johnson staged the show, in addition to making a rare appearance as an actor.

Inspired by a true story of events on December 25 on a small island off Alaska, "King Island Christmas," like many of its counterparts, is a parable, but one with some surprising deviations from the "formula."

Those deviations were represented by the lack of a clear-cut protagonist and an identifiable "villain," commodities one can quickly isolate in most stories of this nature. In this case, "the hero" is the people of the village, and "the villain" is Mother Nature's unpredictability.

Like many indigenous American societies, King Island is steeped in storytelling, another tradition observed by the tale. This is made evident in the depiction of the stories in the Christmas celebration in the show, as well as in the show's own genesis.

Located in the Bering Sea, King Island has a population of about 150 people, all of whom live in one village of Ukvok with 35 cabins, a schoolhouse and a church. With the island inaccessible for many months due to the ice in the sea, the villagers depend on steam ships to deliver supplies before the winter's isolation sets in.

On one Christmas Day in the early 1950s, the inhabitants must face seemingly insurmountable odds to get the winter's supplies and their pastor, Father Carol, onto the island from the North Star, which is able to reach the island only from the leeward side — on the other side of a 1,195-foot mountain from the village.

It is here where the story becomes one of inspiration. With the possibility of a winter without provisions and a Christmas without their beloved priest, the villagers banded together and carried over the mountain the oomak, a walrus-horn boat 30 feet long needed to get out to the anchored ship to retrieve supplies and passengers.

Author Rogers, an Alaskan herself, first heard this story from illustrator Ric Munoz, who lived on King Island that remarkable Christmas. After the two collaborated on the storybook, Rogers told the tale to librettist Deborah B. Brevoort.

This mouth-to-ear retelling is significant on many levels. While the villagers observe their Christmas traditions, they — and we — are treated to stories, first a fable of the sacred responsibility of honoring that which you hunt for sustenance, second a reminder that positive thinking breeds positive results, and lastly, the most recent story of that of a village which faced adversity and won.

Told in oratorio form — a story presented completely in song — Brevoort collaborated with composer David Friedman to bring Rogers' book to musical life. As the cast gathered on the Paper Mill stage, music books in hand, they too joined the tradition of storytelling with the presence of a Narrator and the company's opening lyrics: "We'll tell you a story, a Christmas story, it's our Christmas present to you."

The score, perhaps the most integral element of a through-sung piece, offers variety in musical styles that suit not only the moments on stage but the purposes of the information being related. From the anticipation of "Waiting," to the rousing inspiration of "Over the Mountain," to the reverence of "The Miracle of Light," to the colloquial humor of "Apookit, Mukit, Salmon & Seal," the music is as much our guide as the Narrator, leading not to the leeward side of an island, but to the serenity and inspiration that comes with a balance in faith, nature and community.

Appearing at the Paper Mill was a cast assembled of veterans of that stage alongside local talent, further underscoring the "entire community" aspect of the tale.

On the professional side, Paolo Montalban shone as the Narrator. Best known to most children in the audience as Prince Charming in the Whitney Houston/Brendy "Cinderella" on ABC-TV last year, Montalban brought a warmth, accessibility and beautiful voice to the role, making us at once a willing audience for the tale in store.

Joining Montalban, Judy McClane was a wonderful combination of maternal instinct, bravery

and grit as Little Eira's Mother, a recent widow with a young son and an infant in tow. Her "Trouble is a Gift," sung to Little Eir, is a perfect example of this: neither whining about problems nor blindly ignoring them, she embraces hardship for the growth that will follow. The moment is powerful in both its wisdom and its warmth, offering a lesson not easily disregarded, a credit to the composers, the director and the actress.

Also of note was Lawrence Clayton as Island elder Oolooka. His gospel rendition of "Over the Mountain" was enough to get the audience out of its seats to help with the task at hand, singing and clapping all the while.

Johnson's Father Carol was the epitome of the perfect parish priest. His boyish looks combined with his dedication to his flock made for an endearing portrait of a man whose calling belies — and defies — his apparent youth. We, too, felt that all would be well that Father Crane of was once again on King Island. It's a shame that Johnson's administrative duties don't allow more opportunities for audiences to enjoy this man's unique gifts as a performer.

For Paper Mill regulars, the cast featured past performers familiar to audiences. Johnson, Montalban, McClane and Clayton have all previously graced the Millburn stage. Other past performers were Paul Inacio as Little Eir, Dancie Holden, Caesar Samoyev, Christopher Bishop, William Whitefield and Hunter Bell.

But what did the experts think? To account for this demographic, this reviewer brought along his two children: Tom, almost 7, and Reid, 5, both of whom sat through the hour-plus show with their eyes glued to the stage. Afterward, both kids were able to recount the basic events of the story, assurance that the non-stop music — all of it new to them — did its job in communicating its intent to its target audience. While Tom's opinions were broader, commenting on the show as a whole, Reid singled-out moments, his personal favorite being "Over the Mountain," which he's still singing with the CD purchased that night.

In keeping with the tone of traditions, let us hope that "King Island Christmas" becomes the Paper Mill's contribution to the custom.

Vienna Boys Choir visits Rahway Friday

Often, the Union County Arts Center presents performers who have worked in their field for half a century — this season's bringer was crooner Al Martino.

Now, UCAC opens to Rahway a group that has remained at the top of its game for half a millennium. On Friday, the world-renowned Vienna Choir Boys will bring its classical brand of performance to the Rahway Theater.

The Vienna Choir Boys, founded by Leopold Plocher in 1498, have a 500-year history of delivering music by Austrian musical composition. Schubert, Strauss, Salieri and Haydn are merely a sampling of the composers who wrote material for the choir and whose works continue to be performed to the present day. Composed of 100 boys between the ages of 8 and 13, the Vienna Choir has four groups that rotate through daily chapel duty in Vienna and the world tours that remain popular year after year. Combining its classical repertoire with opera, folk songs and holiday music, the Vienna Choir Boys should prove to be a sum-

ptuous musical treat to celebrate the holiday season.

The Union County Arts Center, a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to presenting the best in the performing arts, is located in the recently restored Rahway Theater, a 1928 vaudeville and silent film house in downtown Rahway. The Arts Center is handicapped accessible, and listening devices are available to persons upon request. Major support for the Arts Center and its programs comes from the City of Rahway, Merck & Co., the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County, Comcast Digital Cable of Union, and the Rahway Savings Institution. Tickets can be purchased by phone with a Visa, MasterCard or Discover, or in person at the Irving Street box office. In addition, tickets will be available online this season through the website at www.ucac.org, and through ETM Ticket Kiosks located in the Menlo Park Mall and Edwards Supermarkets. For more information, or ticket availability, call the box office at (732) 499-8276 or after 5 p.m. at 1-888-ETM-TIXS.

Concert celebrates Jewish music

Celebrating the Jewish musical accent in American theater, Zalmen Mlotek, one of the world's foremost authorities on Yiddish folk and theater music and a widely respected Broadway music director and conductor, headlines the first program of the Combined Cultural Series sponsored by three area synagogues in December.

The curtain rises on Mlotek's "100 Years of Jewish Theater Music: From the Yiddish Stage to the Klezmer Revival" Saturday at 8 p.m. at Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim, Walnut Street in Cranford.

This synagogue is one of the three sponsoring synagogues of the annual two-part cultural series. The others are Temple Beth O' Beth Torah in Clark and Congregation Anshe Chesed in Linden. The series is under the auspices of the synagogues' respective Adult Education Committees. The second program of the series is scheduled for April 2, 2000.

100 Years of Jewish Theater Music

Hailed as the "runaway hit" of the 1997 Berkeley Jewish Music Festival, this elegant piece by Mlotek celebrates the Jewish musical accent in American theater. Beginning with the origins of the Yiddish theater in the wine cellars of Romania, the piece comprises operetta arias, humorous vaudeville ballads, backstage renditions of "Fiddler on the Roof," the origins of Klezmer music, and a special Yiddish English version of Gilbert and Sullivan.

The audience will be fascinated as Mlotek transforms Yiddish melodies into Gershwin, Berlin, and Cab Calloway jazz numbers and uncovers Jewish melodies in contemporary film music.

Zalmen Mlotek

Mlotek is co-artistic director of the Folksbines Yiddish

Theater, a New York-based organization that is the longest continuously operating Yiddish theater company in the world.

Mlotek is also music director of The New Yiddish Choral, a critically acclaimed group presenting a sophisticated Yiddish choral repertoire; conductor of the Workmen's Circle Chorus, which has appeared to rave reviews in Israel, Madison Square Garden and at commemorations for the U.S. Holocaust Commission in Washington, D.C.; and conductor for the Rottenberg Chorale in New York, a 20-year-old multi-generational group in residence at the Merkin Concert Hall of the Elaine Kaufman Cultural Center presenting a wide range of Jewish music in Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, and English.

In addition, Mlotek is a professor at Yeshiva University's Belz School of Jewish Music, the world's leading school for the training of Orthodox Jewish cantors.

Mlotek served as co-creator and music director for Isaac Bashevis Singer's "Shlemiel the First," which played to standing ovations throughout the country, and as creator and music director of the first All-Star Klezmer Extravaganza at Lincoln Center in 1995.

Mlotek has appeared with Theodore Bikel, Jean Stapleton, Sheldon Harnick, Jan Pterco, and other theater stars. The cost for the Combined Cultural Series is \$12.50 for members of the sponsoring synagogues and \$18 for non-congregation members. The cost of each individual event is \$8 for congregation members and \$10 for non-members. There is no charge for children.

For tickets and more information, contact the sponsoring synagogues: Temple Beth O' Beth Torah at (752) 381-8403, Congregation Anshe Chesed at (908) 486-5616, and Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim at (908) 276-9231.

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Are we understanding today's artists?

The exhibit at the Jewish Museum in New York City of the arts in Berlin in the period before the first World War — during which time Berlin became a great city of the arts — is instructive when viewed through the magnifying glass of the Nazi and Holocaust period that was soon to follow.

The work of so many creative artists was lost on the sensibility of the German people who were the main audience. Reading the commentary on the exhibit including so many artists who had been forgotten set me to thinking.

My thoughts turned first to the permanent exhibit of photographs at the Holocaust museum in Washington, D.C., of the thousands of Lithuanian Jews murdered for no reason but their existence. Among them were poets, doctors, lawyers, patriots and malcontents. As Chaplain Rabbi Roland Gittelson said in his eulogy of the dead soldiers at Iwo Jima, "Was there perhaps a Mozart or Einstein among them? What great acts of creativity do we not witness from these dead men?"

Then I thought about the great artists of today whose work is praised but who have not made the impact I would expect. The American independent movie director Steven Soderberg is an example.

Soderberg has made three entertaining and truth-telling movies, each set in a contemporary American genre. The most recent is "The Limey" with Terrance Stamp, about an inarticulate, petty criminal, an English father who comes to the surface world of entertainment and drugs in present day Los Angeles to understand and avenge his estranged daughter's death. In some mysterious way, it reminded me of Philip Roth's articulate examination of the Vietnam American era in his novel "American Pastoral." When you add to this Soderberg's brilliant earlier "sex, lies and videotape," and the commercially underachieving "Out of Sight," I have to wonder if we are not simply missing the boat on an exceptional movie talent who seems to be passing through with a moral view of our culture in a few consummate, contemporary offerings before the costs of the excesses of the industry catch up to him.

Although it might sound silly, the same might be said for Brian Friel of the Irish theater, who has his audience and recognition, but who suffers from detractors who don't get the talking — the gab — of his characters, talking out their lives. Actors understand the high art and entertainment, of, say, "Wonderful Tennesse" at the McCarter Theater in Princeton a few seasons ago, but much of the audience yawned through it, refusing to be roused by the characterizations and their contemporary disappointments.

Sometimes the neglect can rise all the way to the top. In a celebration of the last century, literary folk were asked to list the greatest American plays. Those of Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, not to mention Eugene O'Neill, made the top of the list, but one had to look further down the list to find playwright Loraine Hansberry, and then only "Raisin in the Sun" — a pretty much acknowledged masterpiece — but not other equally powerful plays like "The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window," as if a black female writer was lucky to have made the list at all.

Finally, I think of the fleeting fame of the American minor landscape painters of the Hudson River School whose work was diminished by the rush to abstract impressionism. Just being revived and restored in

On the Arts

By Jon Plaut

museums in exhibits that are bringing the paintings up from the storage bins to be looked at afresh, the shunning and now reacceptance of this powerful landscape school is a perfect

example of how art imitates life in its knowing to fashion.

Fame and public adoration for the artistic creation are so chancey, so subject to the vagaries of outside events, and an easily forgetting public. The creative artist must selfishly protect his or her gift and pay as little attention as possible to public worship in pursuing that gift. The chips will fall where they may, in any event.

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Savion Glover heads NJPAC's 3-day Kwanzaa programming

"Honoring a Heritage" — a three-day celebration of the Kwanzaa holiday featuring performances on two stages, family activities for all ages and an exciting marketplace transforming the lobby of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center into an Afrocentric mall — will begin today with a gospel concert in Prudential Hall.

The celebration is presented in association with the Beta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and the North Jersey Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

The 7 p.m. concert, which has been sold out for weeks, will feature the critically acclaimed NJPAC Jubilation Choir with solo performances by Clay Houston and Walter Hawkins. The choir is under the musical direction of Stephanie Minnie.

Keeping with the tradition of paying tribute to elders during this unique African-American holiday, noted journalist Gil Noble and Bernice Johnson, a retired vice principal in the Newark public school system, will be honored at the formal opening ceremonies of the Kwanzaa Festival at 7 p.m., Friday, in the Victoria Theater. Noble and Johnson are being recognized as "distinguished community leaders who have made enormous contributions to the African-American community, the residents of Newark and society at large," according to Philip S. Thomas, NJPAC Vice President for Arts Education.

Friday's formal opening will feature a traditional Kwanzaa candle-lighting ritual conducted by educator and performer C. Katunge Mimy with participation by students from Patrick Healy Middle School in East Orange, all of whom are part of NJPAC's Theater Academy Residency. Mimy will lead the audience through a Kwanzaa

ceremony honoring the seven principles of individual strength and community that serve as guides for daily living known as the *Nguzo Saba*.

These principles, Mimy explained, are *Umoja*, or Unity; *Kujichagulia*, or Self-determination; *Ujima*, or Collective Work and Responsibility; *Ujamaa*, or Cooperative Economics; *Nia*, or Purpose; *Kuumba*, or Creativity; and *Imani*, or Faith.

The program will also feature dance excerpts from "The Spirit of Kwanzaa," performed by members of the *Umoja* and *Usama* dance companies. According to Artistic Director Karen Love, *Umoja* and *Usama* are New Jersey-based dance companies dedicated to "preserving African dance as a communal and universal expression of life."

Tickets for the opening ceremony, which include a special reception in honor of Noble and Johnson in the NJPAC Banquet Hall at 5 p.m. prior to the program, are available at \$48 for adults and \$39 for children.

Fifteen of the region's top merchants of Afro-centric products will display for sale an impressive selection of finely crafted artwork, jewelry, clothing and accessories, as well as books, textiles, dolls and much more through Saturday. The vendors will preview their wares beginning at 5 p.m. today. The Bradford Hayes Sextet will perform at the official public opening of the Marketplace at 5 p.m. Friday in the Prudential Hall lobby. This event is free and open to the public. The Marketplace will also be open to the public for a full day, noon to 10 p.m. Saturday.

One of the highlights of the schedule of free activities open to the public on Saturday will be NJPAC's innovative Kwanzaa Arts and Crafts Village. Introduced last year and a huge success with children and adults alike, the Village affords families the

opportunity to craft masks, have their faces painted, and join in games and other activities. The Village will be located at NJPAC's Site Office, corner of Park and Center, from noon to 5 p.m.

Storytelling and dance classes also headline Saturday's free public program.

ram from 1 to 5 p.m. at NJPAC. Denise Howell-Bristler will spin cultural folktales and Ugandan performing artists and storyteller Patrick Senjovu will add his special talents along with Nigerian choreographer Reward Akpin in the Arts Center's Parlournet Room. The public is also

invited to participate in an African Dance Class with Candace Hundley to be conducted in the Banquet/Rehearsal Room.

Newark's own tap dancing sensation Savion Glover and special guests Buster Brown, Jimmy Slyde and Carter Williams will perform "Foot-

notes" at 8 p.m. in Prudential Hall Saturday. Admission is \$10 to \$46. Tickets for Savion Glover's performance as well as for the Kwanzaa Opening Celebration and Ceremony and the Honoree Reception may be purchased by telephone at (888) 466-5723 or at the NJPAC box office.

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LOS FAROLES

For the most finicky palate

By Tonianne Antonelli
Staff Writer

Whether you're in the mood for authentic Spanish style cuisine or a more traditionally American dish, Los Faroles in Elizabeth offers a variety of reasonably-priced dishes guaranteed to please even the most finicky palate.

Formerly located on Morris Avenue, owner Wilson Londono relocated Los Faroles to its Westfield Avenue location a little over a year ago. The large dining room combines elegance and comfort with more than 20 well-spaced tables. Mirrored walls and soft lighting and music make for a very warm, visually pleasing atmosphere.

As a prelude to our meal, my dining companion and I munched on fresh, warm bread accompanied by a hot pepper sauce that resembled a spicy, thin salsa. The sauce can also be used as a topping for some of the foods offered during the main course. Londono also boasts a good wine list as well as the pitchers of the finest sangria. I took advantage of the bar located in the dining room and ordered a frosty pina colada bursting with fresh coconut and pineapple juice.

Our appetizer consisted of a generous portion of succulent shrimp dredged in a tangy Spanish garlic sauce — one of the restaurant's specialties. Other appetizers include a variety of traditional and fish soups as well as other shrimp, poultry and meat specialties.

For the main course, I chose a perfectly seasoned grilled flank steak which was accompanied by white rice, french fries and salad. My dining companion chose the arroz con pollo — Spanish style chicken with rice — which was also accompanied by golden french fries. Londono also has a large menu, which he is presently adding to, that includes Columbian and Argentinian menus, as well as a full page of seafood dishes and a variety of pasta and Italian menu items. There is also a number of steak dishes to choose from prepared by Chef Miguel Santiago Arenas, who has been with the restaurant for 14 years.

For dessert, Los Faroles offers homemade rice pudding and flan — Spanish custard topped with rich caramel sauce.

In addition to the main dining room, Los Faroles also has a banquet facility that can accommodate 170 people for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and other parties or events.

The restaurant is open for breakfast at 8 a.m., and closes Monday to Thursday at midnight, Friday and Saturday at 2 a.m. and Sunday at 1 a.m.

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New Year's resolution diets don't have to sacrifice fun, taste

If you're vowing the start of the new century is also the start of your new, healthier eating plan, here's some advice from members of the American Dietetic Association: Forget fats. Focus on the Five—food groups that is. Not only will you enjoy a wider variety of food, which may help keep you from bingeing in boredom, but you'll also benefit by increasing your consumption of vital nutrients and minerals such as calcium—many of which are often missed. To assist your new eating plan, the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council Inc. contacted the experts, registered dietitians, for their advice.

From television and magazines, to bookstores and the Internet, consumers are bombarded with information from every possible angle, often in the form of a celebrity hawking their latest no-fat plan. And it's a profitable business: according to the Journal of the American Medical Association, two-thirds of Americans are trying to lose or maintain their weight. However, most health professionals advise against diets that single out certain foods or food groups, suggesting that can create more problems in the long run, such as backlinks weight gain. According to dietitian Linda Quinn, a representative for the New York State Dietetic Association, "This New Year of the new millennium, we want Americans to focus on the foods they can have, and not on those they can't have. New research is now uncovering thousands of substances, in addition to vitamins and minerals that are good for our health. By making and eating dishes that incorporate these foods—like the recipes included below—you will be providing your whole family with important nutrients that can safeguard them against disease and keep their immune system strong during the winter months."

One nutrient high on the must-have list is calcium, found most abundantly in milk and other dairy products. Health professionals agree that calcium plays an important role in a healthful diet, because of its role in strengthening bones and its link to prevention of other diseases, such as high blood pressure, colon cancer, and even on PMS. Dietician Bonnie Taub Dix, nutrition consultant and representative of The New York State Dietetic Association, said, "Think of the calcium in your bones as money in the bank. If you make regular deposits now, it will be there when you need it in the future."

American Dairy Association Dietician Helene Messner points out that one of the easiest ways to trim fat and calories without compromising calcium intake is to replace whole milk with fat-free or low-fat milk. "It's easy change can really add up. If you drink a cup with two eight-ounce glasses of whole milk a day, switch to fat-free milk and you'll save 129 calories a day. At the end of 27 days, you could lose as much as a pound. After a year, you may lose 12 pounds without really trying," Messner added that all milks, regardless of fat content, are a rich source of calcium, containing about 300 mgs per eight-ounce serving.

What else is recommended? Back to the basics! Pat Baird, RD, nutrition consultant, and author of the Pyramid Cookbook, offers the following tips:

- Begin with breakfast. Everyone—children and adults—think and work better when they start the day with breakfast. People tend to overeat less when they have a light meal to get them going. Cereal and milk, or a breakfast bar and milk is a perfect start. Hint: use nonfat milk instead of water to make hot cereal even more nutritious.

- Include snacks. This helps curb appetite and eliminate bingeing. Pretzels or air-popped popcorn are good choices. For a sweet treat, try nonfat chocolate milk.

- Use the Food Guide Pyramid to plan meals and snacks. Sure, you can have pizza—the perfect pyramid food because it contains all the food groups in one slice—just choose wisely. Avoid high-fat meat toppings and keep it to two slices per meal.

- Enjoy all your favorite foods. Eat in moderate amounts to avoid excess calories. Deprivation is the downfall of all weight-loss diets.

- Include some exercise every day. Walk for 10 minutes, or take the stairs once a day. Small changes make a big difference.

To help you get the new century off on the right foot, ADADC asked these RDs for their recipe suggestions. Quinn likes the following recipes because they are rich in calcium, and they also focus on whole foods with natural ingredients—like vegetables, whole grains, herbs and spices. Not only will these be a healthful addition to any cook's repertoire, but they taste so good, no one will ever know about your new eating plan!

Taub Dix offers the following kid-friendly recipe. She also suggests substituted dried cranberries, currants,

raisins, or other fruit for the chocolate chips. To reduce fat and calorie content, you can replace the oil with apple sauce or prune butter. Any cereal will work in this recipe, but Taub Dix likes the texture of the Chex.

Mom's Magical Muffins

Yield: 24 muffins
 2½ cups all-purpose flour
 ½ cup sugar
 2 tablespoons baking powder
 ½ teaspoon salt
 3 cups Wheat Chex-type cereal
 3 cups skim milk
 4 egg whites
 ½ cup vegetable oil
 ½ cup chocolate chips
 cooking spray

Spray muffin pans with cooking spray; set aside. In large mixing bowl, combine Wheat Chex and milk. Let it stand about five minutes or until cereal softens.

In another large mixing bowl, stir together flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Set aside. In a third bowl, beat 4 egg whites together with ½ cup of oil. Add to cereal and milk mixture and stir together. Stir in chocolate chips—be careful not to oversir. Fill muffin tins ¾ full. Bake at 375 degrees for about 20 minutes or until lightly browned.

Nutrition facts: Per muffin: 4.3 grams fat, calories, 138, calories from fat, 28 percent, protein, 4 grams, calcium, 112 mg.

Baird offers this tasty morning treat. Make this the night before so it's ready when you are. This delicious cereal is loaded with fiber, calcium, magnesium, and vitamin E.

Muesli Cereal

Yield: 4 servings
 1½ cups old fashioned oatmeal, uncooked
 ½ cup toasted unsweetened wheat germ

½ cup each dark and light raisins
 1 tablespoon each honey and orange marmalade
 ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 3 cups low fat — 1 percent — milk
 2 tablespoons shelled sunflower seeds chopped nuts, to taste, optional
 In a large mixing bowl combine all the ingredients, except the sunflower seeds. Cover and refrigerate overnight. To serve, stir cereal mixture, and ladle into serving bowl. Sprinkle with nuts, if desired.

Adapted from The Pyramid Cookbook, Pat Baird, Henry Holt & Co., 1994. Nutrition Facts: Calories: 326; fat, 7 grams; calories from fat, 19 percent; protein, 15 grams; calcium, 225 mg.

Quinn calls this recipe a great way to introduce your family to a new and different grain. "Couscous is fast and easy to make." Packed with calcium, this meal is a one-dish wonder!

Creamy Couscous Florentine

Yield: 4 servings
 1 teaspoon extra virgin olive oil
 3 garlic cloves, pressed
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
 ½ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
 ½ teaspoon dried oregano, crushed
 4 cups — 1 quart — fat-free milk
 1 box dry couscous — 10 ounces, or 1½ cups
 3 bags — 6 ounces each — washed and trimmed baby spinach leaves, 12 cups

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
 ½ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
 12 cherry tomatoes, quartered for garnish, optional

Combine olive oil, garlic, salt, pepper, red pepper flakes and oregano in a large, heavy saucpan and place over medium heat. Cook, stirring frequently, just until the garlic starts to

sizzle, about one minute. Add the milk and mix well. Continue to cook over medium heat, stirring frequently. As soon as the milk comes to a boil, immediately remove the pan from the heat and stir in the couscous. Cover tightly and allow to stand or at least five minutes before removing lid.

Meanwhile, steam or microwave the spinach for one minute. Coarsely chop the cooked spinach and place it in a strainer. Using your hands, press all of the liquid out of the spinach and put the drained spinach in a large bowl — at this point, you will have 1½ cups of drained spinach. Add the lemon juice to the spinach, mix well and set aside.

Remove the lid from the couscous, stir in the cheese and add the mixture to the spinach. Mix until the spinach is completely incorporated into the other ingredients.

To serve, spoon 1½ cups of the mixture into each of four pasta bowls. Garnish each serving with three quartered cherry tomatoes.

Calories, 458; calcium, 684 mg; fat, 8 grams; calories from fat, 16 percent; protein, 29 grams.

Quinn calls Banana Oatmeal Breakfast Brulee "a great way to get kids to eat cereal, which is a whole grain and a great source of soluble fiber. This recipe is also a rich source of calcium, yet still low in fat."

Banana-Oatmeal Breakfast Brulee

Yield: 4 servings
 4 cups — 1 quart — fat-free milk
 2 cups quick cooking rolled oats
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 6 tablespoons brown sugar, divided
 1 cup lowfat vanilla yogurt
 2 bananas, thinly sliced
 • Combine milk, rolled oats, salt and two tablespoons of the brown sugar in a large saucpan and mix well. Bring

to a boil over medium heat. Continue to cook stirring constantly for one minute. Spoon one cup of the oatmeal into each of four grain dishes or ovenproof bowls. Press the oatmeal down with the back of a spoon to spread it evenly over the bottom of the dish. Top each serving with ½ cup of the yogurt, spreading it evenly over the entire surface. Arrange ½ of the sliced bananas evenly over the top of each serving and then sprinkle each with one tablespoon of the remaining brown sugar. Arrange the dishes on a baking sheet or in a large baking pan and place under a preheated broiler until the sugar starts to bubble and turn dark, about one to two minutes. Serve immediately.

Calories, 370; calcium, 664 mg; fat, 3 grams; percent of calories from fat, 1 percent; protein, 19 grams.

This creamy pasta dish is a quick and easy way to a healthful dinner, as well as a great way to try your veggie intakes. According to Quinn, the vegetables provide a great many different nutrients. For example, carrots are a great source of beta-carotene and tomatoes contain a substance called lycopene. "This newly discovered plant chemical may be helpful in lowering the risk of prostate cancer. Adding more fruits and vegetables to your diet is a great way to lower your overall risk of cancer and other chronic diseases," Quinn explained.

California Primavera

Yield: 4 servings
 ½ lb. fresh angel's hair pasta
 2 cups milk
 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 1 lb. frozen mixed vegetables, such as carrots, peppers, onions, broccoli, tomatoes, zucchini, etc.
 1 tablespoon fresh basil, chopped, or 1 teaspoon dried basil
 ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

Cook pasta in a large pan of boiling water three minutes or until al dente. Drain and keep warm. Combine milk and flour in a bowl. Blend with a wire whisk until smooth. Heat a heavy nonstick pan over medium high heat. Add vegetables, milk mixture and basil. Bring to a boil. Cook two to three minutes over medium heat, stirring constantly, until slightly thickened. Add Parmesan and stir to blend. Cook one minute and serve over pasta.

Per serving: calories, 372; fat 9 grams; calories from fat, 21 percent; protein, 20 grams; calcium, 357 mg.

Recipe courtesy of Meals for You, accessible online at www.mealsforyou.com.

Snacking can be an important part of any healthy diet, but it's easy to get into a rut. To beat snacking boredom, American Dairy Association offers the following tasty suggestions.

• **Breakfast Pizzas:** Spread ½ cup ricotta cheese on a toasted English muffin half, top with 2 tablespoons fresh fruit jam, and place under a broiler until the cheese starts to bubble.

• **Fabulous Fruit Spreads:** Combine ricotta — a high-calcium cheese — with dates, prunes, dried apples or apricots in a food processor and blend until smooth. Spread over rice cakes for a nutritious light snack.

• **Pumpkin Pie Mousse:** For a sensational, low-calorie, high-calcium dessert, combine 12½ cups canned pumpkin with 1 cup fat free ricotta cheese in a food processor. Add ½ cup sugar, 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice, 4 teaspoons vanilla extract, and blend until smooth.

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NJN's State of the Arts plans to 'jazz up' viewers this Christmas season

The NJN's Public Television and Radio plans to get viewers "jazzed" up this holiday season when NJN's State of the Arts presents "Jersey Jazz," featuring two New Jersey-based jazz performers and a behind-the-scenes look at one of the nation's top jazz radio stations.

This edition of State of the Arts will broadcast Christmas night — Saturday, Dec. 25, at 11:30 p.m. — with a rebroadcast Dec. 26 at 6 p.m. For the first stop on "Jersey Jazz," State of the Arts sits down with jazz saxophonist and Trenton-born Richie Cole on his home turf — taking the viewer inside his home and dropping by some of Trenton's old-time jazz spots. Known to play in the Charles Parker be-bop tradition, Cole has an international reputation that includes followings in Europe and Japan and has performed on more than 25 records.

Follow New Jersey jazz artist Teri Thornton, who, after a 30-year career

hiatus, surprised many with a win at the 1998 Thelonius Monk Jazz competition in Washington. The 60-something jazz vocalist had a taste of stardom in the early '60s and now is back on track, poised for a comeback. A resident of the Actor's Fund Home in Englewood, Thornton speaks candidly with State of the Arts about the ups and downs of her jazz career.

To conclude "Jersey Jazz," State of the Arts takes the viewer inside one of the nation's foremost jazz radio stations, WBGO-FM in Newark, in recognition of its 30th year of service to New Jersey. The segment introduces viewers to the faces behind the voices and to jazz percussionist T.S. Monk, the son of Thelonius.

The WBGO broadcast on all seven NJN Public Radio stations from midnight to 6 a.m. State of the Arts airs on NJN Public Radio on Thursdays at

10 p.m. The "Jersey Jazz" program of State of the Arts is closed-captioned for the hearing-impaired.

State of the Arts is a half-hour, studio-based program focusing on the arts and artists, with interviews and performances. The program is hosted by Emmy Award-winner Amber Edwards and is a thoughtful, in-depth treatment of the arts with engaging conversations with the artists who live, create and/or perform in New Jersey. Field pieces take viewers behind the scenes into artists' studios as well as backstage to discover the art of set and costume design.

The NJN Public Television and Radio is New Jersey's public telecommunications network. The NJN Public Television, a PBS member, is broadcast over Channel 23 in Camden, Channel 50 in Montclair, Channel 52 in Trenton, Channel 58 in New Brunswick, and all New Jersey cable systems.

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Keith Gentile, Regional Sales Manager of Pacific Trading Cards (left) looks on as Pack Wars participants display the companies newest product 2000 PACIFIC BASEBALL.

Card Company Sponsors Local Pack Wars Event

ATTACK OF THE BASEBALL CARDS, the local award winning sports & memorabilia store, on Saturday Dec. 4th hosted a special Pack Wars event. The contest event was sponsored by the Pacific Trading Card Company of Lywood, Wa. Pacific one of the nations leading sports card manufacturers supplied the store with packs, promo cards, and refreshments as well as hundreds of dollars worth of prizes in the form of specially produced cards plus mugs, hats and tee shirts. Attack, located at 516 Chestnut St., Union, was one of the first stores in NJ to host this type of event, and has been doing so monthly since Sept. 1998. Customers are given a discount on the card packs used and are asked to find specific things in their packs such as the player born closest to Union, NJ. Winners of each round are awarded prizes and top prize winners are picked at the evenings conclusion. Keith Gentile, Pacific representative who attended the event was happy with the excitement generated by the event. Customers were also treated to Pokemon Fossil packs, one of the hobbies hottest products for only \$2.00 per pack and we're also given year long discount cards for 99-2000. The next Pack Wars will be held Super Bowl Eve, Jan. 29, 2000. For information call Attack at 908-687-8107.

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 • St. Joseph's School in Roselle Class of 1950 reunion is planned for May 2000. Contact Jane Geoghegan

Burke at (732) 388-7363, Al Hasse at (203) 744-7896 or George Schimdbauer at (920) 432-0210.
 • Union High School Class of 1990 reunion is scheduled for June 10, 2000. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.

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TOY STORY 2 (144) G F 6:00, 7:15, 9:15, Sat & Sun 1:45, 3:00, 5:00, 7:15, 9:15, 11:15
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Stepping Out

or visit the website at www.thisismot.com.

TELEVISION

STATE OF THE ARTS will present "Jazz Jazz" featuring two New Jersey-based jazz performers Dec. 25 at 11:30 p.m. and Dec. 26 at 6 p.m.

THEATER

ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE will present "Harvey" by Mary Chase through Sunday. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for general admission, \$2 for students and senior citizens; all tickets on are \$5 Fridays. The Elizabeth Playhouse is located at 1100 E. Jersey St. For information, call (908) 355-0077.

VARIETY

CROSSROADS in Garwood will present a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts. Today — Delayed Green Friday — Everlonge Saturday — Swampadelica and Robert Matarazzo Sunday — Hardcore Night Tuesday — Jazz Jam, every Tuesday Wednesday — Juggling Suns, every Wednesday Dec. 23 — Shady Grove Dec. 24 — Joe Taino & The Blue Flames Dec. 25 — Funky Black Widows Dec. 30 — Cup of Joe Dec. 31 — Blunt Force Jan. 1 — BBO Bob & The Spermis Crossroads is located at 78 North Ave. in Garwood. For information, call (908) 232-5666.

ART SHOWS

ART AT OVERLOOK will be an exhibit at Overlook Hospital, featuring the artwork of New Jersey photographer Dwight Hiscano through January 2000. The hospital is located at 99 Beauvoir Ave. For information, call (908) 525-2004. SUMMIT FRAME & ART will exhibit paintings by American artists dating

3 ARTISTS, 3 STORIES will be on exhibit through Jan. 16, 2000 at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit. On exhibit will be the works of Nancy Cohen, Kay Watingstic and Bisa Washington. NUOVA is located at 68 Elm St. in Summit. Hours are Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, call (908) 273-9121. THE HUMAN PRESENCE, an exhibit by The New Art Group, will be on display at The Gallery at the Arts Guild of Rahway through Dec. 30. Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 1 to 3 and 5 to 7 p.m., and by appointment. The Arts Guild is

at 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. THE WESTFIELD "Y" will conduct classes in cardio box and kick, art appreciation, and bellydancing begin-

DANCE THE NUTCRACKER, performed by the New Jersey Ballet, will be presented at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn, Friday through Dec. 27. Evening performances are 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday to Dec. 23 at 7 p.m., and Sunday and Dec. 26 at 6 p.m. Matinee performances are Sunday, and Dec. 24, 26 and 27 at 1 p.m., and Saturday and Dec. 23 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$18 to \$36. The Paper Mill Playhouse is located on Brookside Drive in Millburn. For information, call (973) 376-4343. For information on rates for groups of more than 20, call (973) 379-3636, ext. 2438. SUMMIT FOLK DANCERS will meet Friday at The Connection, formerly the Summit YWCA, to learn dances of other countries. No partners are needed. For information, call (973) 467-8278.

For information and a complete brochure, call (908) 789-3670. Trailside Nature and Science Center is located at 425 New Providence Road in Mountainside. For information, call (908) 789-3570. 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 9:30 to 5:30 p.m. For information, call 964-4828. RAMONA QUIMBY will be presented by Keen University's Children's Theater on School Time series Wednesday to Friday at 10 a.m. in the Wilkes Theatre. The performances are suitable for children in preschool through grade 5. Tickets are \$6. The university is located on Morris Avenue in Union. For information, call (908) 527-2337.



THE NUTCRACKER, the annual New Jersey Ballet production, returns to the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, running from Friday through Dec. 27 at various times. For tickets prices and performance information, call (973) 376-4343.

from the mid 19th to early 20th centuries. The gallery is located at 485 Springfield Ave. in Summit. For information, call (908) 273-8565.

AUDITIONS

CRANFORD DRAMATIC CLUB will conduct auditions for "Lend Me a Tenor" by Ken Ludwig today from 7 to 10 p.m. at the playhouse, 78 Winans Ave. in Cranford. Being sought are four men, late 20s to 60s, and four women, mid-20s to 60s. For information, call (973) 376-1216. CRANFORD REPERTORY THEATRE will conduct auditions for "Fiddler on the Roof" Jan. 5 and 6.

COMEDY

CASUAL TIMES restaurant features comedians on Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. The restaurant is located at 1085 Central Ave., Clark. For information, call (908) 388-6511.

TEEN ANGST, LOVE, HATE & OTHER THINGS, the work of Neal Kozma, will be on exhibit at Tonsawco Art Gallery at Union County College through today. Gallery hours are Mondays through Thursdays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m., and Wednesdays through Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m. Union County College is located at 1033 Springfield Ave. in Cranford. For information, call (908) 706-7165.

BOOKS

AUTHOR DON FRIEDMAN will appear at the Town Book Store in Westfield Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to sign copies of his book, "The Hand Before the Eye." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St. in Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-3335. AUTHOR FRANK FINALE and artist Theresa Troise Haldol will appear at the Town Book Store in Westfield Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. to sign copies of their book, "To the Shore Once More: A Portrait of the Jersey Shore: Prose, Poetry and Works of Art." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St. in Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-3335.

CONCERTS

THE VIENNA BOYS CHOIR will be presented in concert at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway Friday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$19 and \$25. UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call (732) 498-8228. CHRIST CHURCH MUSIC SERIES of Summit will present a Christmas concert Sunday at 4 p.m. at Christ Church, 561 Springfield Ave. in Summit. Admission is free. For information, call (908) 273-6549. THE METROPOLITAN GREEK CHORALE of New York and New Jersey will perform Byzantine music during the Candlelight Christmas Concert at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Sunday at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$40, with special patron tickets available for \$100. The church is located at 250 Galloway Hill Road in Westfield. For information, call (908) 789-2649 or (908) 233-8533.

CHRISTMAS MINIATURES, an exhibit of mixed media, will be on display at the Swain Galleries through Dec. 31. Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays through Dec. 19 from noon to 4 p.m. Swain Galleries is located at 703 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield. For information, call (908) 756-1707.

CLASSES

WESTFIELD YOUNG ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE will offer profes-

THE BRIDGES OF NEW JERSEY, works by photographer Jay Gehring Smith, will be on exhibit Friday through Jan. 9, 2000 at the Donald B. Palmer Museum at the Springfield Public Library. Gallery hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; and Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The library is located at 68 Mountain Ave. in Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-4530.

'Christmas Miniatures' comprise gallery exhibit

A showcase of small-scale works by 24 gallery artists will be presented in "Christmas Miniatures," an annual multi-media exhibit, continuing through Dec. 31 at Swain Galleries in Plainfield. Artists from 17 New Jersey localities and several from New York include Albano Adams, watercolors; Douglas Allen, oils and pen & ink; Kat Block, watercolors and collages; Nancy Brangaccio, pastels; Jared Clackner, oils; Leslie Delger, pastels; Mark DeMos, watercolors; Andrew Engel, oils; Curtis Engesser, oils; Al Grafka, watercolors; David Hunt, oils; Tim Jahn, oils; Louis Lanzafame, oils; Nat Lewis, watercolors; Paul McCormack, oils; Michael McGinley, oils; Cheryl O'Halloran

McLeod, pastels; Ken Mitchell, acrylics; Richard Nagrodski, gouaches; Dean Oschurk, calligraphy; S. Allyn Schaeffer, oils; J. Brian Townsend, oils; James Wolatin, oils; Frank Zucarelli, pastels. "Christmas Miniatures" continues Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and this Sunday from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at Swain Galleries in the Crescent Historic District, now concluding its 31st year as a family business and located at 703 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield. For details, call (908) 756-1707. Union County artists represented in the exhibit are S. Allyn Schaeffer of Fanwood; Alonzo Adams, Cheryl O'Halloran McLeod and J. Brian Townsend, all of Plainfield; and Kat Block of Springfield.

Bill Van Sant, Editor
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Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., P.O. Box 3109, Union, New Jersey, 07083.

PUBLIC NOTICE
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PURSUANT TO N.J.A.C. 17:27-10(a),
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AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE OFFICE OF THE
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3335. DATED AND SIGNED: JAMES
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Lupone, Penn & Teller will appear at UCAC

The Union County Arts Center has announced two new additions to its 1999-2000 season. Comic Thrill Magicians Penn and Teller will appear at the Rahway theater Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. and Broadway superstar Pat LaPone will bring her new one-woman show, "Matters of the Heart," to UCAC May 12 at 8 p.m. Penn and Teller have had sold out shows on Broadway, in Las Vegas and Atlantic City, among other cities. Penn is a magician who provides the silent Teller with his wicked banter and satirical treatment. They have performed such tricks as the drowning, shooting-and stabbing of Teller, all in the name of high magic. Tickets will be \$40, \$36 and \$30. Broadway's original Diva, LaPone will close the season with a celebration of life, love and laughter. Lupone, among other achievements include creating the roles of Fanny in "Les Miserables" and Norma Desmond in "Sunset Boulevard" in London and starring in such Broadway hits as "Anything Goes," "Master Class," "Olivier!" "The Robber Bridegroom" and "The Old Neighborhood." Sold out eight shows a week throughout the fall of 1995 with her last one-woman show, "Patti LaPone on Broadway." She recently was named as one of the top four Broadway stars by Playbill magazine, with Bernadette Peters, Mandy Patinkin and Liza Minnelli. Tickets are \$60, \$50 and \$40. The Union County Arts Center, a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to presenting the best in the performing arts, is located in the recently restored Rahway Theater, a 1928 vaudeville and silent film house in downtown Rahway. The Arts Center is handicapped accessible and listening devices are available to patrons upon request. Major support for the Arts Center and its programs comes from the City of Rahway, Merck & Co., the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the county, Comcast Digital Cable of Union, and the Rahway Savings Institution. Tickets can be purchased by phone with a Visa, Mastercard or Discover, or in person at the Irving Street box office. In addition, tickets will be available this season through the website at www.ucac.org, and through ETM Ticket Kiosks located in the Menlo Park Mall and Edwards Supermarkets. For more information or ticket availability, call the box office at (732) 499-8226 or after 5 p.m. at 1-888-ETM-TIXS.

Westfield to expand its 2000 art class offerings

Union artist Kathy Kornish, director of fine art for Westfield Recreation Commission, will be returning to the commission with her Winter World of Art art lesson program for adults and children. The program, which begins the week of Jan. 3 and runs for 10 weeks, is in its third year. World of Art was created by Kornish for the nonprofit commission as an alternative to expensive art school programs. It features classical art study in an informal, fun environment. All classes are taught by Kornish, a university-educated but self-taught artist whose teaching style includes a classroom demonstration for each day of class. Noted for her large, brightly-colored, Renaissance-style tongue-in-cheek oil paintings, Kornish created World of Art with the average student in mind. "I had been hearing for years, from people who took art lessons at fancy schools, that instructors talked in artistic circles while never actually showing students how to draw or paint," Kornish said. "Doing your own thing or using your own style or creativity is OK with me, but people come to me when they want to learn the basics. To set up a subject in a classroom, and then tell students 'do whatever you want' is a waste of time and money for students. I have both beginners who have never picked up a paint brush before, and retired commercial artists in all my classes. I attend to everyone's needs, and everyone has a great time, while actually learning something." Kornish adds that at \$50 for the adult classes and \$30 for the children's classes, Westfield Recreation is performing a valuable, affordable service, and students need not be Westfield residents to enroll. The revolutionary new medium of oil painting with water will be featured in Adult Oil Painting on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m., and in Adult Drawing & Painting on Fridays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Kornish is one of the few artists in the metropolitan area who specializes in teaching oil painting with water, which is safe and nontoxic. Colored drawing and noxious tempera painting will be featured in the children's classes: the Kindergarten class on Mondays; grades 1 to 5 on Wednesdays; and grades 1 to 5 on Fridays, all from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. The fee of \$30 includes supplies for every child, with all new subject matter for each season; children from outside of Westfield are welcome. All classes are conducted in Westfield's community room, 425 E. Broad St. in the municipal building complex. Register in person or call (908) 789-4880. Class sized will be limited.



BLUNT FORCE will be the musical entertainment at the Millennium Extravaganza at the Crossroads in Garwood Dec. 31. For information, call (908) 232-5666.

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Business Directory 4 PM Thursday
Display - Space reservation 5 PM Friday
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Experience in leading and sports activities, ability to organize and manage time a must. Flexible hours. Contact the Borough Clerk's office for an application. Municipal Building, 567 Boulevard, Kenilworth, NJ 07033 EOE.

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CHILD CARE needed in my Livingston home 3 days per week from afternoons. 973-693-0302. 973-763-2550.

LIVABLE/HOUSEKEEPING must drive live-out or live-in. Not smoker. English speaking. 973-738-7778 or evenings 973-693-0302.

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PLUMBING AIR CONDITIONING HEATING MASTER PLUMBING LICENSE #5561. 908-444-8638. 1-800-466-9933. 21 Southside Blvd. Newark, NJ. 07102. FAX # 464-8687. SCHWARTZ & BERGER FAMILY TRADITION SINCE 1912. www.schoenwalder.com

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Charles Brown's Steakhouse. 336 Parkland Plaza Road, Camden, NJ 07075. Equal Opportunity Employer. SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST. Efficient, well organized computer literate, excellent work habits. Call: M. Brunell & Kramer, Union, 908-686-2000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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113 YOUNG PUPS. All types and sizes. \$50 buys any pup over 15 weeks old. December 17th, 18th, 19th, 23rd, 24th, hours 10am-6pm. 908-223-0220.

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Biding + Windows + Roofing. Kitchens + Bathrooms + Basements. Extensions + Concrete. Free Estimates + 100% Finance. No Down Payment. Fully Insured. 908-223-0220.

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Industrial Accounts Serviced. MAX WEINSTEIN SONS, INC. HONEST WEIGHTS - BEST PRICES. Always Buying Scrap Metals. 2426 Morris Ave. In. Burntwood, NJ. 07004-6238. 973-782-0303.

TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE

Public Safety and Community Services Officer. The Township of Hillside is seeking applicants for the position of Community Services Officer for part time positions which complement existing programs which include community policing and traffic enforcement. Must have high school diploma, minimum age 18 years, United States citizen, drug free, no criminal record, valid driver's license, and background investigation required.

DIAL A BIBLE MESSAGE

Welcome to the Church of the Christ. 1st Mt. 18, 1st. 8th, 2nd. 1st. 10th. 18th. 23rd. 24th. 25th. 26th. 27th. 28th. 29th. 30th. 31st. 1st. 2nd. 3rd. 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th. 8th. 9th. 10th. 11th. 12th. 13th. 14th. 15th. 16th. 17th. 18th. 19th. 20th. 21st. 22nd. 23rd. 24th. 25th. 26th. 27th. 28th. 29th. 30th. 31st.

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ALL TYPES of moving and hauling. Problem solving our specialty. Call Norm. 908-223-0220.

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Box address envelope to: BOX NUMBER. Worrall Newspapers. P.O. Box 169. Maplewood, NJ 07040.

LOST & FOUND

BLOOMFIELD. SEEKING information on small white dog, blue collar. Hi by car on Montgomery St. Saturday evening, 12th. Please call 973-749-2633 or 973-457-2517.

CARPENTRY

JOE DOMAN. 908-998-9224. ALTERATIONS/REPAIRS. KITCHENS/BATHS. BATHROOMS/BASINETS. DECKS. NO JOB TOO SMALL. OR TOO LARGE.

GLASS/LEADERS

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ROOFING

EVERLAST ROOFING. Specializing in Roof Tear Outs. Flat Roofs, Flat Roofs, Gutters. State Tile, Cedar, Copper, Shingles. 908-986-0661.

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Box address envelope to: BOX NUMBER. Worrall Newspapers. P.O. Box 169. Maplewood, NJ 07040.

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19 DIRECT TV satellite systems. Single system only \$69.00. Dual system available. Two months of Free programming. Authorized dealer. www.integratedsatellite.com. 1-800-925-7283. Code #0211. 973-749-2633.

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CENTRAL ANNUAL HOSPITAL. 1067 Commerce Ave., Union. Starting Evening Hours From 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Open Saturday & Sunday. Rates comparable to commercial pet shops. 24 Hr. Emergency Service. House Calls. Pet pickup & delivery avail. 908-686-6873.

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CERAMIC TILE Installer: Now and Repair Remodeling, Resurfacing, No Job Too Big or Small, I do it all. All Major Credit Cards Accepted. Joe Hagna, 1-800-449-6166. Home, 973-629-0867.

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Decorate the house in style this holiday season with this big, full-color outdoor display featuring five Christmas trees. A fun and easy-to-prepare scene that stands out in the neighborhood. The five display includes five of America's best helpers. Each will fit about 20 inches tall.

To build the display, just glue the pieces onto plywood, smooth out the bubbles, cut them out and paint the sides and backs. Make stars or stencils from the remaining plywood or aluminum pipe, add in the five gals busy!

Five Elves Display (No. 10) ... \$14.95
"Queen's Majesty" sign (No. 29) ... \$6.95
Candy Cane (No. 22) ... \$7.95
North Pole Display (No. 20) ... \$22.95

To order, circle names. Include your name, zip and city or town, address and the nearest UPS store. **MAIL ORDER:** Price includes postage. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Or call (800) 82-U-BILD. No minimum. Money Back Guarantee.

Burgdorff announces a plan for properties

Burgdorff ERA recently announced an industry-wide initiative through global real estate network ERA Franchise System, to educate real estate professionals on the unique features of buying and owning historic properties.

The ERA Historic Real Estate Training Program is the result of an exclusive partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to train and certify industry professionals on the special nature of buying, selling and owning historic properties.

Burgdorff ERA, a franchised brokerage firm of ERA Franchise Systems, will offer this unique program to its sales associates to better serve buyers and sellers of historic properties.

"Because of the rich history in the Northeast, we have many unique opportunities and challenges when the historic properties market," said Judy Reeves, president of Burgdorff ERA. "Thanks to ERA's new partnership with the National Trust, our company will be able to offer an indispensable resource to real estate professionals in this exciting niche market."

Burgdorff ERA broker and sales associates who complete the training will also have the benefit of using the National Trust brand logo in their marketing efforts, and be invited to submit proposals to obtain listings for properties in the Trust's Gift for Heritage program.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable. With more than 270,000 members nationwide, it provides leadership, education and advocacy to save America's historic places and revitalize communities. For more information, visit the National Trust's web site at www.nationaltrust.org.

Founded in 1938, Burgdorff ERA has more than 825 sales associates and 28 offices across New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. The worldwide ERA real estate network includes more than 2,700 independently owned and operated brokerage offices with more than 27,000 brokers and sales associates in all 50 of the United States and 19 other countries. The Burgdorff ERA web site is located at www.burgdorff.com.

NJAR distributes awards

The New Jersey Association of Realtors, a non-profit organization serving the professional needs of more than 33,000 real estate agents throughout the state, last week presented awards for overall excellence in real estate industry activities to local boards/associations of Realtors at its "Realtors: 2000 and Beyond" 83rd annual convention in Atlantic City from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2.

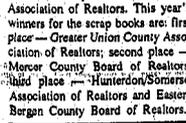
The Premry Award recognizes the public relations efforts of an individual, group or local board of Realtors for promoting the real estate industry. This year's recipient is the Eastern Bergen County Board of Realtors. The board was responsible for raising funds to purchase three bullet-proof vests for the County Sheriff's Department.

"The board has arranged for two to three vests to be donated each year to our local members' police departments," said E. Lauren Campbell, EBCBR president. "As Realtors active in our communities, it is important to have our local law enforcement prepared for all situations and keep our towns safe for us residents."

NJAR presents awards to local boards/associations of Realtors for outstanding newsletters and community service projects. The Communications Committee presented Newsletter Excellence Awards to small board —

Greater Cape May County Board of Realtors; medium board — Mercer County Board of Realtors; large board — RealSource Association of Realtors and the Ocean County Board of Realtors.

The Community Service Committee presented awards for local board community service collages and scrapbooks based on creativity and most achievements and involvement. This year's recipients for the collages are: first place — Ocean County Board of Realtors; second place — Monmouth County Association of Realtors; third place — Service One Association of Realtors. This year's winners for the scrap books are: first place — Greater Union County Association of Realtors; second place — Mercer County Board of Realtors; third place — Hunterdon/Somerset Association of Realtors and Eastern Bergen County Board of Realtors.



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RENTAL

"All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination."

"We will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis."

APARTMENT TO RENT

LINDEN: 3 LARGE rooms. Heat/hot water included. Excellent location, near transportation, shopping. \$650 monthly. No pet. Call 908-488-1455

MARLBOROUGH: 5 ROOM apartment. great location. \$675 per month. 973-253-9225

MARLBOROUGH: 3 ROOMS. one month security, garage. \$725 per month. Gas and electric not included. Call 973-763-8890

NEWARK-WEEQUAHIC AREA STUDIO 1 AND 2 BEDROOMS
Very spacious, nice quiet building and neighborhood. Near transportation. Superior service. Call 973-764-9468

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APARTMENT TO RENT

ORANGE 405 HIGHLAND Avenue. Large 2 bedroom 887 sq. ft. 1 bedroom 680 sq. ft. Wood floors, tile bath, hot water included, parking available. See Super Apartment #109. Call 908-822-0195

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SPRINGFIELD, TROY Village. Lovely, extra large 3 room apartment in top location. 2 AC unit, in-unit parking and heat. Available January 1st. \$1,025. Call Ken Baris, Jordan Baris, Inc. Realtors. 973-738-1900

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UNION: 1 bedroom. Fully equipped. Laundry hookup. \$550, including all utilities. 908-688-5629

HOUSE TO RENT

Townhouse for Rent
Fine View clients
2 Bedroom 1 1/2 Bath townhouse for rent in a great location close to transportation & shopping. Special price starting at \$1,425. Call 973-664-8800

HOUSE TO SHARE
UNION, 5600 month, all utilities paid. Near shopping, transportation. Call 908-964-7883

OFFICE TO LET

SPRINGFIELD: INDIVIDUALLY furnished offices with business support services. Call Terri 973-921-3002

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ON SITE SECURITY SECURED UNDERGROUND PARKING
Call Mr. D. for apartment 973-764-9468

CEMETERY PLOTS

GRACELAND MEMORIAL Park. Restlawn Haverland Section. 4 graves (6 Interments) Asking \$2,500. Call 732-946-2843.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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FORECLOSURE HOME. Save up to 30% or more! Minimum of 700 down. Payment for listing call now 7 days a week. 800-426-3550 ext. H-029

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YOUR AD could appear here for as little as \$100 per week. Call for more details. Our finely classified department would be happy to help you. Call 1-800-564-8811.

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HOME FORECLOSURES. No money down! No credit needed! Takeover very low payments! 1-800-355-0024, extension 8593.

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This valuable group of consumers spends more in this first six months in their new home than at any other time! Welcome Wagon is the largest and most successful marketing program targeting new homeowners.

Find out how our 70 years of experience can help your business grow.

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Turning New Homeowners into New Customers Since 1929

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PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR
30 YR FIXED	7.75	0.00	7.75	30 YR FIXED	8.00	0.00	8.00
15 YR FIXED	7.50	0.00	7.50	15 YR FIXED	7.75	0.00	7.75
30 YR FIXED-THIS	6.50	0.00	6.58	1 YR ARM	5.50	0.00	6.01

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR
30 YR FIXED	7.75	0.00	7.75	30 YR FIXED	NIP	0.00	NIP
15 YR FIXED	7.50	0.00	7.47	15 YR FIXED	NIP	0.00	NIP
1 YR ARM	6.25	0.00	7.85	10 YR ARM	7.88	0.38	7.92

Call for jumbo mortgage rates. Apply on line. Fee approval. Rates updated daily.

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR
30 YR FIXED	8.00	0.00	8.00	30 YR FIXED	7.13	1.63	7.36
15 YR FIXED	7.25	0.00	7.47	15 YR FIXED	6.88	1.13	7.17
1 YR ARM	5.83	1.00	8.17	10 YR ARM	6.88	1.38	7.08

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR
30 YR FIXED	NIP	1.50	NIP	30 YR FIXED	7.88	0.00	7.88
15 YR FIXED	NIP	1.50	NIP	15 YR FIXED	NIP	0.00	NIP
30 YR ARM	NIP	1.50	NIP	10 YR ARM	7.88	0.00	7.83

For more info call Melissa Marchese (908) 688-4142

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR
30 YR FIXED	7.83	0.00	7.88	30 YR FIXED	7.13	3.00	7.47
15 YR FIXED	7.38	0.00	7.40	15 YR FIXED	NIP	NIP	NIP
1 YR ARM	7.28	0.00	7.20	10 YR ARM	7.88	0.00	7.92

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR
30 YR FIXED	7.88	0.00	7.88	30 YR FIXED	8.13	0.00	8.20
15 YR FIXED	7.38	0.00	7.48	15 YR FIXED	7.76	0.00	7.88
1 YR ARM	7.00	0.00	7.87	10 YR ARM	7.63	0.00	7.82

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR
30 YR FIXED	NIP	0.00	NIP	30 YR FIXED	8.41	0.00	8.45
15 YR FIXED	8.63	0.00	8.63	15 YR FIXED	7.90	0.00	7.95
30 YR ARM	NIP	1.00	8.13	10 YR ARM	7.88	0.00	7.83

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR
30 YR FIXED	8.55	0.00	8.55	30 YR FIXED	8.00	0.00	8.00
15 YR FIXED	7.75	0.00	7.88	15 YR FIXED	7.60	0.00	7.60
1 YR ARM	7.25	0.00	8.08	10 YR ARM	7.68	0.00	7.68

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR
30 YR FIXED	8.10	1.00	8.25	30 YR FIXED	8.10	1.00	8.25
15 YR FIXED	7.70	1.00	7.94	15 YR FIXED	7.70	1.00	7.94
1 YR ARM	4.95	0.00	7.80	10 YR ARM	7.80	0.00	7.78

Rates compiled on December 10, 1999. NP - Not provided by institution. Contact lenders concerning additional fees which may apply. C.M.I. and The World Mortgage Services assume no liability for typographical errors or omissions. To display information, lenders only should contact C.M.I. 908-688-9888. Rates are supplied by the lenders, are presented without guarantee, and are subject to change. Copyright © 1999. Cooperative Mortgage Information - All Rights Reserved.

Mangels & Co. REALTY

UNION JUST LISTED
Attractive Brick Cape located in Washington School area offers LR, DR, Kitchen, 1 Full Bath and 2 Bedrooms. U-417. \$159,900.

UNION PRETTY COLONIAL
Backs up to park on dead end street. 3 BR, LR/DR, EIK, Den, 1 1/2 Baths and 1 bath. New siding, windows and roof. Exclusive Leachmont property. U-416. \$219,900.

ROSELLE PARK PRICED TO SELL!
This adorable Cape is priced to sell now!! Boasts LR, EIK, 3 BR's, 1 1/2 Baths, lots of closet space and 1 car detached garage. Walk to train and school! CRD-365. \$149,800.

ELIZABETH FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS
This home has been lovingly maintained. LR, DR, Kitchen, 2 BR's, Full Bath, enclosed front porch, beautiful yard and spacious garage. E-414. \$117,800.

BUY FOR \$930
UNION - Totally decorated colonial! BR - rooms w/ maintained - 3 bedrooms semi built forward yard - Attached garage. #189,800. For more info, call (908) 678-4800. (7345)

BUY FOR \$811
UNION - Very solid - 3 bedrooms - large main bath contains w/d & full bath. In-law built on driveway. #144,300. Call 908-480-0735.

BUY FOR \$935
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AGENT of the Month

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Agent of the Month

Our agent of the month for November is Gena Mangel. Gena has received the NAR Million Dollar Club Sales Award for 1998 and should expect to reach her goal for 1999. A member of the NAR for over 20 years, Gena is a member of NAR's "Distinguished Sales Club." Most of her success can be attributed to her prompt customer service, ability to negotiate, and her ability to help her clients. Gena is a professional, personable, and a go-getter. She is a professional, personable, and a go-getter. She is a professional, personable, and a go-getter.

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MILLIE BAPTISTE

Sales Associate/Real Estate appraiser - Millie is a Weichert agent in Union County. She is a sales professional and a member of the Million Dollar Sales Club - 1999. Her experience comes from 17 years of real estate experience in the Union County area. Having had the knowledge and investment experience in the community, Millie is the only one who can determine the best market value for a home. For prompt service in Union & Essex Counties, you can phone her at (973) 989-4055 or in the evenings at (908) 867-1456.

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ZULENE PEREIRA

TOP REALTOR AGENT OF THE MONTH for the month of November. Zulene is a member of NAR's Million Dollar Club. A Union County office professional for the year 1998. With 10 years of Real Estate business, Zulene can help you with all your real estate needs. She speaks Spanish and Portuguese.

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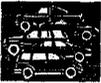
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