

## NJ Hall of Fame to Induct Class of '13 on January 14th

NEWARK — Tickets for the New Jersey Hall of Fame's Class of 2013 induction ceremony continues to build with the announcement that tickets have sold out for the Tuesday, January 14 event.

The Class of 2013 includes: Alice Guy Blache, Bobbi Brown, Raymond Chambers, Grover Cleveland, Celia Cruz, Joetta Clark Diggs, Whitney Houston, J. Seward Johnson Jr., Governor Thomas Kean, Thomas Paine, Joe Piscopo, David Sarnoff, "Jersey Joe" Walcott, and Dionne Warwick.

Community FoodBank of New Jersey founder Kathleen DiChiara will receive the "Unsung Hero" award.

"This has been a big year for the Hall of Fame. It is gratifying to honor these deserving inductees," said Steve Edwards, president of the New Jersey Hall of Fame Foundation. "The Newark Museum will be a perfect setting for an elegant event to celebrate the induction of this special class."

"The induction ceremony shows every year the diverse contributions that Garden State residents make in every facet of society," said ex-New York Giant Bart Oates, chairman of the Hall of Fame Commission. "It's a great opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments."

John Keegan, president of the Charles Edison Fund and chairman Emeritus of the Hall of Fame Foundation, stressed the importance using the Hall to inspire the next generation of innovators. "Our mission is to instill a sense of pride in every New Jersey resident. Each class is a lesson to children that if they are willing to work hard enough, all of their dreams are within their reach."

Mr. Oates, a three-time Super Bowl champion with the New York Giants and San Francisco 49ers, expects supporters to enjoy the ceremony, which will be emceed by Emmy-winning anchor Steve Adubato.

"The Newark Museum will be sharing with our guests a display called City of Silver and Gold, from Tiffany to Cartier, which features the original Tiffany-designed Vince Lombardi Trophy," Mr. Oates said. "Many

people don't know that Tiffany had a manufacturing plant in Newark before moving the operation to Parsippany. We are thrilled that the induction ceremony will kick off a two-week celebration leading up to Super Bowl XLVIII in MetLife Stadium. It will be a great time to be in New Jersey and to celebrate the best of the Garden State."

Proceeds from the induction ceremony will be used to maintain and upgrade the Hall of Fame's Mobile Museum, the high-tech interactive "field trip on wheels." Designed by Michael Graves, an architect and Hall of Fame Class of 2010 member, the first-of-its-kind museum features 1,000 square feet of museum space dedicated to the contributions of the men and women who have earned their way into the New Jersey Hall of Fame. The Mobile Museum was launched in June 2013, and has promoted the "Progress Endures" curriculum for more than 20,000 Garden State students and adults.

### Alieta Eck to Run for Congress in 12th Dist.

REGION — Somerset County doctor Alieta Eck, who lost to Steve Lonegan in the August 2013 Republican special primary election for United States Senate, has announced her plans to kick off a campaign for Congress in the 12th Congressional District today, January 9th.

Dr. Eck, who mainly based her 2013 Senate campaign against Obamacare, said she hopes to run against longtime Democratic incumbent Rep. Rush Holt (D-12th).

Dr. Eck founded the health care center where she will kick off her campaign. It serves as a clinic for the poor and uninsured. Mr. Holt has held the seat since 1998.

Mr. Lonegan is moving to South Jersey where he plans to run for the seat being vacated by two-term U.S. Rep. Jon Runyan (R-3rd).

The 12th District stretches from Mercer County to Union County where it includes all of Fanwood and Plainfield and most of Scotch Plains.

## Freeholder Committee Assignments Announced

COUNTY — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders have approved standing committee assignments and liaisons for 2014 as follows.

Fiscal Committee: Freeholder Vice-Chairman Mohamed Jalloh, chairman; Freeholders Linda Carter, Sergio Granados and Angel Estrada; Homeland Security Committee, Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, chairman; Freeholders Estrada and Granados and Freeholder Vernell Wright;

Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, Freeholder Bruce Bergen, chairman; Freeholders Mirabella and Jalloh and Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, and Policy and Administrative Code Committee, Freeholder Wright, chairwoman; Freeholders Bergen, Kowalski and Mirabella;

Shared Services Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Freeholder Kowalski, chairwoman; Freeholders Carter, Granados and Bergen.

Liaisons are as follows: Freeholder Wright, delegate, Freeholder Kowalski, alternate, and County Manager Al Faella, second delegate, New Jersey Association of Counties.

Freeholder Estrada, delegate, and Freeholder Granados, alternate, and Freeholder Transportation Planning Authority; Freeholder Estrada, Union County delegate, Meadowlinks.

Freeholder appointments are as follows: Union County Voter Accessibility Advisory Board, Union County Board of Elections Administrator Dennis Kobitz, county manager representative/administrator; John Becker, commissioner/public member; John DiSimone, commissioner; Clara Hareluk, commissioner, Marie Oakie, commissioner, and Aneil Badri, public member;

Commission of the Status of Women of Excellence Advisory, Michele Yamakaitis and Hillside Mayor Angela Garretson, and Advisory Board on the Status of Minorities, Bertha Little-Matthews and Julian Buitrago;

Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board, Nicole DeAugustine and Susan Albert; Historic Preservation Trust Fund Public Advisory Board, Arthur Kobitz, public member, and Union County Utilities Authority, Charles Lombardo, commissioner.

Women of Excellence Advisory, Michele Yamakaitis and Hillside Mayor Angela Garretson, and Advisory Board on the Status of Minorities, Bertha Little-Matthews and Julian Buitrago;

Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board, Nicole DeAugustine and Susan Albert; Historic Preservation Trust Fund Public Advisory Board, Arthur Kobitz, public member, and Union County Utilities Authority, Charles Lombardo, commissioner.

### Peterson Announces Candidacy in 7th Dist.

SUMMIT — Mark A. Peterson, an electrical engineer from Summit, has announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Congress in New Jersey's 7th District.

"I am a moderate Democrat. The theme of my campaign is 'Who Speaks for you?'" the candidate said in statement e-mailed to *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times* on January 2nd. "I am raising the issues of obstructionism and Tea Party domination of the moderate Republican majority in Congress. I am suggesting that moderate Republican, Independent and Democratic voters consider if today's Congress, with a Republican majority, is speaking for them. If the answer is 'no,' then perhaps they should consider helping to return a Democratic majority," Mr. Peterson said.

The district is currently represented by Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) who is in his third term. He faces another challenge from David Larsen of Tewksbury who is making his third run against Mr. Lance in the Republican Primary.

## Celebrity Bartenders' Fundraiser Set for Jan. 19th

KENILWORTH — The Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee will host its annual Celebrity Bartenders fundraiser on Sunday, January 19, from 1:30 to 7 p.m. at the Kenilworth Veterans Center located at 33 South 21st Street in Kenilworth.

The party will be in honor of Gene Gillespie of The Blackthorn Irish Pub and Restaurant, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Entertainment will include the Celtic rock band Bloody Callan, St. Columille Pipe Band and the Union County Police and Fire Pipes and Drums.

Tickets are \$5 each and include coffee, tea, cake and hot dogs. Refillable commemorative mugs are \$10.

The Celebrity Bartenders party will benefit the 18th Union County

St. Patrick's Day Parade, which steps off at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 15 on Morris Avenue in Union.

For tickets or more information about the Celebrity Bartenders event please contact Bernadette Sullivan at (908) 432-6719, Kathy Noonan-Rotondo at (908) 906-4622 or Marc Dowling at (908) 967-0740. Tickets are also available at the door.

For more information about the 2013 Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade, please visit [unioncountystpatricksdaysparade.com](http://unioncountystpatricksdaysparade.com).

## Assembly Approves Bills Near End of Leg. Session

TRENTON — As the New Jersey Legislature completes its 2012-2013 Legislative session, Assembly members on Monday advanced a number of bills. The following is a summary of action taken in Trenton. The 2014-2015 session begins on Tuesday, January 14.

Legislation that helps make New Jersey's growing wine industry more competitive with national and international rivals was approved by the General Assembly.

The bill, A-4218, would establish the New Jersey Wine Board for the purpose of fostering the development of the state's wine industry through promotion, education and research. The board would replace the New Jersey Wine Industry Advisory Council. Last month, the bill unanimously passed the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

Under the bill, the New Jersey Wine Board would develop marketing, advertising and other programs designed to propel the growth of the wine industry, and advocate for the production of grapes and wine in the state.

New Jersey, ranked seventh among the states in wine production, has been rapidly moving up the list. In 2010, Garden State wineries sold more than 1.7 million gallons of wine, and they are expected to generate more than \$40 million revenue this year.

When established, the New Jersey Wine Board would consist of the secretary of agriculture and the director of the Division of Travel and Tourism in the Department of State, or their respective designees, both of whom would serve ex officio and as non-voting members, and six members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, as follows: one member recommended by the New Jersey Farm Bureau; one member recommended by the Garden State Wine Growers Association; one member who is an agricultural expert with Rutgers; and three members of the public — one each from the three regions in the state — northern, central, and southern. They would be required to hold a plenary winery license or a farm winery license or grow grapes or are a viticulturist.

Bipartisan legislation to protect adopted children and their adoptive parents from stalking and violence by a parent whose parental rights have been terminated cleared the full Assembly on Monday.

The bill, A-781, approved by a vote of 78-0, was inspired by a number of cases in which an adoptive

parent alleges to have been harassed by biological parents who have had their parental rights terminated. This bill is intended to offer protections to these adoptive parents and their children.

"Children who are adopted come from all types of backgrounds and homes, including those where abuse and neglect are rampant," said Assemblywoman Muñoz (R-21st, Summit), who sponsored the bill. "When people adopt children from such homes they run a great risk of being targets of harassment and stalking from those who relinquished their parental rights. Surprisingly, the law offers them little protection. Neither parent or child should have to live under the constant threat of such cowardly behavior."

The bill would amend the current law's stalking provisions by permitting an adoptive parent to obtain a temporary restraining order against the person whose parental rights to the child have been terminated. Such an order could also be converted into a permanent restraining order upon a judgment of conviction against the person based on a conviction for the crime of stalking.

The Assembly also approved legislation that would amend current law to allow trained school officials to administer epinephrine to a student suffering from a life-threatening allergic reaction without former parental consent or a prescription from a doctor in an emergency situation.

Legislation sponsored to assist homeowners in building stronger, smarter, more storm-resistant homes was also approved.

State lawmakers approved a bill that would require the state labor department to check unemployment recipients against a list of people in state prisons or jails and is now on Governor Chris Christie's desk, according to media reports.

A-3812 passed the Senate, 36-0, and the Assembly, 78-0. The measure follows a report released last year by state Comptroller Matthew Boxer's office that found that \$24 million in benefits were paid out to some 20,000 inmates in New Jersey's jails and prisons over a two-year period in 2010 and 2011. Some 7,600 inmates received \$10 million in unemployment benefits.

Under the bill labor department officials would have to collect information on county jail inmates from the state Administrative Office of the Courts.

### Krisak Promoted to VP at Valley National Bank

WAYNE — Valley National Bank has announced the promotion of Edward Krisak to vice-president — manager branch sales for the Mountainside branch located at 882 Mountain Avenue and the Westfield Branch located at 801 Central Avenue.

Mr. Krisak brings over 30 years of banking experience to his position. Mr. Krisak will work extensively with his management team and the staff from both branches to expand their involvement in various organizations as well as strengthen the bank's ties with businesses in the local area.

"Edward is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable banking professional," remarked John Siberio, first senior vice-president. "Under his leadership, we are confident that the Mountainside and Westfield branches will continue to flourish and remain reliable and trusted institutions within the local communities they serve."

Mr. Krisak received his bachelor's degree in labor studies from Rutgers University and is also a member of the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce. He can be reached at (908) 518-7630 or by e-mail at [ekrisak@valleynationalbank.com](mailto:ekrisak@valleynationalbank.com).



Edward Krisak

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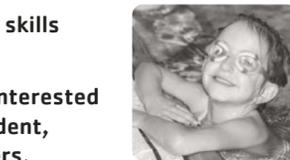
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### VISIT A CHILD CARE EDUCATION OPEN HOUSE!

This Saturday, 1/11 10:00AM-Noon (snow date: 1/18):

• Half-Day Early Learning Programs (ages 2-5 years)

Full-Day Kindergarten

at the Robert & Virginia Bauer Family Branch, 422 E. Broad St.

• Full-Day Kindergarten

at the Main Y Facility, 220 Clark St.

Saturday, 2/1 9:30AM-Noon (snow date: 2/8):

• Full-Day Early Learning Programs (ages 6 months - 5 years)

at the Early Learning Center, 170 Elm St.



These programs are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

### WESTFIELD AREA Y

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