



Press Release

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Meet the Author of an Inspiring True WWII Tale at the Ocean County Library Waretown Branch

WARETOWN – During World War II, a tech-savvy New Jersey woman took it on herself to be a priceless information provider for families of captured U.S. service members. Agnes Joan Negra's exploits are chronicled in the book [*Waves of Hope*](#). Meet her son Ronald Edward Negra, the author, at the Ocean County Library Waretown Branch, 11 a.m. Saturday, November 1.

Ronald and his wife Valerie will discuss his mother's inspirational tale, lovingly written from her own vivid recollections in *Waves of Hope*, available at the Ocean County Library.

Then as now, parents, spouses, children and relatives sought any information they could find about their men and women in uniform - whether they were safe, or even alive. This newly married wife and mother was no different. Her husband August suffered wounds in the Battle of the Bulge and was Missing in Action.

Sitting by her shortwave radio in her Nutley home, Agnes monitored Radio Berlin's nightly recitation of captured U.S. military members. She sought news of her husband – but listened for more than that. She began notating all the names. Then she personally contacted the families of each one by mail. Often, her letters were the first word that families received.

In Ronald's book, she recounts the turmoil of families on the home front, the spirit of hope they gained from her messages, and the exhilaration of reuniting with her husband. Autographed copies of *Waves of Hope* will be available for purchase following the program.

Ronald, a retired medical executive born and raised in Nutley, traced his family's past in the 2004 book *The History of the Verdi Family: Celebrating 100 Years in America*. He also authored a biography of his father, August E. Negra. CBS News and News12 New Jersey aired interviews with Ronald and the late Agnes Negra.

Signed copies of Negra's book will be available for purchase after the program.

This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Waretown Library.

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Registration is required for this free program. To register, or for more information, visit tinyurl.com/NegraWaretown, visit the branch at 112 Main Street, or call 609-693-5133. Registration opens on October 18. See the full schedule of Library programs in the online [Calendar of Events](#).

OCL turns 100 this year and you're why we're celebrating! See details on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [YouTube](#), [Spotify](#), [Pinterest](#) and <https://theoceancountylibrary.org>.



Agnes Joan (Verdi) Negra (1919-2022)



Ronald Negra
Photos Courtesy of Ronald Negra

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