

CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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BROWNIES EARN PHILANTHROPIST BADGE FOR SERVICE

Submitted by Kerry Rokicki

The Girl Scouts from Brownie Troop 40967 rang in the New Year by assisting those in need. During the holiday season they completed several service projects which helped them earn the Philanthropist Badge, a designation that helps Brownies learn about helping others and distinguishing between wants and needs.

Brownie Troop 40967 completed three different service projects during the holiday season including holding a bake sale at Pet Valu of Garwood, N.J. to support Brendan's Meadow Rescue, a dog rescue program based in Mountainside, NJ. A second initiative included creating a special Thanksgiving basket for a client at Cranford Family Care. A final project included sponsoring a Mitten Tree at Walnut Avenue School in Cranford. All donated hats, gloves and mittens benefited Saint Joseph's Social Services Center of Elizabeth.

"The girls really learned a lot from this badge. They learned that by working together they could help make the world a better place, whether that was by raising money for a good cause or collecting goods to fill a specific need," explained Ali McNulty, co-leader of Brownie Troop 40967. "We look

forward to building on this experience as we seek out other opportunities to make a positive impact on our community."

The Girl Scouts of Cranford is an organization dedicated to building G.I.R.L.'s (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)TM of courage, confidence, and character who will make the world a better place. The Girl Scouts of Cranford Service Unit 48 is a part of the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey Council which is part of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. For more information on the Girl Scouts of Cranford, go to cranfordgirlscouts.com.



(above) A bake sale benefited Brendan's Meadow Rescue, a dog rescue program based in Mountainside, NJ.

(left) Mitten Tree: All donated hats, gloves and mittens benefited Saint Joseph's Social Services Center of Elizabeth.



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MARYGRACE PURYEAR AND AMANDA COCCIA PLAYING VOLLEYBALL AT FELICIAN

Submitted by Mark Mentone

Amanda Coccia (Rahway, N.J./Roselle Catholic) and MaryGrace Puryear (Cranford, N.J./Cranford High School) were members of the 2018 women's volleyball team at Felician University.

Felician is affiliated with NCAA Division II and competes in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC). The 2018 Golden Falcons posted an overall won-lost record of 13-18, nearly doubling the previous school record for victories, and finished in fourth place in the CACC North Division with an 8-11 league mark.

Felician reached the CACC Tournament for the first time since 2013. The Golden Falcons bowed out in the quarterfinals, 3-2, to eventual

champion Holy Family University.

Coccia, a senior defensive specialist and team co-captain, played in 27 matches. In 80 sets, she accumulated 136 digs (1.70 per set) and six aces (0.07). Coccia will conclude her four-year Felician career with 697 digs in 106 matches, both totals among the top 10 in school history. She is a 2015 graduate of Roselle Catholic.

Puryear, a sophomore defensive specialist, amassed 241 digs, 50 assists, and 27 aces in 2018 after posting just 69 digs, 10 assists and nine aces as a freshman. Starting at libero, she recorded 30 digs in a four-set home win over Concordia College on September 14. Puryear is a 2017 graduate of Cranford High.



(above) MaryGrace Puryear
(Cranford, N.J./Cranford High School).



(above) Amanda Coccia
(Rahway, N.J./Roselle Catholic)

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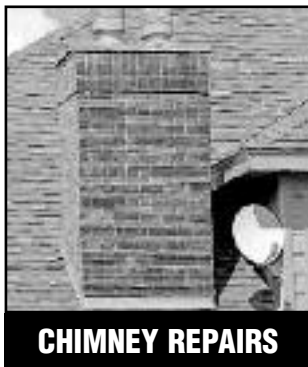
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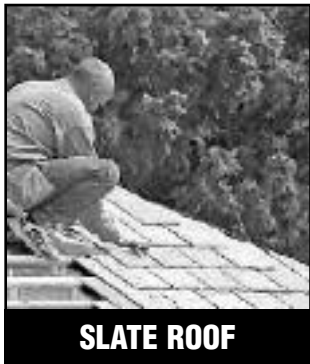
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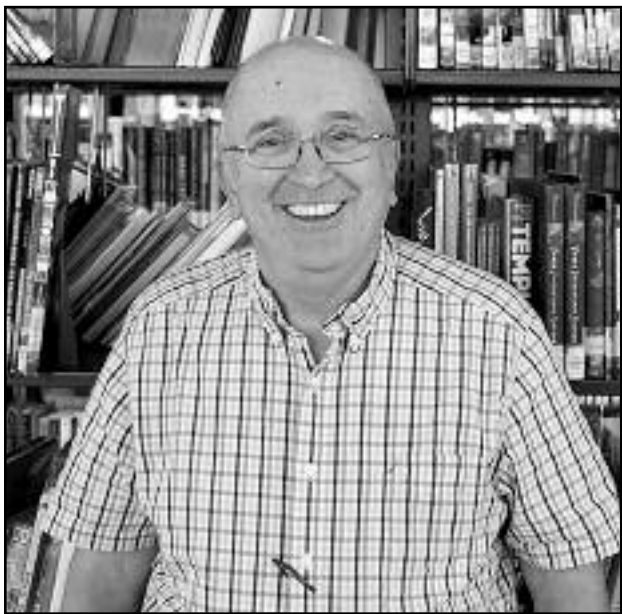


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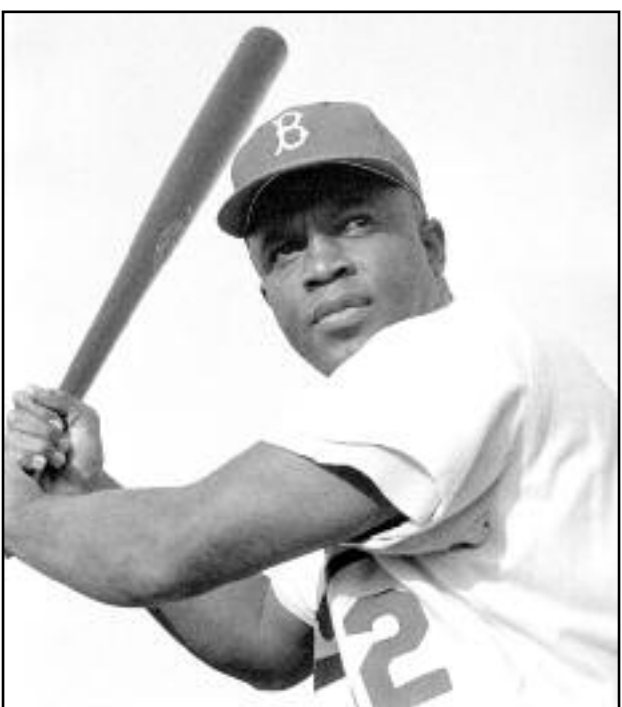
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THE COLOR LINE ON THE BASEBALL DIAMOND

Join the Cranford Historical Society and the Cranford Public Library in celebrating Black History Month with “The Color Line on the Baseball Diamond,” a fascinating lecture on the history of black baseball. This special event, taking place on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cranford Community Center, is part of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities Public Scholars Project. The program will be presented by Dr. Lawrence Hogan, Ph.D,



(above) “The Color Line on the Baseball Diamond,” presented by Dr. Lawrence Hogan, Ph.D, professor emeritus of history at Union County College, will take place at the Cranford Library on February 13.



(above) Jackie Robinson

professor emeritus of history at Union County College.

Black baseball in America is a multifaceted narrative, including pioneers like Jackie Robinson and the rich relationships in “Blackball” during America’s era of segregation, across the nation and in New Jersey. During this session, a robust conversation, an account by a veteran Negro Leaguer, a rendition of an “iconic” baseball poem “KC at the Bat” by its author, Kevin Kane, and selections from the documentary “Before You Can Say Jackie Robinson” will further participants’ understanding.

Dr. Lawrence Hogan is the author of “A Black National News Service: Claude Barnett and the Associated Negro Press” as well as “The Forgotten History of African American Baseball.” He served as Executive Producer and historian for the documentary “Before You Can

Say Jackie Robinson: Black Baseball in New Jersey and America in the Era of the Color Line.” He is the editor and co-author of “Shades of Glory: The Negro Leagues and the Story of African American Baseball” published by National Geographic and the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

No registration is required for this free event. The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ, and is accessible to all. For more information about the Cranford Public Library, visit cranfordlibrary.org.

This program was made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

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PROJECT HOME OF CRANFORD - LADIES NIGHT OUT SET FOR MARCH 13

Project Home of Cranford is happy to announce that our annual Ladies' Night Out will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Westwood, 438 North Ave in Garwood.

The evening includes a sit-down dinner with wine, a tricky tray auction with a large variety of items and an evening of socializing and catching up with friends. All the profits from this event go to help Cranford Family Care, a local charity that assists Cranford families in need.

Ladies Night Out is a perfect opportunity to catch up with friends and to help a local organization whose mission is to help Cranford residents who are in danger of losing their homes due to crisis situations, such as illness or job loss.

For over 25 years Project Home of Cranford, a 501(c)3 charity, has been working through Cranford Family Care to keep Cranford families in their homes. Ladies' Night Out is our largest fundraiser and a popular event that regularly attracts over 300 women. This can be the perfect opportunity for merchants to advertise their businesses by donating to the event.

If you would like to donate, inquire about the tickets for Ladies' Night Out, or just find out more about Project Home and our mission please email us at projecthomeofcranford@gmail.com, visit us at projecthomeofcranford.org, and follow us on Facebook at Project Home of Cranford.



(above) Project Home of Cranford will be hosting their annual Ladies Night Out on Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

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(above) Seamens Church Institute Chaplain onboard with crew member

During the month of February Trinity Episcopal Church, 119 Forest Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey, will be raising money and collecting goods for Seamen's Church Institute (SCI). Please drop off the following at the church: Trial-size shampoo, 2-4 oz. bottles of hand lotion, lip balm, soft pack of facial tissue, packs of chewing gum, and microwave popcorn, for SCI's 'Christmas at Sea' program. "90% of everything consumed is brought in by container ship, said The Reverend Andy Kruger, Trinity's Priest-in-Charge. "Christmas at Sea supports the merchant mariners who spend 6-8 months at sea aboard cargo freighters," Father Andy continued. For additional information call 908.276.4047.

The Seamen's Church Institute (SCI), founded in 1834 and affiliated with the Episcopal Church, is the largest mariners' support agency in North

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CRANFORD FIRST AID SQUAD ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER

The Cranford First Aid Squad held their annual Installation Dinner on Jan. 4, 2019, celebrating the service of all volunteers, the calls taken for the year, and the swearing in of officers for the year of 2019. Three CPR saves were recognized and awarded.

The squad took 1048 calls in 2018 and had an average response time to arrive on scene of just over four minutes. 704 patients were transported to 11 different facilities, with tops being Overlook Summit with 378, RWJ Rahway 165 and Trinitas 46.

The Cranford First Aid Squad also recognized members who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to the mission and values of the organization throughout the year. The award of outstanding cadet was given to Emma DeBole. Emma is a senior at Cranford High School who rides on Wednesday Night and has been on the squad for more than a year. She stays overnight

to ride extra hours and gain more experience, despite having to go to school the next day. Emma has also assisted in teaching babysitting training classes offered at the squad as well as basic scout first aid training. Upon receiving this honor, Emma stated, "The cadet program at the first aid squad has given me the opportunity to gain medical knowledge and learn from experience about the value of leadership and service."

Matthew Schrier was awarded EMT of the Year. A 2016 Graduate of Cranford High school, Matt started as a driver and soon became an EMT. He responded to 240 calls in 2018. Matt rode two shifts a week while helping fill open shifts, covering at 5K runs and football games. Matt covered for the most people when they were sick and was also recently elected as the 2019 2nd Medical Lieutenant officer. The Cranford First Aid Squad thanks Matt for his extraordinary

commitment to serving CFAS and can't wait to see all he accomplishes in the future.

The Cranford First Aid Squad is always looking for volunteers to join no matter age or experience. CFAS is in need of drivers and individuals who would like to become fully certified EMTs. The simple application is on our website at cranfordfirstaid.org, and if you have any questions, feel free to feel contact us by phone, email or pay us a visit. We will gladly answer any of your questions. Stay safe, and have a happy, healthy new year!



(above) Matthew Schrier Cranford First Aid Squad EMT of the Year

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Barbara Eames, Parent of High School Sophomore

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PFC JOSEPH P. MINNOCK, 1ST VIETNAM WAR CASUALTY FROM CRANFORD

By Don Sweeney and Stu Rosenthal

In November 1965, Cranford conducted its annual Veterans Day ceremonies, but the events were overshadowed by devastating news. On Nov. 8th, national news outlets told of a horrific ambush and firefight involving U.S. soldiers in the central highlands of Vietnam. Sadly, a telegram had just arrived at the Mohawk Drive home of James and Theresa Minnock, informing them that their youngest son, Joseph, was among those killed in the battle. On Nov. 10th, the day before Veterans Day, the front-page headline in the local Cranford Citizen and Chronicle newspaper said that Minnock was the ‘First Local Vietnam Casualty.’ It was the first local military loss since the Korean War and would later be followed by several more service-related deaths from Cranford during the Vietnam War.

Fast forward to 2018, when we teamed up with TV35, the local public access channel, to create short videos about the fallen men featured in the Cranford 86 Hometown Hero project. Among the 16 clips produced so far, the Joseph Minnock video is the one featured first. However, the way we featured Joe in that video, and back in the inaugural 2016 article, is rather different than how we approach our stories today.

Early on, I would simply interview friends and family members who knew these men and could share stories. I had no previous research experience and was unaware of the many websites and research portals we now routinely use. In fact, for the original Joe Minnock story, I had no photograph, something that we now strive to obtain before we begin a draft. Days before the 2018 Memorial Day ceremony, when we introduced a new banner honoring Joe Minnock, we scrambled to locate even the most tattered photograph to imprint on the banner. That photo is available on our website, Cranford86.org, and accompanies our original article about Minnock (which was combined with the Ray Ashnault story).

Still, the Joe Minnock profile left us unfulfilled because of the incomplete storyline and obscure photograph. One evening, Stu, now our lead researcher, scoured the deep web and our databases for additional information. He determined that Joe’s older brother, James, had relocated to Utah years ago. James has since passed, but Stu reasoned that James had a son, also named Joseph, born shortly after his brother’s death. We recently contacted Joseph E. Minnock, a respected Utah attorney, seeking information or pictures about his namesake uncle. He promptly responded and shared several portraits of his Uncle Joe, including a much-improved version of the original image depicting Joe sitting in front of a draped parachute. It was his Army jump school graduation picture. He also told us about Mike Smith, Joe’s cousin and best friend whom we contacted. The door to knowing Joseph Minnock was about to open wider.

Mike Smith told us of his inseparable relationship with Joe Minnock of Cranford – they were cousins who “played hard” on the shores of The Raritan Bay in Lawrence Harbor each summer. According to Mike, Joe idolized his

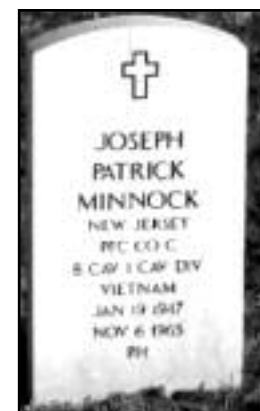


(above) A casual portrait of the teenaged Joe in the persona of the warm-hearted tough guy, that made him endeared by all that knew him.



(above, left) Private Joseph P. Minnock was trained as a military parachutist. Joe Minnock earned the parachutist badge, or ‘Jump Wings,’ following completion of jump school.

(above, right) Private Joe Minnock, likely at Fort Dix, NJ, following completion of basic training (est. March 1965). This photo was obtained from his family who probably snapped it right after his graduation ceremony.



Joseph P. Minnock is interred at Beverly National Cemetery, Beverly, NJ along with his mom and dad.

Scottish father - a career soldier and war veteran. Joe sought to follow in his footsteps, and those of his older brother, James, also a soldier.

Through interviews and research, our team often uncovers the personality or complex character of our subject hero. Friends and people who knew Joe Minnock generally remembered him as a nice kid, but perhaps intimidating to outsiders. We spoke to Patricia Castaldo Hobie, a teacher who knew Joe in high school. She recalled a warm soul - a truly nice person. Next, we contacted classmate Kevin Cheiff (CHS 1967), after locating his tribute to Joe on a veteran’s website. According to Kevin, Joe wore “different” clothes than most kids - tight legged jeans that he cuffed short at the ankle to expose white crew socks. Joe’s shoes had cleats on the heels, which distinctly clicked when he walked the hallways of Hillside Ave. School. Because Joe was a couple years older than his classmates, he could appear big or intimidating. He carried a tough guy persona, which he acquired as a younger kid in Newark. Joe was different than the average Cranford kid, and Kevin said that no one bothered you if you were friends with him. Kirk Foltz, had the proof.

We spoke with Kirk, another classmate and close friend, who likened Joe to the John Milner character in American Graffiti: a flashy greaser from the early 1960s with a cool car. Joe epitomized the offshoot character, Fonzie, from the television series Happy Days -- a kindhearted man obscured by a tough guy shell. Kirk vividly recalled an enduring incident, and fitting conclusion to our interview. Kirk told Joe that a local bully was bothering him, to which Joe confronted the kid. After a brief interaction, that began with words but concluded differently, the matter was resolved. Kirk was never bullied again by that kid.

School was not Joe’s strong suit, and so he left in the middle of his sophomore year at the age of

17. To the shock of his peers, Joe had volunteered for the U.S. Army. He arrived at Fort Dix, NJ, in early Jan. 1965, and spent his 18th birthday in boot camp. He advanced to Fort Benning, GA, where the new infantryman was assigned to the famed 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), also known as the ‘First Team.’ Here, Joe joined approximately 15,000 soldiers who were training in airmobility, a newer form of combat for rapid troop insertion via helicopter. The First Cavalry, which a hundred years earlier had entered the battlefield on horseback, would soon enter the Vietnam jungles on a new mount, the Bell UH-1 Iroquois (Huey) helicopter.

Joe had joined the Army at a time when the American government was committed to thwarting the reunification of Vietnam by communist-led North Vietnam. Several thousand American advisers and support troops had been positioned in South Vietnam for years already, but U.S. involvement would soon escalate. In early 1965, the enemy Viet Cong infiltrated the central highlands of South Vietnam, attacked and killed Americans. Newly emboldened, U.S. President Lyndon Johnson extended a ‘blank check’ to his defense staff, determined to win the war. Significantly more troops were mobilized, and by late 1965, U.S. military strength in Vietnam would swell to nearly 200,000 personnel. This would include the First Division.

Following a brief visit home, Private Minnock embarked from Georgia on August 20th, 1965, journeying through the Panama Canal. He crossed the Pacific, with brief stops in Honolulu and Guam. Following a month-long sea voyage, Minnock and his unit reached the shores of Qui Nhon, Vietnam, on September 20th. They were immediately flown to Camp Radcliff, An Khe, a new U.S. military site located about 42 miles inland.

Radcliff became Minnock’s base camp for the

(continued on page 9)

PFC JOSEPH P. MINNOCK (continued)

next month. It was the world's largest helipad -- host to hundreds of helicopters-- and was carved from dense undergrowth, bamboo and 12-foot-high ant hills. To reduce dust the men who manually cleared the brush were instructed to make its rugged terrain as a smooth as a 'golf course.' But it was hardly a country club, as the natural elements proved a recurring irritant, with dust, oppressive heat, downpours, rat infestations, mosquitos and malaria. Moreover, the enemy was afoot, and the twelve-mile long perimeters required constant protection from potential sniper fire or attack.

On October 19th, the enemy attacked a Special Forces camp at Plei Me (pronounced 'Play-mee'), about 60 miles west of Radcliff. A relief force was requested from nearby Camp Holloway, Pleiku ('Play-Q'), but this would have left Holloway undermanned and vulnerable. So, for added protection, personnel from the First Team were dispatched from Radcliff. Minnock and units of the 1st Brigade arrived via helicopter at Holloway on the night of October 23rd. The relief force could now proceed to Plei Me.

The next afternoon, Minnock and his company performed an airmobile assault near Plei Me. By the next evening, Plei Me was secure, but U.S. soldiers were wounded in the fighting. On Oct 26th, with the enemy believed in retreat, the war plan had evolved. U.S. General Westmoreland, Vietnam commander, visited Plei Me, and expanded First Division's mission from a reinforcement and defensive posture to an all-out offensive capability. The next morning, Minnock and several hundred men from his battalion air assaulted onto a landing zone north of Plei Me. Although unopposed, it represented the first air assault for the First Division in Vietnam under the expanded offensive mission. For most of the

next week, Minnock conducted air assaults, search and clear operations around Plei Me. His unit advanced westward, and likely experienced limited enemy encounters until the first week in November, with reports of fierce fighting and U.S. casualties.

On November 6th, the First Division sustained its highest casualties in Vietnam to date. In the morning, a sister unit of Minnock's, Bravo Company, was patrolling when they spotted an enemy supply squad of about 12 men. They gave chase, and at around 11am, entered a small meadow the size of a football field. Suddenly, Bravo Company became pinned down and was unable to move. Gunfire rained upon them from the surrounding forest, through the waist high elephant grass and from enemy soldiers camouflaged as bushes. Minnock was with Charlie Company, and moved in to an adjacent meadow around 1pm, trying to assist their beleaguered comrades. But even more enemy guns were unleashed onto Charlie Company, which was also now pinned down and cut off from Bravo Company.

Minnock and the estimated 340 American soldiers from the battered units had been lured into an organized ambush. They had unwittingly confronted an estimated 500-1000 enemy troops who were fresh from a local base. Surrounded, the Americans were forced to fight and dig in against a well-supplied and superior positioned enemy. "It was a nightmare," said one sergeant, in part because of the close range fighting that prevented aerial support and medical evacuations.

Acts of bravery abounded. A lieutenant, despite wounds and paralysis, continued to direct his platoon over radio for hours. Mortally injured, one medic continued to crawl around tending to

the wounded. After a grenade landed among a pair of U.S. soldiers from Minnock's company, one of the men, Private Thomas Maynard, threw himself onto the grenade. He was posthumously recommended for the Medal of Honor.

The battle raged into the night, and not until the enemy had fallen back could medical helicopters evacuate the wounded and dead. Private First Class Joseph P. Minnock was among 26 U.S. soldiers killed, most of whom were part of his company. An estimated 121 enemy soldiers were also killed. The battle action was swiftly reported by Joseph Galloway, an embedded U.S. journalist from United Press International.

Ten days later, back in Cranford, the school flags were lowered, and Joe Minnock's life was celebrated at St. Michael's Church where he was a communicant. The funeral procession was led by the Cranford Police Department and an Army contingent. A bugler and firing squad from Fort Dix joined the ceremony at Beverly National Cemetery, NJ, where Joe Minnock was laid to rest on Nov. 16, 1965. Heartbroken, Joe's parents passed away four years later, and within 12 days of one another. They were laid to rest alongside their youngest son.

The fighting where Joe died was in the vicinity of the Ia Drang Valley, Vietnam, made famous by the book and related film *We Were Soldiers Once...And Young*. The action, also witnessed by reporter Galloway, depicts a fifty-four hour battle, over four days, the Battle of Ia Drang, which occurred just days after Joe's death. The book was dedicated to the memory of the 300+ U.S. soldiers who died in the broader thirty-four day Pleiku Campaign, in October and November 1965, and includes Joe Minnock. Joseph P. Minnock's dream of following his dad and brother in service to the nation had materialized. His name is now etched in history as one of the brave souls that gave his life so that all Americans can live in freedom. He is an American patriot, and among our Cranford 86 Hometown Heroes.

To comment on this month's story or to sponsor an upcoming Cranford 86 Hometown Hero visit Cranford86.org,

email us at info@cranford86.org

or call Don Sweeney (908) 272-0876.



The UH-1 'Huey' helicopter was the Army's workhorse for airmobility in Vietnam, for transporting and rapidly inserting combat troops into the jungle. Each helicopter would carry 6 or 7 soldiers per trip, requiring numerous round trips for the low flying "Hueys" to move sometimes three or four hundred soldiers into their appointed assault



U.S. troops had to move particularly fast in landing zones, or open areas in combat where they would rendezvous with friendly helicopters that were vulnerable to enemy fire.



Joe Minnock traveled to Vietnam on the USNS Geiger, beginning Aug. 20, 1965. He traveled through the Panama Canal, with brief stops in Hawaii and Guam, and arrived in Vietnam on Sep. 20, 1965.



Camp Radcliff served as a U.S. Army helipad in An Khe, Vietnam, in the mid-1960s. Also known as the 'golf course,' it was also base camp for Joe Minnock during Sep-Oct 1965.

LOCAL BASEBALL PLAYERS AND COACHES WILL BE HONORED AT ANNUAL “HOT STOVE” AWARDS DINNER, SUNDAY, FEB. 10

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The Union County Baseball Association will induct four new members into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame at the organization's 83rd annual Hot Stove League Dinner on Sunday, February 10, 2019 beginning at 1:00 p.m., at The Gran Centurions in Clark, New Jersey.

The four new inductees into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame include:

Rich Biddulph of Roselle, an All-State catcher for Roselle Catholic High School and longtime coach of American Legion Baseball teams in Cranford and Roselle;

Walter Podgurski of Union, an All-State second baseman for the Farmers, who went on to play for the University of Pennsylvania and was drafted by the Minnesota Twins;

Chris Roof of Berkeley Heights and Scotch Plains, a standout player at Governor Livingston High School and Montclair State University and longtime coach at Governor Livingston;

Tom Urban of Elizabeth, a varsity infielder at Thomas Jefferson High School, baseball coach in Elizabeth and at Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, and director of the Union County Baseball Association Summer and Fall leagues.

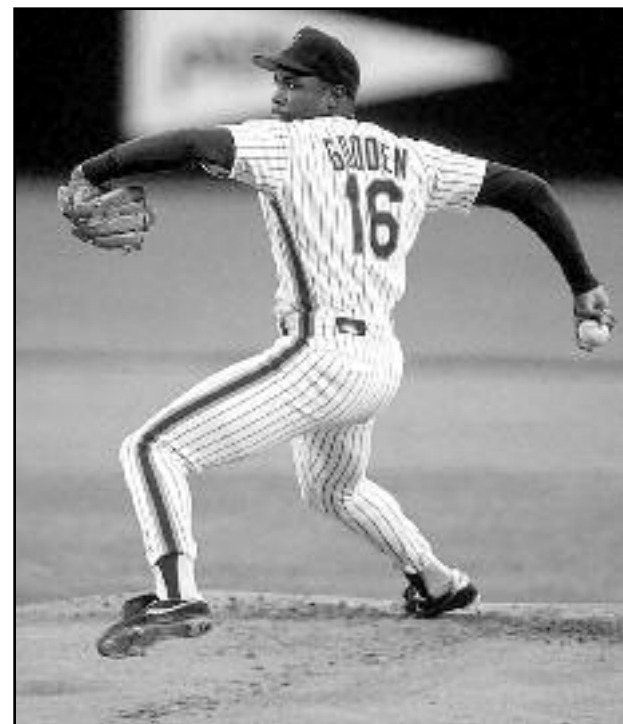
The special guest speaker at the annual event will be Dwight “Doc” Gooden, the former award-winning pitcher for the New York Mets and the New York Yankees. Gooden's headline-grabbing 16-year Major League career – including Rookie of the Year and Cy Young awards with the Mets and his no-hitter while pitching for the Yankees – remains a hot topic of discussion nearly two decades after he threw his final pitch.

Scholastic athletes from throughout Union County also will be honored at the afternoon awards ceremonies on Feb. 10 for their accomplishments in high school, college and Union County Youth Baseball leagues. Among these honorees will be Luis Amaro of Roselle Park; Jamie Belfer and Danny Serretti, both of Berkeley Heights; and Ed Kushner of Linden.

Tickets for the 83rd annual Hot Stove League awards dinner may be purchased online at UCBA-NJ.org or by writing to the Union County Baseball Association, PO Box 176, Fanwood, New Jersey 07023.

Sponsored by the Union County Baseball Association, in cooperation with the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Hot Stove League awards dinner is the primary annual fund-raising effort for the Union County Youth Baseball Leagues. The summer and fall leagues have given more than 40,000 boys and girls an opportunity to participate in an organized baseball program for the past 70 years.

For more information call Jim Iozzi, UCBA president, at 908-917-2523.



(above) Dwight “Doc” Gooden will be the guest speaker at the 83rd annual Hot Stove League Dinner on Sunday, February 10, 2019.

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MAMMA MIA! IS DANCING INTO CDC THEATRE FEBRUARY 15



(above) Mamma Mia! opens on February 15 for the 100th anniversary season at CDC Theatre.

The party celebrating the 100th Anniversary Season at CDC Theatre will be in full swing when the musical Mamma Mia! opens on February 15, 2019. Over 60 million people worldwide have fallen in love with the characters, the story and the music that make up Mamma Mia! ABBA's hits tell the hilarious story of a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father, bringing three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

The show's director, Sean Lough, recently shared his enthusiasm. "When it comes to having fun directing, Mamma Mia! is going to be a tough one to beat. Mamma Mia! is one of the world's most popular musicals, so we are excited to bring it to New Jersey audiences as part of our 100th Season! The cast is made up of true ABBA fans; it would be hard not to be working on this show. At our first rehearsal, everyone had huge smiles on their faces as it hit them that we get to perform classic ABBA songs, not just sing them in our cars. This show is a true celebration. It's like we're having a party every night."

The large cast is led by Mandy Feiler, Michelle Sblendorio and Donna Faraone as Donne, Tonya and Rosie with Lindsay Maron playing Donna's daughter, Sophie. Michael Dooley, Mark Smith and James Lopez are Sophie's potential dads and Evan Krug her fiancé, Sky.

Tickets and additional details can be found by visiting the theatre's website, cdctheatre.org. For the best selection, and prices, tickets can be purchased ahead of time online following links on the website. Located at 78 Winans Ave. in Cranford, NJ, CDC Theatre has been designated the NJACT Theatre of the Year.

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EMMA ROTHMAN IS HONOREE AT 2019 DONATE LIFE ROSE PARADE FLOAT

Submitted by NJ Sharing Network

On January 1, 2019, Cranford resident Emma Rothman served as a float rider honoree at the 2019 Donate Life Rose Parade Float held in Pasadena, CA. She joined approximately 70 honorees who have been touched by organ, eye and tissue donations, they rode or walked beside the float.

The NJ Sharing Network, located in New



(above) Emma, her sister Keri, and their parents Nancie & Mark Rothman, at the at 2019 Donate Life Rose Parade.

Providence, NJ, annually sponsors about 2-3 families to participate on the Donate Life Rose Parade Float.

Each honoree has an inspiring and emotional story. In 2011, Emma Rothman received a heart transplant at just 11-years old, which saved her life. At the time, Emma's family had no knowledge of transplantation and organ donation, so in 2013, they created Hearts for Emma, an organization that provides assistance to families of children with heart disease and supports educational initiatives relating to heart transplantation and organ and tissue donation. In addition to providing bedside giving, such as helping patients decorate their room, giving patient families meal cards to area restaurants and providing toiletries and other personal care hygiene items to families, the organization educates students and spreads awareness about organ, tissue and cornea donation through educational materials. For example, Emma created and starred in a video called "You Have the Power to Save Lives," which has been watched by more than 110,000 students through

more than 300 school presentations spanning the state. She has also created brochures, stickers and information cards to support the importance of registering as a donor.

ABOUT THE NJ SHARING NETWORK

NJ Sharing Network is the non-profit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue for those in need of a life-saving transplant. Nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents are currently awaiting transplantation. We are also part of the national recovery system, which is in place for the 115,000 people on the national waiting list.

We operate 24/7/365 with a team of over 150 highly trained and dedicated members on staff. Our Governing and Foundation Boards are made up of a diverse group of individuals from both public and private sectors, across a variety of disciplines, and many of whom have been touched by donation including donor families and recipients. They bring great experience and insight to the important and life-saving work that we do. For more information visit njsharingnetwork.org.

Photo by Scott Weersing

THANK YOU FROM CRANFORD FAMILY CARE

On behalf of Cranford Family Care Association, and the families that we serve, I would like to extend to all our donors a very grateful thank you for all your assistance, concern and support over the years. Our Thanksgiving and Christmas was indeed a very good year for all. Your generous support of food, turkeys, hams, gift cards and gifts made our holiday distribution a joy! I wish to especially thank all our local schools, students, PTA and staff members who are always there for us. We also thank the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and leaders, our houses of worship, local businesses, residents, and Christmas angels who help make our job to assist local families in need an easier one.

Cranford Family Care was incorporated in 1936 by local residents, clubs, businesses, and houses of worship at a time when there was great need. I don't think the board members expected to have this agency be needed so many years later. CFC has become a viable asset to our community, still able to assist neighbors in need. We, the Board of Directors of Cranford Family Care, thank you for always being there for us. We cannot do this work alone, your support is greatly appreciated. As we head into the future we realize the need for our agency to help families in distress. Because of your constant support we are able to continue to serve our neighbors.

Again thank you, and Happy New Year!

Kathy Willis
Cranford Family Care Association

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DETECTIVE MATTHEW NAZZARO GRADUATES COMMAND & LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Detective Sergeant Matthew Nazzaro of the Cranford Police Department graduated from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) Command and Leadership Academy in January. Participation in the prestigious Command and Leadership Academy is based upon the applicant's successfully completing a competitive selection process.

In recognizing the challenges in law enforcement during the upcoming decades, the NJSACOP has made a commitment to be in the forefront of innovation and change. The primary component of that commitment is the development of future police leaders.

In 1993, NJSACOP officials traveled to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to work with the Academy's Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership to adapt the fabled West Point model of command and leadership to the needs of law enforcement.

The result of this collaboration is the NJSACOP Command & Leadership Academy, a unique blend of theory and application. Candidates with the greatest leadership potential are selected for this highly competitive program from all areas of the State.

Cranford Police Chief Ryan Greco who nominated Detective Sergeant Nazzaro for this program stated, "Graduates of the Command and Leadership Academy have been trained to apply leadership theory and principles as a science, utilizing logic, critical thinking and scientific methodology to solving leadership problems. They learn how to combine their decision-making, counseling, stress management and communication skills in the context of managing

a complex law enforcement organization." He further added, "A program like this requires the participant to be focused and committed to being a law enforcement leader. The training that Detective Sergeant Nazzaro received will serve him, his community and the department well."

Sergeant Nazzaro is a 15-year veteran of the Cranford Police Department. He is a graduate of Kean University where he earned both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Public Administration. Detective Sergeant Nazzaro currently serves as a supervisor within the Juvenile Bureau.



(above, l-r) Detective Sergeant Matthew Nazzaro, Chief of Police Ryan Greco

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THE JOY OF BACKYARD BIRD FEEDING – FEB. 12

Please join the Hanson Park Conservancy on Tuesday, February 12th, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cranford Community Center for the presentation, "The Joy of Backyard Bird Feeding." Pete Axelrod from Wild Birds Unlimited of Scotch Plains will discuss how attracting birds is a great way to bring us closer to nature while offering hours of enjoyment. This program familiarizes participants with using bird feeders, water and shelter to attract native birds. In addition, we will learn about unique and interesting bird behavior. We will also learn how to discourage nuisance animals and how to make our properties bird-friendly.

The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Ave. in Cranford, NJ. 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 presentation is sponsored by the Hanson Park Conservancy.

To learn more, please visit our website, hansonparkconservancy.com or like us on Facebook.

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CRANFORD CLAY COURTS WINNING SEASON, SUBURBAN SUMMER TENNIS LEAGUE

John Hartnet, Trustee, Cranford Clay Courts

The Cranford Clay Courts Club Tennis Team won its first championship title in the 2018 Suburban Summer League A Division with an impressive season record of 25.5 wins and 9.5 losses.

The League Championship came down to the final matches of the season as Cranford defeated Bradford Beach & Tennis Club by a score 4-1. The Doubles Team of Mike Abrams and Gary Snitkin clinched the League Championship with a decisive 6-1, 6-2 straight set victory.

The Suburban League, an Adult Tennis league which includes most of North Jersey's leading Tennis Clubs, is divided into two divisions. The league's A Division included top ranked teams from Summit Tennis Club, Copper Springs Beach & Tennis Club, The Maplewood Club, Morristown Field Club, Bradford Bath & Tennis Club, Center Court Athletic Club and Arlington Players Club. Teams typically played five doubles matches each week during the season, and the overall winner is determined by the total number of sets won over the course of the season.

Cranford's undefeated first doubles team of Mike Smolensky and Mike Boutillette led the Club's team and league with a perfect 7-0 record. Team members included Paul Rama, Karl Rosen, Mike Conte, Mike Abrams, Captain Gary Snitkin, Ed Quinn, Tim Brown, Sergey Shapoval,

Chris O'Neill and Alex D'Amico.

The three courts of the Cranford Clay Courts Club, located on Springfield Avenue in Cranford, were originally a part of the historic Cranford Canoe Club, one of several Canoe Clubs popular on the Rahway River in Cranford from the 1870's to the 1920's. After decades of Cranford Township municipal operation of the courts in the 20th Century, a group of local tennis players formed the Cranford Clay Courts Club in 1992 and took over full operation and management of the courts. The Club is entering its 27th Season with a new Championship Title added to its long history in the tennis world. International players who have made appearances on the Club courts include Bill Tilden, Indian star Vijay Armitraj, and United States Wimbledon semi-finalist Tim Mayotte.

The Club offers a long outdoor tennis season, with the courts usually open from April into December in recent years, depending upon weather conditions. The Club enjoys the distinction of being the only outdoor Tennis Club in the area with a lighting system for night play on the Club's well-maintained three har-tru (soft) courts. Membership in the Cranford Clay Courts Club is open to both resident and non-residents. For more information in joining or participating in Team Tennis, visit cranfordtennis.com



(above) Captain Gary Snitken, holding the A Division Summer League Championship Plaque, pictured with Cranford Clay Courts Club Team members from left to right Mike Conte, Mike Smolensky, Mike Boutillette, Paul Rama, Karl Rosen and Sergey Shapoval.

A GIRL RAISED BY WOLVES BY CRANFORD AUTHOR LOCKEY MAISONNEUVE

Cranford author Lockey Maisonneuve will visit the Cranford Community Center on Tuesday, February 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. to share her story and discuss her memoir, *A Girl Raised by Wolves*, which documents her harrowing story from childhood to the present day. This program has been made possible by the Cranford Public Library.

Lockey Maisonneuve is a survivor. As a child, she lived with neglectful, alcoholic parents, and was sold into childhood prostitution by her father. As an adult, she survived breast cancer and her mother's murder. Today, she wants readers to know that she is not only surviving, but thriving. In *A Girl Raised by Wolves*, she uses her life's challenges and her sense of humor to provide lessons to support others along their healing journeys. At the Community Center, Lockey will read excerpts from her memoir and share the tools and techniques she used along her healing journey. Copies of her memoir will be available for

signing.

As a certified yoga and meditation guide, Lockey offers classes for incarcerated men, people in drug and alcohol recovery, mental health patients and students in inner-city schools. Lockey's unique experiences give her credibility to share mindfulness programs in these marginalized communities.

According to Lockey, "Healing trauma is not a one-and-done event." In her classes and workshops, Maisonneuve incorporates her own experiences with managing flashbacks, triggers, anxiety, and rage. Her Jersey girl sarcasm, which shines through in her memoir, helps her to connect with her participants.

No registration is required for this free event. The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ, and is accessible to all. To learn more about Lockey and her memoir, visit agirlraisedbywolves.com. For more information about the Cranford Public Library, visit cranfordlibrary.org.



(above) Lockey Maisonneuve, will visit the Cranford Public Library on February 5 at 7 p.m. to discuss her book, read excerpts, and sign copies.

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Established in 1929, St. Michael's School in Cranford, is celebrating 90 years of academic excellence. The school will recognize this milestone on Saturday, February 2, 2019. There will be a 5:30 p.m. mass at St. Michael's Church, located at 40 Alden Street in Cranford, celebrated by Msgr. Timothy J. Shugrue, Pastor.

A reception will follow at 6:30 p.m. at St. Michael's School, located at 100 Alden Street in Cranford.

All current families, alumni of St. Michael's School and their families are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact the school at 908-276-9425.

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UPCOMING EVENTS - FEBRUARY 2019

Breakfast with the Mayor Patrick Giblin

Wednesday - February 13th

8:00-10:00 a.m.

Atria Senior Living
 10 Jackson Drive
 Cranford, N.J.

Members \$15 / Non-Members \$20

RSVP: cranfordareachamber.com or call
 908 272 6114

Night Networking

Tuesday - February 26th - 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Kilkenny House
 112 South Avenue East
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Appetizers/Cash Bar

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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.

CRANFORD FIREFIGHTERS WILL COMPETE AT FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL TO BENEFIT THE BURN CENTER AT SAINT BARNABAS

On Monday, February 25, 2019, Cranford firefighters will join firefighters from around New Jersey to compete at the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival benefiting the New Jersey State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center. This event, which draws people from throughout New Jersey, will be held at The Pines Manor, 2085 Route 27, Edison, NJ from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Last year more than \$50,000 was raised from the event which was attended by more than 900 people.

The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off will be an integral part of the evening as firefighters from 25 departments will compete in three

different categories: Gourmet, Firehouse and Dessert.

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where participants will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of more than 40 of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers and dessert shops all in one location.

If you are looking for an entertaining evening of great food and wine, don't miss this event. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$65 at the door. Visit cookedanduncorked.com to order tickets, view participating restaurants and wine/spirits and for more information.

Tickets can be also be ordered by calling the NJ FMBA at 732-499-9250.

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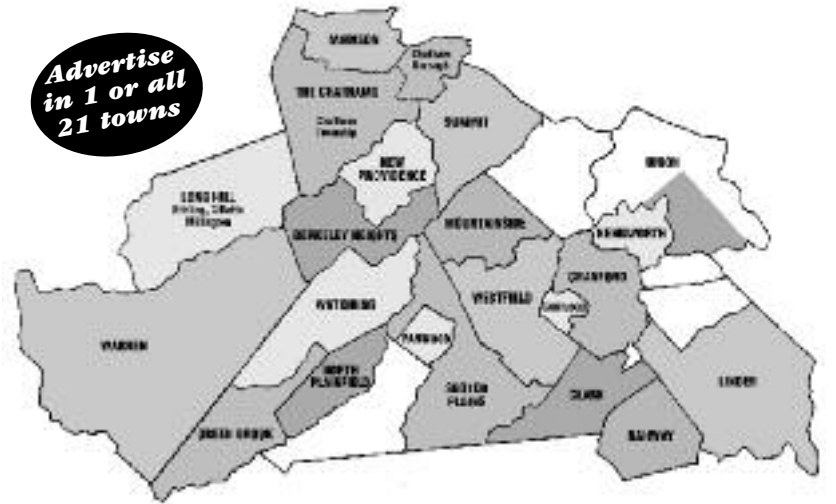
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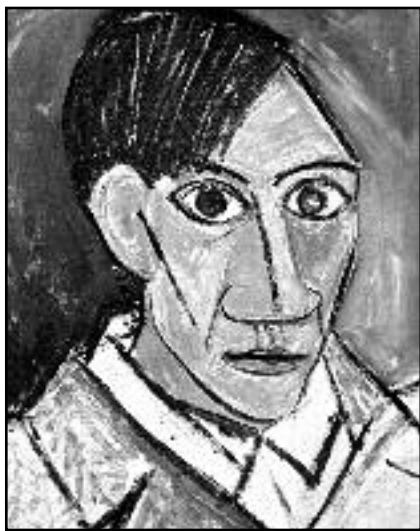
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ARMCHAIR ART TOUR OF EARLY PICASSO

The College Women's Club of Cranford will be holding its first meeting of the New Year on Monday, February 11, 2019.

Our guest speaker will be Michael Norris PH.D. A former educator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Dr. Norris has spent the past twenty years at the Cloisters Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and has lectured on trips all over the world. His knowledge is extensive in Classical and Medieval Art. We are excited that Dr. Norris will again be sharing his vast knowledge of Art with us.

He will be presenting Pablo Ruiz Picasso (1881-1973) a prodigy in art, from childhood to the advanced age of 91. See Picasso's changing world through his pictures at the Metropolitan



Museum of Art, from his teenage years through the decade of his twenties including his Blue and Rose periods, and his early experimentation with Cubism.

The meeting will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, located at 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford. It will begin at 7 p.m. with refreshments followed by our guest speaker. The meeting is open to the public.

All Cranford women, who are graduates of a four year college or university, are invited to join the club. Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month. For more information about becoming a member, call Janet Collins at 908-653-1452 or by email at cranfordcollegeclub@gmail.com or check out at our website at collegewomensclubcranford.com

HAS TRICKY TRAY FEBRUARY 23

The Hillside Avenue School PTA will once again host its annual Tricky Tray on Feb. 23, 2019. Doors open at 5 p.m. and raffle drawings begin at 7 p.m. This event is the HAS PTA's largest fundraiser and sponsors the majority of events and activities for students, teachers, and families at Hillside Avenue School. The HAS Tricky Tray Auction is a fun evening filled with exciting raffle prizes including: designer handbags, televisions, Apple products, housewares, electronics, American Girl, lottery tickets, concert and events tickets, gift certificates to restaurants, stores and so much more.

Entrance tickets cost \$15 and include one sheet of white raffle tickets. Pre-order your "Good Buy" raffle tickets at a discounted cost of \$55 per bag (a \$70 value) or purchase 2 bags for \$100. The discounted raffle ticket bags will not be sold on the evening of the event. Group seating is available, please send in group seating requests together.

Attendees may bring food, but alcohol is prohibited.

If you are interested in attending this event, please visit our website for the Tricky Tray ticket order forms at <http://haspta.digitalpto.com/tricky-tray-2/>

For more information email HASTrickyTray@AOL.com.

TRICKY TRAY TO BENEFIT MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL, FEBRUARY 8

Magnet High School PSA in partnership with Union County Technical High School PSO will be hosting a Tricky Tray on Friday, February 8, 2019 at the UCTech Cafeteria located at 1776 Raritan Rd. Scotch Plains, NJ 07076. Doors open 6:00 p.m. and raffle calling begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door and can be purchased by mailing check payment made out to Magnet PSA PG2020 to the address above. This event will benefit the MHS and UCTech Class of 2020's Project Graduation events. PG is an overnight, supervised alcohol-free evening of events held on the night of senior graduation to prevent drinking and driving. For additional information please email muclassof2020@gmail.com.

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Or Will Adams at will.adams@scouting.org or 973-765-9322 x234

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Scouts can email Will Adams at Will.adams@scouting.org for more info.

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