


**SINGLE IN NJ: THE NEXT DATE IS JUST A SWIPE AWAY**

 **Governor Gone Viral: Murphy's Team Creates a Twitter Sensation**

**10  
MILLENNIAL  
RISING  
STARS**

# New Jersey

## Meet The Millennials

MONTHLY

THEY'VE CHOSEN NEW JERSEY. HERE'S HOW THEY'RE CHANGING IT.



# 10 millennials TO WATCH

A new generation has begun to step up and embrace leadership roles in government, education, social activism and business. Their stories are varied, their commitment impressive.



## Luck Sarabhayavanija

→ Founder/CEO, Ani Ramen House

LIVES IN: WEEHAWKEN

BORN: 1983

HIS SURNAME seems a mouthful, but divide it into its components and Sara/bhaya/vanija becomes as approachable as the man himself. The son of Thai immigrants, he grew up working in his parents' Thai restaurant in Montclair. His favorite childhood food, though, was packets of instant ramen. Later encountering the real thing, he had an epiphany: "The Japanese perfected the ultimate comfort food."

At 23, Sarabhayavanija opened a Thai restaurant in Vancouver, British Colum-



bia. Although that eventually went sour, he learned from the experience. Moving back home, he worked in a large Thai restaurant group, polished his management skills, found astute partners, and in 2014 opened the first Ani Ramen House in Montclair. Now there are five; by summer, there will be nine.

His formula? For the customer, a consistent, modestly priced, perfectly executed menu of Japanese comfort foods (marvelous shrimp bao buns, a bounteous Ani salad). For employees, "Train well, pay well, promote from within and create an environment of respect and love, so it feels great to come to work.

"We have ramen chefs who started as dishwashers. We have a busser who is now a managing member and shares in company profits. As in sports, you have to build a winning culture. There is no magic pixie dust."—Eric Levin