

Upcoming

Potter league plans pet event

Potter League for Animals will be hosting a Pet Showcase on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the parking lot of BankNewport, 528 West Main Road in Middletown.

The Pet Showcase is free and will be fun for the whole family. Participants can enter their pets in the "best trick" or "pet look-alike" contest. The pet who out shines the rest will win a gift certificate to Aquidneck Pet Deli.

Light refreshments will be served. The Potter League hopes the event will raise community awareness of the services and opportunities offered by their organi-

zation.

The Potter League for Animals is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of animals. To promote the humane treatment of all animals, the Potter League shelters and cares for lost or unwanted companion animals, returns them to their homes, and places them into humane environments. Through community education and the fostering of relationships between people and animals, the Potter League secures the future for animals. For more information, contact Patricia Heller at 846-0592.



Benefit art gallery opening set

The Conanicut Island Land Trust and the Randall Art Gallery in Jamestown will be co-hosting an evening gallery opening on Sept. 7 to benefit the "Save the Farms Challenge." Quentin Anthony, president of the land trust, will attend and inform guests about the Save the Farms Challenge, which has the current goal of saving three unprotected farms in the center of Jamestown island. In addition, artist David Schock will be exhibiting new landscapes of Jamestown, as well as beach scenes, and 25-percent of all proceeds from sale of the artist's work during the evening will go directly to Save the Farms. A limited-edition, fine art giclee print, made from the artist's

original "Jamestown Farm Scene," is being created for the opening, and will be available for sale at \$195, of which, \$100 will be donated to Save the Farms. "Jamestown Farm Scene," and other examples of artwork available, can be previewed prior to the event at www.randallartgallery.net. The public is invited to attend.

Garden design lessons offered

Landscape designer Ed Lindemann will conduct a three-part workshop at Blithewold Manor to develop or improve the basic design of homeowners' gardens.

Session one is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will include an illustrated lecture about garden structure and space, as well as a demonstration of how to sketch a project, evaluate garden needs, and achieve the desired result. Session two will be on Tuesday, Sept. 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and will offer studio time to develop the project on paper and receive valuable hands-on help from Lindemann. Session three meets off-site on Saturday, Sept. 15, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., at a private Little Compton garden that incorporates Lindemann's designs, encouraging lively discussion of design, plants, hard-scaping, and garden ornaments.

Pre-registration is required, and the fee is \$100 for Blithewold members and \$125 for non-members. Call 253-2707.

New yoga classes forming

Two new yoga classes will begin Thursday, Sept. 6, at Central Baptist Church.

Chair Yoga will be offered from 5 to 6 p.m. at \$8 per class for the series or \$10 for one-time drop in.

From 6:15 to 7:15 p.m., Hatha Yoga basics will be taught. The fee is \$12 per class for the series, or \$15 to drop in for a single session.

All classes will be taught by Janet Larson. For more information, contact her at 423-1238.

Festival planned at museum

The Artists' Guild at the Newport Art Museum will hold an Art on the Lawn Festival on Sept. 8 and 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the museum.

Between 30 and 40 local artists and artisans are scheduled to sell their wares, which range from jewelry to pottery to works on canvas.

Admission is free.

East passage picnic scheduled

The East Passage Lot Owners Association will hold its annual Family Picnic on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 4 to 6 p.m. The raindate is Sunday.

The event will be at Rainbow Pond and all are welcome to attend.

Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share.

For more information, call Ann Deffley at 423-3326.

Turn kids into lifelong readers

Reading should be fun -- plain and simple.

When it's fun, kids love to do it, and they usually improve rapidly. But when it's not, reading becomes a struggle.

"No parent wants to battle with their kids about reading -- sure, it's an essential skill, but it ought to be fun. And it can't be fun for kids who are discouraged," says Raquel Jaramillo, editor of the "Brain Quest Reading" card game series.

Since reading is the single most important tool that a student needs to achieve academic success, the challenge for parents of young children becomes finding the right resources to sow the seeds of a long-lasting love of learning.

Here are some easy ways to turn virtually any child into an avid reader:

- The world is your book. Words and phrases are everywhere: in stores, on trains, on billboards and signs, and the back of every cereal box. Point them out to your child whenever possible.

- Be an enthusiastic listener. Switch roles and have your child read to you at bedtime. This is a great way to build your child's confidence in reading. Also, encourage your child to sound out new words, and avoid correct-

ing all but the most significant mistakes -- and ask lots of questions.

- Storytime! Read to your child every day if you can. Studies show that children who are read to every day by a parent or caregiver are more likely to excel at reading at an earlier age.

- Keep a reading log. Have your child keep a reading log (visit www.brainquest.com to download one). This is a great way to mark a child's progress and find favorite types of books and authors.

- Talk books and authors. Have conversations with your child about the books and authors you loved as a kid and why they meant a lot to you.

- Book a "Book Day." Take your child to the library or bookstore as often as possible -- try to designate at least one day a week as "book day."

- Start a children's book club. Kids love the idea of clubs, and even a small one can go a long way toward making reading a social activity. Try acting out scenes from a book to bring the stories to life. Help guide the conversation when needed.

- Play reading games. There are several reading toys and games on the market, such as the "Brain Quest Reading for Grades

1, 2 and 3" card game series, that you can play with kids of different ages. This card game doesn't require batteries and can be played at home or even taken with you in the car or plane when you go on vacation.

- Follow the leader: your child! Children learn in different ways and at different speeds. Build on your child's successes and don't dwell on aspects of reading they may not comprehend. Let your child's areas of interest guide you. Children often like to read collections of stories or books by the same author. Feed their curiosity.

- Books are the right gift. Value books. Give books as presents for holidays, birthdays and vacation. Encourage your child to select a book that he or she especially loved as a gift for a friend.

- Ready, set, read! Set a good example and read (a book, magazine or newspaper). As long as your child knows how important reading is to you, he or she will learn that reading is an everyday, vital act of life.

Free reading resources for parents and reading games for kids are available at www.brainquest.com, where parents can also learn about "Brain Quest Math," a fun and educational game covering essential math skills.

Check out Photo Albums at www.jamestownpress.com

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