Make Plans To Attend NCC’s 50th Anniversary Gala

New Community Corporation is celebrating a huge milestone this year — 50 years of service to the community.

In honor of the achievement, NCC is holding the 50th Anniversary Gala Saturday, March 3 at the Hilton Meadowlands, 2 Meadowlands Plaza, East Rutherford, beginning at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception followed by a formal dinner.

The event will recognize New Community’s founder, Monsignor William J. Linder, and feature a video highlighting the organization’s offerings and achievements by clients and employees.

"Fifty years serving the community is a great accomplishment for a nonprofit organization. We at New Community always keep in mind our mission: To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement. Our goal is to continue that mission for many more years to come,” said New Community CEO Richard Rohrman. “We hope you are able to join us at the 50th Anniversary Gala to celebrate our many achievements.”

For more information about purchasing tickets or sponsorships, contact Tracey Battles at 973-497-4414 or tracey.battles@newcommunity.org or Michelle Lang at 973-497-4413 or mlang@newcommunity.org.

Additional information is also available at www.ncc50th.org or by contacting event coordinator Zoraya Lee-Hamlin at 862-233-8020 or 50thanniversary@newcommunity.org.

New Community Workforce Development Center has been awarded a three-year grant totaling $225,000 to provide academic literacy support and vocation training services related to its Workforce Development Center and Bridges to Career program with outreach and recruitment, direct classroom instruction, vocational training, financial services and career services, including job placement assistance.

"This is an outgrowth of our Financial Opportunity Center and Academic Enrichment Program by combining those two initiatives,” Brutton said.

Workforce Development Center Awarded $225,000 Multi-Year Grant

Party Affiliation Isn’t All That Matters

Voters in Alabama elected a Democrat to the Senate for the first time in 25 years during a special election Dec. 12. The polarizing Republican candidate caused many voters to stay home and brought out others in droves.

African-Americans came out to vote in the Alabama Senate race in larger numbers than either of the presidential elections in which Barack Obama was victorious. Ninety-eight percent of those voters cast their ballots for Democratic candidate Doug Jones.

Part of the reason for the consensus among African-Americans could be Republican candidate Roy Moore’s statements during the campaign about when America was great.

“I think it was great at the time when families were united — even though we had slavery. They cared for one another. Our families were strong. Our country had a direction,” Moore said.

That insensitive comment, combined with allegations of sexual misconduct and the fact that he was twice removed as an Alabama Supreme Court judge for ethics violations, made him an unpopular candidate in the African-American community, as well as with young, professional white women.

When we see any segment of our community feel so strongly about a candidate, we need to pay attention.

We have a president who openly supported Roy Moore and from what we heard on the Access Hollywood tapes, he doesn’t seem to see the importance of respecting women. President Trump will be answering for his actions in the next election. And he’s not the only one.

I think the victory of Doug Jones over Roy Moore shows that Democrats will gain ground in Republican strongholds and the Independence movement in the country is going to grow in leaps and bounds.

I have changed political party affiliations myself over the years. My family was Republican and my father was very active in the party, working on state campaigns. When I was in seminary and assigned to the Central Ward in Newark, I realized there was very little I could agree with Republicans on at the county and state level so I became a Democrat. Over the years, the Democrats didn’t meet all my political aims so I became more Independent.

The special election in Alabama taught us how important our vote is and how party affiliation isn’t all that matters. If politicians want our vote, they have to stand right and earn it. It’s not automatic.
The New Community Clarion

The New Community Clarion is published as a community service. The editor reserves the right to withhold articles and photographs once they are submitted. Opinions expressed in columns are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the view of the newspaper.

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Sign-up for the e-clarion.
Visit www.newcommunity.org

OUR MISSION
To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual, God-given dignity and personal achievement.

New Community is recognized as:
• The largest and most comprehensive community development organization in the United States
• A large-scale deliverer of comprehensive programs and services
• A leader in affordable housing and economic development
• A model among non-profit, social entrepreneurship, and CDC communities
• Having beneficial partnerships on the local, national, and global level.

Collecting Gifts

New Community Outreach Coordinator and Board Member Madge Wilson collects gifts each year from throughout northern New Jersey to distribute to children for the Christmas season.

Learning The Benefits Of Banking

New Community Financial Opportunity Center Financial Coach Tamara Brown talks about the benefits of banks and credit unions to residents of Associates.

AIDS Education

Residents of Orange Senior, 132 William St., Orange, learned about AIDS, how to prevent HIV transmission and treatment options available. Antonette Campbell, a registered nurse in the Infectious Disease Department of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, gave the presentation. She offered residents pamphlets with information about HIV and AIDS, as well as condoms.

HopeBoyz At Harmony House

Kes LaGuerre and DJ Hype performed at Harmony House, New Community’s transitional housing facility for homeless families, Nov. 18. Titled HopeBoyz at Harmony House, the free event was a combination of DJing, motivational speaking, singing and dancing. LaGuerre is a motivational speaker, author of two published books and a life coach. DJ Hype has been a DJ on a national level for years and is currently one year away from completing his bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Kean University. Photos courtesy of Kes LaGuerre.
“Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” That saying can be easier said than done, but for Carol Buckner, it rings true.

She has been a Home Friend with New Community Corporation for 11 years and says, “I love what I do.”

As part of the Home Friends Program, Buckner provides Central Ward residents with services not covered by Medicaid, including laundry, meal preparation, food shopping, cooking and companionship.

Her favorite part of the job? Talking with the clients.

“I build a relationship with them,” Buckner said.

One of those clients is 99-year-old Blanche Fleming who lives at Commons Senior, 140 South Orange Ave., Newark. Buckner has served as her Home Friend for about eight years.

“She’s excellent. I’ve never had complaints about her at all. And she’s been coming to me ever since I came out of the hospital, twice a week,” Fleming said. “She’s a very, very wonderful person.”

In addition to being complimented by clients, Buckner also receives praise from her supervisor.

“She is a very punctual employee, always on time at her post and with all her reports, friendly with clients and other staff. Carol is very smart and loves helping others. If a coworker is not sure about something or might not know what to do, she is right on it and helps out,” said Home Friends Coordinator Giselle Oviedo. “Ms. Buckner assists a total of 10 clients per week. They are all very pleased and tell me she is like family to them. I am blessed to have her as part of the Home Friends Program.”

Before joining New Community as a Home Friend, Buckner worked in housekeeping at the Park Manor nursing home. She came across the Home Friend position while going to school and decided to apply since she already had a housekeeping background.

She’s very happy with her decision. “I like the interactions better than the nursing home,” she said.

Buckner lives in Newark and has five children, three girls and two boys, ranging in age from 13 to 31. Four of her children currently live with her and all of their names begin with the letter S.

“They’re my S team,” she said.

On a typical day, Buckner gets up, gets her youngest daughter ready for school, puts her on the bus and then catches a bus herself to visit with her clients between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

She mainly serves clients at New Community properties, but she does have a client who owns her own home.

The work she does for her clients is very meaningful to them.

“It means a lot because I’m on a walker. I can’t reach up on the high shelves,” Fleming said. “Things I need to have done, she does it for me.”

All her clients live alone, so they also enjoy the company she provides.

“I love the program,” Buckner said. “I have no complaints about it.”

**Wine Tasting Fundraiser**

Social Services, in collaboration with Management and NCC Security, held a wine tasting fundraiser Dec. 21 at St. Joseph Plaza, 233 West Market St., Newark, to raise money to sponsor NCC residents to attend the 50th Anniversary Gala.

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**Employee Of The Month: Carol Buckner**

Carol Buckner has served as a Home Friend with New Community for 11 years.

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**New Community Corporation**

St. Joseph Plaza
233 West Market St., Newark NJ 07103
(973) 642-5018
www.nc50th.org
www.newcommunity.org

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**JANUARY 2018**

Live Entertainment & Music Calendar

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  - JAMES STEWART

- **JANUARY 12th**
  - SPIRIT OF LIFE ENSEMBLE – DWIGHT WEST
  - ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. JAZZ TRIBUTE

- **JANUARY 19th**
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  - CLASSIC R&B

- **JANUARY 26th**
  - YASKO KOKO

Our Mission: To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.
High Schoolers Visit HHELC

Juniors and seniors from James Caldwell High School in West Caldwell brought Christmas presents for children at Harmony House Early Learning Center, 278 South Orange Ave., Newark, Dec. 20. In addition to handing out the gifts, the students stayed and interacted with the kids in their classrooms. The Student Council of the high school runs the program, which has been a tradition for more than five years.

Workforce Development Center Awarded $225,000 Multi-Year Grant

Continued from page 1

There are no residency requirements for the program, but participants must be at least 18 years old.

“This work is supported by our local Greater Newark LISC office under the direction of Rhonda Lewis, executive director, and Jerrah Crowder, program officer,” Brutton said. “Both Rhonda and Jerrah understand the importance of combining contextualized learning with occupational skills and financial coaching and how that leads to a more well-rounded job seeker.”

New Community Workforce Development Center is an accredited post-secondary career and technical school offering the following programs: Ford Automotive Technician, Patient Care Technician, EKG Technician, Phlebotomy Technician, Certified Home Health Aide, Certified Medical Assistant, Introduction to Medical Office Administration, Introduction to Medical Billing/Coding, Culinary Arts, Construction Building Trades, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Flooring and Painting. All programs offer industry recognized credentials. Financial aid is available for those who qualify.

For more information about the school, call 973-824-6484. To complete an application online, visit www.newcommunity.org.

The mission of New Community Workforce Development Center is to improve the quality of life of all students through education and occupational training in a community that fosters life-long learning.

See more photos on: facebook.com/newcommunitycorporation

NCC Board Members, Directors Celebrate Christmas

Members of the New Community Board of Directors and department heads gathered at St. Joseph Plaza for a festive Christmas celebration Dec. 12, which included a cocktail hour, dinner and musical entertainment.
HHELC Students Get Gifts Thanks To Seton Hall Donations

Children who attend Harmony House Early Learning Center received Christmas presents Dec. 14 thanks to donations from staff and students at Seton Hall University. Kathleen Sternas, associate professor at the university’s College of Nursing, organized the effort to give each child a gift. She has brought Christmas gifts to Harmony House Early Learning Center for several years. The children enjoyed opening up the packages, which were delivered by Sternas, along with a student and her family, to see what was inside. Presents ranged from stuffed animals to dolls to interactive and educational toys.

Breakfast With Santa

Children and their families gathered at the NCC Neighborhood Center, 56-68 Hayes St., Newark, Dec. 16 to enjoy a hot breakfast, time with Santa and Christmas presents. In all, 187 children received gifts and were able to take photos with Santa at the free event, which was organized by NCC Youth Services. Photos courtesy of Edward Morris.
Social Security News

Rosie The Riveter: Working Women’s Icon
By Ammy Plummer
Social Security District Manager
Springfield Avenue, Newark NJ

“Rosie the Riveter” is an American icon representing women working in factories during World War II. These women learned new jobs and filled in for the men who were away at war. They produced much of the armaments and ammunition to supply the war effort.

They also paid FICA on their wages, contributing to the Social Security program. These “Rosies” embodied the “can-do” spirit immortalized in a poster by J. Howard Miller. Both the image and the spirit live on today.

If you asked Rosie about Social Security, she would use her rivet gun to drive home the value of Social Security for women. More Rosies work today, and nearly 60 percent of people receiving benefits are women. Women tend to live longer than men, so Social Security’s inflation-adjusted benefits help protect women. You can outline your savings and investments, but Social Security is for life. Women provide their own basic level of protection when they work and pay taxes into the Social Security system. Women who have been married and had low earnings or who didn’t work may be covered through their spouses’ work.

Today’s Rosie will turn her “can-do” spirit to learning more about Social Security and what role it will play in her financial plan for the future. She focuses on our pamphlet called What Every Woman Should Know available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10127.html for a game plan. She rolls up her sleeves and sets up her my Social Security account (www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) to review her earnings and estimates. If she finds an incorrect posting, she’ll locate her W-2 form and quickly contact Social Security to correct it because she understands these are the earnings used to figure her benefits.

She dives into understanding benefits at our planner pages at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners. She examines how marriage, divorce, death of a spouse, work and other issues might affect her benefits. She studies our fact sheet When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ to help her decide when it’s time to lay down the rivet gun. And when the time is right, she will file for retirement benefits online at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire.

Whether it was keeping the war effort production lines humming or discovering what is available to her from Social Security, Rosie symbolizes the motto: “We Can Do It.” Rosie and millions like her rely on the financial protection provided by Social Security in assembling their own financial futures.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Joel Conaway

Joel Conaway, who has lived at Commons Senior for several years, is always willing to help other residents with translations and electronics.

Joel Conaway has a skillset that lets him help his fellow residents at Commons Senior and also members of the community at large. The 58-year-old retiree serves as a district leader in Essex County for the Democratic Party, an elected position he’s held for eight years. In that role, he serves as a resource for residents within the district he represents, keeping them informed and helping them when they need it. He said he didn’t seek out the position, but someone he knew that was a district leader groomed him to take over when he became ill.

Conaway speaks Spanish and Portuguese in addition to English so he helps those who need translations. He’s also very good with electronics and often finds himself troubleshooting smartphone and computer problems. Since he has a car, he also helps residents go to the store.

“He does a lot inside the building,” said Commons Senior Care Coordinator Jill Derios. “Whatever you ask him, he is able. He’s available any time you ask him to do anything.”

Derios said Conaway helps her when she has a resident with a language barrier and he helps Management by distributing literature to residents on the different floors. “He also uses his vehicle to assist,” she said.

Conaway has lived at Commons Senior, 140 South Orange Ave., Newark, for about five years, moving to the facility from the North Ward of Newark. He attends all the events at the building and is involved when members of the Newark City Council visit.

His favorite part of living at Commons Senior is the people. “It’s like a family,” he said. “I think it’s one of the most interesting places I’ve ever lived.”

He grew up in a small, rural town in southeast Georgia as the youngest of 13 children. He traveled to New Jersey during summers and moved to the Garden State permanently when he was in his mid-20s.

Conaway worked at M&M Development as a construction manager, overseeing projects. It was on the job that he learned Spanish and Portuguese, mainly from his coworkers and their family members.

“Reading and writing is easy,” he said. “It’s not so easy to speak.”

To improve his verbal language skills, Conaway spent time with his friend’s mother who would drill him and insist he speak only Spanish, not even using “Spanglish” while learning.

He continues to read books in Spanish and Portuguese, including the Bible.

Conaway retired at a relatively young age because of his health. He suffered a stroke and two heart attacks and was obese. He realized he needed to make a change.

“I made a conscious decision to change my life,” he said.

He altered his eating habits and began swimming for exercise, which he still does at least once a week. “Swimming felt fun. I looked forward to it,” he said. “The weight started coming off.”

Conaway isn’t just sitting back in retirement. “I worked 30 something years. Now I can’t seem to be still,” he said.

Conaway enjoys sightseeing, even when it’s close to home. He visits the Museum of Natural History, the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building and the streets of New York City. He recently attended the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.

He also enjoys traveling and has been to many countries abroad. In the last year he made his first trips to Mexico and Canada, which he enjoyed.
Volunteer Sally Milad organized a Christmas party for 84 children living in Harmony House, New Community’s transitional housing facility for homeless families. She transported them to the Recreation Center at 378 Lyons Ave., Newark, where the kids enjoyed pizza, drinks, candy, cupcakes, face painters and lots of music. Each child received gifts from Santa, which were donated by Milad’s family, friends and friends of friends. Photo courtesy of Sally Milad.

Sussex Gardens residents enjoyed a holiday party organized by Gwen Williams with the help of Families Care Coordinator Dorothy Artis and Building Manager Christine Pearson. Photo courtesy of Dorothy Artis.

An Extended Care resident enjoyed singing Christmas songs along with Felella Millman of Seton Hall.

Faculty members from Seton Hall University visited Extended Care to sing with residents and deliver treats and presents. Felella Millman, Linda Ulak and Afua Ampiaw assisted Kathleen Sternas in the endeavor.
More people in the United States die from lung cancer than any other type of cancer. The good news is, a lung screening can help detect cancer even before a person has symptoms. And when you find cancer early, treatment can be highly successful.

University Hospital is proud to offer Lung Cancer Screening.

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CHELC Children Perform Holiday Songs

Children who attend Community Hills Early Learning Center, 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, performed holiday songs for their families during the Pre-K Holiday Performance Dec. 19. Songs included classics like “We Wish You A Merry Christmas” and “Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer” and others were variations on songs like “Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star” and “S-A-N-T-A” sung to the tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”

HHELC Holiday Concert

Harmony House Early Learning Center students performed a Holiday Concert for their families Dec. 20 in the recreation room of Harmony House, 278 South Orange Ave., Newark. The children gave their renditions of holiday favorites “Jingle Bells,” “We Wish You A Merry Christmas,” “The 12 Days Of Christmas” and “Frosty The Snowman.”
Family Service Bureau

Family Service Bureau Holiday Cheer And Goals for 2018

Family Service Bureau is a voluntary nonprofit service agency that has been servicing the city of Newark since 1882. Family Service Bureau has two locations: one in Newark and one in Kearny. We have been able to work with several clients due to the great staff we have and several different interns that we have throughout the year.

The holiday season is very hard for people, especially some of the clients we serve at FSB. We try to make it better for them once they walk into our offices. You will immediately see the holiday spirit. We have two Christmas trees decorated, as well as most of the office. Within the agency, there are several programs in which we serve children, families and adults needing one-on-one support for crisis counseling for children, mental health, domestic violence and substance abuse. We also have anger management and parenting groups.

We have over 15 different programs and have been able to make the holidays great this year, especially with the help of NCC Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson and her team. We were able to give 300 gifts, including toys, clothes and coats, for children and their families. Additionally, NJ Cares donated over 75 new coats for the children we have. The FSB staff and interns have also been a great help organizing the gifts and getting them out.

We thank all above mentioned to be able to give some of our clients the one and only toy or gift for the season. This is what the holiday season is all about: giving to people. Empowering our clients to have hope and know that recovery is possible is the goal of the team at FSB all year round, not only on these holidays!

Our several different programs have been responding and assisting the community to learn to cope in these tough times and help them get through the holidays. We have been working six days a week in our Kearny office and it has been a great start to changes of the system, especially for those parents that can’t make weekday appointments.

Our goal for 2018 is to continue to serve our community and have our programs be accessible and able to assist with the needs of this very vulnerable population. We look forward to a great 2018!

If you have any questions, call us. Our Newark office number is 973-412-2056 and Kearny is 201-246-8077.

Lighting The Christmas Tree

Commons Senior, 140 South Orange Ave., Newark, hosted the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Dec. 14. Because of the cold temperatures, Father Beatus Kitururu led the ceremony in the Community Room before going outside for the tree illumination. Residents learned the origin of celebrating Christmas Dec. 25, sang “Silent Night” and received holy water.

Annual Crib Blessing

Father Beatus Kitururu led the annual Crib Blessing in front of Manor Senior, 545 Orange St., Newark, Dec. 11. Residents gathered around the nativity scene to sing Christmas songs, hear a reading and receive holy water. After the outdoor Crib Blessing, participants gathered in the Community Room for cake and hot chocolate.
New Community Adult Learning Center
563 Orange Street, Newark, New Jersey 07107
(973) 558-5536
www.newcommunity.org/services/adult-learning-center/

Available Courses

English for Speakers of Other Languages
Mondays through Thursdays:
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9 AM to 12 PM

Computers – Basic & Intermediate Levels
Saturdays:
9 AM to 12 PM or 12 PM to 3 PM

ABE, Pre-HSE, & HSE (English only)
Mondays through Thursdays:
9:30 AM to 1:30 PM or 5:30 PM to 8 PM

Free Services

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Ciudadanía
Sábados:
9 AM a 12 PM

Computadora – Nivel Básico e Intermedio
Sábados:
9 AM a 12 PM o 12 PM a 3 PM

ABE, Pre-HSE, & HSE (Inglés solamente)
Lunes a jueves:
9:30 AM a 1:30 PM o 5:30 AM a 8 PM

Our Mission – To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives and to reflect the dignity given by God to each individual.

Nuestra Misión – Ayudar a los residentes de las ciudades a mejorar la calidad de sus vidas y a reflejar la dignidad dada por Dios.

Much Is Required
By Lesley Leslie

New Year, new you right? Lots of New Year’s resolutions to lose weight, start a business, finish college degree, etc. Any thoughts about being a better you this year? While it is most definitely a blessing to be alive to experience a new year, we have to admit that the last one ended on a sour note for our country as a whole. The year 2017 is most definitely a blessing to be alive to experience.

New Community Workforce Development Center is an accredited post-secondary career and technical school offering the following programs: Ford Automotive Technician, Patient Care Technician, EKG Technician, Phlebotomy Technician, Certified Home Health Aide, Certified Medical Assistant, Introduction to Medical Office Administration, Introduction to Medical Billing/Coding, Culinary Arts, Construction Building Trades, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Flooring and Painting. All programs offer industry recognized credentials. Financial aid is available for those who qualify.

For more information about the Open House and to RSVP, call Student Recruiter/Admissions Representative Aziza Johnson at 973-639-5633 or email ajohnson@newcommunity.org.

To complete an application online, visit www.newcommunity.org.

The mission of New Community Workforce Development Center is to improve the quality of life of all students through education and occupational training in a community that fosters life-long learning.
University Hospital hosted a holiday dinner for residents of Harmony House, New Community’s transitional housing facility for homeless families, Dec. 20. This is the second year in a row the hospital has brought a hot meal for the families. Members of University Hospital senior leadership donned aprons and served food to the residents, which included turkey, pasta, vegetables and sweet potatoes. University Hospital President and CEO John N. Kastanis and New Community CEO Richard Rohrman both attended the event.