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WORLDWIDE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2000 - SECTION B

http://www.localcourage.com

Right answers

The unofficial end of summer is the time for contemplation of questions and answers big and small.

Outside of Mayor Chris Bollwage and Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan does anybody else know who is Goethals from bridge fame? Appointed in 1907 by President Theodore Roosevelt engineer George Washington Goethals was the chief engineer for seven years for the Panama Canal. He later was the first consulting engineer for the Port Authority, passing away in 1928 the year the span opened.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

How important is the race in the 7th Congressional District between Maryanne Connelly and Michael Ferguson? Pretty darn important according to the Washington insiders.

The new guru of pollsters Fred Yang was in New Jersey last week. He predicts the control of the House of Representatives will swing by two voters either way. The issues he says that will dominate the airways are Social Security, Medicare, education and prescription drugs. My two concerns, lowering the national debt and campaign finance reform, don't even register.

Who is the smartest Republican in Union County? How about Scotch Plains mayor and dentist Martin Marks. He was a lifeline, last week on the television show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" and knew the correct answer concerning the Mona Lisa. He knows politics, art and root canals: a true Renaissance man.

Who is the best sportsman in the county? Try Union County Improvement Authority Executive Director Doug Pica. He was the absolute star on the fishing channel two weeks ago. While others were catching fluke, this pescador was going after shark.

Just what is Assemblyman Joseph S. Suliga's middle name? It's Stanley.

How smart are the Hillside officials in snagging Sal Antonelli from the Union County Economic Development team to bolster their urban Enterprise Zone Program. The answer is very smart.

What is the best political position in Union County? My vote is executive director of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority. We are talking \$140,000 a year, car, perks and as one commissioner said last week, "not exactly a heavy lift."

Can you fight City Hall and win? The answer is sometimes. It didn't get much fanfare, but under pressure from county and state officials, the fees backed off from a plan which specifically speaking would have lumped Northern New Jersey with New York and Southern New Jersey with Philadelphia. The impact could have been very bad in terms of funding programs.

But the reports of the lack of funding for the Union-Essex Joint Auto Theft Task Force are disturbing. The fact is that auto theft is back on the rise. The officers by the Union County Prosecutor's Office and especially Tom DeCastro have been excellent.

The failure of the municipalities to fund the program is a very bad investment. The report last week of an armed robbery in Kenilworth, at the AAP with the criminals hoping on the Parkway show just how quickly thieves can steal a car and be on their way.

It is very depressing to see Hillwoven candy already on sale at Drug Fair in Cranford, just exactly what is the rush?

As we face the last part of the first year of the new county, where do all the yesterdays go? I don't know, I just don't know.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

School starts in 3 districts without teacher contracts

Three reach accord before classes begin for new year

By Mark Hryman
Regional Editor

Teacher contracts in six districts expired at the end of June and classes started this week in three of those districts without a new agreement. Staff members in Kenilworth, Springfield and Roselle Park began the new year without contracts, working under the terms of the previous contract until a new accord is settled.

Settlements already have been reached in Berkeley Heights and Elizabeth, and a new contract is forthcoming in Cranford, where contracts expired in June. Berkeley Heights reached a new accord in the spring while a tentative agreement has been reached in Cranford pending ratification by the teachers union.

In Springfield, Superintendent of Schools Gary Friedland said negotiations are under way and a mediator assigned by the Public Employee Relations Commission will meet with both sides later this month.

Statewide, the number of unsettled contracts — 62 percent, or 116 of 186 districts — is lower than at this time last year, when nearly one-third of school districts in negotiations had not come to an agreement, 130 out of 209. In 1998, more than 71 percent — 155 out of 217 districts — had not reached an agreement by mid-August.

The average rate of salary increase for contracts settled during the past year is 4.01 percent, according to the New Jersey School Boards Association, which is a slight increase over the average 3.88-percent raises in 1999.

The NJSBA's analysis shows that 45 percent of teacher contract settlements for 2000-01 include some mechanism to control health care costs, which continue to be one of the fastest growing areas of compensation. In 1999, 47 percent of settlements contained such provisions, which range

from requiring or increasing co-payments on prescriptions to increasing deductibles or the number of hours a part-time employee must work before receiving benefits.

Starting this year, all teachers will be required by the state to undergo 100 hours of training every five years, which can affect teacher contracts in a number of areas, including a teacher's movement on the salary guide, the part of the budget set aside for union reimbursement, and additional work time.

Contracts are set to expire at the end of the 2000-01 school year in Clark, New Providence, Mountainside, Linden and Scotch Plains.

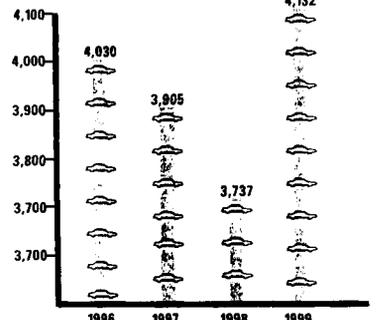
Last year, teachers in Roselle, Rahway, Union, Hillside, Garwood and Winfield started the school year without contracts, in addition to the Union Educational Services Commission and Union County Vocational-Technical Schools.

In Union, an impasse between the school board and teachers union was reached in September of last year and teachers conducted several demonstrations and took job actions, such as not assigning homework, before a new contract was settled in March. Teachers in Union received salary increases of approximately 3.96 percent over three years.

In Rahway, extracurricular activities such as clubs fell victim to contract negotiations until a settlement was arrived at in April which called for salary increases of 4.3 percent in the first year and 3.9 percent in the second and third years.

Staff members in Hillside reached a settlement in February with salary increases of 4 percent, 3.8 percent and 3.5 percent in each year of the new contract, respectively.

Auto Thefts



Source: Uniform Crime Report

Auto thefts on the rise

By Mark Hryman
Regional Editor

Following several years of declining statistics, auto thefts are back on the rise in Union County, according to the state's Uniform Crime Report. Auto thefts increased by 393 from 1998 to 1999, a jump of nearly 11 percent. After declines the previous two years by 4 percent and 3 percent, respectively. The 1999 total of motor vehicle thefts was the highest since 1996.

Thirteen Union County towns experienced a rise in auto thefts, the largest in Kenilworth, 76 percent, 44 up from 25; Hillside, 55 percent; Plainfield, 29 percent; Roselle, 28 percent, and Elizabeth, 14 percent. The biggest drop in motor vehicle thefts was in Linden where reported incidents were a third of what they were the prior year, 292, down from 440.

Fourteen of the 21 municipalities still had fewer motor vehicle thefts reported in 1999 than four years ago. According to the state Department of Law & Public Safety's Uniform Crime Reporting, a motor vehicle theft includes all thefts and attempted thefts of a motor vehicle.

The Essex-Union Auto Theft Task Force, headed by Lt. Thomas DeCastro, first was implemented in December 1991 and from that time until 1998, auto thefts were reduced dramatically, said Robert O'Leary, executive assistant prosecutor.

Officers normally are assigned to the unit from departments in both counties and work late nights and into the early morning throughout the area looking for stolen cars. Authorities have found that is the best time in terms of vehicle recovery and making arrests.

The task force currently has nine officers, with a little more than half from Union County departments, said O'Leary, as well as detectives from the Prosecutor's Office. Five years ago the unit had as many as 20 officers from both counties. He expects the unit to expand to 15 by the end of the year after Prosecutor Thomas Manahan asks departments to consider assigning officers to the Narcotics Strike Force and ATTF. Municipal police chiefs assign officers for six months to a year. There also are eight or nine officers assigned on a part-time basis.

The Sheriff's Office has agreed to provide one full-time officer next year, and O'Leary hopes to have State Police provide officers as they did several years ago.

The number of officers assigned to the Auto Theft Task Force depends on the size of the department and how many it can spare, O'Leary said.

Following a 20-percent drop in auto thefts from 1997 to 1998, Essex County experienced a 5-percent jump last year, with some of the largest increases coming in East Orange, 73 percent, and Irvington, 33 percent. Newark, the state's largest city, also saw a rise in auto thefts of 4 percent, from 5,151 to 5,365 in 1999.

The Hillside Police Department has participated in the task force for the most part since its inception but in recent years, due to low manpower caused by retirements, the township only was able to assign two part-time officers at times, said Police Chief John Bryson. The department now has one full-time officer assigned to the task force and has several of its own officers assigned to target the township's own areas in the evening.

The Linden Police Department has participated intermittently in the task force since it started. The department currently does not have an officer currently assigned to the task force because of manpower, but Police Chief John Milano said the department always keeps an "open mind" in that regard. The department currently is at its maximum of approximately 128 members, Milano said, with several funded through state and federal grants.

The Linden police force, he said, keeps an extra eye on areas where many cars are parked, such as shopping centers and the train station, with frequent patrols. The city also has its own auto theft task force that speaks to civic groups about various methods and preventative measures to discourage car thieves. The bi-county task force, Milano said, has been a help in reducing auto thefts as well.

Auto theft, O'Leary said, is a "crime of opportunity." Generally, cars are stolen to skip overpasses, to commit a crime, or for insurance or fraud purposes. The most common reason automobiles are stolen are simply for transportation or a joy ride. "Those that are found are stripped or abandoned."

O'Leary is confident once resources are concentrated on the problem of auto thefts, results will show the trend going down again.

In Union County last year, approximately \$33,940,678 worth of automobiles were stolen, of which \$25,690,075 were recovered, a rate of nearly 76 percent. That figure was an improvement over the 67 percent recovery rate in 1998, with \$21,812,039 recovered compared with a total of \$32,805,292 stolen.

In Essex County, the recovery rate has been approximately 46 percent the past two years with total of more than \$86 million worth of cars stolen in 1999 and more than \$80 million in 1998.

Statewide, \$263,315,522 worth of motor vehicles were stolen in 1999 with \$199,919,018 recovered, approximately 56 percent. In terms of the number of vehicles stolen and recovered, 84,294 were recovered, a rate of nearly 69 percent, of which about half were recovered in another jurisdiction.

The average value of a stolen motor vehicle in 1999 was \$8,000 as compared to 1998's average of \$8,541.

In 1998, \$300,289,174 was stolen and \$167,261,000 recovered, again 56 percent statewide. There were 25,754 cars recovered, more than 73 percent. The most frequent motor vehicle theft scenario in New Jersey during 1999 was an automobile theft in October, with the most frequent offender being a white male age 25 to 29. Nearly 90 percent of offenders are male and 56 percent while 1161 in age are between 25 and 29 years old.

Motor vehicle thefts have been down significantly statewide since the past five years, nearly 15,000 or almost 30 percent. According to the 1998 UCR, decreases in motor vehicle theft can be attributed to stronger monitoring of career criminals, modern ignition systems and anti-theft devices as a deterrent and better lighting in parking lots.



Sheriff's Officers of Union County PBA Local 108 recently awarded two scholarships to local students preparing to enter college. Receiving the awards from golf chairman Officer Darryl Warner, left, and Sheriff Ralph Froehlich, right, are Karl Akoko of Rahway and Shannon Paster of Cranford.

Paster, Akoko awarded PBA scholarships

Sheriff's Officers of Union County PBA Local 108 awarded two \$500 scholarships on Aug. 1 to local students preparing to enter college. The awards represent a portion of the proceeds from the third annual charitable golf classic sponsored by PBA's 108th Anniversary Association Local 108 in May at the Pine Barrens Golf Club in Jackson.

The scholarships were awarded to Karl Akoko of Rahway and

Shannon Paster of Cranford, graduates from the Class of 2000, said Det. John DiOrto, president of PBA Local 108. "We wish these two young people much success in their continued educational efforts."

Akoko, a graduate of Rahway High School with a 3.2 grade point average, will study economics at Boston University in the fall.

Shannon Paster will study accounting at the College of New Jersey. She graduated from Cran-

ford High School with a 4.2 GPA.

"If it were not for the hard work and time dedicated by our golf chairman, Officer Darryl Warner, and the golf committee, these awards would not be possible," said DiOrto.

For more information about the Union County Sheriff's Office Scholarship Fund for college-bound students, call DiOrto at (908) 527-4465 or Warner at (908) 527-4482.

Women celebrate equality month

Female officials from around Union County met in Elizabeth recently to acknowledge the progress women have made since the 19th Amendment passed in 1920.

"Eighty years ago in the month of August, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was enacted, enfranchising women throughout the United States," said Union County Freeholder Linda Stender. "But it has come to symbolize our need to continue to fight for equality especially in issues such as equal pay for equal work." "Recent reports show that the gender gap still exists in terms of economic buying power," said Freeholder Mary Ruotolo said. "For every dollar earned by a man, females only make 74 cents."

Ruotolo, who serves a liaison to the Commission on the Status of Women in Union County, said the county declared August to be Women's Equality Month in honor of when the 19th Amendment was ratified.

"We take time in August to have high-light both the progress women have

made and also point out what is left to be done," said Freeholder Deborah Scamlo.

Stender, Scanton and Ruotolo made their statements while presenting a resolution declaring August as "Women's Equality Month" in Union County.

"It's been over 150 years since the Women's Rights Convention and women have made clear progress in addition to the right to vote," said Elizabeth Cox, program development specialist for the state Department of Community Affairs.

"Women are being elected to public office at all levels of government. Jeannette Rankin in 1916 was the first woman elected to Congress. Today women hold only 11 percent of the

seats in Congress and 21 percent of state legislative seats, but the impact they have on local, state and federal law is significant. We must continue to support women in their efforts to become elected officials."

Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi said diversity of opinion, balance and equal representation are standards for measuring democracy's strength.

"There are several ways to level the playing field for women. These include inviting young women to join the political process, creating leadership programs for girls in school, establishing mentoring programs with political women and most important elect qualified women to Congress, county, local and city government," Rajoppi said.

Jumble Store opens Saturday in Cranford

The Jumble Store, owned and operated by the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield and located at 110 Walnut Ave. in Cranford will reopen for business on Saturday at 10 a.m. This year the store will be expanding its hours. The new hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

COUNTY NEWS

Court system the topic

Most people never come in contact with the court system except in the municipal court system in each municipality.

Jeffrey Gochman, former municipal magistrate in Hillside, will discuss the court and tell about some of the usual and unusual cases which he has heard when he speaks at the meeting of the Union County Historical Society Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the Dr. Carl Hanson House, 38 Springfield Ave., Cranford.

GOP candidates invited

The Fanwood Republican Club invites everyone to join them on Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Community House, Fanwood Train Station, North Avenue, in Fanwood. A forum for the Republican federal, state, county, and Fanwood municipal candidates will take place.

Invited to appear and speak at candidates' night are Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush; Republican Senate candidate Congressman Bob Franks; Republican 7th Congressional District candidate Michael Ferguson; Republican Union County Clerk candidate Eric Urbano; Republican Union County Freeholder candidates All Dill, Wally Shackell and Esther Guzman-Malcolm; Fanwood Town Council candidate Council President Joel Whitaker, and Fanwood Republican Town Council candidate Carol Wood. Refreshments will be served.

Golf outing, music are planned by Irish groups

The Joseph Nugent Sr. Association and the Union County Emerald Society will sponsor their annual golf out-

ing on Friday with tee-off at 3 p.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club in Scotch Plains. The cost is \$60 per person, which includes a round of golf, barbecue, beer and wine following at the Knights of Columbus Council 253 in Elizabeth.

A night of Irish music also will be held at 8 p.m. with music by Fiona Malloy. The cost is \$15 per person — free to callers — which includes beer and soda.

For information about the golf outing and the Irish night call Bob White at (908) 241-7341 or Kevin Dowling at (732) 594-1763.

Senior outreach program

Union County's Division on Aging in the Department of Human Service has announced its Outreach Services Program for September.

"The Union County Freeholders encourage elderly, isolated individuals who meet eligibility requirements to apply for vital services through our outreach program," said Freeholder Lewis Mingo Jr., liaison to the Union County Advisory Council on Aging. "These services can supplement the basic needs of the isolated elderly and sustain or improve their lives. Our senior staff members will conduct private interviews on request."

Union County representatives will be on hand to provide assistance in completing the necessary applications for Gas and Electric Support, Pharmaceutical Assistance, Home Energy Assistance, Supplementary Senior Income, Counseling on Health Insurance and the Share Food Program.

The dates, times and locations for applications are:

• Monday, Fanwood Senior Citizens meeting at All Saints Episcopal Church, 559 Park Ave., Scotch Plains,

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

• Sept. 21, Roselle Borough Hall, 210 Chestnut St., second floor, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

• Sept. 28, Elizabeth Center Apartments, 809 Pearl St., 10:30 a.m. to noon.

For more information on the Outreach Services Program and other programs offered by the Division on Aging, call the division's toll-free number at (888) 280-8226.

'Rally for New Priorities'

New Jersey Peace Action presents an educational and political rally, "Rally for New Priorities" Saturday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at First Union Arena-Society of Plainfield, 724 Park Place, Plainfield.

Learn about transferring funds from nuclear weapons to public education as it relates to the 7th Congressional.

For information call (973) 744-3263.

Blood drives scheduled

The Blood Center of New Jersey will conduct the following blood drives:

• Friday, 4 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union.

• Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., First Baptist Church of Union, Colonial Avenue, Union.

• Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., St. Michael's Parish, 1212 Kelly St., Union.

• Monday, 4 to 8 p.m., Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park Avenue and Randolph Road, Plainfield.

For more information call (800) BLOOD-NJ.

The American Red Cross/Tri-

County Chapter will conduct the following blood drives:

• Sept. 14, 1 to 6:15 p.m., American Red Cross, 203 W. Jersey St., Elizabeth.

• Sept. 28, 3 to 8:30 p.m., Clark Emergency Squad, 875 Raritan Road, Clark.

• Sept. 29, 4:30 to 10 p.m., American Red Cross party for singles, 203 W. Jersey St., Elizabeth.

Donors should know their Social Security number and bring a signed or picture form of identification. People with a fever or sore throat should wait 72 hours after symptoms disappear before donating, and there is a 24-hour deferral for teeth cleanings and fillings. For those who have traveled outside the United States recently, call the blood center for eligibility criteria.

For more information call (908) 353-2500, ext. 22.

Surrogate speaks Sept. 7

The importance of basic estate planning and will preparation will be the subject of guest speaker, Union County Surrogate James S. LaCorde, today at 10 a.m. at the new Union Senior Center located on the corner of Bonnet Court and Johnson Place in Union. The public is invited to attend.

LaCorde entered the office on Jan. 1. He succeeded the late Ann C. Conn.

LaCorde had extensive experience in all the subject matter and services provided by the Surrogate's Office. The new surrogate has expanded upon existing programs and initiated new ones since assuming office. He explains the importance of basic estate planning and will preparation. His talks also include a general over-

view of the surrogate's office and the functions it performs. The program is for adults of all ages.

There will be a question-and-answer period from the floor after refreshments.

For information or to make reservations call (908) 964-7555.

'Freeholders Forum'

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholder's dedication of 2000 as the "Year of the Senior" is the subject of the latest "Freeholders Forum" television show sponsored by the freeholder board. Freeholder Vice Chairman Alexander Mirabella joined Chairman Daniel Sullivan for this latest program.

"We dedicated the resources of county government to continuing the high-quality services we already provide seniors and developed three new initiatives to make life better for all residents over the age of 60," said Sullivan, of Elizabeth.

"Over the past couple of years we've been able to deliver on the promises we made to lower taxes and promote economic development and quality of life issues," added Mirabella, a Roselle Park resident who is up for re-election this year.

"This year it is time to recognize the needs and desires of our growing senior citizen population. Today, nearly one in five Union County residents is over age 60. By the end of the next decade, as the Baby Boom generation ages, we expect that one in four residents will be over 60."

The new programs for senior citizens include: Senior Focus, which offers grants to municipalities for building, repairing or expanding a senior center; Senior Scholars, which

offers tuition-free college courses for residents age 60 and over; and Seniors in Motion, which will provide vehicles to local communities to broaden local transportation services for seniors.

Most Union County municipalities have taken advantage of Senior Focus. Hundreds of scholars courses signed up for Senior Scholars courses. "We are encouraged by the popularity of these programs," Mirabella said.

In each 30-minute program, freeholders and guests discuss news events and issues affecting the lives of Union County residents. "Freeholders Forum" is made possible through the facilities and technical direction of Union County College.

Entitled "Year of the Senior," the show will be aired through Friday according to the following schedule:

• Union County — except Elizabeth and Plainfield: Channel 57, Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

• Berkeley Heights, New Providence, Springfield, Summit: Channel 36, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 p.m.

• Elizabeth: Channel 10, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

• Fanwood, Mountainside: Channel 35, check cable listings.

• Linden, Roselle, Roselle Park, Winfield: Channel 36, daily, 5:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

• Plainfield: Channel 74, Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

• Scotch Plains: Channel 34, check cable listings.

• Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside: Channel 36, check cable listings.

Anyone wanting more information or to comment about "Freeholders Forum" can call the Office of Public Information at (908) 436-2072.



Dr. Ivan H. Jacobs, surgeon director of the Springfield Eye Surgery and Laser Center, performed the first laser cataract removal in New Jersey last month.

Cooking up a storm at the 36th annual picnic for residents and patients at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County are, from left, Berkeley Heights Lions Club President Bob Bollaro, First Vice President Fred Farnsworth of Chatham, member Darlo Manfredi, Treasurer Peter Cino and Union County Freeholder Angel Estrada. The annual picnic is sponsored by the Lions Club and the hospital's Volunteer Guild.

Doctor performs state's first laser cataract removal

Dr. Ivan H. Jacobs performed the first laser cataract removal in New Jersey at the Springfield Eye Surgery and Laser Center on Aug. 8. Jacobs performed the operation using the new Diodic Laser Phacolytic machine recently approved by the FDA for cataract surgery.

The technique has been available in Europe for the last two years and Jacobs traveled to Germany for specialized training in this technique. The unit in Springfield is the only one in New Jersey and only the fourth in the United States.

"For years, I used to explain to my patients that we did not use lasers to remove cataracts, but that the most

commonly used method called phacolytic ultrasound, not lasers. Now I can tell my patients that they can have their cataracts removed by a laser," said Jacobs.

"This improved technique has several important advantages over the older technique, which had been used for the last 20 years. Firstly, the microincision size is smaller, 1.4mm instead of 3mm. Secondly, far less heat and energy is placed into the eye, making it less likely to cause thermal injury to the delicate eye structures. Thirdly, because of the smaller incision, there is better control of the operation with less chance of complications."

Jacobs is the surgeon director of Eye Surgery and Laser Center and is affiliated with Eye Care and Surgery Center with offices in Watchung, Westfield and Woodbridge.

For more information call (908) 754-4800.



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First Night of Maplewood/So. Orange	http://community.nj.com/firstnight-soorange
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Ries Institute	http://www.ries-institute.com
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Concerts and specialty attractions bring 'variety' to theater

By Bill Van Sant
Associate Editor

Editor's Note: In the Aug. 31 edition, the 2000-01 main-stage season at the Paper Mill Playhouse was featured. The second installment in the series, this week will focus on the Paper Mill's concert and special events schedule.

While the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn is known far and wide for its theatrical productions, the regional theater doesn't stop there.

In addition to the six main-stage musicals and plays planned for the 2000-01 season, the Paper Mill's stage will feature the talents of renowned concert performers, a series of children's theater and the return — for the 30th consecutive year — of the New Jersey Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker."

"I do think what we try to do is to do as much of a variety as we can," Executive Producer Angelo DeRossi said.

And indeed, "variety" best describes what awaits audiences in the coming year, with everything from the humor of Jackie Mason to the lilting voice of Broadway legend Barbara Cook to appearances by several touring children's theater companies.

In concert
Scheduled during the run of "Anything Goes," the Paper Mill's popular concert series will be kicked off with Debbie Friedman. Described as a "Jewish inspirational songstress," Friedman will appear on the Millburn stage Oct. 10. Following Friedman, on Oct. 17, 18 and 20, will be popular humorist Jackie Mason.

Turning their attention to the popular American songbook, Paper Mill planners have lined up several well-loved vocalists to appear in concert. On Dec. 5, the renowned Barbara Cook will take to the stage in a performance of her acclaimed cabaret act. Cook — who established her stardom in theater as the original actress to create the role of Marian in "The Music Man," "Candide" and "Amelia in 'She Loves Me'" — has been absent from the Broadway stage for several seasons, focusing her creative energies on her cabaret appearances throughout the country.

Country superstar Kathy Mattea will return to the Paper Mill for one night only, Dec. 19.



Jackie Mason

And May 1, Grammy-nominated pianist, vocalist, composer and arranger Michael Feinstein will delight audiences with his renditions of some of the most well-loved songs from the era of the Gershwins, Irving Berlin and others. Feinstein, who once apprenticed as the late Ira Gershwin's assistant, has several successful recordings to his credit, featuring his interpretations of the music of many of America's most respected songwriters.

Edward Jablonski, author of "An Encyclopedia of American Music" and a longtime friend of Irving Berlin, wrote the liner notes for 1987's "Remember: Michael Feinstein Sings Irving Berlin." Jablonski says of Feinstein's performance of the classic "Say It Isn't So," "Michael's rendition of the song led to this notion: Unless Irving Berlin himself decides to record 'Say It Isn't So,' I must conclude that this extraordinary rendition is the definitive recording."

Family fare
Once again, the Paper Mill will offer audiences both young and old the chance to relive some of the magic of childhood with its popular weekend family series.

Beginning Nov. 11 and 12 with the Gingerbread Players and Jack production of "Aladdin and the Magic Lamp," the series will continue with performances by such noted companies as Theaterworks USA, ArtsPower and the family-owned and -operated Yates Musical Theater.

The season will include "The Real Stories of Little Red Riding Hood and The Three Pigs," Nov. 18 and 19; "Peter Pan," Nov. 24, 25 and 26; "Caddie Woodlawn," Dec. 2 and 3;



Debbie Friedman

and "A Christmas Carol," Dec. 9 and 10.

Old and new
Marking a 30-year collaboration with the Paper Mill, the New Jersey Ballet — under the guidance of Artistic Director Carolyn Clark — will once again bring its acclaimed production of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" to Millburn. Scheduled for Dec. 15 to 27, this annual favorite is among the theater's most popular and anticipated attractions.

In addition, the Paper Mill will feature several unique opportunities for its audiences in the coming year. Theatergoers can expect the return of the successful Symposium Series, as well as a one-night only event which could best be described as "multi-media."

On Sept. 19, WNYC Radio, 920 on the AM dial, will broadcast a live segment from the Paper Mill stage. Giving audiences a glimpse behind the scenes of radio broadcasting, host Leonard Lopate and noted columnist Liz Smith will join Chita Rivera, the star of "Anything Goes," the Paper Mill's season opener.

"What we do, we do for our audiences and for Paper Mill," DeRossi concluded. "I know my audience very well, so I certainly do consider them when I pick a season. I also take into consideration that I'll do something that they think they won't like, but we can show them they do like."

In the Sept. 14 edition, this series will continue with a preview of the 2000-01 season at the area's performing arts centers: the Union County Arts Center in Rahway and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

County YM-YWHA looks forward to cabaret series

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

A new and exciting Sunday afternoon cabaret series has been adapted by Myrna Friedman in an effort to bring "star quality" to the YM-YWHA of Union County at 501 Green Lane, Union. And it will begin on the afternoon of Sept. 17 at 2 o'clock with the appearance of radio and recording star Naomi Miller.

"This will be our ninth season in presenting Sunday afternoon entertainment," said Friedman, coordinator of the programs at the "Y" in Union. "This series will be one of the highlights of the 'Y' calendar.

This year, we have opted a change, and we will be proud to bring to the public really fine cabaret performances. We will be setting up nightclub-style seating, and those who stay after the show will have an opportunity to meet the stars. "Actually, the people who attend are welcome to make up their own tables of 10 and by reserving the 10, they will be paying \$6 a person in advance."

She explained that there will be four performances; two in the fall, and two in the spring. "We're skipping the winter," Friedman said, "because we have many senior citizens who come to our shows, and it may be difficult getting around during that season. Also, we've planned to have the shows at 2 p.m. on Sundays for the convenience of the public.

"We will have Joey Russell Nov. 12, Hal Jeffrin March 25 and Ruth Kaye April 22."

Miller, who will open the new cabaret series, which is made possi-

ble in part by the New Jersey Council of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, "loves to entertain." Born in Landshut, Germany, in a displaced persons camp after the war, Miller came with her parents to Passaic. She learned music from radio station WEVD, and currently, the songs from her first two hit recordings — "Yiddish Is in My Genes," and "Keeping Our Dreams Alive" — are played on Jewish radio shows every day from Boston to Miami, from Los Angeles to New York. Two of her recordings, "Klezmer to Broadway" and "Broadway to Klezmer," recently were released on tape and CD.

After college, Miller played the international night clubs, and she played the lead in "Naomi's Chevre," a singing and dancing troupe, and has appeared in regular performances on Gary Wagner's Jewish Entertainment Hour. She also performed in concerts throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico, Greece and Israel, and for several years, Miller was a featured performer in the Wallington Exchange. She had been selected to perform for Yitzhak Shamir, when the then prime minister of Israel arrived in the United States. She has been honored as one of the "top-10 Jewish female performers in the country" by Lillith magazine.

Russell, a master of modern humor, has served as emcee of every type of show. He has been doing "one nighters" in more than 200 shows a year and has served as master of ceremonies for some of the most popular performers in the metropolitan area. But he also has entertained for local and Jewish



Naomi Miller

organizations, for anniversaries and Bar/Bat Mitzvah events.

Russell takes pride in the fact that his classic jokes and stories are chosen, and the public seems to prefer this type of witicism in humor and music.

Jeffrin, a versatile performer in today's musical scene, performs songs from Broadway shows, from Israel and contemporary hits. He is the son of an entertainer and night club owner. In high school, Jeffrin was performing regularly with dance bands and in local theater productions in his hometown of Syracuse, N.Y. After graduating

from Syracuse University, he moved to New York City and won leading roles in several off-Broadway shows.

Jeffrin toured in productions of "Funny Girl," "Fiorello" and "Milk and Honey," and was featured in the New York premiere of the jazz opera, "The Marriage of Heaven and Hell." He also had been accepted to sing in Carnegie Hall.

Jeffrin is unique in the fact that he is a formally trained and working cantor. And he will demonstrate his talents when he combines the best music of Broadway, Israel, the Yiddish Theater and cantorial tradi-

tion in the cabaret offering at the "Y."

According to Friedman, Kaye's "fabulous performance in a one-woman show, 'Broadway's Fabulous Females' will end the spring season of 2001. She is fabulous in her own right."

Kaye, who was born in New Jersey, has had leading roles in more than 50 musicals, "among them, the role of Agnes in three productions of 'I Do! I Do!,' and one was directed by Tony Award-winner Robert Morse." One of her favorite roles, it was indicated, was Goldie in "Fiddle on the Roof," which she played on tour and at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn. Other favorite roles are Mame and Vera in "Mame," Aldonza in "Man of La Mancha," Adelaide in "Guys & Dolls," Cleo in "The Most Happy Fella" and Lucy in "The Three Penny Opera."

She also was featured Off-Broadway in "Show Business Family" and "Marathon Madness," and as a soloist in "Gateway to Freedom" as part of the rededication of the Statue of Liberty. Kaye has appeared on television in "One Life to Live" and "Ryan's Hope," has made commercials and was seen in the motion picture, "Fort Apache, the Bronx."

"We're going to have a cabaret setting with tables around the stage," Friedman added. "And although our audiences are made up of many senior citizens, it's a type of cabaret show should appeal to all ages. And if it goes over successfully, we surely can plan another season of outstanding cabaret stars and performances."

Website offers 'connection' to county culture

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced the August edition of the Union County Calendar of Events, "Cultural Connections," is available on the county's website.

"The Cultural Connections Calendar is an instant link to Union County's broad range of artistic, musical, educational and historical programs," said Freeholder Mary P. Ruotolo, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board. "The website not only highlights our talented county organizations and individuals, but also makes it easy to plan ahead so you don't miss any special events."

Union County is rich in culture, history and arts activities. The calendar reflects this broad spectrum with a variety of events, from concerts to lectures, children's programs to theatrical performances and dance.

To access the Union County website, type in www.unioncountynj.org. When the homepage is downloaded, notice the department listings on the left side of the page. Click on "Calendar of Events" and then "Cultural Connections Calendar."

For more information on the Calendar of Events or other services of the division, call (908) 538-3550, send e-mail to scorer@unioncountynj.org, or contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for Newsday: Church, club and social - Thursday noon.

Entertainment - Friday noon.

Sports - Monday noon.

Letters to the Editor - Monday 9 a.m.

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BOOK REVIEWS EXTENSION 3305	LOTTERY EXTENSION 1685 <small>Presented by The Vermont Lottery</small>	RELIGION EXTENSION 3190
ENTERTAINMENT EXTENSION 3190	MOVIE REVIEWS EXTENSION 3200	SOAPS/TV DRAMAS EXTENSION 3270
FINANCIAL HOTLINE EXTENSION 1250	MUSIC CHARTS EXTENSION 3550	SPORTS EXTENSION 3000
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THE INTERNET EXTENSION 6200	NUTRITION EXTENSION 5165	TIME & TEMP EXTENSION 1000
KIDS STUFF EXTENSION 3350	RECIPES EXTENSION 5290	WEATHER EXTENSION 1790

What's Going On?

RUMMAGE SALE

THURSDAY-SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 7th, 8th, 9th, 2000
EVENT: Gigantic Annual Rummage Sale
PLACE: Prospect Presbyterian Church, corner of Prospect Street and Tuscan Road, Maplewood.
TIME: Thursday 7-9pm, Friday 7-9pm and Saturday 9:30am-2pm
PRICE: Free admission! Great bargains! Clothing, antiques, collectibles, toys, housewares, sports & exercise equipment, shoes, furniture, small appliances, more! \$5 bag sale on Saturday. Call 763-2090 for further information.
ORGANIZATION: Prospect Presbyterian Women's Association

WORKSHOPS EDUCATIONAL

SATURDAY
September 16th, 2000
EVENT: GIANT FLEA MARKET & COLLECTIBLE SHOW-OUTDOORS
PLACE: Hoffman LaRoche, Nutley, Georgia Pacific Lot on Kingsland Avenue.
TIME: 9:00am-5:00pm
PRICE: Featuring over 75 quality dealers selling a variety of merchandise including new & used items, merchandise cards, memorabilia, toys, fashion clothing, jewelry, and coins! For more information please call 201-997-9535
ORGANIZATION: Hoffman LaRoche Employee Activity Association

WORKSHOPS EDUCATIONAL

FRIDAY
September 8th, 2000
EVENT: Free Open House/Clinical Presentation. TOPIC: Come see the exciting things we're doing at PCNJ!
PLACE: The Psychoanalytic Center of Northern New Jersey (PCNJ), 769 North-Hold Avenue, Suite LL2, West Orange, New Jersey 07092.
TIME: 7:00 to 8:00pm
PRICE: Free. For reservations or further information call 973-736-7630.
ORGANIZATION: The Psychoanalytic Center of Northern New Jersey (PCNJ).

CRAFT

SUNDAY
September 10th, 2000
EVENT: 27th Annual Festival in the Park
PLACE: Memorial Park, between Chestnut Street & Vreeland Avenue, Nutley.
TIME: 10am-6pm
PRICE: Admission free. More than 200 crafters and collectible vendors.
ORGANIZATION: Kingsland Trust & Nutley Historical Society

OTHER

THURSDAY-SUNDAY
September 7th-10th, 2000
EVENT: GREEK FESTIVAL
PLACE: St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 721 Rahway Avenue, Union, (off Morns Avenue)
TIME: Thursday, Friday, 6pm-midnight; Saturday, 12noon-midnight; Sunday, 12noon-6pm.
PRICE: \$1 donation. Children Free. Friday, Lunch 12noon-2:30pm. Greek foods and pastries, live Bouzouki music, souvlaki and gyro, folk dancing, games and rides for the children, and much more. For additional information, call 908-964-7957 or 732-361-3681.
ORGANIZATION: St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

FLEA MARKET

FRIDAY
September 8th, 2000
EVENT: Flea Market
PLACE: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 134 Prospect Avenue, Irvington, NJ
TIME: 9:30am-12:30pm
PRICE: New and used clothes, shoes, records, housewares, books, etc. Call 973-374-8377 for more information.
ORGANIZATION: Redeemer Lutheran Church

SUNDAY
September 10th, 2000
EVENT: GIANT FLEA MARKET CRAFTS & COLLECTIBLES-OUTDOORS
PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Avenue (off Jorteman Street), Belleville, NJ
TIME: 9:00am-5:00pm
PRICE: Over 100 quality dealers selling a variety of unique merchandise! For information call 201-997-9535
ORGANIZATION: Home & School

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news; Church, club and social - Thursday noon.
 Entertainment - Friday noon.
 Sports - Monday noon.
 Letters to the Editor - Monday 9 a.m.

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ORGANIZATION: Redeemer Lutheran Church

FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY
September 10th, 2000
EVENT: FLEA MARKET/ PANCAKE BREAKFAST
PLACE: The Church of St. Catherine of Siena, North Broad & King Streets, Hillside, NJ
TIME: 9:30am-3:30pm
PRICE: \$1.00; 2 spaces - \$25.
ORGANIZATION: Church of St. Catherine of Siena Rectory

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See ANSWERS on Page B10

HOROSCOPE

For Sept. 11 to Sept. 17

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take stock of the progress you have made with a diet or exercise program you started about six months ago. Make adjustments or changes now.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Goal achievement is probable. Take a chance on a career or professional endeavor that promises to add excitement to your life.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21): A special opportunity to improve your living situation is within your grasp. Don't hesitate to reach out and experiment with a special situation.
CANCER (June 22-July 22): Important information comes to light and

allows you to make a well-informed decision about your future. Go for the gusto!
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a close look at your budget, and attempt to balance expenditures with your income. Think twice before committing to a serious relationship.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You have the green light for moving forward and making changes in your personal life. If you don't like what you see, recreate from scratch.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Tap into your creative subconscious, and make it work for you. A hunch or mental inkling will prove to have tremendous value.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Friends will play an important role in your

social life this week. Make yourself accessible to participate in a variety of club or group activities.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do not take no for an answer in the professional arena. With the proper amount of patience and perseverance, achievement is promised.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Avoid an argument or debate surrounding political or philosophical differences. Get clear in your mind where you stand on a sensitive issue.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take steps to broaden your financial base. Investigate different investment opportunities to find the one that will earn you the most interest.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Compromise is your key word this week.

Save your newspaper for recycling.

NJ Workshop is accepting fall session applications

Registration is currently being accepted for the fall session of NJWA's Music Studio. Lessons offered by The Music Studio include instrumental, voice, and music theory with classes open to beginner through advanced level musicians. The staff teaches a wide variety of music from classical to jazz to contemporary pop. The fall session began in early September and runs for 15 weeks. Lessons are held in the studio located at 150-152 E. Broad St. in Westfield. The Music Studio also offers the opportunity for interested musicians to participate in performance and training ensembles. The performance ensembles play throughout the year at various occasions including First Night and other community events.

Additional fall programs being offered by New Jersey Workshop for the Arts include Kids 'n' Arts, Tot's 'n' Arts, The Westfield Fencing Club and The Drawing Workshop. To register for the fall session of The Music Studio or any of the programs mentioned above, call (908) 789-9696 or visit the office at 150-152 E. Broad St. in Westfield.

The Music Studio is a division of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, a non-profit organization established in 1972 by Theodore K. Schloberg, Ed.D.

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REUNIONS

• Roselle Park High School Class of 1940 reunion luncheon is scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Westwood, Garwood. For reservations, call George or Doris Miller Phillips at (609) 294-2144 or e-mail JHMUNK@aol.com.

• Abraham Clark High School, Roselle, Class of 1948 will conduct its 52nd reunion Sept. 22 to 24. For information, call Mary Frances (Cline) Gavey at (908) 276-5727.

• Members of Alpha Phi Delta of Upsala College interested in an early October 2000 reunion luncheon are asked to contact Irene DiBisce

McHugh at (732) 892-3569 or Bess Meyer Terp at (609) 296-9335.

• Summit High School Class of 1980 will conduct its 20th reunion Oct. 7. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.

• Cranford High School Class of 1975 will conduct its 25th reunion Oct. 7. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.

• Rahway High School Class of 1975 will conduct its 25th reunion Oct. 7 at the Sheraton in Woodbridge.

For information, call (732) 381-8569 or (732) 396-1050.

• Linden High School Class of 1950 will conduct its 50th reunion Oct. 7 at the Pines in Edison. For information, contact Doris Mazur Cyran at (732) 381-6384 or Michael Pileggi at (908) 862-2497. E-mail can be sent to pileggi@aol.com.

• Jefferson High School, Elizabeth, Class of 1945 will conduct its 55th reunion Oct. 13 at Galloping Hill Inn in Union. For information, call Frank Gargano at (908) 688-9394 or write to him at 1025 Lorraine Ave., Union, NJ 07083.

• Cranford High School Class of 1974 will conduct its 26th reunion Oct. 14. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.

• Batin High School, Elizabeth, Class of 1955 will conduct its 45th reunion Oct. 22 at 1 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton. For information, or to advise of classmates' whereabouts, contact Reunion Committee, 32 Kathryn St., Clark, NJ 07066.

• Thomas Jefferson High School, Elizabeth, Class of 1950 will conduct its 50th reunion Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. at The Westwood in Garwood. For

information, call Bob Aznar at (908) 755-8724, Joe Bloomfield at (908) 232-5183 or Dan Russell at (908) 353-5714.

• Abraham Clark High School, Roselle, Class of 1965 will conduct its 35th reunion Nov. 4. For information, call Gary Butler at (908) 241-3060 or send e-mail to bwprinting@worldnet.att.net.

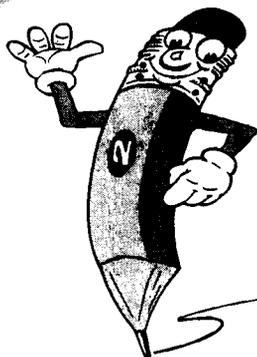
• Linden High School Class of 1980 will conduct its 20th reunion Nov. 11. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.

• Rahway High School Class of

1980 will conduct its 20th reunion Nov. 18. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.

• Abraham Clark High School, Roselle, Class of 1980 will conduct its 20th reunion Nov. 25. For information, call Margaret Luxich Donovan at (908) 486-7189 or send e-mail to ACHS1980@cs.com.

• Cranford High School Class of 1990 will conduct its 10th reunion Nov. 25 at The Westwood in Garwood. For information, call Liz at (908) 608-1180 or send e-mail to slizzo@hotmail.com.



BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

Over the next few weeks, the sound of school bells will signal the end of summer vacation. For parents this means reminding students about the importance of safety. Kindergartners through college students need to change some of their summer behaviors to protect themselves as well as their possessions. The Insurance Information Institute reminds everyone to think safety first and offers the following tips for parents to discuss with their children:

Young Students Pedestrian injuries are the second leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 5 to 14. Children who walk to school or to a bus stop must be reminded to:

- Look left, right, then left again before crossing the street.
- Always try to cross a street where a crossing guard is present.
- Walk 10 paces away from the front of the school bus.
- Cross in front of the bus only after the driver signals it's okay to do so.

High School Students Statistics show that teen drivers are four times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash. In fact, 6,000 young people are killed each year in fatal crashes. If your son or daughter drives to school:

- Teach them to always buckle up and require everyone else in the car to buckle as well.
- Remind them to always obey the speed limit.
- Choose a safe car for teens to drive - remember large cars are safer than small ones.
- Enforce no-drinking-and-driving rules.

College Students The number one crime on college campuses is theft. One out of every 10 college students will be robbed while away at school. Most students' belongings are covered under their parent's homeowner policies, but expensive computer equipment and other items may not be. Parents should check their policies to be sure and also:

- Remind students to always lock dormitory doors, even if they are just down the hall.
- Tell students not to keep large amounts of money or jewelry in their rooms.
- Have students mark personal property, such as book-bags and CD's, with identifiable marks.
- Check auto insurance if your child takes a car to school to be sure no additional coverage is needed.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL Tips for Safe Carpooling With The Kids

While scurrying from store to store to find latest in back-to-school gear is often foremost in the minds of parents this time of year, Indy Car driver Lyn St. James has partnered with Drive Safer America! To ensure that safe driving techniques and practices remain top-of-mind with parents amid the back-to-school craze.

"With the start of another school year, parents find themselves spending a lot more time on the road with kids in the car," says Ms. St. James, a concerned mother and professional racer. "When carpooling with children you tend to have a lot of activity in the car which can detract from your ability to drive safely."

According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death for children of every age between 6 and 14 years-old. And as most vehicle crashes occur within 25 miles of home, simple everyday trips to school and school bag back can be more treacherous than one may think.

Ms. St. James offers the following tips to help ensure a safe trip when carpooling to and from school:

- Every passenger must buckle up. Don't exceed the capacity of your vehicle. The number of passengers should not outnumber the amount of seatbelts available. Read your owner's manual for specific information on how to properly adjust your vehicle's seatbelts.
- Kids in back! As a general rule, children less than 12 years of age should not be permitted to ride in the front passenger seat. If it is necessary to place a child in the front seat so that he or she may have a seatbelt, select the oldest or largest child to sit there. Moreover, it is a good idea to move front passenger seat back away from the dashboard as children are more susceptible to injury by a deploying airbag.
- Remember the younger passengers. Be sure that young children who come along for the ride are properly secured in age- and size-appropriate child safety seats - and always in the backseat of the car.
- Drop children off as close to school as possible. Eliminate the need for children to cross the street. Ensure that all occupants enter and exit your vehicle on the curb side.
- Arrange to pick children up at a safe spot away from congestion. Park your vehicle in a place that prevents children from having to walk between buses or other vehicles to get to your car.
- Always leave extra time in your schedule. This will help prevent driving too fast when running late.
- Make sure that heavy objects are properly secured in the trunk or storage area of your vehicle. During a sudden stop, heavy objects in the passenger compartment could shift and cause serious injury.
- Meet regularly with other parents in the carpool. This allows parents to standardize guidelines for in-car behavior and to review any potentially dangerous situations that need to be addressed with the school or other parents.
- Stay focused on your driving task. If children behave in such a way that makes it difficult to stay alert and pay attention to your surroundings, pull the vehicle off the road into a safe parking lot and ensure that the situation is remedied prior to resuming the trip.
- Know your vehicle. Know how your vehicle's limits and how it responds to a full load of passengers. Also, learn if your vehicle has anti-lock brakes. In busy school area children may run in front of your vehicle making it necessary to stop suddenly. In a vehicle equipped with four-wheel anti-lock brakes, learn to stomp on the pedal, stay on it firmly and steer where you want the vehicle to go.

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Leisure Lifestyles

The Cook's Nook

Garden-grown tomatoes are festive, tasty & versatile

By Susan Frick Carlman
Copley News Service

In Italy, they're called "love apples." Then again, they were introduced to the boot-shape country by early trans-Atlantic explorers who had found them growing lushly in this strange new land they'd discovered.

The "apple" had indeed fallen far from the tree.

In the American midwest, tomatoes are regarded as little orbs from heaven.

The combination of abundant rains and northern Illinois' ridiculously rich, black soil added up to luscious garden goods this summer. Heading the list of all our home-grown bounty is tomatoes, the backyard gardener's perennial favorite crop.

Ron Wolford, extension education/horticulture for the University of Illinois Extension in Chicago, has some ideas about why tomatoes are so popular among the rake-and-hoe set.

"They're fairly easy to grow, and there's a huge variety, from the huge beefsteaks to the tiny cherry types to the Romas that are good to use in pastes and sauces and things," Wolford said, adding that the dynamic crop has a huge variety of potential uses.

But ultimately what makes home-grown tomatoes so wonderful is their taste.

"If you buy tomatoes at the supermarket in December, there's no comparison between the taste of those and what you can grow right in your garden," he said.

It's been a pretty good year for tomatoes so far. Most of the phone calls Wolford's office has been receiving have been about tomato leaf spot diseases, especially septoria and early blight. Leaf removal is virtually the only way a gardener can fight the ailments, although fungicides can be effective if they're used early enough, Wolford said.

Cilantro and peppers, also quite easy to grow in a home garden, co-star in this raw sauce, perfect with good tortilla chips and cold drinks. Put this

mixture together several hours ahead of serving time, but not too far in advance, or its flavors will fade.

Salsa Fresca

- 3 large fresh tomatoes
- 2 or 3 green onions, sliced (include some of the green part)
- 1 or 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 or 3 small green hot peppers (jalapeno or serrano are best), seeded and chopped fine
- 1/3 cup finely diced green bell pepper

- 2 tablespoons finely chopped, peeled and seeded cucumber
- 1/4-ounce can chopped mild green chiles

- 3 to 4 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 tablespoon snipped chives
- 2 teaspoons coarse or kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice

Yields about 3 cups.

Bring large saucepan of water, half filled, to a boil.

Drop in tomatoes and let them remain for 60 seconds. Lift them out, using strainer or slotted spoon, and put them immediately into bowl of ice water. After a few minutes, blanch tomatoes and pull off their skins — this should be easy.

Remove cores seeds and chop tomatoes into 1/4-inch dice. Put them in glass or ceramic bowl and add remaining ingredients. Cover and chill for several hours.

Bring to room temperature before serving.

Bread salad

Good croissants are essential for this preparation, which illustrates why home-grown tomatoes are worth all the fuss. If you can manage it, make them yourself.

Thoroughly toss together about 6 generous cups of 1/2-inch cubes of day-old French bread — crusts removed — with about 2 tablespoons of good olive oil, a clove or two of crushed garlic (it works best to mix garlic and oil together in a little cup), some salt and fresh-ground pepper

and a couple of tablespoons of Parmesan cheese.

Spread cubes on baking sheet and cook for about 15 minutes in a preheated 350-degree oven, until they are light golden brown.

If you can't make your own, do break down and buy the expensive kind of croissants in the store.

Layer in glass or ceramic bowl or casserole, in amounts that suit your liking:

- Fresh, ripe tomatoes, cut into large cubes
- Thinly sliced red onion
- Lots of fresh basil, cut into thin slivers
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste
- Light drizzling of olive oil
- Slightly larger amount of balsamic vinegar

Let ingredients marinate on the covered, for several hours.

When you're ready to serve, but not ahead of time, toss mixture gently with croissants — don't use too many;



Fresh tomatoes are the centerpiece of this bruschetta, which also incorporates goat cheese and scallions.

start with about half the volume of tomatoes you've used, and add more if you like.

Let salad sit for about 5 minutes, then serve.

For bruschetta, vary the quantities here to suit your taste and supplies you have on hand.

Bruschetta

- French bread, cut into slices
- Garlic-flavored olive oil
- Fresh plum tomatoes, sliced
- Salami, finely diced (optional)
- Sliced scallions
- Salt, to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Chevre (goat cheese) or feta cheese

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly butter large baking sheet.

Spread one side of each bread slice with olive oil. If you're using chevre, spread it on oiled side of bread and then set tomato slice or two (depending on thickness of loaf), some salami if you're using it, and few pieces of

scallion on top of each slice.

Season as desired with salt and pepper, then add feta if using it. Set slices on prepared baking sheet as they are assembled.

Bake in preheated oven and bake for 10 minutes or until lightly browned around edges.

Tasty little cherry tomatoes furnish a one-bite fix of garden magic in this rich, elegant and savory pie.

Cherry tomato-goat cheese tart

- Crust:
- 1-1/2 sticks (3/4 cup) cold unsalted butter
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons ice water

Pie weights, dried beans or raw rice for weighting crust

Custard:

- 1/2 cup packed fresh basil leaves
- 7 ounces mild goat cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup sour cream

Reheat tart, uncovered, in 350-degree oven or bring it to room temperature before serving.

Carefully remove rim from pan. Cut tart into wedges and serve.

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Vo-Tech conducts registration for courses this evening

There is still room for more students in the myriad of full- and part-time, day and evening courses being offered by Union County Vocational-Technical Schools as they begin their operational year.

The Fall Semester will get under way with the opening of the Vocational-Technical High School

this evening. The Adult Evening Division's classes begin Sept. 18.

Patrick Mauro, director of curriculum and instruction, points out that the Day sessions provide technical, occupational and high skills training in a variety of occupational areas. The Automotive Technology Program, for example, is certified by Automotive

Service Excellence, the Culinary Arts program offers students a comprehensive chef training program coupled with a national food handling/sanitation certification offered by the National Restaurant Association. The Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Technology Program, one of the many high-tech careers

offered to students today, is certified by the American Refrigeration Institute. The Computer-Aided Drafting and Design Program teaches students to use AutoCAD 2000 as a part of their curriculum, and the program is nationally certified by the American Design Drafting Association. The Electronmechanical Technology Program, like all of the UCVTs programs, boasts free placement for graduates. Electronmechanical Technology offers its students both the C-Tech/Lucent cabling certification and, anticipated for the 2000-01 school year, a certification as a CISCO Network Associate. The Telecommunications Technology program utilizes Bell Atlantic — now Verizon — curriculum and teaches students to understand telephone operations while preparing them to install, troubleshoot and diagnose faults in modern telephone systems. Students learn to bring telephone service off the utility pole and into a home or a business.

Most of the daytime program offerings are open to adults and to high school students alike. High school students wishing to attend Vo-Tech also attend their high school on a half-day, share-time basis. The adult programs are all certified by the Veterans Administration JTPA, TRA and Workforce Development programs. Federal Financial Aid and Stafford student loans are available to students who qualify.

According to Robert Glowacki, assistant principal of adult education, a variety of new offerings has been added to the Adult Evening Session. They are an Adult Cosmetology Course meeting from noon to 6:30 p.m., while extended Auto Technology classes include New Jersey certification programs in Emissions Diagnosis and Repair, Emissions Technician Education Program, New Jersey Inspector Training, and the New Jersey Specific Informational Course, all meetings in the more traditional evenings hours of from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Various New Jersey licensing preparation courses are also available. Among them are Barbering for the New Jersey Cosmetology/Hairstyling License; Cosmetology; Manicuring/Nail Technology; Black Seal Boilers; Waste Water Management Technology, and others. The Adult Evening Division also offers introduction classes in Microsoft Word and Excel and well as Windows '95 to '98. A Computer Repair course is offered for individuals who desire in-depth instruction on how and why a computer does what it does and how to make simple repairs and upgrades. Day session registration — for high school — is held daily from 9 to 4 p.m.

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Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to Arts and Entertainment Editor Bill Van Sant, Worrall Community Newspapers, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

Stepping Out

ART SHOWS

SUMMIT FRAME & ART will exhibit American paintings dating from the mid-19th century. Gallery hours are Mondays to Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Thursdays until 7 p.m. The gallery is located at 465 Springfield Ave. in Summit. For information, call (908) 273-8665.

BRIDGEWAY'S ARTISTIC REFLECTION 2000 will be on exhibit in the Freshford's Gallery at the Administration Building Friday through Sept. 15. The Union County Administration Building is located at Elizabethan Plaza at Rahway Avenue, Elizabeth. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, as well as Thursday evenings. For information, call (908) 558-2550.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL will exhibit the artwork of J.J. Raija and Stefanos Sideris, as well as selections from the Janet Richards Collection throughout the month of September. Call is located on the sixth floor of the Union County Administration Building in Mountainside. For information, call (908) 561-6185.

IMPRESSIONS FROM FOUR CONTINENTS, a photographic exhibit by Jerzy Patoczka, will be on display at the Skulski Art Gallery at the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark Friday through Sept. 30. An opening reception, featuring refreshments and a musical performance by Krzysztof Medyna, will take place Sept. 15 from 8 to 11 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Polish Cultural Foundation is located at 177 Broadway in Clark. For information, call (732) 382-7197.

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS, the work of pastel artist Frank Zucarelli, will be on exhibit at the Swain Galleries of Plainfield Saturday through Sept. 30. A public reception will take place Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Swain Galleries is located at 703 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield. For information, call (908) 756-1707.

STOLEN GLANCES, an exhibit of photographs by David Kaplan, Sam D'Amico, Patricia D. Richards, Ronnie Sacco and Glenn Podal, will be on display at the Gallery at the Arts Guild of Rahway Wednesday to Oct. 5. A reception with the artist and curator Nancy J. Ott will take place Sept. 17 from 1 to 4 p.m. Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m.; Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m., and by appointment. The Arts Guild of Rahway is located at 1670 Irving St. For information, call (732) 381-7511.

HELLA BAILIN: 'RETROSPECTIVE' will be on exhibit at the Tomassulo Gallery in the Mackay Library at Union County College's Cranford campus Sept. 22 through Oct. 26. An opening reception will take place Sept. 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays all from 1 to 4 p.m., and Tuesdays to Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. The gallery is on the first floor of the library. Union County College is located at 1033 Springfield Ave. Cranford. For information, call (908) 709-7155.

AUDITIONS

NEW JERSEY INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA is accepting applications and will conduct auditions for instrumentalists for the 2000-01 season. The first rehearsal is this evening from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For information, call (908) 709-0084 or (609) 208-0029.

WESTFIELD GLEE CLUB will welcome student and adult male singers at the annual auditions for the 76th season, Monday from 8 to 10 p.m., in the choir room of the Westfield Presbyterian Church, Broad Street and Mountain Avenue in Westfield. For information, call (908) 232-0673.

THE LITTLE OPERA COMPANY of New Jersey will conduct auditions for singers and instrumentalists between the ages of 16 and 18 years old Sept. 14 and 15 for its production of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro." Adult singers are also needed. For information, or to schedule an audition, call (908) 654-2008.

NEWARK BOYS CHORUS SCHOOL, a fully accredited fourth- through eighth-grade academic school, will conduct auditions for September 2000 enrollment. There are 16 openings for fourth grade, limited space in fifth grade. There are no resident requirements. For information, call (973) 621-8900.

BOOKS

JANE AUSTEN MYSTERY SERIES Reading Group will meet at Barnes and Noble in Clark Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m. The group will meet the second Thursday of each month through January to discuss books by Stephanie Barron, skipping the month of December. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD Reading Group will meet at Barnes and Noble in Clark Sept. 15 at 7:30 p.m. The group, led by Kevin Muller, will meet the third Friday of each month to read a Shakespeare play out loud. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP at Barnes and Noble in Clark will meet Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. The group meets the last Wednesday of each month to read. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

CLASSES

NEW JERSEY WORKSHOP FOR THE ARTS is currently accepting registration for the fall session of its Music Studio. Lessons include instrumental, voice and music theory, with beginner through advanced classes. The fall session begins in early September and lasts 15 weeks. Additional courses include art classes for children and toddlers, the Westfield Fencing Club and the Drawing Workshop. Classes take place at 150-152 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call (908) 789-9696.

WESTFIELD YOUNG ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE will offer professional classes in the performing arts. Beginners, intermediate and advanced Acting classes will concentrate on improvisation, character development and scene study. Also offered are four levels of tap and three levels of musical theater, which focuses on song selection and interpretation, ensemble work, voice, and musical theater movement and dance. Private lessons in voice and/or acting are available. The Westfield High School is located at 728 Westfield Ave., Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-3200.

CONCERTS

THE DIXIE KINGS will participate in a Dixieland Jazz Liturgy at Faith Lutheran Church Sunday during the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services. Faith Lutheran Church is located at 524 South St., New Providence. For information, call (908) 454-5177.

THE VINCE DI MURA TRIO will be presented in a jazz tribute to Leonard Bernstein by the Arts Guild of Rahway as part of its continuing "Millennium Music" series Sept. 22 at 8 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens. The Arts Guild is located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-7511.

BARNES AND NOBLE in Clark will present musical performances throughout the month of September. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. in the cafe section. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

MUSIC IN THE CAFE in Barnes and Noble in Springfield will feature free musical performances in the coming weeks. All concerts will take place in the coffee lounge area of the store from 8 to 10 p.m. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

DISCUSSION

THE EDISON ARTS SOCIETY WRITERS CIRCLE will meet at Barnes and Noble in Clark Monday at 7:30 p.m. The Writers Circle meets the second Monday of every month and new members are always welcome. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (908) 732-574-1818.

KIDS

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

OPEN MIKE POETRY NIGHT will take place at Barnes and Noble in Clark Sunday at 7 p.m. Open Mike Poetry Night is sponsored the second Sunday of every month in the Music Department. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

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

SINGLES

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE will open the 2000-01 season with Cole Porter's "Anything Goes," starring Tony Award-winner Chita Rivera. The show runs through Oct. 15 at the theater on Brookside Drive in Millburn.

Evening performances are Wednesdays to Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 7:30 p.m. Matinees are Thursdays and Sundays at 2 p.m., and Saturdays at 2:30 p.m.

Special performances are the Conversation Series, Thursdays from Sept. 14 to Oct. 5 at 7 p.m.; audio-described performances Oct. 5 at 2 p.m., Oct. 7 at 1 p.m. and Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m., with seminars 90 minutes prior to curtain; a sign-interpreted performance Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 13 at 8 p.m.; Gay and Lesbian Night, Oct. 11 at 8 p.m.; and Singles Night, Oct. 12 at 8 p.m., with post-show reception. Tickets are \$37 to \$60. For information, call (973) 376-4343, or buy tickets with Visa, Mastercard or Discover at www.papermill.org.

THE 2000 PERRY AWARDS, sponsored by Recognition of Excellence in Community Theater, will be presented Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Edison Sheraton. For information, call (732) 698-0217.

ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE will present "The Youngest" by Philip Barry Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m.

FESTIVALS

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK FESTIVAL will be sponsored by St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Union today and Friday from 6 p.m. to midnight, Saturday from noon to midnight, and Sunday 10 from noon to 8 p.m. Donation is \$1; children accompanied by an adult will be admitted free. The church is located at 721 Rahway Ave. in Union. For information, call (908) 964-7957 or (732) 381-3681.

THE GREEK FESTIVAL OF WESTFIELD will be sponsored by Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 7 p.m. Donation is \$1, with children younger than 12 years old admitted free. The church is located at 250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-8533. The fax number for take-out food orders is (908) 233-0623.

THE GARWOOD STREET FAIR will take place Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. along South and Walnut avenues in Garwood. The rain date is Sept. 16.

POLISH CULTURAL FOUNDATION in Clark will sponsor an Open House Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. The event will feature music, food, exhibits, amber, and demonstrations of pottery making, piaski and wycinanki. Admission is free. The foundation is located at 177 Broadway in Clark. For information, call (732) 382-7197.

RECORD AND CD SHOW will take place Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Springfield Holiday Inn, Route 22 West in Springfield. Admission is \$5, with children younger than 12 years old admitted free. For information, call (908) 925-9667 or (908) 486-3303.

THE SPRINGFIELD STREET FAIR will take place Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Jonathan Dayton High School. The rain date is Sept. 24.

FILM

ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY will sponsor a series of free film classics at the Main Branch in the coming weeks. All films begin at 10 a.m. The Main Branch of the Elizabeth Public Library is located at 11 S. Broad St. For information, call (908) 354-8060.

Sundays. Tickets are \$8 for general admission, \$6 for senior citizens and students; all lots are \$5 every Friday. For information, call (908) 355-0077.

VARIETY

THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mike Night every Tuesday at 9 p.m. The Back Porch is located at 1505 Main St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-6455.

CROSSROADS in Garwood presents a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts. Crossroads is located at 78 North Ave. in Garwood. For information, call (908) 232-5668.

EAT TO THE BEAT Coffeehouse in Rahway will feature appearances by musical artists during September. Eat to the Beat Coffeehouse is located at 465 Irving St. in Rahway at the corner of East Cherry Street. For information, or to sign up for Open Mike Night, call (732) 381-0505.

FLYNN'S IRISH PUB and Steakhouse in Rahway will present entertainment at various times throughout September. Flynn's Irish Pub is located at 1482 Main St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-4700.

HILTOP CAFE AND GRILL in Summit presents "From Broadway to the Silver Screen" every Sunday at 6 p.m., provided by an all-you-can-eat dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$20.95 and reservations are required. The Hilltop Cafe and Grill is located at 447 Springfield Ave., Summit. For information, call (908) 277-0220.

TAVERN IN THE PARK in Roselle Park will present Today Hekel in "An Evening of Frank Sinatra" Saturdays at 9 p.m. Tavern in the Park is located at 147 W. Westfield Ave., Roselle Park. For information, call (908) 241-7400.

VAN GOGH'S EAR CAFE in Union will present a series of musical events in the coming weeks. Tuesday nights are "Acoustic Tuesday," with open mike from 8 to 9 p.m. for folk singers, poets and comedians, followed by a featured folk performer. Open mike participants sign up at 7:30 p.m., and get 10 minutes at the microphone. Jazz and blues are featured Sundays at 8 p.m. Cover charge is \$3 for all Sunday concerts. Sept. 17: Pam Purvie and Bob Ackerman. Sept. 24: Monkeyworks.

Van Gogh's Ear is located at 1017 Snyvesant Ave., in Union Center. For information, call (908) 810-1844.

THE WAITING ROOM in Rahway will present musical entertainment during September. The Waiting Room is located at 1431 Irving St. in Rahway at the corner of Lewis Street. For information, call (732) 818-1042.

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