



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE WITH PHOTOS
Community News, Union County

The Arc of Union County
52 Fadem Road
Springfield, NJ 07081
Phone: 973-315-0000

Media Contact:
Debbie Dreher
Phone: 973-315-0060
Fax: 973-315-0002
email: ddreher@arcunion.org

**THE CRANFORD CHAPTER OF LES MARMITONS
DONATES A GOURMET DINNER FOR FOUR
TO THE ARC OF UNION COUNTY'S
TRICKY TRAY FUNDRAISER**

A non-profit organization, Les Marmitons is a gastronomic and social club for men. With its origin in Europe, Swiss businessmen introduced Les Marmitons to North America almost thirty years ago. Each chapter of Les Marmitons typically meets a minimum of eight times a year at regularly scheduled monthly meetings. During the week night meeting and under the direction and guidance of an invited professional chef, Les Marmitons members form smaller teams each preparing a course of the preplanned menu, and then serving it to fellow members and the guest chef.

Already familiar with The Arc of Union County, the Cranford Chapter of Les Marmitons donated to the 2006 Tricky Tray fundraising event a gift certificate for a five course gourmet dinner for four cooked and presented in the comfort of the winners own kitchen. Already strong advocates of community partnerships, Les Marmitons members Richard Dreher, Barry Obsgarten and Chef Harry Reiter stated, 'We thought this was a great way to support one of our local non-profit agencies while at the same time doing something we love which is planning, cooking, and presenting an unforgettable and elegant dining experience.'

Not required to redeem the Les Marmitons gift certificate immediately, prize winner Lucy Carugan of Roselle Park chose to wait until well after the holidays before planning her special evening with three of her closest friends. Towards the end of January 2007, Lucy contacted the club and a menu planning meeting took place. With the assistance and expertise of Richard Dreher, Lucy chose from a wide variety of suggested menu themes and the dinner date was scheduled for the end of January. All Lucy would need to do is set the table and allow the men of Les Marmitons to use her kitchen.

On January 27th, the gentlemen of Les Marmitons entered Lucy's kitchen 2 hours ahead of time, meticulously preparing for her Italian Themed 6pm dinner party. Once the guests arrived, hors' devours were served consisting of Smoked Trout Paté, Tepanade,

and Essence of Sun-dried Tomato. After chatting and relaxing over a glass of wine, Lucy and her three guests were ushered into the elegantly set dining room to begin a unique gastronomic experience the four women would not soon forget. The first course was a delicious Pasta e Fagioli Soup served in a roasted butternut squash. This was followed by Seared Scallops served on a three color potato pancake with caper hollandaise sauce. The salad course featured a Roasted Pears, Bacon, Pecans, Cranberries, Roquefort with a Port Reduction Vinaigrette. The main course was a traditional Chicken Marsala with Mushroom Risotto. For dessert a light note of creamy panna cotta was served with fresh berries. Each of the five courses was not only a visual masterpiece, thanks to Executive Chef Harry Reiter, but the flavors, textures and aromas of each course were divine.

After the ladies had finished their last bite of dessert, the table was cleared, the kitchen cleaned and the three gentlemen from Les Marmitons departed after five hours on non-stop work. To duplicate a similar dining experience in the comfort of your own home would cost approximately \$100 per person. For Lucy Carugan and her friends Caroline, Cathy and Donna, the spectacular evening was FREE, thanks to the generosity of Les Marmitons members, Richard Dreher, Barry Obsgarten and Chef Harry Reiter.

About The Arc of Union County

In existence since 1949, The Arc of Union County, Inc. provides specialized services to children and adults of all ages with developmental disabilities and their families. With programs located throughout Union County, The Arc offers a vast array of services including educational, residential, vocational and employment programs, family support and children's services. For more information please visit The Arc's website: www.arcunion.org