

Northern Valley Press

S O U T H

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HEALTHY GIVING

The food court at Paramus Park Mall was a perfect setting for "Healthy Giving Day," sponsored by Hackensack UMC at Pascack Valley.

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NOVEMBER 14, 2016

HEALTHY Lifestyle

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



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CRESSKILL

LOOKING TO EXPAND

Two properties may help Bryan School expansion

BY STEVE KELMAN
CORRESPONDENT

With an eye towards potential school expansion in Cresskill, the mayor and council recently adopted a \$1.2 million ordinance for land acquisition.

At its Nov. 2 regular public meeting, the governing body voted to acquire two properties located on Brookside Avenue.

Mayor Benedict Romeo said the houses located on the properties will be razed and the land will then be sold to the board of education at the same costs that the borough spent to acquire the properties.

The two houses sold for \$560,000 and \$585,000, respectively.

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FORUM ON EQUALITY

Over 300 attend 'LGBT equality' summit



Hetty Rosenberg, Assemblyman Tim Eustace, Jane Clementi, Steven Goldstein and NJ State Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg (seated).

BY HILLARY VIDERS
SPECIAL TO NORTHERN VALLEY PRESS

On Nov. 9, the National Council of Jewish Women Bergen County Section (NCJW BCS) hosted a community-wide

advocacy forum entitled "LGBT Equality: Our Work Has Just Begun" at Temple Emeth in Teaneck. Coming the day after the presidential election, over 300 people were in attendance and the emotionally-charged atmos-

phere was palpable. Many people felt that protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights would now be even more challenging, but they were up to

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PHOTO BY HILLARY VIDERS



CITY'S BRAVEST

Englewood firefighters spent two days gathering donations to extinguish hunger in the community.

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NORTHERN VALLEY

NEW CASINOS VOTED DOWN

Vast majority of voters opposed referendum

BY SHANNON MCLAUGHLIN
OF NORTHERN VALLEY PRESS

New Jersey residents voted down state public question number one, asking voters to permit casinos in the northern part of the state.

According to the Bergen County Clerk's unofficial results, 73.51 percent of county residents voted against the referendum, while 26.49 percent of residents voted in favor.

The statewide vote mirrored the county, with 78 percent of state voters against question number one and 22 percent in favor of the question, according to the Associated Press.

If approved, the measure would have allowed for casinos in two additional New Jersey counties, in an effort to increase state revenue lost to New York and Pennsylvania casinos.

The Executive Director for the North Jersey Gaming Advocates, Ron Simoncini, released a press release on the voting outcome, stating that the question was voted down because of the public's mistrust of the government.

"We need to revive the

See CASINOS on page 2 ▶

Back in time...

In 1918 a deadly flu pandemic swept the globe - and it struck in the Northern Valley.

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Forum: Over 300 attend 'LGBT equality' summit

FROM PAGE 1

the task.

The panel was moderated by NJ Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg and included several distinguished presenters who discussed the gains made to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and how communities can help end discrimination and harassment and promote equal rights for these individuals. This issue is very compelling and universal. As such, over 40 coalition partners have joined NCJW BCS.

The facts speak for themselves

Recent findings, as reported by NCJW, show that gay, lesbian and bisexual adolescents are three times more likely than straight students to be raped; more than 40 percent of gay, lesbian and bisexual adolescents have seriously considered suicide; 10 to 20 percent of lesbian, gay and bisexual adults and more than 41 percent of transgender individuals report attempting suicide compared to 4.6 percent of the overall U.S. population who report a suicide attempt; and transgender individuals are four times more likely than others to live on less than \$10,000 a year.

A call to action

"NCJW believes that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression must be eliminated," stated Bari-Lynne Schwartz and Elaine Meyerson, co-chairs of NCJW's LGBT Equality Forum. "LGBT individuals face widespread discrimination and harassment in schools, housing, health care, employment and other areas and the effect on their lives is devastating. We hope that this forum will bring new insight into this disturbing topic."

The group that comprised the panel at Temple Emeth featured



Elaine Meyerson, co-chair of NCJW's LGBT Forum; Marilyn Friedman, co-vice president of Advocacy and Education; Bea Podorefsky, presidium member; Jane Abraham, co-vice president of Advocacy and Education; and Bari-Lynne Schwartz, co-chair of NCJW's LGBT Forum.

several prominent experts:

- Steven Goldstein, who delivered the keynote address, is the executive director of the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect.
- Tim Eustace, Assemblyman of District 38.
- Jane Clementi, the founder and a board member of the Tyler Clementi Foundation. Tyler was the 18-year-old who took his life in 2010 as the result of his roommate secretly videotaping and streaming a compromising situation with Tyler and another man that went viral and caused overwhelming ridicule and bullying.
- Hetty Rosenberg, the New Jersey director of the Communications Workers of America.
- NJ Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg is vice-chair of the Legislative Oversight Committee, the Joint Committee on Economic Justice and Equal Employment and has been appointed to an ad hoc committee to review domestic violence and the New Jersey court system. She also sits on numerous statewide commissions and has been at the forefront of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advancement and anti-discrimination throughout her career.

The panelists' presentations were dynamic and heartfelt. Weinberg, who has been championing lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-

gender rights for 13 years, opened the session. Weinberg spoke with this reporter privately before she began.

"I became involved because it is an issue that touches everyone's lives. I have gay cousins, as many people have gay family members and friends. But what really resonated with me was an experience that I had in high school in California. At a time when homosexuality was snickered about and not openly discussed, I had a gay English teacher who was an incredible person. My parents were divorced, so he took me to the father-daughter dance. I never forgot that," Weinberg said.

Assemblyman Eustace reflected concern that the new administration would continue to protect gay rights such as the current ban on conversion therapy.

Jane Clementi spoke about the need to report abuse of LGBT people and to let the victims know that there are people and organizations that can help them.

But it was keynote speaker Steven Goldstein who really galvanized the audience with an impassioned call to action. "We must all follow in the spirit of the LGBT movement, which means getting out of our comfort zone. The LGBT movement crosses all lines - ethnic, geological, age, and ideo-

logical. When we fight for quality of life issues, we fight for everyone!"

Goldstein urged everyone to undertake four vital steps to promote social justice: become more politically active (i.e., lobby, go to Washington, elect more women into political leadership positions), take action to the next level by becoming more aggressive, communicate through mass emails and mailings, and, do a lot of fundraising.

"Social justice is achieved by working within and outside of the system," Goldstein emphasized.

When the forum ended, people appeared energized and ready to "get to work." Given the strength and talent of NCJW BCS's members, that seems like a sure thing!

The National Council of Jewish Women

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a national grassroots organization of 90,000 volunteers that advocate for quality of life issues for women, children and families. It is the oldest national Jewish women's volunteer organization in America.

Since its founding in 1893 by Hannah G. Solomon, the National Council of Jewish Women has dedicated itself to protecting the civil rights of people of all backgrounds.

NCJW Bergen County Section (NCJW BCS) was founded in 1923. It consists of 1,100 members, aged 20-80 and up, from many towns throughout Bergen County. Carol Benson, the NCJW BCS's web designer and communications co-chair, explained: "Our members are professional women whose vocations encompass a wide gamut, from lawyers, doctors, judges, teachers and communications experts to homemakers, etc."

The organization's goal is to offer community service, education and philanthropy and to advocate at the federal, state and local levels. The organization has made global changes that better the qual-

ity of life for women, children and families in the USA and Israel.

NCJW BCS hosts educational events and programs throughout the year. They also hold seven general meetings and numerous study groups, book groups and cultural trips.

Much of the organization's success is due to the tireless work of its many volunteers. NCJW BCS has only one twenty-hour a week paid staff member. The 75 board members spearhead the volunteer efforts and the 1,100 members have an enthusiastic commitment to advocacy, non-sectarian community service, education and philanthropy. Carol Benson said, "I work more hours now as a NCJW BCS volunteer than I did in my full time paid profession!"

NCJW BCS is a non-profit organization and does not receive any government funding. Its financial resources come from individual contributions, special events, the Council Thrift Shop in Bergenfield, community businesses, membership dues, foundations and bequests.

NCJW BCS partners with more than 17 non-sectarian Bergen County community service organizations and reaches out to all members of the community with programs and scholarships that provide education, food, companionship, information and financial support.

In 2016, the National Council of Jewish Women Bergen County Section (NCJW BCS) awarded \$43,600 in grants to 11 Bergen County organizations that support women, children and families. It provides volunteers as well as funding to the recipient agencies. These grants help provide vital programs and services to the local community. Some of this year's grant recipients are The Center for Food Action, The Center for Hope and Safety, The Jewish Home at Rockleigh and the Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative.

PHOTOS BY HILLARY VIDERS

Cresskill: Properties

FROM PAGE 1

A cost of \$55,000 will be used to cover architect fees, accounting, engineering and inspection costs, legal (and other) expenses associated with the measure.

"The vacant land will be used to build an addition to the Bryan School," the mayor said.

In a school board referendum scheduled for next September, voters will be asked to approve the purchase of land for school expansion to help the district address increasing enrollment.

Romeo said that the borough decided to become proactive with the property acquisitions even though the referendum is a year away.

"These houses could have been sold to a private buyer," the mayor said.

The ordinance was introduced last month and was approved unanimously by the borough council.

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