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GORDON GRACEFFO HONORED AT ANNUAL HOT STOVE DINNER

Union County Baseball Association

The Union County Baseball Association (UCBA) hosted its 86th annual Hot Stove Dinner on Sunday, Jan. 29. More than 250 guests gathered at the Gran Centurions in Clark, NJ, to honor Cranford's Gordon Graceffo, who was named Outstanding Male Athlete of Union County by the association. Graceffo is a graduate of Cranford High and Villanova University, where he played baseball. He had an outstanding career at Villanova as a pitcher and was drafted in the 5th round of the 2021 Major League Draft. He completed his first full season of professional baseball playing for the Cardinals' AA Springfield team and is currently their number three overall prospect. He has been invited to the Cardinals Big League Camp this spring.

Five new members were also inducted into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame. Robert "Red" Migliore, from Elizabeth; Dan Mondelli, from Linden; Tim and Todd Simo, from Summit; and Anthony Foti, from Elizabeth. Migliore and Foti were inducted posthumously.

Carmine Meola-Dreissig, a senior at Linden High School and a member of its baseball team, was awarded the UCBA Scholarship. Gary Taffet was awarded the Banyasz Brothers Memorial Award for Service to Union County Baseball.

The featured speaker was former Cincinnati Reds, New York Yankees and New York Mets infielder Todd Frazier, who is from Toms River, NJ. Frazier attended Rutgers University and was drafted 34th overall in the 1st round of the 2007 Major League Baseball draft. Some of the highlights of his major league career include



Photo by D. Giacalone

*(above) Todd Frazier (left), Gordon Graceffo (center)
and UCBA President James Iozzi (right)*

being named the Players Choice Awards National League Outstanding Rookie of the Year, getting chosen for the National League All Star team in 2014 and 2015, and winning the Home Run Derby in 2015. Frazier also won a silver medal with Team USA at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics where he started all six games at third base and batted .400 for the stars and stripes.

The UCBA was officially formed in 1941 with the goal of keeping the tradition of baseball alive and vibrant in Union County, NJ. Its mission is to honor the past, present, and future of the great game of baseball.

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CRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL TO PRESENT INTO THE WOODS – MARCH 10-11-12

Cranford High School Performing Arts Department proudly presents Into the Woods on March 10 at 7:30 p.m., March 11 at 7:30 p.m., and March 12 at 2:00 p.m.

This is the first performance in the school’s auditorium since the renovations have been completed, and we are so excited to explore these “Moments in the Woods” with you!

The musical intertwines the plots of several Brothers Grimm fairy tales, exploring the consequences of the characters’ wishes and quests. This 1987 musical has music and lyrics

by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine, and won three of the ten Tony Awards it was nominated for in that first year including Best Original Score and Best Book of a Musical.

The cast, crew, and production team look forward to finding a happily “Ever After” with you in our CHS auditorium. “No More” need for “Agony”! You can easily find ticket information by visiting chs.booktix.com or emailing Mrs Elizabeth Adams adams@cranfordschools.org. We hope to see you “On the Steps of the Palace”!



(above) The cast of Into the Woods

Photo by Cranford Public Schools

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TROOP 80 PLACES 3RD & 7TH IN THE 2023 KLONDIKE DERBY

Submitted by Peter McDevitt

Cranford’s Boy Scout Troop 80 participated in the 2023 Klondike Derby at the Watchung Reservation on January 28th. Two teams (of 8 and 7 Scouts) placed 3rd and 7th out of 34 teams from the Pioneer District of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Klondike is a competition where the Scouts pull a 100-pound sled to 7 different stations where they need to demonstrate specific Scout skills. This year’s requirements included, Fire Building, First Aid, Knots & Lashings, and Wilderness Survival. The Scouts were given 20-25 minutes at each station to accomplish their task, which they were graded and timed on.

Troop 80 meets every Monday night from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Cranford Presbyterian Church.



(above) Troop 80 ready to race!


Courtesy photos



(above) Patrol Leader Will Towne



(above) Patrol Leader Kieran Geraghty and Assistant Gus Mortimer



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ORGAN DONATION IN NJ REACHED NEW ALL-TIME HIGH IN 2022

NJ Sharing Network

Carolyn M. Welsh, President and CEO of NJ Sharing Network, the federally-designated nonprofit organization responsible for the recovery of donated organs and tissue in the state, announced the number of organ donors (283) and organs transplanted in a single year (670) reached all-time highs in 2022.


These unprecedented totals mark significant increases over the previous records of 233 organ donors and 613 organs transplanted. This also marked the fourth consecutive year NJ Sharing Network has reported new records in the number of organ donors, underscoring the clear trend of increased support for organ donation in the Garden State.

"Thanks to the generosity of New Jersey organ donors and their families, more lives were saved last year than ever before - ensuring others

now have more time to share special moments with their loved ones," said Welsh.

In 2022, the 670 organs transplanted included 350 kidneys (all-time high), 170 livers (all-time high), 71 hearts, 58 lungs, 20 pancreata and one intestine. In addition, 40,000 eye and tissue gifts enhanced the quality of life for those in need. Tissue donations include corneas, heart valves, skin grafts, bone grafts, saphenous veins, ligaments, and tendons.

According to United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), nearly 4,000 people in New Jersey are on the organ transplant waiting list. One organ donor can save eight lives, and one tissue donor can enhance the lives of over 75 people. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit NJSharingNetwork.org.



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Rake & Hoe Garden Club is a non-profit organization that promotes gardening, floral design and community service. For more information, visit rakeandhoe.org.



(above, l-r) Front Row: Jeanie Pelikan, Betty Clark, Joyce Mullen, Lena Pietsinovski, Kay Cross, Jane Christiani and Betty Gulino. Back Row: Richard Pelikan, Donna Sevchuk, Regina Kelly, Sharon Siraga and Sue Feldman.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY REVIEWS ACHIEVEMENTS ON 96TH ANNIVERSARY

Submitted by Margaret Gerlach, President

It has been an honor for me to be president of this fantastic, non-profit educational organization for the past twelve years. We have a wonderful Board of Trustees, Barbara Klaus (Vice President), Charles Goodfellow (Treasurer), John Dreyer (Chairman of the Board of Trustees), Maureen Wakeman (Recording Secretary), Gail Alterman (Costume Curator), Victor Bary (Archives Curator and Mill Wheel Editor), Lori Ricco, Debra Nicholls, Jean Pascarella, Patricia Pavlak, Cassie Roty, Don Sweeney (Cranford 86), and Irene Weiss. Together with our part time office administrator, BJ Canedo, we work to preserve and perpetuate the history of Cranford.

2022 marked the 95th Anniversary of the founding of the Cranford Historical Society on Feb. 11th 1927 by a group of Cranford citizens hoping to preserve the history of this fantastic town. The citizens worked endlessly researching the history, finding old maps, collecting documents and photographs, etc. They formed a Board of Trustees and would have their meetings in each other's homes or at the Union County Junior College. To raise money, they needed the support of the community like we do today, and started a membership drive for only \$2.50 per year. In 1929, the Township of Cranford acquired "The Little House" on North Union Ave. In 1932, The Township gave the Cranford Historical Society the front room to display their archival possessions. Mrs. Fanny Crane Hopfensach gave tours of this house 4 days each week until 1962.

In 1962, the Trustees started to make repairs to "The Little House" which was renovated with a half bathroom and kitchen facilities. Support beams were placed in the basement. The archival wing was added through the generosity of the Cranford Junior Service League and "The Little House" became a museum called The Crane-Phillips House Museum, named after the previous owners of the house.

In 1964, the Cranford Historical Society placed a plaque commemorating the Pepperidge Tree, "Old Peppy", which was 200 years old at that time. Also, Trustee Homer Hall wrote a book called "300 Years at Cranes Ford." This book shows the area's background in the days when Native Americans were its only inhabitants. Also that year, the Cranford Historical Society discovered that during the Revolutionary War, the militia assembled and crossed the Rahway River to join troops and fight in the "Battle of Springfield." The Cranford Historical Society also discovered the first school house of Cranford, located at the corner of South Union Ave. and Lincoln Ave. West.

In 1995 and 1996, the late Trustee and Curator, Robert Freidlington and the late Past President and Trustee Larry Fuhro, wrote two books for the Images of America series: Images of Cranford and Images of Cranford Vol II. Larry Fuhro also drew a map of Cranford in the early years. These maps and books, among other items, are sold at our Hanson House office, 38 Springfield Ave. Cranford.

More achievement of the Cranford Historical Society are:

- Recordings of the Oral History of Cranford are collected and put on CDs.
- Annual history tours and visits by 3rd graders and Scouts of Cranford are given at the Museum to show what life was like in the 1870's without plumbing and electricity in Cranford.
- A newsletter, titled "The Mill Wheel" "containing Society news and interesting articles is mailed to members five times each year.
- Free programs, both for children and adults, are held each year at the Hanson House and the Crane-Phillips House Museum.
- The Civil War commemorated by presenting programs during the Sesquicentennial.
- The Cranford Historical Society participates in the Memorial Day Parade every year.
- In 2022, the participation in Union County's "Four Centuries in a Weekend" on October 16 and 17 had the theme of Celebrating Cranford's Bravest (135th Anniversary) and Cranford's Finest (125th Anniversary). The Society also celebrated its 95th Anniversary at the Crane-Phillips House Museum where it all started.

In 1990, the township of Cranford leased the Hanson House, located at 38 Springfield Ave. to the Cranford Historical Society for their headquarters. The Society maintains the historic Hanson House and Crane-Phillips House Museum, under the leadership of the President and the Board of Trustees, through grants, donations and membership dues. Our dues now have risen from \$2.50 to \$15, \$25, \$50, \$75, or \$100 member's choice. We are always looking for new

members. If you are not a member, we cordially invite you to join us.

The Cranford Historical Society has had a longstanding relationship with Scouts. At the Crane-Phillips House, Scouts have earned their Eagle Awards; one for building us an "outhouse" and one for building us a picket fence and arbor. This fence separates the Victorian flower garden from the historic tool garden which years before were done by another eagle scout to showcase them and also our stone garden. Recently, the Society built a stone wall in which historic monument stones of Cranford are placed. Another Scout built a kiosk, located at Grey's Funeral Home, depicting historic sites in town. A Girl Scout Troop built a vegetable garden bin so we could plant vegetables for our annual "Four Centuries in a Weekend" program for visitors to see. A Girl Scout working on her Gold Award, set up a monitor downstairs in the Museum so that visitors unable to climb the steep steps to the second floor can view the two bedrooms.

The Cranford Historical Society also awards a High School History Scholarship to a graduating senior every year. We also train students in High School to become docents at our Museum to help our Trustees give tours.

The Cranford Historical Society also serves the community by helping Cranford residents research their homes, some historic and some not. The Hanson House office is open M-Th from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm for those who want to research their homes or have questions about the history of Cranford.

The Cranford Historical Society has achieved so much through the years, all possible through our fundraisers, grants from Union County and the NJ Historic Preservation Commission, donations from the community and membership dues. There is still more to do to continue to preserve and perpetuate the history of Cranford for future generations. Please join us! If you would like to become a member, please go to our website, cranfordhistoricalsociety.org, for a 2023 membership form. Forms can also be found at the Cranford Library.

 <p>Thomas Italiano Realtor - Sales Associate Cell: (908) 419-7696 112 Westfield Ave., Clark, NJ 07066 (732) 499-0030, x228 thomasi@hallmarkrealtors.com www.hallmarkrealtors.com</p>		<p>It's a GREAT TIME to sell in Cranford!</p> <p>"During the fall of 2022, Tom successfully sold the home of my cousin who is confined to a nursing home, and who therefore requested that I represent her in all aspects of the home sale. During each step of the process, Tom exhibited exemplary service.</p> <p>As a result of Tom's professionalism, the house was listed and sold within an incredibly short period of time without any complication. It is also significant that Tom was always sensitive to, and respectful of the fact that, although I was the contact person, the homeowner was a nursing home resident. His expertise allows him to proactively anticipate and assist in complying with all the necessary steps and related paperwork to achieve a successful outcome with minimal stress.</p> <p>I would not hesitate to retain Tom for any future real estate matters for myself or to highly recommend him to friends and family members." - Debbie G.</p>	<p>CELEBRATING 20 YEARS AS A REALTOR</p> <p>EVERY CALL RETURNED WITHIN 30 MINUTES!</p> <p>INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER HIRED FOR EVERY LISTING!</p> <p><small>IF YOUR HOME IS CURRENTLY LISTED FOR SALE, PLEASE DISREGARD THIS OFFER.</small></p>
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Written by Don Sweeney, Co-written and Proofread by Janet Cymbaluk Ashnault, research by Stu Rosenthal
with Military Expertise and Proofreading by Vic Bary

As our Cranford 86 team moves into our fifth year, we are proud of what we have accomplished so far. We are steadily moving closer to our goal of introducing every soldier on our town's honor roll to the residents of our wonderful community. The work that we are doing reminds us all that a place as special as Cranford was bestowed upon us by some very brave soldiers who sacrificed so much. We present yet another story about one of those men who gave up everything, so that other Americans could live a life of freedom.

Shortly after Memorial Day 2021, we were contacted by Dawn Mager, granddaughter of PVT Steven A. Mager. Dawn's grandfather died in France, while serving our country in World War II, and she wanted to know if we could help to tell her grandfather's story and honor him with a street banner. We are always thankful when family members reach out to us and forming a relationship with them has become one of the most meaningful parts of what we do. Dawn told us that her father, Kenneth Mager, who was born two months after his father Steven was killed in action, still lived in Cranford. We explained that the first thing we would need was a suitable portrait to start the process. She told us that her dad had her grandparents' wedding photo and that he could bring it to my home right away. My doorbell rang a short time later and I saw a familiar face through my storm door window. Dawn's father, Kenneth Mager was someone from town with whom I had chatted briefly from time to time. I thought to myself, we advertise and request that if anyone knows a Cranford 86 member, they should come forward. Amazingly, for years, a son of one of our heroes and I knew each other, albeit a casual acquaintance, and we had not made this connection. Without much information to go on from the start, we knew that this story might be a difficult one and it sat on our back burner, disappointing the family when we did not have anything for Memorial Day 2022. Dawn called us in early January of this year, wanting to know if she should book her flight to New Jersey for Memorial Day 2023. This quickly had us rewrite our hero line-up, and we assured her that we were a go for her grandfather's story in 2023. Dawn got us in touch with her father's older brother Richard, who lived in New Jersey. Richard, a retired teacher like his brother, arrived at my home with a stack of family papers. The information that he provided allowed us to further our research and tell Steven Mager's sad and heroic story.

Steven Adolf Mager, the son of Louise and John Mager, was born in Bayonne. He attended school there and then studied for a year, nights, at NYU. Fond of all sports, he excelled at swimming, which he taught at the YMCA in Bayonne. He became employed as a district manager by the Texaco Touring Service at the age of 21, which amazingly allowed this young man to see and live in Florida, California, Colorado and Yellowstone National Park. Son Richard explained to us that Texaco Touring was a travel service for motorists who were planning



(above) Shown here is the 1941 wedding portrait of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Mager, the news from December 7, later that year, would alter any plans that the couple had made for the future,



excursions on America's growing network of highways. We believe that Margaret Lasko, Steven's girlfriend, also from Bayonne, travelled with him for some time. In 1941, they were married in Denver, Colorado. Steve and Maggie set up their home on picturesque Bainbridge Island, Washington, in the Puget Sound, just off the Seattle coast. The headlines of December 7th, in that same year shocked the world and this young couple certainly could not have imagined how the news was going to affect their dreams of a future together. Nevertheless, they proceeded on with their lives, welcoming their first son Richard on August 10th, 1942. The threesome enjoyed a year and a half together until Steve received his draft notification and was ordered to report for duty in May of 1944. Maggie was then two months pregnant with their second child.

At this point in time the Selective Service System was drafting young men at an astonishing rate. One hundred and sixty thousand soldiers landed in Normandy in June of 1944. But to further liberate Europe, General Eisenhower needed more than ten times that amount to continue forth and release the grip that the Nazis had on our world. The pool of eligible candidates for the draft had to be enlarged considerably and its scope was now widened to include men like Steven, over the age of 30, with children at home. During the research of Steven Mager's story I realized that it had a strong personal connection to my own family. My maternal grandfather, 33-year-old Herman Bachmann was inducted at this same time. He left a family in Jersey City, which included his 8-year-old daughter, my mother. Additionally, Steven and my grandfather both served in the 80th Infantry Division which, as we will learn, made its way through the most grueling battle conditions of Europe.

General Horace McBride, under the command of General George Patton, was ordered to organize three regiments of 1,500 soldiers each. The 317th, 318th and 319th Infantry Regiments

Passenger: MAGER, STEVEN
State Room: 211.
Identification Tag: "Mush."
Port of Embarkation: Bayonne Junior High School.
En Route: Commencement Dress Committee.
Destination: Business.
"Naive and childlike, always sincere
That he'll deceive you, you need never fear."

(above) It appears that the 1931 Bayonne High School yearbook is making a clever reference to the senior class "voyage" and tells a few things about Steven that were perhaps, previously unknown.

of the prestigious 80th Infantry Division, a part of Patton's 3rd Army, began their entry into France via Omaha Beach on August 2nd, 1944, 2 months after D-Day. Initially composed of draftees from the Mid-Atlantic states, the 80th was nicknamed the Blue Ridge Division. Well known since their incredible success in WWI, their motto was "Always Moves Forward".

The Cranford 86 project has already told the story of three infantrymen from this same time period, Cecil Spittler, Arthur Galvin and William Hinkle (their stories at Cranford86.org give additional background of the history surrounding this time period). All were in training around the same time, and all headed across France to different parts of the German border. We had little information about the training records on PVT Mager, except a one line entry in his obituary saying he trained in the state of Washington. Much to the dismay of anyone researching an Army veteran, a 1973 fire at the archives destroyed 80% of Army personnel files. If family members cannot provide us with specific information, it takes weeks to try and piece together a soldier's tour of duty.

A large amount of background for me was had by watching dozens of online video interviews with other soldiers that were inducted into the 317th, 318th and 319th Infantry Regiments in the fall of 1944. They described a rapid advanced training process at the California-Arizona Maneuver Area in the Mojave Desert and several other places. We found that their stories aligned with the timeline that we were building for

(continued on page 12)

MEET PVT STEVEN A. MAGER (continued from page 11)

Steven Mager, starting when he reported for duty and until his departure for Europe. Compare the accelerated training that Steven's unit received, a total of only four months as opposed to the two years training given to Arthur Galvin and William Hinkle. Before departing from the New York ports on their way to Europe, the troops of the 80th Infantry Division were staged at either Fort Dix or Camp Kilmer, both in New Jersey. Steven's wife, now seven months pregnant, had moved in with her sister at 315 Lincoln Park East in Cranford, today's Kahlcrest Condominiums. This aligns with the obituary in the Cranford Chronicle which documents that Steven had a three day visit with family in Cranford at the end of October. Thankfully his travel schedule allowed for some precious time spent with Maggie and young son Richard before going overseas. The details of Steven's movement to France were not available to us from family records. So again, the video interviews of many members of the 319th and their sister regiments gave us a vision of the travels of the nearly 5,000 men, as they moved into the theater of battle in France. Trains moved the men to Hoboken. Then, ferries transported the regiments across the Hudson, to the slips on the west side of Manhattan where they boarded converted ocean liners, including the Queen Mary. The men reported that onboard, they were packed in like sardines. At sea, they were escorted by war ships which surrounded them, and armed fighter planes above. The ships delivered the 80th Infantry Division to Glasgow, Scotland, where night trains carried them 430 miles to Southampton, England. Then, aboard Landing Crafts Infantry (LCI's), crossed the English Channel, joining a process which had started in August. Steven's 319th Infantry Regiment, Second Battalion, Company A, with approximately 175 men, landed on Utah Beach in France on November 1st. To help compensate for the destroyed Army personnel files, Cranford 86 purchased a logbook that contained the Army Morning Reports of the 319th Infantry Regiment. We also located an online publication called "Forward 80: The Story of the 80th Infantry Division". These served as guides as we tried to follow Steven Mager's 400 mile path through the French countryside. After being defeated in Normandy, the Germans quickly retreated and reorganized behind the decaying Maginot Line. The Maginot Line consisted of concrete fortifications, obstacles and weapons installations built by France, after World War I, to deter any future invasions by Germany. Using it to their own advantage, the Nazis quickly re fortified the overgrown pill boxes, mini fortresses, and dragon teeth barriers. Meanwhile the Allies gathered their forces and supplies, preparing to chase after the former French occupiers. Surrendering German soldiers had revealed Hitler's strict orders to German soldiers that retreat was not to be considered. They were to fight to the death and die at their posts. It was said that the men of the 80th infantry were doing everything in their power to ensure that that was indeed the fate of each and every Nazi.

The Blue Ridge Division became a part of XII Corps. A Corps is a combination of complimentary battle units, in this case, infantry, engineering, armored (a tank unit) and an air support unit. XII Corps' commander was General Manton Eddy, who led his men across France with several missions. They were to "mop up" the remaining German resistance, which still were holed up in many French towns and villages. XII Corps would also support the engineers as they repaired infrastructure. In a strategic move to stop German fortification of Normandy, many roads and bridges had been destroyed by our own bombs prior to D-Day. More damage was done by the retreating Germans, after their defeat there. Working infrastructure was essential to get supplies to attacking forces attempting to invade Germany, and also to bring additional fighting forces to the front lines. Commanded by General Patton, Cranford's Arthur Galvin in the 4th Armored Division with 10,000 soldiers, had chased the enemy through the French countryside in September of 1944, reaching the Metz region in one week. With this in mind, we can see how Steven Mager's unit was able to move so quickly inland, so soon after their arrival, right into hostile territory. A letter to his mom indicated that he was involved in fighting within the first weeks of November. The American troops of XII Corps were under constant attack from artillery and machine gun fire as they quickly moved towards the front line. Many Germans were still dug in, creating pockets of resistance. Some gave up easily, but in many towns, violent battles were still to be fought. Encounters with lethal Panzer units, artillery fire from German armored divisions, as well as sniper fire, mines and booby traps, made some days very difficult and deadly. While other days, the Allies were met with massive surrenders, sometimes leaving thousands

of prisoners of war to be dealt with. Morale was high, as our forces were encouraged by the feeling that the war might soon be over. The French citizens for the most part, were welcoming, but some, called "enemy civilians", were still siding with their former occupiers. Many times, the deserting German soldiers were dressed in the French civilians' clothing, trying to blend in with the townspeople.

Several online articles painted vivid accounts of the daily perils of XII Corps, from early November 1944. An incredible amount of rainfall went on for weeks throughout this crucial time period, causing flooded and impassable muddy roads which plagued the rain-soaked GI's. Some rivers were running 10 feet over their banks creating horrendous living conditions for the soldiers. The logbooks mentioned several times that no rain gear or galoshes were issued, leading to rampant cases of trench foot. That region of France was laced with rivers of all sizes, and with the high water levels, they were all raging. Traversing those rivers with small inflatable rafts was treacherous, there were many losses due to drowning. Our military logbook, which lacks any colorful speech, filled in the gaps to our story by telling us the exact company and battalion of each action. Using both the journalist's colorful depictions and the stark facts of the Army Morning Reports was like working a military jigsaw puzzle, with the picture becoming clearer as each piece was inserted. The 319th Infantry Regiment, in early November, was charged with the mammoth task of setting up a bridgehead across the swollen Sielle River in the Metz/Nancy region. The river was France's longest and was situated beyond the towns of Letricourt and Abaucourt along the Delma Ridge. Control of the ridge was one of General Patton's

(continued on page 13)



U.S. MILITARY CEMETERY, LIMEY, FRANCE



(above) Due to the massive loss of American lives in the short, but violent, Battle of Metz, PVT Steven A. Mager was interred temporarily in a military cemetery in Limey/Toul, France, just 5 miles outside of Nancy in the Metz region. As part of a repatriation program, his body was brought back to the US in August of 1948 and buried shortly after in the military cemetery in Beverly, NJ

MEET PVT STEVEN A. MAGER (continued from page 12)

most important objectives. The bridge that formerly spanned the Sielle had been destroyed. So a newly engineered pontoon bridge that would carry trucks, armored vehicles and tanks across the river was to be constructed. Letricourt and Abaucourt were occupied by a considerable military presence from the 48th German Division. In addition to enemy troops, the roads, small bridges, and vineyards were full of mines and booby traps with foxholes lining the streets. All three companies of the 319th Infantry Regiment were in place, as were the 702nd Tank Battalion, the 305th Engineer Combat Battalion and others. The result of this battle illustrated how the different units of the XII Corps worked in conjunction to accomplish their mission. The attack commenced in the early morning under the cover of a dense fog. Artillery, mortar fire and air strikes softened the resistance then heavy bazooka and grenade warfare took place in the streets; the towns were U.S.-controlled by early evening. Many munitions were seized, 162 prisoners of war were taken and 148 enemy KIAs were reported. Interviews with the prisoners afterwards confirmed that they were taken completely by surprise. With the raging state of the river, the Germans felt that it was unpassable and that no attempt at crossing would ever take place. Amazingly the 305th engineers had a pontoon bridge in place in short order.

As they traversed a dozen or more rivers, similar reports were logged by the three sister regiments. The XII Corps continued its march toward the 450-mile-long Maginot Line, with its 43 forts and 128 heavy guns, some mounted in revolving turrets. The Maginot Line was built by the French to defend itself from the Germans, so more of the guns and fort placements were facing Germany, not France. The Germans' small pockets of resistance, even though well-armed with their fierce Panzer tanks, were no match for the immense might of the travelling force of the XII Corps. General Patton's 3rd Army had 250,000 troops in the region, the Germans 86,000. The Americans also had a huge advantage in artillery and air support. Up until now the Americans had been running short on ammunition and fuel, but fuel just arrived on November 1st,

so ammunition was the only element that concerned General Eisenhower. Thankfully, in many face-offs the massive U.S. strength displayed, often caused a rapid German surrender. Every interviewed POW confirmed the earlier reports of the Fuhrer's orders of "no retreat, no surrender". On November 17th the three regiments of the 80th Infantry Division converged on St. Avold and Longeville. This was the coal center for the Nazi machine. Its taking was heralded by the New York Daily News as the greatest loss for General von Rundstedt, the campaign's commander in chief.

According to his obituary in the Cranford Chronicle, Steven wrote a letter to his wife Margaret on the 25th of November. Many times, as in the book *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*, before a major, dangerous encounter, a commanding officer recommends that the soldiers under his command write home. I felt that may have been the case here, for the 26th of November was a big day as the charging forces of XII Corps would cross the Nied Allemande River to conquer the mining town of Faulquemont. To the rear of the town lay their first view of the Maginot Line. The armed fort at Faulquemont was taken in record time by the 319th Regiment. Then, in a well-orchestrated attack, the entire collection of Patton's troops went on to take seven other forts and 13 pillboxes that lay between them, in what was described in the logbook as a crashing powerhouse drive. It must have been a sight to observe. A captured German commander whose battalion was crushed in the attack, described the assault as remarkable. He was amazed by the skillful utilization of tactical advantages, and the cooperation of infantry and armored units along with the supporting heavy weapons. The very sad news of the day was that despite the victories, there were many casualties and Killed in Action. It is here that we believe our Hometown Hero, PVT Steven A. Mager, was part of the losses. In his letter home, Steven stated that he was in the area around Nancy, France and Saarbrücken, Germany. This aligns with our research, as Faulquemont is just a few miles from the city of Nancy. The German city of Saarbrücken is six miles behind the Maginot Line at Fort

Faulquemont. It had only been 26 days since he arrived in France.

A passage from an article used for our research paints a vivid picture of the conditions caused by the weather during these incredible battles.

"Eddy's XII Corps troops fought weather conditions just as determined to defeat them as the Germans. After a partial clearing on the first day of the offensive, the temperature in southern Lorraine dropped precipitously on the second day of the assault. For the next week, precipitation alternated between snow and rain. As a result, U.S. troops, still clad in summer uniforms, found themselves soaked to the bone as they trudged forward along muddy roads past farm fields where manure heaps burned their nostrils with an acrid smell. In some places, troops marching overland found themselves slogging through mud up to their knees. As a result of the conditions, hundreds of cases of trench foot were reported each day. XII Corps reported 3,000 cases of trench foot during the November offensive."

Of the total number of soldiers serving with the 80th Infantry Division during its time in Europe, there were reports of 3,500 killed, 12,484 wounded, 488 missing and 1077 POWs. Just days after the striking victories at the Maginot Line into the commercial Saar River Valley, the 80th Infantry Division was called to Luxembourg, Belgium approximately 100 miles west, where they travelled through the night on military transport trucks. Here they aided in the defense of the last offensive strike of the Nazi forces in the Battle of the Bulge. General Patton was credited with the strategy that thwarted Germany's last ditch effort to stop the Allies from advancing into Germany. From there the 80th crossed the Rhine River into Germany and then into Austria where it became the force that liberated the Ebensee concentration camp.

Back in New Jersey, with the help of a family member who was a Navy veteran, Maggie found a home for herself and her two boys in Winfield Park. A federal housing community created between Cranford, Clark and Linden, Winfield was aptly named for the projected outcome of the war, Win-field. Local manufacturers like General Motors and the Kearny shipyard had re-engineered their facilities to support the war efforts. I was aware that many of their workers lived in Winfield during wartime. It was nice to hear that the government thought enough to use the 145-family housing development to offer a safety net to the families of our fallen. Richard shared with us that his mom was able to care for them full time, never having to return to work. Her Social Security stipend and a generous supporting family made ends meet throughout their childhoods, attending Catholic schools as well as onto higher education.

Steven Mager never lived in Cranford and his wife ended up here out of necessity, needing support from family while Steven was away. At the time of Steven's death, Margaret's address of record was in Cranford, and this is how Steven has a place on Cranford's Roll of Honor. We

(continued on page 14)



(above) This photo of the Maginot Line shows the magnitude of its highly fortified sections near Metz. The pill boxes on the crest will help you to understand what the Allied forces were facing in November of 1944



(above) Note the revolving gun turret on top of the fort at Faulquemont, on the Maginot Line.

In many cases these forts were the tip of an iceberg, with floors of supporting infrastructure below. There was even a rail system that, for hundreds of miles, connected a string of forts below ground. These locations have been preserved today as important historical places of interest.

Pvt. Steven A. Mager
Pvt. Steven A. Mager, Infantry, 30 years old, son of Mrs. Louise Mager of 40 Normandie place and the late John Mager, was killed in action in France on November 26, according to



a telegram received last week from the War Department by his wife, Mrs. Margaret Lasko Mager of 315 Lincoln Park, east.
Pvt. Mager entered service about six months ago from Bainbridge Island, Wash., and trained in that state before going overseas about November 1. In his last letter to his wife, dated November 24, he mentioned having been in Nancy, France, and Saarbruchen, Germany. In a letter to his mother, dated November 19, he said he was then resting, after presumably having participated in his first action. He was with General Patton's Third Army.
Pvt. Mager visited his wife here for
(Continued on last page)

a few days the latter part of October, just before going overseas.
A native of Bayonne, he attended school there and studied at night at New York University. He had been a district manager for 10 years for the Texaco Touring Service, and formerly was located in Florida, Atlantic City, Yellowstone National Park and California. He was a member of St. Cecelia's Catholic Church, Bainbridge Island, and of the Texas Club.
In addition to his wife, who has resided here since May, and his mother, who has lived here more than a year, he leaves two sons, Richard, 2 years old, and Kenneth, born last Wednesday; four brothers, 1st Sgt. Thomas V. Mager, AAF, of Camp Springs, Washington, D. C., Capt. Anthony J. Mager of the Maritime Service, Adolph Mager of White Plains, N. Y., and Edward Mager of Bayonne, and two sisters, Mrs. Nellie Carone and Miss Emily Mager of the Normandie place address.

MEET PVT STEVEN A. MAGER (continued from page 13)

gladly and proudly accept him as our own and will certainly share his story with his hometown of Bayonne. We are very grateful to the Mager family for calling our attention to their loved one and sponsoring his banner. It has given us the opportunity to learn about this brave and patriotic American who left his young family when called upon and joined the fight against tyranny in our world.
Inquiries made to my own family, when I realized that PVT Mager was in our grandfather's division, paid off. My uncle Bob, living in Georgia, made my day. In 2001 he sat down with his dad, Herman Bachmann, and interviewed him about his WWII experiences. My grandfather's recollections paralleled the dozens of video interviews that I had viewed this past month. His regiment was a sister regiment of Steven's, the 317th and he was in Company A, 1st platoon. Now knowing that information, I can paint a similar picture, just as we did for Steven Mager, of my grandfather's tour of duty. He left the battlefield on November 11, 1944, when he was injured by shrapnel in his left arm, that had him laid up in a French Hospital for five days. Upon his release, they realized that his feet were badly swollen, and his size nine boots needed to be replaced with size twelves. He was

diagnosed with trench foot and sent back to England for treatment.
The numerous stories of brave soldiers crossing France to accomplish a similar goal are starting to dominate the Cranford 86 chronicles. Even as I write this, my co-writer Janet Ashnault is deeply dug into the facts and stories of Anton Hascek. He was another infantryman committed to the same effort as the four GI's that we have mentioned here. With the stories of 31 more of our Cranford 86 WWII servicemen left to be told, I am sure that we will once again be taken back to the battlefields of Europe. Each story that we write, rediscovers the memory of these brave men from our little town in New Jersey. I often think of all the untold stories across America that are slipping away as time goes by. I hope that our project might inspire other towns to take on the same task as we have, for their own Hometown Heroes.
As always we ask, if you have any information or know a family member of any of our Cranford 86, please contact us at info@cranford86.org. We also encourage every reader to follow us on our Facebook page, which is our project's connection to the community. We always like to hear comments about our articles and encourage interaction and financial support.

(left) Shown here is PVT Steven A. Mager's obituary as it appeared in the Cranford Chronicle, in late December of 1944. Researching using the Cranford Public Library's digital collection, I realized that in three consecutive issues of the Chronicle, which were delivered to Cranford's mailboxes, the obituaries of William Hinkle, Arthur Galvin, Cecil Spittler, Anton Hascek and Steven Mager were all listed. Also from the French German border fights, came the sad news of the deaths of John Barich and Arthur King. Additionally, during this same time period, Robert Tuttle and Merwin Udell were killed in the Pacific theater. So many young men lost in such a brief period of time surely left our small town reeling.



(above) My grandfather SGT Herman Bachmann was also a member of the 80th Infantry Division. He and PVT Steven Mager were both privates in their 30's with a child at home, on the same mission.

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Just like tens of millions of other Americans, you were looking for relief from your chronic knee pain. You thought Viscosupplementation injections might be the answer, but the results were disappointing and painful. Don't assume the treatment wasn't right. That could very well be like blaming the arrow for its path to the target when the problem might be the archer. If you didn't get the pain relief you were hoping for, chances are your injection treatment was off target. Unlike blind injections or even ultrasound targeted treatments found elsewhere, **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** uses diagnostic fluoroscopy to make sure the area that needs treated is the exact area where the injection goes. This is the most advanced method of delivering this pain relieving treatment with 95% accuracy to give you the results you're looking for. The use of Fluoroscopy guided injections sets **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** apart. The end result is you living pain free from your chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the endless trial and error assortment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in those suffering from knee pain related to osteoarthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough. Call **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** now for a RISK FREE consultation.



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.

Consider This Alternative To Surgery

Northeast Spine & Wellness Center offers you a real opportunity and a painless way to say goodbye to your knee pain without any surgery. Here are just a few of the important benefits you should consider?

- Diagnostic fluoroscopy accurately targets the pain, unlike blind injections.
- Guided fluoroscopic injections are virtually pain free, unlike blind injections.
- No lost time from work or family.
- No expensive or time consuming rehabilitation.
- No potentially addictive prescription medications.
- Recovery time is almost instant, not months or years.

How Does This New Treatment Work?

Relief begins almost as fast as it takes to pronounce the treatment. It's called Viscosupplementation Therapy. To begin with, it starts with **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** investing in the use of diagnostic fluoroscopy. This enables them to target the exact location of your knee pain with pinpoint accuracy. What follows is a simple injection that causes little to no pain, especially when compared to what you may be living with daily. That explains what you will see on the surface of this revolutionary treatment. What's taking place below the surface is how and where the natural healing process takes place. The injection of a Hyaluronic acid called Hyalgan. This gel-like substance was approved by the FDA in 1996. Hyalgan is a natural substance that mimics the synovial fluid that is already produced by your body in your joints. Osteoarthritis sufferers in particular see a reduction in this much needed synovial fluid in their knee joints. Without that cushioning layer of protection, the cartilage in your knee can begin to wear away leading to the rubbing of bone on bone. Through Viscosupplementation Therapy, this natural substance immediately goes to work reducing the swelling and inflammation in the joint and adding a coating layer of protection. Think about Dorothy taking the oil can to The Tin Man. You'll begin to feel that same kind of relief and quite possibly feel like you're ready for a dance down the yellow brick road to recovery yourself. And with a success rate of over 85% in alleviating pain associated with osteoarthritis, it's easy to see why this treatment is so readily covered by Medicare and by most major insurance providers. Diagnostic fluoroscopy to target the pain. Viscosupplementation Therapy to relieve the pain. Simple, fast and no surgery!

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.

Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

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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Scot Paris MD, FACS



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- Patricia G.

"Over 85% relief for the first time in 15 years, suffering with knee pain. My life is getting back to normal."

- Perry O.

"After only four visits, I have absolutely no pain! The staff is 'top-notch.'"

- Quentin L.

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SHINING STARS GALA SET FOR MARCH 14TH

Shining Stars Network, a non profit organization that creates opportunities in the performing arts for the special needs community, kicks off their 11th year with their 2nd "Reach for the Stars" Gala, set for Tuesday, March 14th at the elegant Park Chateau Estate & Gardens in East Brunswick.

The evening, which will begin at 6:00 p.m., will feature a five-star cocktail hour, open bar, dinner and dessert. Highlights of the evening include performances by the Shining Stars cast and buddies, live and silent auctions and a 50/50. Special guest will be celebrity chef and restaurateur David Burke, of Iron Chef America, who will auction off dinner experiences at his famous New Jersey eateries, including a personalized dinner for four.

"Our first gala in 2019 was a great success and we can't wait for what will be another magical evening," noted Shining Stars Network President and co-founder Mike Curci. "Park Chateau is one of the finest venues in the country, and we're excited for our Shining Stars families, friends and supporters to enjoy this special night together."

Individual tickets are \$175 and a table of 10 can be purchased for \$1500 (a savings of \$250). Email your request to ShiningStarsNetwork@gmail.com. Please mention "gala tickets" in the subject line. Venmo, checks and credit cards are gladly accepted. Sponsorship opportunities and journal ads are also available.

The Gala will start a big year for the Shining Stars, who will take to the stage for their "Evening of Shining Stars Talent Show" on Saturday May 13th at the Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway.

On Saturday August 5th, history will be made when the Shining Stars make their Paper Mill Playhouse main stage debut, becoming the first special needs show to perform a full production on that iconic venue. Tickets for "The Greatest Show" — which will feature songs from Broadway and movies — will go on sale in late spring.

"We're honored and thrilled to be co-producing a show with the esteemed Paper Mill team," added Curci. "Our brookside cabaret at Paper Mill last September was an overwhelming success and to see our stars on the main stage this August will be a dream come true."

The Camp Shine Summer Workshop will take place in late August, and the Stars will cap off the year with their annual "Christmas Spectacular" on Friday, December 1st.

"Shining Stars is all about being inclusive and giving our performers a chance to shine on stage while creating lasting memories," noted co-founder and show director Sally Curci. "These opportunities build all-important self-esteem and self-confidence. Our cast members and their high school buddies create bonds and friendships that they'll always remember."

For more information on the organization or events, please visit ShiningStarsNetwork.org.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Cranes Ford DAR

Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history. In 1987, the US Congress passed legislation which designated the month of March as Women's History Month.

The Cranes Ford DAR Chapter invites the public to a presentation by John Prescott, History Programs Coordinator of the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. He is also an Adjunct Professor of US History at Union College. He will present a slide presentation on notable women from Union County. It will be held at the Cranford Community Center 220 Walnut Avenue on March 11, 2023. The program

will begin at 1 p.m., followed by light refreshments.

The NSDAR is as volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, historic preservation and education through commemorative events, scholarship, and meaningful community service. Membership is open to any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American Independence. Currently there are 45 chapters in New Jersey, and 4 chapters in Union County (Summit, Cranford, Springfield and Westfield). For additional information email the Cranes Ford Chapter at cranesforddar@gmail.com

2023 GERARD PARADISO SCHOLARSHIP

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library is eager to sponsor the 2023 Gerard Paradiso Scholarship. It is available to a Cranford resident or employee of the Cranford Public Library who is currently pursuing or intends to pursue a graduate degree in library/media information science or media specialist. Named in honor of former Friends of the Library, President Gerard Paradiso, the scholarship is

worth \$1,000.

The Friends' intent for this award is to assist the student with tuition, books, or other educational expenses. The scholarship, however, is not based on financial need. The candidate must furnish proof of acceptance/enrollment to an accredited university, a letter of reference, and an essay. The deadline to apply is May 1, 2023.

To apply, visit: cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php



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SUPPORTING CHILDREN COPING WITH LOSS WEBINAR, MAR. 21

Children will experience different losses in life: divorce, moving, friendships ending, sports injuries or the death of a friend or family member. Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss is working to create grief informed communities where children will be surrounded by adults who are able to provide support as they cope with these losses.

On Tuesday, March 21st from 7:00–8:30 p.m., Imagine will offer a webinar on Supporting Children Coping with Loss for anyone who wants to learn how to support a child who is grieving. While loss due to death will be the primary focus of this webinar, the concepts that will be presented are applicable to all types of loss. It is especially important for parents and grandparents, guardians, teachers, members of community organizations, coaches, therapists, counselors, and social workers to attend this program. The webinar will be offered in both English and Spanish.

THOSE WHO ATTEND WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. Define the terms “loss,” “grief,” and “mourning”
2. Understand the different types of loss and the impact of those losses
3. Identify similarities and differences on how children, teens, and adults experience their grief
4. Learn how to support someone who is grieving

CEUs are available for social workers with a \$30 registration fee. For those who do not need CEUs, a \$30 donation is appreciated, but not required.

Those interested in the Spanish-speaking webinar do not need to register, but may contact Imagine’s Training and Education Director, Veronica Ortiz at veronica@imagineenj.org to receive the link to join the webinar.

Please join Imagine in our effort to create supportive communities for children who are grieving. To register for the English-speaking webinar, please scan the QR code below or visit imagineenj.org.



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That Beat! African Drums & More!

Saturday, March 4 at 2pm

A treat for the ears and the eyes! Join us at the Community Center as Audrey Davis-Dunning shares (and plays) a variety of instruments used in West African music.

Audrey Davis-Dunning specializes in traditional West African dance and has taught and performed at numerous dance studios, colleges, and universities. She is a NJPAC teaching artist and has a Master's in African American Studies from Cornell University. This program is for all-ages.

No registration required.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public library and in partnership with Cranford Unity Project "Elevated Voices Series."

Bruce Springsteen Lecture

Thursday, March 9 at 7pm

Beatles expert and rock historian Vinnie Bruno is back for another engaging lecture! If you love Bruce Springsteen, you won't want to miss this program. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

Registration is appreciated:

International Film Screening

Monday, March 13 at 2pm and 7pm

Join us at the Cranford Community Center the 2nd Monday of the month at either 2pm or 7pm 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.

Literary Cafe

Saturday, March 18 at 10:15am

Literary Café is a book chat program. The format is simple: Bring a few of your recent favorite books and tell the other members of the group what you like about them. If you don't have a copy of the book you want to talk about, that's okay, too. 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. Patrons are welcome to join us in the Cranford Public Library's Raddin Room or online.

Theater Project

Saturday, March 18 at 2pm

Live play readings from the Theater Project are back in person! New Jersey's own Theater Project will present a script-in-hand reading of an original short play. The reading will be followed by a question and answer session with the audience, director, playwright and cast.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library and the Union County HEART Grant.

Women in Blues

Monday, March 20 at 7pm

Part concert, part discussion, married duo, singer/songwriter Kirsten Thien, and musician Erik Boyd, perform select songs from some of the true pioneers of American music from the 1920s and 30's. They'll also share some of their own original contemporary blues songs and discuss how the early Blues women still inspire music today--almost 100 years later!

Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Registration is appreciated: www.eventbrite.com/e/women-in-blues-tickets-537957785217

Native Groundcovers: Sustainable, Living Mulch

Wednesday, March 29 at 7pm

Don't neglect the ground level of your garden! As a beautiful, sustainable, and ecologically important alternative to traditional mulch, native groundcover plants can be used to crowd out weeds, provide year-round soil protection, and offer a habitat for beneficial insects. In this presentation, Dr. Randi V. Wilfert Eckel will discuss the benefits of native groundcovers, and introduce some of her favorite native groundcovers for different garden conditions.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

Registration is appreciated:

www.eventbrite.com/e/native-groundcovers-sustainable-living-mulch-tickets-510835381377

Trivia Night

Thursday, March 30 at 7pm

Join us for another fun evening of trivia! This free event is hosted by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library! Join us in the Community Room on the first floor of the Community Center! Feel free to bring your own snacks and (non-alcoholic) drinks. Prizes awarded to the winning team.

Registration is required.



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CHARITY RAFFLE & CHECK PRESENTATIONS

Cranford Knights of Columbus

Last 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 \$6,500 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.

In total, we were able to donate \$14,500 to Rob and his family. The Cranford Council would like to thank everyone who supported these worthy fundraisers, 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.

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) Raffle prize presentation: Cranford Fire Chief Dan Czeh, our Worthy Chaplain Monsignor Tim Shugrue, Ellen Ramer, our winner Gina Pachkowski, and our Worthy Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney.

(above, l-r) Ceremonial check presentation: Worthy Chaplain Monsignor Tim Shugrue, Ellen Ramer, Worthy Treasurer Bob Margherito, Rob and Amanda Hurewitz with daughter Eleanor, Brother Ed Bagniewski, and Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney.

Courtesy photos

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HISTORY OF A LIVING MUSEUM

Submitted by Margaret Gerlach The Crane-Phillips House Museum, 124 North Union Avenue, Cranford, NJ



2023 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Cranford Historical Society

The 2023 membership campaign for the Cranford Historical Society is underway. The Cranford Historical Society is a non-profit educational organization whose mission since 1927 has been to preserve and perpetuate the history of Cranford. We maintain the Crane-Phillips House Museum, open to the public every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, and its beautiful gardens. We host free community outreach programs and events for visitors of all ages. We maintain the Hanson House, where our office is located, and we assist a steady stream of people researching their homes or looking for information about local history. We also publish five newsletters each year for our members. "The Mill Wheel" contains society news and interesting articles on local history. Membership supports the continuation of our archives, costume department, building maintenance, our programming, and our History Scholarship which is awarded to a Cranford High School graduate every year. Please join us!

A 2023 Membership Form can be found on the Society's website at cranfordhistoricalsociety.org. A form may also be completed and mailed with your check to: Cranford Historical Society, 38 Springfield Ave. Cranford, NJ 07016.

For more info about joining the Cranford Historical Society, please call 908-276-0082 or e-mail cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net.

Known as "Cranford's Historic Gem," this quaint Victorian cottage stands next to the Rahway River near the 18th century river crossing at the Crane's Mills. The Crane-Phillips House was placed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places in 1997. The House was given the rare honor of being named to "Save America's Treasures" by The White House and the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1999. It is among only 27 such sites in the state of New Jersey, and it is the only "American Treasure" in Union County. A model of the Little House was on display in The White House for Christmas 1999 and the Museum was featured in Victorian Homes Magazine in August 2000.

Originally built as an East Jersey Farm House by the Crane family, the house was renovated in the style of Andrew Jackson Downing's romantic Victorian cottage architecture by its subsequent owners, the Phillips family. The children's room was created in 2004 and has become a favorite feature. A project began in 1996 to restore the entire Museum to what it may have looked like in the 1870s. The Victorian cottage's vibrant, two toned green and red exterior colors, circa 1870, were uncovered and restored in 1998. Cranford Boy Scouts built an "outhouse" and a picket fence and trellis for our flower garden as part of their Eagle Projects. We also built a tool shed to display tools from the era.

The Crane family came to New Jersey from England as early settlers in the New World, and they were among the first to venture into Elizabethtown in 1715. The Cranes were the first to build mills, a gristmill and a saw mill, along the Rahway River in 1716. The House was built in 1842 as a one room cottage. According to family tradition, it was given by Josiah Crane, Sr. as a wedding present to his second son, Josiah, Jr., including everything between the main street, which is now North Union Avenue, the river and the railroad. It is not known exactly how long Josiah Jr. and his family lived in the house, but it is thought that they were there until 1852, when they built a larger home a short distance away,

across from the Presbyterian Church where the gazebo stands today.

After the Civil War in 1867, the house was purchased by Civil War Veteran Henry Phillips and his wife, Cecelia of New York City. They paid \$1,900 for the house and surrounding property. Henry was an engraver and inventor. In 1895, he obtained a patent for a 'range shield' (US Patent No. 572,715), which was designed to "prevent the escape of smoke and empyreumatic odors from cooking into the room." It was the direct forerunner of our modern range hood. His brother, Dr. Charles H. Phillips, was the inventor of Phillips Milk of Magnesia.

Today, the Crane-Phillips House Museum offers a rare glimpse of the life of a modest family in the Victorian Era of opulence. An inviting parlor illustrates the late 19th century era of invention and highlights inventions that changed everyday life for the average person by way of the house's second owners, the Phillips family. Permanent and changing exhibits are displayed, featuring items from the Cranford Historical Society's costume, tool and local history collections. In cooperation with the Board of Education, the museum serves as a focal point for the teaching of local history to area students.

On February 17, 1927, the Crane-Phillips House became the first headquarters of the Cranford Historical Society. Now, it is purely a Museum, operated and maintained by the Society, and is open every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, except holiday weekends, between 2 – 4 p.m. from September through May.

The Museum and its artifacts exist through the support and generosity of its members in addition to donations. For more information, contact the Cranford Historical Society at (908) 276-0082 or cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net. Visit our website, cranfordhistoricalsociety.org, you can learn more about the Society and the history of our wonderful town, shop for maps and books, and download a membership form. You can also find a membership form at the Cranford Library.

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SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

The First Congregational Church of Westfield Board of Outreach Ministries is currently seeking nominations for the annual Marc Wesley Hardy Human Rights Award for 2023. Candidates for this scholarship must be young adults between the ages of 16-22, living in Westfield or the greater Union County area, who have distinguished themselves in the area of human rights. The selected individual will have demonstrated the following:

openness and friendliness to persons of all races, creeds and nationalities; involvement and leadership in organizations and activities committed to improving human relations; extraordinary personal dignity;

the willingness to risk for what he or she believes is right; absolute acceptance of others; respect for diversity;

great personal integrity; deep caring and willingness to listen; the strength and ability to lead by example.

The award is named in honor of Marc Wesley Hardy, a talented and promising student and a

member of First Congregational Church of Westfield, who was tragically killed in a car accident in 1990 shortly before his graduation from Westfield High School. Marc was a national merit scholar, a gifted singer and actor, and was exceptionally active in the preservation of human rights. Because of his dedication and commitment to social justice, this award was established in his memory.

Nominees for the award may be either self-nominated or nominated by a teacher, school official, or another individual not in the nominee's immediate family, who is familiar with the nominee's background and qualities that exemplify Marc Hardy's commitment to human rights. To nominate an individual for the Award, original documents of the following must be submitted:

For full information, please visit: fccofwestfield.org/marc-hardy-human-rights-award. The deadline for submitting nominations is April 21, 2023. The award will be presented later this spring.

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Insert your flyer into the newspapers and get it mailed to every home and business for \$60 per thousand and as low as \$30 per thousand for higher quantities.

ONLINE MARKETING

Online ads and press releases designed and placed to drive traffic to your website and get your phone ringing.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We can design and/or manage your social media campaign from passive to aggressive plans customized to work within your budget.

WEBSITE AND SEO SERVICES

Start with an audit/analysis of your website giving you a report and recommendations for \$250.

It is highly recommended to have a marketing plan and budget before spending.

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Berkeley Heights COMMUNITY NEWS Qty: 4,700 Zip: 07922	THE CHATHAMS NJ Qty: 7,500 Zip: 07928	Clark Monthly Qty: 6,700 Zip: 07066	CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ Qty: 9,900 Zip: 07016	Elmora Hills ELIZABETH, NJ Qty: 5,400 Zip: 07208 Section of Elizabeth, NJ	Fanwood Post NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07023
Florham Park Press NJ Qty: 5,500 Zip: 07932	Garwood Times NJ Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	Green Brook Gazette NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 08812	BUSINESS • LIFE KENILWORTH NJ Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	NJ LIFE in LINDEN Qty: 17,900 Zip: 07036	Long Hill LEADER NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980
MADISON MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	MOUNTAINVIEW NJ Qty: 2,900 Zip: 07092	New Providence NEWS NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	OUR TOWN Rahway, NJ Qty: 13,000 Zip: 07065	ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,400 Zip: 07076
Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	Summit Times NJ Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION NJ Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	Westfield MONTHLY NJ Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

NEWSPAPER AD RATES

Units	Size	1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
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
2-PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700								
BACK PAGE	10" x 14"	\$500								
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320								
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5" x 4.5"	\$240								

Back cover, front page banner and front box reserved on first-come, first-served basis. Current advertiser has right of first refusal.

PREPAY 6 MONTHS AND GET 1 MORE FREE
PREPAY 12 MONTHS AND GET 3 MORE FREE

Make Checks payable to Renna Media, 202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

Easter EGG HUNT

Save the Date!



SATURDAY APRIL 1st 10:00AM SHARP
BEHIND ORANGE AVENUE SCHOOL

Cranford Jaycees annual

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Save the Date!

Sunday April 2nd 7:30am-12:00pm
Cranford VFW 479 South Avenue

Cranford Recreation & Parks Department

Cranford Recreation Center
375 Centennial Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016 (908) 324-4433

PICKLEBALL

Daily Schedule

Monday	9:00 am - 12:00 pm 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am - 12:00 pm 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Thursday	9:00 am - 12:00 pm 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Friday	9:00 am - 12:00 pm 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Saturday	4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Ages 18 + are welcome
Ages 14-17 years are welcome with adult supervision
Open play for beginner and intermediate players

\$10 drop-in fee for residents / \$15 non-residents fee



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CRANFORD KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #6226



St. Patrick's Day Céilí *



*Céilí - A Gaelic Party with Eating, Drinking and Dancing

Saturday, March 25th, 2023 @ 7:00pm
St. Michael's School Gym

\$40.00 per person includes:

**Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner, Wings,
Beverages, Music, Irish Step Dancers**
This Year's Honorees

Irish Man of the Year

Irish Woman of the Year

Msgr. Timothy J Shugrue

Mary O'Connor

Also Recognizing Members of Cranford's Police Department and Fire Department

DANCING

LIVE MUSIC
WITH THE
The Lovehandles

**GIFT BASKET
RAFFLES**

To RSVP: CALL or TEXT Ken Hickey @ (917) 391-8304 or via
E-mail to hickey7211@gmail.com by March 20th for Reservations

Payment Info: Checks made payable to Cranford Knights of Columbus can be mailed to PO Box 501*
Cranford, NJ 07016 * or via Venmo: @ KofC6226, Code: 7778 or via Zelle: 2018387778

Sharing the Quilts XXXIX

Saturday – March 25, 2023 – 9am to 5pm
(Doors close at 4:30pm)

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church
1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ

Show is child friendly with a scavenger hunt and prizes for youngsters

* Karen Gloeggler: Speaker and Local Quilter
Author of *Jane Austin Quilts*
Lecture at 11:00 am in the sanctuary

* Diane Fleming: Featured Quilter

* In memory of Peg Foy, Coverlet
Expert and Miniature Quilter Display

* Linda Blauvelt: Artist in Residence Oil Paintings

* "In Our Town" Challenge Quilts

* Traditional, Art, and Modern Quilts in a variety
of themes, patterns, techniques, sizes and skill levels

- * Vendor's Table
- * Basket and Quilt Drawing
- * Viewer's Choice Awards

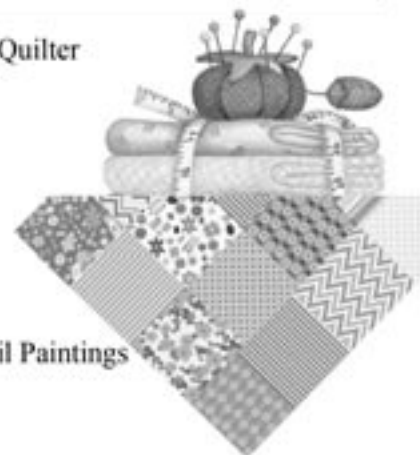
- * Live Demonstrations
- * Story Boards
- * Tea Room

* Admission: \$8.00 per adult; \$3.00 for children under 12*

More information at harvestquilts.com or harvestquiltsnj@gmail.com or Harvest Quilters on Facebook

*Celebrating quilts as art and functional design with an emphasis on education and
bringing traditional needle-arts to all generations*

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"Quilts Are the Homespun Art of Women's History"



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