

## Union County College Foundation's 'Close The Gap' Surpasses Goal

CRANFORD – With over 120 guests and volunteers in attendance, the Union County College Foundation surpassed their goal and raised nearly \$50,000 at their 3rd Annual Close the Gap Campaign cocktail reception held on July 11, in the Richel Student Commons at the College's Cranford campus. The campaign was developed by a small group of dedicated community volunteers to support the College's strategic initiative to help shrink the achievement gap that exists for African-American students. The campaign provides financial assistance to help these students complete their degree on time.

This year's cocktail reception was held in memory of Assemblyman Jerry Green, who was one of the first significant advocates for the campaign. United States Senator Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Assemblyman Jamel Holley (D-20th, Roselle) served as honorary chairs. Senator Booker sent a video message in which he thanked supporters of campaign for their generosity and reminded everyone of how an education can change one's life.

New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver was also in attendance to support the event and spoke about the impact Assemblyman Green made on her

life. Lt. Gov. Oliver stated, "I am proud to support a cause that was so close to Assemblyman Jerry Green's heart. His commitment to this initiative not only inspires me, but the whole community to support Union County College's Close the Gap campaign. I am so impressed by the success the College has had in advancing the opportunities for African American students. This success is a true testament to the memory of Assemblyman Jerry Green."

Since the start of the campaign in 2015, over \$100,000 has been invested in scholarships, support, and emergency funding to help students who are on course to graduate, but who need addi-

tional financial assistance. The dedication of the College's staff combined with the generosity of the community has more than tripled graduation rates for African-American male students at the College. Thanks to the continued growth of campaign support, the Foundation has expanded to support African-American women.

Those interested in donating to the Close the Gap Campaign, or would like to learn more about how to provide financial assistance for students at Union County College, can call (908) 709-7505, email [foundation@ucc.edu](mailto:foundation@ucc.edu) or visit the Foundation's website at [www.uccfoundation.org](http://www.uccfoundation.org).



**CLOSE THE GAP...**The Union County College (UCC) Foundation raised nearly \$50,000 at their 3rd Annual Close the Gap Campaign cocktail reception held on July 11, in the Richel Student Commons at the College's Cranford campus. Pictured, from left to right, are: Union's Vice-President for Student Development Demond Hargrove, Executive Director of the UCC Foundation Doug Rouse, Union County Freeholder Bruce Bergen, Rahway Mayor Raymond Giacobbe, Assemblywoman Linda Carter (D-22nd, Plainfield), New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, Union's Dean of Elizabeth Campus Lester Sandres Rapalo, Union County Freeholder Chairman Sergio Granados, Union Student Services Generalist Duane Reid, and UCC President Margaret McMenamin.

## Appeal Made For Donations To Assist Volcano Victims

AREA — In the wake of news about destruction from powerful volcano eruptions and flaming fountains of lava in Hawaii this spring, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark, has authorized a voluntary collection in all parishes of the Archdiocese to support the critical work of the Diocese of Honolulu to address the devastating loss of homes, jobs and increasing health issues affecting the people of the island.

The collection will take place during the weekend of August 11 and 12.

Cardinal Tobin also asked that the victims of this disaster be remembered in the General Intercessions at Mass and all other prayer services at churches and schools within the Archdiocese.

Anyone interested in making a donation may do so at any Catholic parish, or may send donations directly to the Diocese of Honolulu by mail at: HOPE Services Hawaii, 296 Kilauea Avenue, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 or online at [www.hopeserviceshawaii.org](http://www.hopeserviceshawaii.org). Donations should be designated for "Lava Recovery."

## Kenilworth Hist. Soc. Slates Caribbean-Style Party

KENILWORTH – The JPs island-infused duo, comprising "Kenilworth's own" singer-songwriter Jimi Pappas on guitar and John Patti on steel drums, will fly in from Florida for an "End-of-Summer" Caribbean-style Dinner Party to be presented by the Kenilworth Historical Society. It will take place on Friday, September 7, from 6 to 11 p.m., at the Kenilworth Veterans Center, located at 33 South 21st Street. The informal, fun-filled evening will feature a live, two-hour performance of The JPs' acclaimed smooth, jazz-/tropical-infused acoustic music, which incorporates jazz, rhythm and blues, classic rock, folk and island music to create a unique sound.

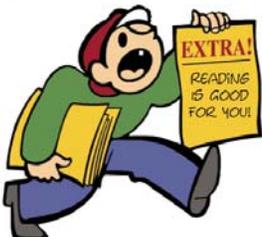
A three-course Caribbean-style buffet dinner, including shrimp stir fry, roasted jerk chicken, Caribbean pulled pork, fiesta lime rice, corn and black bean salad, tri-color pasta salad, tossed garden salad, fresh vegetables with dip and tortilla chips with chunky

salsa, dinner rolls and butter, dessert, coffee and tea, will be served during the evening. A 50/50 raffle and gift auction also will take place, and the dance floor will be open for dancing.

Admission to the dinner party and show is \$55. Advance reservations by Friday, August 24, are requested. The event seating plan accommodates eight to 10 people per table. Early reservations are encouraged to ensure availability and avoid disappointment. For information, reservations and tickets, call (908) 709-0434 or (908) 709-8957 or visit Especially Yours Florist, 13 North 20th Street, Kenilworth, where tickets also are being sold.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Kenilworth Historical Society's circa 1880 Oswald J. Nitschke House "living history" museum and cultural arts center by helping to defray the cost of an elevator that makes all levels of the restored site fully accessible to everyone.

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