CRANFORD MONTHLYNJ

Published by Renna Media Issue 14 • February 2015

CRANFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NETWORKING EVENT MARCH 11TH

NOON
LIDIA'S CUBAN KITCHEN
117 No. Union Ave
Cranford
Members and nonmembers are welcome.

GATEWAY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING FEBRUARY 25TH 5:30 -730 PM. KILKENNY IRISH PUB 112 South Avenue Cranford Members and non-

members are welcome.

PRSRT STD-A US POSTAGE PAID Permit #1081 Newark, NJ ROTARY AND ALLIANCE RAISING DRUG AWARENESS

Many kids who take illegal drugs start with the prescriptions in the medicine cabinets in their own homes. So the Rotary Club of Cranford is partnering with the Cranford Municipal Alliance to stop them before they can begin. The two organizations are making low-cost medication safe boxes available to families in the community at local outlets.

A recent survey released by The Partnership at Drugfree.org and the MetLife Foundation confirmed that one in four teens reports having misused or abused a prescription drug at least once in their lifetime. More than four in 10 teens who have misused or abused a prescription drug obtained it from their parent's medicine cabinet.

So, experts recommend that parents secure prescriptions the same way as other valuables, like jewelry or cash. If possible, all medicines, both prescription and over-the-counter, should be kept in a safe place, such as a locked container.

Superintendent of Schools in Cranford, Gayle Carrick says "Keeping our students safe from drugs is something we should all be involved in. These medication boxes should be in every house, reinforcing what we are saying in school – stay away from all drugs."

The safe boxes are small plastic containers that hold three to four smaller pill bottles or two larger bottles. They have a combination lock attached which makes the box tamperevident, so parents will be able to tell if someone has tried to get it open. While someone can break into the box, it sends a

tter

signal that parents are concerned and interested in their kids' well-being.

The boxes are available for purchase locally for \$5 at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue and at Bell's Pharmacy, 17 North Union Avenue.

The Rotary Club of Cranford was established in 1923 and serves the Cranford community through service projects, sponsorships and scholarships. The Cranford Rotary Club meets every Thursday morning at 7:45 am at the Cranford Community Center. Any man or woman, actively employed or retired, is cordially invited to attend our meeting. For additional information, please contact Membership Chair Mike Flynn at 908 272-2827.

The Cranford Municipal Alliance Committee is a community-based organization consisting of volunteer members which is dedicated to a comprehensive and coordinated effort to reduce and prevent substance abuse. For more information contact Kara Noesner, Municipal Alliance Coordinator at 908-709-7200.



CRANFORD CHAMBER INTRODUCES NEW DIRECTORS

The Cranford Chamber of Commerce marked its 71st Anniversary with a New Year's Party on January 21 at The Cranford Hotel. The night of networking featured an intoduction of the Chamber's new Board Members.







Photos of this and other events can be found at www.rennamedia.com and on the Renna Media Facebook page. Feel free to "Like", "Tag", and "Share".

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newspaper 9,500 papers are printed monthly and mailed to every household and business in Cranford.

Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

CRANFORD MONTHLY • Page 2 • February 2015

ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE IN HONOR OF MLK, JR.

of Cranford Clergy Council invited the public to its 3rd Annual Day of Service, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 19th. The event was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford where participants were engaged in various service projects such as assembling home and personal products baskets and crafts for a local women's shelter, assembling food backpacks for children in need, sorting food for Cranford Family Care, creating gifts for the veterans at the VA Hospital in Lyons, NJ as well as the participants of the Meals on Wheels program and the residents of Cranford nursing homes.

The Interfaith Human Relations Committee



(above, l-r) Kay Starace from the Cranford Alliance's Reality Central Youth Group and Bethany Parrillo wrote letters to U.S. soldiers.

The Interfaith Human Relations Committee of the Cranford Clergy Council consists of members from all houses of worship in Cranford, and Osceola Church in Clark. The group has sponsored anti-bullying events, service days, and interfaith religious services. In 2013, the group held the Sept 11th Memorial Service, an interfaith Thanksgiving service and raised \$10,000 of funds for the Cranford CROP Walk. This year, the group plans to hold a book club and a Holocaust Remembrance Service, amongst other events.

> To learn more about the Interfaith Human Relations Committee of the Cranford Clergy Council, contact Cindy Hannen

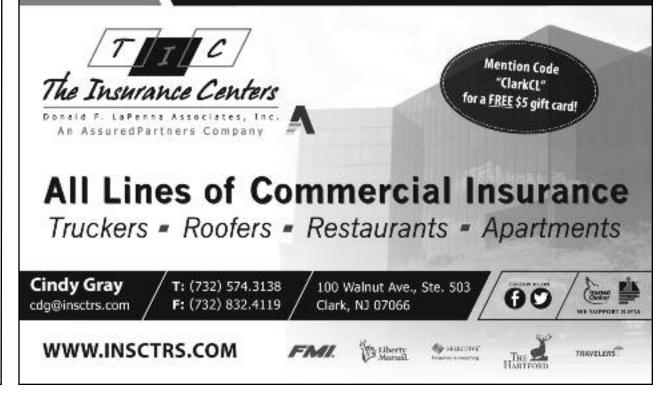
at cindy@patwin.com, or call her at (908) 272-9133.



(above, l-r) Daisy troop 40744 from Bloomfield Avenue School participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.







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We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the tax, accounting and consulting services of Strategic Tax & Accounting Services LLC.

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7 THINGS YOU MUST KNOW **BEFORE PUTTING YOUR HOME UP FOR SALE**

Cranford NJ - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market.

The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar".

To order a FREE Special Report, visit www.njhomesellermistakes.com or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-888-243-5861 and enter 2002. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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POLICE UPGRADE ALARM MONITORING EQUIP

As part of a major renovation to the Cranford an alarm comes in we immediately send police, Police Department Communications Center, the hardware and software used by police to direct monitor burglar and fire alarms has been upgraded to ensure accurate emergency response and continuity in the event of unforeseen equipment or power issues.

The system, which underwent extensive testing in early December 2014, was activated on December 22, 2014 and replaced components that had been last upgraded in 2004. Included in the new alarm monitoring system are two (2) modern Bosch alarm signal receivers and advanced security software that allows police dispatchers to monitor and view alarm information from four different computer terminals.

The Cranford Police Department has offered direct alarm monitoring for over 16 years. According to Cranford Police Chief James Wozniak, the system has cost and security advantages for local residents and businesses. "The biggest safety factor with this system is that there is no built in delay," he stated. "When

minutes could be critical." The cost for direct monitoring by the Cranford Police Department, which has not increased with the system upgrades, is \$95 per year for residential accounts and \$200 per year for business accounts. Third party companies often charge significantly higher rates, sometimes over \$40 per month. With the direct monitoring solution, the homeowner or business is responsible for the initial system installation, but police personnel are available to assist the

fire or EMS personnel." The chief noted that

many remote monitored or central station alarms

companies wait a period of time and attempt to

verify alarms with a homeowner before

notifying public safety agencies. Chief Wozniak

believes that "in an emergency, those one to two

Residents or business owners interested adding alarm monitoring service should contact Detective Sergeant Gerard Quinn at 908-709-7337.

installer with the connection to police

headquarters.





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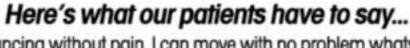
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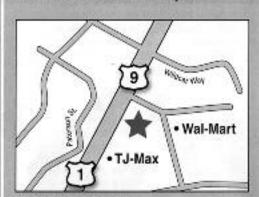
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SEUSSICAL, THE MUSICAL

their spring musical SEUSSICAL, The Musical will be presented March 13 and 14 with a 7:30 PM curtain and March 15 with a 2:00PM

Cranford High School is proud to announce curtain. An open dress rehearsal is available for senior citizens on March 12 with a 7:30 PM curtain. SEUSSICAL, The Musical will be directed and choreographed by Cranford's own

Michelle Massa. Tickets are available now online at www.chs.booktix.com, questions about tickets can be directed to Virginia Burd at burdvirg@cranfordschools.org.



(above) The Cast of Cranford High School production of SEUSSICAL, The Musical



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THE VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOC. OF CRANFORD

The Village Improvement Association of Cranford (VIA) has been in existence since 1896. It was organized exclusively for educational, charitable and scientific purposes. We are a philanthropic organization and donate items to the Cranford/Elmora Soup Kitchen and Cranford Family Care. We also send items to residents of St. Jude's, and our soldiers. Since 1952, we have been offering two nursing scholarships annually. We hold fundraisers in the spring and fall. We visit and entertain, with songs of the season, at Veterans Memorial Home in the fall and spring. The VIA is made up of various committees such as: Arts/Creative, Music, Bridge, Home Life, International Affairs, Literature, Public Affairs, and Sunshine.

New members are always welcome at our monthly meetings which are held at the Holiday Inn, located at 36 Valley Road in Clark, at 12 noon.

The public is invited to attend upcoming meetings:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY10

Our program will be: 19th. Century Farms to Victoria Gardens by Christine Glazier of the Historical Society of Cranford.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Our program will be Barbara Devlin, realtor: "What's New in Cranford".

To reserve your space for an upcoming meeting, or for more information about the VIA please call 908-272-4979.

CRANFORD DAR COMPLETES BANNER YEAR

The Crane's Ford DAR completed 2014 with multiple awards from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the New Jersey State DAR. The local chapter was successful in several categories including "Level One Chapter Achievement Award for Outstanding Accomplishments", indicating the chapter ranks among the top 47 State DAR chapters. The award is based on cumulative points in meeting NSDAR objectives in American history, education, patriotism and volunteer veteran services.

Other national DAR awards include "Celebrate America!" recognition for "Serving its Community". Also, Mary Leonard, Cranford chapter Regent, received the NSDAR "Genealogy Preservation Committee Award" for "Outstanding Service in the Supporting Documentation Project".

On the NJDAR state level, Crane's Ford was cited for "Outstanding Conservation Report" for conservation activities of its members and was recipient of the first NJDAR "Acorn Award".

Locally, Cranford DAR presented monetary awards and certificates of excellence to three graduating seniors: The NSDAR "Good Citizen Award" to a student at both Cranford High School and Mother Seton High School and the NSDAR Excellence in American History Award at Cranford High School. The NSDAR American History Essay contest was conducted in three Cranford schools with 12 prizes distributed in grades 5 thru 8.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a volunteer service organization dedicated to historic preservation, education and patriotism. For membership in the DAR a woman must prove her lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution.

DAR volunteers are always willing to provide guidance and assistance with your search for ancestors.

The Crane's Ford chapter Registrar, Patty Campanelli can be reached by e-mail at patushkat@aol.com or the National DAR at dar.org for more information on membership.



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CRANFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ADMISSION IS FREE. To reserve your seat, please call the Historical Society's office at 908-276-0082 or email us at cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net. Established in 1927, the Cranford Historical Society, a non-profit organization, has been dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of Cranford's history. Visit our website at www.cranfordhistoricalsociety.com.

"MEET THE LOCAL AUTHOR: JAMES GIGANTINO" SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2015

Phillips House Museum, former local resident, northerners repackaged slavery in the aftermath James Gigantino will discuss his book, "The Ragged Road to Abolition: Slavery and Freedom in New Jersey, 1775-1865" at the Crane-Phillips House Museum from 2:00-4:00pm. Program begins at 2:15pm.

A Cranford High School graduate, James J. Gigantino II is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Arkansas.

He is an early American historian who specializes in the history of slavery. His book, The Ragged Road to Abolition: Slavery and Freedom in New Jersey, 1775-1865 (University

On Sunday, February 22, 2015 at the Crane- of Pennsylvania Press) focuses on how of the American Revolution to successfully extend the institution into the nineteenth century.

> He reveals how the slow death of slavery in the North complicated the formation of free black communities and influenced how northerners understood the sectional crisis. He is currently researching William Livingston's American Revolution, which uses the life and experiences of William Livingston, New Jersey's first governor, to explore how ordinary Americans experienced the Revolution.

"CRANFORD'S PROMINENT WOMEN" **SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2015**

To celebrate Women's History Month, the Cranford Historical Society presents "Cranford's Prominent Women" a Power Point presentation by Women's Studies Historian, Christine Glazer on Sunday, March 8, 2015 at the Crane-Phillips House Museum, from 2:00-4:00pm. Program will start promptly at 2:15pm.

The program will depict Cranford residents who were active in the early progressive movements for women's rights, temperance, pure food and drugs, authors, civil leaders and educators. These women include Alice Lakey, Elizabeth Bates, Dr. Deborah Wolfe and Honore Willsie-Morrow.

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(above) President of the Gateway Young Professionals, Brian Randall of The Insurance Centers, welcomes attendees to the group's first networking event at Kilkenny House.

Photos of this and other events can be found at www.rennamedia.com and on the Renna Media Facebook page. Feel free to "Like", "Tag", and "Share".

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GATEWAY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS INTRODUCED

The Gateway Young Professionals will meet monthly for intensive networking.

Gateway Chamber is thrilled to be a part of such an endeavor. There is no additional membership

The group kicked off its program year on January 28 at Kilkenny House in Cranford, NJ, with a presentation by association president Brian Randall of The Insurance Centers.

"This group is about bringing together young professionals who want to grow professionally and meet potential mentors," Randall said. "If they're looking for a job, we want to help them. If they're looking to grow their businesses we want to help them. If they're looking to help out other young professionals, we want to plug them in to the group quickly."

Already the group has garnered the interest of almost 50 young professionals in the Gateway Region. Kate Conroy, vice president of the Gateway Chamber, said, "We feel overwhelmed by the support members have shown for this new group. The Young Professionals is off to a great start, and we can't wait to see where the journey takes us!"

Added Jim Coyle, Gateway president, "The

Gateway Chamber is thrilled to be a part of such an endeavor. There is no additional membership fee to be part of this group. Once you're part of the Gateway Chamber, you're automatically a member of all our local groups and are invited to attend as many as you'd like."

The other groups under the Gateway umbrella are: Union County Chamber; the Central Jersey Chamber; the Route 22 Chamber; the Springfield Chamber; the Kenilworth Chamber; the Roselle Park Chamber; the Clark Chamber; the Linden Chamber, the Somerset Hills Business Network; the Gateway Association of Business Women, the Warren Township Chamber of Commerce and the Irish Business Association.

The cost of attending each meeting is \$10.00 and includes a free drink.
The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at Kilkenny House in Cranford.

Future meetings take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month.





SPEED THE PLOW AT CDC THEATRE

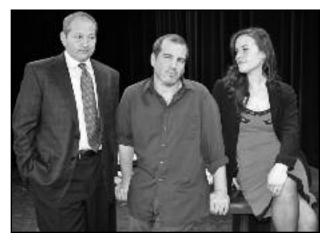
Speed The Plow, written by the celebrated requiring them to give of themselves completely American play write David Mamet, will run weekends from February 6 through February 21 at CDC Theatre in Cranford, NJ. Located at 78 Winans Avenue, CDC Theatre is the oldest

community theatre in New Jersey. A satirical dissection of the American movie business in Hollywood, Speed The Plow focuses on two high-powered Hollywood executives who have come up from the mail room together, Bobby Gould, played by Mike Burdick, and Charlie Fox, played by Jonathan Fishman. Mr. Fishman is also directing the production.

"I have wanted to be in Speed-The-Plow since the indelible experience I had when I saw the original play on Broadway in 1988" said Mr. Fishman at a recent rehearsal. "The play felt like a touchstone representing the kind of brand-new visceral in-your-face theatre I connected with and wanted to do. The thrill of taking an audience on a journey through a performance where the characters are all in desperate pursuit of finding themselves, willing to fight for the thing that they believe in, and in doing so

leaving it-all-out there on the stage floor. I have picked up the script many times over the years, my desire to do the play never diminishing with each read. "Although no longer a new piece of theatre, I find a fresh perspective and strong connection with the material every time."

When asked about his dual role in this CDC production, Mr. Fishman responded, "I have directed and performed in many shows but never before at the same time and I find there is certainly a big difference between directing the scenes I am in, and those I am not. When I am in the house, I can really take in what Kate and Mike are doing and offer suggestions that capitalize on the best of what they are bringing. Switching between listening from the perspective of my character, Charlie, providing performance energy and focus to properly be inthe-moment as the character in support of my co-stars, while also listening to them in order to provide feedback and guidance is very challenging, but can also be very liberating. Directing and acting in the same piece, this



piece, is an exciting challenge that I am thoroughly enjoying!"

Speed The Plow will run weekends from February 6 through February 21. Visit www.cdctheatre.org or call 908-276-7611 for details and tickets. Funding has been made possible in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts, Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs.



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CRANFORD SENIOR CLUB SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

The Cranford Senior Club meeting which are held on Wednesdays are looking for new members. The Club offers socialization, activated for retirees and meet on a weekly basis. Any Cranford senior resident who is interested in joining can call the Community Center and speak to Lori-Ann (908) 709-7283.

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SCOUT'S 2015 ANNUAL PINEWOOD DERBY

years ago, Cub Scouts of all ages will gather at St. John the Apostle Church in Clark on Saturday March 7, 2015 for the annual Munsee District Pinewood Derby.

Last year's District Derby was hosted by Cub Scout Pack 103, chartered under the Cranford Presbyterian Church, who generously volunteered their track for the Derby. Adult leaders from Cranford Packs 103 and 75 as well as Boy Scouts from Cranford Troops 80 and 75, along with DJ Bobby Walker and Batman (special appearance), provided an exciting and fun-filled day at the Derby.

The 2015 Munsee District Pinewood Derby will be hosted by Cub Scout Pack 30, chartered by St. John the Apostle Church in Clark, kindly allowing the use of their track and church hall



(above) Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts and their families from Clark, Cranford, Edison, Elizabeth, Hillside, Kenilworth, Linden, Perth Amboy, Rahway, Union and Woodbridge eagerly watch their hand-built Pinewood Derby cars race down the track.

Following a tradition started more than 60 for the event. The 2015 District Derby will be held at the Church, starting 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 7th, 2015. New for 2015 is a dedicated Girl Scout Division with trophies and medals. Parents of Derby Scouts may now compete for "Lord Munsee's" Cup, a new annual trophy for Parents who have as much fun as their sons (and now daughters) racing in the Pinewood.

> The Munsee District encompasses Cub Scout Packs and Girl Scout Troops in Clark, Cranford, Edison, Elizabeth, Hillside, Kenilworth, Linden, Perth Amboy, Rahway, Union and Woodbridge. All Munsee Cub Scout Packs and Girl Scout Troops are invited to visit the Patriots' Path Council Website (Munsee District Calendar) for information and to register: http://ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/1564574



(above) Many fine trophies and medals provided by K&J Sports, LLC are awarded in each Division to Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts based on best time and for cars displaying the Best Workmanship and Most Original Design.

Photos by Don Sweeney-Troop 80.





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District Munsee Boy Scout Chess Tournament

Saturday, February 21, 2015

10:00 am to 2:00 pm Sign-in/setup starts at 9:00 am

Cranford Community Center

220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ • 908.709.7283

Open to all registered Boy Scouts/Venturers/Explorers. Limited to 40 players who must know how to play chess. Registration is \$6 Use Patriots' Path Council Munsee District Double Knot link to register on-line at ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/1564572

Email Jim Parlapiano jim.parlapiano@bankofamerica.com for more info.

Trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers. Commemorative ribbons and gift bags for all participants. Lunch will be provided by White Castle for all players. This tournament meets the 6a requirement for earning a Chess merit badge.

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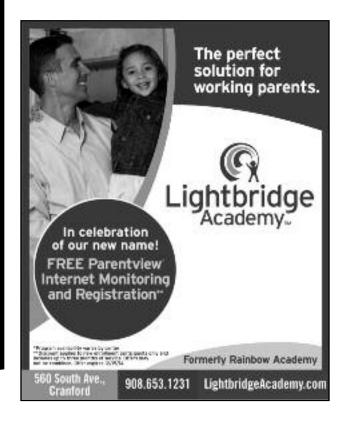
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Cranford Public Library is continuing its ongoing Classic Film Night. Films will continue to be shown on Tuesday nights at 7 PM. The films run the gamut from mystery, comedy and romance, to thrillers and melodramas. Upcoming films are:

JANUARY 7 - ON THE WATERFRONT - (1954).

Directed by Elia Kazan, starring Marlon Brando, Lee J. Cobb, and Eva Marie Saint. 104 minutes.

JANUARY 14 - ADAM'S RIB - (1949).

Directed by George Cukor, starring Katharine

THE READERS' FORUM -**FEBRUARY 23RD**

The Readers' Forum, the lively, long-running book discussion group of the Cranford Public Library, will meet next in the library on Monday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m.

The group will discuss Orange Is the New Black (2010) by Piper Kerman. With a career, a boyfriend, and a loving family, Kerman barely resembled the reckless young woman who delivered a suitcase of drug money ten years before. But her past caught up with her. Sentenced to 15 months at the federal correctional facility in Danbury, Connecticut, the well-heeled Smith College alumna became inmate #11187-424.

From her first strip search to her final release, Kerman learned to navigate prison life, with its strictly enforced codes of behavior and arbitrary rules. This non-fiction story offers a rare look into the lives of women in prison.

The Readers' Forum welcomes new members at any time.



FRIENDS OF THE CRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN**

The annual membership drive of the Friends a substantial contribution to the library book of the Cranford Public Library is underway. Founded in 1979, the Friends support the library in dozens of ways, including sponsorship of the classic, documentary, and international film series, the adult, teen, and children's summer reading programs, the Books & Bagels program, monthly play readings by the Theater Project, and story time yoga sessions for children. The Friends also purchase furniture and equipment for the library, fund an annual library studies scholarship, and fund the library's highly popular museum pass and book club kit programs. In addition, in 2014, the Friends made

budget, subsidized an architectural study of the children's room, and purchased The Drama Collection, a set of 250 classic plays on CD, 31 Great Courses DVD sets, and the complete Bill Nye the Science Guy series on DVD. The Friends ask that you help support the library by joining or by renewing your membership. The annual membership fee is only \$10.00 (\$5.00 for senior citizens and students). Membership in the Friends includes mailings of The Reader, the joint, bi-monthly newsletter of the library and the Friends. Membership applications are available at the main desk of the library.

VALENTINE'S DAY STORY TIME - FEBRUARY 12TH

The Cranford Library and Cranford Newcomers are pairing up to present a special Valentine's Day Story Time on Thursday, February 12th at 3:30 p.m. in the library's Raddin Room! We'll be sharing stories, singing songs, and coloring pictures to be donated to those in need of a little cheer. Drawings will be

donated to Color a Smile, a nonprofit organization that distributes handmade art to "senior citizens, troops overseas, and anyone in need of a smile!" All children who are old enough to color are welcome at this program. No registration is required. The library is located at 224 Walnut Avenue.

VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE PARTY - FEBRUARY 14TH

The Cranford Public Library will be hosting a event will be held on Saturday, February 14th at families are invited to create some simple crafts and bust a move to some kid-friendly tunes! The and all Cranford residents are welcome.

Valentine's Day Dance Party. Children and their 11:00 a.m. in the library's Raddin Room. Registration is not required. Admission is free

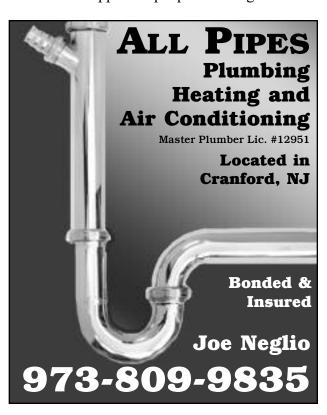
BRITISH INVASION - FEBRUARY 18

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library are very pleased to present a performance of British Invasion music and more by the Carnaby St. Band on Wednesday, February 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Cranford Community Center. The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue. Admission is free and all are welcome. Carnaby St. will take its listeners on a musical tour of the 1960s. Featuring music from the British Invasion, along with various American artists, Carnaby St. will breathe new life into the songs that are fondly remembered as

at time of purchase. Offer Expires 3/10/15.

cornerstones of popular music's favorite era. Carnaby St. will play the music of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, the Kinks, the Moody Blues, the Who, the Dave Clark Five, the Bee Gees, the Hollies, Simon & Garfunkel, Bob Dylan, the Monkees, the Byrds, as well as some of the onehit-wonders of the time. The band has performed with the Moody Blues, Rod Stewart, the Kinks, the Temptations, the Grass Roots, Gary Puckett, and the Monkees. Carnaby St. is living proof that the music from the 1960s is timeless and continues to appeal to people of all ages.





IRAQ VETERAN VISITS CRANFORD

Michael P. Smith, a native of Johnstown in the Army. He then had it shipped back to Pennsylvania and a West Point Military Academy '06 graduate, visited Cranford for the first time recently to spend time with his aunt, Cranford resident Barbara Krause. One thing he was anxious to see in town was the World War I flagpole at Post Office Plaza.

While Michael was serving in Iraq, Mrs. Krause was serving on the Cranford Flagpole Restoration Committee which was charged with raising the funds in 2007-2008 to restore the Town Flagpole. It had been removed several years earlier and had fallen into major disrepair after being erected in 1918 during World War I to honor the U.S Military.

Flag committee member Paul LaCorte donated a large 9x12 flag which was shipped to Lt. Michael Smith who arranged for the flag to be flown at Mosul, Iraq where he was stationed Cranford to be flown for the "Rededication Ceremony" of the restored flagpole held on November 8, 2008. Lt. Smith's aunt had his name placed on the bronze plaque at the base of the pole, as are the other donors and memorials. After five years of service, Michael left the military with the rank of Captain and is now a law student at Georgetown University.

The flag was accompanied from Iraq by a certificate with a seal stating "This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown over the State Department's Provincial Reconstruction Team Headquarters in Mosul, Iraq on October 26, 2008 to honor those who have served and sacrificed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This flag is proudly presented to the citizens of Cranford, New Jersey commemorate the "Original 1918 Flagpole".





(above, l-r) Barbara Krause and Michael P. Smith





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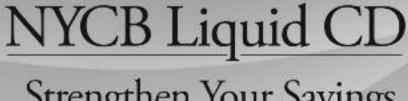
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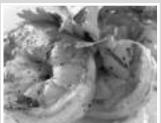
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