

CRANFORD MONTHLY_{NJ}

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PROJECT HOME OF CRANFORD LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Submitted by Maggie Feeney

It is time for Project Home of Cranford's annual Ladies' Night Out. This year's event is on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 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, make new 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.

Tickets are \$50 each (includes dinner and wine) and can be ordered by sending a check made payable to Project Home of Cranford to: Project Home of Cranford, PO Box 724, Cranford, NJ 07016. Ticket requests should be made A.S.A.P. and be sure to include your contact information.

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 goods or services, 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 Like us on facebook.com/groups/projecthomeofcranford.



(above) Project Home of Cranford's annual Ladies' Night Out will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, with proceeds donated to Cranford Family Care.

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(above) Come enjoy 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 with Project Home.

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SEND US YOUR NEWS

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

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Email: editor@rennamedia.com

IRMA MIRANTE PASSES AWAY AT 99 CRANFORD CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 1981

Irma Sammon Mirante, a bibliophile, leader of volunteer organizations, and 1981 Cranford Citizen of the Year, passed on February 2, 2020.

Irma Mirante was born April 8, 1921 in Stamford, Connecticut. She had three sisters, Molly, Joan and Marsha and one brother, Roger, all predeceased.

She was the first female editor of the newspaper at Snyder High School in Jersey City, NJ (a position she chose over cheerleader) as well as editor of "The Bandstand," a Tommy Dorsey

big band newsletter. She graduated from Pace University, where she studied advertising and marketing and won the Mademoiselle Magazine Career Contest, resulting in a job at Franklin Simon department store in New York. She was an advertising copywriter and her first reporting job was obituary writer for a Jersey City newspaper.

She married "the boy next door": Princeton honors grad Albert Mirante (d. 1978.) The couple lived in Dayton Ohio when he worked with the Army Air Corps at Wright Field during WWII, then raised their family in Elizabeth and Cranford, New Jersey.

Ms. Mirante served as President of the New Jersey Parliamentarian Association, and was consulted by numerous organizations on bylaw revisions. She was a prominent leader of Women's Clubs in New Jersey as president and board member. She was even president of a society of past Women's Club presidents.

She introduced the reading sorority Epsilon Sigma Omicron to New Jersey and set its record for the most book reviews. During the 1980s-90s she wrote a book review column for the Cranford Chronicle. She was Historian of the NJ State Federation of Women's Clubs and an honored member of NJ Press Women's Club.

Ms. Mirante founded Cranford's Friends of the Library in 1978 and was President of the Library Board. She was named Cranford Citizen of the Year in 1981 (described as "a leader in every organization or endeavor in which she has participated") and honored as a NJ Woman of Achievement by Douglass College in 1985.



(above) Irma Sammon Mirante, a bibliophile, leader of volunteer organizations, and 1981 Cranford Citizen of the Year, passed on February 2, 2020.

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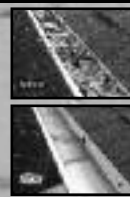
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CASA INVITES PUBLIC TO WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON MARCH 11

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County will host its second annual Women's Leadership Luncheon on Wednesday, March 11 — the heart of Women's History Month — to highlight two Union County women whose contributions positively impact their community.

Among them is Tina Renna, Cranford resident and owner of Renna Media, publisher of 21 community newspapers including Cranford Monthly.

Renna, who coordinates content for more than 135,000-issues circulated to towns in Union, Somerset and Morris counties, uses her writing, editing and photography, she says, "to tell the stories of ordinary people who do extraordinary things, big or small, that inspire others and their communities. Whether reporting news from town departments, schools and libraries,



(above) Tina Renna, owner of Renna Media, publisher of 21 community newspapers including Cranford Monthly, will be recognized by CASA at their Women's Leadership Luncheon.



(above) Sue Adler, Summit resident and CEO of The Sue Adler Team of Keller Williams in Chatham, will be recognized by CASA at their Women's Leadership Luncheon on Wednesday, March 11.

giving voice to local organizations raising awareness, or highlighting accomplishments of businesses, residents and all those who share a community — no matter strength or size — I strive to make a positive impact on each town's well-being and economic development."

Also being honored is Summit's Sue Adler, CEO of The Sue Adler Team of Keller Williams in Chatham. Currently ranked 10 worldwide out of 175,000 Keller Williams agents, Adler focuses on the community's train line towns and incorporates an in-house, team-treatment approach for clients.

Ilyse DiChiara, owner of Green Healthy Living and certified integrative nutrition, health and wellness coach, will provide the keynote address. Prior to switching professional course, DiChiara ran her nationwide trial consulting business, Litigation Support Solutions, for more than 20 years. Other participants include Summit Mayor Nora Radest and Westfield Councilwoman Joann Neylan.

Tickets are available now for the luncheon, which begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Grand Summit Hotel. Seats are \$65; tables of 10 and sponsorships are available.

To purchase, log on to casaleadershipluncheon.eventbrite.com. For luncheon details, contact Alexis at aslade@casaoofunioncounty.org.

CASA of Union County recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to advocate for abused, neglected and abandoned children placed in foster homes or residential facilities. There are more than 500 Union County youth, from birth to age 21, in foster care. With court-ordered access to a foster child and all parties in their life, volunteer advocates report findings to the judge so as to ensure best interests remain a priority, needs are met, and already experienced trauma is not exacerbated.

Contact Courtney at cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org or 908-293-8136 to learn more about CASA of Union County.

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COUNTY COLLEGE TEAM CHOSEN FOR PRESTIGIOUS NASA CHALLENGE

Submitted by Nicole Torella

Union County College is proud to announce that a team of four engineering students have been chosen to participate in NASA’s Micro-G Next Challenge Artemis Program. Union’s team is one of only two community colleges selected to compete in this category, which has a total of 20 teams, and includes teams from universities such as Cornell, Columbia, University of Texas, Ohio State, University of Alabama, University of Nebraska, and Arizona State.

Union’s team is comprised of four students: Michael Kirkland of Westfield, Bruce Aranda of Elizabeth, Dmytro Govdan of Summit, and Antonio Mena of Cranford. Our students submitted a proposal for the Lunar Sample Coring Drill competition which if chosen, will be used on the Artemis mission to drill samples from the moon’s surface.

The young men on our team are now in the process of building their drill which will be tested at NASA’s Neutral Buoyancy Lab (NBL) at the Sonny Carter Training Facility near the Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX. The NBL is the large pool where astronauts train for future missions.

“For engineering students interested in working for NASA, this is the experience of a lifetime, and we are so proud of our students for being chosen for this competition,” stated Union County College President Dr. Margaret M.

McMenamin. “I thank the leadership in our engineering faculty for the guidance and instruction they’ve provided to assist our students with achieving their goal of building an effective coring drill.”

Union County College Associate Professor of Physics/Engineering Nicholas Gilbert is serving

as the Head Coach to the team. Associate Professor of Engineering Jennifer Ebert serves as the research and technical advisor to the team.

Please consider supporting the fundraising campaign to send Union County College’s team to NASA this spring: ucc.edu/ucc2nasa.



(above, l-r) Union County College students Antonio Mena, Bruce Aranda, Dmytro Govdan, and Michael Kirkland in a lab at the College’s Cranford campus.



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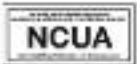
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UPCOMING READERS FORUM BOOK CLUB

The popular Readers Forum book club meets monthly in the Cranford Public Library. New members are always welcome. Sessions are on Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Fridlington Room. Questions? Call the Reference Desk at 908-709-7272, or email library@cranfordnj.org. The library can't guarantee a copy of each book for every participant, but every effort will be made to obtain multiple copies.

Upcoming dates and titles:

**MARCH 23 - WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING.
DELIA OWENS (2018)**

In a quiet town in the North Carolina coast a young woman who survived alone in the wild becomes a murder suspect.

**APRIL 27, 2020 - THE LOST GIRLS OF PARIS.
PAM JENOFF (2019)**

A remarkable story of friendship and courage centered around three women and a ring of female secret agents during World War II.

**MAY 18 - PRAIRIE FIRES: THE AMERICAN
DREAMS OF LAURA INGALLS WILDER. CAROLINE
FRASER. (2018)**

An elegant portrait describes how Wilder adapted her life into a tale of self-reliance and perseverance.

**JUNE 22 - THE TATTOOIST OF AUSCHWITZ.
HEATHER MORRIS (2018)**

An extraordinary tale of a concentration camp detainee who was forced to tattoo numbers onto the arms of thousands of incoming prisoners.

MARCH FAMILY EVENTS AT THE CRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join the Cranford Public Library for its 3rd Annual Picture Book Palooza! Picture book authors will be sharing books and crafts with children ages 4-8 and their families. The event will be held on Saturday, March 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Cranford Community Center. This event is perfect for budding authors, illustrators, and any children who love a good story! Books will be on hand for purchase and autographing, registration is not required.

The Cranford Public Library will continue its current story time session through April 2. The library has weekly offerings for children ranging from 3 months of age up to age five! All story times meet at 10:15 a.m. Babies ages 13-23 months of age can join us for Baby Story Time every Monday morning. Preschoolers ages 3-5 are welcome to join us for 3-4-5 Story Time every Tuesday morning, and children ages 3-12 months old can join us on Wednesday mornings. 2-year-olds are invited to Toddler Story Time on Thursday mornings. No registration is required, but we ask that participants arrive on time as space is limited and we may be unable to accommodate latecomers.

New Jersey Makers Day is a statewide celebration of making and maker culture that takes place every March in the Garden State. This is the Cranford Public Library's 5th year participating, and it's going to be the best Makers Day yet! Children of all ages are invited to join

us on Saturday, March 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. as we tinker, play, and learn. We'll be running some afternoon workshops, visit the library's calendar at cranfordlibrary.org/calendar/ for a complete list of activities.

Students in grades 3-6 are invited to a woodworking workshop with Maplewoodshop on Tuesday, March 24 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. No previous woodworking experience is necessary. Attendees will create and take home a keepsake box. This program is sponsored by a donation from the Ralph Errington Foundation and is open to Cranford residents only, registration is required and can be done online by visiting eventbrite.com/e/maplewoodshop-grades-3-6-with-an-adult-caregiver-tickets-93517361947.

Independent readers are invited to hone their skills by reading to therapy dogs at the Cranford Public Library's "Paws for Reading" program. We'll be joined by certified therapy dogs on Tuesday, March 10, April 14, and May 12 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Registration is required and begins two weeks before each program, call or stop by the library to reserve a spot.

Students in grades 4-6 are invited to join us for a fun series, called Unquiet Library, which meets on Wednesday afternoons this spring. We'll press our own buttons, create robots, play with a green screen, and much more!

Join us on March 11, March 25, April 8, and April 22 from 4-5:00 p.m.



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CALLING ST. MICHAEL'S 1972 GRADUATES

The St. Michael Class of 1972 will be holding an informal reunion on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7 p.m. at Kilkenny House's backroom.

Hope you, and your guests, can make it! The reunion will be informal, cash bar, come as you are. Please pass the word.

Contact Bill Ilaria, 908-591-5719 or Michael Mason, 908-276-0707. No RSVP necessary.



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SAMARITAN SANDWICH-MAKING EVENT - MAR 15

You are invited to Cranford United Methodist Church as we help feed families in need. We are making sandwiches for St. Joseph's Social Services Center in Elizabeth. We'll be gathering at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 15 in the Education Building of the Cranford United Methodist Church.

Join us and bring your children and grandchildren. We will have some bread and cold cuts available, but please feel free to bring some as well. Some suggestions for sandwiches: ham and cheese, turkey, chicken, roast beef, peanut butter and jelly, etc.

Additional tips: bring disposable gloves, baggies and extra bread – we ran out quickly at the last event.

All are welcome at the Cranford United Methodist Church – Open Hearts – Open Minds

– Open Doors. The event is open to the whole community...you do not have to be a member of the church.

Questions? Send an email to Sue Green scgreen@aol.com or call her at 908-272-1209.



GARDENING TO ATTRACT NATIVE POLLINATORS

Submitted by Jenna Doscher

Please join the Hanson Park Conservancy on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cranford Community Center for the presentation, "Gardening to Attract Native Pollinators" with Virginia Lamb. Come learn how you can attract and foster native pollinator populations in your community through plant selection and organic gardening methods.

Native pollinators such as butterflies, bees and hummingbirds are vital to maintaining diverse, resilient ecosystems and play a critically important role in agricultural and horticultural plant (and food) production. They also help produce beautiful gardens, as well as increase our enjoyment of natural spaces.

Populations of managed and native bees, especially honey bees, are in a state of decline across North America, due to a variety of factors including varroa mite infestations, Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) and the use of

insecticides. Creating a pollinator habitat locally is an important way to address this critical conservation issue while adding beauty to your garden and landscape. For those interested in learning more there will be information available on the best resources.

Virginia Lamb of Groundwork Education and Consulting has been teaching adults and children about environmental issues and gardening for over 25 years. She has a BS in environmental science and an MS in soil science. She lives with her family in Maplewood, NJ.

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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THE EXCEPTIONAL LIFE OF DR. DEBORAH CANNON PARTRIDGE WOLFE

Submitted by Jean Kreiling, Cranford Historical Society

At birth, she was named Olive Deborah Juanita Cannon. Later she was known as Deborah and still later, because she was married twice, her name became Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe. She was born in Cranford on December 22, 1916 in her family's home at 62 S. Union Avenue. The house stood on the corner of Lincoln Avenue across the street from what was then a 9-hole golf course and is now Lincoln Park. At the time, the population of Cranford was about 3,000.

Wolfe was the youngest child of the Reverend David Wadsworth Cannon, a graduate of Princeton Seminary and his wife Gertrude Moody Cannon, a graduate of Evangelical Theological College. Reverend Cannon was the pastor of the First Baptist Church on High Street and his wife was the principal of the Rice Memorial School in New Brunswick. Education was of the utmost importance to the Cannons and even though they were poor, there were always plenty of books in the house. Deborah had two siblings, a brother David and a sister Mary. They were all exceptional students and when they graduated from Cranford High School, each of them went on to earn a doctorate. This was quite unusual at a time when few Blacks went to college.

Reverend Cannon had been called to serve at the First Baptist Church in 1911. When he and his wife arrived in Cranford, they found that the church had no parsonage. They had to search for a long time before they were able to find a home to buy. Wolfe loved this home and while her career took her to many places, she always returned to it and lived in it until she had to move to a retirement community.

The Cannons were hard working, innovative and forward thinking. These were important qualities at a time when the Black church had to take care of many of the social, in addition to the religious, needs of its congregation. During the long period between the Civil War and the civil rights movement, institutional racism not only kept African-Americans out of housing and good paying jobs, but it also prevented them from doing many of the things which other people took



(above, l-r) Dr. Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe and Dr. Wolfe's father Rev. David Wadsworth Cannon, he was a chaplain during World War I.

for granted. They often could not join clubs, participate in athletic activities, stay at hotels, eat at restaurants, get loans from banks or even sit where they wanted in theaters or trains. As a result, the Black church made every effort to help its people by duplicating services of the larger community from which they had been excluded.

In interviews, Wolfe and her mother Mrs. Gertrude Cannon Moody discussed the church's activities. They said on Sunday afternoons and after Wednesday prayer meetings, their home was opened to children so they could play and socialize. All kinds of parlor games were played and the tablecloth was taken off the dining room table so that ping pong could be enjoyed. Refreshments were always served and there was singing around the piano. At the church on other days there was a dramatic club, social club meetings, dress-up events and different clubs that helped children to learn skills and practice manners. There was also a church bus to take people to picnics, hikes, skating parties and different affairs. To help children understand the effects of smoking and drinking, Mrs. Cannon created scientific demonstrations and she asked them to join a children's temperance club and sign a pledge that they would never smoke or drink.

Help was also available to adults. If a man or

woman never had the chance to go to school, the Cannons would teach them how to read and write. Reverend Cannon encouraged his congregation to buy their own homes so they could become independent. He also urged them to buy homes on different streets so that neighbors would interact and people would get to know and respect each other. (Wolfe would later say that the reason there was no de facto segregation in Cranford was because it had no ghetto.) But home ownership was difficult. The men could not get good-paying jobs and were forced to take landscaping and other part-time manual work. The women mostly had to do domestic work. These things didn't change until a can factory opened in Kenilworth that began to employ Blacks.

Cranford's schools, K-12, which Wolfe attended were desegregated. This was not true of the schools in southern New Jersey and even in many northern cities. Princeton, for example, did not desegregate its schools until 1948. Wolfe always praised the education she received in Cranford, but she also recounted some incidents of prejudice. She said she had been put back a year when she returned to grade school after recuperating from chicken pox. When Mrs. Cannon learned that this had happened to all of the Black children, but to none of the Whites, she complained to the principal and Deborah was returned to her class. In high school, when she wanted to learn how to play tennis, Wolfe found that Blacks were not allowed on the town's courts. To help children like her, Reverend Allen who was then the pastor of the First Baptist Church, had a tennis court built on the church grounds. An incident that was especially painful to her occurred when Wolfe discovered that she had not been included in the photograph of the National Honor Society in her high school yearbook. After pointing out to the principal that she had always been on the honor roll and had better grades than some of her classmates in the photo, she was initiated into the society.

In 1933, Wolfe graduated from Cranford High

(continued on page 13)



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CANNON PARTRIDGE WOLFE (continued)

School and enrolled at Jersey State College. To afford books and tuition, she tutored, gave piano lessons, did secretarial work and was hired by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to be both the principal and a teacher at a night school for adults at Lincoln School.

Mrs. Cannon told her that the National Council of Churches was looking for someone to teach the children of migrant workers in Maryland. These children had come to her attention during her travels to different towns to address classes about the dangers of smoking and drinking. Wolfe subsequently spent two summers teaching and doing community work with these children and their families. This experience affected her deeply and altered her thinking about education.

Wolfe was shocked to discover that the children could not understand what she was trying to teach them. Never having been allowed to attend either the local schools or the churches, they had no experience beyond the crowded hovels in which they lived and had no idea what she was talking about when she mentioned goals and aspirations. From this Wolfe discovered the importance of understanding the backgrounds and beliefs of children in order to provide them with educational materials they could relate to and thereby begin to learn.

When Wolfe needed to do her student teaching, despite her superior grades, Cranford rejected her. She then turned to Westfield which accepted her. After graduating from college in 1937 she enrolled at Teachers College Columbia University and received a master's degree. She then applied for a teaching job in Cranford. Unsuccessful, she applied to other schools throughout New Jersey, but none would hire her. It was a time when the only jobs African-American teachers could get were in the Black schools in southern New Jersey.

Mabel Carney, Wolfe's Columbia professor suggested that she apply to Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Carney wrote a letter of recommendation citing Wolfe's exceptional abilities and Tuskegee offered her a position on the faculty. Tuskegee quickly recognized Wolfe's

talents and appointed her to be the head of both its education and graduate studies departments. In 1940, Wolfe married Henry Roy Partridge a Tuskegee professor. While her husband was away at war, she returned to Teachers College and in 1945 earned a doctorate in education. She then went back to Tuskegee and in 1947 gave birth to a son who was named after his father. Divorced in 1950, she returned to New Jersey and in 1951 she became an assistant professor of education at Queens College where she was the first African-American member of the faculty. Unable to get affordable housing near the college because of a no-Blacks policy, she stayed in Cranford and commuted two or three hours each way to Queens. In 1959, she married Estemore A. Wolfe, a teacher and businessman. This marriage ended in divorce in 1966.

Wolfe wrote articles on education, traveled extensively, lectured throughout the country and was active in many organizations devoted to education and civil rights. As her reputation grew, she came to the attention of Washington. In 1963, Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. asked her to become the Chief of Education of his powerful Education and Labor Committee. After taking a leave of absence from Queens College, she went to Washington where she embarked on one of the most important tasks of her life which was to help to craft and move the Civil Rights Bill through Congress.

After 3 1/2 years in Washington she decided it was time to return to her professorship at Queens College and to resume her life in Cranford with her son. He was in his senior year at Cranford High School and she wanted to spend time with him. In 1970, Wolfe was the first African-American woman to be ordained by the American Baptist Association. In 1975, she became the associate pastor of Cranford's First Baptist Church where her father had been the pastor. Her life had now come full circle. "I stand where Papa stood," she said.

Wolfe retired from Queens College in 1986, but continued to be active on many fronts. She served on the New Jersey Board of Higher

Education and was unanimously elected its chair in 1987. She also served on the Executive Committee of the United Nations Committee of Non-Governmental Representatives. Her accomplishments were so many that by the time she died in 2004, she had received 26 honorary doctorates.

This article was originally published in the Cranford Historical Society's Spring 2016 newsletter, The Mill Wheel. It has been edited for publication here.



(above) First Baptist Church of Cranford



(above) Dr. Wolfe was on the grandstand with Dr. King during his "I have a dream" speech.

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CRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL DEDICATES DR. DEBORAH CANNON PARTRIDGE WOLFE LIBRARY AND LEARNING COMMONS

Submitted by Jean Kreiling, Cranford Historical Society

On February 6, 2020 to the joyful strains of music played by the Cranford High School Jazz Group, visitors streamed into the newly named Dr. Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe Library and Learning Commons. They had come to celebrate the life of a remarkable Cranford woman who though she had been honored by many others had been overlooked by her hometown.

After a warm welcome by Principal Mark Cantagallo, Dr. Scott Rubin the Superintendent of Schools described how a year and a half earlier he had discovered Dr. Wolfe. "We want to tell you about the most famous person you never heard of," his visitors Pat Pavlak, Jean Kreiling and Betty Crawley had announced. To illustrate their meaning, they unfolded a trifold that told the story of an amazing educator named Dr. Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe.

Two of Dr. Wolfe's grandchildren, Dr. Damani Partridge and Juliana Truesdale spoke movingly about "nana" and recalled how she had influenced their lives.

At the end of her speech, Juliana Truesdale said, "In my nana's honor, I ask you - what is your dream? What is the legacy you will leave? What do you believe in with such conviction that it does not matter if not one person in the room looks or thinks or acts like you? What challenges will you accept? What ways will you make out of no way?"

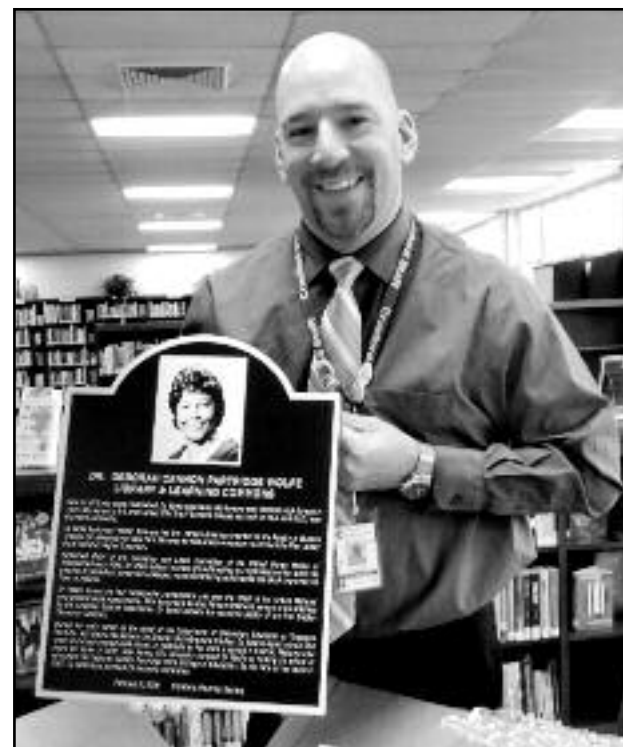
"And once you've made it, who will you invite to join you? Will it be people who look and think and act like you, or will you purposely create spaces where difference is celebrated, and where inclusion is the norm? Will you follow the status quo, or will you create something extraordinary?"

"If she were here in person, she'd challenge

you to live a life so full, so anchored in service, that your name is the type of name that belongs on buildings, too."



Dr. Wolfe's granddaughter Juliana Truesdale



(above) Principal Mark Cantagallo thanked everyone who had made the event a success including the Cranford Historical Society for giving the library a plaque to commemorate the renaming of the library.



(above) Betty Crawley, Jean Kreiling, Dr. H. Roy Partridge, the son of Dr. Wolfe and Pat Pavlak. Betty Crawley was a friend of Dr. Wolfe. Jean Kreiling and Pat Pavlak are trustees of the Cranford Historical Society.



(above) Student speakers Paige Carbone, Cameron Matheson and Jaden Johnson-Feggans gave wonderful talks about Dr. Wolfe's life and how it had inspired them. Other speakers included Ms. Myrtle Counts, the president of the local chapter of the NAACP and Reverend Alfred Brown, Jr. who gave personal remembrances.

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CRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WIN MULTIPLE AWARDS AT STATE THEATER COMPETITION

Submitted by Pam Rosenthal

Students from Cranford High School (CHS) Theater Department recently won multiple state awards, including first place, at the annual state theatre competition sponsored by the Speech and Theatre Association of New Jersey (STANJ), in association with the NJ Governor's Awards in Art Education. This year's event brought together over 600 students from across New Jersey competing in individual, paired and team categories in the performing arts.

Top award winners for Cranford included team ensemble Dan Klimko, Max Wisniewski, Bella Lijoi, Sullivan Grace, and Chloe LaSalle (1st Place, Scene from Trophies), Lee Rosenthal (1st

Place, Character Analysis and 1st Place, Pantomime Solo), Lee & Ryan Rosenthal (1st Place, Pantomime Pairs) and Sarah Kudron (Best Stage Manager). Additional nods went to Dan Klimko and Bella Lijoi (2nd Place, Best Actor and Actress in the State) and Viviana Beckford and Diego Colon (3rd Place, Comedic Pairs).

Numerous students were also finalists in the following categories: Chloe LaSalle and Mairead Young (Dramatic Pairs), Autumn Clarke and Katie Malanka (Improvisation), Molly O'Shea (Dramatic Monologue), Dan Klimko and Sullivan Grace (Musical Pairs) and Bailey Croft (Musical Solo).

"The students worked hard and should be

proud of their accomplishments this year. As always, I'm humbled to have such dedicated performers who are so passionate about theatre," stated David Marconi, teacher of acting, technical theater, and film at Cranford High School. "While recognition for achievement is always welcome, the true beauty of the day was watching the students network and enjoy the company of the theatre students from across New Jersey."

"Our acting students continue to represent Cranford High School with professionalism and skill. We are proud of their hard work, their artistry, and all their accomplishments," added Anthony J. Rafaniello, Supervisor of Fine & Performing Arts at Cranford Public Schools. "



(above) CHS theater students turn in award-winning performances at the January 2020 STANJ competition.

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ACADEMY OF CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES ENROLLING FOR MARCH-APRIL CLASSES

The Academy of Continuing Education (ACE), located in Cranford, NJ, is accepting applications for its March 2-April 24 semester. ACE offers adults with developmental or physical disabilities the opportunity to pursue continuing education as an alternative to traditional day programs.

"Adults with disabilities who have graduated from the public school system or specialized schools often have limited choices when planning their future," said Robin Morris-Marano, ACE director of educational services. "Their options often are limited to generic day programs that do not offer the intellectual stimulation and growth provided by our academy. Our program also is ideal for older adults with disabilities who wish to sharpen previously learned skills."

ACE's course offerings for the upcoming semester include math, reading and creative writing, explore your world through science, jewelry design and merchandising, visual arts and crafts, musical expression, theatre and performance, time traveler (history), career and financial literacy, media production, card-making and self-understanding/peer leadership.

Based on their interests, students may take as many or as few classes as they choose.

"ACE differs from a traditional day program, where the attendee's day is planned for them," Morris-Marano said. "We work with our students and their families to help them select the classes that will bring them the most enjoyment and from

which they will get the most benefit."

Sebastian Ruiz has been attending ACE for four years, steadily increasing his classes each semester. He works six days a week at Nautica at the Jersey Gardens Mall but was bored at home when not working. He said he enjoys attending ACE because it keeps his mind active.

"I like to learn and I like to meet new people," he said.

Last semester Ruiz switched from math and reading into jewelry and merchandising and card-making, and now has added career and financial literacy, theater and self-understanding, bringing his classes to six spread over five days.

"Math and reading are so quiet and calm," he said. "Jewelry and card-making are fun and they make money."

Ruiz also aspires for a more challenging job and hopes self-understanding will help him get a new position somewhere.

"(Career class) helps people get jobs, like what to wear and what not to do in an interview," he said.

"Sebastian is a perfect example of the flexibility of our program and the ability for our students to tailor their classes to their personal interests," Morris-Marano said.

Whenever possible, ACE curricula are developed in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) guidelines, implementing Core Curriculum Content Standards and aligned with the most current



(above) Sebastian Ruiz shows off some of the jewelry being made in his jewelry design and merchandising class at the Academy of Continuing Education for adults with disabilities.

information offered by the NJDOE, according to Morris-Marano. The ACE Program is approved by the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities for Day Habilitation through the department's Supports Program.

For more information, Morris-Marano can be reached at 908-354-3040, ext. 4671. Due to growth, ACE now has an additional director of educational services, Stacy Marshall, who can be reached at ext. 4315.

For a course catalog, visit the ACE website at caunj.org/what-we-do/day-program/academy-for-continuing-education.

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Ms. Jackson is a New York/New Jersey based jazz vocal stylist who performs worldwide for festivals, clubs, concert tours and clinics, both as a soloist or with her Jazzin' All Star Band. It's been said of their work, "A true ensemble performance...every tune is a musical collaboration...effortless, natural and unscripted." Carrie is considered one of the most consistently interesting singers in the metropolitan area, and is one of the top jazz artists around today providing classical performances in jazz favorites, soulful sultry pop, blues and poignant mellow gospel. She combines jazz originals, standards, pop/blues tunes, and open improvisation in an adventurous, genre-bending style that's inspirational and original; a singer with a Sound! Carrie Jackson & Her Jazzin' All Star Ensemble swing and perform the music of "Duke" Ellington, Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Dizzy Gillespie, and musical selections songs from the Great American Song Book. Carrie has performed often at the Salem Roadhouse Café, bringing a loyal, appreciative audience with her every time.

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Started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth, the Roadhouse Café continues to operate as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That may be its social mission... but the Roadhouse Café is and has been a solid performance venue beloved by the musicians who play there because of its special intimacy with the audience.

CHURCH MUSIC, IT'S NOT

The Roadhouse Café has always offered its stage to local and independent main stream musicians. It's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music, in a world of clubs and bars. Jazz, rock, folk and other groups have performed. During the past eleven years well over 120 different entertainers have appeared. Local fine artists also display their works.

COMMUNITY ORIENTATION

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community

Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Program, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, and others. Thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.

The musicians who play the Roadhouse often ask to return as soon as possible. The Roadhouse has given them a place with a beautiful stage, good acoustics, a live, attentive audience, and a sound system that is first class. Live, active stage lighting enhances the shows.


The Salem Roadhouse Café often features many of the performers who have graced the stage in the past, as well as brings talent that is new to the Café stage. The current season is benefitting Family Promise Union County – Building Communities-Strengthening Lives.

Admission includes the show, snacks, beverages and dessert.

Union 34TV records the shows for broadcast — so check out past shows on cable TV34. See the Roadhouse on Union TV Channel 34's "Union After Dark" nightly music series.

The Salem Roadhouse Café is located at 829 Salem Road, Union, NJ. Visit online at roadhousecafe.org or facebook.com/roadhousecafe.

Phone: 1-908-687-1028 (leave a message and a return number).



SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ


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COMMUNITY TRAINING TO BE OFFERED AT IMAGINE, A CENTER FOR COPING WITH LOSS

Submitted by Val Stierhoff

Sadly, children, teens and adults will experience different losses in life: divorce, moving, friendships ending, sports injuries or the death of a friend or family member. Despite these losses, children, teens and adults can learn how to cope with loss, and even grow after loss, if given the right support. How can we best support grieving people in their homes, communities and schools? Those who attend this training will learn: definitions of loss, grief, and mourning; how children and adults grieve differently; how grief affects behavior; and ways to support grieving children, teens and adults.

Imagine's "Supporting Children, Teens and Adults Coping with Loss" is for anyone who wants to learn how to support someone who is grieving. While loss due to death will be the primary focus of this seminar, the concepts that will be presented are applicable to all types of loss. It is especially important for parents and grandparents, teachers, members of community organizations, coaches, therapists, counselors and social workers to attend this program.

Imagine's Executive Director and Founder, Mary Robinson says, "The most important thing a grieving child needs is the active presence of at

least one, preferably more, caring, healthy, and functional adults in their lives who understand that when a child has a loss they need support." This program will teach you how to be that presence in the life of grieving youth.

This program will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 on Thursday, March 12 at 244 Sheffield Street in Mountainside. CEUs are available for social workers. A \$20 donation is appreciated. Pizza dinner will be provided at 6:15 and the program will begin at 6:30.

Please register by Tuesday, March 10. To register for the training, please visit imagineenj.org. For further information contact Connie Palmer at connie@imagineenj.org or call 908-264-3100

Imagine is a free grief support center for children age 3-18, young adults 18-30, coping with loss due to the death of a parent or sibling, or coping with a family member living with an illness. Concurrent support is provided for the parents and guardians of the youth. Imagine is located in Mountainside, serving all of Union County and beyond, and in Newark's South Ward serving Newark and surrounding towns. For more information call 908-264-3100 or visit our website at imagineenj.org.

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MUSICIANS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES COLLABORATIVE CONCERT

Submitted by Christopher Reardon

There was a steady bustle back stage at the Eugene G. Wilkins Theatre for the Performing Arts at Kean University a half-hour before the curtain was set to rise. Musicians tuned their instruments while singers stretched their vocal cords and performers dabbed on make-up in bathroom mirrors.

Yet what was unique about this production was the performers were a mix of musicians and singers both with and without disabilities. All were ready when the curtain rose and lights went on, shining brightly on the 5th annual collaborative concert staged by Community Access Unlimited (CAU), its Academy for Continuing Education (ACE) and Kean's Music Conservatory program. CAU is a Union County-based, statewide nonprofit that strives to integrate people with disabilities and at-risk youth into the general community through comprehensive supports.

The musicians and singers comprised members of CAU and ACE, adults with disabilities, and students of Kean's Music

Conservatory program. Kean music majors have been working with CAU members and ACE students for several years, helping them learn and appreciate music and teaching them how to play instruments. Five years ago they teamed for their first collaborative concert and the production has become an annual event.

This year the audience was treated to a delightful mixture of choral selections, rock tunes and music from Disney productions. Students from middle schools in Elizabeth and Roselle Park also performed.

"We perform songs that relate to our situation in life so we can advocate for greater community integration and how we have abilities that many people might not think are there," said Marguerite Modero, music director at ACE. "We focus on our abilities, not our disabilities."

For Maurice Stephens, a member of CAU for 11 years, this was his first chance to play bass guitar on stage in front of a live audience. He used to play trumpet but took up guitar for the collaborative concert as a new challenge.

"I wanted to do something more with music," Stephens said. "I see a lot of people playing an instrument. I said, 'Why not play two?' I'm thinking of learning piano next. It makes me feel good. I feel like I accomplished something and that's pleasurable."

Jessie Gaeta, a CAU member for two years, also performed for the first time on stage at this year's concert. She has been taking singing lessons at ACE but never took the stage until Friday.

"It made me feel really good," she said. "I'd been singing with my lessons but this was new for me. I was really excited."

Gaeta's favorite song of the evening was Blitzkrieg Bob by the Ramones, with its catchy repeated chorus of, "Hey ho, let's go! Hey ho, let's go!"

"I really like singing it," Gaeta said.

According to Lynn Schraer-Joiner, Kean's music education coordinator, music is the great unifier and equalizer. This evening the audience at Wilkins Theater saw this first-hand. While the back stage bustle was commonplace, what took place on stage was very special.

To learn more about CAU, visit caunj.org or follow the agency on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 40th year in 2019, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU gives a voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little power in society, assisting its members with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. Currently serving more than 5,000 individuals and families, CAU continues to grow each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, info@caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



(above) Maurice Stephens and Jessie Gaeta (center), members of Community Access Unlimited, pose with Lynn Schraer-Joiner (left) of Kean University's Music Conservatory program and CAU's Marguerite Modero.



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Date: Sunday March 29, 2020

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Location: First Presbyterian Church Bates Hall:
11 Springfield Ave. Cranford

Cost: \$35 per ticket

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will be provided by The Cake Artist Café of Cranford.*

ORDERING INFORMATION

(Orders must be received by March 16)

- Open seating, on first come, first serve basis, for orders of 7 tickets or less.
- Reserved seating only available for full table purchases (8 –10 tickets).
- Only submit one order form per table purchased.
- Separate checks for each group member are acceptable.

Scholar Tea is hosted by The College

Women's Club of Cranford, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1932, as a fundraiser for college scholarships awarded to graduating high school seniors residing in Cranford. 100% of proceeds will go to fund scholarships.

For more information:

Email us at

CranfordCollegeClub@gmail.com

or visit our website:

www.collegewomensclubcranford.com

CRANFORD VFW TO HOLD CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Submitted by Jim D'Arcy

Cranford VFW Post Commander Col. Andrew Burns (Ret) has announced that the Post will be celebrating its 100th anniversary this new year. A gala event to commemorate the occasion will be held at the Westwood in Garwood on April 25, 2020, featuring special guest speakers, entertainment, dinner and an open bar.

"This is truly an historic event for our Post", Burns commented. "Since February of 1920, just after the men and women came home from World War I, the VFW was formed and has been caring for Cranford's veteran community ever since. We certainly hope that the citizens of our town will join us for this wonderful celebration".

Tickets for the event are on sale now and can be obtained at the Post Home at 479 South Avenue, Cranford or by emailing event chairman Jim D'Arcy at jimdr@verizon.net. Tickets are priced at \$65.00 per person.

The VFW is also selling commemorative T-shirts and souvenir "challenge" coins to celebrate the event as well. Those can be purchased at the Post home. Additionally, a souvenir brochure is being printed for the event. Business and personal ads up to a full page are respectfully invited. Additional information on the brochure ads or on the event may be obtained by calling the Post at 908-276-9730 or emailing jimdr@verizon.net.

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CRANFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2020 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Cranford Historical Society Membership Committee announces that the Society's 2020 membership campaign is under way. The Cranford Historical Society is a non-profit educational organization whose mission since 1927 has been to preserve and perpetuate the history of Cranford for now and for future generations. We cordially invite you to join us. Being a member, you support the continuation of our archives, costume department, the maintenance of the Hanson House and Crane-Phillips House Museum, our 3rd grade school tours, our History Award program given out to a

Cranford High School Senior every year and our community outreach programs and events for visitors of all ages. Also, members receive 5 issues a year of our newsletter, the "Mill Wheel" which is always informative.

A 2020 Membership Form can be found on the Society's website at cranfordhistoricalsociety.org.

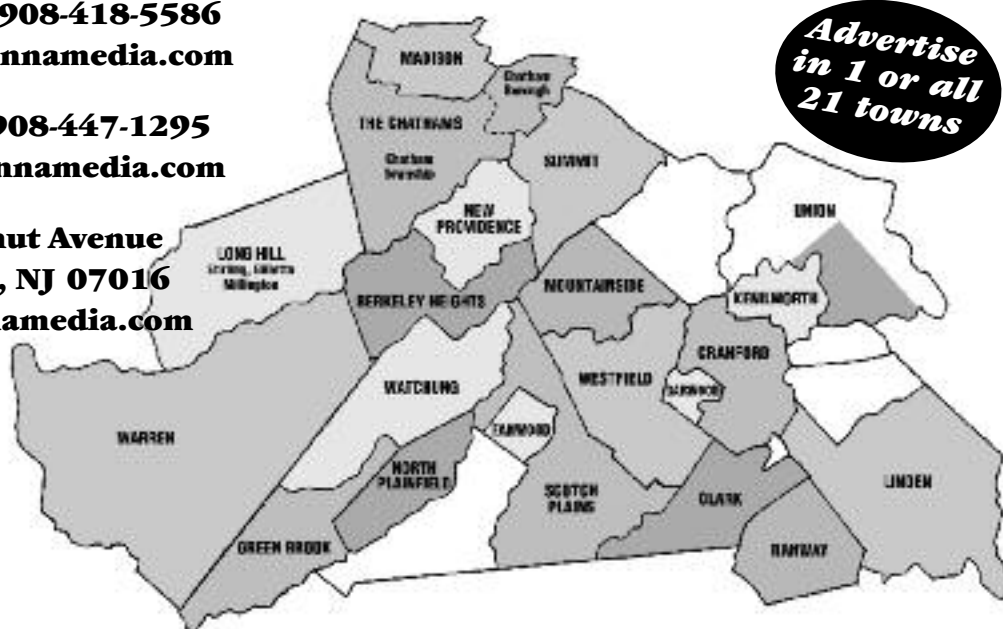
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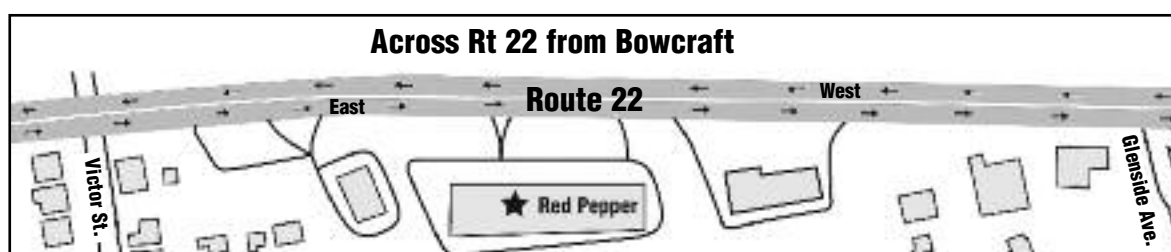
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