BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWSLETTER

YMCA OF METUCHEN, EDISON, WOODBRIDGE & SOUTH AMBOY **ROSE CUSHING, PRESIDENT & CEO**

March 2020



YMCA AT THE PCC UPDATE

It is truly an exciting time for our Association! Construction moves forward and on schedule at the new YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center. The scheduled opening is May 16, 2020! Save the date!

The new branch now has a presence on our website at www.ymcaofmewsa.org/ locations/cominq-soon!-the-ymca-at-the-piscataway-community-center. Some employment opportunities have been listed on the website at www.ymcaofmewsa.org/employment with more being added soon. Leadership staff has been kept extremely busy sorting through the hundreds of applications received and holding job interviews. It is anticipated that approximately 100 employees will be hired to run the facility. To date, the Facility Director has been hired and the Executive Director position will be announced in the near future. A recruiter has been hired to help facilitate the interview process.

There will be the formation of a Branch Board once the facility has opened. A member of that Branch Board will take a seat on the full Board to represent that facility.

Job Fairs will be held at the YPCC on March 21st, April 4th and April 25th, at which time Pre-Sale Memberships will be offered. Members who join during these dates will become Charter members and will have their Joiner's Fee waived and receive recognition on in-branch signage.

Our leadership team has also been busy in the media. Rose Cushing did a walk through of the YPCC on February 24th with Mayor Wahler which you can view at Eye on Piscataway https://youtu.be/Mnv1HJ4P-ok.

Bobby Kleinau and Mike Lackland will also be appearing on Eye on Piscataway along with Councilwoman Chanelle McCullum on March 3rd to discuss the YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center.

Stay tuned for more exciting details!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	YMCA AT THE PCC UPDATE
2	
	CHILD CARE TEACHER DONATES TO FOOD PANTRY
2	HackensackMeridian Health visits Edison
2	Edison participates in Wear Red Day
3	Aquatics update
3	THE Y IS ON NEWS 12 NEW JERSEY!
4	Togetherhood update
4	SPIN CLASSES FILL UP AT SOUTH AMBOY
4	Edison's Giving Tree
5	FIRST HEALTHY WEIGHT & YOUR CHILD GRADUATES
5	Elks Club makes donation to ASC
6	Staffing News
6	KEN SHIRK KICKS OFF BRAINY BOOT CAMP
7	SOUTH AMBOY DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE
7	TRX MAPS INSTALLED AT BRANCHES
7	ANOTHER LIVESTRONG® CLASS GRADUATES
7	SOUTH AMBOY SWIM TEAM PREPARE FOR NATIONALS
8	ASC KICK-OFF AT THE BRANCHES
9	MISSION POSSIBLE MEMBERS AS DONORS DRIVE
9	YMCA BASKETBALL ALL STAR GAME
10	Edison Y "Maintain, Don't Gain" Winner
10	Staff Holiday Party
11	Bits 'n Pieces
12	PANDA EXPRESS TEACHES ABOUT LUNAR NEW YEAR
12	Edison Hosts Zuma Jam Session
12	IMPORTANT DATES
13	METUCHEN LEADER'S CLUB HOLDS ELECTION
13	HOLI CELEBRATION AT THE EDISON YMCA
14	SOUTH AMBOY INSTALLS DONOR BOARD
14	MY Y STORYMEET DAVID
15	SR. CHILD CARE DIRECTORS ATTEND ADVOCACY DAY
15	ST. VALENTINE'S FUN AT THE BRANCHES
15	SAY SACC STUDENTS BECOME JR. LIT'S
16	UPCOMING MEETINGS

CHILD CARE TEACHER "EXTREME COUPONER" DONATES TO FOOD PANTRY AND FAMILIES IN NEED

Samantha Coté, Child Care Director of the Y's Ken Shirk Learning Center, has a second job...extreme couponing!! Samantha has stockpiled hundreds of household items which she donates to the food pantry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church as well as families in need in the community and in their Learning Center.

Shown right, Samantha donates family necessities including shampoo, toothbrushes, deodorant, tissues and more on Food Pantry Day (which is held at the Ken Shirk Learning Center the first Wednesday of every month).

This is a great way to live up to our mission of social responsibility!



Great job, Samantha!

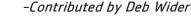
HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH VISITS EDISON



Hackensack Meridian Health visited the Edison branch on February 12th to speak to their members about heart disease. Members learned about the different risk factors that lead to heart disease including smoking, diet and stress factors. They also



had a quick demonstration on how to give CPR in a life or death situation. Hackensack Meridian Health will return in March for a workshop on Exercise and Osteoporosis.





EDISON STAFF PARTICIPATES IN WEAR RED DAY

Edison staff participated in National Wear Red Day, celebrated on the first Friday in February, to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease which is the leading cause of death for Americans.



AQUATICS UPDATE

As the short course season ends, we are proud to look back at a very successful winter. Between September through April, the MEY-SABY Manta Rays Swim Team participated in 12 dual, 10 invitational, three in-house, and 11 championship meets.

Every day, coaches and administrators work side-by-side to execute events that strengthen the swim team and offer our swimmers a great experience. One of the iconic events the MEY-SABY Swim Team organizes is the three-day Ryan Patterson Memorial meet held in December, where more than 500 swimmers participate. Other swim team activities that our parents organize are the Annual Ice Cream party and the Yestescades Party, where all of our swimmers play and have fun while creating team bonding and lifelong relationships.

Late this February, we introduced our new Director of Competitive Aquatics, Alexis Brown. Alexis has 20 years of experience in the field. As a former aquatics administrator and competitive swimmer, Alexis has the skills necessary to take our team into

-By Andres Gallego

new heights. We look forward to continuing to excel in all aspects of competitive swimming under Alexis' leadership.

Also new in 2020 is our Summer Swim Team at Oakcrest. Our goal is to allow young athletes to advance their precompetitive swim skills and reach the swim team level, becoming eligible for our year-round swim team program. The Summer Swim Team program will allow us to captivate a new audience and increase the impact we make in the community.

The Oakcrest swim team will compete against 31 other teams in the New Jersey Swimming and Diving Conference (NJSDC).

THE Y IS ON NEWS 12 NEW JERSEY!

The YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge & South Amboy was highlighted on News 12 New Jersey's 30 Second Spotlight on Thursday, February 20th to let people know about the Summer Camp Open House being held on February 22nd at all of the branches and Oakcrest Camp. You can check out the spotlight below!

https://www.facebook.com/dellacrews/videos/629503151173550/









TOGETHERHOOD UPDATE

Togetherhood's first Blood Drive for 2020 was held on Sunday, February 23rd at the Metuchen YMCA. Twelve volunteers gave up 32 hours of their time to help New Jersey Blood Services meet the always-pressing need for donated supplies of whole blood. A total of 51 people donate blood and 61 units of whole blood were collected. This was the sixth time that our Y's blood drives have collected 60+ units. The next blood drive is scheduled for April 26th!

WANT TO VOLUNTEER? HERE ARE SOME UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES!

Togetherhood Service Committee Meeting — Wednesday, March 11 at 8:00 am at the Metuchen Y. All are welcome to attend or become a member of Committee! The Committee meets every other month for one hour.

Spring Food Drive — dates are being finalized but the drive will likely begin on March 9 and end on April 6. Food shopping carts are located in the lobbies at the Metuchen and Edison Y's for drop-off donations. All donations go to the Food Pantry at the First Presbyterian Church in Metuchen.

Holiday Packing and Distributing Food Packages — Volunteers needed to help pack and distribute food collected from the Spring Food Drive to recipients at the food pantry. This will take place on Tuesday, April 7 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, and distribution will take place on Wednesday morning, April 8 from 8:30 am to 11:00 am.



Food Pantry Volunteering — Volunteer at the Metuchen Food Pantry! One or two volunteers are needed one or two days each week.

Rummage Sale — Volunteers needed to receive, sort and arrange items for the First Presbyterian Church Spring 2020 Rummage Sale on April 24 and 25. The volunteer's help is needed on the days leading up to the drive — Monday, April 20 through Thursday, April 23.

Blood Drive — The next blood drive is scheduled for Sunday, April 26.

Earth Day — Volunteers needed for park and lake cleanup and tree sapling distribution on Sunday, May 3 in Edison.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Paul Edgcomb at phedgcomb@gmail.com or at 732-887-6633.

SPIN CLASSES FILL UP AT SOUTH AMBOY!



Spin classes at the South Amboy branch have been filled to capacity thanks to their awesome new instructors and the relocation of the spin bikes to the upstairs lobby!

EDISON'S GIVING TREE

 $\label{eq:Giving Tree helps members at the Edison} \\ \begin{tabular}{c} \hline \mathcal{C}\mathcal{H}\mathcal{C} & \end{tabular} \\ \end{tabular} branch see how their donations have an Impact in our community and asks members to support the } \\ \end{tabular}$

program of their choice. The Members as Donors campaign will kick off after the community portion of the campaign has been completed.

-Contributed by Jillieanna Peguero





-Contributed by Karen Robson

FIRST HEALTHY WEIGHT & YOUR CHILD CLASS GRADUATES!

The YMCA of MEWSA has launched their brand new Healthy Weight & Your Child Program! This program included participants from all branches and was designed to empower children to reach a healthy weight and live a healthier lifestyle with their families alongside them for support.

The children ranged in ages from 7–13 and the program ran for 15 weeks. Thanks to grant funding from Y–USA, the program was offered free of charge to participants.

Each session had a educational and physical activity component. The physical component was led in the style of CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Childhood Health), used by our preschool and SACC staff to keep children healthy and active. The children also went on field trips including doing a Grocery Tour session at ShopRite in Parlin, where they had a scavenger hunt and had to find items by reading nutrition labels and ingredient lists, all while learning how to eat healthy.

By the end of the program, there was a decrease in BMI in every child. There was even weight loss in two of the children (although this program is considered a weight management program, not a weight loss program, as the children are still growing.)

The instructors for the program included Hannah Thomas, Annemarie Sabovick, Deb Wider and Bobby Kleinau.

At the last class, YMCA backpacks were given to the children as a reward for finishing the program.

Pictured below are four of the five children who graduated, along with their proud families and Y staff! Congratulations to all of the children and their families!

-Contributed by Hannah Thomas



ELKS CLUB MAKES DONATION TO ANNUAL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to the South Amboy Elks Club for helping to build bright futures through their donation to the Annual Support Campaign! YMCA member Val Tarr, who is also a former LiveSTRONG® participant and 2019 Fireworks 50/50 raffle winner, helped the Y receive a \$2,500 gift from the Elks National Foundation. We appreciate all that you do!

-Contributed by Karen Robson



Pictured (l-r) Top Row: Karen M. Robson, South Amboy YMCA Branch Director of Operations; Mary Taylor, YMCA's Annual Support Campaign Volunteer; Val Tarr, Elks ENF Chairman South Amboy Elks Lodge #784; Anthony Conrad, YMCA Annual Support Campaign and Branch Board Chair; Rose Cushing, CEO YMCA of MEWSA. Middle Row: Adonus Curtis, Avry Roque, Jaliel Davis, Adrian Declet, Christian Merino, Daniel Reyes, Bottom Row: Xiema Rosas, Fredrick Meyer, Antonella Mori, Sebastian Salgado, Annabelle Keremes (Photo/Story Submitted).

Elks Lodge # 784 Donates To YMCA Fund

With the support of the South Amboy Elks Lodge #784 and other local donors, the Y has already raised over \$8k since January 1st. All funds raised are used to address community health needs and subsidize program fees for community members. The lodge will be officially recognized at the Y's Annual Support Campaign Kick-Off event on January 15th 5:30-6:30pm. All community members and leaders are encouraged to attend this event held at the South Amboy YMCA Branch to learn about the Y's cause to strengthen community.

The South Amboy Élks Lodge No. 784 helped launch the South Amboy YMCA's Annual Support Campaign with a donation of \$2,500. The Lodges National Foundation gift made possible through the efforts of the Elks Care/Elks share community service initiative, will help fund the Y's Safety Around Water initiative. This initiative, including transportation, engages children in swim safety activities and educates parents about the importance of water safety. The curriculum is offered to all second grade students in the Y's aquatic center during the school year in partnership with the City of South Amboy School District.

The cost of the program is funded through donations received from the YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge & South Amboy's Annual Support Campaign. Children learn twobasic skills that will reduce the risk of drowning and give participants' confidence around water: how to get to safely if they fall into a pool, and how to safely

swim to safety without tiring.

Val Tarr, Elks Lodge Member, said "The Y is a great place that serves and welcomes everyone. When I was in remission from cancer several years ago, I participated in the Y's LiveSTRONG program at no cost. It feels good to support another Y-sponsored initiative that makes an impact on our community."

"The Y strengthens our community with several outreach programs and activities. We are grateful to the South Amboy Elks Lodge #784 and all major gift donors who support our efforts to make our community healthier and safer," said Anthony Conrad, 2020 South Amboy YMCA Annual Support Campaign Chair. "The Safety Around Water program helps children, families and adults make sure they learn essential water safety skills, which can open up a world of possibilities for them to satisfy their curiosity safely."

The Y offers free community swim times, welcoming all, due to the efforts of the Y's Annual Support Campaign. All guests are swim-tested by a YMCA-trained lifeguard. A YMCA membership is not required; however, a guest application is required, YMCA scholarships, funded by the Y's Annual Support Campaign, are available for any membership or program, including swim lessons, child care, camp, youth sports, and special needs activities. Call the South Amboy YMCA at 732.553.9622 or visit ymcaofmewsa.org for more information. Contact Karen.Robson@ymcaofmewsa.org for sponsorship opportunities.

STAFFING NEWS

EDISON STAFF PROMOTED

Congratulations to Shreya Lad (pictured left), Edison Y's new Aquatics Coordinator and Katherine Kaldawi (pictured right), Edison Y's new Deck Supervisor! Shreya has been with the Edison YMCA for two years in the Aquatics program. She has



served as Deck Supervisor and also worked as a Lifeguard at Oakcrest Camp. Katherine Kaldawi has been with the Edison YMCA for three years. She has been involved in their Aquatics, SACC and Camp programs. We know that Shreya and Kat will strive to maintain the Y's high standards and bring much enthusiasm to the Edison aquatics program!

-Contributed by Eric Meshirer

WELCOME ALEXIS BROWN!

.....

Please meet our new Director of Competitive Aquatics, Alexis Brown! Alexis has been involved in aquatics and competitive aquatics for 20 years. After swimming for X-Cel Swimming, Alexis held leadership roles in prominent



aquatics programs in different organizations including the Lower Bucks Family YMCA, Princeton YWCA and Albright College. Alexis is a certified American Red Cross instructor, Water Safety Instructor and Pool Operator. Alexis holds a B.A. in Psychology, Elementary and Special Education. Alexis will offer direct leadership to MEY-SABY Manta Ray Swim Team and our brand new summer swim team at Oakcrest Camp. Alexis will also manage future programs, including Master Swimming, Tri-Club (Triathlon) and other specialty programs, allowing us to increase our reach into the community and consolidating our competitive presence.

Welcome aboard, Alexis!

Have an article or item of interest for the newsletter? Please submit to Veronica Vargas at veronica.vargas@ymcaofmewsa.org.

KEN SHIRKS KICKS OFF BRAINY BOOT CAMP PROGRAM!

Made possible through a grant from PNC Bank Foundation and United Way, Ken Shirk's Brainy Boot Camp kicked off in the middle of January! The preschool and Pre-K students have been doing different projects including a Water Stream study, using math to discuss volumes of containers, reading to understand more about water and it's properties, and science to start asking questions and making predictions, experimenting with freezing water and paint to make Paint Popsicles which were later used for an art project. They also spent time reading books and watching videos on how and why water turns to ice. The children will then figure out a way to engineer ice into a tower and observing what happens to it over the course of a day.

The Preschool and Prekindergarten class (shown below) are so excited to continue to explore, learn, and grow with this amazing opportunity that they may not have had the chance to experience before!

-Contributed by Samantha Coté





SOUTH AMBOY/SAYREVILLE ROTARY DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE

South Amboy-Sayreville Rotary held its 15th Annual Daddy-Daughter Dance sponsored and attended by YMCA volunteers on Friday, February 21st at the Sayreville VFW.

Dancing, raffles and gifts made for a fun night, as well as portraits of the Dads with their little girls.



-Contributed by Karen Robson

TRX MAPS INSTALLED AT BRANCHES



Staff members from the Wellness Department and Membership Department from all three branches participated in TRX MAPS training to better serve our members.

Each branch purchased the TRX MAPS kiosk which helps members by performing a complete body scan in under 30 seconds and customizing an exercise plan designed to improve deficiencies in Mobility, Activation, Posture and Symmetry (MAPS). The staff is very excited to use this with their clients and members!

-Contributed by Deborah Wider

ANOTHER LiveSTRONG® CLASS GRADUATES!

Join us in congratulating our newest group of LIVESTRONG at the YMCA graduates. These warriors celebrated finishing their12-week exercise program and received YMCA sweatshirts as well as roses from Forever Flowers in Fords!

The Y's LiveSTRONG® Program is a free wellness programs that helps cancer survivors reclaim their total health and move beyond cancer in spirit, mind and body.



SOUTH AMBOY SWIM TEAM PREPARING FOR NATIONALS



The South Amboy swim team has been working hard to become eligible for Y Nationals...stay tuned!!



ANNUAL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF AT THE BRANCHES!



Edison YMCA has fun with their "Fiesta" theme



Our Saviors Learning Center holds "PJ Day









Grace Learning Center participates in PD Da









MISSION POSSIBLE MEMBERS AS DONORS DRIVE KICKS OFF!

Following an exciting and highly successful Annual Support Campaign *Mission Possible 2020* launch on January 15th, the YMCA of MEWSA *Members as Donors* fund drive is underway across the Association. Inviting existing Y members to contribute *\$20 in 2020*, the goal of *Members as Donors* is to not only raise funds critically needed for scholarships and financial assistance, but to raise awareness among Y members that our YMCA is a charitable, non-profit organization that supports those most in need within our Y family and throughout the communities we serve.. With an aspirational goal of \$330,00, Mission Possible has achieved 76% of goal with \$250,000 raised to date.

YMCA members know just how valuable their Y membership is, benefitting from a wide array of services focused on Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social



Make More Possible! Members as Donors

Responsibility. The Y offers a unique and supportive atmosphere, welcoming all regardless of ability to pay. During 2019, our YMCA provided more than \$760,000 in membership assistance, camperships and community programs to more than 3,200 individuals. From children attending day camp while their parents work to adults referred by health care providers to begin a path to wellness, from participants in disease management programs for cancer, Parkinson's Disease, diabetes and obesity diagnoses to our Safety Around Water program targeted to second graders, the YMCA of MEWSA truly has something for everyone.

While *Members as Donors* is underway, our Mission Possible face-to-face community giving campaign remains active, with campaigners reaching out to existing and new donors. Anyone wanting additional information about YMCA charitable giving programs or wishing to make a contribution may contact <u>denise.zimmer@ymcaofmewsa.orq</u> or 732-516-2087.

YMCA BASKETBALL ALL STAR GAME

The YMCA's 7-9 year old basketball league All Star Game was held on January 25th at Campbell School which saw all stars from both western conference and eastern conference in a head-to-head matchup. The eastern conference stars took home the victory in a heavily contested game! Nine-year-old Kingsley Farris, son of the Metuchen Y's Sports Coordinator, Marcus Farris, took home MVP honors after leading all scorers with 16 points and 7 steals! AJ Quarles finished second in MVP voting with 6 points and 12 rebounds for the winning team. After the final buzzer, players from each team exchanged handshakes and took time to sign each other's game jerseys as a sign of respect and admiration for one another.

In other All Star events, Max Siemers, son of Senior Child Care Director Erin Siemers, won the 3 point contest and Sean Blaze captured first place in the skills challenge.

-Contributed by Christine Tolley





EDISON Y "MAINTAIN, DON'T GAIN" WINNER



Congratulations to Kathleen Rankin, winner of the Edison Y's Maintain, Don't Gain Challenge! Pictured right is Kathleen (I.) alongside Wellness staff member, Angela Ruhnke.

Maintain, Don't Gain challenges members to maintain their weight during the busy holiday season and runs from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day.

Not only did Kathleen maintain her weight, she actually lost two pounds! Way to go Kathleen!

-Submitted by Deborah Wider

STAFF HOLIDAY PARTY

Staff having fun at our annual holiday party on January 25th held at the American Legion Hall in Metuchen. This year the theme was "Flannel and Frost".



Above, a group picture of some of the 100+ YMCA staff who attended. To the right and below, staff show their singing talents with karaoke! A good time was had by all!



UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGSMarch 25C3May 27C3June 24



<bits & pieces>



Metuchen Y Preschool children celebrate 100 days of school.



Nancy Ward-Davis teaches her class how to stay fit in her "Box Fit" class at Metuchen.



Gift baskets donated by BCB Bank of Edison, given to people who made donations of \$50 or more to the Annual Support Campaign!



The Metuchen YMCA staff shows their love for their members!



Teens hanging out at the South Amboy Y on Valentine's Day when school was dismissed early.



Congrats to all the grand marshals and honorees of the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, including SAY D.O., Karen Robson!



The South Amboy team attended the Middlesex County Education Association Camp Fair on January 25th at the Brunswick Square Mall.



Metuchen's Leader's Club sells baked good to raise money for the Annual Support Campaign, raising over \$500!



South Amboy Holiday Camp and SACC participants spread some Valentine's Day love by bringing handmade cards to the residents at the Venetian Rehabilitation Center!



New Build It! classes have begun engaging younger participants at the South Amboy branch.

PANDA EXPRESS TEACHES METUCHEN KIDS ABOUT LUNAR NEW YEAR

Representatives from the Panda Express in Woodbridge went to the Metuchen Y where they taught the Preschool and Kindergarten children about the Lunar New Year. They provided "chorks" (half chopsticks/half forks) for all of the children which they used to practice picking up fortune cookies. They were also provided with fortune tellers, bookmarks and coupons for free food.



-Contributed by Pam Cohen

EDISON HOSTS ZUMBA JAM SESSION

Edison hosted a Zumba Jam Session and Master class on February 1st with world renowned Zumba Instructor, Jeimy Bueno. Jeimy has performed all over the world including France, Japan, the US and the Caribbean. Zumba instructors came together to learn new songs and choreography. Afterwards, it was party time as the fun opened up to the public to dance the afternoon away. Proceeds from the event went to our ASC. Next Jam session is scheduled for April 25th.

-Contributed by Deb Wider





Camp SAY staff took full advantage of the nice weather and hosted their January Camp Open House outside!

IMPORTANT DATES

Spring I Session March 2-April 26

Spring II Session April 27-June 21 Healthy Kids Day April 18

Annual Dinner April 29, 6-9pm South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade March 15

Summer Camp Open Houses (all branches) April 18, 11am-2pm



METUCHEN LEADER'S CLUB HOLDS ELECTION

The Metuchen Leader's Club ran an election in the beginning of the month to elect officers for executive positions including President, Vice-President, Secretary and Event Coordinator.

Leaders wrote speeches which they read aloud to the group. After the speeches, a vote was taken with the following results: President-Caroline Schleif, Vice-President-Mina Weston, Secretary-Priya Aggarwal and Event Coordinator-Maddie Cosgrove. Congratulations to all of the newly elected officials of the Leader's Club!

The leaders are very excited to take the Club in a new direction!

-Contributed by Gabrielle St. Fleur



HOLI CELEBRATION AT THE EDISON YMCA!

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH, 12:30PM-2:30PM

DJ, COLORED POWDER, TREATS, FUN AND FRIENDS!

For more information, contact Deb Wider at deborah.wider@ymcaofmewsa.org

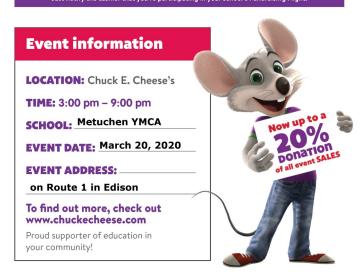


CHUCKECHEESE'S SCHOOL Fündraising EVENT

LET'S TURN FUN INTO FUNDS!

Chuck E. Cheese's donates up to 20% of the sales generated from this event to your child's school. Friends and family members are encouraged to help support this event.

Sales includes all food, merchandise, and Play Points deals purchased at the register. Just notify the cashier that you're participating in your school's Fundraising Night.



SOUTH AMBOY INSTALLS DONOR BOARD

The South Amboy YMCA installed its donor recognition board and had several faces in the facility together. Thank you for strengthening our community!



L. to r.: Branch Board Chair Anthony Conrad, Director of Operations Karen Robson, ASC Chair Mary Taylor, SACC/ Camp Director Judith Murawski and Aquatics Director Liz Moreira

MY Y STORY...MEET DAVID

Diana was looking for a safe place for her brother David, a special needs adult with social anxiety, to be healthy during the day while she works from home. David was excited but nervous to engage in aerobics class activities which made some members cautious as he watched them to learn the moves. As a result of the South Amboy Y's caring staff and members, he was able to engage fully in the classes at his own pace.

David has become an engaged member of the South Amboy Y



community and now dances away in Zumba! He can also be found swimming laps and shooting hoops most mornings. David has become healthier, engages socially with everyone, and is a joy to have in our Y family.



David with Annemarie Sabovick, South Amboy's Healthy Living Director.

Please say hello gently when you see him at the Y as he is excited to have this story written about him.

-Contributed by Karen Robson

CHILD CARE SENIOR DIRECTORS ATTEND ADVOCACY DAY

Senior Child Care Directors Erin Siemers and Cindy Shields attended the first ever Advocacy Day hosted by the New Jersey Association for the Education of Young Children (NJAEYC).

At this event they learned about the current political climate in the state and how to advocate on behalf of our youngest learners, children from Birth to Age 5 in the areas of policy and legislation, funding and compensation. It was also a great networking opportunity as there were Early Childhood professionals from all over the state in attendance as well as representatives from NJAEYC and ACNJ (Advocates for Children of New Jersey).

-Contributed by Cindy Shields



ST. VALENTINE'S DAY FUN AT SOUTH AMBOY!

Friends, old and new, came out to dance the night away at South Amboy's Valentine's Dance on February 14th!



METUCHEN HOSTS PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

On Friday, February 14th the Metuchen YMCA held a Parent's Night Out where parents dropped their children off for a fun night of games, crafts and a movie! Dinner and dessert were also provided.

-Contributed by Gabrielle St. Fleur



SOUTH AMBOY'S SACC STUDENTS BECOME JR. LIT'S

Amboy's oldest SACC group had the opportunity to become Junior Leaders -in-Training this month, helping out the younger SACC groups with homework, arts and crafts, sports and more!

-Contributed by Karen Robson





UPCOMING MEETINGS

MARCH

- 4 EDISON BRANCH BOARD EDISON BRANCH—8:30 A.M.
- 6 PROPERTY COMMITTEE AO Conference Room—9:00 A.M.
- 17 SOUTH AMBOY BRANCH BOARD SOUTH AMBOY BRANCH—6:00 P.M.
- 18 FINANCE COMMITTEE AO CONFERENCE ROOM—6:00 P.M.
- **18** Metuchen Branch Board Metuchen Branch—8:00 A.M.
- 25 BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING SOUTH AMBOY YMCA 5:30 FELLOWSHIP/6:00 P.M. MEETING

APRIL

- BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE AO Conference Room—5:30 p.m.
 INVESTMENT COMMITTEE AO Conference Room—8:00 a.m.
 FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AO Conference Room—6:00 p.m.
 FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE AO CONFERENCE ROOM—6:00 P.M.
 IT COMMITTEE
 - AO CONFERENCE ROOM-8:00 A.M.
- 21 SOUTH AMBOY BRANCH BOARD SOUTH AMBOY BRANCH—6:00 P.M.

