

Liquor license may be a hindrance

On June 25, there will be a public hearing on an application for a liquor license in which David Rowley is seeking to convert a single-family house at 1797 Lenington St. into a restaurant with a bar and an apartment. Even amid vehement opposition by residents in the vicinity, the Board of Adjustment decided on March 17 to approve a special use variance for the conversion.

There are definite contradictions in the city's approval of this restaurant proposal and the city's new Master Plan. The Master Plan, unveiled earlier this year, called for improvements in the quality of life including the betterment of Rahway's parking and traffic. But the Lenington Street situation proves to be a conflicting approach. It seems instead that residents' voices are not being heard.

The city is simply attempting to muscle a noisy business into a quiet residential area. The property lies in an R-2 Zone which the City of Rahway designates as single-family residential. In the past, these residents have rallied and received the support of the city. For example, people from the 181-home area were backed by the Zoning Board as a plan to build two multi-family homes on Lenington Street was abandoned. With this new issue, however, the city has once again ignored residents' pleas.

There are various reasons why these residents are justified in their attempt to stop Rowley's plan for a restaurant and bar. They have previously fought to maintain the neighborhood's residential status and are now faced with a potential increase in traffic, street and parking lot lighting and late night noise.

The proposal for a parking lot included a mere 36 spaces for a restaurant expected to serve 157 people at full capacity. In addition, Rowley has made no provision for employee parking which means restaurant and bar patrons may resolve to park in front of residents' houses. This certainly does not sound like an improvement in the city's parking situation.

These days, parking spaces are difficult to find. Can Rowley guarantee such an overflow of cars will not occur and that serving liquor in the area will not negatively impact the neighborhood? Probably not. Especially because he has admitted he has no knowledge of the restaurant business, according to former commissioner on the Board of Adjustment Don Stewart.

The city's government has contributed to the hypocrisy surrounding these so-called improvements to the quality of life. It is obvious the City Council is in favor of inserting Rowley's establishment into this neighborhood which extends from Route 1, the length of East Milton Avenue to Flammang Field with the cross streets of Lenington, Bartlett, Henry, Beacon and Wall streets, and portions of East Scott and Grand avenues. In February, the council passed Ordinance 0-2-97 vacating a portion of Lenington Street as well as all lands to the bank of the Rahway River, a parcel approximately 200 feet by 66 feet. Without this ordinance, Rowley would not have enough square footage to make a viable application to the Board of Adjustment. Furthermore, there can be no public access to the river because, through the council's legislation, the site became Rowley's private property. Residents no longer have the privilege of getting a close view of the river in that location. Once again, this contradicts the Master Plan's goals for improvements.

Residents have a right to be angered by the city's eagerness to redevelop this residential area, and the June 25 public hearing certainly will be filled with public protest. Perhaps the city may prove to the citizens that this business proposal will actually enhance the neighborhood. Nevertheless, we encourage residents to attend and voice their concerns about Rowley's liquor license application.

Campaign with integrity

Now that the primary elections are behind us, we can all look forward to five months of political campaigns, that annual festival that often says more about the ethics of the politicians campaigning than it does about their opponents.

As we all brace ourselves for this media onslaught, we caution those seeking office to remember that their constituents may have more respect for those who take the high road.

Unfortunately, politics is by nature a corrupt institution. That's not to say that politicians themselves share in that corruption, but the nature of this particular beast is corrupt.

Since that is the given, there is no need to sling mud and deride characters to achieve self-advancement. Tell us the highlights of your own track records, not the lowlights of those running against you. Tell us why you are the right choice as opposed to the best of several bad choices.

To the voting public we say, "Use your voice." Let these politicians know what you think of these campaign tactics with your votes.

We all hope to live in the best of all possible worlds. Candidates should help that process by campaigning with integrity, respect and dignity.

Rahway Progress

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Published Weekly Since 1990

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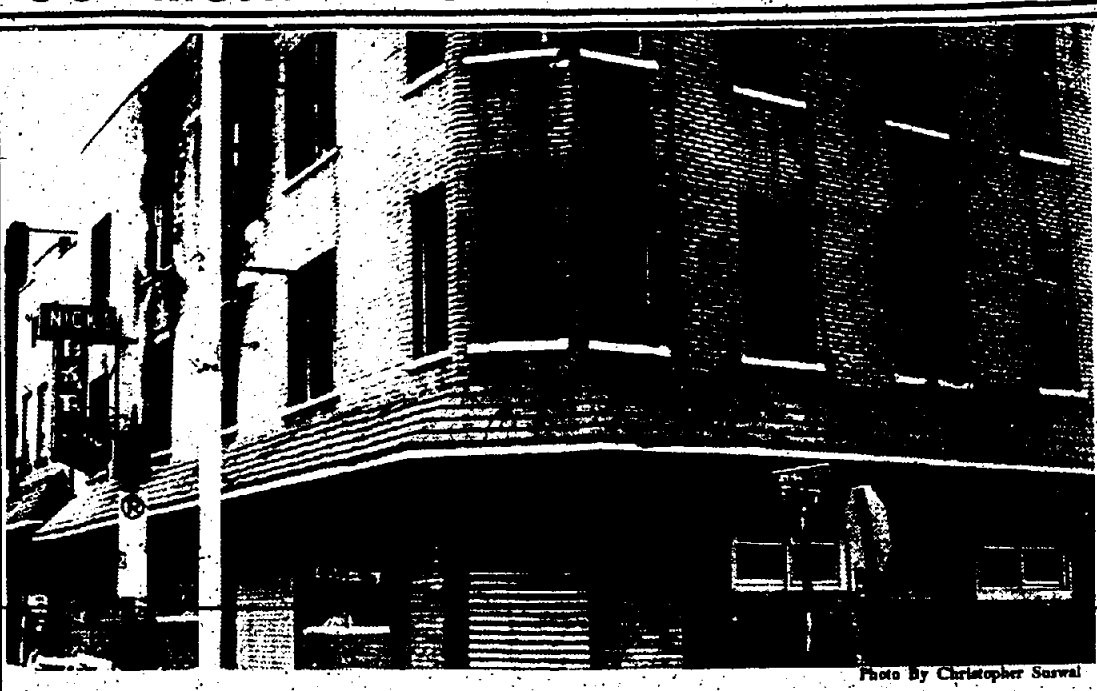
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COMMUNITY FORUM



WHAT NEXT? — Nick's Bar remains a burned out building in the heart of the corner of Irving Street and Central Avenue downtown. This week, columnist Bob Rixon discusses the city's plans to revamp stores and parking.

As the city changes, our opinions will too

Free Form

By Bob Rixon

There have been three attitudes regarding downtown Rahway. The first, which reflects the city's general political apathy, is one of indifference. The second, which is held by some downtown business owners, is that the district ought to stay about the same. If only someone could figure out an easy way to bring in more customers. The third attitude is that the time has come to take some risks and get on with it.

The downtown district is a triangle. At each corner of the triangle sits a major business. There is City Hall and adjoining property, which will soon be developed. The new train station is not a dream; it is being built right now, and it is going to be finished. At the other end of Irving Street, Union County Arts Center is undergoing a major street-front renovation that will complete its business and box offices.

In addition, a massive Route One project will improve access to downtown Rahway.

The larger issue at hand is not about parking or police protection, but

about a profitable identity that will support a variety of specialized businesses. The stretch of St. Georges Avenue between Central and Inman avenues, is the downtown that most Rahway residents actually use, so the old downtown is becoming something else. With a little imagination, one can see how the downtown will appear in a few years. One can also see how the downtown will change and it will be obvious that these assets can no longer be wasted in the larger picture.

The city has become a major player in downtown real estate, a remarkable development.

Anyone who does not want the old recreation center to be sold and converted into a classy pub had better speak up now instead of griping about it privately. It's going to happen, and no one can come forward with reasonable alternatives for what we, as a

community, should do with that beautiful white elephant of a building. It will never be a library again. But a community that won't pass a lean mean-school budget also won't want to play the cost of two recreation centers, one new and one in need of expensive renovations.

Anyone who believes Rahway Pizza, Bagel Depot and The Pipe Shop should stay right where they are had better start organizing a preservation committee.

The city has to do something with the remains of Nick's Bar. Any suggestions?

For the majority of Rahway residents who only come downtown, if at all, to see Santa Claus, watch the vote march by, pay a water bill, or buy coffee and a newspaper before getting on the train, one of this ought to matter anyway. A valuable contribution from them might be to just stay out of the way for a little while longer.

Bob Rixon is a resident of Rahway and a columnist of this publication. Rixon's e-mail address is rixon@wmur.org.

Anniversary triggers memories of a mystery

The Way It Was

By William Frolich

Atlantic Ocean from Germany was no more.

There was no television in those days, and our earliest news came from radio. Later, the newspapers were full of photos and stories from reporters and survivors of the disaster. Oddly enough, the newspaper coverage of the previous year had made this crossing a minor news event, and the reason that there were any reporters and cameramen present at the landing was because this trip was the first one of the 1937 season, for there were no flights during the winter.

A radio newsmen was there to broadcast this routine landing, and his anguished voice can still be heard on recordings, as he attempts to describe the huge fireball engulfing the ship, while passengers and ground crewmen run for their lives. A newsreel cameraman, still waiting for the landing and hoping that there would be enough light for his camera, suddenly found more light than he had ever expected and was able to record some of the most spectacular film ever shot. Even today, it can be found on videotape.

This fantastic footage shows the

amazing speed with which the huge Zeppelin was destroyed. From the time that a large fireball bursts from within the ship only 30 seconds elapse as the Hindenburg settles to the ground and collapses into a twisted framework of structural metal. A few survivors can be seen running from the flames.

There has never been any certain answer as to what caused the fire as the airship neared its mooring mast. A possible cause has been advanced that somehow lightning or static electricity was generated as the ship approached the ground. But a thunder storm with its charged atmosphere create a spark? The highly inflammable hydrogen with which the ship was inflated would have ignited had the slightest spark been present, but no one knows.

Various theories of sabotage have been expressed but without proof. This disaster occurred at a time when Hitler and Nazi Germany were becoming increasingly unpopular, and the Hindenburg bore large'stark' as on its tail fins. Was this an attack on the Nazi system? No one knows.

Another theory was that this was an effort to force the United States to sell non-flammable helium to Germany for use in other dirigibles. This gas is almost as light as hydrogen and is found almost exclusively in this country. Had this been a sabotage thought, it was not successful, as German Zeppelins had been used in World War I.

to bomb England, and a new war in Europe appeared quite possible. Helium-filled dirigibles would have been almost indefensible, while hydrogen airships fall easy victims to incendiary bullets.

The destruction of the Hindenburg brought about the end of trans-Atlantic airship travel, although the U.S. Navy made good use of blimps as offshore anti-submarine defense during World War II. A line of these helium-filled air ships cruised along the Atlantic coastline from where they could easily see submerged U-boats sailing in, attack, sink, and sink.

Today there are no more rigid-framed airships, is airplanes and helicopters have taken over whatever use the big drafts might have had, although back in the early 1930s the Navy used several, even equipped them with machine guns, capable of launching and recovering the five fighter planes contained within them. Unfortunately, except for the German-built "Los Angeles," which was dismantled, all of the other Navy dirigibles broke up and crashed to earth. Present-day blimps are used almost exclusively as advertisers, and as television camera platforms in the skies over athletic events.

William Frolich is a resident of Roselle and a member of the Union County Historical Society.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Politicians profit from insurance law

To the Editor:
New Jersey politicians are going to great lengths to confuse and mislead the public on the issue of auto insurance rates during this campaign year, and residents must ask themselves why.

Insurance Commissioner Elizabeth Randall has testified that New Jersey's extravagant auto insurance rates are due to fraud. Randall is an attorney who was appointed in 1995 by Gov. Whitman, who has proposed a soft stance on auto insurance reform.

The Whitman administration added another layer to the smoke screen by attacking a young woman from East Brunswick who had the courage to collect over 100,000 signatures from residents fed up with paying exorbitant rates. Leslie Hyatt's poor driving record was brought to light after her successful campaign made it all the way to Trenton. Whitman's latest auto reform plan, admittedly, does little to lower rates.

The issue not being addressed is the fact that New Jersey's top lawmakers are earning millions of dollars with every piece of auto legislation they pass. Sen. Raymond Lesniak's law firm earned over \$2 million from 1992 to 1994 by representing accident victims in state-run insurance pools. Twenty-three other legislators earned similar fees.

These politicians claim they are doing nothing unethical; they cite the letter of the law, but they disregard the spirit of the law. If New Jersey residents are truly bothered by auto insurance rates, they should vote, on June 5, and displace those incumbents who have happily filled their pockets at the expense of all residents.

Tony Carjion
Elizabeth

VIEW POINT

CALL (908) 686-9898 and enter #7570 - YES #7571 - NO

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Do you support privatizing the city's water department?

YES — 52% NO — 48%

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Are you satisfied with the city's effort to make improvements to the downtown area?

Responses will be published next week. Polls close Monday at noon. Calls are free. Touch-tone phones only.

EDUCATION

School band program seeks musicians

Rahway Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Ralph Dunham announced the opening of enrollment for the 1997 Summer Band School program with the School's Director Ray Richards. This year's term will begin on June 23 and end on July 25. Enrollment is open to any student who is presently in any of grades 3 through 12. Classes are held from 8:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. weekdays at Rahway Intermediate School. Whether beginner or advanced musician, tuition is \$50 for the entire five-week period.

Two instrumental lessons are available each week on any of the instruments shown on the application. Concert Band is offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Advanced students may wish to participate in a select Jazz Ensemble each Tuesday and Thursday. At 10:30 a.m. each day, students may join in open volleyball in the gym. All students will receive a Band School T-shirt, perform in the Concert Finale at 7:30 p.m. on July 24 and take part in the end-of-school party on July 25. School will be closed on July 4.

The total cost of the entire program is \$50. The world needs trombones.

players and in an effort to provide for this need, we offer a \$10 to any student who decides to study the trombone.

A school schedule of classes and times will be mailed to students prior to the opening on June 23. Registration can be made at any Rahway Elementary School, Rahway Intermediate School, the Claude H. Reed Recreation Center, or Rahway City Hall by tomorrow.

Distinguished



Outgoing KEY club President Nick Marcantonio is congratulated by Jaclyn Brumbak, governor of the New Jersey District, on his being distinguished President for District No. 14. Recently, Marcantonio, Kim Raxon, Cindy Mock and Taryn Winkle represented Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark at the annual KEY Club convention.

STUDENT UPDATE

Student-of-the-month

Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark named senior Heather Sagar the Student-of-the-Month for May. President of the French National Honor Society, secretary of the National Honor Society, French Club and SAGES, she is also a member of the Drama Honor Society, Choral and the KEY Club. She is a National Merit Scholar, Semi-Finalist, Torrey Distinguished, garnered awards in the Joseph J. Scott Math Contest, the Xero Award in Social Studies and the Humanities, the Dark Good Citizen Award and the Columbus Day Essay Contest. She participated in the French Exchange Program in the Congressional Youth Leadership Council and is the recipient of the Florence Pulaski Scholarship from the Clark Scholarship Committee.



Heather Sagar

Performing Arts Club Gold Voice and Gold Dance Awards several times. She has studied lyrics, jazz, modern ballet and tap dance for the past nine years. Sagar will be performing at Carnegie Hall as a vocal accompanist for a friend who composed a piano piece and together they have recorded it. They have won the Regional Competition of the Piano Association of America and are now moving onto the National Competition. She has also appeared in various community musicals.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Towey received award

John J. Towey, vice president of clinical services for Pharma-Care, Inc. in Clark, recently received the 1997 Saint Barnabas Care Systems Spirit of Excellence Award in recognition of his unwavering commitment to customer service.

Towey and 27 other Spirit of Excellence Award recipients were honored during an awards dinner at the New Brunswick Hyatt Regency and congratulated for their "heart, soul and compassion."

"You have distinguished yourselves and are to be commended for your dedication to your customer and your commitment to quality," said Ronald Del Mauro, president and chief executive officer of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System. "We firmly believe that you represent the very best in New Jersey and New York."

Towey was nominated for the award by Margy Ferraro of County Manor at Dover, an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System. "I have known John Towey, vice president of clinical services of Pharma-Care for several years, and during the last three to four years, I have known him as a person of great friendship has grown," Ferraro said. "I became an insulin dependent diabetic approximately three years ago and called upon John for a great deal of knowledge and emotional support. John not only has an extensive background, but he has also been a diabetic since childhood. His understanding and compassion for all the fears and questions I had went beyond all expectations. He made himself available to me via telephone, fax and beepers at anytime of the day or night."

"My appreciation for his help in accepting my diagnosis and treatment and helping me to cope with my fears along the way will remain always. His caring for another human being went far above the call of duty. To this day, he is there if I need him."

The Spirit of Excellence Awards were established three years ago to recognize members of the community, not affiliated with the Saint Barnabas Health Care System, who value excellence in customer service and patient satisfaction. The health-care professionals of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System have made a long-standing commitment to excellence.

"When it comes to customer service and patient satisfaction, the healthcare professionals of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System have made a long-standing commitment to excellence. The Spirit of Excellence Awards allow us to recognize those individuals who adhere to the same high standards," Del Mauro said.

The 23 men and five women selected to receive the 1997 awards were chosen from an unprecedented 1,078 nominations submitted by the more than 25,000 trustees, physicians, employees and volunteers of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System.

"There is a new spirit building in this country — a spirit which recognizes the need for all of us to go the extra mile, to be our best and to watch out for the person next to us," said Elin Gursky, senior assistant commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. "It is a spirit of sharing and caring, a spirit which is being led by New Jersey people like tonight's award recipients."

Gursky, who attended the dinner as a representative for Governor Christine Todd Whitman, added, "Receiving the Spirit of Excellence Award carries with it both distinction and responsibility. As you go back to your communities, your spirit of excellence can and will challenge others to also go the extra mile."

In addition to the Spirit of Excellence Award recipients, Reverend Charles J. Hudson, co-founder of the



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In addition to the Spirit of Excellence Award recipients, Reverend Charles J. Hudson, co-founder of the

Center for Hope Hospice in Linden, was also posthumously honored during the dinner for his lifelong dedication to his work and the patients he served.

Maria Muscarella, co-chair of the Spirit of Excellence campaign and director of Health Information Management at Saint Barnabas Medical Center, said, "The Spirit of Excellence Award winners came from all parts of the state and represented many different walks of life. They were all unique, yet they shared a common bond — a commitment to service."

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Senior Lifestyles

Department chooses outstanding citizens

Sylvia Barr, a 77-year resident of Linden, and John Zakutansky, a 46-year resident of Linden, have been chosen as the 21st Outstanding Senior Citizens of the Year.

Barr and Zakutansky were selected by a committee of representatives from community service organizations. This award is given annually by the Linden Recreation Department in recognition of senior citizens who have displayed exceptional service to the community and fellow senior citizens.

Barr nominated as the Outstanding Senior Citizen by the Deerfield School PTA in Linden. Barr volunteers weekly at the school, to assist with the Senior Reading Program. As part of the program, she works one-on-one with a second-grade student assisting with reading skills. Barr also volunteers her time, with this program on weekends and holidays to ensure that her students learn how to read more efficiently.

Barr is also a very active member in many civic, charitable, and religious organizations, and has received certificates of appreciation for her participation in the Suburban Jewish Center, Women's League for Conservative



Sylvia Barr
Senior of the Year

Judaism, Deborah Hospital Foundation, Temple Mako Chayim, American National Red Cross, and the U.S. Treasury Department.

Zakutansky graduated from the Bayonne Courthouse Academy in May of 1951 and shortly thereafter became an active volunteer with the Linden Auxiliary Police, becoming the Auxiliary Police Chief approximately 30 years ago. As an Auxiliary Police Officer, for the City of Linden,

Seniors make plans for summer trips

The Clark Seniors' meeting will be held monthly in the cafeteria of the Senior Center, 430 Westfield Ave., Clark. Information on senior trips will be distributed and sheets distributed.

June 5 — NY Botanical Gardens — Conservatory, tram tour and box lunch. \$42 per person.

July 16 — 97 Polka Fest at The Inn at Harts Landing, PA, buffet feast and polka instruction and dancing. \$40 per person.

Aug. 26 — Wallingford Exchange — Slavic Food Festival with gypsy, folk music. \$25 per person.

Oct. 15 — West Point and Historic Hudson River Winery and lunch. \$27 per person.

Nov. 5 — Culinary Institute, PDR's Library and Samuel Morse's home, Union to the American Beauty Room. \$52 per person.

Dec. 4 — Plaza Brachas, Panama, NY, dinner, menu choice, music, dancing and visit by Santa. \$33 per person.

Refreshments will be served.

Prof. William Dunscombe, of U.C.C., will conduct his final class on nutrition today in Room 17 of the Senior Center from 10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

For information on meeting time, call Lillian Kovv at (908) 381-3823.

SENIOR NEWS

Linden AARP meets

Linden Chapter No. 1894 of the American Association of Retired Persons will hold their luncheon at the Gallop Hill Inn on June 12, from noon to 2 p.m.

The youngsters from the Linden Studio in Linden will be the featured entertainment. Music will be provided for dancing. The event is open to the public. For information, call Ann Leistman at 925-0240.

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Program completed

On May 8, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) 607 housed the Rahway Fire Department's Fire Safety Program at the Rahway Senior Center's Building on Eastbrook Avenue. The Fire Department presented a video "Survive" Fire in Your Home" on a wide screen television which was donated by the Senior Citizen Center.

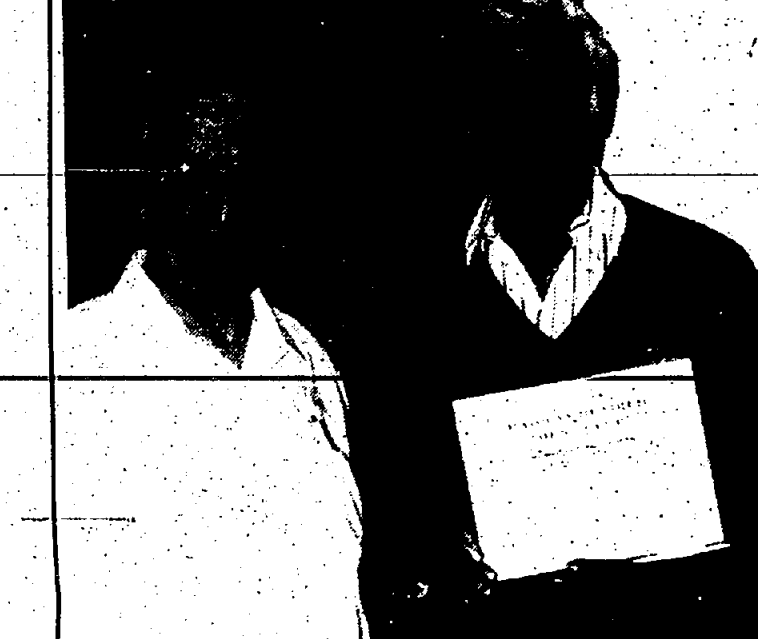
In the second phase of the presentation the Fire Department gave a demonstration on the new Fire Response Program.

To place a classified ad call 1-800-564-8911 by 3 p.m. Tuesday.

InfoSource

WORLDWIDE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Lifetime achievement



At a recent meeting of the Rahway Retired Men's Club held at the Rahway Senior Center on Eastbrook Avenue, John Botti is presented with the Member of the Month Award by President Peter Hnat as Alf Woldsen, former club president, looks on. From left: Hnat, Botti and Woldsen.

Department plans seniors annual picnic

The annual Linden Recreation Department's Senior Citizen Picnic will be held June 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Memorial Park, South Wood Avenue, for Linden Residents over 60 years of age.

Grills, charcoal, non-alcoholic beverages and condiments will be provided by the Linden Recreation Department.

Seniors have been requested to bring their own picnic food and cooking utensils.

Afternoon activities include horseshoes, cards, table games, and dancing.

Live music will be provided by Local No. 151 American Federation of Musicians.

In the event of rain, the picnic will be held indoors at the John T. Gregorio Center, 330 Helen Street.

For further information, call the John T. Gregorio Recreation Center at 474-8627.

Help wanted

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Union County, RSVP, is accepting applications for volunteers who wish to serve with Travelers Aid of New Jersey. Travelers Aid has been operating at the International Terminal B of Newark Airport since 1992. New volunteers will be assigned to Terminal C handling domestic flights.

Training and parking are provided by Newark Airport and Travelers Aid. For more information, call Jo-Ann Croteau, RSVP director, at (908) 709-2152 or 709-2150.

Peace-keepers

World Community Newspapers wants to keep our readers in touch with their neighbors serving in the armed forces. The families and friends of those in the military, whether stationed in the United States or abroad, are encouraged to submit information and photos for publication. Mail to: Managing Editor Chris Susval, P.O. Box 3109, Union, NJ 07083.

NEWS CLIPS

Course scheduled

Rahway Hospital, with the American Association of Retired Persons, is offering its 55-Alive Mature Driving Course. The eight-hour course will be held in the hospital's main conference room on June 23 and 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rahway Hospital is hosting the classroom refresher course to help community members 55 years of age or older revitalize their driving skills and help prevent accidents. The course covers age-related physical changes, dealing with physical changes, driving rules, local driving rules, and license renewal requirements.

Volunteer instructors, recruited and trained by AARP, conduct the course, which includes a video presentation and group discussion.

Summer Craft Classes

The Linden Recreation Department announces free summer senior citizen craft classes.

Classes will be held Wednesday mornings at the John T. Gregorio Recreation Center, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Classes will run from July 9 through Aug. 22.

Call the John T. Gregorio Recreation Center at 474-8627 to register. Class size is limited.

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UNION COUNTY NEWS

WORLDWIDE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1997

SECTION B

Protestors will be on the march

This space is usually reserved for news items based on local events, at the most — issues, people, and events, but sometimes we'll be faced with something so important that it breaks from tradition to sound an alarm.

In this case, a march protesting welfare reform is the reason. This isn't just any march; it's unlike anything you've seen in documentaries on Civil Rights filmed in the South. This march is to be held in Philadelphia on June 21, will pass through New Jersey, and will culminate in Manhattan on July 1.

Organized by something called the Kensington Welfare Rights Union, a group self-described as "an organization of poor and homeless women, men and children from all races struggling to end poverty," this march is intended to call attention to what the organizers called violations of human rights.

"These rights aren't what most people think of — freedom to speak and assemble and practice religion, equality trial by jury, etc. — when the issue is raised. Instead, the group's definition of human rights includes the 'right' to 'have a job at a living wage'."

Elizabeth was looking upon two years ago as having a high crime rate, a striking tax base and little progress with long-range plans," said Bollwage before an audience of 400.

"Now we're becoming New Jersey's fastest turnaround city."

Bollwage outlined a roster of accomplishments — and upcoming goals — for the county's new administration as a basis for Elizabeth's recent upturn. The creation of the Department of Policy and Planning

Franks predicts fund fight

Congressman Bob Franks brought his message to preserve the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act before the Union County Alliance May 28 morning.

"Union County is among the first to invest in the infrastructure used for economic services," said Franks before some 400 business, governmental and education leaders. "ISTEA is important to Union County and the Northeast."

After speaking at the annual Alliance meeting at L'Aulaire, Franks stopped at another official breakfast at the Clark Holiday Inn on May 29.

Franks said he intends to take his "save ISTEA" message to the Transportation Policy Summit in Atlantic City and again elsewhere until Congress votes on the act's renewal by Sept. 30.

ISTEA is a \$155 billion transportation fund Congress passed in 1991 to improve the nation's infrastructure. New Jersey depends on \$870 million for about half of its annual capital project budget.

"ISTEA is one of the great bargains New Jersey gets from the federal government," Franks said. "We're usually near the bottom of the return of our taxes from Washington, getting 42 cents back for every tax dollar we send out. With ISTEA, for every dollar in tax for taxes is generated, we get \$1.10 back for highways and more for mass transit."

Franks said that ISTEA's renewal is facing opposition by a group called Step 21. Step 21, made up of members of Congress from the south and west, want to change the funding formula.

"What we're trying to do against Step 21 is show that ISTEA isn't a step favoring the Northeast," said Franks. "We're legislators from 18 states, including Illinois, Colorado and Oregon, who've agreed to support ISTEA. In California, 48 of its 50 representatives have signed on."

Franks is concerned that restricting or stopping ISTEA would prolong or halt various transportation projects in the region, including the Newark to Elizabeth Light Rail Airport Line. He is willing, however, to consider a formula change.

"There will be a formula change," said Franks. "It has been using census data from 1970 in its calculations."

Franks' appeal had a favorable response from audience members who have pending transit projects.

"I came from the recent United States Conference of Mayors, where they supported the continuation of ISTEA," said Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage. "Shifting the funding level will undermine our current and future projects."

Bollwage later said he was among a delegation which persuaded NJ Transit to include a Cranford-Elizabeth link to the airport rail line. Another project which would be affected by ISTEA changes would be Union's Towle Station project on the Raritan Valley Line.

The members of the Alliance have made Towle Station a priority to complete," said Union Mayor Greg Muller. "Any funding change would delay the station's completion."

The Alliance is a bipartisan coalition seeking to implement long-range transportation, education and economic goals.

Alliance hears the good news and the bad news

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage and Freeholder Chairman Linda Stender presided over the annual Union County Alliance Breakfast Meeting in Monmouth May 28.

"Elizabeth was looking upon two years ago as having a high crime rate, a striking tax base and little progress with long-range plans," said Bollwage before an audience of 400.

"Now we're becoming New Jersey's fastest turnaround city."

Bollwage outlined a roster of accomplishments — and upcoming goals — for the county's new administration as a basis for Elizabeth's recent upturn. The creation of the Department of Policy and Planning

and the impending start of construction at the Midtown Mall were included among the milestones.

"The Department of Policy and Planning is a one-stop developmental agency for applications and permits," Bollwage said. "I'm pleased to say that the Midtown Mall, which has been in the works since 1983, will have its groundbreaking June 9 at 1:30 p.m."

Bollwage was speaking to a range of governmental, industrial and academic officials who comprise the Alliance. The bipartisan agency is working to implement long-range economic and transportation plans for the county in concert with various groups.

Stender warned the assembly, how-

ever, that the county has to improve its share of highway spending. After bestowing three Board of Freeholder Awards for Excellence in Export, the Board produced a chart titled "Highway Spending Per Capita By County, 1996-2000."

As you can see, we're at the bottom when it comes to highway spending per person," Stender said. "This is based on projections of the state Department of Transportation Budget of March 25, 1997."

A Union County resident's share, according to the chart is about \$25 and \$7 in federal and state appropriations respectively. Union County is one of seven counties falling under the \$100 per capita level, Atlantic, Mercer and Somerset counties, by contrast, are to get more than \$600 per person from Trenton.

The audience also was urged to support the renewal of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act before Congress by Bollwage and Rep. Bob Franks, R-7. While the pair pressed, audience members chatted. Baran announced a move of her own.

"The next time I'll meet before you, it will not be as Union County manager," said Baran. "Instead, I will be working for the New Jersey Gateway Regional Center for Regional Development."

Baran announced her resignation May 6, leaving the freeholders to appoint Michael Lapolla as her successor effective June 16. Kean Col-

lege President Ronald L. Appiah described the Gateway Center's purpose.

"The Gateway Center will be a permanent unit of Kean College," said Appiah. "It will take an interdisciplinary, comprehensive and interactive approach to economic growth, international trade and infrastructure modernization."

State Sen. Raymond Lesniak, D-Union, and Alliance officials Wayne Tamarelli and Henry Rose discussed additional infrastructural and economic projects. Representatives from state Senate President Donald DiFrancesco, R-22, and Congressman Donald Payne, D-10, also made remarks.

Three local manufacturers were honored for their entrepreneurial progress by the Board of Freeholders during the Union County Alliance breakfast May 28.

Hillside Metal Ware, of Union; Roter Company, of Hillside; and Universal Valve Company, of Elizabeth, received the inaugural Freeholders Award of Excellence in Export before some 400 business, educational and governmental leaders at L'Aulaire in Mountaineer. Each representative received a plaque from Freeholder Chairman Linda Stender.

"These three Union County companies have displayed excellence in international trade with products or services," she said.

Cultural connections

Hillside Metal Ware President Bill Franklin accepted the first award. The company specializes in manufacturing aluminum bakins parts for industrial and home consumers.

"We've been in business over 40 years," said Franklin. "We have a good product which we first marketed in Canada and now have customers in Finland, Japan and South America. It's satisfying for a small company like us to produce something which is well recognized worldwide."

"One of our biggest challenges is cultural in nature," said HMMV Vice President George Franklin. "In England, for example, we can show how superior our bakins are to the best but they take their time. Every time they take their time, we're in Japan, their living conditions are small, so are their desserts and cooking past."

Relax, the maker of conical washers springs found in anything from fridges to hot water heaters, was next. Company general manager, Stephen Roman, accepted the plaquette.

"We do things which other companies our size wouldn't," said Roman. "Like hiring people to speak our clients' languages or to follow the monetary changes. Union County provides a range of employees, from the unskilled to the highly skilled, and we put value into them by having six governmental training programs on site. This is why we wear 'Made in Hillside, N.J. USA' proudly on our labels and billboards."

Universal Valve President Robert Milo and Vice President of Engineering Martin Pesech completed the awards ceremony. Their company produces and distributes petroleum distilling and service station equipment.

"Where else can we pick up clients from around the world at the airport, take them to our plant in minutes, and bring them back after a four hours tour?" said Milo. "We're pleased to be a member of the Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, to be part of the city's Urban Enterprise Zone and to have another award to be proud of. I'm so proud of Pesech, a Hillside school system and Kean College student who was recently inducted into the NJIT 'Hall of Fame.'"

"We go from producing gasoline pump valves and manifolds to designing distilling plants," said Pesech. "We have 50 patents or design rights to our name. There could've been more, but we have to decide which ideas are marketable."

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County residents who are among the recipients of awards from Community Access Unlimited are Gail Churkin, of Summit; Ralph Taylor, of Roselle; John Tighe of Hillside; and Alan Lacey of Elizabeth. CAU, based in Elizabeth, is a social services agency that assists people with disabilities.

Gail Churkin of Summit, who is the program director of Union County Housing, received the Supportive Housing Service Award.

Teresa DeRubeis-Schaefer and Dana Banta of Springfield Supplemental Employment were given Employment Advocate Awards in appreciation of their efforts to assist people with disabilities in finding work.

The Educator of the Year Award went to Cheryl McCampbell of Elizabeth High School.

Manuel Moyano of Elizabeth was presented with the Community Service Award. Kathy D'Orsi of Elizabeth was given the Health Care Professional Award. BJ Dever of Springfield, of the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities, received the Distinguished Social Service Award for 1997.

Participants may register on or after June 7. On the seventh, registration times will be 8 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

The fee is \$200 per session for Union County residents, \$350 for out-of-county. All registration must be performed in person. Proof of residency and a birth certificate will be required.

For further information contact the Watchung Stables at (908) 789-3665.

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Financial aid for first aid



Westfield Rescue Squad Lt. Kirk Fleming, center, presents a check to Union County College President Thomas Brown and UCC Executive Director of Development Nadine Brechner, establishing an annual scholarship in the paramedic program. The squad inaugurated the scholarship to recruit qualified members and help students in that field. "We felt that a student who is studying to be a paramedic probably has emergency medical technician training," Fleming said. "This way, we can get a riding squad member, rather than someone who will have to spend time training."

Kean College bestows honors on 2 professors from county

By Maddy Vitale
Staff Writer

As the students they instructed received their diplomas and embarked on the next phase of their lives, two professors from Kean College were honored for years of dedication to teaching at the Commencement Ceremony on May 6.

Dr. M. Anif Hayat of Berkeley Heights, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, was the recipient of the Kean College Presidential Excellence Award for Distinguished Scholarship in recognition of his research. Lucy J. Orfan of Basking Ridge, a professor in the Department of Instruction, Curriculum and Administration, received the college's Presidential Excellence Award for Teaching, in recognition of her commendable contributions as an outstanding teacher.

Hayat, who joined the faculty at Kean in 1971, was honored for his scientific achievement. He is the author of 29 books and 48 scientific articles.

He is recognized as an authority in microscopy. At the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Society for Electron Microscopy, Hayat will be part of the team of microscopy specialists visiting the People's Republic of China this summer as part of the Citizen Ambassador Program of People to People International.

In addition, he has also been invited by the University of Arkansas in consultation on the interpretation of micrographs, studies which may lead to the possible discovery of the existence of past life on Mars.

His other accomplishments include publishing a book

on nucleoid associated proteins with Elsevier Science, an international publisher of scientific books. He also has plans to write a book on neurotrophins and their receptors for the Cambridge University Press.

Hayat received a bachelor of science degree from Sind University, a master's degree from the University of Texas, and a Ph.D. from Indiana University.

Orfan was honored for her many years of work teaching mathematics and science education. Prior to joining Kean in 1967, she was a sixth-grade teacher in Scotch Plains, and then a mathematics teacher for grades seven, eight and nine.

"My goal has been to engage Kean College students in experiences which model the best and the most current approaches to mathematics and science education," Orfan said. "Through an activity-based approach, students experience mathematics and science, sometimes for the first time in their lives, in a stress-free learning environment, which is consistently motivating and stimulating."

A frequent workshop presenter, Orfan has co-authored two high school text books, titled "Algebra" and "Algebra and Trigonometry," published in 1984 by Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, and has served as a senior author for a kindergarten through eighth-grade mathematics textbook, titled "Mathematics Exploring Your World," published by Silver Burdett & Ginn Publishing Co.

A native in the Mathematics Coalition, a state-wide organization dedicated to mathematics reform, Orfan is also a member of its Teacher Enhancement Task Force, working to help teachers across the state become aware of the direction in mathematics education.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The once and future building

Shakespeare Festival 'brings down the house' in Madison

By Jacquie McCarthy
Associate Editor

Bagpipes and balloons set the stage of the long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony for the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival's new theater, which took place May 2 at Drew University in Madison. The event, entitled "Bringing Down the House," marked the end of a seven-year struggle by Festival facilitators to raise the significant sum necessary to make improvements — improvements that will make it possible to continue this very creative and highly artistic endeavor.

On Aug. 1 of last year, the Festival held a press conference to announce the successful outcome of the fund raising venture for the extensive renovation, which had culminated in a gift of \$1.5 million from the F.M. Kirby Foundation of Morrisown. This gift resulted in the naming of the new theater, the F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre. Festival Artistic Director Bonnie Monte had shed tears of joy at the conference, where it was announced that a total of \$5.2 million had been raised, the remainder coming from the Hyde and Watson Foundation of Chatham, who gave the initial gift of \$150,000. \$1 million from Drew University, a \$2.5 million grant from the State Council for the Arts Cultural Centers Bond Program Round 4, \$50,000 from the state budget authorized by Governor Christine Todd Whitman, and private contributions.

The audience for the May 9 ceremony enjoyed the colorful plastic souvenir mullies and hardhats provided for the event, the latter of which came in handy in the rainy weather. Managing Director Mike Stots served as master of ceremonies, welcoming the visitors and introducing the guest speakers. Stots spoke of the Festival's long struggle to achieve its renovation goal, calling the groundbreaking "a momentous occasion." In keeping with the good humor of the day, he displayed a gold sledgehammer, in lieu of the traditional gold groundbreaking shovel, as a symbol of the zeal to begin construction.

From the podium, which stood before a maroon curtain covering a section of Bowne Theatre, Stots thanked friends from Drew University, the Festival Board of Trustees and the members of the Festival's artistic family. All contributors to the Festival effort. He acknowledged several advocates of the Festival, including Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll, Assemblyman Alex DeCroce, State Senator Robert Martin and Assemblywoman Carol Murphy.

Stots then introduced Board of Trustees President Peggy Donner, who acknowledged the many organizations which made the new theater possible, including Hyde & Watson Foundation, F.M. Kirby Foundation, General Public Utilities and The Beneficial Foundation. Donner also stated that each trustee has made a personal contribution to the fund raising effort, which, having begun with a \$0.5 million goal, was increased to \$7.5 million due to the generous support of Festival patrons.

One notable contribution, Donner said, was made by a private foundation, which awarded a \$300,000 capital gift to the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival in honor of the new theater's "green room" after famed Shakespearean actor Sir John Gielgud. The green room, a tradition in all theaters, is a place for actors to relax and wait between performances. Gielgud has expressed his appreciation for the honor in a handwritten note to Monte. Gielgud is known for his Shakespeare roles, most notably for his portrayal of Hamlet in both New York and London in the 1930s. He is also a director, an author and has appeared on television and in films. The foundation donor has a personal connection to Gielgud but has chosen to remain anonymous at this time. The Shakespeare Festival expressed gratitude to the donor and has named the room after this great artist.

Madison Mayor Gary Rackebush also spoke at the event, as well as Secretary of State Lenna Hooks, who oversees the State Arts Council. Hooks spoke of New Jersey's involvement in the arts, stating that people want to move to the state because of its festivals, theater and dining offerings, and that the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival is an important part of this cultural experience. Former Governor and current President of Drew University Thomas Kean was the next speaker. Kean spoke enthusiastically of the prize Drew University holds in its commitment to the arts in general and to the Shakespeare Festival in particular.



Former Governor Thomas Kean speaks about the importance of supporting the arts at the groundbreaking ceremony for the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival's new F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre on May 9.

Stots then introduced Monte, stating that her artistic aesthetic greatly influenced the renovation project, and that the new theater would free Monte to realize her artistic vision for the Festival. Monte recounted, relating an anecdote about her first day on the job, when she had excitedly shown her parents around Bowne Theatre. While she was enthusiastic, they were concerned about the theater's apparent need for repairs. Bowne Theatre, where the Festival has performed since 1972, was originally constructed as a gymnasium in 1909. Monte assured her parents she would "fix it up," and described herself as "deliriously happy" that the "fixing" could now begin, eliminating technical and logistic difficulties with writing and staging which in some cases could have proven dangerous.

Monte thanked architectural firm Ford, Farewell, Mills & Gatech, general contractors Darrin G. Douglas Company, Prudential Realty Group and Turner

"Which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" from *The Book of Luke, The Holy Bible*

Construction Company for their help with the planning effort. She then turned the podium over to several actors and artists from the Festival, who read some amusing quotations relevant to the day, including "Build there, carpenter, the air is sweet," from "Troilus and Cressida," William Shakespeare. "Three things are to be looked to in a building: that it stand on the right spot; that it be securely founded; that it be successfully executed," Goethe, and "Which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" The Holy Bible.

The mysterious mirror curtain was then pulled down to reveal the floor plan for the F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre. Board of Trustees Chairman T. Randolph Harris proudly reviewed the plan, pointing out the new patio entrance, the commemorative wall for all donors, the increased size of the lobby, the expanded stage house with 304 seats, new lighting grids, booth, balcony and backstage areas. Added features include a rehearsal hall, a trap room, and dressing rooms. The plans for the new theater focused on not only enlarging the space, but providing for safety of cast, crew and audience. The theater will be handicapped accessible and will be equipped with an infrared listening system for the hearing impaired.

Many loyal Festival supporters have enjoyed the ambience of the former Bowne Theatre, despite its not-so-obvious flaws. In an effort to retain some of the original charm, the F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre will keep part of the frame of Bowne Theatre, while incorporating many modern architectural elements.

After the ceremony, many visitors remained to enjoy champagne and refreshments under a canopy on the theater's lawn, which was followed by a dance and celebration at the Governor Morris Hotel in Morrisown. Plans are in the works to expand not only the theater space, but also the Festival itself, possibly allowing for the offering of programs year-round, and the inclusion of music and dance presentations. It is also hoped it will be possible to stage larger productions such as "King Lear," "Hamlet" and "Antony and Cleopatra" in the new theater, which should be completed in time for the 1998 season.

While construction continues, the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival will become a "Moveable Feast," traveling to local theaters for the duration of its 35th anniversary season. The season opens with "A Midsummer Night's Dream" featuring Peri Gilpin of NBC-TV's "Frasier" fame. The production runs from June 13 through 23 at the Community Theatre of Morrisown, located at 109 South St., Morrisown. Also at the Community Theatre of Morrisown, "The Tiresome Opera" will be staged from July 11 through 27, followed by "Blithe Spirit" from Aug. 8 through 24. Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey, located at 33 Green Village Road, Madison, will host "Much Ado About Nothing" from June 25 through July 26. The football field at Boyles-Elford High School, 205 Madison Ave., Madison will be transformed into England and France for "Henry V," which runs July 15 through Aug. 10. For reservations and information, call (908) 408-6600.

Jacquie McCarthy, Editor

Original Community Newspaper for NJ Arts & Sciences

Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., P.O. box 3109, Union, New Jersey, 07083.

Art association sponsors exhibit, award ceremony

One hundred artists and gallery visitors attended the opening reception April 6 for Westfield Art Association's 73rd Annual Members' Watercolor, Graphics and Photography Exhibition on the Westfield Community Room at 235 East Broad St. President Barbara Schwinn and Exhibit Chairperson Linda Kolar presented awards for fifteen artists selected by Judge Sally Spafford. "Pleasant Place," a large watercolor by Diana Wilcox Patton of Bridgewater, won the Norman Webb Memorial Award as Best in Show.

Four Awards of Excellence were presented to Rosalind Mimman of Springfield for her heights for her watercolor, "Knob Appeal"; Frances Mayer of Dunellen for her watercolor, "Still Life with Purple"; and Burton Longenbach of Westfield for his watercolor, "Quelle Belle Journée."

Four Awards of Merit went to Audrey Wreson of Basking Ridge for her watercolor, "The Potting Shed"; David Kirkwood of Westfield for his color photograph, "Dew Drop Inn"; Rose Marie Gato of Cranford for her watercolor, "The Building"; and Sheila Lengua of Union for her black-and-white photograph, "Reflections on a Harley."

Six artists were selected for Honorable Mention, including: Hella Balin of Union for her watercolor, "Boat Dock"; Sally Hnatow of Westfield for her Conte crayon drawing, "Christoph"; Susan Puder of Union for her color photograph, "Tranquil Bench"; Ralph Garofalo of Warren for his watercolor, "The Clamshell"; and Lynn Nicoletti of North Brunswick for her abstract watercolor, "Indian Summer."

Half of the 72 artworks in the exhibit are done in water-based media, and almost a fourth are photographs. The rest represent a variety of printmaking and drawing using contrasts. Styles range from carefully-rendered realism to complete abstraction. Remaining gallery hours are tomorrow from 1 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

It's time to make plans for New Year's Eve

First Night Summit is seeking performing artists of all types for its Fifth Annual Celebration on New Year's Eve 1997. Musicians, comedians, dancers, acrobats, magicians, dancers and more are needed.

First Night Summit will feature over 400 performances in about 20 downtown locations throughout the evening. This community-wide, free festival will feature a variety of musical acts, and the lineup of shows will reflect that audience. All performers are paid for their work. So, if you are interested in an upbeat, one-night showcase for your talents, call the First Night Summit office at (908) 522-1722. The deadline for application is May 31, 1997.

Your abilities can earn extra income. Advertise them with a classified ad by calling 1-800-564-8911.

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 - 1666 Union Township Events
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- ORGANIZATIONS**
- 1664 Midtown Elizabeth Events
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- 3199 Entertainment News
- 3216 Tube Talk (Intro)
- 3217 Tube Talk (Update)
- 3218 Joke Of The Day
- 3221 Thought For The Day

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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 Associate Editor Jacquie McCarthy, Worral Community Newspapers, P.O. Box 3109, Union, New Jersey, 07083.

ART SHOWS

BACK IN HAVANA, an exhibit by artist Enrique Flores-Galés, is on display at Swan Galleries in Plainfield. The artist's oil paintings portray his native Cuba with political art aimed at the myth and dominance of Fidel Castro.

The show continues through Saturday on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sunday to 4 p.m. Swan Galleries is located at 703 Washington Ave. For information, call (908) 756-1707.

NEW JERSEY TREASURY ARTS exhibit is being presented at New Jersey Center for Visual Arts through Sunday. The exhibit features the work of artist Alice Bryan Honan in the Members' Gallery through June 28.

MOVA is located at 69 Elm St., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

VOX GALLERY will host art work by Brazilian artist Ivo Pitrova through Monday.

Pitrova's subject matter involves horses, a main love of his. 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., Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, call (908) 273-2551.

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 Maitre Art Gallery in the Union Library through June 12.

Union Library is located on Morris Avenue in Union. For information, call (908) 688-4240 or (908) 688-4238.

NEW JERSEY CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS will host "Color Line and Form," an exhibit of works by Alice Bryan Honan in the Members' Gallery through June 28.

MOVA is located at 69 Elm St., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

MARIA R. LUPU, mixed media artist, will have a display of artwork at Watchung Arts Center through June 28. A reception will be held on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are 1 to 4 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays. Watchung Arts Center is located on the Watchung Center. For information, call (908) 753-0180.

OBJECTIVE REALITIES — SUBJECTIVE VISIONS, a three-person show sponsored by the Watchung Arts Center, will feature the art work of Paul Matthews, Eileen Kennedy-Dyke and Ned Keom through June 28. The three artists have contributed some of their recent paintings, revealing their differing views of life through their work.

A reception will be held on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Gallery hours are 1 to 4 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays with no admission charge. The Arts Center is located on the Watchung Center. For information, call (908) 753-0180.

UNION ART ASSOCIATION will present "Two Dimensions in Four Mediums" through June 28 at Children's Specialized Hospital. A reception will be held on Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.

The hospital is located at 150 New Providence Road in Mount Laurel. For information, call (856) 233-3720, ext. 379.

TOMASULO ART GALLERY at Mackay Library, Union County College's Cranford Campus, will present a group of abstract paintings by featuring three regional artists starting tomorrow through July 3.

The show will display works by James Furst, Al Kacine and Bette Samuels. A reception will be held tomorrow from 7 to 9 p.m.

Gallery hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. and again from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. For further information, call the college and ask for extension 7155.

DONALD B. PALMER Museum of the Springfield Public Library will present "Protecting the Pinelands: Through Art, an exhibition of botanical illustrations by Robin A. Jess, opening Saturday at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library and continuing through July 10.

The partial exhibit consists of twenty watercolor illustrations of fascinating Pinelands plants including orchids and carnivorous plants.

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 3:30 p.m. For information, call (908) 376-4930.

VAN GOGH'S EARL CAFE will present an exhibit of art by Union resident Steve Konek on Sunday. A reception will be held on Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.

Van Gogh's Ear Cafe is located at 1017 Suggs Ave., Union. For information, call (908) 810-1841.

SKULSKI ART GALLERY of the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark will present an exhibition of paintings by

Stepping Out

present an exhibition of paintings by Włodzisław Szpinger from June 13 through July 1.

Szpinger has had a lifelong fascination with the work of Breughel. He both as well as early 17th century Dutch floral painters, and manages to incorporate their concepts into his most interesting contemporary approach.

The Polish Cultural Foundation is located at 177 Broadway, Clark, just off Exit 135 from the Garden State Parkway. The gallery is open to the public Monday to Friday from 9 to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call Alexandra K. Nowak, director, at (908) 382-7197.

SUMMIT FRAME & ART is presenting an exhibit by Ray Ellis, renowned watercolorist and oil painter.

Summit Frame and Art is located at 365 Springfield Ave., Summit. Show hours are Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Thursday until 8 p.m. For information, call (908) 273-8655.

SUNSHINE BRANCH of Linden Library will feature the work of artist George Jarvis. Jarvis's works are bright, colorful and whimsical. He is a painter and illustrator who also designs greeting cards and teaches art at the Linden Middle Purpose Center.

The library is located at 100 Edgewood Road in Linden. The exhibit is being viewed during the library branch's regular hours, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday and Friday.

UNION COUNTY ANNUAL JUNE ART AND CRAFT exhibition will be held at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, 69 Elm St., Summit, from July 20 through Aug. 17.

For information, call (908) 273-9121.

COLLECTORS MUSIC COLLECTIBLES EXPO AND RECORD SHOW will be held on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Hotel on Route 22 West in Springfield. Merchandise will be bought, sold, traded or appraised.

In conjunction with the music expo, the program will be a combination of the following programs this week:

CLASSICAL TRIO, featuring work by Alan Shulman, Handel-Horsens and Fritz Kreisler, will be presented on Saturday at 4 p.m. at Watchung Arts Center.

The Arts Center is located on the Watchung Center. For information, call (908) 753-0180.

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There are no auditions required to join the production, just to assign the students to the available roles once they have registered. Some of the available parts are those of Robin Hood, Maid Marian and Little John.

The Westfield Summer Workshop is located just 7 minutes from exit 135 on the Garden State Parkway and less than 10 minutes from the Mountain Avenue exit off Route 22 East. Registration is ongoing. Call (908) 753-9595 if you would like to receive a brochure about the workshop's offerings or access the NJWA's web site at <http://www.westfieldnjwa.com>.

ROBIN HOOD, presented by Westfield Summer Workshop, is holding auditions at the New Jersey Workshop for Arts in Union, next to the Union Mark-ette, on Thursday, and Tuesday.

The workshop is located just 7 minutes from exit 135 on the Garden State Parkway and less than 10 minutes from the Mountain Avenue exit off Route 22 East. Registration is ongoing. Call (908) 753-9595 if you would like to receive a brochure about the workshop's offerings or access the NJWA's web site at <http://www.westfieldnjwa.com>.

BIBLICAL CONCEPTS IN MUSIC, a music clinic, is designed for all musicians young and old. The clinic will be held by Fatch Wiley, a respected veteran of contemporary Christian music for many years. The clinic is hands-on and participants are encouraged to bring their instruments.

The first session takes place Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to noon. The second session is from 1 to 3 p.m. A \$5 donation is requested. Baptist Church is at 1251 Tenth Road, Scotch Plains. For reservations or information, call (908) 322-9300.

NEW JERSEY INTERNATIONAL SUMMER FILM FESTIVAL, presented by the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, will be held at the Westfield High School auditorium on Donan Road, beginning on June 20. There will be matinee and evening performances on July 31 and Aug. 1.

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Low budget, high honors for 'Desolation Angels'

In his directorial debut Tim McCan has accomplished what few filmmakers can claim. He has taken \$77,000 and turned it into one of the best low budget films, "Desolation Angels," has won awards at the Toronto Film Festival and the Telluride Film Festival, not to mention the praise of Peter Travers of "Rolling Stone," Kevin Thomas of "The Los Angeles Times" and a number of other critics worldwide.

With little more than a great script and talented actors, Tim McCan skillfully crafts an intense, high-strung drama. This far from Hollywood production does not include expensive special effects or high speed car chases, but its edgy style and enveloping characters keep you involved every step of the way.

Nick Adams has returned from Boston where he was taking care of his mentally ill mother to find that his closest friend has raped his girlfriend. Nick's character is revealed to the audience through a written narrative during the first few minutes of the film. In this, the first of a few voice-overs where Nick talks about his childhood and his feelings in life, the audience is given a vivid picture of the personality who is about to deal with this dirty secret. Nick is not a sensitive, caring boyfriend who is capable of controlling and helping his girlfriend through this horrible experience. Instead he is a tightly wound, self-absorbed time bomb who wants vengeance.

Nick's antagonist and ex-best friend, David, is a spoiled, pompous, struggling actor who is supported by his rich mother. When David needs extra money he can pay for a hit to scare Nick, he steps at his mother's house and demands a check. When she asks what it is for he tells her to stop worrying so much about her little son and to start thinking a little.

The program will be held in the Westfield Community Room, 425 East Broad St., Westfield, New Jersey, on Tuesday, June 10, 7 to 9 p.m. The program will be a combination of the following programs this week:

CLASSICAL TRIO, featuring work by Alan Shulman, Handel-Horsens and Fritz Kreisler, will be presented on Saturday at 4 p.m. at Watchung Arts Center.

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Another look at 'Hamlet' presents new point of view

The celebrated English actor, John Thaw, has been seen on "Mystery" Public Television as Inspector Morse, an intelligent, rough-hewn, moody police investigator of violent crimes in the Oxford region. While dealing with criminals and bureaucratic staff, he contends with his own passions

