Garwood Times

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COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR FINAL FOUR FUNDRAISER

Earlier this year, the Garwood and Cranford Knights of Columbus Councils held a joint Final Four fundraiser to help and assist Cranford Firefighter Rob Hurewitz and his family after hearing about the end of his career as a Cranford Firefighter due to medical issues. When Ellen Ramer of Martin's Jewelers saw what we had done for Rob, she reached out to our Council to see how we could work together to help him some more.

Ellen graciously donated a beautiful pair of diamond earrings that we were able to raffle off as a fundraiser. Working together with Ellen, and with the support of Caren Demyen of Downtown Cranford, we were able to raise over \$6,000 for Rob and his family. We also had a very deserving winner in Gina Pachkowski, the owner of Alleum Yoga here in town, who is a big supporter of many charities and causes here in Cranford.

On behalf of Ellen and Martin Jewelers, the Cranford Council would like to thank everyone who supported this worthy fundraiser, and we are very appreciative of all of the support that we received from Caren and our local Cranford businesses, and our special friends in our community. Please shop local and support all of the Cranford businesses that always support us with fundraisers like this one.

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 being 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 website at cranfordknights.org.



(above, l-r) Pictured at the presentation to our winner at Martin's Jewelers are Cranford Fire Chief Dan Czeh, our Worthy Chaplain Monsignor Tim Shugrue, Ellen Ramer, our winner Gina Pachkowski, and our Worthy Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney.

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Garwood Times ...

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Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! **Email: editor@rennamedia.com**

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CARING CONTACT CRISIS LINE COUNSELOR TRAINING AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Have you ever been told you are a good listener? Do you have a yearning to really make a difference? Caring Contact, a Westfield, NJ based crisis hotline, will be offering its 102nd volunteer crisis counselor training beginning March 14th through June 13th. The training will run once a week on Tuesdays from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. and will be a combination of in-person training and via Zoom.

Participants receive 52 hours of comprehensive training by nationally certified instructors in active listening and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Volunteers develop the ability to listen actively, assess the needs of someone in crisis and provide empathy and support.

"This training and volunteer opportunity is ideal for people of varying backgrounds - retirees, empty-nesters, stay-at-home parents, and full-time professionals" said Mary Claire Givelber, Caring Contact's executive director. "Many of our listeners were looking for something meaningful to do after they retire or their children leave home. Full-time professionals also participate finding the flexible volunteer hours work well with their work obligations."

Following training new volunteer crisis counselors are supported by seasoned listeners during 24 hours of internship before they take calls on their own. Even once a volunteer is a certified listener, Caring Contact provides a range of support and training opportunities to allow them to keep honing their skills.

Anyone interested in registering for the training should visit https://caringcontact.org/listener-training/ or call the Caring Contact administrative offices for more information at 908-301-1899.

Caring Contact is an award-winning, volunteer-staffed crisis hotline and listening community, providing active listening support and best-in-class training to the Central and Northern New Jersey community. More than 100 trained volunteers answered over 13,000 calls last year from people in crisis, having suicidal thoughts or simply needing someone to talk to.

If you need someone to listen, call us at 908-232-2880. If you, or someone you know, are in crisis call 988, the new access code to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. To learn more, visit caringcontact.org. You are Not Alone.

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ADS BEING SOLD FOR ALJ YEARBOOK



create the yearbook with Mrs. Lisa Rosso throughout the year. Her classes explore journalistic writing, photojournalism, graphic design and budget management among many other topics related to the production of a

Arthur L. Johnson High School students are yearbook. The cost of this year's yearbook is busy working on this year's yearbook! Students \$130. Recognition ads can be purchased by parents starting at \$75. Buddy ads can be purchased by students starting at \$75. Yearbooks and ads can be purchased online:

jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1057695/ Arthur-L-Johnson-High-School.



(above) Mrs. Lisa Rosso's Yearbook Classes are busy working on this year's yearbook.

Photo by Clark Public School District

ALJ LAUNCHES UPDATED WEBSITE

Clark Public School District

If you've visited the Arthur L. Johnson (ALJ) High School Website recently, you may have noticed some exciting changes! The ALJ website has a new look! The renovated website contains important information for parents and students. The website has expanded sections in Academics, Clubs & Activities, Athletics, and School Counseling. Parents and students can easily access information on National Honor Society, ALJ Crusader Athletics, Program of Studies, Information, Post-Secondary Scholarship opportunities, and more! The site also features the Crusader Calendar, our Student/Crusaders of the Month, and a Senior Corner for the Class of 2023. This tool will undoubtedly be used for communication to keep parents and students informed of important information, exciting events, and ALJ achievements! Be sure to check it out at alj.clarkschools.org.



GARWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY FEBRUARY EVENTS

908-789-1670 • email garwoodlibrary@garwood.org. Monday and Tuesday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed on Sundays.

Knitting Club

February 6, 13, and 27 at 10:30 am Join our Knitting Club. Open to all levels, whether you're a beginner or you want to share your vast knowledge of knitting, or just spend an hour being creative and socializing. No Registration required. Yarn and needles provided to newcomers

Storytime in the Library

February 7, 14, 21, and 28 and 31 at 10 am and 11 am

Join Miss Maryanne for stories, bubbles and more. Registration Required.

Ask Kiosk - Aging Services Kiosk February 8 from 10 am to noon

Union County Division of Aging Staff will be on hand to assist seniors (age 60+) or their caregivers with information on services, such as meal delivery, respite care, adult day care and support services for caregivers.

RB Express

February 9 at 7 pm

Enjoy a night of hits from the Coasters, the Platters, Frankie Valli and the Temptations, and more performed by RP Express the most entertaining band to emerge from the Jersey Shore. Registration requested

Classic Movie Fridays

February 10 and 24 at Noon Join us for Classic Movie Fridays featuring memorable movies from the 50s and 60s. Light refreshments will be served.

Registration required

Virtual Kids Craft

February 14 at 3pm

Pick up supplies for a craft, then watch the craft tutorial on the Library's Facebook page at 3 pm. The video will be available for viewing thereafter. Registration is required for craft kits and is limited to 15 participants. Sign up on the Library's website calendar or by phone.

Virtual Adult Craft

February 14 at 3 pm

Pick up your craft supplies from the Library and then watch the Facebook tutorial at 3 pm. Registration is required for craft kits and is limited to 10 participants. Sign up on the Library website's events calendar or by phone..

Book Discussion Group

February 27 at 1pm

Join us in the library for a lively discussion of this month's book "Our Missing Hearts" by Celeste Ng.

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FIRST AID SQUAD ACTIVELY RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

The Garwood First Aid Squad is actively recruiting volunteers and invites you to join our team. Whether you are looking to help out the community or get a start in the medical field, we would be glad to have you join us. You can work on board the ambulance or just help out around the squad house. No experience necessary. As a squad member, you can make a difference in a person's life join today.

If interested, just email us at InformationGFAS@gmail.com or call 908-789-0300.

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FIREFIGHTERS WANTED

Garwood Fire Department Seeking Firefighters

OPENINGS FOR JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS 8TH GRADE STUDENTS OR AGES 14 - 18 Interested? Call 908-789-8877

Leave a Message or Stop By for More Info Sunday Morning: 9 - 12 Monday Eventings: 7 - 9

ALJ EARNS ACCREDITED SCHOOL RECOGNITION

Clark Public School District

Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark has received accreditation by the Middle States Association of Commissioners on Elementary and Secondary Schools. According to the Middle States Association, "Accreditation is a self-evaluation process that schools and school systems voluntarily use to demonstrate they are meeting a defined set of research-based performance standards. The standards examine schools in a holistic way, supplementing student-testing data to provide a more complete measure of a school's performance and chart a strategic and realistic course for continuous school improvement."

The Middle States reaccreditation process at ALJ began with an intensive self-study. The Middle States team then visited ALJ last Spring

for three days. During that visit, the team met with a variety of stakeholders including staff, parents, and students.

To determine whether a school should be reaccredited, the Middle States Team looks at school performance in 12 areas which make up the Standards for Accreditation: mission, governance and leadership, school improvement planning, finances, facilities, school organization and staff, health and safety, educational program, assessment and evidence of student learning, student services, student life and activities, and information resources.

Superintendent Edward Grande stated, "Mrs. Alessandra Bonacchi, Mrs. Mary Dattilo, and Mrs. Mary Pisciotta, as Internal Coordinators, are to be commended for leading us through the process in such an effective way."



(above) Supervisor of Educational Initiatives Christine Broski, ALJ Assistant Principal Katrina Poskay, Middle States Internal Coordinator and ALJ Teacher Mary Dattilo, Middle States Internal Coordinator and ALJ Teacher Alessandra Bonacchi, Middle States Internal Coordinator and ALJ Teacher Mary Pisciotta, ALJ Principal Tara Oliveira, and Superintendent Edward Grande.

Photo by Clark Public School District

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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
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SHAKESPEARE'S COMEDY TWELFTH NIGHT COMING TO CDC THEATRE

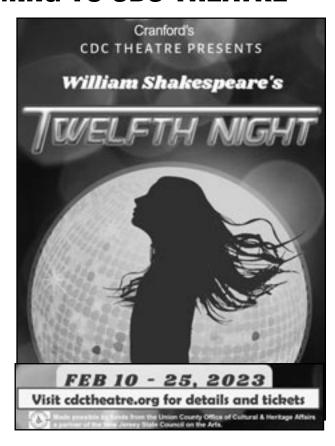
"Better a witty fool, than a foolish wit.", "If gender confusion, invites us to put convention music be the food of love, play on." and "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em." are just a few of the familiar lines from William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

A talented cast is preparing to present one of the Bard's finest comedies at CDC Theatre in Cranford for seven shows running from February 10th to the 25th and is being directed by Susan Speidel. Ms., Speidel currently serves on the faculty of the Kean University Theatre Conservatory and is a lecturer for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers University. Holding a range of academic degrees, she has studied acting and directing at HB Studios in New York City and at the Globe Theater in London. She served for 20 years as Director of Education for the Tony-Award winning Paper Mill Playhouse and has directed more than 50 plays and musicals.

"A woman, disguised as a man, falls in love with her boss, only to be pursued by the woman her boss is determined to marry. Confused?", asked Ms. Speidel recently, "You're not alone, but Twelfth Night, Shakespeare's witty look at aside, stretch the boundaries of "acceptable" attraction, and that, in the end, love is love is love is love. The play is filled with relatable characters contending with mistaken identities, unrelenting desire, hilarious pranks, and unrequited love – not to mention cross-dressing, duels, and deception - all offered up with a generous dash of merriment!"

Twelfth Night combines love, confusion, mistaken identities and joyful discovery all while telling a story of fickle fortune, mourning, love and reunion. Set in the free-wheeling, mirror-ball world of the 1970s, the celebratory nature of Shakespeare's play is heightened with a series of Top-Ten hits that enhance the production and move the action forward with a disco beat. Shipwrecked twins, gender-bending romance and a bumper crop of fools, from the wise to the ridiculous, guarantee a full-blown evening's entertainment.

CDC Theatre is celebrating its 104th season in Cranford, NJ at 78 Winans Ave. For best ticket selection and prices, visit cdctheatre.org for additional information.



"ALPHA" SESSIONS

Is There More to Life Than This? In a world of isolation, anonymity, and keyboard-warriors, Alpha offers content and guidance for churches, ministries, and individuals to create a space for honest and open conversations about life's biggest questions. Everyone is welcome and no questions are off limits.

Alpha is a place to connect with other people who are open to exploring life, faith, and meaning. Alpha fosters honest, open, and judgment-free conversations for anyone to explore the Christian faith. Each session includes a time to connect with others (often over a free meal), watch a short video on an element of the Christian faith, and then a chance for each person to share thoughts and questions with the group.

"I was invited to participate in the Alpha pilot. From the initial meeting, I knew this was something that I wanted to be a part of," explains Nancy Schreck. "After completing the pilot, I joined the Alpha team to help plan for the future of Alpha at IHM. It's a wonderful opportunity for people at any level of faith to meet new people and explore new ideas."

Sessions are free to attend and are scheduled on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. The first meeting will be live and in-person on Monday, February 13, 2022 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Nazareth Center of Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Church: 1571 S. Martine Ave. Scotch Plains. Good food and conversation will be offered to all in attendance. Most meetings after that will be hosted on Zoom. Links and directions will be provided to those who register. Participation is capped at 30 people."I'm looking forward to the Alpha experience," says Lou Zappo. "It sounds like a lot of fun, and who knows, I might learn something about myself."

Registration is required, please go to our website at ihmparish.net/alpha or call 908-889-2100. If you have questions about Alpha, please





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