

CRANFORD MONTHLY_{NJ}

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Realtor



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CRANFORD POLICE GIVE A SPECIAL GIFT TO THEFT VICTIM

Recently, there were a series of burglaries in an apartment building in Cranford. Investigating Detective, Derek Farbanec, learned about the unfortunate circumstances of one family in particular - Michael and his six year old daughter, Kaylee.

Along with the many possessions of theirs that was stolen was Kaylee's Samsung Galaxy Android Tablet which contained numerous (some irreplaceable) family photos, including those of her late mother. Although some pictures could not be replaced, Det. Farbanec was determined to replace the Tablet and contacted the Cranford Local 52 for help. Members of Local 52 and the Cranford Honorary PBA 52 immediately jumped into action and purchased a new Tablet for Kaylee.

It was hard to tell who was more excited when the gift was presented, Michael and Kaylee or the members of Local 52 and the Honorary PBA, but the holiday season was certainly made brighter for one special girl.



(right) Michael and Kaylee.

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(above l-r) Det. Tim O'Brien, Det. Steve D'Ambola, Det. Derek Farbanec, Barbara Bilger (Honorary PBA), Paul Cymbaluk (President Honorary PBA), Michael and his daughter, Kaylee, Off. Tom Bell (President PBA 52), Keith Chory (Honorary PBA) and Sgt Joe Stulpin.

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SEND US YOUR NEWS

Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (accomplishment, honor, award, etc.). Do you have an event that you need help publicizing? Then send Cranford Monthly your news!

Call: 908-858-4012

Fax: 908-709-9209

Email: editor@rennamedia.com

MEET MARYANNE CHRISTIANO-MISTRETTA YOUR CONTACT FOR NEWSPAPER CONTENT



*Maryanne
Christiano-Mistretta*

great idea since I'll often be out and about in the community.

Residing in Union County with my husband, Dennis, and our beloved cat Nicholas, my interests, besides writing and editing, include animals, music, and living a healthy lifestyle.

Writing professionally since 1995, I'm an award-winning journalist. I received my award from The NJ Society of Professional Journalists for investigative journalism. I'm also an author, public speaker, and poet (recently selected to read at the All About Eve Arts Festival at the West End Theatre in Long Branch, New Jersey).

Having a great passion for music, I've developed a unique library program called "The Learn & Listen Series" which pays homage to legendary musicians.

The two-fold presentation begins as I host, sharing a musician's biography – which I wrote – followed by actual live music from local New Jersey and New York talent. Librarians can choose from a variety of singers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, Sammy Davis Jr., John Lennon, Freddie Mercury, Johnny Cash, Janis Joplin, and David Bowie.

I'm blessed to be able to work with performers like indie recording artist Keith Beck; jazz

Hello Readers!

I'm ecstatic to introduce myself as the new editor for Renna Media. It's such an honor working with Cranford residents Joe and Tina Renna; they are awesome!

Joe has asked me to write a little bit about myself for our readership, which is probably a

sensation Stephen Fuller (front man for Amani); singer/performance artist, Anna Oh; and three-time Grammy winning producer, Rob Fusari.

"Learn & Listen" also includes Jayne DiGregorio and Rich Timberlake, who work behind-the-scenes filming for an upcoming documentary.

In addition to the "Learn & Listen" series, I also lecture on "History of the Newspaper Industry," "Going, Going, Gone: What the Next Generation Won't Remember" (seniors love that one!), and there's also a healthy foodies series, which includes sampling.

Now, if you've read this far, you may be asking yourself – how can this woman work so much and still have time to edit 21 newspapers? As Joe Renna himself says – "It's not work, it's a lifestyle." I somehow get everything done ... and with a big smile on my face.

When you have a grand passion for what you do, it doesn't matter what day it is. It could be a Monday, or a Friday, and you're equally as happy. Sometimes I'm home all day working in my pajamas; other times I'm having a blast taking photos at a Winter Walk. Whether I sleep in or get up super early to attend a town meeting, it's all good. In this line of work, every day is different, and every day is exciting.

In just one month of working for Renna Media, I've attended many fun affairs and met incredible people. It brings a tear to my eye when a child cheers, "I'm gonna be in the newspaper!" after I take his or her photograph. That's what it's all about – the essence of presenting a good story to the community.

So, don't hesitate to send me your community news. We call on the arts, fundraisers, nonprofits, new businesses – anything positive that should be in your local newspaper.

Reach me at 908-858-4012, or email me at: Editor@RennaMedia.com

I look forward to hearing from you!

Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta



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3-6PM

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Wednesday January 31st, 2018 6:00-8:00pm

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- Appetizers: Stuffed Portobello Mushrooms, Assorted Artisanal Cheeses, Grilled Marinated Vegetables, Roasted Halibut Steaks, Roast Beef & Roast Ham Carving Stations, Chafing Dish, Braising Chicken Francise, Seafood Potluck, Pasta Primavera, Olive Roasted Potatoes, and Vegetables.
- Dessert, Coffee & Tea, and a Cash Bar.

Come meet members of the following Chambers:

- Edison Chamber of Commerce
- Cranford Area Chamber of Commerce
- Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce
- Linden Chamber of Commerce
- Springfield Chamber of Commerce
- Suburban Chamber of Commerce
- Union Township Chamber of Commerce



Sponsorship Tables are available. Please contact your local Chamber for info.

This event is limited to 250 attendees, so please register early.

Please register online by January 24, 2018. Click here: www.gwacoj.com/events/multi-chamber
 \$10 members / \$50 non-members / \$15 extra for walk-ins



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Volunteers needed! Join Us Today!

The Cranford First Aid Squad is staffed entirely by volunteers from Cranford, NJ and surrounding townships. We have volunteers that provide emergency services as well as administrative volunteers who contribute to fundraising, education and public awareness. If you have ever wondered what it is like to work on an ambulance, to be in the field of medicine, or help out the community we would love for you to join us. Apply today! No experience is necessary!

Anyone from age 16 and up may apply.

Visit www.cranfordfirstaid.org.

**To schedule an interview call
908-514-8858**

The Volunteer Service to Veterans Committee of the Crane's Ford chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution teamed up with the CDC Community Theater of Cranford on November 18th to entertain hospitalized veterans at the VA Lyons Medical Center in Bernard Township. With donations of gift cards from Costco, ShopRite, Stop & Shop and Wegmans the DAR was able to purchase snacks and drinks for the veterans.

Anjanette Valiante from the Cranford Dramatics Club organized the singing of patriotic songs as she accompanied the singers by playing the piano. Barbara Krause, a DAR member, was the leader of song.

DAR Veteran Committee chairwoman, Alice Birtwistle of Bayonne, Chapter Regent, Mary

Leonard of Roselle Park and Barbara Krause of Cranford planned and organized the afternoon. The following daughters of a member joined in helping the DAR, Nicole Birtwistle, Rachel Birtwistle, Jessica Birtwistle, and Miranda Birtwistle. The Crane's Ford DAR has been volunteering with annual parties for the Lyons facility veterans for over 40 years. The Cranford Dramatic Club has been collaborating for the past 14 years.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a national service organization of women who can prove ancestry back to participants of the American Revolution War, both in combat and those who provided goods and services to the American cause. Prospective members may visit the website www.dar.org to learn more.

'A CHANCE OF A LIFETIME' AT COMMUNITY CENTER

The Theater Project will present a staged, script-in-hand reading of "A Chance of a Lifetime," a new play by Luigi Jannuzzi, on Saturday, January 13, at 2 p.m. in the Cranford Community Center. The Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue.

"A Chance of a Lifetime" concerns Millie, a wild-eyed dreamer, who convinces her roommate, Edna, to escape the nursing home and enter a world they've both forgotten.

Luigi Jannuzzi has had 27 plays published by

Samuel French. He is a University of Notre Dame graduate and a member of the Dramatists Guild and the Authors Guild.

Headquartered at the Burgdorff Center in Maplewood, The Theater Project is an acclaimed professional theater group and the winner of two New Jersey Tony Awards. For information about The Theater Project, visit their page at thetheaterproject.org. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

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COLLEGE WOMEN'S CLUB OF CRANFORD FUNDRAISER "COLOR CRANFORD"

The College Women's Club of Cranford invites members of the community to "Color Cranford." Proceeds of a new coloring book the club is offering will serve as a fundraiser for the College Women's Club.



Coloring book purchasers will have an opportunity to "take a stroll" through the picturesque suburban town of Cranford nestled on the Rahway River. The book will allow users to bring to life with color the townships schools, houses of worship, lush parks, private residences, and the quaint downtown with its array of international restaurants and unique shops. Enjoy the experience as you recognize so many familiar sights featured in the book.

"Color Cranford" was created by the members of the College Women's Club of Cranford, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization founded in 1932, as a fundraiser for college scholarships awarded to graduating high school seniors residing in Cranford.

In addition to financing scholarships beyond the secondary level, the Club's mission is to provide information regarding local, educational,

and civic issues to our members and the public.

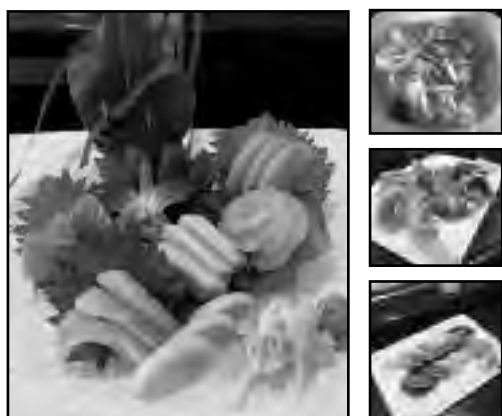
The coloring book is available from all College Club members and may also be purchased at Perrotti's Quality Meats, the Cranford Public Library, and Simply.

Anyone wishing to purchase a book may also call Club President Janet Collins at 908-653-1452. The cost is \$10.

If you are interested in becoming a College Club member and supporting the quest for secondary education of the youth in our community please attend one of our general meetings held from October through May as announced in the local papers, or email the Club at CranfordCollegeClub@gmail.com. If you prefer to send a donation to support our goal, please mail a check made payable to College Women's Club of Cranford to P.O. Box 1677, Cranford, NJ 07016.

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MEET ARMY PARATROOPER MAJOR CHARLES J. WATTERS, CHAPLAIN 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE A VIETNAM WAR LEGEND

By Don Sweeney & Lt. Col. Steve Glazer (Ret.), Cranford Historical Society

With the task at hand to reveal the next face and story of a Cranford 86 Hometown Hero, I leafed through our ever-expanding binder of research. A phone call from Ed Schmidt, a Korean War Veteran from Cranford VFW Post 335, called to our attention that November 19, 2017, was the 50th anniversary of the death of Father Charles J. Watters in Vietnam. To this point, we have been presenting lesser-known stories of our Hometown Heroes. Thanks to St. Michael's Parish, which has erected a granite monument in front of the church, and to the Knights of Columbus, who operates a float in the Memorial Day Parade each year with members recreating the scene of his death, the story is not unknown to many in Cranford. Nevertheless, with such an anniversary, we decided to make Fr. Watters this month's Hometown Hero. As in the past, there is always more to the story than we initially thought. This month was certainly no exception.

I called my partner, Steve Glazer, as I do each month and told him our selection. He had preliminarily researched Father Watters and already had a stack of powerful documents, including some great pictures. He would resume his digging. By week's end, my computer inbox was filled with detailed accounts of Fr. Watters' life and military career. A poignant picture of a battlefield Mass being performed by Fr. Watters on November 19, 1967, the morning of his death, especially stood out. Steve also made contact with Donna Dey, Charles Watters' niece. She was only 3 when her uncle had died. She would be a source of some insight to Charlie around his family. She told me that her father, Kenneth, the older brother of Fr. Watters, told her during one of the ceremonies to honor her uncle's life that he would have hated such commemorations. He said his brother always said that he was no hero; he was just doing his job. She shared that the three brothers were a very quiet bunch, Uncle Charlie the quietest.

A trip to St. Michael's office provided a lead to retired Bishop Dominic Marconi, 90, a Seton Hall University and seminary classmate of Father Watters. I interviewed him at his home in Chatham. "Fr. Charlie," as the bishop called him, attended 2 years of Seton Hall undergraduate studies before they both went to Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington, NJ, for 6 additional years of clergy training. The 1953 graduating class of 30 yielded three military chaplains and a bishop. They would gather for an annual reunion, where they would catch up on each other's activities and have a few laughs. Bishop Marconi described Fr. Charlie as someone who listened more than he spoke. An affable man with a big heart, he recalls the last reunion Father Watters attended in 1967 between his two tours of wartime duty, when he volunteered for his second trip back to Vietnam. He still remembers Fr. Charlie telling him that he was needed there. That was the last time they saw each other. The bishop picked up a framed picture and handed it to me to keep. It was a fading color photo of the battlefield Mass offered by Father Watters on November 19, 1967, hours before he perished in service to God and man, all he ever wished to do in life. I will hang the picture at the VFW Post 335 mini-museum in Cranford.

With a plethora of information and photographs in hand, I was feeling a little overwhelmed. It was time to consolidate it all into a condensed story that would pay adequate homage to this brave, dedicated man.

Charles Joseph Watters was born in Jersey City, NJ, on January 17, 1927.



Graduation Portrait, Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington, NJ



Fr. Charles J. Watters battlefield portrait.

He graduated from Seton Hall Prep -- then in South Orange -- before being accepted to Seton Hall University. After his ordination as a Catholic priest in 1953, he served parishes in Jersey City, Rutherford, Paramus and finally, Cranford. An avid private pilot, his love of flying brought him in 1962 to the NJ Air National Guard, where he soon became their chaplain. With the nation's escalation in Vietnam, Fr. Waters left St. Michael's Church and volunteered in 1965 for active duty as a chaplain with the U.S. Army. At age 38, he successfully completed rigorous jump training, challenging to even much younger men, with the 101st Airborne in Kentucky, and was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the "Sky Soldiers." By July 1966, then Captain Watters was in Vietnam, beginning his first tour of duty as a combat chaplain, during which he would earn the Air Medal and the Bronze Star Medal for Valor. Armed only with his camera, Fr. Watters didn't hesitate to jump into a violent battlefield with the "Herd," as the 173rd was sometimes called. When his unit was rotated to the rear for rest, he would stay in the field with the troops still facing imminent danger. Fr. Watters truly believed his duty was to remain alongside the soldiers doing the fighting. He would tend to both their physical and emotional needs by saying Mass, joking with them, providing spiritual comfort and tending to grievous wounds. The word quickly spread about the dedicated priest in the 173rd who routinely risked his life for his men. He sealed his legendary status on February 22, 1967, when he joined 845 fellow paratroopers in their jump during Operation Junction City, the largest such airborne assault of the war to that date, and the only major combat jump of the entire war. The intense three-month battle successfully rooted out a principal Viet Cong command center.

In an interview in May 1967 after his safe return from battle, Fr. Watters was asked about his vulnerability under fire with no weapon. He answered



Exhausted soldiers of the 173rd Airborne after campaigning in the Central Highlands.



Father Charles J. Watters saying Mass on the battlefield. Note the camouflage vestments.



The late Rev. Charles says Mass for the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam just before he was killed.

CHARLES J. WATTERS (continued)

with a smile. "I'm a peaceful kind. All I shoot is my camera. If they start shooting at me, I'd just yell "Tourist!" Seriously, a weapon weighs too much, and, after all, a priest's job is taking care of the boys. But if we get overrun, I guess there will be plenty of weapons lying around to be picked up." With his initial 12-month tour about to expire, Fr. Watters volunteered for another tour of duty, simply stating, "His boys needed him."

In November 1967, the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) poured 7,000 plus troops into Dak To, determined to rid the Central Highlands of American Special Forces. An entire Green Beret unit was found dead in the area after being missing for 4 days. The U.S. presence there created a roadblock on the Ho Chi Minh trail, the North's main supply route through Vietnam. The Americans reacted by launching Operation MacArthur. The 173rd, with 3,200 paratroopers, including Fr. Watters, would be making the assault into Dak To, known as the wildest terrain in all of Southeast Asia. Vietnam Magazine described it as a merciless land of steep limestone ridges, some as high as 4000 feet, with a tight web of jungle canopies that blocks daylight from penetrating on the brightest sunny day. It is laced with vines and thorns, and in it live diverse snakes, a million leeches and about half the mosquitoes in the world. Airborne assault was the only avenue of entry due to the hostile terrain. The enormity of the challenge would dwarf the previous Junction City operation.

The Battle of Dak To -- November 3-23, 1967 -- would be known as one of the fiercest fights of the Vietnam conflict. And the battle to take Hill 875 on November 19th was the most intense of the entire encounter. Securing Hill 875 would give the U.S. Army control of the region. We uncovered an official seven-page military report giving a powerful and detailed rendering of the fight, including Fr. Watters' last moments of service. Sometimes overwhelming, it introduced the players of this "intense sustained fighting" one at a time and all of their parts in the battle, as well as the circumstances of their deaths. It must be read several times to grasp it. It gave me an eerie feeling similar to the one I received watching the recent PBS movie "Vietnam" by Ken Burns.

Father Watters was with the 503rd Infantry, 2nd Battalion, Charlie Company, as they started the ascent to take Hill 875. He was given the option to stay behind, as many chaplains would do. He chose to stay with his boys, as he usually did when combat was likely. They would follow one of the steep ridges the area was known for. Delta Company to the left, Charlie on the right, Alpha Company would bring up the rear. Delta and Charlie companies quickly came under intense fire from what seemed to be invisible soldiers attacking from expertly camouflaged bunkers. By 3:00 p.m., Charlie Company was completely surrounded by 200-300 NVA regulars, with mortar rounds, automatic weapons fire and B-40 rockets continuously raining down on them. Throughout the day, Watters repeatedly risked his life to retrieve injured soldiers, even though it always meant leaving the relative safety of his own company's perimeter. In one documented incident, a wounded paratrooper suffering from shock was standing in front of assaulting forces. Chaplain Watters ran forward without hesitation, ignoring numerous attempts to restrain him, picked up the man on his shoulders and carried him to safety.

Futile attempts to resupply the company in this inaccessible area saw six helicopters shot down. Desperate calls for airstrikes were made as the sun



The Memorial Day Parade float remembering Fr. Watters.



Uncle Charlie and Donna Dey.

set. One 500 lb. bomb dropped by a U.S. Marine fighter-bomber just arriving on station struck only 50 meters from Charlie Company, killing 25 NVA troops preparing for a night attack. Tragically, however, another 500 lb. bomb from the same aircraft struck the company's command post and aid station. Some 42 Americans, many of them wounded already, were killed and 45 more were wounded in the war's worst "friendly fire" incident. According to a survivor's account, Fr. Watters was on his knees giving last rites to a dying paratrooper when the errant bomb hit, killing him instantly.

The many men he saved that day never forgot Father Watters and neither did the Army. For his actions on Hill 875 he would posthumously receive the Medal of Honor, one of only seven such awards given to a chaplain in American history. This is the highest possible decoration awarded to United States military combatants. The official citation is available online and worth your efforts to obtain it. <http://arlingtoncemetery.net/cwatters.htm>

Two days later, the remaining members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade would take and secure Hill 875. For their bravery and sacrifice they would receive the Presidential Unit Citation. During the 4-day engagement for the hill, 115 Americans were killed and 253 wounded. According to after-action reports, the Battle of Dak To yielded severe losses to American forces, with 376 dead and 1441 wounded. 40 helicopters and crews were also lost. NVA losses were estimated over 1450. So heavy were the NVA losses that their three participating regiments were not able to join the January 1968 Tet offensive, the Communists' largest attack on U.S. and South Vietnamese forces. The Communists ultimately failed in the offensive. For more history google Battle of Dak To.

Major Charles Joseph Watters, Chaplain, age 40, was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery, section 2-E. The Army Chaplain School in Fort Jackson, South Carolina, is named in his honor. An elementary school in his hometown, Jersey City, is named in his honor as well as a bridge on Route 3 in Rutherford.

Major Charles Joseph Watters -- "Father Charlie" -- was a great American and one of our Cranford 86 Hometown Heroes.

The goal of our group is to introduce the brave men who sacrificed all, so that we can live here in Freedom. This Memorial Day, at our town's ceremony that follows our parade, we are planning to dedicate banners that will line the streets of Cranford. Each will bear the photographs and information of the Heroes whose stories have been told this year.


To date we have introduced and told stories of 10 of our 86 Heroes, by Memorial Day we should have 15 or more. If you missed any you can find them all on Facebook at [cranford86](https://www.facebook.com/cranford86) or on [Renamedia.com](https://www.renamedia.com) in the archives section.

If you have any comments or information about our project, I welcome your correspondences, Don Sweeney djsween@aol.com (908) 272-0876.



(above, l-r) The granite monument at St. Michael's; Arlington National Cemetery Grave marker at section 2-E; The Meddal of Honor; America's Highest Military Award.

Coming in February to CDC Theatre in Cranford



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CDC THEATRE CONTINUES WINNING SEASON WITH CRIMES OF THE HEART

Rehearsals are underway for Beth Henley's "Crimes of the Heart" at CDC theatre in Cranford, New Jersey. Warm-hearted, irreverent, zany and brilliantly imaginative, the play teems with humanity and humor as it examines the plight of three young Mississippi sisters betrayed by their passions.

"Crimes of the Heart" won Best Play from the NY Drama Critics Circle, was nominated for a Tony Award, and Beth Henley won the Pulitzer Prize in 1981. The 1986 film version was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Screenplay.

"The Pulitzer Prize is given to honor a distinguished play that deals in an original way with American life. It is no wonder Beth Henley was given this honor at the age of twenty-five for her very first professionally-produced play," stated Director Maurice Moran "The show is a

tender, yet humorous, story of three sisters who help each other cope with loss and fear, those "crimes of the heart," overcoming the problems they face through the love they have for one another. We have put together a very talented cast who will touch your heart and make you smile as they enact this beautiful tale of family love."

The cast is made up of Maeve Brady, Rebecca Dolan and Katherine Brown as the three Magrath sisters, Lenny, Meg and Babe, with Danielle Mastropiero as Chick, Joe Leo as Doc, and Zach Mazout as Barnette.

The production will run from February 16 through 24 and details and tickets can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org.

CDC Theatre, New Jersey's oldest continuously producing community theatre, is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford.



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CELEBRATION SINGERS OF CRANFORD ADULT AND YOUTH CHOIR AUDITIONS

The Celebration Singers of Cranford adult and youth choirs are scheduling auditions for the Spring 2018 season. Auditions for the Adult, Youth, and Children's choirs will be held on Tuesday, January 9th. Auditions are by appointment only.

Please email us at celebrationsingersnewjersey@gmail.com to schedule your auditions.

The Celebration Singers are multi-generational ambassadors of song drawing music from a breadth of genres and cultures. The Choir's commitment to artistic excellence and its engaging and dynamic style provide its diverse singers and audiences with a compelling musical

experience.

Through music education, skill development and social interaction, the Choir offers its adult and youth members opportunities for personal growth and self-expression. The Choir lends support through music and participates in the cultural life of the community.

Please also visit the Celebration Singers Facebook page: facebook.com/Celebrationsingers.

Funding for the Celebration Singers is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council for the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

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Cranford Daisy Troop 40967 earned their "Make the World a Better Place" petal by making meatloaves to donate to St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen in Elizabeth.

The Troop met at the Cranford Community Center kitchen to mix up some fun and learn the importance of giving during the holiday season.



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TURKEY FEATHERS FOR FAMILY CARE

The Walnut Avenue School PTA held its annual Holiday Give Back Program, "Turkey Feather Frenzy," for Cranford Family Care. Students were challenged to put feathers on a large display of turkeys posted in the Walnut Avenue School Gym. Feathers were available for 25 cents for one week, and all the money collected was donated to Cranford Family Care. On Tuesday, December 5, 2017, Walnut Avenue School and PTA President, Andrea Yurcisin, presented Kathy Willis with a check for \$1,068.75.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DONATE \$5,000 TO CRANFORD FAMILY CARE

The Cranford Knights of Columbus donated \$5,000, proceeds from the Council's annual Golf Outing, to Cranford Family Care on Tuesday, November 21, 2017.

The Cranford Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization dedicated to our four core principles, Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. The Cranford Council supports many charities and civic causes locally, state-wide, and nationally, committed to be a viable part of our community. For information about joining the Council, please contact membership chair, John Caprio at 732-306-5634 or visit www.cranfordknights.org.



(above) Grand Knight, Wall Shackell presenting a ceremonial check to Kathy Willis, Executive Director of Cranford Family Care.

NEW LIBRARY DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED

The Cranford Public Library rang in the New Year with a new Director, Michael Maziekien. Michael succeeded John Malar, who served as Director from 1992 to 2017. Michael was an Adult Services Librarian at the Riverdale and Nutley Public libraries, then Head of Reference and Information Technology at the Rockaway Township Public Library, and, most recently,

Director of the Kenilworth Public Library. He is currently President of the New Jersey Library Association. Speaking of his move to Cranford, Michael said, "I'm excited to be working alongside the library board, staff, and Friends to continue the tradition of excellent service in Cranford." Please stop by and say hello to Michael if you have a chance.



(above) Michael Maziekien and staff of the Kenilworth Public Library were honored for their excellent service to the community during a Kenilworth council meeting held in December.



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Library hours are Monday to Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.,

Thursday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

LIBRARY BOOK SALE

Looking for some good reading at bargain prices? The Friends of the Cranford Public Library invite you to visit their used book sale in the Cranford Public Library's Friendly Book Cellar on Wednesday, January 10, 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday, January 11 and 12, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, January 13, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Items for sale include more than 10,000 adult and children's books, as well as CDs, DVDs, and recorded

books. Prices range from \$.25 to \$2.00, except for a few specially marked items. Saturday is Bag Day; fill a bag with books for just \$8.00. The library is located at 224 Walnut Avenue. Entrance to the sale is through the side door, just off the main parking lot. The sale is wheelchair accessible. Proceeds benefit the library. For more information about the Friends of the Cranford Public Library, go to cranfordlibrary.org and click on Friends of the Library.

FLORIAN SCHANTZ JAZZ COMBO TO PERFORM AT LIBRARY

The Cranford Public Library is pleased to present a performance by the Florian Schantz Jazz Combo on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. in the Cranford Community Center.

The Florian Schantz Jazz Combo was formed in 2012 by then nine-year-old Florian Schantz. Since then, the band has delighted audiences in hundreds of venues in the New York City area

and in Germany. The band features: Florian Schantz on trumpet, cornet, and flugelhorn, Rup Chattopadhyay on tuba, trombone, and flute, Margaret Schantz on flugelhorn and trumpet, Lowell Schantz on guitar, and Cory Ackerman on drums. The Combo will play a selection of Dixieland music. Admission to the program is free and all are welcome.

THE ART OF FLOWER AND GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Please join the Hanson Park Conservancy on Tuesday, January 16th at 7:30 p.m. at the Cranford Community Center for the presentation, "The Art of Flower and Garden Photography" with photographer, Brien Szabo. Mr. Szabo will show how anyone can take great pictures with any kind of camera, from a phone to a simple point and shoot, to an expensive DSLR. He will also go over a variety of simple camera settings so that you can manipulate the effectiveness of shots to create more powerful and dynamic images. And lastly, he will show how you can incorporate four composition techniques to better frame out your favorite garden and flower subjects so that you will be proud to print and hang them in your home or enter them into competitions.

For over twenty years, Brien Szabo has shared his passion for photography with clubs, libraries, workshops, schools, senior centers and garden expos. He has been published in various magazines including Adirondack Life, NJ Monthly, Horticulture Magazine, among others. For more information or to view some of Mr. Szabo's photography, please go to www.brienszabophoto.com.

The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Ave. in Cranford. The program is free and open to the public. No registration is required, but seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

This event is sponsored by the Hanson Park Conservancy. For more information please go to our website, www.hansonparkconservancy.com.



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEEKS NEW MEMBERS AS IT ENTERS 91ST YEAR

Submitted by the Cranford Historical Society

The Cranford Historical Society invites readers to become a member. All you have to do is fill out the membership form and the annual dues of your choice.

Checks can be payable to the Cranford Historical Society and mailed to 38 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016. All members receive five copies a year of our newsletter, The Mill Wheel.

The Cranford Historical Society was founded by Wesley A. Stanger, Sr., and a group of local citizens interested in preserving the town's unique history.

Since its founding, the Society has been dedicated to the perpetuation of Cranford's history by continuing to collect and document the town's past and present as we now enter the 21st century.

The society was chartered by the State of New Jersey on February 17, 1927, as a non-profit educational organization.

The society's headquarters were initially located at 124 North Union Avenue, now the Crane-Phillips House Museum, until the society moved to the Hanson House.

It was the longtime home and office of Dr. Carl Hanson, a pediatrician, who opened his office here in 1934, and for over five succeeding decades, provided care for hundreds of Cranford children.

Dr. Hanson was a nationally recognized researcher in the field of strep throat. The township purchased the property and then leased it to the Cranford Historical Society in 1990.

The Cranford Historical Society has maintained the Hanson House since 1990. Through a grant from Union County, matching funds from the Township of Cranford and the Society, in addition to donations, the Society was able to have the Hanson House painted in 2011 in historically correct colors: green, cream trim, and burgundy accents, to blend with nature. All new windows were installed, a needed stabilization. Still, work is an ongoing process to continue to preserve this "historic home."

The society is conducted strictly in the interest of Cranford, affording opportunities for the public to become better acquainted with the past and present history of Cranford and its environment. Its only source of income is from annual dues, donations, and grants. The collections contain many exhibits and archives, maps, documents, photographs, research library -- an extensive costume and military uniform collection, providing insight into the history of Cranford.

The office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and is open for research on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The society is managed by the Board of Trustees, led by President Margaret Gerlach. The Board of Trustees also includes: Vice-President Mary Wade; Chairman of the Board, John Dreyer; Treasurer, Charles Goodfellow; Recording Secretary, Barbara Klaus; Corresponding Secretary, Linda Bristow; Curator, Vic Bary; and Costume Curator, Gail Alterman. Other Trustees are Nancy Bender, Bill Curtis, Christine Glazer, Lori Ricco, Jean Pascarella, Patricia Pavlak, Don Sweeney, and Maureen Wakeman. The part-time office administrator, Teri Kandel, keeps the office running smoothly.

The Cranford Historical Society also maintains the Crane-Phillips House Museum, which is the primary programming site. It is a prime example of the work of Victorian architect Andrew Jackson Downing, whose book, "Victorian Cottage Residences" published in 1843, influenced American vernacular architecture.



(above) Crane-Phillips House Museum.



(above) Hanson House.

The museum was restored in 1998. A replica 19th century kitchen was installed along with interior restoration. This Victorian cottage's vibrant two-toned green and red exterior trim with peach door were uncovered and restored.

An average of 1,000 people a year visit the Museum which is across the street from the Cranford 9/11 Memorial. It is open two Sundays a month from 2 to 4 p.m. from September to May and during the week by appointment only.vv

Admission is free, but donations are happily accepted. The Museum was placed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places in 1997 and was named "Save America's Treasures" by The White House in 1999.

In 2017, the Cranford Historical Society celebrated their 90th Anniversary. In becoming members, you are aligning your family with one of the important educational organizations in Cranford.

Membership forms can be obtained at the Cranford Library, on our website, and at the Hanson House office. For more information, call the Hanson House office at 908-276-0082 or visit cranfordhistoricalsociety.com.

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GRIEF SEMINAR FOR ALL TYPES OF LOSSES

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave., will hold their six-week seminar "Journey to Wholeness Healing the Grieving Heart" on Sundays evenings from January 8 - February 11, 2018. There is no charge to attend.

Patti Williams, R.N., and certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Virginia Waters, PhD. Psychologist, will lead the sessions from 6:30-8:30 p.m for the first night in the Thompson Youth Center of the church, and then from 4:00-6:00 pm for the following 5 weeks. Patti and Virginia are beginning the 18th year of this ministry, and have helped approximately 2,600 people experience healing, find a new purpose for their lives, and feel joy once again. This is an experience like no other. Teaching is interactive and the small groups are homogenously grouped with a facilitator with the same loss.

The sessions include learning about the stages of grief and understanding the tasks of the grieving process, coping strategies, taking good care of ourselves, dealing with changes, decisions, loneliness, holidays, anniversaries, building a support system, etc.

Both of the leaders and all of the facilitators have experienced loss within their lives and share from "the inside out." It does not matter if your

loss is divorce, death or job loss; loss is loss - it must be grieved. It does not matter how long ago you experienced loss. Bring family members and friends. All faiths are welcome. Teen group available. You must pre register for this life changing event and attend the first session. Registration closes as of session one. Please call Patti to register- 908-709-1341. No fee is charged.

A participant shared, "Your group reflected your love not only in your church but reaching out to your community. This is a very noble action of love! Thank You! Every Sunday evening I am excited to come to the class. Every session is different, you help us to understand about grieving, tools that we need, a tremendous help to me... to us, giving us hope and enjoy life's blessings! You give your time, the most expensive gift to us. Thank you for all the special things you do! Ms.Patti and Dr. Virginia and others!"

Sincerely yours, Rose

The seminar is dedicated to Patti's late husband, the Rev. Dr. Bruce D. Williams who had a vision for this program wanting to help others deal with their pain and suffering during their time of loss.

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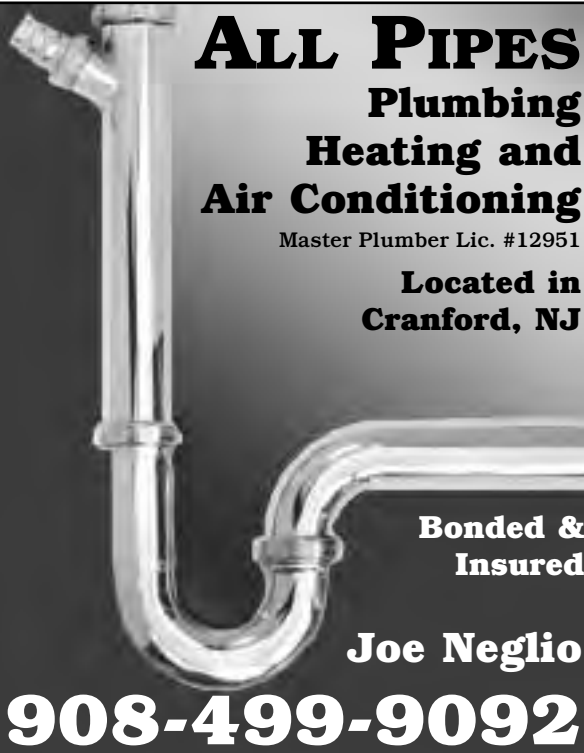
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UPCOMING EVENTS - JANUARY 2018

Cranford Connections over Coffee
January 11th
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2018 Kick Off Party - The Thirsty Turtle
January 17th
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Multi-Chamber Event
Galloping Hill Caterers, Five Points, Union
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THE HEARING SOCIETY OFFERS WEEKLY CLASSES

The Hearing Society will offer weekly classes beginning on Thursday, January 11, 2018, at 10:30 a.m., at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield, NJ.

Under the direction of Morgan Orlowski, speech pathologist, the informal classes provide instruction in strategies for coping with hearing loss as well as techniques for improved

communication. Any person who is interested in improving his or her word recognition skills is welcome to join the society and participate in the classes.

More information about The Hearing Society and the classes may be obtained by contacting Alice Knecht at 908-688-8241 or alirobkn@aol.com.

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