

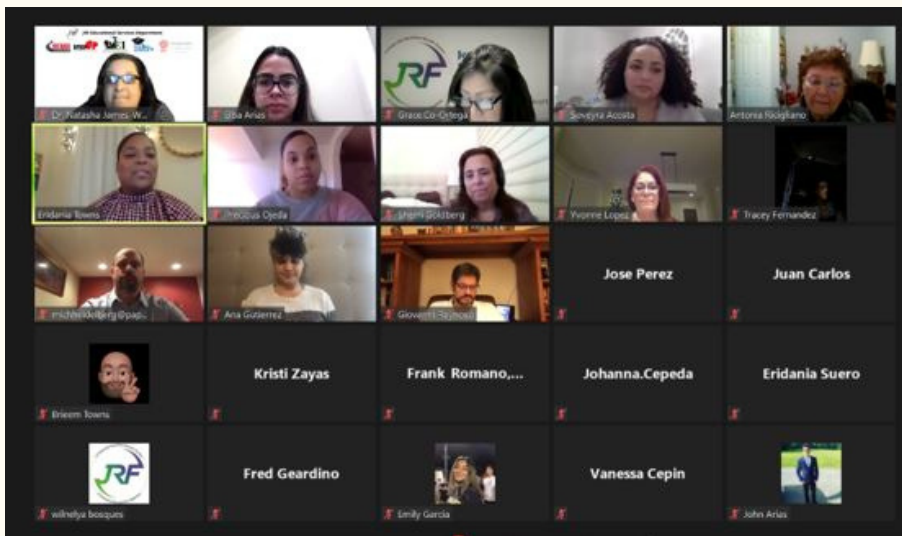


# JANUARY & FEBRUARY

## The Official Newsletter of The Jewish Renaissance Foundation

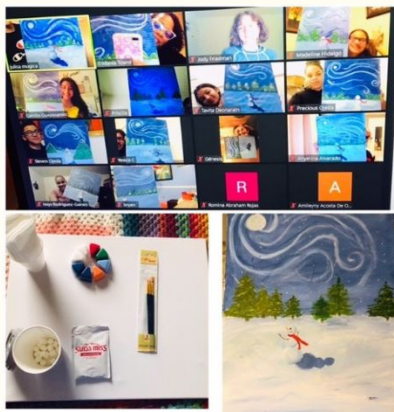
"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable...Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *February is Black History Month*



### THE BASE

The Base commemorated 20 years of service with a virtual celebration. Former and current students, staff and special guests had the opportunity to take a walk through memory lane. The celebration also included remarks by Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez, who talked about the importance of the program to the community. It was an empowering evening of testimonials and reflections where laughter and tears were shared.



On January 15th, SBYSP hosted a student virtual Paint & Sip event. Local Artist and Perth Amboy native, Julisa Mugica, guided student as they listened to soothing sounds and sipped hot chocolate. Staff delivered all required supplies and enjoyed watching students decompress and explore their artistic skills. There were 15 participants in the event.

On January 29th, SBYSP closed the month with another segment of Freestyle Friday on Instagram Live. The focus was "2021, how's it going and what do you have planned?" SBYSP continue to meet students where they are, engaging them on their preferred platforms.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- PAAC Weekly Giveaways - 2/19
- If anyone is interest in the Saturday morning virtual High School Equivalency ("HSE") program for Spanish speakers, contact 732-324-2114, ext. 100.
- If you are interested in joining Silver Linings and are over the age of 55, please contact Lissette Vargas-Guzman at 732-630-7488.
- If you, or anyone you know between the ages of 14-21, are interested in becoming an Emerging Leader, please apply through the following link, or visit the JRF website to learn more!  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5kqn2TcmEE1Ymwsv6idJ8qbz46daTJl-bGcoGrsFvGQEhHg/viewform>  
[https://www.jrfnj.org/community\\_action/emergin-g-civic-leaders-for-a-healthier-community/](https://www.jrfnj.org/community_action/emergin-g-civic-leaders-for-a-healthier-community/)  
**FSC Email: Baysidefsc@jrfnj.org**
- HomeWork Help! In partnership with Americorps, we will be providing homework help via ZOOM Monday-Thursday from 3-5pm. Call us or email us for an appointment! Email above.
- Get Organized With Us! In partnership with Americorps we will be providing monthly workshops touching on tips and tools to organize your home! Join us on March 3rd to touch on organizing and decluttering your Kitchen! Must register.  
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kceipqjgG9Oqolqy2W88FqG2gW1Wqs9>
- Parent to Parent: We host a parent's support group via Zoom every other Tuesday. Join us!  
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUpdOqpqz8sEt24FbpYFV-go6joYhvec0gh>
- Me Time: Monthly Mother's support group in Spanish! 2.20.2021 @ 6pm- Reach out to us for more information: Baysidefsc@jrfnj.org.
- Active Parenting cohort in SPANISH- PART 1: Join us for a parent education class on great tools and information supporting you and your child. For parents & caregivers of children between the ages of 5-12 years of age. Classes will be entirely in SPANISH every Tuesday for 3 weeks. Class begin 2.16.2021. REGISTER HERE TODAY:  
<https://zoom.us/j/92599823926>

## EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

On Monday, January 11th, the Emerging Leaders program hosted their fourth monthly meeting. The topic of the January meeting centered around initial program planning. The Leaders were joined by a special guest speaker, Ms. Lisett Lebron, the Gateway Neighborhood Collaborative Program Director from the Perth Amboy Redevelopment Team for Neighborhood Enterprise and Revitalization (PARTNER) organization.



Ms. Lebron delved into the process of strategic planning and how to effectively implement and evaluate a program. She reinforced concepts that the Leaders learned in their previous meetings, such as SMART goal setting and creating objectives, as well as how she uses these theories in real world settings. Lastly, Ms. Lebron shared current projects that she herself and the City of Perth Amboy are currently working on as they pertain to the Leaders' interests for their summer action plan; COVID-19 response and coping mechanisms. During the second half of the meeting, the students received instruction about data collection and the different types of methods to do so. They learned the difference between qualitative and quantitative data, as well as learned about focus groups and surveys and the pros/cons of each data collection method.

On Saturday, December 5th, the Emerging Leaders participated in their first virtual winter retreat. In the morning, AmeriCorps coach, Janelle Sonsiadek, led the young leaders through a "Lock Screen Storytelling" teambuilding activity. During this activity, the participants showed everyone their lock screens on their smartphone and collectively created a story based on everyone's picture.



Together the Leaders were able to create a diverse whimsical story that spanned from fighting villains with the cast of Grey's Anatomy to learning about the Gullah people of South Carolina. Following their morning teambuilding session, the Emerging Leaders were joined by Chef Michelle, a private chef from CocuSocial, to learn how to cook homemade pasta with fresh pesto sauce.



During this interactive virtual instruction, everyone was able to create the same dish individually, and enjoy the delicious outcome together via Zoom. Participating in a virtual cooking class allowed the Leaders to work towards a common goal separately which is an important skill to manifest with the possibility of implementing their summer action plan from home.

## STEP UP

During the month of January, the Step-Up Program continued offering it's students opportunities to engage and prepare for life after high school. This month students tackled topics such as living on campus verse commuting in their college readiness work. Step Up also partnered with school's teachers for these Internship Classes. The classes are comprised of 12th graders. In December, participants from the Step-Up Program had the opportunity to attend two virtual college tours: Kean University and Stockton University. An admission counselor from each institution joined them and provided information about their schools to students. They also answered student's questions and provided resources for them to use once they make their collegiate decision.

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT [WWW.JRFNJ.ORG](http://WWW.JRFNJ.ORG)

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Baking with Grandma: Grandmas play a vital role in all of our families. Join us on 2/25/21 via zoom for a special activity for you and the grandmas in your family. Materials are provided and if you live in Perth Amboy, delivered to your home. Please email [Baysidefsc@jrfnj.org](mailto:Baysidefsc@jrfnj.org) to reserve your spot. Materials are limited please contact us today!
- Providing Choice Store deliveries 3 Wednesdays out of the month to registered participants. SNAP Program! English group via conference call- Starting 2/18/2021



ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION INSTITUTE

There is no better time than NOW, to earn your High School Diploma!



RECRUITING FOR ALL THREE OF OUR PROGRAMS:

**AEI General Program** - Monday thru Thursday 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

**AEI Adult Program** - Friday 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM (Private Tutoring Available)

**AEI Spanish Saturday Program** - Saturday 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
\*\*For Spanish Speaking Only\*\*

Call or email us today to learn more about how you can obtain your High School Diploma from the comfort of your home in the next four months.



Call : 732-896-0552

Email: [jrfalternativeeducation@gmail.com](mailto:jrfalternativeeducation@gmail.com)



149 Kearny Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 2nd FL

**AEI Spanish Saturday Program** - Saturday 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
\*\*For Spanish Speaking Only\*\*

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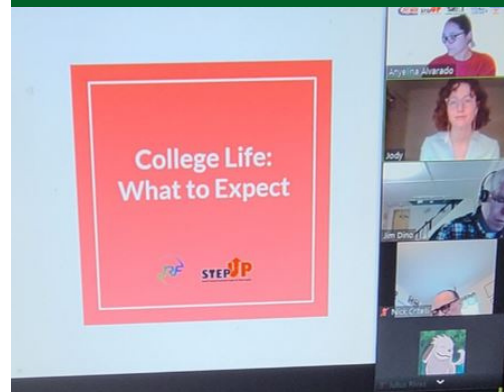


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149 Kearny Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 2nd FL



# JRF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

1931 OAK TREE ROAD  
EDISON, NJ 08820



## COVID-19 Vaccine administration is underway at the JRF Community Health Center.

The COVID-19 Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like wearing masks and social distancing, help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. Together, the COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

The COVID-19 vaccine currently being offered at the JRF Community Health Center is Moderna. It is a two part vaccine in that you get your first dose, and then a second dose is administered approximately 28 days following the initial dose. It is important to note that the vaccine supply distribution is dictated by the Federal Government. Those states who are able to administer more of the vaccine will have a larger vaccine supply allocation. Our Health Center supply allocation is determined at the State level. Based on what is distributed to the State of NJ, combined with a Centers capabilities in turn determines what all eligible entities across the state are provided with. How much our Health Center is allocated then dictates how we are able to schedule on a weekly basis.

At this time we are in phase 1A - Healthcare Workers, with an expansion to 1B population to include first responders only. The response to the vaccine availability has been overwhelming and we are doing everything within our power to meet the demand. Although there is currently a wait list at our facility, if you fall into any of these professions you can call us to be placed on the waitlist for scheduling your appointment.

**Should you have any questions or wish to schedule please give us a call at (732)482-9600.**

## PERTH AMBOY ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY (PAAC)

Over the last couple months the PAAC Team focused on distributing a special COVID CARES grant awarded to us through the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit (NRTC) Program targeted for our neighborhood small businesses. A great deal of planning took place to assess the needs of our small businesses and the difficulties they were facing because of COVID 19. Our team managed to help 19 neighborhood small businesses with rental assistance totaling \$184,600. In partnership with Key Marketing and the City of Perth Amboy, we created a website to highlight the city's eateries - Perth Amboy Eats. So far, 16 PAAC Eateries are highlighted on this page and were given QR Codes to promote no touch access to their menus. Please check out the site to see how amazing it looks. In addition to the rental assistance grants, our businesses will be receiving small bottles of antibacterial hand sanitizer, reusable bags, social distancing floor stickers and masks to hand out to customers.



## WHAT WOULD YOU DO FOR YOUR NIEGHBORHOOD WITH A MILLION DOLLARS?

PAAC in partnership with Creative NJ (CNJ) facilitated a community discussion on the needs of our neighborhood for our new 10 Year Master Plan. We had great attendance and talked with our neighbors at our virtual Call to Collaboration on January 26, 2021 and January 28, 2021. It was a bilingual event and anyone who was interested in the PAAC Neighborhood (Amboy Ave to the West, down to Washington St to the South, down to the train tracks to the east and across to Inslee Ave to the North) could join. Community members, business owners, and host team members came together to discuss important topics and give insight on the future of the PAAC Neighborhood. To be part of the conversation, join our Facebook Group. Just use your phone camera to scan the QR Code.

## COMMUNITY & FAMILY SERVICES

On January 20, 2021, the Bayside Family Success Center hosted our first Family Movie Night Via ZOOM. Our fabulous FSC team shopped, sorted, and in collaboration with our amazing Target volunteers, delivered over 15 movie night kits, complete with popcorn, drinks, and sweets to families at their homes. It proved to be a great night for families to unwind and enjoy a movie on us! We had over 46 children with their parents participate.



## COMMUNITY & FAMILY SERVICES

The Silver Linings team is working vigorously to ensure consistent monthly deliveries to participants. My Choice Store has been impacted by the winter weather leaving the food supply short. Thankfully, partners like our YMCA have helped us by donating boxes of food for us to give to our seniors. My Choice Store is possible through our continued partnership with Logisticare



## EAT SMART, LIVE STRONG

Come join a free, fun, nutrition group focused on:

- Shopping for healthy food on a budget
- New ways to prepare fruits and vegetables
- Simple ways to get moving
- Improving bone health

**FREE Nutrition Classes via Conference Call at 2:00pm!**

**Class 1: Thursday Feb 18**

**Class 2: Thursday Feb 25**

**Class 3: Thursday Mar 04**

**Class 4: Thursday Mar 11**

**Register today!**

**Lissette - (732) 630-7488**

New Jersey Department of Human Services | New Jersey Department of Health  
This material was developed for SNAP-Ed. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).  
This information is an equal opportunity message.

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT WWW.JRFNJ.ORG

### AEI Eligibility Requirements:-

- Must live in Middlesex County, NJ
- Must be at least 16 years old
- Must not be enrolled in any other program or institution
- Must be able to provide valid documentation including citizenship status

For more info please contact 732-896-0552

## AEI ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION INSTITUTE



### ACCEPTING NEW APPLICANTS

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD UNTIL JANUARY 31, 2021

#### ABOUT US

The Alternative Education Institute (AEI) program offers a **FREE** comprehensive education curriculum delivered in a non-traditional and remote learning environment to help students ages 16 and older obtain their New Jersey State High School Equivalency Diploma.



#### EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

We are currently enrolling new applicants into all three of our educational programs: AEI General Program, AEI Adult Evening Program and the AEI Saturday Spanish Program (SSP).

**\*\*ALL AEI SATURDAY SPANISH PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS MUST SPEAK, READ AND WRITE SPANISH\*\***



#### PROGRAM HOURS

**AEI General Program (Monday - Thursday)**  
9:30 AM-12:30 PM / 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

**AEI Adult Evening Program (Wednesday Night Only)**  
5:00 PM-8:00 PM

**AEI Spanish Saturday Program (Saturday Only)**  
9:30 AM-12:30 PM



#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Must be 16 years old and older.  
Must live in Middlesex County, NJ.  
Must not be enrolled in school or any other educational program/institute.  
Must be able to provide valid documentation.  
Must be able to commit to a (4-6) month program.

**ALL ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO FREE PRIVATE TUTORING LESSONS, CASE MANAGEMENT AND OTHER ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO HELP STUDENTS ACHIEVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS.**

GET IN TOUCH: • (732) 324-2114 Ext. 100 • 149 Kearny Avenue 2nd Floor, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861  
• jrfalternativeeducation@gmail.com • www.jrfnj.org/socialservices



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@oneploneheart



@jrfwantsyoutoknow



@OnePPLOneHeart

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