

CRANFORD MONTHLY_{NJ}

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2022 PRIDE IN CRANFORD AWARDS



(above) *Pride in Cranford award winners: Don Sweeney, Cranford 86; Ellen Ramer; Chief Ryan Greco and The Cranford Police Department; Patricia Conheeney; Karl Spinner; Chief Dan Czeh and The Cranford Fire Department; A.J. Kornberger and The Cranford First Aid Squad; Bob Bruns; Kurt Petschow; President Andis Kalnins; Donna Slevin; Kelly Nicholas; and Kathy Willis. Missing from the picture are Caren Demyen and Rebecca Tantillo, Flag of Cranford.*

Courtesy photo

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ECRWSS

The Cranford Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the recipients of the Pride in Cranford awards.

The award winners were celebrated at an awards ceremony held on Thursday, November 3, 2022 at The Cranford Social. The event was hosted by Andis Kalnins, President of the Cranford Area Chamber of Commerce and its Executive Director, Gina Tipton. Members of the Pride in Cranford event committee included Donna Marino, and Lindsay Pristas.

“A volunteer doesn't do it because they have time, they do it because they have heart.” was the sentiment that was echoed at our Pride in Cranford awards dinner. Another recurring theme of the evening was that every award winner accepted the award not just for themselves but for their teams and their community. It takes a village and that night our village shined!

The Cranford Area Chamber of Commerce also celebrated its 75th + Anniversary that evening among award winners, the Cranford Area Chamber Of Commerce Board of Directors,

township officials, families and friends.

The Pride in Cranford awards recognize those who through volunteerism have made Cranford a better community. As in previous years the nominations were sent in by the residents of Cranford.

2022 HONOREES

- Remembrance Recognition: Dottie Baniewicz
- Pillar of the Community: Ellen Ramer, Martin Jewelers.
- Community Service: Bobby Bruns, Rich Pierce, Rebecca Tantillo, Karl Spinner, Don Sweeney, Kurt Petschow, Kathy Willis, and Christos, and Bill Zavolas.
- Community Organization: St Michael's Church Salt & Light Ministry – Patricia Conheeney.
- President's Award: Donna Slevin, for her outstanding service and dedication to the Chamber.
- Front Line Heroes: Cranford Fire, Cranford First Aid, Cranford Police and Flag of Cranford.

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CHRISTMAS DRIVE-THRU FOOD COLLECTION DECEMBER 10

Cranford United Methodist Church invites you to lend a helping hand to families in need this holiday season. The church is holding a Drive-Thru Christmas Food Drive on Saturday, December 10th from 10 a.m. – 12 pm. in the church's parking lot.

Here are some suggestions for Christmas dinner donations: canned ham, canned pineapple, candied yams, cranberry sauce, rice, applesauce, juice, raisins, bottled gravy, broth, oil, spices, canned green beans, corn, cornbread mix, cake mix, condensed milk, canned pie filling and crusts, Christmas cookies and pudding.

Hardy fresh fruit and vegetables are also very much needed, such as potatoes, garlic, onions, sweet potatoes, apples, pears and oranges.

Place your bags in your trunk, drive up, pop your trunk and volunteers will remove them, no contact needed! Your food donations will be delivered to St. Joseph's Social Services and other local organizations serving people in need.

Cranford United Methodist Church's parking lot is located next to the Cranford Library.

Can't make that date? There are bins outside near the Little Free Pantry in the church's parking lot where donations can be dropped any time.



(above) Cranford United Methodist Church is holding a Drive-Thru Christmas Food Drive on Saturday, December 10th from 10 a.m. – 12 pm. in the church's parking lot next to Cranford Public Library.

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THANKSGIVING SPIRIT - K OF C VOLUNTEERS AT FOOD BANK

In the spirit of Thanksgiving and giving back to our community, the Cranford Knights of Columbus sent a team of volunteers to assist at the Community Food Bank of NJ on Saturday, November 5th. The team assembled 350 Essential Boxes for distribution.

The Cranford Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Fraternal Organization dedicated to our Four Core Principles, Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The Cranford Council supports many charities and civic causes locally, state-wide, and nationally and is

committed to be a viable part of our community.

For information about joining the Council, please contact our Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney at 908-416-3464 or visit the Council web site at cranfordknights.org.



(above) Pictured are members of the team led by Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney and Brother Ian Moraes who organized the volunteer effort of Brother Knights and their families and friends. The volunteers are Swana, Elizabeth & Brother Michael Beckley, Mirian & Brother Joe Rebelo, Carol & Brother Bob Uckar, Brother Tom Molfetto, Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney, PGK Pat Forker, Karen & PGK James Winter, Marie & Brother Paul Zissler and Paul Trader.

Courtesy photo

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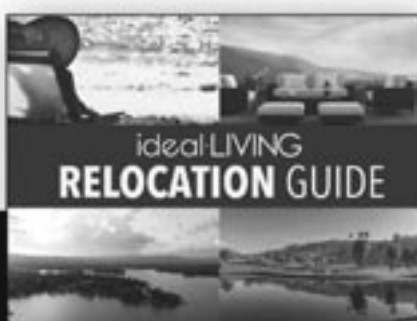
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AMAZING SUPPORT FOR FAMILY CARE

Cranford Family Care food pantry was thrilled by the recent support from the local community. In November, CFC received help from numerous individuals and many organizations including HillTop Bicycles, the residents of Riverfront at Cranford Station, The Thursday Club, Bloomingdale School, Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 22, United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and Trinity Episcopal Church. Both Garwood Cares and Cranford Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts held food large drives that also helped fill the pantry shelves.

Thanksgiving is one of CFC's busiest times and this year was no exception. To help make the holiday special for those in need, CFC received meals from Salt & Light Ministry, donations from St. Michael's Church and School, monetary donation and gift cards from The Knights of Columbus and Thanksgiving baskets from local Girl Scout troops. This is the third year where CFC partnered with Cadette Girl Scout Troop 40194 to make up 230 Thanksgiving-to-go bags for Senior Housing. In addition, the pantry received 100 turkeys for Thanksgiving through a generous donation by Marc Corello owner of The Garlic Rose. Dozens of volunteers helped organize and deliver the food in time for Thanksgiving celebrations.

CFC is grateful for the continued generosity of the residents and businesses of our wonderful town, which was put to use helping the people of Cranford. For the Christmas season, Rich Siderko and his team from New Jersey Bankers Association and Bankers Cooperative Group, Inc. are donating 25 ham dinners for the holidays for the third year running.

If you are looking for a place to donate, the Cranford Fire Department has built a permanent drop box in the shape of a firetruck where you can donate canned, boxed, or packaged goods 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. An ongoing list of food pantry needs can also be found on the CFC website: cranfordfamilycare.com/get-involved.

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AIRMAN FIRST CLASS NATHAN SANDS

Airman First Class Nathan Sands, a 2015 Cranford High School graduate, has been selected for a below the zone promotion. Eight Airmen had their packets sent to the selection board, only two were selected for promotion to Senior Airmen. Nathan had a deployment to Romania in support of a NATO mission, in response to Russia attacking Ukraine. He also just finished anti drone training. His promotion is effective December 23, 2022.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS HOUSE TOUR

Cranford’s Annual Home for the Holidays House Tour is back. The tour is self-directed, featuring five beautiful homes lovingly decorated for the holidays, on Sunday, December 4 from 12 to 4 p.m. Attendees will be guided through each home where volunteers share information on the special details of each one.

“The club is excited to bring the House Tour back as an important fundraiser for scholarships and for Project Home. The Tour is a fun way for residents to share their beautiful homes. We greatly appreciate our homeowners because they are supporting our efforts to give back to Cranford,” said Kendall O'Brien, President of the Cranford Women’s Club.

Tickets are available via Eventbrite at eventbrite.com/e/home-for-the-holidays-house-tour-tickets-455125280967 or can be purchased directly at the library, Augusta Mae, Hickory & Hill or Periwinkles for \$30.

The Cranford Woman’s Club, founded in 1949, is a “volunteer organization richly rooted in the tradition of giving back to the community and its residents. While our common goal is enhancing the quality of life in our community, one of the many benefits is the lifelong friendships we make along the way.” Last year the club donated over \$20,000 in cash and goods to the community, including five scholarships to graduating Cranford Seniors. The Holiday House Tour, which hasn’t been run since 2019, is the club’s largest fundraising effort.

The Cranford Women’s Club runs several major events each year including Witches Night Out, Sip N Shop and Breakfast with the Bunny. The Club’s Philanthropic focus is on Cranford, with major beneficiaries being Project Home, Cranford Family Care, Cranford First Aid Squad and FLAG. The club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the VFW on South Avenue at 7:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend.

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TEEN HELPS RAISE MONEY FOR FAMILIES FACING PEDIATRIC CANCER

Nick Swandrak, 18, of Cranford, NJ, teamed up with retired NFL Coach Tom Coughlin to raise money for local families facing pediatric cancer on October 21 at Cipriani 42nd Street, New York. In a speech to a crowd of nearly 500 professional athletes, celebrities and supporters at the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund’s annual Champions for Children Gala, Swandrak shared his own journey of being diagnosed and treated for acute lymphoblastic leukemia and his subsequent relapse earlier this year. The Jay Fund, the nonprofit founded by the two-time Super Bowl winning coach of the New York Giants, marked its 17th year of providing financial, emotional and practical support for families tackling pediatric cancer in the New York/New Jersey Metropolitan area.

Swandrak knows all too well the challenges families face when a child is diagnosed with cancer, and he is passionate about raising awareness and funds to support them. He has spent much of the last four years enduring grueling cancer treatments and being isolated from his friends due to his immunocompromised condition. His family, like all families who have

a child with cancer, has faced expensive medical bills coupled with rising inflation and record-high food costs.

Swandrak and his family have been supported by the Jay Fund throughout his treatment.

“The Jay Fund covered our mortgage payments when our bills became overwhelming and has given me experiences that I will never, ever forget,” Swandrak told the crowd of current and former New York Giants, business leaders and Jay Fund families and supporters.

Swandrak’s emotional words captivated the audience, and his speech was one of the highlights of a night that raised \$1.25 million for the Jay Fund and the families it serves in the New York/New Jersey Metropolitan area.

“Nick is a remarkable young man and a current Jay Fund scholarship recipient,” said Mary Jane Pulzello, Managing Director of the Tom

Coughlin Jay Fund in NY/NJ. “He received a standing ovation from the audience, as many were deeply moved by this young man’s courage and tenacity in fighting cancer for more than four years.”

Swandrak thanked his medical team who continue to help him through this fight, as well as his friends and family who have lifted him up from day one. He saved his most heartfelt appreciation for his parents, stating their love and support have been everything to him.

“As of today, I’ve had 126 chemo shots, 28 spinal taps, and over 200 days sleeping on scratchy hospital sheets,” Swandrak told the crowd. “Fighting cancer is tough. You’re in bed, and sick a lot of the time. There are days that are a real struggle. But I’m looking forward to ringing that bell for the second time this December and being back in remission.”



(above) Nick Swandrak, a Cranford, NJ, teen who has been tackling pediatric cancer for more than four years, joined former NY Giants head coach Tom Coughlin and the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund to help raise funds for other NY/NJ children and their families facing childhood cancer.

Courtesy photo



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CAPTAIN MATTHEW R. NAZZARO

At a ceremony in Municipal Chambers held on November 14th, 2022 with family and friends in attendance, Mayor Kathleen Miller-Prunty administered the oath of office to Captain Matthew R. Nazzaro.

Captain Nazzaro will become the Administrative Captain overseeing the Training Division, Community Support Services Division, the Juvenile Bureau, the Traffic Bureau, the Records Bureau and the Community Outreach Unit.

We thank the Township Committee and Administration, including Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis, Commissioner Brian Andrews, Commissioner O'Connor, Commissioner Black and Administrator Cryan for their ongoing support of our agency.



2022 PRESERVATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Cranford Historical Society joined with the Historic Preservation Advisory Board to present the 2022 Preservation Awards on November 13th. Awards were given to Kinney Clark of 115 Holly Street, and Richard Russo of

405 Springfield Avenue for their home renovations which preserved the architectural and historical significance of the home. A reception followed the presentation of the awards.



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If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

Have you have been told you are facing knee replacement surgery? Have you been told about all the downsides you could be facing? First and foremost, there are NO guarantees that knee replacement surgery will be the answer to your pain, but let's look further:

- Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
- Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.
- With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.
- Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down that road before. Addictions to these pain medications can cause potential side effects, something you do not want to experience.
- Rehabilitation can take years.

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Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

There are a number of reasons why you developed Osteoarthritis pain. It can develop with age or because of heredity. It could be from repetitive stress from a job or some glory days in athletics. Of course your concern is with the symptoms you face daily and how to make them end, hopefully without surgery or the use of potentially addictive medications. **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** understands the symptoms you have been living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

- **Pain** - Whether it's a sharp aching or maybe a burning sensation, the pain can range from irritating to debilitating.
- **Swelling** - This can cause tenderness and soreness to the entire knee area, making walking or going up and down stairs painful, getting in and out of bed or bathtubs difficult and dangerous just name a few activities affected by swelling.
- **Stiffness** - Getting up out of bed or after sitting for a period of time gets more and more difficult. This loss of mobility can be more than a hindrance. It can be dangerous if you need to move quickly.
- **Loss of muscle strength** - This can lead to balance issues and the strong possibility of falling.
- **Joint deformity** - Not just unsightly, but painful as well.
- **Creaking Joints** - Can be painful and a sign of more discomfort to come.
- **Sleepless nights** - Losing sleep over your suffering is not just irritating, but potentially dangerous because of so many other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sound sleep.

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Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthritis, osteoarthritis, sports injuries or other conditions. Many have been told that they are in need of knee replacement surgery. Other patients say they have been prescribed various prescription medications to deal with the pain.

Something else I see almost every day, are patients that have tried viscosupplementation knee injections elsewhere and found it to be a painful and ineffective experience because the injections were not administered using fluoroscopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoroscopy we use at **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** these patients experienced a blind injection technique, which can be as inaccurate as playing pin the tail on the donkey.

Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoroscopy and the amazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are thrilled to get started. They are even more thrilled when they feel the relief. Please contact **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** today to schedule your RISK FREE consultation.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WELCOMES NEW SENIOR PASTOR

The members of First Presbyterian Church of Cranford got an early Christmas gift this year - a new Pastor! After a two-year period without a permanent minister, the church is pleased to announce its new Pastor/Head of Staff, Reverend Jin Bae.

Ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in November 1996, Rev. Bae joins us most recently from Bethany United Presbyterian Church in Bloomfield, NJ. Rev. Bae holds a Master of Theology (Th. M.) from Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea, a Master of Divinity (M. Div.) from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA, and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Rev. Bae has held a variety of senior leadership positions throughout his career, and has led multiple global mission trips to the Philippines, Peru, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, and Mexico.

"Rev. Bae stood out from the more than 80 candidates' resumes we reviewed," said church member and search committee co-chairperson Laura Holcomb, "We couldn't be more excited for him to help us be the church we want to be for the Cranford Community." Search committee member Fred Fitzgerald, a member of the congregation for more than 25 years, agreed, "Listening to Rev. Bae preach during the search process blew me away."

December will be a month of celebrations and we invite you to these Christmas season events:

December 18th at 10:00 am

The Chancel Choir will perform a Christmas Cantata entitled "A Ceremony of Lessons and Carols." Familiar Christmas hymns paint a musical illustration while different parts of the Christmas narrative are read from the Bible.

December 24th at 4:00 pm

The Rev. Danny Velez and Rev. Jin Bae will lead a Christmas Eve service with familiar Christmas carols and glorious organ music. Children are welcomed up front during the children's message to sit on the steps for a special Christmas message. During the final hymn, "Silent Night, Holy Night", the lights will be dimmed and candlelight will fill the Sanctuary.

December 25th at 10:00 am

You are invited to stop in to the Sanctuary between 10 and 11am on Christmas morning for a prayer and blessing from Rev. Bae.

January 1 at 10:00 am

Come for a Service of Lessons and Carols and start the new year right. Extend the Christmas cheer and join us for Christmas Carols interspersed with readings from the bible.

ABOUT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

As the body of Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit, the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford (FPCC), 11 Springfield Ave., Cranford, seeks to live God's Word and inspire others to embrace Jesus' commandment to love one another as the Lord loves us. Learn more at firstprescranford.org/Christmas.

CRANFORD METHODIST CHURCH WELCOMES NEW PASTOR

Cranford United Methodist Church welcomes the Reverend Doctor HyunHui Kim as its new pastor. She is the first woman and person of color to serve as the pastor in the church's 150-year history. She uses her deep theological and philosophical understanding of race, gender, sexuality, and social class along with East-West comparative studies to enrich ministries challenged by the complexity of a global world.

Rev. Dr. Kim is passionate about justice ministry and supporting the lives of the oppressed and marginalized by cultivating healing spaces for their wholeness and wellbeing. "What the justice ministry aims at," she emphasizes, "is to expand the kin(g)dom of God that Jesus talked about over and over to his followers, seeking the radically inclusive community."

Rev. Dr. Kim was born, raised, and educated in South Korea, but followed God's calling to

New Jersey in 2006. She completed her Master of Divinity degree and her Ph.D. in Theological and Philosophical Studies at Drew Theological School.

"It is my great pleasure to serve God as the new pastor of Cranford UMC," says Rev. Dr. Kim. "I am confident in God's grace and excited to be where God has led me. What is most exciting about being the pastor of Cranford UMC is that it is a reconciling congregation." Reconciling ministries celebrate LGBTQ+ persons and the goodness of God's diverse creation.


Under her leadership, Cranford UMC seeks to increase its efforts to support those who are racially and sexually marginalized, becoming a bridge to connect them with each other and with God, and standing for justice, equity, and dignity

for each and every individual. "All are invited to experience the healing and liberating power of God," says Rev. Dr. Kim.

Worship services are at 10 a.m. every Sunday at Cranford UMC, 201 Lincoln Ave. E. Holy Communion is shared on the first Sunday of every month. The communion table is open to all of God's children who want to be fed by the grace of God. All are welcome to join diverse ministry opportunities including children and youth ministry, choir, praise team, Advent/Lenten small discussion group, prayer group and various outreach programs such as the Drive-Thru Food Collections, Samaritan Sandwich Making Events and the Free Little Pantry. Learn more at cranfordumc.com and follow us on Facebook facebook.com/cranfordumc.



(above) Reverend Doctor HyunHui Kim



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HANUKAH: A HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS AND MIRACLES

Submitted by Rabbi Paul David Kerbel

Hanukah is a 'major' Jewish holiday. You might be surprised by that. Most rabbis and Jewish educators would say just the opposite, that Hanukah is a 'minor' Jewish holiday. From the perspective of religious Jewish law, Hanukah does not have the same religious significance of Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year), Yom Kippur (our Day of Atonement and forgiveness), Passover (our Festival of Freedom), Shavuot (the holiday where we celebrate the revelation of the Five Books of Moses), and Sukkot (our Fall festival celebrating the end of the summer harvest and our relationship with God).

Hanukah is a 'major' Jewish holiday culturally and ethnically. One of the ways we can understand any religion is not just what the religion 'teaches' but what its followers actually observe and practice. More Jews observe Hanukah than any other ritual, other than participating in a Passover Seder. Part of Hanukah's 'popularity' is that it falls in the Jewish calendar between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Hanukah represents a powerful response to the feelings of exclusion and of being a minority in the larger Christian culture of America and allows members of the Jewish community to celebrate its own traditions and be proud of the Jewish heritage even as the airwaves, malls and

TV commercials are filled with the sounds and traditions of Christmas.

But regardless of where Hanukah falls in the calendar, I would suggest the following four reasons why Hanukah is a 'major' Jewish holiday and has lessons for both Jews and our non-Jewish neighbors to learn from share:

1. Hanukah represents the first victory in human history for religious freedom. Had the Jewish Maccabees not won their war with the Greek/Syrian kingdom, Judaism may have died out and Christianity and Islam, both of which have roots in Judaism, may never have developed. The Jewish people celebrate the value for all of us to celebrate our respective religious traditions.
2. Hanukah teaches us religious tolerance and to celebrate diversity and pluralism. As America becomes more diverse and welcomes citizens of many different religions from around the world, we learn from each other and how much we have in common.
3. Hanukah reinforces the ability and opportunity of each minority to teach, learn and celebrate its religious traditions and its principles and unique ethnic and religious identity while we all share and believe in the values of freedom and democracy.
4. Hanukah reminds us of the modern-day miracles that we have participated in: the redemption of over one million Jews from

the former Soviet Union who were not allowed to learn about their Jewish faith and practice Judaism while under Communist rule; the rescue and welcoming of over 100,000 Jews from Ethiopia and the rescue and of endangered Jews and other Jewish communities around the world. We must always be prepared to deliver the few from the many, the weak from the mighty and the righteous from the wicked.

Finally, I would like to share that the word "Hanukah" means 'dedication' and comes from the same Hebrew word as 'education.' Hanukah is about making sure that we maintain our Jewish identity, that we teach our children, the values, the history, the rich heritage which is ours to embrace and pass on to the next generation. May the lights of our Hanukah menorah symbolize our love for Judaism, our right to practice Judaism as a minority while at the same time, sharing symbols of light and the theme of miracles with those who celebrate Christmas even as all of us strive to make the world a better place. For our Jewish tradition has taught us this eternal message: "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

Happy Hanukah and Happy Holidays to all!

Rabbi Paul Kerbel is the spiritual leader of Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim in Cranford and the current chair of the Cranford Clergy Council.



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MENORAH LIGHTING

The Union County Torah Center-Chabad is pleased to announce that there will be a Menorah Lighting ceremony in Cranford across from the municipal building near the gazebo on Springfield Ave., on Wednesday, December 21, at 6:30 p.m. Rabbi Paul Kerbel of Temple Beth-El in Cranford & Rabbi Levi Block of the Union County Torah Center-Chabad will both give Chanukah remarks to the attendees.

For the first time in Cranford there will be a “Gelt Drop” where a fireman will rain down chocolate gelt from high atop the fire ladder while children (and adults) have the opportunity to collect as much chocolate gelt as they can. There will also be LED light up dreidel and menorah necklaces for all children in attendance, and of course delicious Chanukah donuts.

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, begins on Sunday, December 18 at sundown and continues through Sunday, December 25. Chanukah focuses largely on the meaning of civil liberties and religious freedom and has served as a source of this message for nearly twenty-two centuries. The Menorah contains a universal message for all people of all faiths – a message of freedom, of good over evil, of light over darkness.

For more information please call the Torah Center-Chabad at 908-789-5252, email info@torahcenterchabad.org or visit torahcenterchabad.org

FRANCISCAN CHARITIES FALL COAT DRIVE

The Cranford Knights of Columbus Council # 6226 recently supported the Franciscan Charities Fall Coat Drive. Brother Knight volunteers collected, sorted and delivered hundreds of articles of clothing donated by St. Michael’s Church parishioners. On November 12th, Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney, Brother Knights Keith Santulli, Sean O’Shea and Tom Molfetto delivered all that was collected and helped distribute more than 1,000 coats, hats, gloves and scarves to needy families in Newark.

The Franciscan Charities is a charitable organization in Newark and operates Franciscan

Kitchens which provides meals and a variety of social services to needy neighbors in the Central and West wards of Newark, NJ.

The Cranford Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Fraternal Organization dedicated to our Four Core Principles, Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The Cranford Council supports many charities and civic causes locally, state-wide and nationally committed to be a viable part of our Cranford Community. For information about joining the Council, please contact Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney at 908-416-3464 or visit our web site at cranfordknights.org.



(above, l-r) Greg Langan of Franciscan Charities, Brother Sean O’Shea, Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney and Brothers Greg Molfetto and Keith Santulli. Special thanks to Keith Santulli who organized and spearheaded the Drive on behalf of the Council.



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TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 24TH ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 24th joyous season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 17 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) for two performances at 2 and 7PM. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 18 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ also with performances at 2 and 7PM.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as, "Highland Cathedral," "Joy to the World", and "Amazing Grace", all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ and brass and more. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

According to producer Robert Currie, "We are absolutely delighted to be bringing our concert back to full force after two devastating years weathering the Covid pandemic. Supporting our GoFundMe campaign will continue to make these concerts possible."

The 2022 production marks the NYC solo debut of soprano Sharon Lyons originally from Dublin, Ireland.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. In addition to Ms. Lyons, featured performers include James Robinson from the film "Braveheart," New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel, champion harpist Rachel Clemente, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA among many more.

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Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which include annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow, Scotland) the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship at Summit (NJ) High School.

Proceeds also support the annual Tartan Day on Ellis Island celebration and the Society's sponsorship of the US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at Scotland's Royal National Mod, and an academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Each year, concert highlights are webcast in hi-definition over the Christmas holiday to a global audience in cooperation with HomeTowne Television. In addition to winning multiple Telly Awards for broadcast production excellence, the 2020 virtual concert was a finalist for the coveted MG Alba Trad Music Award presented annually in Scotland.

The concert is still accepting Title Sponsors as well as Program Ads. These gifts help offset production expenses and add help fund our scholarships.

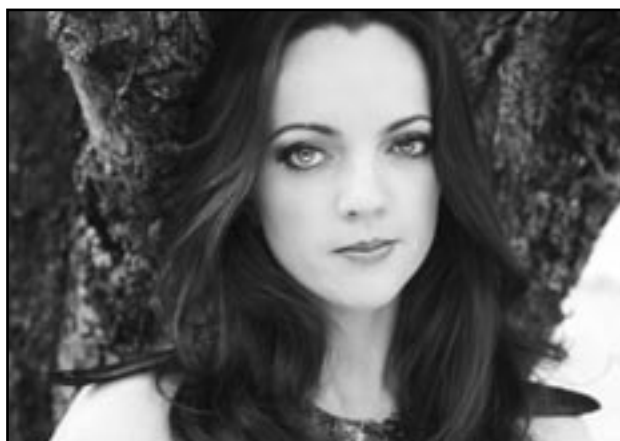
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ABOUT "THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS"

Since making its debut in 1999, The Pipes of Christmas has played to standing room only audiences. Now a cherished holiday event, the concert provides audiences with a stirring and reverent celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit. Audience-goers return year after year to experience the program, many reporting that the Pipes of Christmas has become part of their family's annual Christmas tradition.

The concert has been lavished with critical acclaim. In his review for Classical New Jersey Magazine, Paul Somers wrote, "The whole evening was constructed to introduce gem after gem and still have a finale which raised the roof. In short, it was like a well-constructed fireworks show on the Glorious Fourth. The Westfield Leader described the concert as "a unique sound of power and glory nowhere else to be found."



(above) Soprano Sharon Lyons originally from Dublin, Ireland, will make her NYC solo debut at the 2022 Pipes of Christmas concerts in NY and NJ.



(above) Pipers from the Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band are returning to the East Coast this December to join the company of the 24th annual "Pipes of Christmas" concerts.



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24TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION

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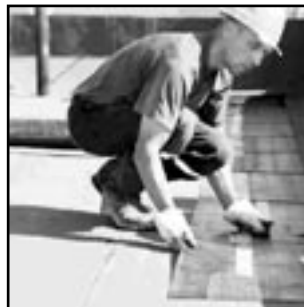
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CRANFORD VETS HAVE A WEEK TO REMEMBER

Submitted by Jim D'Arcy, VFW Post #335

Veterans Day “week” turned out to be quite eventful for the members of Cranford’s VFW Post #335. Starting with a more than successful Veteran’s Breakfast on Sunday, November 6th and ending Wednesday, with a “Clap-Out” at all the town’s elementary schools plus adding an informative question and answer period during a Junior Class assembly at the High School, it was a full week of accolades and acknowledgements.

The annual Veterans Breakfast, a mainstay of the VFW’s calendar for decades, was well received and attended. Noted speakers included State Senator Jon Bramnick, County Commissioner Betty Jane Kowalski and Cranford’s Mayor Kathleen Prunty. The featured speaker, retired Army Sergeant Major Sean Hutchinson was warmly received as he gave an informative talk on his highly decorated military experiences, discussing his multiple tours in the Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan war zones.

The “sit down” Veterans Breakfast was expertly cooked by the VFW’s dedicated Auxiliary while the serving was fervently executed by Boy Scouts from Troops 75 and 80 and Girl Scout Service Unit 48. The highlight of the morning however was the speeches given by students from Mrs. Castle’s 8th grade class at St. Michaels School in Cranford. Showing great understanding and insight in their talks, the attendees found the students positively

enlightening. “The Veterans Breakfast is our biggest event of the year” explained Post Commander Mark Schwartz, “and this year event was as good as it gets. Great attendance, great speakers and the students were the best.”

A school “Clap-Out” was something none of the Cranford Veterans had ever heard of or participated in before. The actual experience however, was quite memorable for them. In all the six elementary schools, plus Lincoln School, the entire student population lined the halls and clapped continuously, as each veteran walked by. The thrill was remarkable. “The appreciation, the clapping, the high fives that the students gave us was just overwhelming” stated Army veteran Mark Pollock, “I certainly didn’t expect it to be such a moving experience.” Also, each school presented a long red, white and blue paper chain containing students’ sentiments to the veterans.

At Cranford High School, three VFW Post members, Commander Mark Schwartz (Marines), Michael Gregory (Navy) and Jim D’Arcy (Air Force) attended an assembly of the schools Junior Class. Students from the A.P. U.S. History class authored 10 questions to pose to each of the veterans. The Veterans responded to each in turn from their own personal experiences in the military. The Junior Class’s response was extraordinary. Commander Schwartz expressed his gratitude to the students, “The questions were well thought out, and the entire assembly seemed to be really intent on getting our answers and learning from them. The respect and appreciation they showed us was truly wonderful.” On behalf of the VFW, the Commander also expressed his thanks to the members of the Cranford school system who made the day such a special one for the veterans of the town.



(above, l-r) Commander Mark Schwartz, Michael Gregory and Jim D'Arcy, at the Cranford High School Assembly.

Courtesy photos



(above) Students welcoming the Veterans at Orange Avenue School.

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CRANFORD'S BSA TROOP 80 NOVEMBER CAMPING TRIP



The Boy Scouts of Cranford's Troop 80 conducted their November camping trip at Worthington State Forest along the Delaware River from November 5th – 7th. The Scouts were able to work on their Camping Merit Badge, which includes a requirement for a hike with a 1,000 ft elevation change. Their hike started at their campsite along the banks of the river and traversed the Kittatinny Ridge for 3 miles to Sunfish Pond which is almost 1,500 ft above sea level. Here the Scouts ate a packed lunch on the rocky banks of this glacial lake, which was declared a National Natural

Landmark in 1970. From here the Scouts started their hike back to camp, with the round trip covering 8 miles in about 4 hours. Also on the trip, work towards the Cooking Merit Badge was completed. Breakfasts of pancakes and sausage, and a dinner of tacos and chili, were all cooked on the camping stoves that were brought on the trip. 16 Scouts and 7 adult chaperones enjoyed the great weather, which was unseasonably warm this year.

If your son would like to join Troop 80, please contact Shannon Tallon at shan.tallon@gmail.com.

Courtesy photos



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FIRSTNET COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Cranford Police and Fire Departments have joined forces with the Cranford Public Schools in connecting first responders and school administrators to FirstNet – a communications platform just for public safety. With this tech advancement, first responders are equipped with new capabilities and reliable access to critical information while in the field – with an additional feature of direct communication with school officials during critical incidents. That allows first responders and school officials to better serve those who attend Cranford Public Schools. FirstNet is designed to improve communications across public safety entities nationwide, allowing first responders to easily and quickly communicate with one another during everyday situations, big events or emergencies. This is integral to solving for the common roadblock that communications issues have posed on past public safety responses.

The Cranford Police and Fire Department are currently using FirstNet within their vehicles, as their mobile modems, and department-issued phones. Integrating the Cranford Public Schools and specifically Cranford High School into this same platform will allow for immediate and direct communication between First Responders and Cranford High School's Administration and Staff using FirstNet's Enhanced Push-To-Talk Application.

In Cranford High School, this new technology Utilizes Cellular Boosters strategically placed throughout the school to ensure clear communication throughout the entirety of the school and campus. By replacing an aging point-to-point radio system with the FirstNet system, traditional barriers in communication are reduced, and immediate communication with police officers during a crisis is ensured. With Cranford High School being the largest school within the school district, it is being used as a pilot location for the Cranford Board of Education. According to Dr. Scott Rubin, Superintendent of Schools, there are plans to expand the program throughout Cranford Schools. "The safety of our school community will always be our number one priority and we are committed to exploring new practices while enhancing existing ones," Dr. Rubin said. "We look forward to providing this service districtwide in the very near future and want to thank our amazing safety professionals for their continued partnership."

This joint venture was facilitated by Cranford Police Department Captain Guy Patterson, Cranford High School Principal Mark Cantagallo, and FirstNet Sales Consultant Joseph Greco with the support of the Cranford Public Schools Superintendent of Schools Dr. Scott Rubin and Business Administrator Robert

Carfagno.

"In any response, reliable communication is paramount to our ability to get the necessary resources on scene to provide assistance. The Cranford Board of Education partnering with the Cranford Police Department to utilize FirstNet's suite of applications will enhance our responders' ability to communicate directly with school staff as an incident unfolds," said Captain Guy Patterson. To learn more about FirstNet, go to FirstNet.com.



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2022 LEAF PICKUP

Leaf pickup started October 24th and the last pickup is December 30th.

SOME GUIDELINES:

- Rake leaves to the gutter line on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday before your scheduled pickup. Once your street is picked up, DO NOT rake anymore leaves into the street
- It is the homeowner's responsibility to have their landscaper comply with the schedule and guidelines to avoid getting a warning or fine.
- All sections of town will have at least three leaf pickups. A final pickup of all sections will begin on approximately December 19 and continue until December 30, weather permitting.
- No leaves are to be placed out after December 18.

If you live on a county road, leaf pickup schedules can be found at: ucnj.org or by calling 908-789-3660. The following are Union County Roads: Springfield Ave., Centennial Ave., Walnut Ave., Raritan Rd., Kenilworth Blvd., South Avenue East & West.

The 2022 Leaf Pickup Schedule can be found on line at cranfordnj.org.



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PEARL HARBOR DAY SERVICE

On Wednesday, December 7th at 9:00 a.m., Cranford VFW Post #335 will hold an outdoor Memorial Service in remembrance of the attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941 which ignited the beginning of World War II.

This service is open to the public and will be held at the VFW Post Memorial Home at 479 South Ave. E. in Cranford. The program will last approximately a half hour. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved indoors at the Post.

Featured at the service will be the VFW Color Guard, and a bugler to solemnly play taps, as well as a taped recorded playing of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's famous "date which will live in infamy" radio address. For additional info, please call 908-482-0132 or email jimdrc@verizon.net.

EXERCISE YOUR MIND



Cranford Senior Citizens
We are bringing back BRIDGE CLUB
at the Cranford Community Center

Cranford bridge players of all levels are welcome to join the Cranford Bridge Club. All who come will play, no sit-outs.

When: Thursdays, beginning January 12, 2023

Time: 1:00 pm

Fee: No Charge

Please call The Cranford Community Center
if you are interested (908) 709-7283

P.B.A. SEEKS YOUR SUPPORT

The Cranford Honorary P.B.A. is seeking motivated individuals who are interested in becoming members, board members, and volunteers.

When you become a member of the Cranford Honorary PBA, you join local business leaders, law enforcement officers, and citizens like yourself who are committed to backing our Cranford Police Department and their families and letting them know we're on their side. Joining the Cranford Honorary PBA is a tangible way to express your support for the work that our officers do to protect families like yours every day.

AS AN HONORARY PBA MEMBER, YOU'LL HELP:

- Promote the morale, professionalism and good and welfare of the Cranford Police Department.
- Contribute funding to the Cranford Police Department, various local charities and events annually.

- Help in fostering a positive relationship between law enforcement and the residents of Cranford along with fellow PBA members throughout our town.

The Cranford Honorary PBA's mission statement is as relevant today as it was when the organization was first established: "To promote the moral, professionalism and the good and welfare of the Cranford Police Department and to promote and grow the relationship between the citizens, business owners and the members of the Cranford Policemen's Benevolent Association and the Honorary P.B.A."

Our Cranford Police need your support. Join your friends and neighbors and become a member now!

If you are interested in becoming a part of this great organization or would like more information, please call 908-272-2227, or drop us a line at: Cranford Honorary PBA Local 52, P.O. Box 1663, Cranford, NJ 07016.



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SIGNING DAY AT CRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL



(above, l-r) Jake Carter - TCNJ, Sean Woodruff - Regina Salve, Matt Chapman - Regina Salve, Shea Grady - Bryant University, Ryan Jaros - Georgia Tech, Gabbie Baida - Sacred Heart, Olivia Russomanno - Rutgers, Avery Toddings - Holy Cross, Kelli Ann - Keogh Muhlenburg, Julia Hulse - Iona, and Audrey McMahon - Ithaca.

Photo by Cranford Public Schools

BOOK SALE - DONATIONS SOUGHT

Mark your calendars! The Friends of the Cranford Public Library will be hosting their next book sale on January 19-21, 2023 at the Library's cellar. Registration has been posted on the Friends page and on the calendar of events at cranfordlibrary.org. Registration is also available via the QR code below.

The Friends of the Library is currently accepting book donations! Help us restock by dropping off your gently used books any time during library hours. The staff at the front desk will direct you. Please note, we cannot accept donations of books in poor condition (moldy, musty, broken bindings, ripped pages...), encyclopedias, textbooks, audiocassettes, or VHS tapes.

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library is a non-profit organization. Proceeds of all book sales and monetary donations benefit library programming and events for all ages throughout the year. Thank you for your support!



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New Monthly Films

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First Wednesday of the month at the Cranford Community Center. Contact library for film titles. No registration is required.

Local Author Panel

Thursday, December 8 at 7 p.m.

Join us at the Cranford Community Center for an author talk and Q&A with a panel of authors from Cranford and the Cranford area!

Literary Cafe

Saturday, December 10 at 10:15 a.m.

Bring a few of your recent favorite books and tell the other members of the group what you like about them. There is no required reading, and you will have the opportunity to learn about books recommended by other group members.

Admission is free and all are welcome.

Refreshments sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Join us in the Library's Raddin Room or online.

International Film Screening

Monday, December 12 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Join us at the Cranford Community Center on the 2nd Monday of the month at either 2 p.m. or 7 p.m. for an International film screening.

Please contact the library for specific titles.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. No registration is required.

Richard Baratta Trio

Monday, December 19 at 7 p.m.

Join us at the Community Center for this concert trio! Grammy-nominated Richard Baratta's "Music in Film" compositions have been used in films and are heard frequently on jazz radio stations. Mr. Baratta produced all of the Spiderman movies! Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

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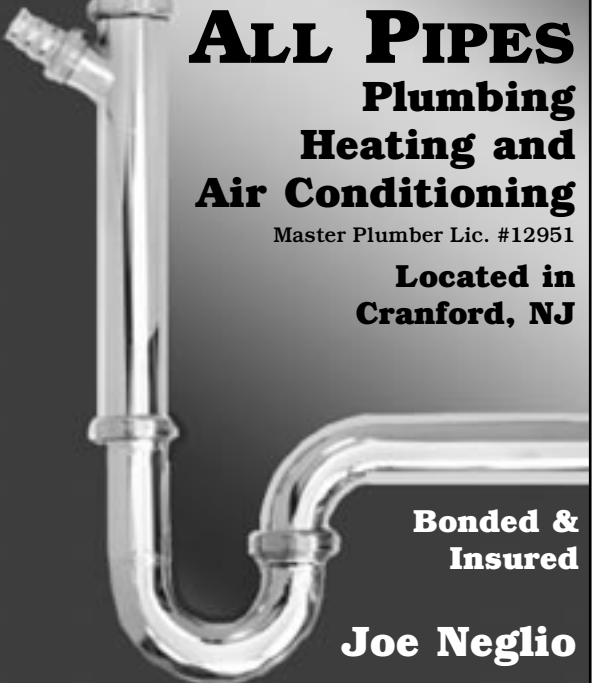
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UNION COUNTY DAY OF PRAYER

BOY SCOUT CHRISTMAS WREATH
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On Thursday, October 27, over 130 people attended the Union County Day of Prayer organized by Community Access Unlimited (CAU) and the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council (UCICC).

It was the 8th annual "Day of Prayer" event, hosted by Temple Emanu-El in Westfield. The event featured a variety of inspirational speakers and performers from Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Sikh, and Buddhist faiths. The service included a chant from the International Society for Krishna Consciousness of Central New Jersey and musical offerings from Shimon Smith, Cantorial Soloist/Artist in Residence at Temple Emanu-El, who shared Hebrew songs with attendees.

CAU spearheaded UCICC in 2012 to build bonds in the interfaith community and encourage the respect and welcoming of others regardless of faith, sexual orientation, legal status, or ability. CAU is based in Union County and works statewide to assist people with developmental

disabilities and youth at risk to integrate into the community through support services and support coordination. CAU services include housing, education, employment services, behavioral management, advocacy and more.

Rev. LL DuBreuil, who has been a part of UCICC since the first Day of Prayer, said "I was looking for this kind of community because I believe that when we all come together in celebration...then we're already ready to be together in difficult times. UCICC does not only have these worship experiences, but we sometimes do vigils and marches and we raise money for causes. And it's because we know each other from this that we can more easily work together when times are more difficult." DuBreuil is the Interim Pastor of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, Scotch Plains.

Joyce Cargle, a longtime CAU member, said of the event, "We learned inclusion and we learned about community today."



(above) The Union County Day of Prayer was held on Thursday, October 27, with over 130 people in attendance.

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ADOPTION DAY FETES YOUTH LEAVING FOSTER CARE FOR FAMILIES

CASA of Union County

On the morning of Thursday, Nov. 10, children from 18 months to 18 years gathered at the Union County Courthouse surrounded by courthouse staff and judiciary, county commissioners, area organizations and more – all there to celebrate youth reaching the long-awaited end to living in foster care with adoption into a forever family. Family courts see complex issues fraught with loss or discord nearly every day, yet Adoption Day is eagerly anticipated by all, as fresh starts and ample smiles fill the courthouse.

November is National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day, celebrated the Saturday before Thanksgiving, is a national movement to raise awareness of children in foster care awaiting a family. Since its inception in 2000, more than 75,000 children have found permanency on this day. Still, more than 110,000 youth in the United States need a permanent home and the average wait is four years. More than 23,000 youth nationwide age out of the system each year and must face life on their own.

This year, Union County’s celebration came

early, but no complaints; it just means children received permanency even sooner. After Judge Daniel Roberts performed the adoption ceremonies, the festivities began: from roving a balloon artist and CASA Volunteer Dina Gharaibeh providing face painting to a musician and more than a dozen superheroes from the Union County Sheriff’s Heroes Initiative – the Batmobile even made an appearance – there was nothing but smiles to go around.

Speakers included 17-year-old Maeve Boger-O’Bryan of Cranford and Joseph Coston of Fair Lawn. Maeve discussed her own open adoption and Joseph shared his story as an adoptive parent of eight youth from the foster system.

CASA of Union County provided family fun baskets with donated board and card games, fleece blankets, jars of popping corn, movie candy and more from David Brearley High School’s Bears that Care group, all packed into baskets donated by Cranford Girl Scout Troop 40836. The high school bear mascot also made the rounds, much to the delight of the littlest adoptees and their siblings. In addition, each

family received a ShopRite gift card made possible by a Union County Bar Association donation, as well as gifts from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority’s Theta Phi Omega, Phi Eta Omega and Omega Psi Omega chapters.

For details on CASA of Union County and becoming an advocate for a foster youth, contact Chanel at info@casaoofunioncounty.org or log on to www.casaoofunioncounty.org.



(above) The Honorable Daniel Roberts, J.S. C. (Adoption Day Judge), with David Brearley High School Bears That Care



(above) Superheroes from the Union County Sheriff’s Heroes Initiative.





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6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
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KENILWORTH CHESS CLUB CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Kenilworth Chess Club celebrated its 50th anniversary with a party on Thursday, November 3, 2022. Veteran members traveled from as far as Nevada to share in the moment. Along with regular members, officers from other NJ Clubs also attended.

The club has been revamping after COVID restrictions prevented it from meeting for two years. New members have been steadily joining the ranks as the club, under President Jack McCorkell, looks to get back to being one of the largest and most active clubs in the state.

Some notables attending were Andy Wolman, co-founder of the Club; Life/National Chess Master Scott Massey who over the decades provided many classic and blindfold simultaneous exhibitions and lectures, frequently donating his fees; and Michael Wojcio, former President of the Kenilworth Chess Club, serving 16 years from 1984 to 2000 and author/editor of the Kenilworth Kibitzer, the Kenilworth Chess Club's comprehensive monthly newsletter, which

had a 12-year publishing run. Some members could not attend. Missed most was Past President John Moldovan, dealing with a medical condition.

The club was formed in 1972 amid the chess craze in America spearheaded by Bobby Fischer's march to the world championship. For 50 years the club was a force to be reckoned with as its member roster included many Master level players, including State Champions.

The club has a reputation for being friendly and accommodating. It welcomes non-members with no obligation or cost. It's a place where beginners can learn in a casual setting without being intimidated. Strong players are generous with their time in analyzing and giving instruction.

The club's website, kenilworthchessclub.org, is well-read and features an award-winning blog by Michael Goeller and other instructional features. Players are welcome to just pop into the Kenilworth Chess Club with no formalities every

Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the Kenilworth Community Center located next to Borough Hall on the Boulevard and the corner of 24th Street.



(above, l-r) Andy Wolman, NM Scott Massey, and Michael Wojcio pictured in their Commemorative 50th Anniversary Vests.



(above, l-r) Some Kenilworth Chess Club celebrants from KCC 50th, Joe Renna, Declan McManus, Anthony Andrews, Greg Tomkovich, Andy Chan, Rich Falcetano, Mark Schoengold, Bill Cohen, Doran Race, Andy Wolman, Mike Wojcio, Lev Zilbermintz, Louis Leiggi, Ari Minkov, KCC President Jack McCorkell, Life/National Master Scott Massey and Dr. Saptarshi "SB" Bandyopadhyay.

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