

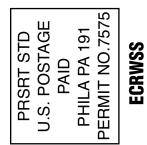
'AN EVENING OF SHINING STARS' SPECIAL NEEDS TALENT SHOW

Published by Renna Media



We're Your Local Area Specialists! Call Us Anytime! After Hours and Workends! With our headquarters here in Crantord, professional, expedient and personal service is as close as your own backyard!





ECRWSSEDDM

Submitted by Michael P. Curci

community from Cranford and around Union County, will take place on Friday May 4, 2018 at 7 p.m.

Founded by Cranford resident Sally Curci, the 7th annual showcase will feature "Music from the Decades" with the cast set to sing and dance their way into your hearts as they show off their amazing talents.

And for the very first time, the "Shining Stars" cast will take the professional stage at the beautiful and historic Union County Performing Arts Center, where many of America's biggest names have performed.

"We are so excited to give our special cast the chance to perform at such a great venue," noted Sally Curci. "Our audience has grown each and every year, and our cast continues to grow as we spotlight talent from around Union County. It's going to be a night to remember."

When the lights will go up, the "stars" will shine, entertaining you with music from the '20s through today, with solo acts and full cast dance choreography, which is one of the highlights of the show.

Adam Fleissner, who has performed in every show, can't wait to take the stage again, as he prepares to sing "Help!" by the Beatles.

"We meet so many great people," said Fleissner. "We get One of the area's most anticipated events, "An Evening of new people in every year and everyone has a good time Shining Stars," featuring members of the special needs meeting each other and performing. All of it is just fantastic."

> Caitlin Madden is also excited to team with volunteer buddy Mark Lynch on the Elton John song, "Don't Go Breaking My Heart," with rehearsals in full swing.

> "I'm very excited for the show, I like my number," said Madden. "I like all the years I've been doing it. It's fun. Come see us!"

> Tickets are on sale now at UCPAC.org/events. Find the Shining Stars logo, select your seats and you'll be in for one of the best nights of the year!

> "An Evening of Shining Stars" is presented by Shining Stars Network, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Union County that shines the light on the special needs community by creating inclusive events such as their annual talent show, dances at local high schools, and our Ambassadors basketball team, which travels to play local first responders to promote friendship and understanding.

> SSN will also host their 2nd annual two week performing arts camp, "Camp Shine," from August 20 through August 31 in Scotch Plains. To reserve your spot, or for more information of these programs or events, on any email shiningstarsnetwork@gmail.com, or check out their website at ShiningStarsNetwork.org.





CRANFORD MONTHLYNJ

Cranford Monthly is published by Renna Media. 9,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Cranford.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

© 2018 Contents of this newspaper cannot be reproduced without written consent from Renna Media LLC.

| fillout written consent from Kenna Wedia LLC. |
|---|
| IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS |
| Non-Emergency Police908-272-2222 |
| Non-Emergency Fire908-709-7360 |
| Non-Emergency First Aid908-272-2222 |
| Administrator908-709-7205 |
| Attorney908-709-7200 |
| Building and Construction908-709-7213 |
| Clerk908-709-7210 |
| Court Administrator908-709-7242 |
| Downtown Business & |
| Economic Development908-709-7208 |
| Library908-709-7272 |
| Engineer908-709-7219 |
| Health Inspector908-709-7225 |
| Judge |
| Prosecutor |
| Public Defender908-709-7242 |
| Public Works908-709-7217 |
| Recreation & Parks908-709-7283 |
| Recycling908-709-7217 |
| Registrar908-709-7238 |
| Swim Pool908-709-7260 |
| Tax Assessor908-709-7211 |
| TV 35908-709-3995 |
| |

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





Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com





www.ArthurMurrayNewJersey.com

GIRL SCOUTS CADETTE TROOP PARTNER WITH A BIRTHDAY WISH

Submitted by Alexandra Paulyson Girl Scout Cadette Troop 40444 of Cranford has partnered with A Birthday Wish, a local nonprofit organization that offers an opportunity to acknowledge the birthdays of foster children in New Jersey. The Cadettes collected wrapping supplies, 29 birthday gifts, and hosted a "wrap" party in late February 2018.

The troop chose to partner with the organization as their community service project. The gifts were given to children with March birthdays within Union County who are in the foster care system. A Birthday Wish lets children in foster care know they are special and not forgotten. Each child requests a gift for their birthday, allowing others to give a birthday gift and card selected specifically for them.

"Our troop was very excited to work with A Birthday Wish!" said Stephanie Patterson, Troop 40444 leader. "It's an organization that our girls can easily relate to and they are proud to help make a difference in their peer's lives."

In 2014, Jane Hoffman, an adoptive parent in Westfield, founded A Birthday Wish in partnership with CASA of Union County, New Jersey. Born from a simple conversation with her three young daughters about how to help children in foster care, A Birthday Wish has become an opportunity to acknowledge the birthdays of foster children in New Jersey and to celebrate each child's inherent worth.

"At A Birthday Wish, we believe that every child in foster care deserves to know that their life matters and that they are truly special," says Ms. Hoffman. "In the process, we work to raise awareness about the issues surrounding foster care and advocate for better ways to serve these wonderful children. Through the money we raise, and wishes we grant we are able to reach children on their birthday with a message of hope, in celebration of their life."

There are currently 600 Union County children in foster care, from birth to age 21, removed from their home due to abuse, neglect or abandonment, and placed in foster homes or residential facilities. To preserve the best interests and address the needs of these youth, CASA of Union County recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to train as child advocates who are sworn in by a family judge and matched to a waiting foster children or sibling set. As advocates, it is their responsibility to spend time with the child at least monthly, often bi-weekly. They speak with teachers, counselors, doctors, caseworkers, coaches. This work enables the CASA volunteer to get a robust picture of the child's status on all fronts and present that in court when the child's case is before the judge. With a CASA volunteer's focus solely on one child or sibling set, they can focus on the many details and prevent needs and concerns from slipping through the cracks.

The gifts collected and wrapped by Troop 40444 will be going directly to CASA of Union County, as well as several other CASA programs within the state.

The Girl Scouts of Cranford boasts over 1139 Girl Scout Members in 67 troops and Juliette's

organizations in town. The Cranford Service Unit learning more about local Girl Scouts or to find is a part of the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey out more information on the Girls Scouts of (GSHNJ) Council which is part of the Girl Scouts Cranford, please visit cranfordgirlscouts.com.

making it one of the largest non-profit of the USA. If your family is interested in



(above) Girl Scout Cadette Troop 40444 of Cranford partners with A Birthday Wish. The Cadettes collected gifts and hosted a "wrap" party.



MURSELI PRO CONSTRUCTION

CHIMNEY & ROOFING SPECIALISTS 908-361-6372 1-800-650-0968

- Family Owned & Operated For 15 Years
- All Work Guaranteed
 - 24/7 Emergency Service
 - 20% Senior Discount
 - Major Credit Cards
 - NJ Lic. 13VH08570100





| · Ente A | inieces | · ADDI | ADHD | • ESL |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Features | Amerikan Boys | Hameschoel | Public School | Private School |
| Smill Class Size | ٢ | 0 | 3 | ? |
| Acomoristely paced instruction | ٢ | ٢ | 8 | 8 |
| Talimed controlom | ٢ | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| Competent: MALTATIN | ٢ | ? | ? | ٢ |
| Social salits developmente | ۲ | 8 | ? | ٢ |
| Sale environment | ٢ | 0 | 8 | ٢ |
| Rosbiye Inflaences | ۲ | ۲ | ? | ۲ |
| Allordable | ٢ | ? | 0 | 8 |
| Homework optimiser | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| Real-time progress monitoring | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| Flexible start and Reish times | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| Flexible vacation periods | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| Ample- resets | ٢ | 0 | 8 | ? |
| No high stakes texting | ۲ | 0 | 8 | ? |

www.ABP-Academy.org 908.516.4231

DISCOVERY CHILD CARE CENTER UNVEILS DISCOVERY LEARNING CENTER

On Monday, March 12, 2018 Discovery Child Care Center, located at One Commerce Drive in Cranford, officially announced the opening of its new Discovery Learning Center. This new classroom will be the home of the center's Pre-K 4 Classroom and will serve students ages 4 years old and up as they prepare for Kindergarten.

Discovery Child Care Center has provided childcare, academic pre-school and kindergarten to the Cranford community since 1997. The center provides safe, fun, and affordable child care options for children as young as 2.5 months old with an emphasis on developing the student's physical, social, emotional and cognitive wellbeing.

Owner/Director Salvatore Ridente stated "The

students were very excited to explore their new classroom and could not wait to start learning," said Ridente. "We have had the pleasure of providing a multitude of services to families in this area for over 30 years with gymnastics, afterschool care, birthday parties, summer camp and of course childcare. We love the Cranford community and are proud and fortunate to be a part of it, our doors are always open for a tour of the facility for anyone interested in finding out about our services."

For more information about Discovery Child Care Center, you can contact them at 908-272-3500 or visit their website discoverychildcarenj.com



(above) With the help of Pre-K students, Discovery Child Care Center held a ceremonial ribbon cutting. Cutting the ribbon were classroom teacher, Ms. Marie Avent, Ms. Diana Rios, and Owner/Director Salvatore Ridente.



NOW HIRING PART TIME JOBS

Parking Productions is seeking Part-Time Valet Parkers for Special Events.

- Flexible Schedule!
- Weekend Work!
- Earn extra money on a fun job!
- Great for Students or Full Timers looking for extra work!

Call: 732-574-9300 Email: Jobs@parkingproductions.com

MAIN OFFICE LOCATED IN CLARK, NJ

DORMERS & ADDITIONS . DECKS & PORCHES . MASONRY STEPS & PATIOS











Attics

Call Today for a Free Estimate! 855-624-6655

Affordable, **Professional & Reliable**

- Family Owned & Operated 25+ Years Remodeling Experience
- Angie's List Service Award Winner
- **BBB** A+ Rated
- HomeAdvisor Screened & Approved
- GAF Certified Roofing Installer
- 100% Financing Available
- **0% Interest Programs**
- **Outstanding Workmanship**
- **CertainTeed Building Solutions** Specialist

Family Owned & Operated



houzz

SIDING & ROOFING . WINDOWS & DOORS . KITCHENS & BATHS . BASEMENTS & ATTICS

Low Monthly Payment Plans

Porches/Steps \$105 Bathrooms \$199 Roofing \$179

Windows \$189 Kitchens \$289

Basements \$295 Decks/Patios \$139 Siding \$259

0% for up to 18 Months

Estimated monthly payments. Rates & payments based on credit approval.

www.MagnoliaHomeRemodeling.com









CRANFORD FIREFIGHTERS COMPETE IN ULTIMATE FIRE DEPARTMENT COOK-OFF

On Monday, February 26, 2018, Cranford firefighters joined together with 24 other teams of firefighters from around New Jersey to compete in 'The Ultimate Fire Department Cookoff,' part of the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival held at the Pines Manor in Edison New Jersey.

The event benefited the New Jersey State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

The Fire Department Cook-off is part of a 8 years.

culinary extravaganza where participants were able to experience the tastes and flavors of more than 30 of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers and dessert shops all in one location. This event, held at The Pines Manor in Edison, NJ, drew more than 1000 people from across New Jersey. According to event organizers, \$65,000 was raised this year, St. Barnabas will receive half. The Cooked and Uncorked event has provided The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center with over \$170,000 over the past 8 years.



(above, l-r) The Cranford Fire Department team consisting of Bob Moran, Tom Hannen, Gary Merwede, and John Dillon competed in 'The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off' during the 8th Annual Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Cranford Monthly page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share".







(above, l-r) Mary Leonard, Regent and Joanne Hamilton Rajoppi.



CRANE'S FORD NSDAR AWARDS TO JOANNE HAMILTON RAJOPPI

Submitted by Mary Leonard

Crane's Ford chapter celebrated Women's History Month by presenting the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution "Women in American History Award" to Union County Clerk, Joanne Hamilton Rajoppi, on March 10, 2018, at the Cranford Community Center. This national award is designed to recognize worthy women and celebrate their contribution to history, culture, and society.

Joanne Rajoppi is an author of two books based on her family history, her first book published in 2013 chronicled the military service of her great-grandfather during the Civil War titled, New Brunswick and the Civil War; The Brunswick Boys in the Great Rebellion. She followed the story with the Hamilton Women after the war writing her most recent book, Northern Women in the Aftermath of the Civil War: The Wives and Daughters of the Brunswick Boys. This book was published in 2017 and Joanne presented a power point lecture to the audience.

Joanne is the first woman Union County clerk in its 154-year history. She is the former Mayor of Springfield, former Union County Freeholder and the first woman chairman of the Freeholder Board and former NJ Assistant Secretary of State during the Byrne Administration. She has been an advocate for women running for public office, writing her first book, Women in Office: Getting There and Staying There in 1993.

This event was well attended by members from local Historical Societies as well as the chapter members from the Church and Cannon DAR chapter in Springfield.

Coming Soon to The Chelsea at Fanwood

REEZEWA

For those with early signs of dementia or other memory impairments

A secure environment in an Assisted Living setting. *BREZENICS* is for those in the beginning stages of memory loss who are high-functioning, but require increased structure and security. *BREEZENICS* is currently under development in our Fanwood community. Deposits are now being accepted.



THE CHELSEA AT FANWOOD 295 South Avenue Fanwood, NJ 07023 Chelseaseniorliving.com

Call 908-654-5200 today!

A NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DESIGNED FOR FAMILIES

We invested three years and \$18.7 million to construct the Gary S. Horan Emergency Department for you and your family. We doubled the treatment space and organized it into specialized areas for seniors and families. A larger Fast Track area, new technology like our 128-slice CT scanner, and dedicated, compassionate staff will get you home in a fraction of the time.



TrinitasRMC.org



WE'RE GETTING BETTER, TOGETHER

GIRL SCOUT PIZZA AND PAINTING PARTY

Over 50 Cranford Girl Scouts enjoyed a pizza Me Up Studio in downtown Cranford on March who were left without power due to the lunch and an instructional painting session at Fire 8th. It was a much-needed distraction for those Nor'easter.



DJ Twin & Sons

MOBILE DISC JOCKEY SERVICES

• Hip Hop

Corporate Events
Sweet 16's









No rainy day worries with **Bowling Birthday Party Packages for children** aged 5 and up. Available 7 days a week. Call for more information and to make reservation. BOWLINS-PARTY (908) 789 2040

garwoodlanes.com 346 North Avenue, Garwood, NJ





THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. www.CranfordGirlScouts.com



Alexandra Paulyson Ali McNulty Amber Schuchart Amie Sartorius Amy Dipaolo Amy Widdows Andrea Yurcisin Andrea Van Bergen Andrea Westervelt Angela Carpenter Angela Edmonds Angelica Valenza Anne Marie McNamara Anne Weisenfels Anne-Marie McGuinness Benee Meade Beth Folvik Brooke Walsh Cari Epstein Carol Budsock Carolyn Nester Cessy Peralta Christine McMullan Christine Newport Christine Rappa Christine Zapoticzny Chryssy Willis Claire Fiebiger Cyndi Fitzgerald Danielle O Kern

Denise Cicalese Diane Butka Diane Kachoogian Dina Curro Elayna Torsone Elizabeth Theophilakos Erin Esteves Faith Dzurovcik McDevitt Fran Pugliese Ginette and Derik Bracke Gwen D'Amico Heather Burnett Inga Reibarkh Irene Warner Jackie Mann Jacky Messinger Jaclyn King Jeanine Stroh Jenifer Pascal Jennifer Fay Jennifer Finan Jennifer Geis Jennifer Kirby Jennifer Laurie Jennifer Morsello Jessica Bossolina Jessica Daly Jessica Gordon Jessica Handsman

Jessica Zucker Joanna Delgado Jodi Wilhelm Jorge & Kristin Santos Judi Wofsy Karen Hoffman Kathryn Teel Kathy Hilser Katie Baldoni Katie Carapola Katie Marchesi Katie Tierney Kerriann Patt Kerry Parker Kim Kelly Kim Nofi Kim Reitzel Kristin Ferrara Kristin Tully Kristine Gaffney Lauren Ramsay Lesley Cora Leslie Potenciano Linda Miklencic Lisa Durant Lisa Occhipinti Malecki Lisa Pizzuta Lissette Ortiz De Pryor Lori Chesnock

Lori Smith Lorrae Schau Lucylyn Khouri Marcy Kielczynski Marie Zissler Marilyn Geraghty Marjorie Smith Mary Manning Mary Frese Maryanne Del Negro Marybeth Connell Megan Quigley Megan Scanielo Melissa Alfano Michele Keating Michele LaMastra Michele Padovano Molly Dennis Monica Connolly Nancy Aschmies Nancy Valdivia Nicole Consorte Nicole Fabian-Weber Nilda Haywood Olga Enriquez Olivia Haub Omaira Allbritton Patricia Brady Patricia Maio

Patricia Tona Rachel Schwartz Randi Suarez-Ojedis Rebecca Regan Rebecca Scotti Rebecca Steen Rema Nimrud Reykha Bonilla Sandra Zaki Sara Guttierrez Sarah Clark Sarah Marmarou Stephanie Concannon **Stephanie Patterson** Susan Shaw Sydney O'Hagan Tammie Costello Tara Giblin Terry Gathercole **Tiffany Davitt** Toni Kamm Tracee Blanton Tracey Durko Tracey Hart-Kornik Tracey Toto Tracy McSweeney Tricia Lopes-Ulicki Vanga Stoilov Veronica Doyle Wendy Lyubarsky

CRANFORD MONTHLY • Page 14 • April 2018



(above) Two Zambian students pose with the water purification system that True Thabo has provided their school with. True Thabo has provided six partner schools in Zambia with water purification systems.





CRANFORD RESIDENT CREATES NONPROFIT TO BRING CLEAN WATER TO SCHOOLS IN AFRICA

Submitted by Jaclyn Campson

Cranford resident and college student, Marissa Frank launched a non-profit organization, True Thabo, which provides schools in Africa with clean water. The organization aims to also educate people around the world about the global water crisis and inspire a generation of change through reusable water bottles.

Marissa Frank and business partner, Jaclyn Campson, have already supplied over 500,000 liters of clean water to schools in Zambia through True Thabo. The organization sells trendy reusable water bottles to raise money for water purification systems for their partner schools in Africa.

True Thabo currently has seven partner schools in Livingstone, Zambia that they are working with to improve their water sanitation processes. Marissa and Jaclyn are working on partnering with more schools in the coming months. "We have become advocates for our partner schools and we take that job seriously,"

Marissa says.

Marissa was born and raised in Cranford. After graduating from Cranford High School, she volunteered in Ghana the summer before college. She has volunteered in various African countries during her college career as well. Marissa is currently a senior at the University of Scranton majoring in Marketing.

According to Marissa, "I saw first-hand the problems that schools were facing and how it was effecting the quality of education. I knew that there was a lot more I could do, even when I returned back to the States. Jaclyn and I started True Thabo to help eliminate the risk of students getting sick from water at school."

True Thabo is a registered 501(c)3 organization which aims to supply underserved schools in Africa with water purification systems and water hygiene education.

People can learn more about this serious issue, and ways to help on their website, truethabo.com.



(above) Marissa Frank posing with the sixth grade class at Nekacheya Primary School in Zambia, where she taught English and language during a volunteer trip.

IT'S TIME FOR NEW DENTURES!

If your dentures ...

- Are loose
- Over 5 years old Have been repaired
- many times
- Or ... ์
- You would like to improve your smile

Then call today for an appointment!The doctors at Dentalcare associates

will provide all your denture needs.

Most Insurances Accepted Interest Free Financing

908-322-7800 567 Park Ave.,Scotch Plains NJ www.njdentalcare.com/dentures



• 1 HOUR DENTURE REPAIRS
• 3 HOUR LAB RELINES
• LABORATORY ON PREMISES
All repairs schedule permitting



1701 U.S. Highway 22 West • Watchung





| unch 11am - | 3:30pm | Dinn |
|-------------|--------|--------|
| ult | \$7.99 | Adult |
| ls 7-10 | \$5.99 | Kids 7 |
| ls 3-6 | | |
| k Under | | |
| | | |

L

Adı

Kid

Kid

28

.....\$11.99 7-10.....\$7.49 3-6.....\$5.99 Under.....FREE!

FRIDAY - SATURDAY

| Lunch 11am - 3:30pm | Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Adult\$7.99 | Adult\$11.99 |
| Kids 7-10\$5.99 | Kids 7-10\$7.49 |
| Kids 3-6\$3.99 | Kids 3-6\$5.99 |
| 2 & UnderFREE! | 2 & UnderFREE! |

SUNDAY ALL DAY DINNER 11am - 10pm

| Adult | \$11.99 |
|-----------|-----------|
| Kids 7-10 | |
| Kids 3-6 | |
| 2 & Under | |
| | ·····FREE |

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE





SUSHI

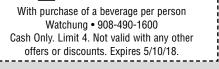
Fantastic range of freshly prepared sushi. Most selection and top quality among all competitors. It is far from the typical "buffet quality" sushi. At HIBACHI, you don't sacrifice taste for price.

Elegant, modern, fresh, executed with care and confidence. HIBACHI Grill Supreme Buffet brings together 250+ of fresh-made Asian dishes in eleven buffet bars.

HIBACH

Choose your favorite ingredients from dozens of seafood, meats and vegetables. Watch our chef preparing them in our special hibachi sauce to create a full-flavored dish.





BUFFETS With purchase of a beverage per person Watchung • 908-490-1600 Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Expires 5/10/18.

Of \$100 or more. Monday - Thursday Only. Watchung • 908-490-1600 Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Expires 5/10/18.



Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other

offers or discounts. Expires 5/10/18

CRANFORD MONTHLY • Page 16 • April 2018



(above, l-r) Patti Williams and Virginia Waters.

HEALING FROM GRIEF AND LOSS SEMINAR

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey, will hold their six-week seminar "Journey to Wholeness:

Healing the Grieving Heart"

on Sundays, April 15 to May 20, 2018,

from 4 to 6 p.m.

Patti Williams, R.N., and certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Virginia Waters, PhD, will lead the sessions in the Thompson Youth Center. Patti and Virginia in the 18th year of this ministry, and have helped approximately 2650 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 categorized among 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 and tools for the journey, taking good care of ourselves, dealing with changes, decisions, loneliness, holidays, anniversaries, and building a support system.

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

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.

CRANE'S FORD NSDAR CHAPTER TO PRESENT AWARD TO DR. OMBRELLO

Submitted by Mary Leonard

The Crane's Ford chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are privileged to present the National DAR Conservation Medal Award to Dr. Thomas M. Ombrello, Senior Professor of Biology at Union County College on Saturday, April 14, 2018, 1 p.m. at Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey.

This prestigious NSDAR Conservation Medal Award can be presented to any man or woman with a distinguished conservation record. Criteria for the award include: distinguished teaching; outstanding volunteer record in educational work including college level; major replanting efforts by an individual; resource management; all of which pertain to Dr. Ombrello's Historic Tree Project nursery.

We invite the public to join us in honoring Dr. Ombrello for his extensive work in the Historic Tree Project at Union County College campus in Cranford. In addition, his dedication to the conservation of trees has connected him locally with the historic 300-year-old Basking Ridge Oak by cultivating and providing a progeny from his college nursery to succeed the parent tree in Basking Ridge at the Presbyterian Church.

Crane's Ford Conservation chairman Barbara Krause, indicated, "We cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award than Dr. Ombrello. Please be with us to celebrate Dr. Ombrello on his receiving this national award." Dr. Ombrello will also give a presentation on his interests in historic trees which will be timely, considering our massive loss of trees in the recent storms. We are extending April's "National Arbor Day" to "Arbor Month."



CRANFORD MONTHLY • Page 17 • April 2018

'BEER & BIBLE,' AN ALTERNATIVE TO TRADITIONAL SUNDAY WORSHIP

Submitted by Jill Neibert Garnhart

Martin Luther believed keeping the Sabbath simply meant setting aside time for God's Word. And that's exactly the opportunity Calvary Lutheran Church in Cranford offers through their "Beer & Bible" ministry. The chance to set aside time for God in the middle of the week.

Everyone is welcome to Beer & Bible. The discussion group is held monthly at the Cranford Hotel, 1 South Union Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey. It's led by Calvary's Pastor Carol Lindsay and this year they're focusing on the teachings of Martin Luther and how they influence faith.

The group gathers to eat, drink, and share beliefs. No purchase is necessary to participate.

While some folks are regulars, others drift in and out as their schedule permits.

"Beer & Bible" was started by Calvary as an outreach program. Finding a way to take God out of the church building and into the community.

The evening starts with prayer, and then someone reads aloud as others eat and listen. The conversation is thought provoking and respectful. No one believes in God the exact same way, and that's something this group thrives on. As Jorge Santos says, "You get to express views and hear other people's views that you don't get to do with the congregation in church."

The night ends with the Lord's Prayer and Holy Communion. Pastor Carol Lindsay said, "The fairly unique thing about the way we handle our beer and bible ministry is that we offer communion at the end and most places it's just simply a discussion about scripture and drinks, supper, fellowship. I felt very strongly that if we were going to bring this out into the community I felt it would really wrap up the whole package."

For more information, email: office@calvary.com or call 908-276-2418.

Memorabiz.com

Website Services to

Make Your

Business Memorable!

Local Cranford Support

ken@memorabiz.com



(above) Pastor Carol Lindsay offers Holy Communion to Sue Bird during Calvary Lutheran Church's Beer and Bible.



STEPHANIE GARDENS GARWOOD, NJ

One bedroom available at \$1,295 Heat & hot water included Conveniently located in residential area.

908.789.9198



Williamson

and maintenance company.

- HEATING OIL SUPPLIER
- WILLIAMSON BOILERS
- RHEEM FURNACES AND AIR CONDITIONERS
- NATURAL GAS CONVERSIONS AND SERVICE



549 Lexington Avenue • Cranford 908-276-0900 or 1-888-480-0901 WWW.REEL-STRONG.COM



Elizabethtown Gas rebate available on High Efficiency Equipment

> **Up to \$1,450** NJ Clean Energy Program **Incentive for the Purchase** of High Efficiency Heat and AC

INCLUDES FREE 5 YEAR PARTS & LABOR WARRANTY. *Some model restrictions may apply.



*Some expiration dates apply so don't delay

CRANFORD MONTHLY • Page 18 • April 2018

Photos by Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta



(above, l-r) Therapy dog Buddy with Myles, 7.



(above, l-r) Jessica Lee with Tyler, 6; Michael, 4; and therapy dog George.





With this ad. Expires 5/10/18.

PAWS FOR READING AT CRANFORD LIBRARY

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

The second Tuesday of each month, independent readers are invited to hone their skills by reading to certified therapy dogs at the Cranford Library.

Reading to dogs can boost reading skills in children, as well as help with emotional and social skills. Some children feel that reading to a dog is less difficult than reading in front of a class. They feel comfortable reading to dogs because dogs don't judge if a word is mispronounced.

Dogs are also known to have calming effects on children. Children who feel nervous reading aloud calm down when reading to a dog. After reading a book to a dog, a child can feel a sense of accomplishment.

There are also social benefits to the program because children learn to take turns while waiting for a chance to read to the dog. They also learn kindness by petting dogs.

Because of the many benefits, such programs are gaining popularity in libraries. Lauren Antolino, children's librarian at Cranford Library said, "It's a nice way to make reading exciting."

At a recent session, volunteers from St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center, Madison, New Jersey, Vicki Parker and Lizzi Walter, came with dogs, George, and Buddy. Both dogs were passive and worked extremely well with the children.

Parker, said, "They [the therapy dogs] listen



(above, l-r) Lizzi Walter, Buddy, Kate Friedman, and Charlotte, 6.

908-499-9092

ALL PIPES

Air Conditioning

Plumbing

Located in

Bonded &

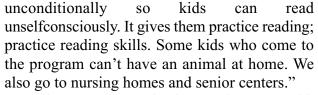
Joe Neglio

Insured

Cranford, NJ

Heating and

Master Plumber Lic. #12951



Jessica Lee came to the therapy dog event with her boys, Tyler, 6, and Michael 4. It was their first time coming to a therapy dog reading session, where each child gets to read for 10 minutes alone with the dog and the volunteer.

After the session Tyler said, "It was good," adding, "He [the dog] was a good listener."

Kathleen Moretti brought her twin boys, Myles and Julian, aged 7. "Our first time was last month," she said. "Now we're going to come every month. It's good practice reading. It's another audience. Our dog at home won't sit still, so this is good."

Kate Friedman came with her niece Charlotte, 6, who is shy, but read beautifully to the therapy dog.

If you'd like your child to participate in the Paws for Reading program, registration is required and begins two weeks prior to the program. You can register by calling the library at 908-709-7272. The Cranford Library is located at 224 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey. For more information visit: cranfordlibrary.org



(above, l-r) Therapy dog George; Vicki Parker, St. Hubert's volunteer; and Julian, 7.

UGLY HOMES WANTED FOR TELEVISION PROGRAM IN THIS AREA

We need 30 Ugly Homes with Ugly Kitchens, Bathrooms, Siding, Window, etc., Inside or Outside that need fixing or Remodeling. We will Repair and Remodel them and shoot video for training film and future TV show on Home Remodeling Work.

Must Sign Release, for purpose of filming job! This must be a complete remodeling job, not just patch up work. This remodeling is to be specially priced out of work, with compensation back to the homeowner for signed release.

CALL 1-800-281-1582 Ask for TV Project Department, for job evaluation and estimate of cost and compensations!

Serious Inquiries Please!

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS AT CDC THEATRE

"The Princess and the Pea" by Hans Christian Anderson, the next show at CDC Theatre in Cranford, New Jersey, may surprise you! "Once Upon A Mattress" carries this tale of royal courtship, curses and love along on a wave of wonderful songs composed by Mary Rodgers.

Zach Mazout, who has appeared often on the CDC stage, jumps into the director's chair for this show. "'Once Upon a Mattress' is one of my favorite shows because of its iconic music and tongue-in-cheek humor," he recently shared. "Although the show was written in the late 1950s and first performed in the early 1960s, at the center of the story is an atypical ingénue, Fred, whose story challenges traditional fairytale princess stereotypes. This theme has only gained popularity among modern audiences. It has the spectacle of a classic Broadway show without

If you think you know the classic fairy tale feeling dated or boring, and it's a show that audiences of all ages can enjoy."

> Boasting a large cast of talented local performers, the show opens on Friday, May 4, and runs for three weekends until May 19, 2018. Additional information about the show and ticket purchases can be found by visiting the theatre's website, cdctheatre.org.



THEATER PROJECT PRESENTS 'LEAP OF FAITH' AT CRANFORD COMMUNITY CENTER

The Theater Project will present a staged, script-in-hand reading of Leap of Faith, an original play by Stephanie Griffin, on Saturday, April 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the Cranford Community Center. Ms. Griffin, a member of the Theater Project's playwrights group and the Dramatists Guild, is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter whose work has been performed in many theaters in the New York metropolitan area. The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey.

Headquartered at the Burgdorff Center in thetheaterproject.org.

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

908-647-4587 Fax: 908-647-8433

E-Mail: Joe@GreenerLawns.com







We Use Super

LT. CHRISTOPHER POLITO PRESENTED WITH SHIELD AWARD

The Cranford Knights of Columbus recently honored one of Cranford's finest with the inaugural presentation of the Shield Award for 2018. Lt. Christopher Polito of the Cranford Police Department was selected this year as the recipient for his faithful service, commitment, and dedication to the Cranford community. Lt. Polito accepted the award with his family at an event held in St. Michael's School on March 10, 2018.

Lt. Polito is an 19-year veteran of the Cranford Police Department. He currently serves as a Division Commander for the Patrol Division. He has dedicated an abundance of time towards Cranford's youth and is an active member of the Cranford Police Athletic League (PAL) where he holds the position of Board Vice President.



(above, l-r) Lt. Christopher Polito and Chief Ryan Greco.





Saturday, April 14, 2018 9 a.m. through 3 p.m. (rain date, April 21) 406 Casino Avenue, Cranford Holiday decor • home and garden goods • books luggage • glassware • antiques • small furniture pieces, and much more. Proceeds will benefit the Garden Club of Cranford Annual Scholarship Fund.





(908) 202-1702 CELL Elizabeth Bataille (908) 301-2046 DIRECT LINE Sales Associate (973) 387- 4457 EFAX (908) 233-5555 EXT: 117 OFFICE elizabeth.bataille@coldwellbankermoves.com



until job is 100% completed Paving & Seal Coating • Driveways • Brick Pavers • Sidewalks • Steps. Please call Mr. Tom Magill 732-489-8454 wepaveyousave@gmail.com

www.paveandsave.info

D VV/ANN **FILING CLERK**

Springfield NJ – United Window & Door Springfield Office seeking full-time file clerk for busy office. Hours are 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Fax Resume to 973-912-4998 Contact Leigh Cuccio at 973-912-0600 x141





CHILDREN'S EVENTS AT CRANFORD LIBRARY

224 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016 • Phone: 908-709-7272

Email: library@cranfordnj.org • Web: cranford.com/library

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.

'HISTORY OF HANSON PARK' AT CRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

on a local landmark, "The History of Hanson Park and Surrounding Architecture 1963-2018," co-sponsored by the Cranford Public Library and the Cranford Historical Society. On Tuesday, April 24 at 7 p.m., Cranford resident Dr. Frank W. Krause will tell the story of Hanson Park's location, buildings, and long development, using photos, newspaper clippings, and other historical documents. Dr. Krause has been involved in

Join us for an evening of fascinating reflection many local civic groups and projects during his longstanding medical practice in Cranford. As Cranford's first orthodontist, he developed new technologies and received significant recognition state and national professional from organizations. To see other upcoming programs, organized by or in cooperation with the Cranford Public Library, go to cranfordlibrary.org and click on Calendar or Upcoming Events. Or call the library at 908-709-7281.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY GERARD PARADISO SCHOLARSHIP

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library are offering the Gerard Paradiso Scholarship to intends to pursue a graduate degree in library information science or media specialist. Named in honor of former Friends of the Library President Gerard Paradiso, the scholarship is worth \$1000. The award is not based on need. The candidate must furnish proof of acceptance to an accredited university, a letter of reference,

and an essay.

Applications are available at the Cranford a Cranford resident who is currently pursuing or Public Library reference desk. Completed applications should be mailed to The Friends of the Cranford Public Library, P.O. Box 400, Cranford, NJ 07016. The deadline to apply is May 1, 2018.

For more information contact Michael Maziekien at 908-709-7281 or email: mmaziekien@cranfordni.org.

FLORAPHILE GARDEN CLUB HOSTS GARAGE SALE

Submitted by Jenna Doscher

On Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Floraphile Garden Club will be hosting a Cranford, New Jersey. Come on out to find a great selection of household goods, plants, clothes, toys, books, etc. Proceeds from this fundraiser support the Floraphile Garden Club and their involvement in numerous community service projects, beautification programs,

charitable donations, and horticultural therapy.

Founded in 1950, Floraphile has been an active garage sale fundraiser at 469 Brookside Ct. in and integral part of the Cranford community for over 65 years. Members participate in many exciting workshops, informative presentations, charitable projects, and garden tours. If you are interested in learning more about the Floraphile Garden Club, please like us on Facebook at facebook.com/floraphilegardenclub.

TECH FOR SENIORS AT COMMUNITY CENTER

Cranford Recreation and Parks Department your own device. Class will be held at the would like to announce that a new senior program, Tech for Seniors is being offered at the Cranford Community Center. Become tech savvy. Learn how to use those newfangled gadgets- cell/smartphones, tablets, and computers. Class covers emailing, texting, social media, and more. Bring your questions. Tablets are provided however, you are welcomed to bring Cranford Community Center at 908-709-7283.

Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey, on Monday mornings from 9 to 10 a.m. beginning Monday April 9. Registration is open at Cranford Recreation Department, 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford.

For further information please contact

CRANFORD WOMEN'S CLUB ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2018 SCHOLARSHIP

The Cranford Women's Club is accepting applications for our 2018 Scholarship.

Eligibility: Cranford resident and graduating senior who plans to continue education at an accredited institute of higher learning, and who has a demonstrated commitment to community service.

An essay and at least one letter of recommendation is required. Details are in application. Applications can be picked up at the

Cranford Library Reference Desk. The Cranford Library is located at 224 Walnut Street, Cranford, New Jersey.

Cranford High School students can also pick up in the Guidance Office of the high school.

Application deadline is April 9, 2018.

Mail to: CWC PO Box 403,

Cranford, NJ 07016.

For more information,

call Ashley Fiume at 908-868-4129.

CRANFORD MONTHLY • Page 21 • April 2018

AIDAN ACOSTA AND RYAN KILBASHIANA COMPETE IN SCOUT CHESS TOURNAMENT

Aidan Acosta, Munsee Pack 103, and Ryan Kilbashain, Troop 80, both from Cranford, participated in The Munsee District of Boy Scouts 5th Annual Chess Tournament.

The tournament was held at the Cranford Community Center, Cranford, New Jersey, on February 24, 2018. Sponsored by Renna Media, trophies were awarded to first, second, and third place finishers. The tournament met the 6a requirement for earning a Chess merit badge.

Aidan Acosta, Munsee Pack 103, and Ryan First Place prizes were chess sets in traveling ilbashain, Troop 80, both from Cranford, cases.

Thirty-six contestants participated, with players coming from as far as Franklin, Lake Hopatcong, and Rockaway. Big Apple Pizzeria on Walnut Avenue, Cranford, donated lunch for all participants and spectators.

Last year's winner, Linden resident, Youssef Diakite returned as a volunteer and assistant tournament director.



(above) Ryan Kilbashian.



(above, l-r) Sponsor Joe Renna of Renna Media; Second Place finisher Joshua McDonald of Raritan Valley Troop 90; First Place winner Vibhav Chaturvedi of Watchung Mountains Troop 368; Third Place finisher Miguel Aguirre of Raritan Valley Troop 90; and Jim Parlapiano, Cranford Troop Volunteer.





(above) Aidan Acosta.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Cranford Monthly page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share"

TV 35 CRANFORD NJ



(above) Chris Fedhoff did a tremendous job reporting for Cranford's TV35 on the 5th Annual Munsee District Boy Scout Chess Tournament. See the video on their website cranfordtv35.viebit.com



NAZAIRE MARIE JENNINGS, OBIT

Cranford Crossing Guard

Nazaire Marie Jennings (nee Walsh), 85. passed away February 21, 2018. Born in Newark, she lived in Cranford for nearly 40 years after raising her children in Irvington.

Mrs. Jennings was a longtime parishioner and usher at St. Michael's Church, a member of the VFW, and was a crossing guard for 38 years.

She was predeceased by her husband Robert A. Jennings Sr. in 2002.

Surviving are her children, Jack of Lebanon, and Robert Jr. and wife Joan of Chatham; her eight grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Donations in her memory can be made to St. Michaels Church in Cranford.

CRANFORD POOL & FITNESS CENTER AND CRANFORD MASTERS SWIMMING OFFER FREE ADULT LEARN-TO-SWIM FEST

Month" by the Swimming Saves Lives Foundation, the charitable arm of U.S. Masters Swimming. The Cranford Pool & Fitness Center and Cranford Masters Swimming are supporting this event by offering two free Adult Learn-To-Swim Fests for anyone 18-years or older, who wants to learn to swim or to learn to swim better.

Customized instruction will be conducted by U. S. Masters Swimming-certified adult instructors.

U. S. Masters Swimming is an adult-oriented, national organization encompassing all levels of swimmers from beginner to national competitor, from fitness swimmer to open water swimmer. The Swimming Saves Lives Foundation helps

April is designated "Adult Learn-To-Swim fund and promote adult learn-to-swim programs throughout the country. Its mission is to reduce the number of drowning incidences and introduce the physical and emotional benefits of swimming to adults who may not otherwise have the opportunity.

> The Learn-To-Swim Fests dates are Saturday, April 7 and Sunday, April 15, 2018, both from 6 to 8 p.m. and will be held at the Cranford Pool & Fitness Center, 401 Centennial Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey.

> Drop-ins are welcome but pre-registration is available by calling 908-709-7260, ext. 2300 or Sally at ext. 2307. Be sure to bring a friend or a family member for a fun and informative evening.



(above) Nazaire Marie Jennings.

CRANFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS

cranfordchamber@comcast.net cranford.com/chamber • 908 272 6114 8 Springfield Avenue • Cranford, NJ 07016

APRIL 2018 EVENTS

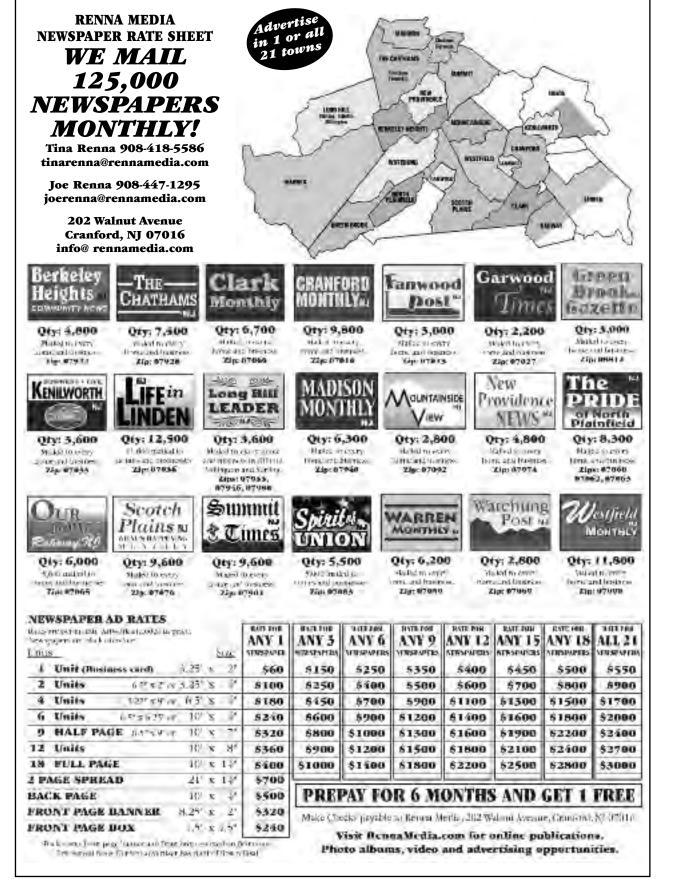
Cranford Connections Over Coffee Thursday - April 19th 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. CEC Research, 16 Commerce Drive, Cranford \$25 for Members/ \$30 Future Members Moderated by Jon Best, expert business advisor From Winner's Edge Business Coaching, LLC

Networking Luncheon

Wednesday – April 25th noon Garlic Rose, 28 North Avenue, W. Cranford Speaker - Cranford Chief of Police Ryan Greco \$15 for Members/\$20 Future Members

RSVP to cranford.com/chamber or call 908-272-6114

The Cranford Area Chamber of Commerce unites and energizes the business community to improve members' success by providing networking, educational opportunities, encouraging business and community development.



THE NEXT BIG THING!!! JOE RENNA'S HYPER LOCAL NETWORK ON YOUTUBE

Renna Media has launched a new YouTube channel called Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network! The channel will consist of a variety of shows, each with its own focus. The first episode of each show is up and ready to view.

Mind Your Own Local Business

Mind Your Local Business uses real life examples to illustrate successful techniques for managing and marketing your business. Local businesses will be featured. The first episode is about crafting a 30 second elevator speech. The February 2018 meeting of the Irish Business Association held at Molly Maguire's in Clark, NJ is featured in the first episode. Businesses that would like to be featured in an episode can email Joe at joerenna@rennamedia.com.

The Peterstown Show

The Peterstown show is a video continuation of the Peterstown Newspaper. The show focuses on the 100-year history of an Italian American Neighborhood in Elizabeth, NJ. Like the newspaper, it preserves the culture and traditions while recording the oral history that may be lost. The first episode is an interview with Carmela Lepore who turned 108-years-old on January 30, 2018.

Renna's Arena hosted by Nick Renna

Nick Renna has been the voice of high school sports as a public address announcer and brings that experience to a variety show; an eclectic mix of old and new video about general interests. His first episode is a video he shot of a 5th and 6th grade St. Anthony's Grammar School game from 1989.

The Video Shoebox

As a camera bug from a very young age Joe Renna amassed a collection of VHS tapes and 8 mm film. The first video is of the Linden Debutant Ball that he shot in 1992. There are hundreds of hours of videos to come.

Anyone with 8mm film or VHS tape to transfer should email joerenna@rennamedia.com.

Renna Media will convert film for free if we use it on the show.

PLEASE VIEW / LIKE / COMMENT / SUBSCRIBE.

More shows will be coming in the future! And if you have ideas for what you'd like to see, please comment or email me at JoeRenna@rennamedia.com. \bigvee Please SUBSCRIBE to my channel to get regular business insights and networking guidance: youtube.com/channel/UCqJS. \bigvee I welcome your likes, shares and comments! You can learn more about me and my business by visiting my website at rennamedia.com.





- Video Tape Transfers
- DVD & Flash Drive Duplication
- Audio Cassette to CD
- Reel to Reel Audio to CD
- LP to CD
- High Speed Slide Scanning
- Foreign Conversions

Video Production & Editing Training • Sales • Documentary

VIDEO DATA SERVICES®

locally owned since 1984

www.vdsnj.com facebook.com/vdsnj email: ira@vdsnj.com 908-964-4004 406 Chestnut St. • Union, NJ 07083



BeyondDanceNJ.com