Giving Thanks

The Power Circle Mentors laid out Thanksgiving dinner for over 100 kids at the Northeast Frankford Boys and Girls Club on November 20th. Lead by Nafisah Lewis and Buddha, it was a big family meal and as you can see, from the picture above, the kids had a great time.

Frankford had many other Thanksgiving observances. Churches, elected officials, Civic groups, PDAC and individuals all contributed to making this holiday better for those who are sometimes struggling. This effort reached hundreds of people in Frankford.

Photo from Power Circle Mentors Facebook page.
A Gift of Friendship That Began At the Frankford YWCA

By Pat Smiley

The Frankford Y has long been closed but to the “Young Mothers’ Club” our hearts were forever opened there. I’m sure we’re one of the only groups from the Frankford YWCA that still keep in touch and has lunch get-togethers. But we’ll get to that in a minute.

The Frankford Y is located at 4704 Leiper St. but we know its location is also commonly referred to as Leiper and Orthodox Streets. Everyone knows about this historic site.

It was built by one of the early mill owners, John Garsed, of Richard Garsed and Brother, who were cotton manufacturers. This mansion was built sometime during 1866 and 1867. John would later fall on hard times and it became known as “Garsed’s Folly”. His brother, Richard, would buy it to bail him out. In 1941, the Young Women’s Christian Association took it over and the mansion became a neighborhood center. Something I didn’t know was that many, many USO hostesses were trained there during World War II. During the 1960’s, with “white flight” happening, the Y would be used to foster a better understanding between the races. There was even a community paper there, called “The Northeast Liberator”.

There was a preschool there for many years on the third floor. I even worked there for a while.

A pool would later be added. In fact, I lied about our Jimmy’s age – you had to be 6 months old for swimming lessons and he was 5½ months old. Well, of course, he was precocious. Sadly, in 2009, it closed with nearly 68 years of housing community service activities. Though a few people have tried to revive and repurpose the building, efforts up to now have not been successful. At present, the building is up for sale.

You know me in many different roles. But did you know I’m a “Young Mother”? And that there are other “Young Mothers” just like me?

Back in 1979, I’m pretty sure, there was an ad in the News Gleaner about a group starting up at the Frankford Y that was for young mothers. Now, none of us that came to the first meeting had any idea how “young” the mothers would be. We learned that, of those who did come, the first was in their later 20’s, I was second at 25, and the youngest from there down to 19 or twenty years of age.

There were 5 of us at first and then we had one young mother join us soon after we started. What’s interesting is that we were not in the digital age yet, so we can’t find a copy of that ad from the News Gleaner nor did we take a lot of pictures. But in my mind’s eye, I can still see us at the Y and also “through the years”.

We were mostly from Frankford with the others from nearby neighborhoods. One of the Young Mother’s boyfriends would be the babysitter for our weekly hour or so get together. I would get teased because my Great Aunt Pearl lived with us and she would care for Jimmy, so at first he didn’t attend. So it was always suspected I didn’t even have a child. Once he was walking, he did come, too.

Well, we met for at least 2 years there but some of the Young Mothers would move, work, have more children so we would occasionally meet at each other’s houses. However, much time passed between us seeing each other, but we can truly pick up just like it was yesterday. We have been doing that for 39 years.

We meet for lunch now every few months and at a recent luncheon, I said a story about the Young Mothers would be a good one for The Frankford Gazette.

Let me introduce them to you: Anne Marie Imperatore is our leader and has done much to keep us together over these years. As we reflected on what the Young Mothers’ Club meant to us, Anne Marie, said that, back then, she didn’t have a lot of friends. She and Donna became “fast friends” and would help each other and just be friends. Now we’re best friends and if some one has trouble, we would be there for that person. Anne Marie has 4 kids, Richie, Nikki, Mario and Brad. She also has 3 grandchildren that she absolutely adores, Brittany, Gianni and Sofia. Home is Hammonton, NJ.

Donna Budelis, is the youngest of the group, and she was a teenage Mom – an amazing Mom. Her role as Mom really put her beyond her high school friends as her responsibilities changed. Donna wanted understanding and new friends who knew what it was like to be a Young Mother. Donna has suffered the loss of a son. It’s still hard for many of her friends to talk to her but she finds that with us, it’s much more comfortable. Thank you, Donna. I think we all appreciate and are glad you feel that way. Donna has 5 kids and lives in Mayfair. As Donna lives closer, we travel to our lunches together and it’s been a treat to reconnect with her.

Peg McCauley is our wise one. When we first met, she had a daughter, Sarah, and I had Jim who was a little younger. Sarah would call him “Mim”. Peg and I became friends and I always admired her.

She had a home on Foulkrod Street with the original hardwood floors, stairs and bannisters. She also bought a white sofa from Work Bench, if you remember them. Well, I wanted to have something nice, too. So, I bought one. But I also had day-care in my home.

A day or two after I got it, somehow Jim and Philip got a hold of the Vaseline and put it on the new sofa cushion. Vaseline is oil and you can’t get that out. Well, Aunt Pearl and Bob, turned the cover over and it was some time before I learned of this!! Peg, too, wanted friendship and understanding of what it takes to be a mother. Peg remembers the fun, crafts, a summer barbecue and playground time. Most of all, it was the acceptance and no judgement space that we all needed. Peg has 3 kids and now lives in Swarthmore.

Maryann King is our positive and effervescent, ever youthful Young Mother. Maryann has two boys, and was very active in their sports and school. They are now 41, and 37. Maryann went on to be a registered dietitian. The Young Mothers Club was a haven for all

(Continued on page 3)
Everyday in Frankford

Philadelphia PA / USA. November 6 2018. Retired Philly Sanitation Department worker, Rosalind Rodgers, wore her Obama 2008 era hoodie for the last few months encouraging people to vote.

Photo by Chris Baker-Evens

The Forever Young Mothers’ Club is very special to each one of us and when we first met at the Frankford Y, who knew where we would go or who we would be?

Sally Parham Wiley is the funniest and lots and lots of fun. She describes herself as a suburban brat from South Philly (South Philly is suburban?) but she loved Frankford. Sally needed something in her life like the Young Mothers.

First we met with our kids; now we meet without them. That’s coming full circle.

The Forever Young Mothers’ Club is very special to each one of us and when we first met at the Frankford Y, who knew where we would go or who we would be?

Given all the changes in our lives, we are still Young Mothers from the Frankford Y and that’s a gift that grows more precious each year.

Look online www.frankfordgazette.com for our photo gallery.
Frankford NAC Approves Dyre, Bridge and Orthodox

By Christine DeJesus

At the Frankford NAC zoning meeting on November 8th, the group approved 3 applications and continued two.

1713 Dyre Street – PERMIT TO CONVERT AN EXISTING SINGLE FAMILY HOUSEHOLD LIVING TO A SINGLE ROOM RESIDENCE – Legalization of a rooming house. - Approved

2001 Bridge Street – PERMIT FOR USE AS PERSONAL SERVICE ON THE FIRST FLOOR FRONT WITH MULTI-FAMILY (FOUR (4) DWELLING) HOUSEHOLD LIVING UNITS IN AN EXISTING STRUCTURE – Continued. Owners and residents decided to go back and find a volume level that would be suitable for both the owner and residents.

2008 Orthodox Street – PERMIT FOR FOUR (4) FAMILY DWELLING (MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING) IN AN EXISTING STRUCTURE – Approved for three family dwelling, not four.

4101-07 Paul Street – PERMIT FOR THE EXTENSION OF A TAKE-OUT RESTAURANT WITH SEATING FROM 1ST FLOOR TO 2ND FLOOR AND RETAIL SALE OF MALT BEVERAGES IN AN EXISTING ATTACHED STRUCTURE – Continued. Owners and residents decided to go back and find a volume level that would be suitable for both the owner and residents.

4500-14 Frankford Avenue – SPECIAL EXCEPTION/PERMIT FOR THE RELOCATION OF LOT LINE TO CREATE ONE (1) LOT “PARCEL A” FROM FIVE (5) OPA ACCOUNTS (4500 FRANKFORD AVE, 4502 FRANKFORD AVE, 4506 FRANKFORD AVE, 4510 FRANKFORD AVE AND 4510R FRANKFORD AVE) AS FOLLOWS: “PARCEL A”: APPLICATION IS FOR THE ERECTION OF THIRD STORY ADDITION OF AN EXISTING STRUCTURE WITH PILOT HOUSE FOR THE EXTENSION OF EXISTING GROUP PRACTITIONER TO THE THIRD FLOOR AT BUILDING # A AND EXTENSION OF GROUP PRACTITION AT CELLAR AND EXISTING GROUP PRACTITIONER AT FIRST FLOOR IN BUILDING # B. SIZE AND LOCATION AS SHOWN IN THE APPLICATION – continued till December

The next Frankford NAC zoning meeting will be held on December 13th at 7 PM at the Second Baptist Church, 1810 Meadow Street.

The election of 2018 is finally over

First, thanks to 177th District State Representative Republican John Taylor who is retiring after a long distinguished career. Taylor managed to avoid partisanship as he represented his district which includes Northwood. He served both Philadelphia and Northwood well. His constituent service has been unparalleled and his successor has some big shoes to fill. Democratic candidate Joe Hohenstein won Taylor’s seat over his opponent, Republican Patty Kozlowski. Congratulations to Joe.

Both State Representative Jason Dawkins from the 179th District and State Senator Tina Tartaglione from the 2nd District and a number of Democratic Party candidates ran unopposed. Congratulations to Jason and Tina.

Now, with that behind us, let’s look forward to the holidays and a great new year of progress.
Frankford – Your Voices Were Heard

By Bob Smiley

The zoning application by Wedge Medical for a 16 unit residential drug treatment facility at 4800 Frankford Avenue was withdrawn.

Thanks to all the people who showed up in person at the ZBA hearing downtown on November 14th. They took up a lot of seats in the room. Also thanks to the 15th District who sent the police officers who were prepared to testify to the drug and crime situation at the address. Thanks to Representative Jason Dawkins and Kim Washington from the CDC. Thanks to the Frankford Civic for getting the word out.

Most of all thanks to those of you who could not attend the hearing in person but expressed your opinions online. Your voice could not be ignored. You can’t ignore the power of social media to show where you stand.

This is a win for Frankford but it is only for this issue at this location. There will be others coming down the road. Wedge responded to Request for Proposals which originated with the City of Philadelphia when they decided that it would be a good idea to put a residential treatment facility in Frankford. With all of the drug treatment facilities located here, we have enough.

The Peter Bressi Northeast Senior Center and Keep the Faith in Frankford would like to thank our generous donors who contributed to our “We are Grateful for our Seniors” Turkey and Dinner fixins’ giveaway. We were able to help 50 Seniors and their families.

A feather of generosity is hereby given to: Amuneal Corporation, Dedicated Senior Medical Center, Episcopal Dioceses of PA, Jefferson Frankford Hospital, Keystone First, Brenda Miranda, Oak Street Health, ShopRite of Wissinoming, Kristin Smereczynski, Bob and Pat Smiley, Stein Florist and Vi Young!

We raise a drumstick to you all and wish you continued blessings and success in your work and for you and your families! To Aldi of Bensalem, thank you for keeping the turkeys on ice! Gobble, Gobble!

About the Frankford Gazette

Keep the Faith in Frankford publishes the Frankford Gazette. This is a print edition of some of the articles available online. We cover the Frankford neighborhood in Philadelphia. Go to www.frankfordgazette.com to get full details.

Editor: Bob Smiley; Associate Editor: Pat Smiley, Veterans Affairs: Richard W. Johnson, IT Director: Jim Smiley, Printing by Health Partners Plans.

You can receive Frankford/Northwood news and event information by text message sent directly to your cell phone. Text the word JOIN to sms+659@telefio.com.

Interested in writing for Frankford’s community newspaper? Email contrib@frankfordgazette.com or call (215) 847-5506. Want your event on the community calendar? Email events@frankfordgazette.com or call (215) 847-5506. Publication date is the 20th of each month. Events and ads are due by the 14th.


www.FRANKFORDGAZETTE.COM
Pedro Figueroa, known to his friends in Frankford as Pete, was born in 1955 and grew up in Queens, New York. He enlisted in the Army in 1971 and went to Basic Training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He served in the infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia and other locations until he returned to Fort Dix where he finished up his enlistment. He was honorably discharged in 1975.

He went to work in the construction field and became a painter, which is the trade he followed all of his life. He worked in New York and New Jersey and finally came to Philadelphia and Frankford 17 years ago. He continued working but encountered some serious health issues that sidelined him.

He has struggled through the hard times with the help and support of his girlfriend, Tammy Hartenstine, who is an outreach worker at St. Mark’s Church in Frankford. He is an inspiration to all and is definitely still a soldier. He has made it through so many difficult health issues, and still going strong.

Pete was recently baptized at St. Mark’s Church. He speaks about his faith and how it has helped him over the years. He says: “God did for me what I didn’t do for myself.”

Pedro Figueroa——Thank you for your service!!!

| Veteran of the Month | Pedro Figueroa | Crenshaw, Edward - Navy  
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
|                     |                 | Crenshaw, Freddie - Army  
|                     |                 | Cupit, Robert L. - Air Force  
|                     |                 | Dandridge, Lowell - Army  
|                     |                 | Daniel, Emanuel - Army  
|                     |                 | Daut, Charles W.** - Marines  
|                     |                 | Dawkins, Louis - Marines  
|                     |                 | Daniel, Franklin - Army  
|                     |                 | Debnam, Kelly - Army  
|                     |                 | Dennis, George - Army  
|                     |                 | Dennis, George - Air Force  
|                     |                 | Dennis, Louis - Army  
|                     |                 | Dennis, Louis - Navy  
|                     |                 | Dietrich, Sr., Frank * - Navy  
|                     |                 | Dietrich, Jr., Frank * - Navy  
|                     |                 | Donaldson, Don - Army  
|                     |                 | Donaldson, Don - Marines  
|                     |                 | Dorsey, William* - Army  
|                     |                 | Durham, Terren - Navy  
|                     |                 | Ellis, Skeet* - Army  
|                     |                 | Fairhurst, Albert - Army  
|                     |                 | Fairhurst, Daniel - Army  
|                     |                 | Fairhurst, Fred - Army  
|                     |                 | Fairhurst, James - Navy  
|                     |                 | Fairhurst, Lorraine - Navy  
|                     |                 | Fenton, Walter - Army  
|                     |                 | Ferraro Jr., Joseph J. - Marines  
|                     |                 | Ferraro Sr., Joseph J. - Marines  
|                     |                 | Fletcher, William (Junie)* - Army  
|                     |                 | Flowers Travers, Donna T. - Army  

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Pedro Figueroa——Thank you for your service!!!

| Campbell, Ronald E.* - Army | Crenshaw, Edward - Navy  
| Carleo, Louis - Air Force | Crenshaw, Freddie - Army  
| Carr Jr., Clancey - Army  | Cupit, Robert L. - Air Force  
| Carter, Christine - Navy  | Dandridge, Lowell - Army  
| Carter, Curt - Navy  | Daniel, Emanuel - Army  
| Carter, Ollie - Marines  | Daut, Charles W.** - Marines  
| Charleston, Winston - Army  | Dawkins, Louis - Marines  
| Cherry, Frank - Army  | Daniel, Franklin - Army  
| Chippey, William - Army  | Debnam, Kelly - Army  
| Clair, James* - Army  | Dennis, George - Army  
| Clodfelter, Jon - Army  | Dennis, George - Air Force  
| Cole, Clayton - Marines  | Dennis, Louis - Army  
| Cole Jr., Clayton - Navy  | Dennis, Louis - Navy  
| Coleman, Floyd R. - Marines  | Dietrich, Sr., Frank * - Navy  
| Collins, Harry - Navy  | Dietrich, Jr., Frank * - Navy  
| Collins, Jerry - Navy  | Donaldson, Don - Army  
| Collins, John - Army  | Donaldson, Don - Marines  
| Collins, Paul - Army  | Dorsey, William* - Army  
| Collins, Robert - Army  | Durham, Terren - Navy  
| Cosby, Donald A. - Navy  | Ellis, Skeet* - Army  
| Cosby, Donald M. - Navy  | Fairhurst, Albert - Army  
| Cosby, Eric - Navy  | Fairhurst, Daniel - Army  
| Cosby, Henry - Army  | Fairhurst, Fred - Army  
| Cosby, Melvin - Navy  | Fairhurst, James - Navy  
| Costello, Joseph - Army  | Fairhurst, Lorraine - Navy  
| Coyne, Thomas J.* - Army  | Fenton, Walter - Army  
| Craig, Allen - Navy  | Ferraro Jr., Joseph J. - Marines  
| Craig, Arthur - Navy  | Ferraro Sr., Joseph J. - Marines  
| Craig, Sonny * - Navy  | Fletcher, William (Junie)* - Army  
| Crane, James Bartholomew** - Army  | Flowers Travers, Donna T. - Army  

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Friends of Overington Park - Tue, December 4, 7pm, Friends Meeting House, 1500 Orthodox Street - The group maintains and supports Overington Park at Orthodox and Leiper Streets. This park has been resurrected and now hosts events almost every month of the year but it can’t do it without your active participation. New members needed. Join us the first Tuesday of the month. We meet In the Park from May to September.

Produce Stand - Wed, December 5, 8am – 9am, John Marshall Elementary School, 4500 Griscom St. - Fresh Fruit and vegetables for up to 50% of grocery store prices, every first Wednesday, outside the main entrance to Marshall School. September 3rd 2018 to May 1, 2019.

Frankford Civic Association Meeting - Thu, December 6, 7pm, St Mark's Church Frankford, 4442 Frankford Avenue

Historical Society of Frankford - Tue, December 11, 7:30pm – 9:00pm, Historical Society of Frankford, 1507 Orthodox Street - The Whitaker Mills Fred Maurer - Historian and Robin Irizarry - Conservationist Henry Whitaker’s Textile Mill began as a waterwheel operation in 1813 on the banks of the Tacony Creek at Tabor Road in the Olney section of Philadelphia. A dam was built to maintain water flow to the wheel and a covered bridge was built to carry Tabor Road across the creek. For 157 years the mill provided employment for hundreds of local residents and finally ceased operations in 1970. Some structures still remain and the land is now part of Tacony Creek Park and is part of the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership environmental conservation efforts.

Northwood Civic Association Meeting - Thu, December 18, 7pm, Simpson Recreation Center, 1010 Arrott St,

5th Police District PSA1 Meeting - Thu, December 27, 7pm. Jefferson Frankford Hospital, 4900 Frankford Ave.

The Frankford Gazette - November/December 2018

Coming Up in Frankford

Fall Programming at Frankford Library

School Age

Frankford’s Movie Night
Every 1st Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
Sept 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5

Block Building and Lego Playtime
Wooden Block Party and Lego free play time at the library. Every 3rd Monday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17

Wii Wednesdays with Mr. Vince
Play Wii and other games at the library. Every 4th Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m.
Sept 26, Oct 24, Nov 28, Dec 26

Teens and Adults

Teen Third Thursdays
Come have fun doing various activities and games. Snacks provided. Teens Only.
Every 3rd Thursday of the month at 4:30pm.
Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 20

Email Basics
Create an email, upload attachments and learn how to navigate your email with our Digital Resource Specialist. Every Tuesday at 12pm
Sept 4, 11; Oct 2, 9, 16, 30; Nov 6, 20, 27; Dec 4, 11, 18

Resume Help
Create and edit your resume with our Digital Resource Specialist. Every Thursday at 12pm
Sept 6, 20, 27; Oct 4, 11, 25; Nov 8, 29; Dec 6, 13, 27

LaBae Daniels
Branch Manager & Adult/Teen Librarian
Frankford Neighborhood Library
4634 Frankford Avenue
Phone: 215-685-1473 Email: danielsl@freelibrary.org

Services at
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
4442 Frankford Ave.
8:30AM SIMPLE AND SHORT WORSHIP
Sunday Morning Bible Study: 9:00am
10:00AM Main WORSHIP SERVICE

Northeast Baptist Church
4744 Tackawanna Street
Service at 11:00 AM Sunday

Campbell AME Church
1657 Kinsey Street
Church Office: 215-288-2748
Email: campbella.m.e.frankford@gmail.com

St. James Lutheran Church
5185 Castor Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19124
215-743-1828
www.StJamesPhilly.com
Sunday Worship Service: 10:00am
Friday Night Youth Ministry (4th to 12th Grade): 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Padre Pio Prayer Center
Chapel corner of Griscom and Church Sts. Mass 7:30 AM Tues, Wed, Thurs Mass: 7:00 PM Monday and Wednesday Mass: Saturday 800 AM (Spanish)
Chapel open for private prayer Monday through Friday from 7 to 9 PM

Services at
Faith Assembly of God
1926 Margaret St
Sunday 11 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Friday 7:30 P.M.

www.FrankfordGazette.com
The only Medicaid plan in Pennsylvania to receive excellent status for exceptional service and clinical quality programs:

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*According to NCQA’s Medicaid Health Insurance Plan Ratings 2017-2018