

John 'Jack' Higgins V, Exxon Chemist, Outdoorsman and Avid Volunteer

John "Jack" Higgins V, 85, of Mountainside, passed away peacefully on Friday morning, August 2, 2019, after a long battle with cancer.

Born in the Bronx, he lived most of his life in Westfield, before moving to Mountainside with his wife of 35 years, Maryann. After graduating from Regis High School in New York, he attended Iona College in New Rochelle. He went on to obtain his Masters in Chemistry from Fordham University. He then worked as a chemist for Exxon Chemicals in Linden and Florham Park for 41 years, where he obtained 17 patents.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman all of his life. He was a New York Giants fan as well as a fan of all of his grandkids' sports. After retiring, he volunteered endless hours at the St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen in Elizabeth and at the Great Swamp, where he eventually became president of the board.



John "Jack" Higgins V

Jack is survived by his wife, Maryann; children, Tara Higgins, John (Jay) Higgins (the late Tracy, December 2018) and Andrew Higgins; stepchildren, Dee O'Leary Chappell (Keith), Donna Gurkas (Charlie), Kathy Romanovich Estler (David) and George Nolan (Jenny), and 14 grandchildren, Jake, Justin, Zach and Casey, Kiely, Emilia, Wyatt, Marissa, Griffin, Courtney, Alyssa, Megan, Katie and Benjamin.

Visitation for friends and relatives took place on Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home, 582 Springfield Avenue, Westfield, N.J. A Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, August 7, at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Helping Hands and Hearts, The Great Swamp, The Center for Hope Hospice and/or Family Reach (<https://familyreach.org/donate/john-higgins/>).

August 8, 2019

Senior Council to Present Fashion Show-Luncheon

COUNTY — The Senior Citizens Council of Union County will hold its annual Fashion Show and Luncheon on Tuesday, September 17, at the new Hilton Inn in Springfield.

The show is called "Generations In Style" because real people from the Council will take to the runway. They will showcase the season's latest fashion offerings from Lord & Taylor. From size 6 to size 18, from 5 foot, 1 inch to 5 feet, 8 inches in height, and from ages 58 to 89, the models have shape, style and experience on their side, and the fashion experts from Lord & Taylor will show that looking good is about dressing one's body, not one's age.

The event will begin at 11 a.m. with light hors d'oeuvres and entertainment by the Karickter Duo, a husband-and-wife team in which she sings and he plays backup. There will be a tricky tray raffle to win gift certificates from numerous restaurants and shops in the area including the Cheesecake Factory, Martin Jewelers, Kings Cooking Studio, Mario's Tutto Bene, the Grillstone and many more. There also will be theater packages to the Paper Mill Playhouse, the New Jersey Symphony

Orchestra, the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show plus an airplane ride for two along the Hudson on which to bid.

The sit-down luncheon begins at noon and includes a complimentary glass of wine. The fashion show will begin after lunch. Moderated by Jennifer Lane, executive staff from Westfield's Lord & Taylor, the audience will be treated to the latest fashion trends of the upcoming season. The ticket price for the event is \$44 if purchased in advance and every year has been a sellout.

"This is the perfect afternoon outing for friends and groups, and mothers and daughters, too," said Senior Council Chair Ellen Steinberg. "And, who better than Lord & Taylor to dress our models with fashions and accessories for day and evening wear that say today's style for every size and shape?" she asked.

Investors Bank, Wegmans and Trinitas Regional Medical Center are among the many sponsors that are supporting the event. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Senior Citizens Council at (908) 964-7555. The Senior Citizens Council is a non-profit organization devoted to living longer and living smarter.



Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader and The Times FABULOUS 50... Cold drinks are served at the Westfield Neighborhood Council's (WNC) 50th anniversary celebration July 20 on Cacciola Place as temperatures soared to near 100 degrees. The event featured activities for all ages and an opportunity for visitors to reminisce about what the neighborhood organization has meant to them. A 50th Anniversary Gala and Silent Auction honoring the WNC is set for October 25.

— Obituaries —

John H. Traynor, Jr., 96, Family Man; Texaco Retiree and Active Parishioner

John H. Traynor, Jr., 96, of Westfield, N.J., passed away peacefully in the early hours of Saturday morning, August 3, 2019. Son of the late John H. Traynor, Sr., a former Postmaster of Westfield, and Adelaide Veronica O'Connor, he was born October 29, 1922 in Westfield, N.J., and was a lifelong resident. He was the grandson of Patrick Traynor, who was the proprietor of P. Traynor and Sons Groceries and Provisions, which was a popular grocery store in Westfield from the 1870s until the Great Depression.

John is survived by his wife of 59 years, Arline Shuster, and his five children, John H. Traynor III (Suzanne Wells), Patrick Traynor (Patricia Philbin), Mary Traynor, Carol Traynor (John Ko) and Michael Traynor (Karen Coates). He was the world's greatest Pop-Pop to his grandchildren, Sara, Kristina, Christopher, Kimberly, Kenneth, Ian, Hayley, Benjamin and Olivia.

He was predeceased by his sisters, Dorothea T. Nelson, Florence Palmieri and Bernice Lynch.

John attended Holy Trinity Parochial School and graduated from Holy Trinity High School in Westfield, Class of '41. He was a graduate of St. Peter's College, Class of '47, in Jersey City. John was a World War II veteran (Army 797th Military Police Battalion), a longtime member and officer in the

Catholic War Veterans Post 361 and a member of the Knights of Columbus of Rahway and Westfield.

John, also known as "JT" or "Jack" to his family, friends and co-workers, retired from Texaco in 1982 after 34 years, where he was Supervisor of Administration in the marine department. He then worked part-time at Norwood Auto Parts, Westfield. He spent his retirement years going to daily mass at The Church of Saint Helen in Westfield, where he was an usher until well into his 80s. He enjoyed spending time with his family, and doing and caring for others. He was also a devout communicant of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Westfield prior to St. Helen's, where he enjoyed helping with bingo and other activities for many years for the church and school.

Funeral services will be held today, Thursday, August 8, 2019, at 10 a.m., at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Westfield. Burial services will follow at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to The Parish Community of Saint Helen in Westfield or The Center for Hope Hospice (www.cfhh.org). Arrangements are entrusted to Dooley Colonial Funeral Home in Westfield (www.doyleycolonialfuneralhome.com).

August 8, 2019



John H. Traynor, Jr.

Collaborative Workshop To Focus on Elder Care

CLARK — A free collaborative educational workshop on elder care and estate planning, entitled "Love, Protect and Lead: A Workshop for Caregivers," will take place on Thursday, August 15, from noon to 1 p.m. It will be held at the office of estate planning attorney Ann-Marie Murzin, Esq., 100 Walnut Avenue, Suite 210, Clark.

The workshop will be co-facilitated by Peter Jacob, program manager for Project CEASSE, a program developed by Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey and the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, and by Ms. Murzin. It will "highlight strategies to protect your elderly family members and friends from abuse when you are not there, and learn about estate-planning options," said Ms. Murzin.

Project CEASSE was developed to educate professional and lay commu-

nity members, and older adults themselves, about elder abuse. If and when such abuse might occur, the program provides support services and intervention. Project CEASSE is funded by the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ and the Wallerstein Foundation for Geriatric Life Improvement.

A licensed social worker, Mr. Jacob has a Master of Social Work degree from Washington University in St. Louis and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Kean University. He has served Union County addressing issues such as homelessness and mental health, primarily among the older adult population.

The program is free and open to the entire community. To register, call Murzin Law at (908) 377-8060, contact amarie@murzinlaw.com, or register at murzinlaw.com under the "Events" tab.



Peter Jacob

College Women of Cranford Award 2019 Scholarships

CRANFORD — The College Women's Club (CWC) of Cranford is celebrating nearly 90 years of supporting higher education through the awarding of thousands of dollars in scholarships.

In 1932, the year the College Women's Club of Cranford was formed, tuition, books, room and board at Yale University was a little over \$1,000 a year. Costs this year at the Ivy League school are more than \$53,000. The scholarship awards from the CWC have helped students to pay for these rising college costs for nearly 90 years.

With fundraising throughout the year, culminating with a High Tea in March, the CWC has been able to present nine recipients this year with scholarship awards. Recipients were selected based on their accomplishments, volunteerism and academic achievements.

They include Alexa Aduabato, Mary Grace McNamara, Kylie Brown, Paulina Onisko, Emma DeBole, Alexis Santoro, Grace DiGiovanni and Julia Sorkin. Additionally, the club's "Highest Ranking Senior Girl Award" was given to Cranford High School Valedictorian Bridget Dineen.



OUTSTANDING SCHOLARS...These students recently were honored with scholarship awards from the College Women's Club of Cranford. Pictured, from left to right, are: Kylie Brown, Alexis Santoro, Alexa Aduabato, Emma DeBole, Julia Sorkin, Grace DiGiovanni, Paulina Onisko, Bridget Dineen and Mary Grace McNamara. The presentation of this year's scholarships continues the College Women's Club's near 90-year tradition of supporting higher education.

Jessica Yorkovich, 26, SPFH Alumna; Excelled Academically, Loved Animals

Jessica Yorkovich, 26, passed away on Friday, August 2, 2019, at Hackensack University Medical Center after a long illness. She was diagnosed to have a rare blood disorder (Diamond Blackfan Anemia) early in her childhood and had a bone marrow transplant in October 2018.

Jessica was born in Plainfield on January 26, 1993 and grew up in Fanwood. She graduated from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and earned her degree in architecture from Marywood University in Scranton, Pa. Jessica loved traveling and enjoyed studying abroad in Italy for two semesters while at Marywood. She excelled at her studies. One of her furniture designs was recognized as one of the top ten in the class of 2017 and put on display for the school.

Jessica will be remembered for her avid love of animals. While growing

up she enjoyed taking horseback riding lessons in Watchung. She especially loved dogs and was always seeking the next dog to adopt into the family.

She is survived by her mother, Peggy Sommerich Yorkovich; her brothers, Alexander and Benjamin; aunts and uncles, Nancy, Bob, Donna, Gloria, Lori, Julie, Wayne and Bruce; and cousins, Michael, James, Thomas, Robert, Evan, Kelly, Julia and Caroline. She was predeceased by her father, William "Ron" Yorkovich, who died in January.

Visitation will be at Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue, Fanwood, today, Thursday, August 8, from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. A private interment will be at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the DBA Foundation, P.O. Box 1092, West Seneca, N.Y. 14224.

August 8, 2019



Jessica Yorkovich



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED...Members of the FUMC Westfield Youth Mission Team gather at the church where they served in Philadelphia. Pictured are: Kylie Haskins, Sean Merkle, Ethan Heifetz, Hope Basaman, Riley Pantalena, Suzanna Rogers, McKenzie Meyers, Jonathan Culhane, Dahlia Pantalena and Julia Flowers. Not pictured is Vinny Culhane.

FUMC Mission Team Serves At Church in Philadelphia

WESTFIELD — This summer, nine middle- and high-school students and two adults from the First United Methodist Church Westfield served for a week with The Philadelphia Project, a nondenominational missions organization. The group spent the week working at the Reformed Episcopal Church of the Atonement, with half serving as a construction team and half serving with the kids camp program at the church.

The construction team spent the week doing repair work on the second floor of the church building. The ceilings in many of the rooms were in need of repair, so the team was tasked with scraping off the first layer of ceiling, replacing the metal mesh, and re-covering and patching the area. The work was difficult but rewarding, and the team was proud to have been able to help a church in need.

Meanwhile, the kids camp team was busy leading an energetic group of elementary-aged children in the downstairs of the building, participating in Bible lessons, playing games and making crafts. The days were tiring but so much fun, and the FUMC team found it highly rewarding to build relationships with the children at the camp.

"I'm so proud of our team, and so grateful to The Philly Project for organizing this opportunity for us to serve and connect with God," said FUMC Youth Coordinator Kylie Haskins. "It was an amazing experience for our whole team, and truly a blessing to serve alongside these youth. They have such incredible hearts for service, and it was wonderful to see God working through them."

The Youth Group at FUMC Westfield is open to all middle- and high-school students. Further information about this program is available on the church website, fumcwestfield.org, on its Facebook (FUMC Westfield Youth) and Instagram ([fumcwestfielddoyouth](https://www.instagram.com/fumcwestfielddoyouth)) accounts, or by contacting Kylie Haskins at youth@fumcwestfield.org.

Eagles Tribute Band To Play Saturday

AREA — The Eagles tribute band Winslow will perform the signature sound of The Eagles' halcyon era this Saturday, August 10, beginning at 8 p.m., on the historic Brook Arts Center stage.

New Jersey natives, musicians and vocalists Steve Ratchen, Don Miller, Jack Scharnikow, Ernie Vitale, Kenny Donatelli and Arnold Valentino recreate the songs, the music, the vocals and the magic of one of America's greatest rock bands — The Eagles.

For more information, visit the website winsloweagles.net. Tickets are \$22, and are available at brookarts.org or at the door. The Brook Arts Center is located at 10 Hamilton Street, Bound Brook. The phone number is (732) 469-7700.

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