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## **UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESERVING HISTORY**

For more information visit unioncountyhistoricalsocietynj.org.

The Hannah and James Caldwell Memorial Obelisk recently underwent a complete restoration and cleaning at the Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church (formerly known as the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethtown) in Elizabeth thanks to the Union County Historical Society (UCHS).

UCHS President Joanne Rajoppi said, "The 179-year-old obelisk honoring Revolutionary War pastor and patriot James Caldwell and his wife Hannah, was in terrible condition: encrusted dirt from years of neglect with loose mortar and unreadable engravings. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our country, what better time to reflect, remember and honor the contributions of our patriots, especially the Caldwells, who sacrificed their lives for independence."

The Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church cemetery is one of the oldest in the state, dating to the late 1680s. More than 40 officers of the Continental Army are buried there, many of whom attended the church while Reverend Caldwell served as its pastor. Caldwell also served as General George Washington's Deputy Commissary of supplies during the war. The British placed a bounty on his head and he was murdered in 1781. His wife Hannah and mother of their nine children had been murdered the previous year by a British soldier in the aftermath of the Battle of Connecticut Farms.

There are also more than 313 enslaved and free African Americans buried in the historic cemetery, often in unmarked graves: some are children, and some are likely war veterans. The 313+ Ancestors Speak Project acknowledges and commemorates their lives and burials. A monument with their names was recently erected in the cemetery.

The restoration of the Caldwell memorial was partially funded by a Union County Heart Grant, donations by the Union Township Historical Society, the NJ Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, (NJSAR), the West Fields Chapter of SAR, American Legion Post 248, the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield and many individual contributors.

Ms. Rajoppi said that the restoration included a workshop on how to clean gravestones.

Volunteers, including local area Boy Scouts, the Crane's Ford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and UCHS members attended the four-hour event.

The restoration work was completed by Richard Grubb & Associates, a full-service cultural resource management firm and one of the largest, independent archaeological and historic preservation consulting companies in the eastern United States. Their corporate headquarters are in Cranbury, New Jersey.



(above) The recent restoration and cleaning of the James and Hannah Caldwell Memorial Oblesik at Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth was commissioned by the Union County Historical Society.

Courtesy photos

#### **ABOUT THE UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY**

The UCHS was incorporated by an Act of the 93rd Legislature of the State of New Jersey on April 1, 1869. The objective of this Society is the collection and preservation of all matter of historical relics, books, records, documents, and manuscripts, to stimulate and encourage historical research and the study of history pertaining to the territory originally embraced by Elizabethtown and the present Union County.

The Society exists through the help and generosity of its members. Membership is comprised of citizens who have a common interest in preserving the past. There is no paid staff. The Executive Board and Members perform all Society functions.

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## **MARY ELLEN "MEL" HARRIS**

"Mel" Harris, passed away on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at Overlook Hospital, Summit surrounded by her loving family in her 90th year.

Born in Elizabeth, Mel was a lifetime resident of Kenilworth since 1962. She graduated from Hillside High School in 1953, and Mel married her high school sweetheart Donald E. Harris in 1954. She thereafter served in the U.S. Reserves in NJ.

Active throughout her entire life, she took pride in being very involved in her community. She served as Commissioner, Union County Board of Elections. Mrs. Harris served Kenilworth as a lifelong EMT in Kenilworth Rescue Squad/Fire Department. She served as Secretary to former Senate President and gubernatorial candidate Frank McDermott in the Union County Republican Committee for many years. Mel served on the Board of Trustees of Kenilworth Public Library, Kenilworth Recreation Department, and served as Coach of the Kenilworth Little League, and the Saint Theresa's Catholic Youth Organization.

She was a faithful lifelong communicant of St. Theresa's R.C. Church. She was a member of the Kenilworth Senior Citizens.

Predeceased by her dearest husband Donald, her son Randy and sister Eileen.

Left to cherish her memory are her beloved children Donald Harris, daughter Jean Laurie and

Mary Ellen Harris, affectionately known as her husband Bobby, Joan Polidore and her husband Bob, her cherished grandchildren Sara Brenner and her husband Ken Brenner, Christopher Laurie and Kellianne Laurie, her devoted brother and sister Thomas Ledwith and wife Carolyn and Joanne Coyle and her husband Jerry, and her faithful dog Bella, her extended family and friends in her community who will miss her deeply.



(above) Mary Ellen Harris, affectionately known as "Mel" Harris, passed away on Saturday, January 11, 2025.

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### ANGELS IN AMERICA PART ONE: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES" AT CDC

We are excited to announce that Tony Kushner's acclaimed play, "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches," will be in performance at the CDC Theatre in Cranford from February 14 to March 1. This monumental production is a significant event in the cultural calendar and promises to be a landmark moment for theatre enthusiasts.

"Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" is the first part of Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic that explores the complex themes of politics, sexuality, and faith against the backdrop of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. The play is known for its profound narrative, compelling characters, and its unflinching examination of societal issues.

The CDC Theatre in Cranford is honored to host this powerful work. As one of New Jersey's longest producing community theatres, CDC Theatre has a rich history of bringing highquality productions to the stage. The upcoming performance of "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" is set to continue this tradition, offering audiences an unforgettable experience. Directed by Michael Kidney is the cast: Corey Chichizola as Prior Walter, Brian Petty as Louis Ironson, Sean Lynch-Littlejohn as Joe Pitt, Molly Reinhardt as Harper Pitt, Lisa Barnett as Hannah Pitt, Aaron Hancock as Belize, Richard Colonna as Roy Cohn and Even T. Charpentier as The Angel.

The staging of "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" at CDC Theatre is not just an exciting theatrical event; it is a cultural milestone. The play's themes are as relevant today as they were when it first premiered in 1991, making this production a poignant reminder of the ongoing struggles and triumphs within our society.

We invite you to join us for this extraordinary

Tickets are production. cdctheatre.org. Don't miss the chance to witness Tony Kushner's masterpiece come to life on the stage of CDC Theatre in 2025. This is an event you won't want to miss.

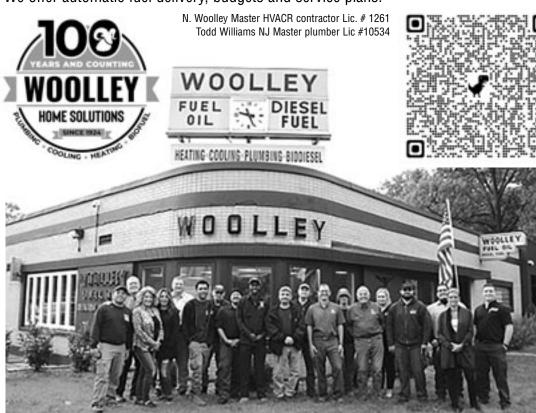
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### **KENIWORTH'S LAST FARM BOY - PART 2**

In Part 1 readers were introduced to Bob Allcroft, a Harding School 7th grader who worked in the 1940s on the Galloping Hill Rd. farm of Anthony Anderson. The Merck company now occupies the site. Bob was 93 when interviewed. His story continues in this issue of Kenilworth Business Life.

Bob stated, "Mr. Anderson was known as a truck farmer. When I first heard the term 'truck farmer' I was wondering, 'Where are all of the trucks?' With a lot of inner self-contained and embarrassing laughter, I found out it meant a farmer grew mostly vegetables and then trucked them off to market to be sold wholesale to dealers."

"On the farm I had typical chores. This included getting all sizes of wooden crates and barrels out of the sheds for vegetables that I and other boys picked. There were no girls picking. Seemed to always be a lot of never-ending rows of tomatoes. Long rows. Row after row of them. They were big. A small one filled the palm of my hand. The larger ones were bigger than my hand. Often the other pickers and me ate tomatoes right out in the fields – like a peach or apple. We chose the ripest ones – the ones that would have been too ripe to go to market any way. I can still feel the juice running down my chin. Nothing like a warm Jersey tomato. Out here in California where I live now, they grow lots of vegetables including tomatoes. Nothing comes close to a Jersey tomato."

"The picking required lots of bending. Many days the sun was so very hot. But the bending didn't really bother me that much. For most of my boyhood I spent time either playing sports at Harding, in the neighborhood, or in sand lots. Also marched all over with my sisters in the Kenilworth Drum and Bugle Corps. So, I was young and in pretty good physical shape."



(above) Bob Allcroft, about age 11-12.

Source: Family

in the fields – there was no shade around. Sometimes each boy or older workers, had their own water bucket. It had a metal cup or ladle in it. Often, though, we shared buckets. Not very sanitary, I know, but obviously I survived. I'll tell you, though, that working out in the fields on a cloudy day was a very good day to be picking. No hot sun beating down on me."

Bob continued, "Regardless of the weather, it was essential to get to work quickly as the vegetables had to be picked, crated, and hauled away. Whether it was a drizzle or a good rain, whether the ground was muddy or not, it was critical to get everything picked in a timely manner. Had to please the wholesale marketers in places like Newark. They in turn had to please their retailers and the retailers had to please their shoppers. Produce not at the right stages of maturity would not sell. Sometimes Mr. Anderson let me ride with him very early in the morning to Newark."

"One of the tasks that was rough – really rough – was at the end of the growing season. That was in the fall when chicken manure had to be worked

"The sun overhead always was very strong out into the soil. Fortunately, by that time school had started, and I only worked on weekends. People would bring chicken manure from their own yards where they raised chickens. Some was trucked in from chicken farms. I didn't want to say no to Mr. Anderson for that part of work because I could still use the money but more importantly, I wanted to have a job the next growing season. Talking about it now, I can smell it again."

> Bob noted, "My parents instilled in all of us children a positive work ethic and that if you gave your word, you were morally bound to it. It's served me well for over 90 years. So, I did so for Mr. Anderson. As a youngster I was driven to do my very best for him."

> Next issue Part 3 – is the final part of this interview. Watch for it. Find out what happened when Bob said he could drive a tractor – but couldn't.

> Research provided by Walter E. Boright, Ed. D., historian, and Historic Signs, Inc. Persons with inquiries about this or other Kenilworth history topics may contact Dr. Boright at drbori@aol.com or 908-256-5200.



(above) Farmers drove their produce to wholesale markets like this. Source: blogspot.com



(above) 1939 Kenilworth Drum and Bugle Corps. Bob Allcroft, a bugler, age 9, last person on right.

## **GRIEF FACILITATORS WELCOMED; VOLS SOUGHT**

The staff at Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss are so pleased to welcome 10 new facilitators to their wonderful team of volunteers! The new facilitators completed three full days of training where they learned about Dr. Alan Wolfelt's Companioning Model practiced at

The staff at Imagine, A Center for Coping with oss are so pleased to welcome 10 new cilitators to their wonderful team of volunteers! Imagine, and role-played situations in which they used their new facilitation skills assisted by members of the Imagine staff.

One of the participants in the training shared a bit about her experience saying: "I was amazed by the way a group of strangers could feel so safe in a non-judgmental environment to share their most vulnerable feelings and stories." Another spoke about the Imagine staff who facilitated the training sharing: "All three facilitators were more than generous of heart and spirit."

Each of the new volunteers is now facilitating a grief support group on one of Imagine's Nights of Support in Mountainside or Newark. The staff at Imagine are so grateful to welcome this new team of volunteers! One of the largest hurdles the staff at Imagine faces in meeting the demand for their services is finding compassionate individuals like those above, who can dedicate their time and talents to volunteer.

If you would like to explore the possibility of joining Imagine's incredible team of volunteers, please visit their website at imaginenj.org to complete their interest form, or contact Imagine's Communications and Volunteer Engagement Manager, Val Stierhoff at val@imaginenj.org. Additional trainings are planned for youth facilitators in January, and for adults in February and May 2025.

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss is a 501c3 that offers grief and loss education and training to the community and free year-round grief support groups who are coping with a loss due to death. For more information, please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org or visit our website at imaginenj.org.



(above, l-r) Participants in Imagine's recent facilitator training. Back Row: Indira Jagoo, Imagine's Newark Clinical Program Director; Cynthia White; Zeinab Fattahi; Virginia Farnum; Arlette Rodriguez; Tikeisha Johnson; Rena Jordan, Imagine's Chief Development Officer; Sonia Nunez, Imagine's Bilingual Program Manager; Ruth Lushen; Front Row: Abigail Priece, Imagine's Clinical Program Supervisor; Tracy Maitin; Tèanna Johnson and Caroline Hislip

Courtesy photo



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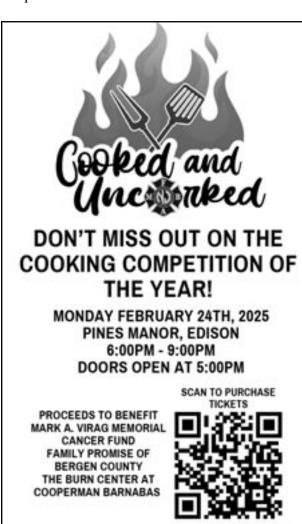
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### 2025 NJ FMBA COOKED & UNCORKED

On Monday, February 24, 2025, firefighters from around New Jersey will compete at the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival, at the Pines Manor in Edison. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Mark A. Virag Memorial Cancer Fund, Family Promise of Bergen County, and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off is an integral part of the evening as firefighters will compete in three different categories: Gourmet, Firehouse and Dessert.

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where participants will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of some of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers, and dessert shops all in one location.



## VICKIE BOLL: A VOLUNTEER WHO MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

New Jersey Veterans Network

Every day, the New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) supports disabled veterans and their families, providing crucial resources that can truly change lives. A big part of that success is due to our amazing team of volunteers who give their time, energy, and heart to help our heroes.

One volunteer who stands out is Vickie Boll. Vickie is a regular face in the veteran community, and her dedication to the cause is nothing short of inspiring. Despite facing her own challenges as someone with autism, Vickie works tirelessly to ensure that veterans have access to the resources they need and that they feel appreciated and supported. Whether it's helping load trucks with supplies or bringing cheer to veterans at recreational therapy events, Vickie is always there, offering a helping hand and a smile.

For Vickie, helping veterans is more than just a task – it's a personal passion. She finds a sense of safety and belonging with veterans, who, she says, are nonjudgmental and deeply appreciative of her efforts. Their gratitude motivates her to continue her work, and her positive attitude has made a real impact on the lives of many veterans.

But Vickie's good deeds don't stop there. Her





(above) Vickie Boll is a regular face in the veteran community, and her dedication to the cause is nothing short of inspiring.

heart of service extends beyond veterans. Most recently, she spearheaded a successful collection for St. Hubert's Animal Rescue, further showing her commitment to making the world a better place for both people and animals.

It's an honor to have Vickie on the NJVN team. Her kindness, compassion, and tireless work ethic are a reminder that small actions can make a huge difference. The world is truly a better place because of people like her.

Help us save Vets – and make a lasting impact on those who served.

NJVN are always looking for volunteers that can both assist with upcoming events and help mentor veterans so they can live better productive lives. Volunteers are the most important NJVN resource, and we would love to have more people help us save lives. If you need assistance or are interested in joining the team, please send us your name, email, and phone number to NJVN1775@gmail.com or call 973-332-1556. Check out our website NJVN.org for our services and accomplishments.



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### **KENILWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY FEBRUARY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

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#### **WEEKLY PROGRAMS:**

#### **Bingo For Children:**

February 3, 10 & 24
Mondays at 6:30pm - 7:00pm
Bingo games for children ages 3 & up
Lap Sit:

February 11, 18 & 25
Tuesdays at 10:30am – 10:50am
Interactive stories and songs
for ages 0 – 2 years old

#### **PJ Story Time:**

February 4, 11, 18 & 25
Tuesdays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm
Children are welcome to attend this story time program dressed in their pajamas and bring along a favorite stuffed animal for ages 3 & up.

Toddler Time:

February 19

Wednesday at 10:30am - 10:50am

Interactive stories and songs for ages 2 - 3 years old.

#### **Lego At The Library:**

February 6, 13, 20 & 27
Thursdays at 3:30pm – 4:00pm
Build your own unique creations with Lego
bricks for age 4 – 12

#### **Fun Friday Crafts:**

February 7 & 21 Friday at 3:30pm - 4:00pm Ages: 4 - 9

Registration is required for each individual craft one week prior to each craft.

#### **Saturday Toddler Time:**

Saturday, February 8 at 10:30am – 11:00am Interactive stories and songs Ages: 3 – 5

#### **Saturday Lap Sit:**

Saturday, February 15 at 10:30am – 11:00am Interactive stories and songs for the youngest listeners. Ages: 0 - 2

#### **FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS**

Registration is required for all special events. Kenilworth residents may register one week prior to each event.

Out of town residents may register two days prior to each event, space permitting.

#### **Boogie Woogie Babies:**

Tuesday, February 4 10:30am – 11:00am

Interactive musical program will be presented by Tiffany Taylor for ages: 0- 4 REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Fun & Fit: 10:30am – 11:00am on Wednesday, February 5

Join us for a fun, upbeat, high-energy toddler and caregiver fitness class! Where we move & groove, learn about healthy eating and more! This program will be presented by fitness specialist Courtney Gaines. This program is recommended for ages 2 – 5.

#### **Yoga Story Time:**

Wednesday, February 12 10:30am - 11:00am

Join us for stories and yoga poses for the youngest listeners and their caregiver.

This program will be presented by Heather Valente for ages: 2 - 5.

#### Read To A Dog:

Wednesday, February 25 4:00pm - 5:00pm

For early beginning readers and those who are learning to read. Young, reluctant, or struggling readers are encouraged to register for this program and read aloud for 15 minutes with a certified therapy dog, Petey. Children will learn to associate reading with a furry, non-judgmental listener and begin to view reading in a positive way. Registration is required.

#### **Good Tyme String Band:**

Wednesday, February 26. 10:30am - 11:00am

All ages are welcome to attend and enjoy foot tapping knee slapping banjo music.





(above, l-r) Heather Valente - Yoga Story Time, Courtney Gaines - Fun & Fit Courtesy photos

#### **ADULT PROGRAMS**

Tuesdays, February 18 at 2-4pm and Monday, February 10 at 6:00pm – 7:45pm for our card making group "Paper Pals." You don't need any paper crafting experience to join the fun.

#### "Yarnies":

Join us on Thursdays, February 6, 13 & 20 at 2-4pm and Thursday, February 27 at 6:00pm – 7:45pm.

You don't need any crafting experience to enjoy these creative explorations. Feel free to bring a project to work on. Watch demonstrations of knitting, crocheting and weaving.

#### "Spin - A - Yarn":

Join us on Tuesday, February 25 at 5:00pm - 7:45pm.

Bring your spinning wheel or drop spindle and create beautiful yarns! If you don't have a wheel, you are still welcome to join us to learn.

#### **English Conversation For Adults**

Tuesdays, February 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 5:30pm – 6:30pm; and on Saturdays, February 1, & 15 at 1030am – 12:00pm. Want to practice or learn more English? We will be hosting a free program for adults ages 18 and over. For more information, please call Krissantonia at 973-309-6971.



(above) Good Tyme String Band



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Scotch Plains 🛭 WHAT'S HAPPENING M O N T H L Y Qty: 5,600

Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07076

320



TOWNS

360 560

900

1200

1300

1400

1800

Qty: 7,800 Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901 Zip: 07083 (partial)

TOWNS

460

600

1000

1400

1600

1800

2200



15

TOWNS

600

800

1600

1800

2200

2400

2800

Qty: 6,500 Zip: 07059

18

TOWNS

660

900

1700

2000

2400

2700

3000



21

TOWNS

700

1000

1800

2200

2600

3000

3300

Qty: 2,700

Zip: 07069

24

TOWNS

800

1100

1900

2400

2800

3300

3600



Qty: 12,000 Zip: 07090

30

TOWNS 1000

1300

2100

2800

3200

3900

4300

27

TOWNS

900

1200

2000

2600

3000

3600

3900

	wspaper a s (wide x High		1 TOWN
1	Unit (Business	card) 3.25"x2"0	100
2	Units 6.5	5"x2" or 3.25"x4"	150
4	Units 3.2	25"x8" or 6.5"x4"	240
6	Units 6.5"	x6.25" or 10"x4"	320
9	HALF PAGE	5.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360
12	Units	6.5"x14"	400
18	FULL PAGE	10"x14"	500
2-P/	AGE SPREAD	(2) 10"x14"	800
BACK PAGE 10"x14"			600
FRONT PAGE BANNER 8.25"x2"			360

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1.5"x4.5"

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## Meeting every Thursday night starting at 8:00 pm

KENILWORTH COMMUNITY CENTER AND RECREATION BUILDING 575 Boulevard in Kenilworth, NJ at corner of 24th Street

Visitors are always welcome, beginner to master. Membership is not required to play.









Please join Troop 83 in thanking our Veterans & First Responders at our 8th Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday, February 23, 2025 anytime between 8:00am - 12 noon

> Kenilworth VFW Hall 33 S.21st Street, Kenilworth



Tickets are \$ 8.00 per person Veterans, First Responders & children under 5 eat FREE



Buy tickets at: http://njtroop83.square.site or from any Troop 83 Scout

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www.kenilworthchessclub.org

## PRINTING & MAILING TO **EVERY HOME & BUSINESS**

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per thousand



## **PRINTING**

81/2" x 11" \$45 per thousand Minimum cost is \$450. Tri-folding add \$15 per thousand.

8.5" x 11" / full color / 2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock 11" x 17" \$85 per thousand

Minimum cost is \$850. INCLUDES FOLDING Quarter-fold or Tri-fold, with coupon tab option. 11"x17" / full color / 2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock

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POST CARD \$120 per thousand

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**Investigator Dave Ruebhausen at** Simmons Hanly Conroy at 618-910-8218.

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Three weekends in February - Three locations

FEBRUARY
10th thru 14th
9am to 4pm
COURTYARD
MARRIOTT
8 Rooney Circle
WEST ORANGE

FEBRUARY
17th thru 21st
9am to 4pm
KENILWORTH
HOTEL
60 S. 31st Street
KENILWORTH

FEBRUARY
24th thru 28th
9am to 4pm
HOLIDAY
INN
36 Valley Road
CLARK

Don't Miss Out! We Pay the Most! Instant Verbal Quotes!

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Bring your Gold, Silver, Platinum, Palladium, Rhodium, Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry, & Coins!



# ADD 20% TOWARD YOUR SALE WITH THIS COUPON!

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   & Numismatic Coins
- Old or New Designer Wrist & Pocket Watches
- Signed Victorian, Vintage, Antique Jewelry (No Costume Jewelry)
- Rolex | Patek Philippe | Jager-Lecoultre |
   Piquet | Cartier | Omega | Vacheron
- Tiffany I Cartier I Val Cleef & Arpels I
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   More

