

# CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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## 7TH ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT RAISES \$34,000 FOR SCHOOLS

*Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence*  
The Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence (CFEE) hosted its 7th Annual Trivia Night on February 23rd, 2024, at the Kenilworth VFW. Over 300 people were in attendance, with 32 teams vying for the championship. The competition was fierce, with lively music by DJ Randy Geis and high spirits. The emcee for the evening, Karen Bennett, presented eight rounds of tough questions created by a board committee led by Trivia Master, Brian Andrews.

CFEE proudly featured over 40 businesses and families who supported the event with sponsorships ranging from \$150 to \$5,000. MWT Builders served as ‘Principal Sponsor’ and Lincoln Investments, The Cranford Jaycees, and Beyond Dance participated as ‘Facilities Directors’ sponsors. Keating Physical Therapy, New Jersey Family Medical, Schuster Family Orthodontics, Mr. P’s Varsity Jackets & Apparel, Pro Care Rehabilitation L.L.C. , Julie and Jim Murphy- CHS Class of ’78 supported the event as Academic Deans sponsors.



(above) 1st Place, “In Liz We Truss” Courtesy photos

More than \$34,000 was raised from team entry fees, 500+ raffle tickets sold in the 50/50, and philanthropic donations. The event's proceeds will fund grants made by Cranford district educators.

Superintendent of Cranford Schools and Trivia Night participant, Dr. Scott Rubin welcomed the crowd and expressed his thanks for the community’s strong support of fundraisers like Trivia Night that positively impact Cranford students & schools.

The trivia scores were close making it anyone's trophy for the taking with a tie breaker showdown to determine the 2nd and 3rd place titles! Congratulations to 1st Place, “In Liz We Truss”, Howard Lubinger, Mike Yablonski, Bartek Konopka, Chrissi Konopka, Rebecca Trump, Paul Gallo, Patricia MacClean and Matt Trump, 2nd Place “Party On Excellent”, Margaret Carroll, Tim Carroll, Casey McGinley, Patrick McGinley, Amanda Pittard, Caitlin DuBois, Tom Maffiore, Jeff Pittard, Lisa Navarro , Dave Navarro and 3rd Place “Team Name

Pending” John Cwikla, Jenn Cwikla, Geoff Cleveland, Joy Cleveland, Pete McDevitt, Faith Dzurocuk, Mike Klimko, Jodi Klimko, Mark Kielczynski, and Marcy Kielczynski. This year's 1st place team will be featured on a Cranford billboard this spring , plus scored their own limited edition ice cream flavor at Cranford Vanilla Bean Creamery! All winners walked away with bragging rights and a lawn sign to display proudly.

There was no contest when it came to the Spirit Award winners, who showed up to take home the glory. Class Clowns -- The Red Hot Trivia Peppers: Liz Jackson, Matt Jackson, Michael Bange, Allison Bange, Denise Alvarez, Beth Lanzisera, Dom Lanzisera, Jim Behnke , Kristin Ferrara, Kathryn Wiedemann, Most Team Spirited – Hot for Teacher: Carine Helwig, Chris Helwig, Lauren Battaglini, John Battaglini, Carmen Rodriguez, Shawn McDonald, Alex McDonald, Mark Rodriguez, Kelli Farrell, and Shaun Farrell and Best Dressed – Earth, Win and Fire: Jaclyn Horbal, Sean Wilhelm, Marisa Wilhelm, Nim Shah, Matt DeLorenzo, Sheryl DeLorenzo, Jen Shah, Kevin Kelly, Nicole Kelly.

The Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence, relaunched in 2014, is a nonprofit, Cranford-based foundation that supports excellence and innovation in the Cranford public schools by generating resources through community involvement. The grants are awarded to teachers and staff who apply for them, and benefit students across the school district. Since 2016, the CFEE has awarded over \$350,000 in grants in categories such as: Differentiated or personalized education, technology integration and 21st-century skills, innovation zones/makerspaces, and classroom design.

If you’d like more information or to contribute to this year’s efforts, please visit our website at [cranfordfund.org](http://cranfordfund.org).

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BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Submitted by John Dolan

The Cranford Knights of Columbus supported the Annual Breakfast with the Bunny Event held on March 9th. It is sponsored by the St. Michael's School Home School Association (HSA) and is held every year in celebration of Easter.

Since its inception, the Cranford Council has bought all of the food, prepares all of the meals and provides the manpower needed to bus all of the tables, clean everything up and also purchases games, coloring books and other items to entertain the children. This event has grown in popularity and is well attended every year with multiple seatings for breakfast. The Cranford Council has a very close relationship with St.

Michael's Parish, St. Michael's School, and the HSA by volunteering for events, serving on Parish ministries and offering financial and other support for all if and whenever needed.

Since the Council's founding in 1970, the Cranford Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Men's Fraternal Organization dedicated to our four core principles, Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The Cranford Council supports many worthy charities and civic causes is committed to be a viable part of our community. For information about joining the Cranford Council, please contact our Grand Knight Kevin Cumiskey at 973-390-9327 or visit our web site, [cranfordknights.org](http://cranfordknights.org).



(above) The Easter bunny and members of The Cranford Knights of Columbus.

Courtesy photo

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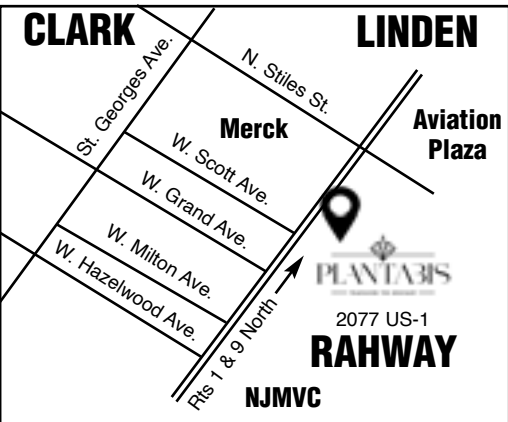
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Cranford Boy Scout Troop #75 held Order of the Arrow elections which were facilitated by Shorya Gupta, Order of the Arrow Scout/Rep, on March 6, 2024. The Order of the Arrow is the honor society of the Boy Scouts of America composed of scouts who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Four scouts were elected by their peers: Max (12th grade), Isaiah (7th grade), Arthur ( 11th grade), and Eric (11th grade) not pictured.



Photo by Kenya Mutyanda

## First Presbyterian Church of Cranford

Easter Sunday, March 31st

### Family Easter Service

**10:00am**

**"Superheroes of the Bible"**

Part 1

\*Sunrise Service 7:00am (outside, weather permitting)

### Egg Hunt & Games

**11:30am**

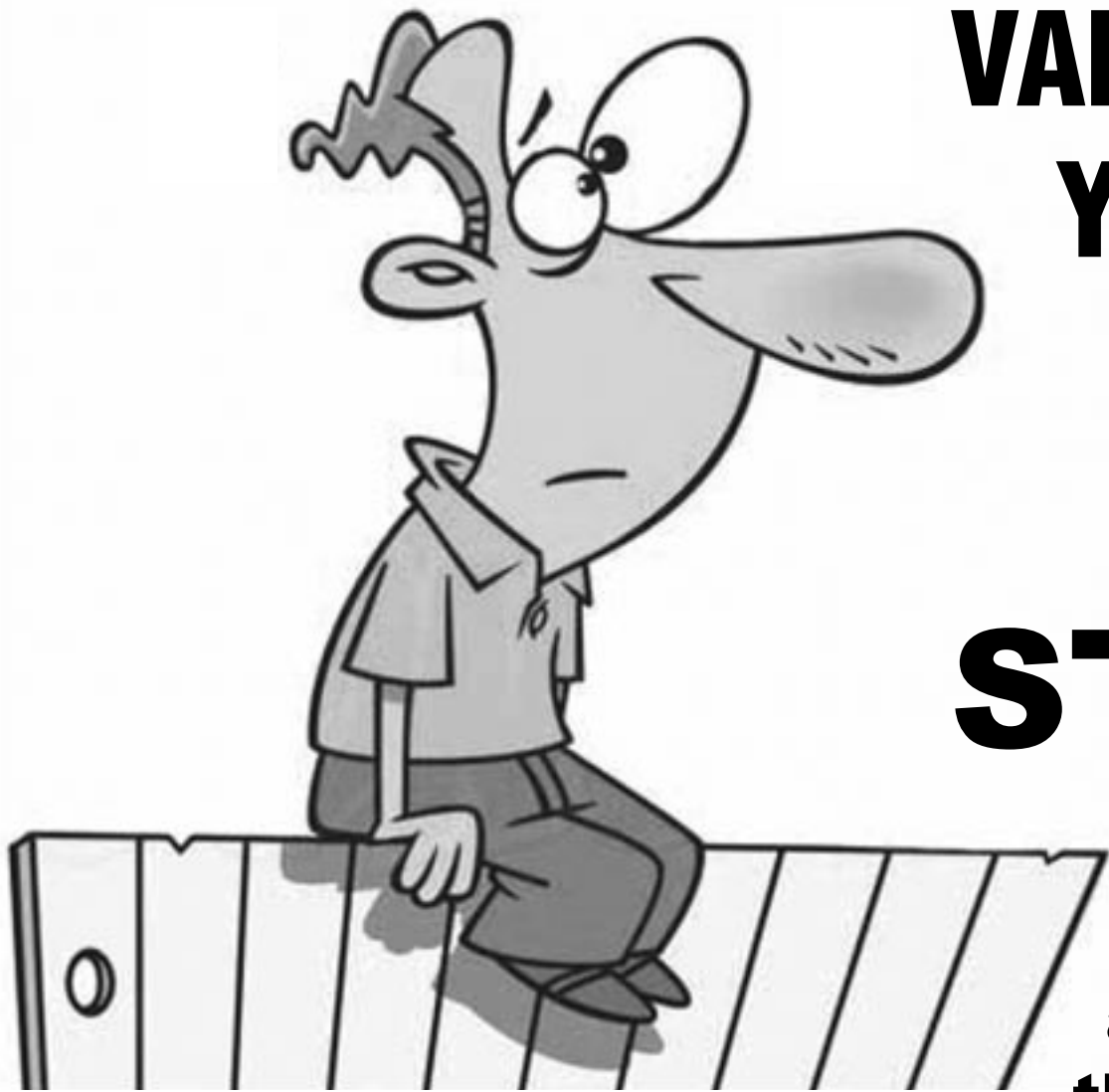
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**[firstprescranford.org/Easter](http://firstprescranford.org/Easter)**

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# 95 YEARS OF SCOUTING IN CRANFORD

Members of Troop 40744 helped set up a display in the Cranford Library to celebrate 95 years of Scouting in Cranford. The collection is owned by former Service Unit Manager, Susan Haustein. Stop by and check out the memorabilia!



Courtesy photo

# GIRL SCOUT WEEK HALF-DAY HANGOUT

## Girl Scouts of Cranford

Girl Scouts of Cranford’s First Annual Half-Day Hangout was a huge success! Over one hundred girls registered for the four-hour event at the Community Center. The afternoon started with a pizza lunch, followed by three activity sessions. Girl Scouts were given a choice between yoga, bingo, creative writing, arts and crafts, and the chill-out room.

Yoga was led by Karen Gimour from Alluem Yoga and Kristen Mider, a Girl Scout mom. Bingo offered prizes of slime and was led by Senior Troop 40744. Creative writing was led by Cranford Librarian, Lauren Antolino. Bead-art keychains were made in arts and crafts, led by Girl Scout Leader, Liz Mazza. And the chill-out

room was where girls could do homework, puzzles, read, play board games and color.

After the activity sessions were over, the girls were treated to a short movie and popcorn. At the end of the day, the girls went home with a special 2024 Girl Scout Week fun patch and a squishy.

We can’t wait to make this an annual event, kicking off every Girl Scout Week half-day Monday. There’s no better way to celebrate Girl Scouts than having fun together!

The Girl Scouts of Cranford Open House will be held in June of 2024 with new troops forming in late summer/early fall for kindergarten girls in the Cranford school system. For more information visit: [girlsscoutsofcranford.com/join-girl-scouts-of-cranford](http://girlsscoutsofcranford.com/join-girl-scouts-of-cranford).



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The Cranford Woman's Club and Downtown Cranford Sip & Shop event will take place on Friday, May 10th in downtown Cranford from 5 to 9 p.m. For more information, including how to purchase tickets, go to EventBrite or [cranfordwc.com](http://cranfordwc.com).

The Cranford Woman's Club, founded in 1949, is a "volunteer organization richly rooted in the tradition of giving back to the community and its residents. While our common goal is enhancing the quality of life in our community, one of the many benefits is the lifelong friendships we make

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

The Garden Club of Cranford is pleased to be accepting applications for the 2024 Frances Wismer Memorial Scholarship.

Eligibility: Cranford resident and graduating senior who plans to continue education and pursue a career in a field related to horticulture, botany, environment or related fields and acceptance to a technical school, 2 or 4 year college.

Application (available at the Cranford High School guidance office, or by requesting via

email [cancob@aol.com](mailto:cancob@aol.com) with Garden Club Scholarship in subject line.

A short essay (no more than one page) explaining your interests in the above fields, how you have already demonstrated your interest and what are your future plans.

One letter of recommendation from someone who is able to write about your interest in your future field of study or participation in your field of interest.

All must be submitted no later than April 8, 2024. Instructions are on the application.

**The Garwood First Aid Squad has donation bins in their parking lot, located at 401 2nd Avenue, Garwood, where books and clothing can be dropped off to help with the Squad's operating expenses.**



Used clothing drop-off is Sponsored by the Garwood First Aid Squad with the help of Turnkey Enterprises. The clothing collected is used as clothing, not cut into rags.

All clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, drapes, pillowcases, and stuffed animals. Help us keep your donations clean & dry. If possible, please put clothing in plastic bags.

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# IMAGINE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss has been offering free peer support groups to children, youth and adults who are grieving for more than 10 years. The volunteers who facilitate these groups create safe spaces where the pain of grief can be acknowledged and shared, and where group members feel felt. Imagine’s volunteers are the heart of Imagine’s programs, and many find their volunteer work with Imagine so fulfilling that they continue for many years, some having stayed since the program began.

Imagine’s volunteer facilitators come from all walks of life and no special background is required other than a willingness to listen, a heart inclined to serve, and the ability to be with children and adults in grief without trying to fix, solve or give advice. Volunteers must be 18 years or older and bilingual (Spanish speaking) volunteers are needed as well. Volunteers serve as companions and loving listeners for those who are grieving and help create a space where participants can share tears and embrace the joys of life.

This Spring, Imagine will offer two facilitator training classes for those who would like to join this amazing group of volunteers. The first will be held at their location at 570 Broad Street in Newark from May 3-5 from 9 am-5 pm each day. The second option will take place at Imagine’s location at 244 Sheffield Street in Mountainside from June 7-9, also from 9am-5pm each day. Imagine staff ask those participating in the training to plan to attend all three days.

If you’d like to join one of the upcoming trainings, please visit [imagineenj.org](http://imagineenj.org) and complete the interest form found on the website or scan the QR code below. When completing the form, you’ll be asked to choose a convenient date to attend an information session where you’ll learn more about volunteering with Imagine. We hope you’ll consider joining this wonderful team of volunteers who support Imagine’s efforts to ensure that no one grieves alone.

Imagine is a 501c3 that offers grief and loss education and training to the community and free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and guardians of the children in the groups and offered in English and Spanish. For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or [info@imagineenj.org](mailto:info@imagineenj.org) or visit our website at [www.imagineenj.org](http://www.imagineenj.org).



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# CRANFORD FD SUPPORTS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE

The Cranford Fire Department will support “Autism Awareness Month” throughout April by wearing custom t-shirts and by lighting up Fire Headquarters blue.

According to Chief Dan Czeh, “The Cranford Fire Department fully supports the Autistic Community and will do whatever possible to show love and support to those affected by this developmental disability. As Firefighters, our job goes above and beyond protection and service. We need to set the standard and stand together with those affected by this disorder. We will serve as an advocate for these individuals and continue our awareness efforts. We all know someone who is affected by autism. We know it is a difficult life for them and for their parents. Our goal is to have a positive impact on them and let the autistic community feel the love and acceptance they deserve.”

Autism refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication. According to the Centers for Disease Control, approximately 1 in 36 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Most children are still being diagnosed after age four, though autism can be reliably diagnosed as early as 18 months. Research shows that early intervention leads to positive outcomes later in life for people with autism.

The Cranford Fire Department, along with FMBA Locals 37 and 237 are selling Puzzle Piece T-Shirts and Puzzle Piece Patches. Both are available for purchase via Venmo (@Cranford-Local) or by visiting Cranford Fire Headquarters at 7 Springfield Ave. Cost of the shirt is \$25 and patch is \$10. Proceeds will go towards local charities. If purchasing a shirt in person, please have exact change. Checks will also be accepted, must be made out to Cranford FMBA Local 37.

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Venmo at @Cranford-Local  
You will be notified when shirts are available for pick up.

# FIREFIGHTERS COMPETE AT FOOD FESTIVAL

(above) Cranford Firefighters Tom Hannen & Rob Moran served up a delicious desert made with Bailey’s Irish Cream liquor and won the People’s Choice 1st place award.

On Monday, February 26, 2024, Cranford firefighters Tom Hannen & Rob Moran joined together with firefighters from around New Jersey to compete in The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off, part of the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival. They won the People’s Choice 1st place award for their desert made with Bailey’s Irish Cream liquor.

The event benefited the New Jersey State Firefighter’s Mutual Benevolent Association and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

The Fire Department Cook-off is part of a culinary extravaganza where participants were able to experience the tastes and flavors of some of New Jersey’s finest restaurants, caterers and dessert shops all in one location.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at [rennamedia.com](http://rennamedia.com) and on the Cranford Monthly page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) Feel free to “Like,” “Tag,” and “Share.”

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(above) Former long-time Cranford and Roselle resident Bob Wade (third from left) served as Grand Marshal of the 2024 Union County St. Patrick's Day parade. Others celebrating at the parade include (from left) Rob and Ellen Ushay, (back row) Jack and Joanne Ryan, Mary Wade, (front row) Gretchen Korn, Maura Campbell, Joann Sweeney, Don Sweeney.

Courtesy photo

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# MEET SEAMAN 1ST CLASS EDWARD MANDONI, U.S. NAVY ARMED GUARD DEFENDING AN AMERICAN LIBERTY SHIP, WWII

By Don Sweeney and Janet Cymbaluk Ashnault, Research by Vic Bary and Don Sweeney, Military guidance by Vic Bary

Month after month, our team continues with its efforts to tell the stories and reveal the visual identities, of the 86 brave men whose names appear on the bronze plaques at Cranford's Memorial Park. Recently, a former Cranford resident, Donna Blackburn, drew our attention to the name Edward Mandoni. Donna is a follower of Bernie Wagenblast's Cranford Radio podcast. Shortly before Memorial Day, 2022, we were featured on Bernie's show to talk about the Cranford 86 project. Listening to the podcast, Donna realized that her uncle, Edward, brother of her father Donald Mandoni, was one of the Cranford 86. She asked us if we had any information about Edward Mandoni that we could share with her. At that time, all that we had was a short Cranford Citizen and Chronicle article about her uncle's death on a Merchant Marine cargo ship. We always look forward to a call from a family member that helps us fill in gaps of information, but in this case, the relative had even less knowledge than we did. We shared the article with Donna, and she gave us some family names that we could add to our research inquiries. Our policy is to begin the research and writing process of a Cranford 86 serviceman, only when we have obtained his portrait, preferably in uniform. Donna and I promised each other that we would reach out if a photo of her uncle was found.

In 2023, we were researching Yankee baseball player-turned soldier, Cecil Spittler. In the Spittler family archives we found a page from the May 10th 1945 edition of the Cranford Citizen and Chronicle. Published three days after Germany surrendered, the page featured the photos of Cecil Spittler and 23 other men, and was titled "Liberation of Europe Cost the Lives of These Cranford Men". We noticed that among these photos there was a portrait of a handsome sailor wearing a serious and somewhat sad expression. The photo was grainy, but recognizable, and its caption confirmed that it was of Edward Mandoni. We were very excited with our find and called Donna Blackburn to share the news. We told her that the research process could begin and we could possibly feature her uncle's story at the 2024 Memorial Day morning ceremony. Donna was more than happy to help our mission progress by becoming the sponsor of her uncle's banner.

## EDWARD'S LIFE IN CRANFORD

Edward's parents, Benjamin, a construction worker, and Bertha, showed up in Cranford on the 1930 census, living on Garfield Street. With them were the first five of what would eventually become a family of nine children. Edward, born on September 21st, 1925, was four and a half in 1930. If you are not familiar with Garfield Street in Cranford, there's a reason for that! Garfield was located off of Centennial Avenue, southeast of Hayes Street. Construction of the Garden State Parkway through Cranford in the late 1940's, eliminated Garfield, Harrison, Cleveland,



*Seaman First Class Edward Mandoni*

Roosevelt and McKinley streets. Of that neighborhood of streets named for U.S. presidents, Hayes, Grant and Buchanan still remain. The Mandoni family attended St. Michael Church in Cranford, where most likely, they filled an entire pew.

This large family, living in Cranford in the midst of the Great Depression, with World War II looming, was struck a tragic blow when Bertha died in 1941 at the age of 47. Not all of the children were able to finish their education, as we surmise that they needed to leave school to help to support their father and siblings. We know that Edward attended Lincoln School and he should have graduated Cranford High School in 1943. We saw him in preceding CHS yearbooks, in the Aviation Club and on the Cross Country Team. Edward's Draft Registration Card, dated 1943 showed him hard at work for the Lewis Asphalt Engineering Corporation on Central Avenue in Clark. There is no mention of him in the Golden C as a graduating member of the Cranford High School Class of 1943. On November 29th of that year 18-year-old Edward left Cranford to begin his training for service in the U.S. Navy. Destined for a hazardous and relatively unknown duty, Edward's willingness to serve our country during a world war already solidified him as a member of what would one day be known as our Greatest Generation.

## MOS, U.S. NAVY ARMED GUARD

Donna Blackburn was under the impression that her Uncle Edward was a Merchant Marine like her father Donald. As we quickly learned, this was not the case. Young Edward attended military training in Rhode Island and at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in New York City. His training in New York prepared the Seaman Second Class for duty as a United States Navy Armed Guard, providing onboard defense of



*Through the magic of Artificial Intelligence, we have been able to digitally enhance vague, fuzzy photographs from old newspapers and create full color detailed images. Thanks to the recent financial support received from the Cranford K of C, we have upgraded over 100 images allowing us to clearly see the character of our heroes, just as they were seen by his family, friends and comrades during their short adult lives. This year's Cranford 86 Tribute Books, available on Memorial Day morning, will contain many of those enhanced images.*

Merchant Marine cargo ships. Edward Mandoni is the first Cranford 86 serviceman that we know of who had this type of duty. The Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) of so many of our heroes has called our attention to a variety of military roles, engineering wonders and important historical engagements. As well as making our stories so interesting, sharing the varied experiences of our Cranford 86 has greatly broadened our knowledge of our country's history. In telling Edward's story, we knew that we were about to learn much about a military assignment which we had not touched upon until now.

Our country fought WWII on many fronts, one of course being the world's oceans. The ability to successfully transport immense quantities and varieties of cargo overseas, including fuel and ammunition, was an absolute requirement in order to achieve victory. For the island nation of Great Britain, which was the last standing European power, safe arrival of basic supplies as well as military hardware was especially critical. If not for the force created by the American-made Liberty Ship, the civilian United States Merchant Navy and the U.S. Navy Armed Guard, our WWII history books would probably be telling us a different story.

*(continued on page 16)*



# SEAMAN 1ST CLASS EDWARD MANDONI (Continued from page 15)

Even before our involvement in WWII, U.S. merchant ships, traveling all throughout the world, suffered unprovoked enemy attacks. The Neutrality Act, created by our government to prevent U.S. involvement in foreign war, prevented us from arming U.S. merchant ships. In October of 1941, after a lethal stretch of U-boat attacks on both U.S. Navy and merchant ships, that section of the act was repealed by Congress. Later that year, five days before the Pearl Harbor attack, the first Navy Armed Guard crew of seven, joined over 30 civilian Merchant Marines on the SS Dunboyne. As part of a convoy, their destination was the Soviet Union’s Arctic port of Murmansk, a run which became infamous to the merchant ship crews. Not only was it treacherous in terms of enemy fire, but it took the ships through the worst weather in the world.

With the U.S. Navy found short of all things needed to fight a modern war, roll out of the Armed Guard suffered a rocky start, and early on, many ships went out ill-equipped in terms of armament and quantity of crew. Some vessels, armed with only a few machine guns, had their crews paint and position telephone poles to resemble the barrels of larger weapons. Losses of both ships and men were heavy during this time. In addition, members of the Armed Guard felt orphaned by the Navy. Stationed on slow-moving rust-streaked freighters, the sailors needed to

coexist with civilian seamen who were not as disciplined and had much higher salaries than their Navy shipmates. It was said that the ship’s baker made more money than any member of the Armed Guard. At this point in time, the protection of merchant ships may have been the least desirable job in the Navy.

By the time Seaman 2c Edward Mandoni was assigned to his ship, the war had worsened, but the Armed Guard was in better shape to fend off the enemy. The Navy had responded to the shortage of staff with accelerated training programs and the merchant ships were better equipped defense-wise. The standard armament for ships traversing combat zones consisted of a lethal 5 inch dual purpose stern gun, a 3 inch anti-aircraft gun, and eight 20 mm machine guns mounted at strategic locations. Armed Guard crew consisted of one or more officers and twenty-four gunners, plus three communications men for a total of 28. When under attack, the Merchant Marines worked beside the guardsmen, passing heavy shells or manning machine guns if needed.

## AMERICA’S MANUFACTURING MIGHT AND THE PRODUCTION OF THE LIBERTY SHIP

WWII has been said by historians to have been a war of production might. A prime example of this was the manufacturing feat which created thousands of “Liberty Ships”. Prior to December 7th, 1941, when British cargo ships were getting torpedoed at an astonishing rate, Britain made it clear that their ability to supply themselves and their war efforts was in serious jeopardy. They made a desperate plea to the U.S. for assistance in the rapid production of cargo ships. Using the British-designed Empire Liberty Ship as a model, America responded with the production of their own version of that vessel. Each American-made Liberty Ship could carry an incredible 10,000 gross tons of freight, translating to 2840 Jeeps or 440 Sherman Tanks. It could even load and

unload itself in remote areas with its three heavy duty cranes. The story of the manufacturing of the Liberty Ship is incredibly interesting and it would be America’s first step to becoming the world’s superpower of military might. See the links to the Liberty Ship story in the online version of this story at Cranford86.org.

American businessman Henry Kaiser had just completed construction of the Hoover Dam. Kaiser, selected out of all other bidders, was awarded lucrative military contracts to manufacture Liberty Ships. The ten year, Depression-era project which dammed the mighty Colorado River and built the world’s largest hydroelectric power plant, was referred to as the “Eighth Wonder of the World” and it made Kaiser a national hero. He planned to create ships with the methodology that had been used by Henry Ford and other Detroit automobile companies since the turn of the century. Critics claimed that Kaiser had no experience building ships and to that he responded, that before his success with the Hoover Dam, he had never built a dam.

Kaiser applied mass production techniques, including prefabrication, in the construction of the Liberty Ships. Replacing riveting with welding reduced the number of construction team members and cut their training time in half. Ships that previously took several months to build were being produced in an average of eighteen days. During peak production, American shipyards were turning out three Liberty Ships every two days. Some historians claim that Japan’s attention to America’s pre-war ability to build war hardware, made them attack the U.S. much earlier than originally planned. Japanese fears were warranted, for after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. manufacturing of war hardware, led by Henry Kaiser would mass produce aircraft carriers, submarines, and landing crafts in the

(continued on page 17)



In a photo provided to us by Donna Blackburn, Edward is pictured as a young teenager, sword in hand, wearing an unknown military jacket.



In the 1942 and 1943 Golden C, Cranford’s High School yearbook, Edward was mentioned as a member of both the Aviation Club and the Cross Country Team. Participants were not identified in the group photos, but we believe we have identified Edward in this 1942 Cross Country Team photo (Top row, third from right). In both yearbooks his name was spelled as “Mandone”, which was puzzling to us. It was possibly an attempt to Americanize his Italian surname. Edward left school in 1943, presumably to take on employment in support of his recently widowed father and eight siblings during the late years of the Great Depression.




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# WESTFIELD COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND SPRING CONCERT - APRIL 12

The Westfield Community Concert Band will present its annual Spring Concert on Friday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark Street in Westfield. Dr. Thomas Connors, conductor and music director of the band, has prepared a program which is highlighted by popular, traditional and contemporary selections for wind band. Admission is free and open to the public.

The program will feature the band's performance of the complete Candide Suite, written by Leonard Bernstein and adapted by Clare Grundman for wind band. Composed in 1956 as operetta based upon a Voltaire's novella of the same name, the music from this selection is widely featured in Maestro, the recent film about Bernstein.

The program will also feature the music of Gilbert and Sullivan, renowned composers of British operettas, with a performance of the music from the ballet, Pineapple Poll. This 1951 composition includes music from the most popular Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, including H.M.S. Pinafore, Pirates of Penzance and The Mikado. This arrangement has been performed leading wind bands, including the United States

Marine Band, "The President's Own". The band also performs Epic March, by John Ireland, Savannah River Holiday, by Ron Nelson, and Music for a Festival, by popular contemporary composer, Philip Sparke.



The band, in its 112th concert season, will also be presenting its annual Summer Concert Series on Thursdays, June 20, June 27, July 4 and July 11 in Westfield's Mindowaskin Park.

Experienced area musicians may inquire about joining the band by contacting Barry Rosenberg, band president, at 908-337-9073 or by email at [info@westfieldcommunityband.com](mailto:info@westfieldcommunityband.com). The band rehearses each Wednesday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the community room located in the Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, and performs throughout the year.

The band is sponsored in part by the Westfield Recreation Department, Megan Schaffer, Director. The band's concerts are made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.



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All works are from the collection of Michael Mattis and Judith Hochberg. This exhibition was organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions.

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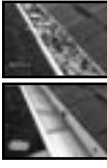
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40TH ANNUAL QUILT SHOW – APRIL 20TH

THE FAMOUS AND THEIR FLOWERS

The Cranford Historical Society will host a presentation on Saturday, June 1st, 1 p.m., at the Cranford Community Center. Debra Nicholls of [debrassimplegarden.com](http://debrassimplegarden.com) will discuss a unique group of famous men and women throughout history, from George Washington to Coco Chanel to Queen Elizabeth, and their relationship with flowers and gardens. Stay for tea and cookies. Program is free but space is limited. Please RSVP to (908) 276-0082 or [cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net](mailto:cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net).

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Harvest Quilters of Central NJ will present their 40th annual quilt show on Saturday, April 20, 2024. The 40th Sharing the Quilts will be held at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, and \$3 for children under twelve.

At 10:30 a.m., fiber artist Karen Hochman of Plainfield will show her creations and speak on “Everything Old is New Again, What Inspires You?” The award-winning hand-quilter is a former antique dealer and collector of vintage textiles. A Harvest Quilter since 1990, her quilts are influenced by and connected to women artists and makers of the past and present.

Kathy Anderson Lee of Plainfield will be recognized as 2024’s Featured Quilter with a special display of 17 colorful modern bed sized quilts. The chemical engineer and active STEM education volunteer began quilting in the 1980’s while living in North Carolina. After a hiatus from the craft to raise 2 children and work in oil research, she rediscovered her talent in 2018.

“It was a revelation returning to quilting given all the advancements in technology, dyes, digital printing along with the new availability of international fabrics,” Lee said.

Baby quilts made by members will be displayed and later donated to a local women’s shelter. Several additional local charities will benefit from the sale of fabric and drawings for a queen-sized quilt and sewing themed gift baskets.

In addition to viewing a full array of modern, traditional, art and wall-hanging quilts, attendees can participate in viewer’s choice awards, kid’s crafting table and vendor sales area.

A tearoom offering lunch, snacks, homemade

baked goods, and beverages will benefit Willow Grove Church’s youth activities.

For additional information, please contact [harvestquilters.com](http://harvestquilters.com) or with questions email: [harvestquiltersnj@gmail.com](mailto:harvestquiltersnj@gmail.com).



(above) Fiber artist Karen Hochman of Plainfield will show her creations and speak on “Everything Old is New Again, What Inspires You?” The award-winning hand-quilter is a former antique dealer and collector of vintage textiles. A Harvest Quilter since 1990, her quilts are influenced by and connected to women artists and makers of the past and present.

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The First Baptist Church of Cranford will host a Spring Flea Market on Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The sale will take place in the church yard and in the annex building at 104 High St, in Cranford. The event is rain or shine, indoors and outdoors. Vendors are encouraged to reserve a space in advance and to bring their own tables. Table spaces are 6' long and \$10 per space. A limited number of tables will be available to rent at an additional \$10 per table. Items for sale include antiques and collectibles, toys, records, books, ephemera, African art, vintage furniture, lamps, household, women's clothing, accessories, china, costume jewelry, useful and decorative items, etc. We welcome all. The list is growing! Register for your space today by calling (908)380-9469 or email FBCCranford@aol.com.

## CRANFORD HISTORIC PLAQUE AVAILABLE

The Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board has a limited number of distinctive, 8" x 10" oval bronze plaques for residents of the North Cranford Historic District for \$175 each. If you would like to own one of these distinctive plaques visit [preservecranford.com](http://preservecranford.com) and check the map on the home page to see if your house is eligible as a contributing home within the North Cranford Historic District. Plaques can be ordered by mail by sending a check payable to Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) along with your contact information to: HPAB 8 Springfield Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016. Plaques are hand delivered to your home.

Questions? Write to [preservecranford@yahoo.com](mailto:preservecranford@yahoo.com). Plaques are bronze and are designed to be attached to the outside of your home. They show your personal interest and commitment to preserving Cranford's historical heritage.



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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ADVOCATE FOR UNION COUNTY CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Five-year-old Jennifer is diagnosed with autism and almost completely nonverbal. Due to excessive violence in the family home, a concerned neighbor called for help and, after investigation, Jennifer was placed in foster care. The two phrases Jennifer can say graphically depict violence witnessed at home and confirm trauma she's endured. Since entering care and being enrolled in school, it's evident Jennifer has also experienced educational neglect. At age three, she was entitled to an Individualized Education Plan from the Department of Education to provide such intervention services as in-home speech and behavioral therapies, both helpful for future enrollment in a half-day educational program. Unfortunately, Jennifer's parents neglected to utilize these services and she is now more than two years behind her peers.

Jennifer is just one of the more than 500 children removed from home in Passaic and Union counties each year due to abuse and neglect. These children are separated from all they've ever known: parents, siblings, friends, teachers, and their belongings. For Jennifer, the road ahead is long, and she needs a caring, consistent adult in her corner to protect her best interests while in foster care. That's where Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers come in.

A CASA volunteer is trained on the ins and outs of advocating for child-victims and fully supported by CASA staff for the duration of the case. No special background in child welfare is necessary; successful CASA volunteers are dedicated community members with varied life experiences who believe abuse and neglect are non-negotiable. CASA volunteers visit the children, make unbiased observations, interview others in the child's life, and make recommendations to the judge. They often are the only consistent adult in the life of a child involved in the child welfare system, as caseworkers, professionals, and even placements



(above) There are currently hundreds of Union County children in need of a CASA volunteer!

can be ever-changing. A CASA volunteer provides continuity during a time of chaos and unknowns.

There are currently hundreds of Union County children in need of a CASA volunteer! Plans are underway for an advocate training class.

To learn more, attend an information session either Monday, April 22, at 5:30 p.m. at the Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Avenue in Clark, or Tuesday, April 30, at 10 am at the CASA office, 1143 East Jersey Street, Second Floor in Elizabeth. Register now at

[casapassaicunion.org/info-session](http://casapassaicunion.org/info-session).

### ABOUT CASA OF PASSAIC AND UNION COUNTIES:

The nonprofit is court-empowered to recruit, train and support volunteer advocates to speak up for the best interests of children in foster care. Assigned by a court order that grants access to the child and all those in their lives, the CASA volunteer gathers information and makes informed recommendations to the judge deciding the child's future. Often, the CASA volunteer is the only consistent person in the child's life. For more information about CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, call 973-832-4002, e-mail [info@casapassaicunion.org](mailto:info@casapassaicunion.org) or log on to [www.casapassaicunion.org](http://www.casapassaicunion.org).

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# CARRIE JACKSON QUINTET TO PLAY SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ- APRIL 13

On Saturday, April 13 at 8 p.m., Carrie Jackson, the quintessential jazz vocalist, will present "What Is Jazz?"

With a dynamic backup group featuring keyboards, bass, drums, and saxophone to back up her musical travels through the history of jazz, Carrie will also have a question-and-answer period after the music for all patrons at the show to participate in. All of this is in celebration of April - National Jazz History Month.

This is expected to be a full house show. Doors will open at 7:15 p.m.

From the golden era of Jazz to the present, Carrie brings her clear, unique jazz vocal styles to life. Her smooth, sultry sound has captivated thousands, garnering a very loyal following.

As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is live, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome.

## ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

It's not "church music." It's music music. Folks who've come to the Salem Roadhouse Café know that it's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music — in a world otherwise filled with clubs and bars. The Roadhouse has always offered its stage to local and independent mainstream musicians. Jazz, rock, folk, and other groups have performed.

What's the common thread? They're all great musicians playing the kind of music people like to hear. There's no message, just music.

Now in its 16th year of operation, the Roadhouse started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth. Hey — that's why we're located where we are, Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That's its social mission.

But the many musicians who've played the Salem Roadhouse Café see it as a solid performance venue. They love it because of its special intimacy and great audiences. They say people here "really listen." Ask any of the musicians you meet here — they love to play the Roadhouse, and they want to come back often.

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Program, Making It Possible To End

Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, and others. For 2024 the chosen charity is the Gateway YMCA's Children's Summer Camp Programs. Many thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.

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# CRANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONAL AND HIRING CEREMONY



(above) Call Firefighter Michael Bachmann and Chief Dan Czeh



(above) Probationary firefighter Travis Literate and Chief Dan Czeh

The Cranford Fire Department held a promotional and hiring ceremony on February 23, 2024. Douglas Petschow was promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief, Wesley Ditzel was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, and Travis Literate was sworn in as probationary Firefighter.

“I am proud of these individuals and the effort they put into the promotional and hiring process. They all worked extremely hard to get to this point. They are all dedicated to the safety and

well-being of the residents and will work hard to ensure the values and traditions of the Cranford Fire Department are upheld. I would like to thank the Township Committee and Administrator Lavona Patterson for their continued support and for always making public safety in Cranford a high priority. These promotions and hiring maintains or current staffing level. We truly appreciate their support and commitment to public safety in Cranford.” said Chief Czeh.



(above) Lieutenant Wesley Ditzell III surrounded by family being sworn in by Mayor Brian Andrews.

Courtesy photos



(above) Battalion chief Doug Petchow surrounded by family being sworn in by Mayor Brian Andrews.

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# BATTALION CHIEF ARTHUR ANDERSON RETIRES


## Cranford Fire Department

Battalion Chief Arthur “Chip” Anderson retired from the Cranford Fire Department effective March 1, 2024. Battalion Chief Anderson began serving as a Call Firefighter in 1995. He was sworn in as a Career Firefighter in 1999 and served as a Fire Inspector, Lieutenant, and Battalion Chief during his career. B/C Anderson has garnered the respect of everyone that worked with him during his 25 years of service in the Cranford Fire Department. Chief Dan Czeh stated “Seeing B/C Anderson retire is bittersweet. While we are happy for him

and his family, we are sad to see him leave. B/C Anderson set a positive example of how to be a public servant. He worked hard for 25 years. During that time his positive attitude and work ethic never swayed. He served as a mentor to our young generation of firefighters and was always loyal to the township and our great department. We are all proud to have served with B/C Anderson and will miss his integrity, positive energy, and sense of humor. We wish B/C Anderson the best of health, happiness, and success on his new journey in life and congratulate him on an outstanding career.”



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SPRING EVENTS FOR CHILDREN

Cranford Public Library

Fans of graphic novels and comics in grades 3-5 are invited to join us for Graphic Novel Book Club on Monday, May 6 at 6:00 p.m. This month, we'll be reading *The Aquanaut* by Dan Santat. Can a ragtag group of ocean critters save the residents of a sea park? You'll have to read it to find out! Participants will read the book on their own before the meeting, we'll discuss the title and complete some fun, book-related activities. Registration is required and space is limited: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/848781517367?aff=oddtcreator> Once you've registered, you can stop by the library to check out a copy of the graphic novel.

Move & Groove with Miss Jolie on Tuesday, April 2 from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. Children ages 1-6 are invited to sing and dance with Miss Jolie! This lively, musical program will have everyone up and moving. No registration required. This free program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and will be held in the A/V Room of the Cranford Community Center.

Learn all about the importance of bees with Pointer Bee Farm on Monday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. Get an up-close look at an observation hive and pick up some pointers on saving pollinators. This program is best suited to elementary-aged children. Registration is not required, but space is limited and may be unavailable to latecomers. This free program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

The Cranford Public Library will resume their outdoor storytime series at Hanson Park from April 8 through May 23. Mondays are aimed at

preschool-aged children (ages 3-5) and Thursdays are for babies and toddlers. Bring a blanket or chair to sit on. In the event of inclement weather, this event will be cancelled.

Help us divert materials from landfill while encouraging environmentally friendly creation at our third annual Community Art Swap! The art swap is for creators of all ages: children, teens, and adults. Bring new or gently used arts and craft materials to the Community Center and swap them for something new on Saturday, April 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Everyone—whether they have a donation or not—is welcome to drop in from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. to pick up as many art supplies as they'd like. The last two hours of the swap are pickup only, please do not bring donations after 12:00 p.m.

You can make the swap amazing by sticking to four simple rules:

- 1. Arts and craft materials only
- 2. Donations must be fit for reuse (new or gently used, not expired)
- 3. Donations must fit in your car
- 4. When in doubt, use the "bestie" rule: ask yourself, "would I give this item to my best friend?"

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Bring your donations to the swap! Can't make the swap but have materials to share? Drop donations off in the Children's Department from April 8-12!

Pre-swap your most loved goodies on the Facebook event page. Share the art supplies you have and those you want on this page. Line up some sweet swaps and then exchange goods at the event!

Follow the Facebook Event Page for updates and reminders.

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# CRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY ADULT EVENTS

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Monday - Thursday: 10 AM - 9PM; Friday, Saturday: 10 AM - 5 PM; Sunday: closed

## Movie Night

Wednesday, April 3, at 7pm

Movies are back! Join us the first Wednesday of the month for a screening of a recently released DVD! Please visit our website or contact the library for film titles.

## International Film

Monday, April 8 at 2pm and 7pm

International films are back! Join us for an International film screening. The same film will be shown at 2pm and 7pm. Please contact the library for the film title.

## Adults Create

Tuesday, April 9, at 7pm

Join us the 2nd Tuesday of every month for crafts! Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Space is limited; please visit our website or contact the library to register.

## Friends of the Library Used Book Sale

Thursday, April 11 - Saturday, April 13

Looking for some good reading at bargain prices? The Friends of the Cranford Public Library invite you to visit their Used Book Sale in the Cranford Public Library's Friendly Book Cellar from Thursday, April 11, through Saturday, April 13, 2024. Saturday is bag day.

We provide the bags. Browse through thousands of books at low prices. This sale is open to all, and registration is required.

Registration is required and can be done through our website or by calling the library. Attendees are invited to sign up for a one hour session, starting on the hour. PLEASE SIGN UP FOR ONE SESSION ONLY; reservations for multiple sessions on one day will be canceled except for the first session booked.

Only cash and checks are accepted; no credit or debit cards. Registration is required.

## Community Art Swap

Saturday, April 13, from 10am-2pm

Help us divert materials from the landfill while encouraging environmentally friendly creation at our third annual Community Art Swap! Bring new or gently used arts and craft materials to the Community Center and swap them for something new on Saturday, April 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Everyone—whether they have a donation or not—is welcome to drop in from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. to pick up whatever they'd like. The last two hours of the swap are pickup only, please do not bring donations after 12:00 p.m.

## Literary Café

Saturday, April 13, 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. The books can be new or old, fiction or non-fiction, classic or contemporary. There is no required reading, and you will have the opportunity to learn about books recommended by other group members. Attend as many sessions as you'd like. Admission is free and all are welcome. Refreshments sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Patrons are welcome to join us in person or online.

## Trivia Night

Wednesday, April 17, 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. Please visit our website or contact the library to register.

## Theater Project

Saturday, April 20, at 2pm

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library invite everyone to attend a live theatrical performance -back in person! New Jersey's own Theater Project will present a reading of an original short play. The reading will be followed by a question and answer session with the audience, director, playwright and cast. Funds benefiting the Theater Project have been provided by the Union County LAP Grant and the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. No registration needed!

## The Roots of Black Music in America

Monday, April 29, at 7pm

Producer, songwriter, teacher, and troubadour, Karlus Trapp presents his delightful, educational and entertaining presentation and concert, "The Roots of Black Music in America." Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

# SPRING BOOK SALE EVENT

## Friends of the Cranford Public

Looking for some good reading at bargain prices? The Friends of the Cranford Public Library invite you to visit their used book sale in the library's "Friendly Book Cellar." Browse through shelves full of thousands of books and make as many selections as you'd like! Most hardcover adult books are \$2.00 and paperback books are \$1.00. Most children's books are 25 cents or 50 cents!

The Book Sale will take place on April 11th (1-8 p.m.), Friday, April 12th (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.), and Saturday, April 13th (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.). April 13th will be bag day. For just \$8, you can fill a shopping bag with books. Cash or checks only. Registration is required and can be done so at [cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php](http://cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php) or via the QR code provided.

The Friends look forward to seeing you at the "Friendly Book Cellar." The Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization. Proceeds of all book sales and monetary donations benefit library programming and events for all ages throughout the year.

These sales are only made possible because of your book donations. Book donations in good to new condition are welcomed and appreciated, any time during library hours. Library staff at the front desk can help direct you. While we welcome donations, please note that we cannot accept the following: encyclopedias, textbooks, moldy/musty/soiled/outdated/damaged books, audiocassettes, VHS tapes. Thank you for your consideration!



(above) Friends of the Cranford Public Library will hold a Spring Book Sale Event April 11-13, 2024.



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# NEW FOOD PANTRY AND CLOTHING BUILDINGS CELEBRATED



(above) A moving dedication ceremony concluded with an uplifting blessing offered by Father Anthony Randazzo of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.



**St. Joseph Social Service Center**

The St. Joseph’s community, encompassing residents from Elizabeth and volunteers and supporters from five counties in New Jersey, came together on February 24, 2024, to celebrate the opening of two new buildings on its campus. The new food pantry building is already in use, and the second building will ultimately be used for clothing distribution.

The cold weather was no match for the warm spirit of compassion and caring that animated the event and has guided the agency for the past 38 years. All in attendance toured the new buildings and participated in a moving dedication ceremony that concluded with an uplifting blessing offered by Father Anthony Randazzo of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.

The two new buildings represent the first phase of an ambitious capital improvement plan to improve and expand services to families and children in need in Elizabeth and to fulfill St. Joseph’s vision to serve those experiencing homelessness and poverty with dignity. The new food pantry building will allow St. Joseph’s to offer a better food pantry model – an individual choice food pantry. With this model, clients will come at an appointed time and will be able to choose their food based on their personal and cultural preferences. The new clothing building will be used as temporary program space during the next wave of renovations and ultimately will be used to offer clothing and home goods in a more dignified environment.

“Dignity has been a core value of the agency since our founding in 1986,” noted Bernadette Murphy, Executive Director. “Our goal is to help people acquire the material items they need to live with dignity. We believe that it is vital for our clients to receive food, clothing, supplies and support services in an environment that fosters

dignity, where individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness are truly welcomed as sisters and brothers.”

Daisy Trocan, a member of the Board of Trustees, spoke at the dedication event about what these new buildings will mean to Elizabeth residents. As a child her family relied on support from the agency during difficult times. “The love and support my family received from St. Joseph’s meant so much to us,” Trocan reflected.

Harold “Kess” Kessler, who has overseen the capital improvement plan from its inception several years ago, remarked that work has already begun on the second phase of the construction plan. Over the next year, the main hall on campus will be transformed into a multipurpose space with private offices for mental health counseling and case management services, new facilities for the soup kitchen program, spaces for the Adult Learning Center and health and nutrition workshops and diagnostic testing, and a reception area where residents can obtain information about agency programs and community services. Karen Maher, President of the Board of Trustees, noted that these new spaces will “allow the agency to expand services to the community, particularly in the areas of physical and behavioral health.”

Six days a week a dedicated team of 6,000 volunteers from Elizabeth, Union, Westfield, Cranford, Mountainside, and dozens of other communities, make sandwiches for the hungry in their kitchens, bring food, clothing and home goods, serve meals at the soup kitchen and help with the operations of the agency. St. Joseph’s serves over 3,500 individuals annually. The organization helps Elizabeth residents access food, medicine, mental health counseling, adult education, clothing and a myriad of additional healthcare and support services.

To learn more about St. Joseph’s please visit [sjeliz.org](http://sjeliz.org).

*Photos from this and other events can be found online at [rennamedia.com](http://rennamedia.com) and on the Renna Media page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com). Feel free to “Like,” “Tag,” and “Share.”*

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# NJIO SPRING CONCERT – APRIL 21, 2024

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) will present its Spring Concert on Sunday, April 21st, 2024 at 3 pm at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield. This Concert celebrates NJIO's 30th Anniversary and is free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted. The Concert will be followed by a ticketed Gala at the same location.

NJIO's 30th Anniversary Concert will feature a spectacular young opera star, soprano Sydney Dardis. Ms. Dardis will perform with NJIO what is known as "Four Last Songs" by Richard Strauss, completed in 1948 when the composer was 84. According to the Los Angeles Philharmonic, they are "songs of farewell – to life, to art, to a vanished world. There is nothing like them in music for the sheer intensity of their concentrated, gentle heartache. It is music so bewitchingly sensuous, so achingly nostalgic, so subtle in its interweaving of vocal and instrumental textures as to defy description."

Ms. Dardis will also perform Lehar's "Einer Wird Kommen" (Someone Will Come) from the operetta Der Zarewitsch (The Tsarevich). Ms. Dardis, a native of Laguna Niguel, California, received her Master of Music degree in Vocal Arts from The Juilliard School, where she studied with Darrell Babidge. Ms. Dardis completed her undergraduate degree from The Juilliard School as well. In 2023 Ms. Dardis was named a winner of the New York Regional District in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

NJIO Symphony will also play the popular Overture to Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss II.

NJIO's Intermezzo Orchestra, conducted by Oliver Hagen, will perform music by John Williams, a movement of Brahms' Symphony no. 3, and selections from Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty. The Prelude Ensemble, NJIO's entry-level group, is conducted by Elizabeth Maliszewski. Prelude will be performing an arrangement of Haydn's Surprise Symphony, Gauntlet, and Lucy Farr's Barn Dance, as arranged by our own Graham Cohen.

**Free Admission \* Sunday April 21st 2024**

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Free Concert

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Purchase gala tickets at  
[www.njio.org/gala](http://www.njio.org/gala)

*Guest soprano soloist  
Sydney Dardis*

For more information or accessibility requests, contact [info@njio.org](mailto:info@njio.org) or call 908-603-7691

A celebration of NJIO's 30th season will immediately follow the 30th Anniversary Concert. Guests will be entertained by NJIO musicians, a silent auction and a tricky tray, and a delicious dinner. For more information about the gala, please see: [njio.org/gala](http://njio.org/gala)

**Concert Details:**  
Sunday, April 21st, 2024, at 3 pm  
(doors open at 2:40 pm)  
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