

Jersey Climate Action Forum Set On Anniversary of Superstorm Sandy

To mark the first anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, you can learn how to save energy, money and the environment at Jersey Climate Action, a public forum on Monday, October 28, at 7 p.m. The free program is being held at the People Care Center, 120 Funderne Avenue, Bridgewater.

Sandy has alerted New Jersey to the tragic consequences of Climate Change, a problem addressed in the recently released fifth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The importance of everyone acting to address the problem of climate change was emphasized in the IPCC Report that concluded with virtual certainty that global warming is indeed happening, and that human activities causing the release of greenhouse gases are "the dominant cause." The IPCC report also stressed that the impacts of global warming, including rising ocean temperatures and sea levels, melting polar ice caps, and extreme weather events, have reached levels that threaten the future of life on the planet, and we must act now to control it.

The forum will feature five exceptionally qualified speakers to explain actions we can all take in our personal lives and in pressuring our elected offi-

cial to confront this problem including: Jeff Deyette, assistant director of energy research and a senior analyst in the Climate and Energy Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), co-authored the UCS book Cooler, Smarter: Practical Steps for Low-Carbon Living and numerous reports including Ripe for Retirement: The Case for Closing America's Costliest Coal Plants. He has also written extensively on the consumer, employment and environmental benefits of increasing our renewable energy use.

Jeanne Fox, commissioner of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, has spearheaded the exponential growth of New Jersey's solar photovoltaic market. Under Ms. Fox's leadership, the board transitioned New Jersey's solar program from a rebate-driven model to a fiscally responsible, market-based system that will foster the continued growth of solar energy use in the state without significant government/ratepayer subsidies.

Ed Schwartz, an energy sustainability professional, offers practical advice on ways that consumers can save both energy and money while helping to protect the environment. Schwartz, also known as Eco-Ed, is the co-founder and managing partner of Green Living Solutions, a company that provides homeowners and businesses advice on sustainability, green construction, energy audits and retrofitting existing homes.

Christine Guhl, a Sierra Club Field Organizer, is working to achieve a clean energy future to protect the planet from CO2 pollution, the primary contributor to climate change and its impacts. She is currently advocating for support of the proposed EPA regulations to limit carbon emissions from existing coal-fired power plants, the primary contributor to climate change. Ms. Guhl is the organizer of the Sierra Club Beyond Coal campaign in New Jersey that is promoting offshore wind power for New Jersey.

Jack Shapiro, the deputy climate campaign manager at Organizing for Action, is working to secure public support throughout the United States for actions to address climate change. His focus is on the state of climate politics, OFA's Climate Campaign, and how we all can successfully pressure public officials to act to confront climate change.

At the Climate Action forum, people can also learn more about clean energy options for their homes and businesses from a variety of vendors.

The program is sponsored by Organizing for Action and the Sierra Club. For information and to sign up to attend visit ofa.bo/NJClimateAction or call (908) 389-3670.

Drew Harris
Westfield

Roslyn Harrison
Local OFA Organizer
Westfield

Letters to the Editor

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A Personal Note to Congressman Lance for A National Cure Policy

Dear Congressman Lance, I salute you for your support of MODDERN, the Modernizing Our Drug and Diagnostic and Regulatory Network Cures Act. I noticed the word "cures" is in the title. I'm sure you're aware that our track record for finding cures for disease and disabilities is a pretty abysmal one. One major and puzzling reason being that Congress has never considered, let alone enacted, a national cure policy. It has, instead, exclusively on a health care one. Witness today's national debate where there is no mention of cures.

Though we met before, I'd like to introduce myself. In 1965, I brought carnitine, an unpatented natural substance, into the United States from France. Working with others in academic medicine and the pharmaceutical industry, I managed to obtain two FDA Orphan Drug approvals, one of which has saved the lives of children and the other for renal dialysis patients. I've personally experienced, unlike anyone in the United States who I'm aware of, almost all the barriers to medical discovery in my carnitine adventure. For this reason I formed my educational foundation whose primary mission is to accelerate medical discovery.

To the point: One unrecognized formidable barrier to medical discovery are the costs, risks and frustrations to conduct clinical studies - the critical step in medical discovery for all diseases and disabilities be they rare, chronic, acute or subacute. To effectively decrease these barriers I proposed that doctors be able to more easily volunteer for clinical studies by enacting the Doctornaut Act. My colleague physician friend and then Ma-

majority Leader, Bill Frist, agreed and circulated a draft of the Act, which is posted on my foundation's website. For certain reasons, it did not move forward. In an attempt to re-introduce the Act, I've met with Congressmen and pharmaceutical industry executives who are concerned about health issues such as my old colleague, Senator Tom Harkin and, your colleague, John Crowley, both good people, to garner support for the Act.

Here is a potential historic challenge for your consideration: Gather a very small group of experts to address three simple questions. Firstly, "What are the costs, risks and frustrations which retard clinical research?" Secondly, "How can we 'acceptably and simply' reduce such risks, costs and frustrations beginning in the very near term?" and, thirdly, "Making the obvious assumption that, if barriers to clinical research are significantly reduced and the discovery of cures speeded-up, how much will health care costs be reduced?" As an example, if a cure of a single disease, Alzheimer's, were discovered today, The Alzheimer's Association estimates the cost reduction over the next 40 years at \$40 trillion.

In my day, I've chaired dozens of think tanks let alone conferences, and I would estimate that, with the proper preparation, this gathering would take a day and a half.

Congressman Lance, this may sound too good to be true but, because of the huge potential outcomes, I believe that a day and a half of your time is worth the effort. Think about it.

Stephen L. DeFelicis, M.D.
Chairman, FIM, the Foundation for Innovation in Medicine

Turkey Should Be Given Resolution To Mark Its 90th Anniversary

On October 29, over half a million Turkish Americans will celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey. On that day in 1923, under the guidance of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the Turkish Grand National Assembly proclaimed the Republic realizing the aspirations of Turkish people for freedom, peace and progress in their homeland. Through the ambitious reforms implementing Ataturk's vision of modern statehood, Turkey transformed from its imperial past into the world's first sustainable secular democracy with a predominantly Muslim population. Modern Turkey is also one of the fastest growing emerging markets.

For over 60 years, Turkey has been a key partner in a vital region stretching from Eastern Europe and the Middle East to the Caucasus and Central Asia. Over 5,000 Turkish soldiers took part and over 700 of them fell fighting alongside the Americans in the 1950-1953 Korean

War. In the last two decades, Turkey considerably contributed to the NATO and U.S.-led missions in Kosovo and Afghanistan. With the unraveling crisis in Syria and turmoil in Egypt, Turkey's role as an influential regional power and U.S. ally remains pivotal.

Meanwhile, within less than a century of immigration, Turkish Americans have left a unique imprint on America's diverse cultural spectrum and have contributed to its advancement in the fields of business, science, medicine, technology and arts.

Ahead of this important anniversary for Turkish people, I join members of the Pax Turcica Institute to request a greeting proclamation or a legislative resolution recognizing Turkish Republic Day. Sample text is available at www.paxturcica.org/drafts/TurkishRepublicDay.pdf.

Tulga Tekman
Bridgeport, Conn.

Greta's Run Was Spectacular Success In Its Inaugural Year

On behalf of Greta's Run and its Founders Ben Nanna and Jayne Ruotolo, The Westfield Area Y thanks everyone for a successful event!

The inaugural year of Greta's Run held at the Westfield Area Y on September 15, 2013 was a spectacular success thanks to the WHS Class of 2006, sponsors and participants. Exactly 900 runners registered, 200+ volunteers and enumerable spectators participated in the first year. One month ago, Joseph Veras, 21, of Jersey City, became the first person to cross the finish line, with a time of 17:27.10. Second and third place finishers were Aaron Holibaugh, 22, of Egg Harbor, at 18:07.88 and Dennis Hassel, 22, of Blackwood, at 18:08.74. "Greta's Run" was founded and organized by childhood friends, Ben Nanna and Jayne Ruotolo, made successful by their effort, and support of volunteers, sponsors, Westfield's local business and residential communities, and the Westfield Area Y.

In its first year, Greta's Run had an overwhelming breadth of support from sponsors. Greta was an athlete, poet and enjoyed gardening. These sponsorship levels were named in her honor. Gardener Level: JMK BMW/FIAT. Athlete Level: Guillotine Salon and Spa, Jersey Mikes of Westfield, Metropolitan Group Inc., The Westfield Memorial Pool Marlins Swim Team, and UBS. Poet Level: Bentley Laboratories, BOC Partners INC, Eurosport, Galaxy Coach Limousine Services, Maxwell Sang: Artist and Academic Tutor, Messercola Excavating Co. Inc., Rudy's Ristorante and Pizzeria, Swain Galleries, Westfield Boosters Association, Westfield Health and Rehabilitation, Westfield Pediatric Dental Group, Williams Nursery, The Bowman Family, The Fortino Family, The Mattielli Family, and The Vickers Family.

Greta's Run served bagels provided at a discounted price from Manhattan Bagels, 600 bananas were donated by Trader Joe's, and 556 oranges were donated by Garguilo Produce and sliced up for runners by diligent volunteers. All water was donated by families and friends: The Vickers, Lack, Reed, Frattarola, Bendix, Gross, Chabrier, Connelly, Ellis-Cortese families and residents: Greg Kasko, Aileen Grogan, Alex Tarlow, Lima Mastroianni-Isoldi, Bob McHone, Karoyln Cook, Westfield High School Soccer Coach Kerri Ponzio, and Philadelphia residents Darwin MacDonald and Rebecca Pierce.

The Westfield Police Department assisted with street closings and volunteer course marshal assignments, and the Westfield Rescue Squad was on hand to provide medical care but none was needed. The Westfield Department of Public Works provided barricades to close streets. The Town of Westfield, Westfield Chamber of Commerce and Board of Education, were wonderful, as well. Trader Joe's, Lord & Taylor, and Dr. Harding, DMD, were gracious with use of their parking lots.

Our National Anthem was sung by Russell Fischer of Broadway's Jersey Boys. Brent Phillhower Graphic Design and Motion Graphics designed

the 'Greta's Run' logo. Advance Productions printed 1,000 race shirts, and All Print Resources printed banners and marketing materials designed by Ben Nanna for the event. An awards ceremony followed the race with prizes for runners, walkers and volunteers donated by: JMK BMW/FIAT, Galaxy Coach Limousine Services, Top Line Appliance Center, Gregory Moore, Dina Ragab, Vicki's Diner, Mel DeLonge and the Schoenemann Family.

Flower arrangements were donated by The Green Room Floral Design, Events and Gifts. Compuscore timed the race. The sound system was donated by RMC Studios. Massage/Reiki/Stretching were provided by Sherri Nicholas and Ann Oliff. Red King Productions made an extraordinary short film of the event. Lucinda Dowell, Max Suri, Nicole Gleason and Stephanie Siudut donated their talents for course and event photography. The crowd warmed up for the race with a Zumba workout by Chris Kaveny, & Grain of Garwood offered 10 percent off to everyone who registered within the restaurant, and Health in Motion gave free classes to anyone that registered. Juxtapose Gallery donated the frame and held a silent auction for artist Mel DeLonge and Swain Galleries of Plainfield displayed 35 paintings by artist Maxwell Sang for the exquisite Art Benefit 'Petals for Greta.'

In addition to Sponsoring, The Guillotine Salon and Spa led a remarkable fundraising effort. The Westfield Memorial Pool Marlins Swim Team organized an inspiring and successful fundraiser too. Keller Williams, UBS, IMAGINE and Girl Scout Troop 40754 of Mountaineer provided volunteers for water stops. A resounding 'Thank You' to all families, businesses and parishioners along the course for their selfless and gracious support of Greta's Run!

Greta's Run was an invaluable moment to Greta's family, the Westfield High School Class of 2006, Westfield and greater community. Everyone who supported the cause showed the Schoenemann's that Greta is still remembered, still a valued member of this town, and muse for a remarkable effort to create new and flourish existing special needs programs at the Westfield Area Y. We look forward to seeing you next year!

To learn more about Greta Schoenemann or Greta's Run, visit: www.westfieldnj.org/community/gretasrun.

Greta's Run is a 5k Run/Walk and Fundraiser in memory of Greta Schoenemann, a WHS freshman who died from injuries sustained on September 11, 2002 when a tree limb fell on her and a table of friends as they ate lunch. Founded by Greta's childhood friends Ben Nanna and Jayne Ruotolo, all proceeds will benefit new and existing special needs programs at the Westfield Area Y. It's a gesture that would be close to Greta's heart because her sister Elise has Cerebral Palsy.

Ben Nanna
Westfield

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