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## RAHWAY PROGRES

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A WARRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER • RAHWAY, N.J., VOL. 7 NO. 32—THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1997 • TWO SECTIONS - 25 CENTS

### County budget passed

The Board of Chosen Freeholders adopts its budget for the year, as GOP opposes. See Page B1.

### Class clown

Summit troupe finds the humor in a trio of one-act plays by Anton Chekhov. See Page B3.

### Nature's way

Columnist Bob Rixon views the behavior of seagulls. See Page 4.

### City Highlights

#### Bus trip

A spring bus trip is planned for Friday for Rahway senior citizens to "Ellel Mermaid's Brouhaha" starring Rita McKenzie and the Broadway Exchange at the PNC Bank Arts Center. The cost is \$5 per person and the bus will leave the Rahway City Hall parking lot at 12:15 p.m. and will return approximately 5 p.m. For more information, call 827-2016.

#### Blanket on sale

Due to popular demand, the Rahway Public Library is resending more of the Historic Sites blanket, which has sold out twice since last November. The third weaving of the blanket will be in cream and navy blue. Anyone interested in buying one or more of the blankets should stop by the library at the corner of Central and St. Georges avenues. The blankets are \$50 and a deposit of \$10 is required. The order will be placed in early April and delivery is expected for mid to late May. For more information call 388-0761.

#### Tree planting

Mayor James Kennedy and the Department of Public Works announced the second city-sponsored tree planting program to take place this spring. The program is designed to encourage the planting of trees, enhancing the beauty and quality of life in the community. Applications are available for Willow Oaks, Tupperbrook, and Silver Lanes. The DPW is offering trees for half of wholesale price. Applications are available at City Hall near the bulletin board in the lobby. There are also pictures of these types of trees available.

#### Stamp services

Several stamp-buying services that help postal customers year-round are particularly handy. Stamp services enable customers to receive their stamps via delivery within a few days by filling out a form that can be obtained from mail carriers. The service is of no extra charge more than the face value of the stamps. Credit cards can also be used for telephone orders by calling (800) STAMP-24 as Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

#### Blood screening

A free blood pressure screening will be offered for residents of Rahway at the Rahway Public Library every month. For further information contact the Department of Health, Welfare and Recreation at 827-2085.

#### Worral Web site

Worral Community Newspapers has opened a home page on the World Wide Web. Readers of our 22 newspapers now can access great local news at <http://www.localsource.com>. LocalSource is your best source for what's happening in your community.

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### Local star skater

Rahway resident Jacklyn Laurenelle receives the gold medal at the 22nd annual Crystal Blades skating competition at Morristown Mennen Arena. She completed in her first skating contest after nine weeks of private lessons under the training of Eileen Solokoff.

### Harsell opposes river dredging

By Sean Dally Staff Writer

A proposed plan to dredge the Rahway River has been deemed by at least one area environmentalist.

Bob Harsell, a member of the Arthur Kill Watershed Association, has called a "Woodbridge plan to dredge the Rahway River 'futile' and a danger to the wildlife and the ecosystem in the river."

Rahway had recently been requested to support a plan to dredge the Rahway River by James McGreevey, the mayor of Woodbridge. Rahway had prepared a resolution calling either the Army Corps of Engineers or the state Department of Environmental Protection to clean and dredge the river.

But this resolution was pulled from the table last week because of concerns from Harsell and Cathy Papinick, the chairwoman of the Rahway Environmental Commission. Papinick has said that dredging the river is not advisable without first knowing what the effects would be in other sections of the river.

Harsell, while he supported cleaning the river, said last week that he was completely against Woodbridge's plans to dredge the river.

McGreevey could not be reached for comment and Bob Simicak, an engineer working on the project, referred questions to the mayor's office.

According to Harsell, the dredging is being done to relieve flooding in the area of McFarland Road, Brookside Court, North Hill Road and Maplewood Avenue. Rahway was asked to support the project because it is upstream from Woodbridge and the dredging project would be worthless without Rahway's help.

The dredging would supposedly reduce silt buildup in the river that is the main cause of the flooding. But Harsell maintains that it is not silt that is the culprit and that the flooding problem is "so far beyond any dredging that it's fraudulent. It's actually fraudulent to dredge that."

Part of the problem is that a number of houses and a shopping center are built on or near the river's flood plain. If the river should flood, in other words, the water is going to build up there.

What exacerbates this is "past and parcel of suburban," said Harsell. Development upstream, with the attendant parking lots roads and the loss of grass, undergrowth and trees that would retain rainwater. Whenever it rains, almost all of the water is channeled into the river through storm drains.

According to Harsell, the dredging would create a wide channel in the river that he predicted would be silted up again in six months, partly because the river would become less turbulent and would drop more silt to the river bed.

He added that the Rahway River, in order to be "really safe," would have to be dredged four times a year. This would mean 40 dredgings between large 10-year floods, dredgings that would not make a difference anyway.

Harsell said the dredging would destroy a lot of the "structure" of the river, including riffle areas and deep pools that are part of a healthy river. These areas are havens and feeding areas for large mouth bass, a sport fish, and wading and migratory birds.

The ecosystem of the river is also "fairly divergent and undisturbed," something that comes from leaving the river alone for a long time.

Harsell said the only solution to the problem is long-range planning.

The development upriver took about 30 to 40 years, Harsell said. "That's really not that big a time to make this huge a problem."

### Winfield students remain, for now

By Sean Dally Staff Writer

Winfield Park will continue to send its high school students to Rahway High School for the time being.

Bernard Rueckgaue, the Winfield Park superintendent of schools, said his high school students will continue to attend Rahway High School for the 1997-98 school year. Winfield Park has 40 high school students this year.

This continues a long-standing relationship with Rahway that has been in place for about 40 years.

Whether they will be staying there is still an open question.

The Winfield Board of Education is still looking into whether it should send its students elsewhere, to either Clark or Kenilworth, or whether it should keep its agreement with Rahway's Board of Education.

According to Rueckgaue, Winfield Park is talking with Kenilworth, which will be reopening David Breairey High School in July. These talks are to be discussed at the Winfield Park's board meeting tonight.

Winfield Park will also be resuming its talks with the Clark Board of Education. Its school board for next year was defeated in April. According to Rueckgaue, Clark is coming close to resolving its budget issues.

The next step will be a feasibility study into staying with Rahway or breaking off and sending its students to one of the other towns. The Winfield Park board already hired a consultant earlier in the year to study all three districts.

According to Rueckgaue, the search does not reflect any disapproval with Rahway High School. Rather, recent years have opened a number of "options" for Winfield Park.

Clark and Kenilworth belong to the Union County Regional High School District, a school district with six towns sending its students to four high schools. One of these, David Breairey High School in Kenilworth, was closed due to budget reasons; Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark is still open and accepts students from Clark and Garwood.

Four of the towns voted to dissolve the regional school district last year. This means David Breairey High School and Arthur L. Johnson High School will no longer belong to the regional school district but instead to Kenilworth and Clark, respectively, on July 1.

Winfield Park, with about 1,500 residents and 175 students this year, does not have enough students to support a comprehensive high school. For the past 40 years or so, it has sent its students to Rahway High School.

Attempts to find another high school have failed, mainly because all the high schools studied were full.

But Kenilworth and Clark have concerns over whether they will have enough students for their schools after the regional school district dissolves.

There are also concerns about money, especially in Clark. Out-of-district students always have their tuition paid by the school district that sent them. This would mean extra revenue to whichever district received the students.

### School health fair teaches prevention, safety

By Sean Dally Staff Writer

Friday's Health Fair at Roosevelt School had been in the works since October, but this is the first time that City has been in a program like this.

"I didn't expect this much, eh?" said Debbie Wakstein, a PTA member. "This is wonderful!"

The school's first health fair was held in the gymnasium, which was visited by all 550 children at the school. A number of local businesses and government services — and some not so local — were in attendance.

"We want them to start preventative medicine. We want our kids to be safe and this is a natural place to teach preventative medicine and bring up health and safety issues that the kids could relate to," said Linda Underwood, the school nurse and the "mover and shaker" for the fair, according to Principal Art Lundgren.

Health and safety issues for a child are different than those for an adult, or so the thinking apparently went at the fair.

Instead of cholesterol tests and glaucoma tests, there were children making "cappuccinos" at a table run by CVS, dancing with people from Pyramid Health Club and being finger-printed by the sheriff's office.

"It's really an incredible effort. It's really amazing," said Lundgren.

Officer Clay was standing behind a display about illegal drugs and the various ailments that they can bring on. Rahway has had a DARE program for six years, but this is the first time that City has been in a program like this.

"This is ideal because this is visual and kids can see this and see the cold hard facts," he said.

He had various, rather realistic-looking replicas of drug-affected organs, something the kids apparently eat up.

"Kids are really fascinated. They want to touch it," he said.

He was also surprised at the knowledge the kids already had about drugs — maybe a little too much.

He pointed to a display about various inhalant like permanent markers and white-out. "The kids are especially in this because they see kids popping the cap and sniffing it," he said.

"You can get high off of this stuff all day."

This was also a new experience for Carveth, a dentist from Rahway Hospital. Normally she does cooking classes, but today she was playing games with the students — specifically, "guess the hidden fruit." The hospital was also there with tables on poison prevention.

You would not have known it was her first time. She was having a high old time with the children, as if it were her native element.

"This is great today," she said. They wanted to do a lot of hands-on things and I don't usually do that and this is great."

CVS was also there, having drawings for a bike helmet, promoting bike safety and letting the students make "cappuccinos."

Donna Feudo, the HealthWise Coordinator, was behind a table with a number of pills under plastic covers.

"Can you guys tell which ones are the medicine and which ones are the candy?" she asked. Surprisingly, the kids got a lot right — but also some wrong.

"You have to know because we never take medicine from strangers," she said. Some of the medicines, which looked exactly like candy, could make them sleepy and would make it easier for someone to kidnap them, she said.

"This is why I put this together," she said, "so you guys can see how some people will try to fool you."

The fair also had a special guest — Michael York of PBS's "The News" man for his company's ChildWatch program.

The program started in 1988 to give children a "safe haven" in case of the company's 3,000 trucks, which ply the entire state on a daily basis anyway, this in case their parents and the police and fire departments were not around.

"Basically why we do it, if we can have one child, it's worth it," he said. "We don't expect to go out and see kids in trouble or see things that we shouldn't, but it's worth it."

York started promoting the program on his own time for several years until the officials at PBSAG noticed. He is now the spokesman and has been on TV and newspapers, including the Philadelphia Inquirer and The New York Times.

### Showing your colors

Members of the American Legion Post 5 Color Guard of Rahway prepare to leave for the recent Loyalty Day Massing of Colors. From left are Commander George Weeks, Mary Weeks, John Sugzda and Jim Flynn.







## Dogs walk success is an inspiration

The American Cancer Society's Dogs Walk on May 4 was an event in which area residents and their dogs helped fight a devastating and deadly disease.

Randie Blumhagen of the Union County Chapter of the American Cancer Society was quick to point out that this disease strikes animals as well as humans. According to Blumhagen, dogs can get any kind of cancer that humans can, including melanomas and cancer of the kidneys and liver. In addition, prostate cancer is especially prevalent in unneutered male dogs.

The Dogs Walk event, which was held at Rahway River Park on St. Georges Avenue in Rahway, raised more than \$11,000 in total.

What was impressive at the event, in its fourth year, was that it raised more than \$1,000 than expected and more than \$11,000 in total.

This record-breaking success comes from the fact that people who participated in previous years are coming back in full force. About 75 dogs and from 75 to 100 people showed up for the event, which was basically a walk around Rahway River Park. There was a minimum donation of \$10, with \$75 getting a Dogs Walk T-shirt for you and a bandana for your dog.

Gayle Regan, who is involved with Therapet Inc., and all of the others who participated and organized the Dogs Walk showed up for the event, which was basically a walk around Rahway River Park. There was a minimum donation of \$10, with \$75 getting a Dogs Walk T-shirt for you and a bandana for your dog.

## Not so long, but so near

Our happiness for Ann Baran, who will leave county government this summer to take a post at Kean College, is tempered by the realization that she is leaving county government this summer. She certainly has our congratulations, but we're grateful we don't have to say so long, because she'll be so nearby.

She says no one should hold an office such as the county manager's for as long as she has. Her tenure is ending too soon.

As several freetholders said last week, the county's loss will be Kean's gain as she takes over the Gateway Center for Regional Development at Kean. Gateway Center is a cornerstone of an effort to promote commerce in Union County. Baran will be remembered for her success in slowing the growth of county spending in the face of absurd federal and state mandates and a crumbling tax-paying industrial base.

She has impressed us with her problem-solving skills and her leadership abilities—and we suspect she'll be very busy in her new job. For starters, her organization will be competing with one of the freetholders, as putting together which already competes with an existing county bureaucracy which competes with the private Union County Economic Development Corp., which competes with a Port Authority department.

That is a lot of Indians and a lot of chiefs, and we hope Baran, the freetholders, the PA and the UCEDC can unite their best minds for the sake of working together, since they have the same goal.

Wishful thinking? Perhaps, but it's just another case of wanting to trim government spending, since the freetholders allocated \$285,000 to Gateway and likely will spend more.

## Shoes to fill

Ann Baran will leave office on July 31; until then, the freetholders will have to follow government guidelines regarding the search and selection process for her successor.

We urge the majority-holding Democrats to keep the process open. We understand that this matter requires confidentiality until someone has been chosen, but that secrecy does not apply to fellow freetholders.

Freetholder Ed Force's comments last week regarding the Republican freetholders being kept in the dark about Baran did not fall on deaf ears. We don't object to the Democrats' power to choose a new county manager — after all, they chose Baran — but conducting their search during party meetings will not do.

"Press attention is like a beam of light which illuminates where it shines but leaves all else in obscurity."

—Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
U.N. secretary-general  
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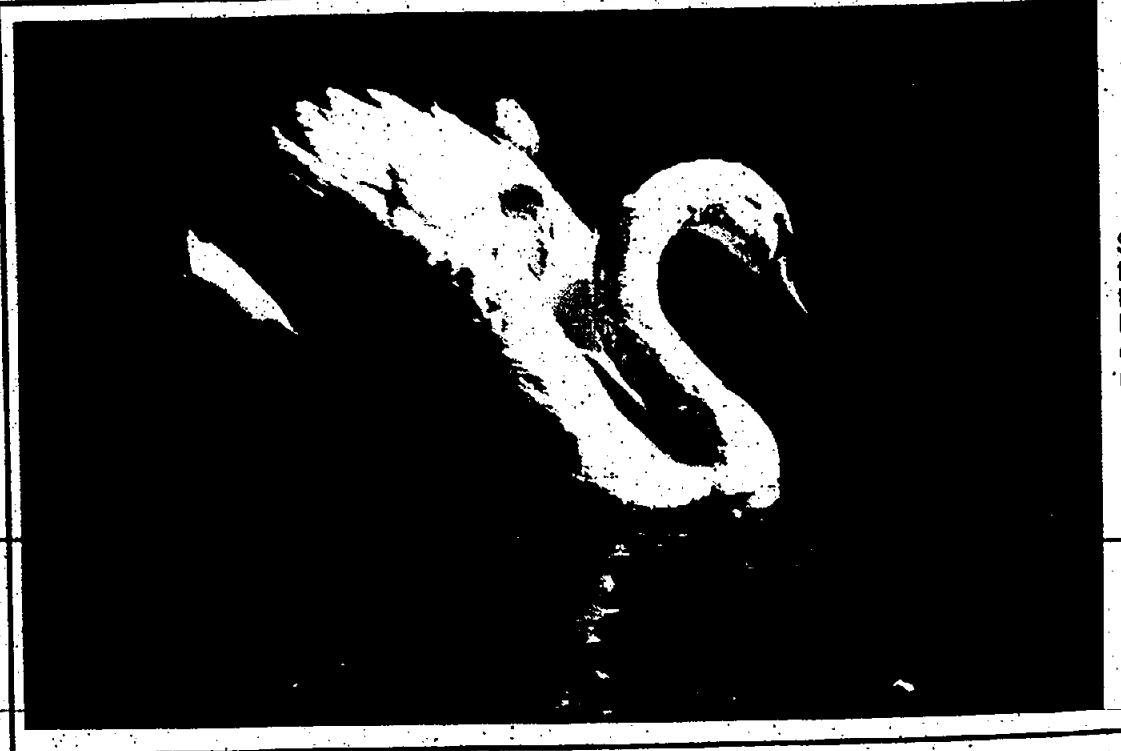
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## COMMUNITY FORUM



SWAN SONG — A swan takes an afternoon bath in the water at Rahway River Park. The park is located off of St. Georges Avenue near Westfield Avenue.

## Seagulls speak volumes through behavior

The guy was kneeling over what looked like three fat tuna steaks on the small, stone beach next to Seaween boat ramp. He was going at them with a knife while a group of people watched.

When he was done and everyone had left, I walked down to have a look at the fish. The man had sliced steaks from each side of the fish and left the carcasses to rot. They were beautiful fish, although, like all dead fish, they had expressions of stupid incomprehension. The only animal more stupid-looking than a dead fish is a Labrador tied up outside a Quik Check while the owner is inside buying lottery tickets. I kicked at one of the fish, getting a bloodstain on the toe of a brand new white sneaker.

Two days later, one of the fish had disappeared, another was a skeleton with the head intact, looking even more stupid than the first-day fish. The third was largely complete but the gulls had been gnawing at it. The gulls had retreated when I approached the fish. They came back as I walked away. There were six

## Free Form

By Bob Rixon

gulls, but only two fish. Gulls are not noted for their generosity. In the gull world, size counts for almost everything when the food is too large to be snatched up and carried away. A small, fast gull can beat a bigger one to a pizza crust in a parking lot, but a dead fish on a beach favors the bullies. The two biggest gulls immediately claimed the carcass. Keeping the smaller gulls away required only a slight extension of the wings, the same kind of minimal muscle flexing by which a big, dumb human guy holds his seat in a tavern. You know the type: he walks away carrying his bottle of Bud and expects everyone to stay off his seat even if he's down at the other end of the bar for 10 minutes posing for a woman. An approach by another large gull

toward the food source requires ever escalating tactics. When the brief wing extension doesn't work, the gull with the food dips its head, advances a few steps toward the other gull, and flaps its wings once. This usually works. Sometimes it isn't enough, so the gull throws back its head and gives out a series of really loud cries. This starts the competing gull crying. The smaller gulls hanging around the other fringes become agitated and they start crying. Although the context is quite different, this behavior resembles a big, dumb guy in a bar intimidating everyone else into laughing at his unfunny joke.

Sometimes the gulls really go at each other, and the gull who is trying to hang on to his dead fish actually takes it to a bigger gull. A day later, the dead fish were still next to the Seaween boat ramp, head intact, with the same expressions. The gulls were there, too. There was a lot of tug traffic on Arthur Kill churning up breakers. As usual, two hefty gulls had claimed the spoils, and were bullying away every contender like put-

## Torricelli's truth decay should outrage us all

The topic of discussion was the proposed "balanced" Budget Amendment and Sen. Robert Torricelli's decision to vote against it. The man speaking said, among other things, "It's an outrage! He's a liar and should be recalled."

Who said that? Not a conservative or even a Republican, but former New York Mayor and five-term Congressman, Democrat Ed Koch who confessed to being a liberal with sanity. I share Koch's outrage about Torricelli's truth decay, but unfortunately he would be labeled what he actually is, a 14 karat liberal. Torricelli made the center piece of his campaign the fact that he is no big spending liberal and voted for the Balanced Budget Amendment three times. He even had the nerve to call Zimmer — Zig Zag Zimmer.

The lame excuse for voting against the exact proposal this time was his concern that it would be difficult to master enough votes for crises spending. . . .

Ridiculous.

Torricelli who served 14 years in the House can hardly be called a neophyte. He voted for the exact proposal three times while he was there and

## Right To The Point

By Joe Orlando

after being elected to the Senate a few months ago he voted for it in committee while serving on the Judiciary Committee. In his campaign against Congressman Dick Zimmer, knowing that he would be labeled what he actually is, a 14 karat liberal, Torricelli made the center piece of his campaign the fact that he is no big spending liberal and voted for the Balanced Budget Amendment three times. He even had the nerve to call Zimmer — Zig Zag Zimmer.

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Ridiculous.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ogden Martin should have told them of the health problems that have developed since the incinerator started burning problems such as stroke, dermatitis and respiratory illnesses, and the prevalence of several cases of shingles. These are honest answers the South Korean would have received from persons living near the burner if they really wanted to know the effects of placing a garbage burner in a residential neighborhood.

I am sure many residents would be very glad to truthfully tell anyone what it is like living close to the Union County Resource Recovery Facility.

Ann Parker  
Rahway

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## Cornell Hall celebrates National Nursing Home Week

By Bea Smith  
Staff Writer

Nurses, aides, staff members and residents of Cornell Hall Convalescent Center, Union, have planned an active and productive week to celebrate National Nursing Home Week, May 11 through May 17. And this follows National Nursing Week, in which all had similarly exciting events and activities.

Margaret Palmieri, recreation supervisor, who resides in Rahway, a former professional singer, took time out last Friday from her lunch hour and exceptionally busy schedule to talk with enthusiasm about what has been planned. She sat on the edge of her chair, as faithful Union, resident German Shepherd, lay alongside, and Cotton, a beautiful white bird, chirped happily from his cage in the lobby.

"We've been celebrating for the past 20 years," she said. "We started with Mother's Day tea on May 11," said Palmieri. "On May 12, we had a special morning Mass in honor of National Nursing Week by Father Ed of Holy Spirit Church of Union. On May 13, another celebration was scheduled to take place with a trip to the Green Brook Nursing Home for a bowling party and competition. Cornell Hall against Green Brook. Six residents, and the nursing staff and aides were scheduled to participate. Also, on the 13th, we scheduled a barbecue. On the 14th, we schedule entertainment for the residents — a harmonica duet by Marge Zechin and Al Rockers. At 3:30 p.m. YMCA Tea Time, we scheduled an intergenerational for residents. I arranged a sing-along. On the 15th, I was 14-years-old, I was singing at political affairs in Newark. Actually, I was a singer and dancer all my life. I

"There will be names called up from different schools. We have quite a list of the names. They're very cute, and they were provided by the school children. They were very nice to help us out. On May 16," Palmieri explained, "we are planning a Happy Hour at 2 p.m. featuring root beer floats and Mr. Brown entertaining on the piano for staff and residents. And," she enthused, "on May 17, there will be a strawberry shortcake social for staff and residents' enjoyment at 2 p.m. And that's how we will celebrate National Nursing Home Week."

With two weeks of festivities, Palmieri announced: "It's party time at Cornell Hall. And we do it to motivate, to celebrate with them, to arrange everything from transportation to places of recreation, sewing and singing and dancing, and as a result, smiles and hugs. They all benefit from these festivities, and we give them a reason for celebration."

The recreation staff consists of four full-timers and three part-timers: Palmieri, Anandra Leonard, recreation director; Kimberly Clark, assistant director; other assistants, Cletely Breen, Desi Vito, Russell Simon and Melba Mullins.

Palmieri, who has been with Cornell Hall for about two years, admitted that she changed her career in mid-life. "I was a professional singer for 15 years, and I suddenly had a calling to come here for some reason. When I came, I was told they wanted someone for activities. So I went to school to be certified and qualified."

She said that she grew up in Newark and had been singing and dancing since she was three years old. "When I was 14-years-old, I was singing at political affairs in Newark. Actually, I was a singer and dancer all my life. I

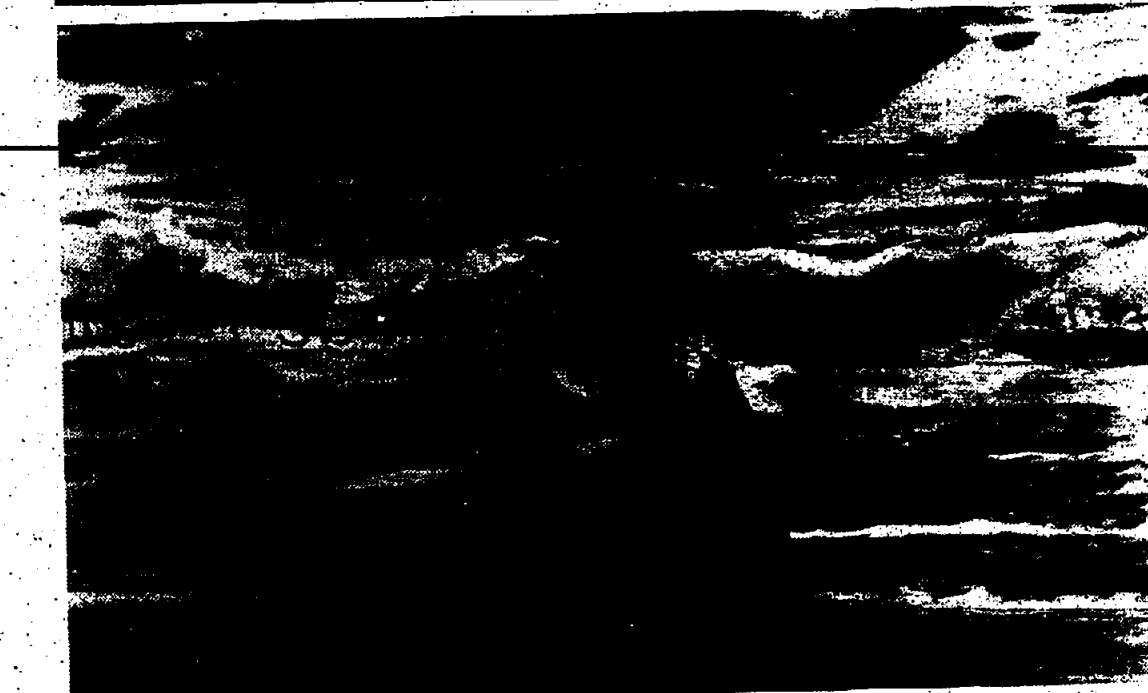


During a celebration at Cornell Hall Convalescent Center, Union, the recreation director, Margaret Palmieri, brought her daughter, Jane, to visit with residents, left, Ann Leminelli and Elsie Anese of Union.

During a celebration at Cornell Hall Convalescent Center, Union, the recreation director, Margaret Palmieri, brought her daughter, Jane, to visit with residents, left, Ann Leminelli and Elsie Anese of Union.

During a celebration at Cornell Hall Convalescent Center, Union, the recreation director, Margaret Palmieri, brought her daughter, Jane, to visit with residents, left, Ann Leminelli and Elsie Anese of Union.

## EDUCATION



Heather Marie Punks Pollack, who seeks the Miss America Petite title, poses for a photograph. Many of the pageant's previous winners have been discovered by the agents, managers and directors who judge the competition.

## Hehnley student seeks pageant title

Heather Marie Punks Pollack, a Clark student, recently won the Miss Junior Clark Petite and will be competing for the title of Miss New Jersey Petite on July 26 in Parsippany. The winner at that competition will then go on to compete for the title of Miss America Petite on July 27.

Pollack attends kindergarten at Clark. She is a fourth-year dance student at Devaney School of Dance in Edison.

Pollack studies ballet, jazz, tap and aerobics. She is also in her second year in Clark's Little League T-Ball and will be cheerleading for Pop Warner Football in the fall.

Pollack and her family are also members of the Deutscher Club, a German heritage organization in Clark.

The Miss Junior America Pageant — 783-1115.

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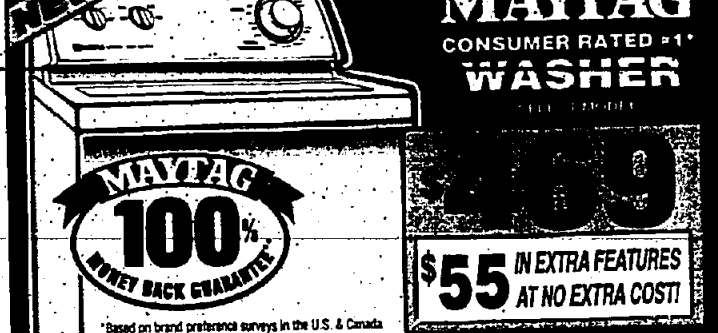
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# Sides' no-hitter sparks Indians

## Soph. K's 12 for Rahway

By Andrew McGinn  
Assistant Sports Editor

After a disappointing early exit from the Union County Tournament, the Rahway High School softball team felt like it had something to prove to its Watching Conference rivals.

Dana Sides wasted no time in helping Rahway to re-energize as a force to be reckoned with when she tossed a no-hitter to the Indians on Elizabeth

Kim Gustafson came up with the big hit of the day when she smacked a two-run home run on the fourth inning. Tanya Gaiszewski and Kerra Shine continued their hot hitting as Gaiszewski went 4-4 with a double and an RBI and Shine collected two more hits to lead Rahway.

### H.S. Softball

Gaiszewski picked up her fourth

struck out a season-high 12 batters and issued only one base on ball to

# I athletes honored

e. Magyera. Oak Knoll: Alia Su

# In Inter-County Play

goal, Daniel Alvarez, Michelle Manzo and David Piliat were a solid wall at defense, constantly turning back the PT offense. Kaitlin Feeney and Jonathan Griffin played stellar back-up goals in the crime game.

Karen Koch and Sean Winard played well on both sides of the ball. Ryan Weiss was steadfast at any position asked to play.

Dana Ciccone played an outstanding half in goal, allowing only two goals in the last 40 minutes of play. She unagitated several cannon balls that were wide of the goal. Scott Moore and Michael Cole were solid in their offense.

**Dairy Queen's Copy-Quick:** 3 After several frustrating losses, Dairy Queen broke into the victory column with a 3-1 win over the Red Devils.

laying goal for the first time  
second half, made several out-

[illegible]

ed display. Eric Dustin, Ryan  
h and Jimmy Lynn each found  
l of the nation's for Dustin

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## 'Backstage Tarts' is full of bittersweet humor

'Tart' is a flavor many enjoy, even though the term does conjure an image of pursed lips. Theater goes will open their lips with laughter as often as they purse them with sympathy when they see "Backstage Tarts," which closes a successful season at The Elizabeth Playhouse.

The action takes place in the lobby dressing room of a run-down classical theater. Five actresses commiserate over the trials of taking part in the current show, a version of "Troilus and Cressida," which has been lampooned in a setting of the Viet Nam-torn six-

ties with the Rolling Stones providing the score, and also over the fate of being actresses in a male-dominated culture. The characters range in age from under-age teen to golden years, with experience levels to match. But background notwithstanding, any time you put five women in close quarters, you can expect some fireworks.

The play brings the audience backstage to experience the flip side of the glamorous world of professional theater. Costumes are the wrong size, suits abound over favored seats at the makeup mirror, and reactions to much-anticipated/dreaded reviews are key. As for their individual identities as women and as actresses, concern for appearance is a favored topic and speeches are replete with rationalizations. The question of an versus debasement arises again and again, as does the debate over how best to gain the all-important recognition required for success.

All performances are strong, and lines are well delivered. Kathy Mattingly is Ruth, cast as the unfortunate, aging Helen of Troy. Mattingly's delivery is impeccable, whether she is eliciting heartbreaking sympathy or provoking mirth. Gail Sweeney is just as notable as the jaded Diana, who has

## Theater View

By Jocacue McCarthy  
Associate Editor

spent too many years working for the seedy theater. Mary Wilton comes on like a burst of glaring sunshine as the annoyingly cheerful Amanda. Sherry Dolvin is teenage Sidney, who sees the reality of their situation through the

child's honest eyes. Dobbin's performance is very effective, communicating the smug comfort of a youngster's ability to laugh at adversity, without overdoing it. Last but not least, Lorraine Hernandez makes the most of another pivotal role — the one we have seen in a great performance in the Playhouse production of "The Little Foxes," as were Mattingly and Wilton — as Claire, an up-and-coming actress too old to sort through the quasi-gilt of the stage and seemingly well-intentioned advice of her peers to find her path.

The Playhouse crew has done a nice job bringing the backstage to the stage. Costumes and set are both very visual, and the toilet seat is an eye-catcher. Kudos to the Tart Boys, Tom Gallison and Rich Aroni, co-stage managers — the Trojan costumes are a nice touch. Bravo and bravo to Marlow and Karen Ferguson, co-founders of The Elizabeth Playhouse, for another great production and a fine season.

"Backstage Tarts" runs through the next four weeks. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$8.50 for seniors and students. The Playhouse is located at 1100 East Jersey St., Elizabeth. For information and reservations, call (908) 355-0077.

## Join with the G.O.D. Team to 'Put God In Your Life'

By Jocacue McCarthy  
Associate Editor

Each one of us has a story about reaching a turning point in our lives when we effected a change in ourselves — for the better. Leone & Simmons and the G.O.D. Team are no strangers to these kinds of stories, as their own musical paths have been fostered by life events that changed their outlook on the world and on themselves. This Union-based group of musicians and performers have a message to share with the world — about how

faith in God can change lives for the better. The G.O.D. team is the brainchild of Al Leone and Kenny Simmons, musicians, business partners and friends, not necessarily in that order. Some Union County residents may have had the opportunity to witness the birth of the concept that became The G.O.D. Team at the opening of Juices nightclub in Hillside-in-September 1996. Simmons, a former member of singing group The Commodores, was one of the local celebrities

asked to lend support to the fledgling endeavor, which was a non-alcoholic, spiritually-based nightclub for gentle folk who eschewed the usual club scene. Simmons and partner Leone put together an act called "Inside The Dream — The Story of One Man's Life in 8 Songs." This reporter had the privilege of seeing this show, and can say unequivocally that headline Simmons brought down the house. The show, which incorporated elements of dance and speech, and featured several local artists, was pro-

duced with such energy and enthusiasm that there was no doubt we would be hearing from Simmons again. Juices, unfortunately, eventually closed, but "Inside The Dream" was just beginning. The show has evolved into "Put God In Your Life," the new CD from The G.O.D. Team, available in record stores today. The title song was included in Simmons' one-man show, and is part of several other projects, including a stage show through whatever your difficult lives are.

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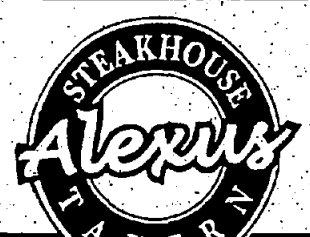
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## DINING REVIEW

MAY 15, 1997

## Alexus Steakhouse &amp; Tavern

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Alexus Steakhouse & Tavern, located on Route 22 West in Mountainside, just east of the New Providence Road Intersection.

cake. I chose the carrot cake with a cappuccino for \$5.05. It was a rewarding finish. Reservations are not necessary for this colorful and inviting eatery. Alexus Steakhouse & Tavern is located at 1230 Route 22 West in Mountainside. Lunch and dinner hours: 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Mon-

## Union musicians have faith in their newest recording

(Continued from Page B4)

and a television pilot. The G.O.D. Team was doing some rehearsing and recording for their live act at Network Music Studios on Route 22 in Union this week. They spoke about the evolution of the project, which is based upon faith in God and a desire to communicate a positive message to others through music.

"I think the juices show was just a transitional thing for us as far as terms of getting back to us as performers instead of just us as producers, because for a lot of years we were really concentrating on producing other artists," said Leone, referring to Leone and Simmons Music Production in Vauxhall. "So we decided that we really wanted to just get back out and do the music."

"All over the world, there's a lot of different ways to think of God. We're not going to judge anybody, but we're saying just do it, you know, if you're not happy with where your life is. That's what the song 'Change' is about," Leone commented, referring to the song the group had been rehearsing just prior to the interview. "If you're not happy with your life, you can change your life. A lot of our

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thing that came naturally for us. It's a lot of glorification of drugs, the high life and stuff, and that wasn't what we wanted to sing about anymore. We'd been there, and God had taken us away from that, so to speak, and that's what we really wanted to sing about."

Simmons, a resident of Vauxhall for 9 years, agreed with his partner, adding, "Everybody's really excited about the album. It's sort of funky, but at the same time it's got a message."

What kind of message can listeners expect to hear? "It has a broader spiritual base, because we are Christian and those are our roots, but we're talking about all people," said Leone. "It doesn't matter how you want to label God, if you believe in God it can help you get through whatever your difficult lives are."

To hear the latest recordings by The G.O.D. Team, enter 3001 — "Put God In Your Life" 3002 — "Change"

songs have that kind of message, believing in yourself and getting up in the morning and saying, 'You know, God, I feel I can be a little bit better,' so that's where we're coming from."

According to Leone, he and Simmons have been working together for 14 years. But it wasn't an easy path, according to the two performers. They talked about times when they were discouraged enough to give up on their dreams.

"There's even been a couple of times when we said, 'That's it, we're done, let's stop this,' not to each other, but just totally out of the business completely," Simmons recalled. Leone concurred, "The running joke was 'Let's sell the equipment and quit the business,' but it really pretty much came down to that pretty close several times."

The reaction the group received at Juices gave them the inspiration they needed to keep going. Simmons' one-man show at the club was derived from music from "The Stages of Awareness," a stage play Leone and Simmons had produced off-Broadway a few years earlier.

"We got a chance to see how we were in touch with people and see that, in a direct way, we are able to help people. And it was at that moment that we said, come hell or high water, we're just going to believe in this and keep going," Leone said. "We're going to get out there and we're going to have a good time."

"And we want to shake you, too, that's the point," said Simmons. "We come out, and we want these ladies to get really really into it, we want you to go 'Whoa, ok!' We're adding pieces, and we're doing it to tracks at this point, but we're going to be adding a live band and singers. We're going to start featuring these young ladies" — G.O.D. Team members Linda Haynes and Rheta Washington — "a lot more. They'll have solo songs during the show. There's some dialogue that goes on, some acting, so it's like coming to an off-Broadway play. We want you to leave saying, 'Hey, I've got to go back and see that, it was really powerful.'"

It has already generated such a strong audience reaction that The G.O.D. Team was motivated bring pieces, and we're doing it to tracks at this point, but we're going to be adding a live band and singers. We're going to start featuring these young ladies" — G.O.D. Team members Linda Haynes and Rheta Washington — "a lot more. They'll have solo songs during the show. There's some dialogue that goes on, some acting, so it's like coming to an off-Broadway play. We want you to leave saying, 'Hey, I've got to go back and see that, it was really powerful.'"

And the long-awaited CD, "Put God In Your Life," is no longer in the wings — it's available in record stores today. For free ad advice call 908-686-7700.

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## ART AUCTION

YMTCOA of Union County will host an art auction on Sunday at 7 p.m. The event will be conducted by Brinkley's Fine Art of Housage, New York. The auction will feature famous name artists in oils, watercolors, mixed media, lithographs and 3D constructions.

Donation is \$1 per person and light refreshments will be available. The art is located at 501 Green Lane, Union, N.J. For information, call Jan Kovacs-Jones, program director, at (908) 228-8112.

## ART SHOWS

**ABOUT FACE**, a unique artists book, will run through "Wednesday" in the Members Gallery at New Jersey Center for Visual Arts.

NUOVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

**DONALD B. PALMER** Museum of the Springfield Public Library will present the art of Alexandra Strogan and Marina Levitskaya through May 22.

The Donald B. Palmer Museum is located in the Springfield Library, 66 Mountain Ave. Gallery hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 3:30 p.m. For information, call (201) 375-4930.

**GARDEN STATE INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY SALON** is being presented by the Watchung Arts Center through May 26. A public reception will be held on Saturday at 7 p.m.

Sal, accomplished photographers, make up the panel of experienced judges who will select the best of each category for awards. These outstanding prints, including award winners, will hang in the Gallery from through May 26. Gallery hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays and weekdays.

The Watchung Arts Center, "on the Corner of Watchung" is easily reached from Route 22 or Interstate 78. Call (908) 753-0190 for details and directions. There is ample free parking adjacent to the Arts Center at nearby municipal lots.

**NEW JERSEY WATERCOLOR SOCIETY** exhibition of works will be on display at the Pease Focamer Art Gallery at Paper Mill Playhouse through May 25. The junior exhibition offers a representative cross section of the many diverse approaches to the medium of watercolor.

The gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday from one hour before performances through intermission and Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. All art is available for purchase. For more information, call (201) 378-3836, ext. 2272.

**CHINESE BRUSH PAINTINGS** by Michele Bernstein will be on display through May 31 at The Common Ground Cafe in Summit.

The Cafe is located in Anne's Coffee Roastery, 50 Maple St. at Union Place in Summit. For information, call (908) 273-2131.

**SKULSKI ART GALLERY** of the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark will present an exhibition of paintings and graphics by James E. Thourbott III through May 31.

Color is Thourbott's theme, optical mixture and color interrelationships. Thourbott's paintings with dots and bold dashes of color which make visual allusion to the impressionists. His paintings incorporate a soft composition, modulations and permutations of

mutated hue. The use of resin brings forth subtle illumination within each work.

The Polish Cultural Foundation is located at 177 Broadway, Clark, just off Exit 132 from the Garden State Parkway. The gallery is open to the public Monday to Friday from 5 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call Alexandra K. Nowak, director, at (908) 382-7197.

**VOX GALLERY** will have art work by Brazilian artist Iva Potvin through June 2.

Potvin's subject matter involves horses, a man love of her life. She has been studying their anatomy, movement and behavior; for more than thirty years.

Vox Gallery is located at 444 Springfield Ave. in Summit. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. For information, call (908) 273-2551.

**BACK IN HAVANA**, an exhibit by artist Enrique Flores-Galvez, is on display at Swain Galleries in Plainfield.

The artist's oil paintings portray his native Cuba with political wit aimed at the myth and dominance of Fidel Castro.

The show continues through June 7, weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday to 4 p.m. Swain Galleries is located at 703 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield. For information, call (908) 756-1707.

**NEW JERSEY TAPESTRY OF ART** exhibition is being presented at New Jersey Center for Visual Arts through June 6.

NUOVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

**THE BEST OF KEAN**, an exhibition of photographs by students in the Department of Technology at Kean College of New Jersey, will be on display at Les Malart Art Gallery in the Union Library. The exhibit will continue through June 12.

Union Library is located on Morris Avenue in Union. For information, call (908) 686-0420 or (908) 686-4356.

**SUNNYSIDE BRANCH of Linden** Library will feature 11 works by Linden artist George Jarvis. Jarvis's works are bright, colorful and whimsical, frequently featuring children. Jarvis is a painter and illustrator who also designs greeting cards and teaches art to children at the Linden, Multi-Purpose Center.

The library is located at 100 Edgewood Road in Linden. The exhibit may be viewed during the library branch's regular hours, 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 9 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays.

**ANNUAL SPRING FINE ART AND CRAFTS** at Nomahegan Park show will take place on May 31 and June 1 in Cranford across from Union County College.

The show will feature over 140 juried artists, professional artists, photographers and crafts people displaying and selling their hand-crafted work. Entertainment will be provided by the Eagle Creek Country Band and a variety of ethnic foods will be served.

The show is free to the public and will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. The park is located on Springfield Avenue in Cranford. For information, call (908) 674-5247.

**ART COMPETITION** 1997, UNION COUNTY JURIED ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION is open to all artists and craftspeople who live or work in Union County. The deadline for submission of slides is May 23. The

show will feature over 140 juried artists, professional artists, photographers and crafts people displaying and selling their hand-crafted work. Entertainment will be provided by the Eagle Creek Country Band and a variety of ethnic foods will be served.

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# Stepping Out

Classes will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, July 8 through 22. "Hollywood Changes: Film of the 70s" will cover the trend away from making critically acclaimed pictures and more towards making blockbusters, who in Hollywood helped to promote this trend, and what roles did film play in the trend's progression. The course will include film screenings, discussion and industry guest speakers. Classes will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, Aug. 5 through 19. Those interested in further information should call the College's Department of Continuing Education and Community Services at (908) 752-7600.

New Jersey Center for the Visual Arts is a barrier-free site. Assistive services are available upon advance notice.

**ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT**, presented by the Music Department of Abraham Clark High School, will take place today at 7 p.m. in the school's auditorium. The concert will feature an ensemble and entire group performances by members of the ACHS Band and Chorus.

The school is located on Sixth Avenue at Chestnut Street. The parking lot is accessible from East Seventh Avenue. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, and \$2 for senior citizens. Children under 5 accompanied by an adult will be admitted free of charge.

**MINISTREL COFFEEHOUSE** will present *Salamander Crossing* and *Rich Rietz* tomorrow at 8:30 p.m.

*Salamander Crossing* is a blues band with some contemporary tunes thrown in. Rich Rietz is a songwriter and singer with a unique guitar style.

The *Ministrel Coffeehouse* is a coffeehouse/concert series run by the Folk Project, a non-profit folk music and arts organization. The Project is

located at 1000 North Ave., West in Westfield. For tickets and information, call (908) 756-2458.

**MUSIC FOR HEALING**, a benefit piano recital, will take place on Sunday at 3 p.m. at Union County Arts Center in Rahway. Pianist Ren Zhang will perform.

A reception will follow the concert. The reception will be held at Rahway Gardens Center, 177 Lawrence St., Rahway.

The arts center is located at 1601 Union St. in Rahway. For tickets and information, call (908) 499-8226.

**ORGAN CONCERT** will be presented by George Lachenauer on Sunday at 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Roselle.

Lachenauer will play the Green-McCabe organ. The program will include works from the Baroque period to the Modern, with a generous selection of Romantic pieces.

The church is located on the corner of Chestnut Street and Fifth Avenue in Roselle. For information, call (908) 386-2311.

**MYRIAN CALO**, singer and songwriter, will be appearing in concert at Linden's Summertime Branch Library on Monday at 7 p.m. The concert will include Spanish songs, some of her own compositions and American favorites as well.

The concert features Beethoven's "Piano Trio in G, Op. 1, no. 2." David Sampson's "Sonata For Horn and Piano" and Brahms' "Horn Trio in Bb, Op. 41."

Tickets are \$17, \$14 for seniors and \$7 for students. For more information, call Helen Armstrong at (908) 622-7240.

**CALVARY CHORALE** will join forces with the Motet Choir of the Central Presbyterian Church on Sunday for *Madrigals of the 16th Century*. The concert will take place at 4 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, 31 Woodland Ave., Summit. The building is handicapped-accessible. Admission is free, however, a free-will offering will be collected. For information, call (908) 277-1816.

**CONCORD SINGERS** present "Every

Moody and Tones," a concert featuring a mix of sacred and secular from 500 years of women's choral music. The show includes works by Schubert, Verdi, Haydn and Weelkes.

The concert will be held on Sunday at 4 p.m., with a reception following at St. John's Lutheran Church, 587 Springfield Ave., Summit. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Students and children are \$5. For tickets and information, call Diane Beyman at (908) 771-0978.

**CRESCENT CONCERTS** will present "Five Cycles of Seasons" on Sunday at 4 p.m.

The concert will be held at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Ave., Plainfield. For tickets and information, call (908) 756-2458.

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Musician Scott Brubaker will perform in concert for Arbor Chamber Music Society on Saturday at 8 p.m.

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1038.

# chert

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A black and white photograph of a 'SOLD' sign. The sign is tilted and features the word 'SOLD' in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters at the top. Below it, the name 'Weichert' is written in a stylized, cursive-like font, and 'Realtors' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font at the bottom. The sign is set against a dark, textured background.

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