PERUVIAN DANCE, COSTUME AND CULTURE

Leap into the world of Peruvian history and tradition with Rosa Carahuallanqui and the PeruincaFolk Performing Arts School. On Saturday, March 2 at 1:30 pm at the Cranford Community Center, we'll earn how Amazon, Andean, Andalusian and African cultures influenced the ancient Inca traditions of Peru in an interactive workshop for the entire community. Weaving together music, stories and motion, PeruincaFolk’s dancers strive to transport audiences of all ages to the Andes, the coast, and the Amazon of Peru.

FLORIAN SCHANTZ JAZZ COMBO

Laissez les bons temps rouler! That’s Cajun French for “let the good times roll,” and on Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 pm the Florian Schantz Jazz Combo are bringing the good times to Cranford Community Center just in time for Mardi Gras. Westfield native Florian Schantz started playing trumpet at age 6, and started the Jazz Combo in 2012 when he was just 9 years old. By the time he turned 15, he had played 300 gigs in the United States and Europe. Fans of hot jazz, Dixieland and blazing horns shouldn’t miss this spectacular sextet.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library invite you to visit their used book sale on Wednesday, March 13, 4:00 pm to 8:30 pm, Thursday, March 14, 10:00 am to 8:30 pm, Friday, March 15, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, and Saturday, March 16, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. Items for sale include more than 10,000 adult and children’s books, as well as CDs, DVDs, and recorded books. Prices range from $.25 to $2.00, except for a few specially marked items. On Saturday, fill a bag with books for just $8.00. Enter through the side door.

AGING SERVICES KIOSK AT THE LIBRARY

Do you have questions about services for seniors or their caregivers? Come visit the Aging Services Kiosk at the library on Wednesday, March 13 at 10:00 am. Speak to a specialist from the Union County Department of Human Services Division on Aging and Disability Resource Connection and get answers to your questions about pharmaceutical assistance, home energy and cooling assistance, home care, home delivered or congregate meals, Medicaid eligibility, social security, transportation and more.

WISDOM OF SOJOURNER TRUTH

Dr. Daisy Century, a historical interpreter, educator, actress, author and singer, brings to life one of the world’s most influential and accomplished women on Wednesday, March 27 at 7:00 pm. Escaping the brutality of slavery in 1826, Isabella Baumfree took on the name Sojourner Truth and began her travels as a preacher. Believing the causes of women’s rights and abolition to be intertwined and equally important, Truth spoke publicly on suffrage, and gave her most significant speech, “Ain’t I a Woman?” in 1851.
2B? Or not 2B? Join the Hudson Shakespeare Company on Thursday, April 4 at 7:00 pm for a high energy romp through Shakespeare's canon. Jon Ciccarelli directs hilarious sketch comedy bits featuring some of Shakespeare's famous (and not so famous) works. Based on a play originally performed in 1987, and performed by Emily Anne Banks, Noelle Faire, and Lily Warpinski, this show will leave you rolling in the aisles. If “brevity is the soul of wit,” prepare for the Wittiest 90 minutes you’ve ever spent!

Alice’s Ordinary People tells the story of civil rights activist Alice Tregay and her contemporaries in the tumultuous era of the Chicago Freedom Movement. Join director Craig Dudnick on Thursday, April 11 at 7:00 pm for a screening of his unique documentary, followed by a Q&A session. The film follows Ms. Tregay’s path as she fought segregation, marched with Dr. King, stood up against injustice, and helped to educate thousands of Chicago citizens to work in independent political campaigns.

How do we re-paint a picture with words? Luso-American poet Marina Carreira will visit the Cranford Community Center on Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00 pm to discuss the art of writing about art. This style, called ekphrastic poetry, is a vivid description of a visual work of art, and has been practiced for over two thousand years. Marina Carreira is the co-host of a monthly reading series called “Brick City Speaks,” a participant in the Dodge Poetry Program, and has been featured in literary publications across the nation.

Book Discussion Groups

Our two book discussion groups will continue in the library. The Readers’ Forum will meet on Monday, March 25 at 7:00 pm to discuss The Plot Against America by Philip Roth, and on Monday, April 22 at 7:00 pm to discuss Vinegar Girl by Anne Tyler. The Literary Café will meet on Saturday, March 2 and Saturday, April 6 at 10:15 am. Bring your favorite books you’ve read recently, join the discussion and enjoy refreshments courtesy of the Friends of the Cranford Public Library!