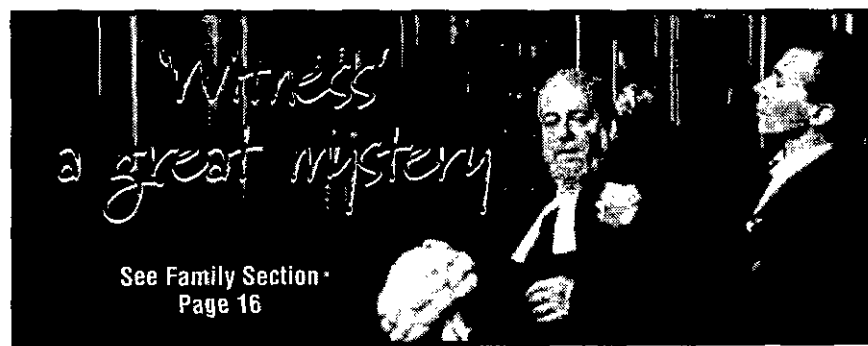


# The Spotlight



Vol. XLII No. 5 The weekly newspaper serving the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland January 29, 1997 50¢

## EnCon takes umbrage with citizen charges

*Agency calls accusations political*

By Mel Hyman  
 Criticism of how the state Department of Environmental Conservation will review a proposed formaldehyde plant in Bethlehem is politically tinged, according to EnCon spokesman Gary Sheffer.  
 Defending the agency against the charge leveled by Bethlehem Citizens for

the others have been. DEC will be impartial in its evaluation, as it's always been, regardless of who sits in the governor's seat."

The professional engineers working on Spurlock will be the "same ones" who have reviewed similar projects in the past, he said.

The charge that EnCon has become more pro-business since Republican Gov. George Pataki took office in 1995 is not new. It has been leveled time and again by environmental groups such as Environmental Advocates and the New York Public Interest Research Group.

"All I can say is that this is a nonpartisan group," Moriece said. "There is nothing political about our group."

"From day one, the DEC has tainted the regulatory process with regard to Spurlock," she said. "It was wrong for Deputy Commissioner David Sterman to have welcomed Spurlock to New York before they had even filed an application."

□ ENCON/page 4

**DEC will be impartial in its evaluation, as it's always been, regardless of who sits in the governor's seat.**

Gary Sheffer

Clean Air spokeswoman Sigi Moriece that the agency has taken a pro-business stance when reviewing projects, Sheffer said, "It's unfortunate that the citizens have bought into what is largely politically motivated Democratic rhetoric."

EnCon's environmental review of Spurlock Adhesives' plan to operate a formaldehyde production plant off Route 144 in Glenmont will be "fair and objective just as

## Fitting tribute



Theresa Raeder's memorial service at Delmar Presbyterian Church was just as she would have liked it. Raeder of New Scotland, an Irish wolfhound breeder and a founder of the Canine Company, was remembered by family and friends and their dogs on Saturday. Doug Persons

## Overnight parking ban in effect

Bethlehem town justices Peter Wenger and Peter Bishko remind residents that the townwide ban on overnight street parking remains in effect through April 15.

A slew of tickets have been handed out in recent weeks, according to court clerk Barbara Hodom, with many people apparently unaware that the

ordinance is in effect.

The ordinance prohibits vehicles from parking on town streets and highways between the hours of 1 and 7 a.m. Owners of vehicles parked in violation of the ordinance can be fined \$25 to \$50, and if it's a snow emergency, the vehicle can be towed at the owner's expense.

## Building permits edge upward

By Mel Hyman

The number of building permits issued for single-family houses in Bethlehem edged upward last year.

A total of 99 permits were issued for new homes compared with only 76 for 1995. Over the last two years, however,

new home construction has fallen off sharply compared to the bullish period between 1992 and 1994 when an average of 150 building permits was issued each year.

The flat market for new home construction in Bethlehem was offset somewhat by the arrival of Price Chopper, which received a building permit for its new supermarket on New Scotland Road. The construction value of their building is set at \$3.4 million, according to town building inspector John Flanigan.

A permit was also issued for the new Albank branch in the Price Chopper plaza with a listed construction value of \$700,000.

The assessed valuation of these buildings will not be determined until they are completed and a certificate of occupancy has been issued, according to town assessor Dave Leafer.

"Their assessed value may or may not reflect their construction value," he said, although it's not expected to be "widely different."

The construction cost of the new Good Samaritan Lutheran Adult Home (along with 67 new assisted-living units) on

□ PERMITS/page 4

## BC director readies cast for Gables

By Katherine McCarthy

In New York, theater directors give interviews at trendy bistros that serve nouvelle cuisine. At Bethlehem Central Middle School, it's a hero sandwich and Diet Coke straight from the 2-liter bottle for director Frank Leavitt.

If a director is measured more by his enthusiasm than culinary habits, though, it's hard to imagine a play being more successful than the middle school's upcoming production of *Anne of Green Gables*, a musical scheduled for Feb. 6, 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. in the middle school auditorium.

"L.M. Montgomery wrote about six or seven books in the *Anne of Green Gables*"

□ GABLES/page 24



Choreographer Muriel Welch and Risa Sarachen rehearse for *Anne of Green Gables*.

# Man dies of injuries sustained in crash

An Albany man died Monday from injuries sustained from an accident on Route 85 in Slingerlands earlier that day.

Charles F. Russo, 26, of 18 Winnie St., died at 4:26 p.m., according to a spokesman for Albany Medical Center Hospital.

Russo was traveling northbound at about 3:40 a.m. when his vehicle was struck head-on by a vehicle traveling southbound driven by Christopher J. Mansfield, 31, of 3 Seward St., Saratoga Springs, police said.

The accident occurred on Route 85 about one mile south of Krumkill Road, police said.

Mansfield, who was charged with felony DWI and failure to keep right, swerved into the northbound lane just before his vehicle collided with Russo's. Both men were transported to Albany Medical Center Hospital by Bethlehem Ambulance.

Mansfield also sustained injuries and is listed in fair condition at Albany Medical Center Hospital.

Further charges are pending, police said. Troopers Kevin Houlihan and Tim Hard investigated.

# Police probe break-in attempt at water plant

Bethlehem police are investigating a break-in attempt at the town's water treatment plant on Clapper Road in Selkirk.

Sometime early Wednesday, Jan. 22, an attempt was made to pry open a rear door at the plant, but entry was not gained. Footprints were traced from the crime scene to Clapper Road north of the plant where tire prints were discovered.

It was the "first time we've had any trouble" at the facility since it opened in January 1996, said, Public Works Commissioner Bruce Secor.

"The room they were trying to get into was where the tools were stored," he said. The plant's power generators are also located in this area.

The would-be burglar(s) apparently misjudged security at the plant since the door they were trying to open was "solid steel," Secor said.

Officer Stephen Demarest investigated.

*In Feura Bush The Spotlight is sold at Houghtalings and Stewarts*

# Feestelijk moves ahead

Feestelijk Bethlehem, the music and arts celebration planned for the first weekend in May, is now an official town activity.

The town board last week voted to give Feestelijk Bethlehem planners official status as a town committee.

At the same time, the board approved a \$1,000 donation to help the event get off the ground. Lorraine Smith, co-chair of the event, told the board that the total cost of the festival would be about \$10,000.

The largest expense will be outlays for performers, all of whom are expected to come from Bethlehem. While final details have yet to be worked out for the Saturday, May 3, event, organizers are looking to line up 10 separate venues in the town for musicians, artists and possibly theater and/or dance groups to perform.

The festival will run from 7 to 11 p.m.

The idea originated last fall, Smith said, during the annual retreat sponsored by Bethlehem Community Partnership.

"We brainstormed ideas and projects that we thought would make this a better community," Smith said. "We tried to focus on something that would boost community spirit. Of all the events we've had over the years, the one

that gets mentioned the most in that regard is Bethlehem First Night, which was held as part of the town's bicentennial (in 1993)."

Once the idea of an arts festival was agreed upon, "We decided to try and give it a new identity by drawing upon our Dutch heritage," she said. Feestelijk is the Dutch word for festival.

To ensure that a wide range of people are involved, Feestelijk organizers plan to incorporate students in the planning, implementation and actual staging of the event—with certain students even invited to perform.

Could this be an annual event? "That's what is hoped for," Smith said, "but first we have a lot of work ahead of us to make this one a success."

*Mel Hyman*

# Correction

Some information regarding The Beverwyck in *The Spotlight* Update edition in last week's issue was incomplete or incorrect.

The Beverwyck, a retirement community in Slingerlands for independent seniors created by two area senior care groups — The Eddy and Albany Guardian Society — will offer residents an assistive living program once "Phase III" of the development is completed. In all, the development has 186 apartments, 15 cottages and a guest suite.

Currently, if a resident needs medical assistance or placement in a nursing home, The Eddy — a member of a regional non-profit healthcare network — can transfer that resident to one of its other facilities that offer the required services.

Residents pay an entry fee of \$120,000 to \$199,000, in addition to monthly rent.

However, if a person chooses to leave Beverwyck, for example because of medical problems, at least 75 percent of the fee is refunded so the person can afford proper care elsewhere.

# Speeding stop nets weapon

Police charged a Castleton man with three misdemeanors last week after he was stopped for exceeding the speed limit on Delaware Avenue in Delmar.

William J. Adams, 20, of 1836 Columbia Turnpike, was stopped at 2:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, Bethlehem police said.

A computer check subsequently revealed that Adams' license was suspended, and he was

charged with third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

He was also charged with second-degree criminal impersonation and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon for having a wooden baton or night stick on his back seat. He was released pending a Feb. 4 appearance in town court. Officer Robert Markel investigated.

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# Bethlehem cops bring pedestrian safety message to schools

By Katherine McCarthy

Safety. That's what's on Bethlehem police officer Jeff Vunck's mind, and that's what he wants on the minds of Bethlehem Central pupils.

Vunck and fellow traffic officer Bruce Oliver have been taking their safety message to the schools, emphasizing the basics of pedestrian and biking safety.

"Right now, we do about a 10- or 15-minute overview in each of the classes," Vunck said. "In the spring, we'll come back and do a longer program."

The Bethlehem police department and the school district have worked together to create this safety program in response to two recent pedestrian fatalities. By working at the elementary level, Vunck hopes to introduce and reinforce safety rules so they become second nature to the children.

"The kids are receptive and smart," Vunck said. "Safety gets reinforced in the schools, and in physical education classes, and the kids just know it."

Vunck said a number of problems arise at the middle school level, when kids are out on their own more. In conjunction with school resource officers Mike McMillen at the middle school and Vince Rinaldi at the high school, programs are being offered to suit the different age groups' safety needs.

"We're addressing it at all levels," Vunck said, starting with bike and pedestrian safety at the elementary schools, adding in-line skating and skateboarding concerns at the middle school, and the transition to driving for high schoolers.



Bethlehem police officer Jeff Vunck explains the dangers of chasing balls into the street to Mark Loomis, Debbie Gorman, Missy Clarke, Seth Fox and Sarah Lackner.

Vunck recently spoke to children in grades-one, two and three at Glenmont Elementary School. All the children seemed impressed to see a uniformed officer in their classroom.

In a lively question-and-answer session, Vunck reminded the children to bike with traffic, but walk facing it; to cross streets at the corner, and always with an adult; to get an adult to help retrieve a basketball or Frisbee from the road; and to make eye contact with the bus driver and wait for his or her signal before crossing the street.

Jane Wood, who teaches a combined 2/3 class at Glenmont,

said having an officer speak to the children helps on two levels.

"He's getting across good information," she said, "and it shows a policeman in the best possible light, that of helper."

Wood said the safety program spurs a lot of discussion among the children, in the cafeteria and on the playground, and many write about the safety tips during writing time.

Vunck said the changing nature of the town has increased the need for safety awareness.

"There's more commercial traffic, and more housing developments, or developments with

additions," he said. "That means more vehicles, more roads, and more likelihood of a crash."

Vunck said that laws have changed, too, something that parents may not know.

"It's law that those 14 and under wear a bike helmet," Vunck said, adding that adults should wear one, too. "My pet peeve is to see parents biking with children, and the children are wearing helmets and the adults aren't."

Vunck also said that reflectors and lights are necessary for night biking, and a warning device makes a bike safer.

"Being seen at night is essen-

tial," Vunck said, modeling his reflective vest for the class. "Wear visible clothes, a reflective vest and carry a flashlight. If you're in a group, walk single file."

Vunck pointed out that roads are designed for vehicles, and offered the following tips for safer walking:

- Use the sidewalk whenever possible.
- Be conscious of what's around, especially intersections or driveways.
- Walk and bike defensively. In heavy traffic, it's often difficult to be seen.
- Bicyclists should always use hand and arm signals.
- Pedestrians shouldn't step out from between parked cars.
- Cross at the crosswalk.
- Keep a Walkman at a level so that you can hear vehicles around you.

Vunck also said that car drivers must exercise care.

"There are a lot more bikes and joggers out there," he said. "People are out at all times of the day and night. Drivers should slow down, give bikes and joggers enough room."

Perhaps most important, Vunck said, is that parents set a good example, wearing a bike helmet or seat belt, and reinforcing the safety rules kids hear in school.

Vunck pointed out that police are responsive to specific safety situations, and urged people to let the traffic department know about problem areas, such as a bad intersection or an obscured sign.

Mostly, Vunck urged, "Use common sense. Know where you're going and what you're doing."

## NiMo cuts investment in Glenmont plant

Power glut forces sale of backup equipment

By Mel Hyman

With the power market in the Northeast glutted with electricity, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. is dismantling four natural gas turbines at its Albany steam generating station in Glenmont for sale to electricity producers abroad.

At the same time, NiMo hopes the sale will reduce the property tax bill on its Route 144 facility by an estimated \$700,000 to \$750,000 per year, said company spokesman Nick Lyman.

Bethlehem assessor David Leafer said there's no guarantee NiMo's property tax load will be lessened appreciably as a result of the sale.

"I'm going down there this morning to meet with NiMo and go over whatever it is that they're removing," he said. "And then afterward we'll have to sit down with our appraiser and the attorneys involved with the litigation (with NiMo) and see what effect, if any, it will have on the total assessed value of the property."

**We would like to keep the plant running in the town of Bethlehem and remain as a significant employer and taxpayer, but the tax bill is very, very steep.**

NiMo spokesman Nick Lyman

NiMo paid \$7.6 million in property taxes to the town, county and Bethlehem Central School District last year, Leafer said. The total assessed value of the Glenmont facility and surrounding property is \$257 million.

Bethlehem and NiMo have been locked in a long-running battle over what the true assessment of the plant should be.

NiMo insists it should be drastically reduced because the plant

is not operating at full capacity.

"Typically, it runs about at about 25 percent of capacity given the glut in the market," Lyman said. "We would like to keep the plant running in the town of Bethlehem and remain as a significant employer and taxpayer, but the tax bill is very, very steep."

Tax litigation filed by NiMo contesting its assessments for 1990-92 was decided in favor of the town last year. Still pending are tax lawsuits filed by the company for 1993-96.

The four turbines being sold have a combined capacity of 160 megawatts. They were first installed in 1970 as a backup power source.

Leafer said the assessed valuation of the facility might not be greatly affected since the generators have evidently not been used in a while.

"That's the feeling I have," he said. "They've had them there as a backup, and now they're getting rid of them."

## Learning language skills is as easy as playing catch

By Dev Tobin

Old-timers who wonder what the difference is between English and its curricular successor "Language Arts" in the Bethlehem Central School District would have learned quite a bit at last week's school board meeting.

Katherine Bartley, BC's elementary language arts coordinator, told the board that the relatively new subject area encompasses more than the traditional two-out-of-three Rs — reading and writing.

She said that all BC elementary pupils now participate in a 10-lesson communications lab that stresses listening and speaking skills in both first- and third-grade.

"I haven't seen anything as effective in teaching listening and speaking skills" as the communications lab concept, developed by Illinois educator Ellen Pritchard Dodge, Bartley said.

Jan Fitzpatrick, an elementary speech therapist, and Betsy Voetsch, a teacher at Glenmont, showed how a simple game of catch helps pupils understand that speaking and listening are like throwing and catching.

The game "moves children from a concrete experience to understanding of an abstract concept," Voetsch said.

Fitzpatrick demonstrated that throwing the ball short or too hard is like whispering or shouting, which are obviously ineffective ways to communicate.

Bartley noted that all BC elementary teachers have completed in-service training, provided by district staff, in the communications lab concept.

In another matter, Franz Zwicklbauer, assistant superintendent for business, reported that the district sold \$13.5 million in bonds at 5.34 percent, a "very low interest rate," earlier in the day.

The bonds will fund the major part of a \$14.8 million facilities and technology improvement project approved by voters in December 1995.

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# EnCon

(From Page 1)

EnCon has "continued to behave as though they were tilted toward Spurlock," she said. "They have stonewalled my request for critical information that I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Law."

Sheffer said that the agency will be sending out a draft scoping document shortly to all interested parties, which details what needs to be included in the company's environmental impact statement. Public input on the scoping document will be accepted for 21 days.

"This will be an open and thorough process where the community will have an abundant opportunity to participate," Sheffer said.

"The key issue right now for the residents is whether the town

board will allocate \$100,000" to hire technical and legal experts to participate in the state environmental quality review process, Moriece said. "It would be absolutely negligent on their part to rely on the expertise of the DEC to evaluate this project."

The town board is expected to discuss hiring independent consultants at its Wednesday, Feb. 12, meeting.

In a related development, Bethlehem Citizens for Clean Air in conjunction with the New York Public Interest Research Group, called on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Monday to intervene in the Spurlock matter.

"Our organizations believe that the State of New York has compromised its ability to conduct an impartial and comprehensive re-

view of this project during the SEQR and permitting process," said NYPIRG senior environmental associate Judith Enck. "Therefore, we respectfully request that the EPA intervene and take over the environmental review process for this proposed facility."

The "review of this application is going to be handled by professional engineers," Sheffer said. The letter to the EPA is a "slap in the face of our career public servants. (NYPIRG and the citizens group) are the ones making this a political issue."

## Feestelijk Bethlehem to star local talent

The Bethlehem community is accepting applications from performing artists for Feestelijk Bethlehem, a community-wide celebration of local talent.

Reflecting Bethlehem's Dutch heritage by incorporating the Dutch word "feestelijk" (pronounced face-te-lick) or "festive," Feestelijk Bethlehem will showcase local performing artists.

The event will take place on Saturday, May 3. Feestelijk Bethlehem will feature continuous performances from 7 to 11 p.m. in 10 centrally-located indoor venues, including churches, schools and municipal buildings.

All artists are encouraged to apply, including musicians, children's performers and theater groups. Each applicant or group must submit a promotional package including an audio or video tape.

Interested parties should send materials to Feestelijk Bethlehem, attn: Entertainment Committee, P.O. Box 1, Delmar 12054. The deadline for applications is Feb. 15.

# Permits

(From Page 1)

Rockefeller Road is also estimated at \$3.4 million. But unlike the buildings in the Price Chopper center, it will probably not increase the assessed valuation in town since it is tax-exempt due to its nonprofit status.

The 160 permits issued for residential alterations and additions was down slightly from the 170 issued in 1995.

Construction started on only two apartment buildings in Bethlehem last year. When completed, they will provide 16 new units.

That is a dramatic decrease from the prior year, when eight apartments were erected containing 184 units.

No building permits were issued for townhouses last year. Twenty-four townhouse units were constructed in 1995.

## Area student named in Who's Who list

Nicole Marie Bailey of Feura Bush is in the 1997 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges*. Bailey, a second-year student majoring in marketing and management, was among 20 students from Sage Junior College of Albany selected as outstanding campus leaders.

## High schooler named to Who's Who list

Nicole Conway, daughter of Marilee Conway of Glenmont, is among the 5 percent of American high school students listed in *Who's Who of American High School Students* for their academic and extracurricular achievements. Conway is now competing for one of 150 \$1,000 scholarships.

## Saturday storytimes to continue at library

"Saturday Storybreak," a program for children of working parents who are unable to attend weekday storytimes, takes place at the Bethlehem Public Library at 451 Delaware Ave. in Delmar on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Sessions are scheduled for Feb. 1 and 15, and March 1 and 15.

The program explores a theme through great children's literature, media and hands-on projects.

Parents must accompany their children.

To register, call 439-9314.

## Talk to concentrate on de-stressing life

"Laugh the Stress Out of Your Life," a lecture by local author and counselor Anne Bryan Smollin, will teach the audience how to de-stress their lives through humor today, Jan. 29, at the Days Inn on Route 9W in Glenmont.

The cost of the event is \$6 with reservations. To make a reservation, call 439-0512.

## Town planning board to meet on Feb. 4

The town of Bethlehem planning board will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 7:30 p.m., at Bethlehem Town Hall at 445 Delaware Ave. in Delmar.

The application of Anthony DeThomasis will be considered for a 17-lot subdivision of a 10-acre parcel located on the northern side of Russell Road adjacent to the New York State Thruway.

For information, call 439-4955.

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# Performer recalls BC training as big career plus

By Mel Hyman

One measure of artists' success is how often they perform.

So former Delmar resident Lisa McCormick, who is featured at Caffe Lena in Saratoga Springs this Friday, and has 35 playing dates between now and May, must be doing something right.

The 36-year-old singer/songwriter has honed her craft mostly over the past seven years. Previously, she taught English in Putney, Vt., where she lives, and worked as director of theater services at the River Valley Performing Arts Center, also in Putney.

She recalled that her love of music first took shape back at Bethlehem Central High School.

"I got some really good training there from Joseph Farrell," McCormick said. "He taught music theory and was the choir director. I use stuff he taught me every day. It gave me a really strong foundation."

Although she first picked up a guitar at age 10, McCormick mostly just fooled around with Peter, Paul and Mary songs until she started taking formal lessons from Joan Mullens at Bethlehem Central Middle School and from Stan Scott at the high school.

During this time, McCormick, then Lisa Schnurr, started playing out. Her first venue was the Eighth Step Coffeehouse in Albany where she played at open mics with her friend Cheryl Hurwitz.

"They liked us enough so that we were invited back to do a whole night," McCormick said. "I remember that because when we finished our performance we were asked to do an encore, except that we didn't know anything else."

McCormick's career really took off after she started touring with



Lisa McCormick

Jonathan Edwards, who caught her act a few years ago at a folk club in New Hampshire. Since then she's opened for him on numerous occasions and is often invited back for her own gigs. That's how the date at Caffe Lena came about.

Her first CD "Right Now," on Rising Records, has been out since December, and it's getting some radio play both in this country and England, McCormick said. "The reviews are just starting to come in, and thus far they've been quite positive."

McCormick has come a long way from the days when she strummed her guitar at the Bethlehem Coffeehouse on Adams Street (where *The Spot-*

*light* is located now) where she worked as manager for a while.

"That was a great time," she recalled. "It was run mostly by high school students, and we'd be open three or four weekends a month with local and regional talent."

If you don't have a chance to catch her at Caffe Lena, you might want to tune in WAMC — the public radio station at 90.3 FM — on Monday, Feb. 3, 1997. She will be featured on the Rachel Phillips show at 9:30 a.m.

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## Matters of Opinion

### Hold the line

Bethlehem Citizens for Clean Air certainly deserves commendation for its concern about the proposed Spurlock Adhesives plant and its effect on the environment. But their request for \$100,000 from the town board to monitor the State Environmental Quality

### Editorials

Review by the state Environmental Department of Conservation, the lead agency, is out of line. EnCon must follow strict guidelines in assessing any project under its review, and has no reason to deviate from its usual course in this particular case.

Further, the agency itself has expertise in its staff, who will determine the merits of Spurlock's proposal, with nothing to gain or lose as a result of the final decision. Paying \$100,000 to have experts watch experts is a costly redundancy.

Why throw \$100,000 of taxpayer money to monitor an agency charged to protect the state's environment in the first place? It just doesn't make sense for the town to spend this amount — or any amount — of money before the review is even completed.

If the town board had received lead agency status, they likely would have had to spend \$100,000 or perhaps even more to conduct a fair and accurate review. But since EnCon has assumed that role, the town and its citizenry should let the environmental agency go ahead and do the job — that is already being paid for with state taxpayer dollars.

### Sign on life support

The town of New Scotland is revisiting the issue of contracting for Advanced Life Support services. Last year, the town board opted out because of financial concerns. This year, the board is hanging fire for the same reason.

New Scotland's annual contribution to the program, which would be set up by contract with the Albany County Sheriff's Department, would be \$70,000. New Scotland board members fear that costs would escalate, as they have in nearby localities with the service.

Because of the nature of the life-saving program and the price of medical equipment and personnel, costs likely will go up from year to year. But, as Bethlehem Supervisor Sheila Fuller says, "You can't put a dollar amount on someone's life." With technology and paramedic expertise of Advanced Life Support, it is almost a given that lives would be saved every year.

The Advanced Life Support program would be a benefit to New Scotland, no matter what the cost. This is one issue where the bottom line is life, not dollars. New Scotland residents should, like their neighbors, have Advanced Life Support.

### Slow down

Drivers, who are ticketed for speeding in Bethlehem, need to wake up and smell the coffee. Complaining — as many have done to the town supervisor and police — about receiving a ticket seems ludicrous, particularly in light of the community's legitimate concern over pedestrian safety.

Many Bethlehem residents, in fact, would like speed limits on thoroughfares like New Scotland Road reduced to lessen the chance of accidents.

What's the rush? Going five or 10 miles over the limit on a two-lane road is not that much of a timesaver, given four traffic lights in four miles — at the Stonewell, the Toll Gate, the intersection with Cherry Avenue Extension and Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Enforcing the current speed limits in Bethlehem should be applauded. Police are only doing their job along with responding to residents who have asked for more rigorous enforcement following the deaths of two local teenagers last year.

Let's face it, a ticket is a lot easier to bear than loss of life or limb in an accident.

## County chief strives for excellence

By Michael Breslin

The author is midway through his first term as Albany County Executive. He is a resident of Delmar.

The day after President Clinton took the oath of office, Albany County held an inauguration ceremony of its own. Three new county commissioners swore to "support the Constitution of the United States" by faithfully discharging their duties as Albany County department heads.



Ed Lynch, an Albany County employee of 33 years, will lead our new Department of General Services; Joe Pennisi, a professional who has managed the finances of city, state and federal government agencies, will be in charge of the Department of Management and Budget; and Mike Whalen will expand the mission of the county's Department of Weights and Measures to serve as our first commissioner of consumer affairs.

Looking to the future, these new positions and departments are important parts of my efforts to reorganize county government into a modern entity prepared to handle the changing relationships between federal, state and local governments as we enter the 21st century.

Learning from the past, the reorganization reflects the recommendations of the 1992 Gioia Report, state Comptroller's Office audits and a recently completed study on productivity by Peat Marwick. Each of these reports focused on how fragmentation of responsibility for financial management negatively impacts Albany County.

Under the new Department of Management and Budget, county residents will benefit from a consolidated unit responsible for managing the county budget and finances on a day-to-day basis. This will not only enhance our ability to

### Point of View

monitor spending and save taxpayer dollars, but also provide more timely and accurate reports of the county's financial condition.

Consumers will also enjoy enhanced protections as the new Department of Consumer Affairs expands our ability to monitor quality and ensure accurate measurement of products sold in Albany County.

County employees can look forward to increased access to the resources and services they need to get their jobs done as efficiently as possible. The Department of General Services will coordinate basic services, from building maintenance to printing facilities, so that employees serving the public directly can focus on their tasks at hand.

The 1997 county work force is better equipped and trained to execute its duties than ever before in history. Over the past two years, we have dedicated \$1.7 million to technological improvements. We have made substantial investments in new computer equipment and in training employees to use new technology, improving their skills and productivity. By increasing the ability of the work force to perform, Albany County was able to reduce the size of county government by another 100 positions this year — without a single layoff.

In sharp contrast to the haphazard job cuts in state government, county work force reduction is a careful, steady process of consolidating functions as positions become available through the natural process of attrition. Reducing the size of county government has helped us to achieve our larger goal of reducing the cost of government without affecting the quality of services.

For the second year in a row, the cost of county government has gone down, and the savings have been passed on to residents in the form of property tax cuts. This year, Albany County also gave shoppers a week-long break from

sales tax on clothing and footwear. This experiment helped consumers and businesses get the fiscal year off to a good start.

Albany County businesses can also look forward to a renewed commitment to economic development through new programs, including a Business Development Incentive Fund. Working with the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce, we have dedicated an additional \$200,000 to attract new businesses to the area.

The county is also coordinating a number of exciting development projects for the Canal Corridor Initiative, which will help to revitalize our waterfront. We are coordinating this federal funding with resources available through local Business Improvement Districts, the state Waterfront Revitalization Program and the Environmental Bond Act to maximize access to our historic waterways.

Revitalizing our exquisite waterways is one of the greatest gifts I can think of to pass on to our children. I remember my father's stories of swimming down the Hudson River from Troy and trying to get rides back upriver on a passing boat.

In my youth, people no longer swam in the Hudson, but I remember Sunday excursions on the Day Liner to Kingston. These days, many children are missing out altogether on the recreational and historical opportunities presented by our location on the Mohawk and Hudson rivers.

Community efforts to revitalize our waterways will contribute to a county that grows and prospers together. Toward that goal, we will continue to work to make Albany County the best local government in the state.

Two years ago, I took the oath of office as Albany County executive. I repeated that oath to myself during last week's inaugurations, and will continue to work diligently to fulfill that promise to the citizens of Albany County — and to myself.

## THE SPOTLIGHT

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**Your Opinion Matters**

**Traffic violators must be punished**

Editor, The Spotlight:

I would like to comment on the "Residents vent frustrations over safety" article in the Jan. 15 issue.

We have seen tire tracks of cars that have driven over front lawns of homes in our neighborhood, observed people driving exceedingly fast on residential roads, and, most recently, I watched a car drive the walking path that runs parallel to Fisher Boulevard.

Last evening when I was walking on the path, I noticed tracks in the snow. I had to stop and shine my flashlight at the ground because I was in total amazement that some-

**Letters**

one had driven down the path once again.

The thrill of riding on a sidewalk or someone's lawn is beyond my comprehension. These irresponsible and reckless individuals have no idea of the damage or injury they can cause.

I agree that we certainly could use more sidewalks, however, stronger police presence and community involvement may be

the only way to stop these hazardous acts.

As parents, we need to continue to educate our children on traffic safety and, as adults driving automobiles, we need to be cognizant of our environment, people walking and jogging through our neighborhoods, and children playing and riding bikes in the streets. We must remember the responsibility we assume when we get behind the wheel.

The authorities should take the strongest measures available against those senseless individuals who refuse to obey traffic laws and respect our community.

Increased police visibility, stiffer fines and harsher punishments need to be implemented. These irresponsible individuals have no regard for the safety of our community or what it means to destroy personal property.

The right to operate a motor vehicle is a privilege that should be revoked without hesitation when people's lives are recklessly put in danger. Life is too short, and we should not allow stupidity to make it even shorter.

*Bart A. Necroto*

Slingerlands

**Parent praises Lab School**

Editor, The Spotlight:

As a proud parent of a Bethlehem Central Lab School senior, I would like to share some observations about our town's innovative public school program and to encourage freshmen and their parents to consider this wonderful opportunity in the future.

Two attributes make the Lab School really stand out — community and teamwork. Lab School provides a framework for young adults to experience community, along with academic learning. Experiencing community happens by design, not by accident. "Everyone knows everyone," is an often-heard statement by Lab School students.

I remember when my daughter, who was a sophomore and new to the Lab School, came home and announced that she was getting to know students she never would have if she wasn't in there.

Students and teachers in the program share many happy moments together and lean on each other during very sad times.

After the students developed the T.J. Smith Foundation, students planned and organized a benefit dance with support from teachers, parents and administra-

tors. Most recently, students enthusiastically adopted a family in need for the holidays. The outpouring of care and generosity of everyone involved was truly amazing.

As a parent, I have had the privilege to coach groups of students on the 20- and 40-week project presentations of their research papers. This allowed me to see firsthand how the Lab School was nurturing the concepts and skills of teamwork.

I also observed students present and defend their research papers before a board of examiners. What a pleasure it was to see them challenged and grow and succeed as they worked toward their individual and group goals.

The Lab School has provided so many wonderful opportunities for growth and development that many students will only be exposed to later in life in college or in the work world. The sense of community and teamwork made possible through the Lab School will give them distinct advantages. We are very fortunate to have this available for our children.

*Mary Dugas*

Glenmont

**V'ville Ambulance members provide compassionate care**

Editor, The Spotlight:

I would like to thank Voorheesville Area Ambulance members who responded Jan. 21 to a call regarding my daughter.

She had suffered a head injury while sledding at a friend's house and a call was placed to 911.

When I arrived from work, I found my daughter receiving competent and compassionate care from the three ambulance emergency technicians.

We were taken to Albany Medical Center Hospital, where diagnostic tests assured us that there was no serious harm done.

As a nurse and mother, I was reminded again how fortunate we

are to have these well-trained volunteers in our community.

*Valarie Leishman*

Voorheesville

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**FEESTELIJK BETHLEHEM CALL TO ARTISTS**

DELMAR, NY—The Bethlehem Community is accepting applications from performing artists for **Feestelijk Bethlehem**, an exciting community-wide celebration of local talent.

Reflecting Bethlehem's Dutch heritage by incorporating the Dutch word "feestelijk" (face-te-lick) for festive, **Feestelijk Bethlehem** will showcase local performing artists during the evening on Saturday, May 3, 1997. **Feestelijk Bethlehem** will feature continuous performances from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m. in 10 centrally located indoor venues including churches, schools and municipal buildings.

All artists are encouraged to apply, including musicians, children's performers and theater groups. Each applicant or group must submit a promotional package including an audio or video tape.

Interested parties should send materials to **Feestelijk Bethlehem**, ATTN: Entertainment Committee, P.O. Box 1, Delmar, NY 12054. The deadline for applications is February 15, 1997. Selections will be based on artistic and logistic priorities.

**Matters of Opinion**

**Lawyer reminds residents about new legal forms**

Editor, The Spotlight:

This letter is to alert readers that, as of Jan. 1, New York has new statutory forms for a general durable power of attorney, a power of attorney effective at a future time otherwise known as a "springing" power of attorney.

Completing a power of attorney is a relatively simple and inexpensive way to authorize someone else to make your financial decisions and avoid a guardianship proceeding.

If you have properly completed a power of attorney before Jan. 1, it will still be valid. You do not need to sign a new one.

However, make certain that if you are completing one now, you use one of the new forms. The last time New York changed forms in 1994, many stores did not remove

**Letters**

the old ones from their shelves, and they were selling them long after the law had changed. Look for "1-97" in small print at the top of the form.

*Margaret Reed*

Delmar attorney

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Why not fax your letters to *The Spotlight* at 439-0609? Remember, all letters must carry the writer's signature, address and phone number.

Letters are subject to editing in keeping with our rules for fairness, accuracy, style and length.

**Lions say thanks for support**

Editor, The Spotlight:

The Bethlehem Lions Club would like to thank the community for its enthusiastic support of the annual Christmas tree sale.

The fund-raiser supports several community events. A major effort is the support of the new Lions Club Eye Institute on Hackett Boulevard in Albany.

The state-of-the-art facility is dedicated to research and care of diseases of the eye.

The Lions' next event is the Palm Sunday pancake breakfast at the American Legion Post.

*Judith Janco  
Ulrich Rudofsky*

**The Spotlight remembers**

This week in 1987, these stories were making headlines in *The Spotlight*.

• The Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce named **William Fuller** as citizen of the year and **James Lisenbigher** as business person of the year.

• Concerned about possible commercial development near Glenmont Elementary School, the Bethlehem Central school board proposed that a buffer zone be established around the school. The town of Bethlehem was in the process of reviewing zoning all along the Route 9W corridor.

• **Michael Fields** of Voorheesville, manager of plant facilities for Albany Medical Center, was named the center's employee of the year for 1986.

• The Bethlehem varsity wrestling team improved to 9-1 with wins over Guilderland and Niskayuna. Wrestlers who won at both meets included **Pat Leamy, Eric Brown, Chris Saba, John Sinuc, Ed Moak, Jim Dayter, Sean Nixon** and **Steve Guynup**.

**Delmar families and schools host Russian hockey players**

Three area families last week hosted hockey players from Russia as part of the Goodwill Tournament sponsored by the Troy Albany Hockey Association.

The 11- and 12-year-old players were select members of Metallurg Hockey Club, which hails from the cities of Chelyabinski and Magnitogorsk located near the Ural Mountains.

Serving as hosts and guides for the week were Brian McBride, Mike Leville and Jeff Pappalardi, who are all members of the Squirt Travel A team. Visiting Delmar were Yasha Paley, Ruslan Rachimov, Artem Nobov, Eugeni Mackin, Illyea Afonin and Andre Grintsov. During their week stay, the players toured the Albany-Troy

area. Several of the players attended classes at Elsmere Elementary School and Bethlehem Middle School, including participating in Russian classes at the middle school. Both teams attended a dinner sponsored by St. Basil's Russian Orthodox Church in Watervliet.

Over the weekend, they attended a hockey game at RPI and were guests of the River Rats. After the River Rats game with Rochester, they got a chance to meet the Russian players on the team.

Of course, there were all kinds of hockey games. The league tournament included Top Gun Hockey Club from Boston and Mid-Fairfield from Connecticut. Metallurg took the gold cup. The boys also attended practices and played in family backyard rinks to all hours of the night.

"It was an experience for all of us mostly because of the language barriers," said McBride, who plays goalie for Albany-Troy. "There were a lot of similarities because they listen to American music, play the same video games, eat pizza and McDonald's, and above all, they love hockey."

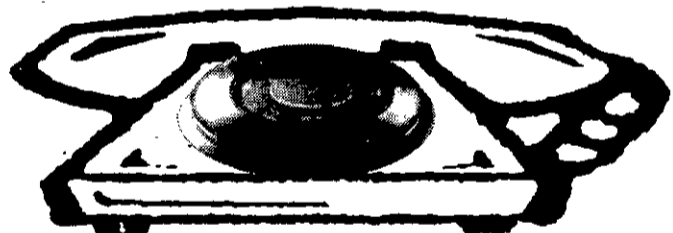
**Line dancing slated at BCMS this month**

Danci' Nancy will offer evening line dancing lessons and dancing at the Bethlehem Central Middle School on Friday, Jan. 31, from 7:30 to 10 p.m.

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**Tax form assistance available for seniors**

Bethlehem Senior Services is accepting reservations for the AARP Income Tax Form Assistance Program to be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays from Feb. 4 to April 8 at the town hall at 445 Delaware Ave. in Delmar.

Copies of 1995 federal and state tax returns should be brought in, along with a W-2 form, 1099 forms and receipts for contributions, interest, medical bills and school tax receipts.

To make an appointment, call 439-4955, ext. 170.

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## Selkirk No. 3 auxiliary to serve Italian dinner

The auxiliary of Selkirk Fire Co. No. 3 is sponsoring an all-you-can-eat Italian dinner on Saturday Feb. 8, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the firehouse on Route 396 in South Bethlehem.

The menu includes spaghetti, rigatoni, meatballs, sausage, salad bar, rolls and dessert. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 5 through 10. Children under age 5 eat for free.

Takeouts will be available by calling 767-9141.

For information, call Kathy Perry at 767-3227.

### Middle school to host FHA competition

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Middle School will host the annual Capital District Future Homemakers of America Hero Star competition. The event will be on Saturday, Feb. 1.

### PTSA reschedules joint meeting

The RCS PTSA has resched-

### 'Fire and Ice' bash to take place at park

A "Fire and Ice" party featuring a dance, ice skating and a bonfire will take place on Friday, Jan. 31, at the Elm Avenue Park in Delmar from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

All Bethlehem middle school students are invited to attend this free event. Refreshments will be available. The event will be canceled in the event of rain.

Chaperones are needed.

To chaperone or for information on the event, call 439-4131.

### Pointers being offered on tree identification

A tree identification program will be offered Saturday, Feb. 15, at 2 p.m. at the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center on Game Farm Road in Delmar.

During this outdoor walk, center naturalists will discuss the importance of trees as a source of food and cover for wildlife. Simple techniques for tree identification using such characteristics as tree shape, bark and buds will be explained.

For information, call 475-0291.

#### NEWS NOTES

**Selkirk South Bethlehem**  
Linda Marshall  
756-3520



uled its joint meeting with members of the student government on Thursday, Jan. 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the senior high library.

Gloria Jean, coordinator of the Safe and Drug Free Grant program will discuss the upcoming CARE week.

Yvonne Abunaw, assistant principal, will address activating the Good Citizenship Awards Program.

RCS high school students and members of the community are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

### RCS grad tapped by honor society

Bret Mulligan of the RCS class of 1993 has been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

Mulligan received a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University. Students selected for the society must have an A average.

## Five Rivers campers to learn about owls

Middle school children and their parents can participate in a sleep-over while learning about owls and their prey at "Owl Camp," taking place Friday, Feb. 7, through Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center at 56 Game Farm Road in Delmar.

Participants will go on owl prowls, learn how to identify owls by sight and sound, analyze owl pellets, construct an owl nest box and much more.

Tuition is \$25 for a parent/child team. Five Rivers Limited members receive a \$5 discount.

Preregistration is required, and should be done by Jan. 31. To preregister, call 475-0291.

## Heldeberg Workshop sets vacation classes

The Heldeberg Workshop is offering a February winter break workshop for students in grades four through eight at Clayton A. Bouton Junior-Senior High School in Voorheesville from 9 a.m. to noon, from Feb. 18 through 21.

A variety of classes will be offered, including weaving, "Whodunnit?," science, sculpture, art and poetry.

For information, call 765-2777.

## Selkirk Boy Scout earns Eagle award

Ian McClumpha of Selkirk recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

McClumpha, who graduated from Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School last June, was honored at the Bethlehem Elks Lodge, which sponsors Boy Scout Troop 81. McClumpha has been a member of the troop for the past eight years.

For his Eagle Scout service project, McClumpha planned and supervised a beautification plan for Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany. From start to finish, the project took a total of 77 hours, with members of the church, troop and committee members helping out.

McClumpha earned the community service award and the Order of the Arrow. He participated in the 1994 Twin Rivers Council Sea Base Contingent and plans to return there next summer. He is a certified scuba diver.

At RCS, he was an honor roll student, a member of Key Club and the French Club. He played soccer and was a member of the PTSA, receiving its scholarship award last year.

McClumpha is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church and its youth fellowship group.

He attends SUNY Morrisville and is majoring in accounting.

## Boaz completes submarine training

Navy Ensign Jeffrey L. Boaz, whose wife, Alicia, is the daughter of Kenneth and Anna Newbound of 136 Mosher Road in Delmar, recently graduated from submarine officers' basic training. Boaz joined the Navy in May 1995.

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## Grant to provide funds for 3 new programs

For the second consecutive year, the Capital District Arts Decentralization panel has smiled on the library.

The library has received a grant toward funding three programs to be held this year. Decentralization is a grant program made possible with public funding from the New York State Council on the Arts, administered in Albany and Schenectady counties by the Albany-Schenectady League of

Arts.

The library's proposal this year includes a follow-up to the popular hands-on watercolor painting workshop that the grant sponsored last March and a family evening of American Indian dancing.

This year, the first presentation will be "Thanks for the Memory," a musical reflection on American music of the 1920s through the '50s.

An awards ceremony and reception will be on Tuesday, Feb. 4, in the Assembly parlor of the state Capitol.

TLC and TLC, Two will host Jane Schwab and her incredible science experiments on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 4 and 5. The same program will be presented both days.

Sign-up is necessary, so call now to register.

Nimblefingers meets Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m.

Art Expressions Adult Sketch Club will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 5, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Newcomers are always welcome to both groups.

Barbara Vink

## NiMo to discuss gas line work

Property and business owners along New Scotland Road are invited to attend an informational meeting on Monday, Feb. 3, with officials from Niagara-Mohawk Power Corp. to discuss the specifics of upcoming gas line work in the area. The meeting will take place in the conference room at

the New Scotland Town Hall from 7 to 9 p.m.

Plans to extend the existing gas line from the junction of routes 85 and 85A westward along New Scotland Road are proceeding as planned. Preliminary job start-up is set for April.

For information, call 439-8269.

## Five Rivers planning snowshoe walks

A snowshoe walk will be held on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 2 p.m. at the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center on Game Farm Road in Delmar.

Walks will also be held on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m., and Sundays, Feb. 9 and 16, at 2 p.m.

Naturalists at the center will lead the walks, as well as train those unfamiliar with snowshoes. If there is insufficient snow, the walks will take place on foot.

Call to reserve snowshoes. Children must be in at least fourth grade to fit into Five Rivers' snowshoes.

For information, call 475-0291.

## Pancake breakfast to be held at church

An all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast will take place at the New Salem Reformed Church on New Scotland Avenue in New Salem on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

The cost is \$4 per person, \$2.75 for children ages 6 through 10, and free for children under 5.

For information, call 765-3468.

## Slingerlands school slates open house

The Slingerlands Cooperative Nursery School, located behind the Slingerlands Community United Church at 1499 New Scotland Road in Slingerlands, will hold an open house on Sunday, Feb. 2, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Registration for the 1997-1998 school year for 3- and 4-year-olds will take place.

For information, call 423-7407.

## Workshops to employ autobiographical data

The library is pleased to announce the receipt of two grants for a series called "Writing Your Life." The grants will be matched by the library to fund three two-part workshops led by area writers. The workshops' focus will be on autobiographical writing.

From Your Life" on May 3 and 17. This workshop will focus on the triggers and techniques of fiction and poetry, and the transformation of true stories into "True Fiction."

Finley has published numerous poems, stories, essays, articles and book reviews, and presented readings and workshops throughout the state for many years.

She served as assistant to the directors of the New York State Writers Institute from 1984 to 1991, coordinating such programs as the visiting writers series, writer-in-residence, the public radio book show and various film series and festivals.

Writing Your Life is funded in part by Poets and Writers Inc., through public funds it has received through the New York State Council on the Arts and the Arts Decentralization Program, which is administered in Albany and Schenectady counties by the Albany-Schenectady League of Arts.

The series is geared toward senior citizens and others who wish to translate their life experiences into art. No prior writing experience is required.

Call 439-9314 to register.

Louise Grieco

## Saturday storytimes to continue at library

"Saturday Storybreak," a program for children of working parents who are unable to attend weekday storytimes, takes place at the Bethlehem Public Library at 451 Delaware Ave. in Delmar on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Sessions are scheduled for Feb. 1 and 15, and March 1 and 15.

The program explores a theme through great children's literature, media and hands-on projects.

Parents must accompany their children.

To register, call 439-9314.



### Albany Memorial Hospital's Primary Care Network

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These workshops reflect a growing local and national interest in personal narrative.

Slingerlands resident Sue Ribbeck will lead the first workshop, Writing Life Stories, on March 8 and 22. Ribbeck will help participants shape their memories into entertaining and meaningful stories.

Ribbeck is the founder and facilitator of Lifestories Memories Writing Workshop for Voorheesville Public Library and Write Your Life Story Workshop for Bethlehem Central's continuing education program.

She has performed poetry readings at Voorheesville library, Broadway Gallery and Borders Books.

Storyteller Joni Goldberg will lead "Writing and Telling Original Stories" on April 5 and 12. Participants will discover the elements of storytelling, compare written and spoken stories and learn to tell a story based on personal experience.

Goldberg holds a bachelor's degree in theater from the University at Albany. She also studied at the American Center for the Stanislavski Theatre Arts and the HB Studio in New York City. A youth services staff member, she has been telling stories professionally for nine years.

Writer Jeanne Finley shows how personal stories become art in "Writing Poetry and Fiction

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Create a Page on the Web	2 Thursdays	2/6-2/13	1-4PM
Using Windows 95	Mon-Weds	2/10-2/12	1-3PM
Home Finances — Quicken	3 Tuesdays	2/4-2/18	7-9PM
Word Processing — Word	Tues-Weds	2/4-2/5	9AM-12PM
Presentations — Power Point	Thurs-Fri	2/6-2/7	9AM-12PM
Spreadsheets — Excel	Tues-Weds	2/11-2/12	9AM-12PM
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# Sports

Lady Eagles take it to Mohonasen, 66-48

## Full house cheers on BC girls

By Tim Kavanagh

On Orange Crush night, in front of a gym full of charged-up fans, the Bethlehem girls basketball team trounced previously undefeated Mohonasen, 66-48.

The win gave the team sole position of first place in the Suburban Council Gold Division. BC is still undefeated in league play.

After a tight first quarter, the Lady Eagles took flight and never looked back. **Kate Strait** lit the fire for BC in the second period by hitting three consecutive shots from behind the three-point arc.

Three Bethlehem players hit double figures in scoring: **Katie Smith** scored a game-high 15, Strait finished with 11 and **Bridget Murray** pumped in 10, including two, three-pointers.

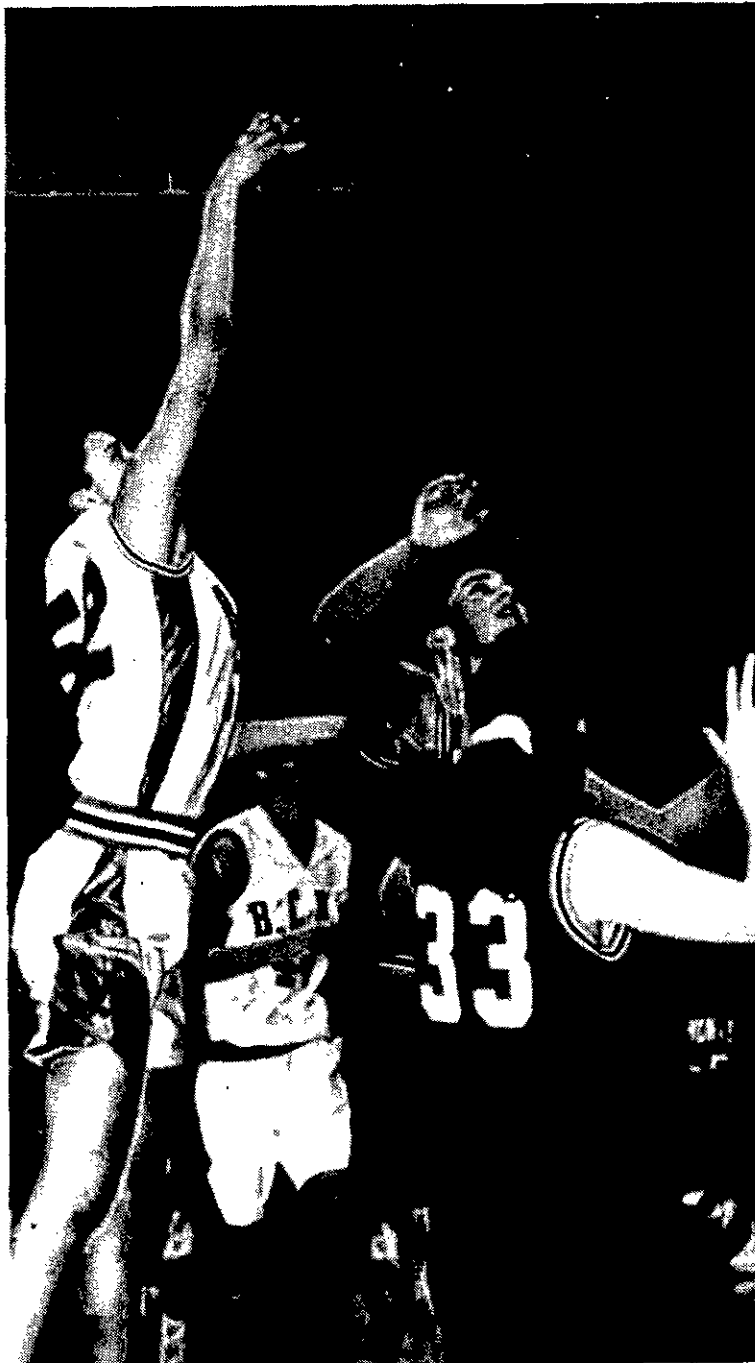
The Lady Eagles also dominated the boards, led by **Nicole Conway** who pulled down 10 rebounds and **Magan Sellnow**, who had eight boards along with nine points.

Sophomore point guard Strait, whose sharp-shooting started the BC charge, said, "We had a lot of intensity going into the game because we knew that it was for first place in Suburban Council."

"We knew it was a really big game, and we wanted it really bad," said Smith, who had one of her highest offensive outputs all season. "We worked really hard in practice all week for this. The varsity always wants to give it up to the crowd."

"Mohonasen is a good team," said coach **Kim Zornow**. "We all had to play outstanding as a team to win."

She also said the team is on its way to a first-round bye in the sectional playoffs and a second round game at home.



Bethlehem's Magan Sellnow goes up for a shot during the Eagles' triumph over Suburban Council foe Mohonasen at BCHS. *Liz Waniewski*

## Kristin Person reaches V'ville b-ball milestone

By Matt McKenna

For the first time all season, the Voorheesville girls perfect record and statewide ranking has taken a back seat to another story.

In last week's game at Averill Park, **Kristin Person** scored her 1000th career point. She is the first Blackbird player ever to do so.

Person entered the game needing five points to reach the mark. She got it on her 100th career three-point shot in the second quarter. She is now the all-time school leader in both categories.

Voorheesville held the Warriors scoreless in the first period, on their way to a 29-6 halftime lead. The teams played evenly in the second half, with Voorheesville coasting to a 55-26 win. **Jane Meade** led the way with 12 points. **Becky Dawson** chipped in 10, and Person finished with nine.

"It's very exciting, but it's also a big relief," Person said after the game. "It would have been nice to have hit the mark at home, but I shouldn't complain with the season we're having."

On Friday, the Ladybirds (10-0, 12-0) kept their unbeaten string intact with a 54-16 demolition of Cohoes. The 'Birds defense took control from the start, not allowing Cohoes a good look at the basket for the entire first half.

Meade led the team again, this time with 18 points. Person chipped in nine. **Regan Burns** tallied seven, and **Erikka Jackstadt** contributed six points.

"Our defense really drove us to victory, as it has all season long," said coach **Jack Adams**. "The team is really playing well together and finding a groove. Hopefully, this will continue to the postseason."



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Dr. Molinaro earned her doctorate in dental medicine from Boston University's Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry, where she graduated with honors and was the recipient of many awards, including the International College of Dentist's Award for Outstanding Achievement and the National Society of Dental Practitioners Law and Ethics in Dentistry Award. She has completed a general practice residency program at St. Peter's Hospital, Albany.



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# St. Thomas girls win tourney

The St. Thomas Parish CYO program recently held its first-ever **Kathleen Pallante Memorial Basketball Tournament** for fifth and sixth-grade teams from the Capital District.

The St. Thomas girls team, which won its division title, defeated St. James in a hard-fought contest in the first round of tournament play.

Key shooting from **Sue Kelly** and **Brianna Bubeck**, along with physical play inside the paint by **Colleen Bardelli** and **Jessica Volpi** helped St. Thomas overcome an eight-point fourth quarter deficit to win the game, 31-27.

In the championship game, St. Thomas once again came from behind to defeat St. Brigid's, 32-

30. **Christa Clay** led St. Thomas to the championship, scoring five of her nine points in the fourth quarter.

**Kylie Conley**, **Nicole Cookingham**, **Bridget Daley**, **Frances Ford**, **Lindsey Hallenbeck**, **Kate Mendel**, **Justine Moreau**, **Lindsey Neubauer** and **Melissa Orner** contributed off the bench to help St. Thomas solidify the win.

**Megan Kindlon** of St. Thomas was selected to the all-tournament team, and Clay was named a co-MVP for the tournament.

In the first round of the boys division, St. Thomas beat St. Gregory's, 39-22. **Josh Ciccone** scored 11 points and **James Tougher** added seven points for

St. Thomas.

In the final round, St. Matthew's took the championship as they nipped St. Thomas at the wire, 38-36. **Bob Barrowman** led St. Thomas with 13 points, and **Sean Lichorowiec** contributed six. **Ricky Grant** and **Stephen Strait** played solid in the backcourt, and **Sean McManus** and **Evan Marsh** played well underneath.

**Dean Gross**, **Kevin Perazzelli** and **Peter Olsen** also helped keep St. Thomas in a very tight game.

Barrowman was named to the all-tournament team.

All proceeds went to the **Kathleen Pallante Memorial Scholarship Fund**. Pallante was a parish member and a St. Thomas teacher for 20 years.

# An up & down season for V'ville boys

By **Alison Leonard**

The Voorheesville Blackbirds dropped two games last week.

On Friday, the 'Birds fell to Cohoes, 67-53, in a game that they led until the third quarter when the Tigers pulled away.

**John Krajewski** led the 'Birds with 18 points, followed by **Karl Meier** with 14.

Earlier in the week, Averill Park handled the Blackbirds quite easily, rolling to a 69-41 win. **John Christiansen** topped the scoring this time with 14 points, and teammate **Bill Meade** contributed 10.

It hasn't been all downhill for the Blackbirds this year, however. Prior to their loss to Averill Park, they registered a 63-40 win over the Waterford Fordians.

**Krajewski** once again led the way with 17 points and 12 rebounds. **Meade** pitched in with 10 points, and **Christiansen** had eight.

"The key was the way we cut down on turnovers," said coach **Bill Logan**. "Our defense was great. We held them to five points in the first half, three in the first quarter and only two in the second. They came out, concentrated, and did exactly what I asked them to do."

# Red-hot games in BBC

Excitement was rampant at the Bethlehem Middle School on Sunday in Bethlehem Basketball Club action.

In Big Ten action, Northwestern rallied past Penn State, 41-29. **Brian Turner** had six for the winners, and **Jessica Volpe** threw in 12 from long range for the losers. Ohio State upended Michigan State, 36-23, behind **Bobby Gombel's** seven decisive points. **Bridget Griffin** had four for the Spartans.

With **Sal Signorelli** leading the way with 11, Purdue beat Minnesota, 32-27. **Jamie Mooney** played tough defense in defeat. **Jeff Young's** full-court effort and eight points inspired Michigan to a 40-31 victory over Wisconsin. **Casey Carroll's** hustle kept the Badgers close. **Amy Lytle** led Iowa over Indiana, 30-18. **Kylie Conley** played a strong floor game for the losers.

In NBA activity, the Nuggets rolled over the Bulls, 37-30. **Kurtis Bubeck** with six and **Chris Reddy** with four were the key contributors. The Magic's tough defense and sharp ball movement under the direction of **Eli Leveston** proved to be more than the Rockets could handle. The Magic won, 46-21. **Geoff Decker** had six for Houston.

In a squeaker, the Suns narrowly overcame the Sonics, 35-31. **Carly St. Lucia** had seven for the winners. **Sam Abrams'** tenacity almost brought home the Sonics. The Spurs beat the Knicks 60-41 despite **Nate Crouse's** eight.

**Ali McKee's** defensive pressure kept Georgetown close, but West Virginia beat the Hoyas, 38-29. **Nick Russo** had four key points for the Mountaineers. **Joe Kopchick** was a terror off the offensive boards for Syracuse, but the Orangemen fell to Providence, 30-23. **Adam LaBarr** directed the Friars' attack. **Eric Herd** slashed through the St. John's defense for 10, as Boston College beat the Red Storm, 41-26. **Eric Wilcox** gave it all in defeat. **Ryan Williams** had 11 as Notre Dame beat Miami, 39-26. **Brian Geurtze** had a game-high 15 for the Hurricanes.

And in the finale, **Ryan Livingston** made a spinning layup with two seconds on the clock to bring Pitt even with Connecticut at 34. **Mike Walker** battled hard for the Huskies.

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# BCMS PTA NEWS

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## FEBRUARY PTA UPDATE

**February 3rd PTA Meeting:** The program will feature a presentation by Ass't. Superintendent Judy Wooster on the School Report Card. Dr. Lobban will talk about the Report Card's Middle School results. Presentation time will be limited to ensure appropriate time for comments. An open discussion will ensue about the meaning of the Report internally and as it relates to other Capital District school districts.

**Anne of Green Gables:** February 6-8: Our talented Middle Schoolers will perform "Anne of Green Gables" beginning at 7:00 p.m. each evening. Thursday is open seating. Friday and Saturday are reserved seating. Tickets go on sale Monday, January 27th for students and the public. Call the Middle School (439-7460) or Debbie Sokoler (439-2699) for tickets.

**MS Science Research Night:** Student science research projects will be judged and on display Thursday, February 27th. The program runs from 2:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for students and scientists, and 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for students and parents at the MS cafeteria.

**MS Grade 6 Social:** February 28th, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. This is the first of three consecutive Friday nights of "socials" or "dances" for various grade levels. Parent chaperones are needed. Please be willing to volunteer. Thanks.

**PTA Membership:** The support of all parents and teachers is appreciated. If you have concerns or questions that PTA might help with, please contact the PTA President, Jeff Zogg, at 439-6498.

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# Obituaries

## Charles H. Weintraub

Memorial services for Charles H. Weintraub, 86, of Delmar, who died Monday, Jan. 20, at Albany Medical Center Hospital, will be on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 2 p.m. at The Workshop, 339 Broadway in Menands.

Born in Plymouth, Pa., he was a graduate of Belfonte Academy, Pennsylvania Teachers College and Georgetown Law School, where he graduated first in his class.

Mr. Weintraub worked for the federal government for 35 years, first as a trial attorney and later as an administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration. After he retired, he was active as a labor arbitrator.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II, enlisting the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Weintraub was on the board of directors of The Workshop for 25 years, serving as president and chairman of its legal committee.

Survivors include his wife, Havala Weintraub; two sons, Matthew Weintraub and Harry Weintraub; and three grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to The Workshop.

## Joseph Dominski Sr.

Joseph V. Dominski Sr., 87, of Clarksville died Friday, Jan. 25, at Albany County Nursing Home.

Born in Poland, he was a longtime resident of Clarksville.

Mr. Dominski was an engine repairman for the former New York Central Railroad before he retired.

He was an Army veteran of World War II, serving in the European theater.

He played baseball in the Albany Twilight League.

He was a member of the Ambrose J. Scully American Legion Post.

He was husband of the late Hilda E. Fisher Dominski.

Survivors include a son, Joseph V. Dominski Jr. of Albany; a brother, Nicholas Dominski of Menands; a sister, Lillian Howarth of Burden Lake; and two grandchildren.

Services will be at 9:15 a.m. today, Jan. 29, from the New Comer-Cannon Family Funeral Home, 343

New Karner Road, Colonie, and Christ the King Church in Westmere at 10 a.m.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 85 Watervliet Ave., Albany 12206.

## Rita Mary Klein

Rita Mary Klein, 83, a longtime resident of Delmar, died Wednesday, Jan. 22, at Child's Nursing Home in Albany.

Born in Rochester, she was a member of Bethlehem Senior Citizens.

Mrs. Klein was a volunteer for Bethlehem Senior Services.

She was a member of the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Delmar.

She was the widow of Floyd C. Klein.

Survivors include two daughters, Ellen N. Klein and Linda K. Russell, both of Delmar; and two grandchildren.

Services were private.

Burial was in Williamsville, Erie County.

Arrangements were by the Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar.

Contributions may be made to Bethlehem Senior Services, c/o Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar 12054, Child's Nursing Home, 25 Hackett Blvd., Albany 12208, or Newgate Adult Day Care Center, 25 Delaware Ave., Albany 12210.

## Thelma Conrad Cass

Thelma Conrad Cass, 69, of Delaware Turnpike in Clarksville, died Wednesday, Jan. 22, at her home.

Born in Benson Mines, she was a longtime resident of Clarksville.

Mrs. Cass was a homemaker.

She was a member of Clarksville Community Church.

Survivors include her husband, Donald E. Cass; a daughter, Deborah J. Bauer of Houston, Texas; two sons, William J. Cass of Voorheesville and Donald E. Cass Jr. of Clarksville; a sister, Dorothy Percival of South Bethlehem; a brother, Clarence Conrad Jr. of South Bethlehem; and four grandchildren.

Services were from Clarksville Community Church.

Arrangements were by the Reilly & Son Funeral Home in

Voorheesville.

Contributions may be made to Clarksville Community Church, PO Box F, Clarksville 12041.

## Ruth Keck Ruhland

Ruth Keck Ruhland, 85, of Orchard Street in Delmar, died Sunday, Jan. 26, at her home.

Born in Albany, she was a longtime resident of Delmar.

Mrs. Ruhland was a clerk in the state Health Department, retiring in 1973.

She was a member of the Bethlehem Businesswomen and Bethlehem Senior Citizens.

She was the widow of Harold W. Ruhland.

Survivors include a daughter, Lynne DeFrancisco of Hawaii; and two grandchildren.

Services will be on Thursday, Jan. 30, at 9:30 a.m. from the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, 35 Adams Place, Delmar.

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery in Glenmont.

Arrangements were by the Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar.

## Death Notices

The Spotlight will print paid Death Notices for relatives and friends who do not or have not lived in the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland. The charge for a paid death notice is \$25.

We will continue to print Obituaries of residents and former residents of the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland at no charge.

In Memoriam, and Cards of Thanks will also be printed for \$25.

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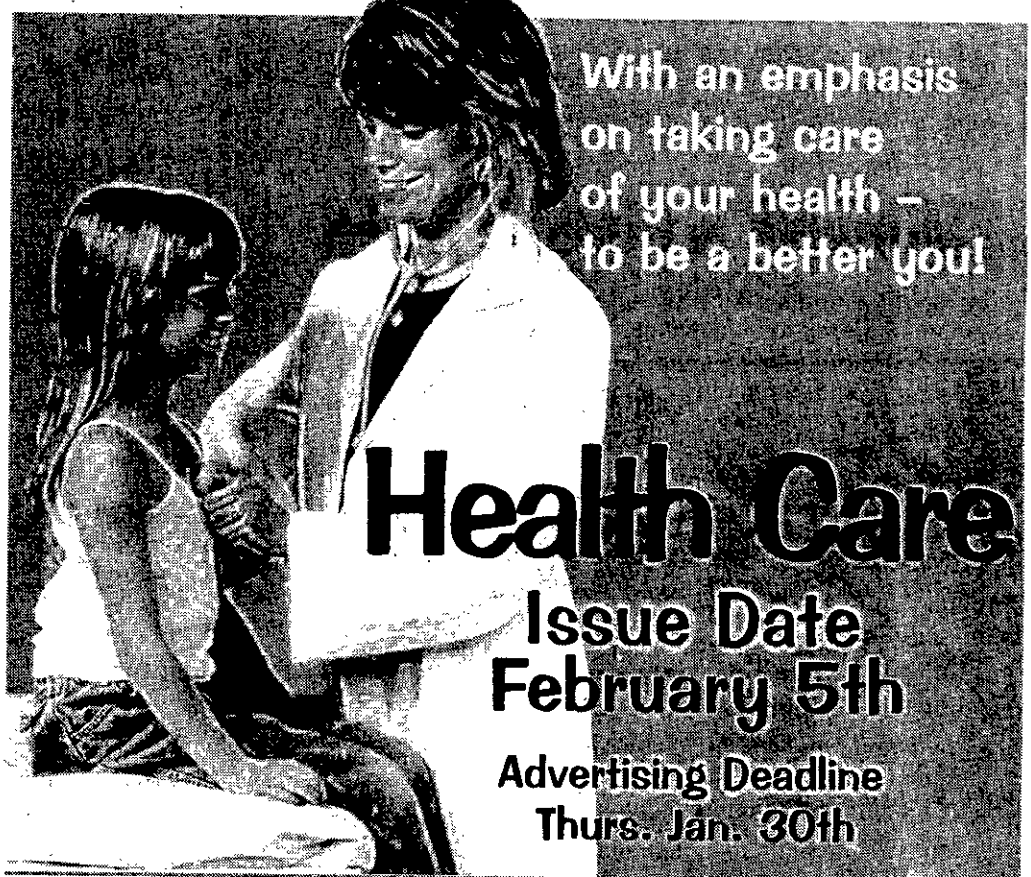
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## Spotlight Newspapers

Suburban Albany's Quality Weekly Newspapers

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**The Spotlight**

Serving the areas of Loudonville,  
Newtonville and Menands

**Loudonville Weekly**

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Town of Colonie

**Colonie Spotlight**

# Storyteller to perform at association meeting

Storyteller Jane Ainslie will make a guest appearance at the next meeting of the New Scotland Historical Association on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 8 p.m.

Ainslie has been delighting audiences with her exuberant brand of storytelling for more than 10 years. She is a member of the Story Circle of the Capital District, the National Storytelling Association and Four Stories High. Tuesday's program will feature American Indian tales.

All are welcome to attend the free program at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center off Route 85 on The Old Road in New Salem. Refreshments will be served.

For information, call 756-3387.

## Nursery school slates informational meeting

Community Nursery School of First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville will hold an informational meeting for parents on Thursday, Jan. 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the church social hall.

Nursery school board members and teacher Rosemarie Pakenas will answer questions about the school and its philosophy and programs. Applications will be accepted.

There will be a drawing to fill both morning and afternoon

## NEWS NOTES

### Voorheesville

Elizabeth  
Conniff-Dineen  
765-2813



classes on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m. Applications will be accepted until 7 p.m. that evening. To participate in the drawing, children must be 4-years-old by Dec. 1

The school is in its 30th year as a parent cooperative. It is a non-profit, non-denominational organization.

For information, call Ivy Brockley at 765-2131 or the church office at 765-2895.

## NiMo to discuss gas line extension

Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. representative Lianne Chase will discuss an extension of natural gas lines on Route 85 from the intersection of Route 85A at Stonewell Plaza to Swift Road at an informational meeting on Monday, Feb. 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. at New Scotland town hall. Work on the extension is set to begin in April.

Property and business owners who will be affected are encouraged to attend.

For information, call John Tomich at 439-8269.

## Artist to present painting workshop

Joan Annis will demonstrate decorative painting at Helderview Garden Club's meeting on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. at the library on School Road.

Members are asked to bring a 1-by-1 inch sponge, a small container for water and a newspaper to cover work areas.

Everyone is welcome to attend. For information, call Joanne King at 765-2261.

## Workshop classes set during February recess

the Heldeberg Workshop will conduct classes at the high school during February recess for pupils in grades four through eight. Classes will run from 9 a.m. to noon on Feb. 18 through 21. Weaving, sculpture, art and poetry and a class entitled "Whodunit?" will be offered.

Registration is ongoing until Feb. 14. The cost is \$25 per course, with additional fees if special materials are required.

For information, call 765-2777.

## Drama club presenting Pirates Jan. 31

Don't miss the elementary school drama club's production of *Pirates of Penzance* on Friday, Jan.

31, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 1, at 2 p.m. in the large gymnasium.

More than 60 fifth-and-sixth grade pupils have been hard at work preparing for the performances, which are open to the public.

Tickets are available through the school. Tickets are \$1 for adults. Student admission is free, but must have a ticket.

For information and tickets, call the elementary school office at 765-2382.

## PTA slates meeting in school library

The elementary school PTA will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the school library.

## Church to dish up pancake breakfast

An all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast will be served on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 7:30 a.m. to noon at New Salem Reformed Church on Route 85.

Breakfast features a choice of blueberry or plain pancakes or french toast, along with bacon, sausage, juice, milk and coffee.

The cost is \$4 for adults and \$2.75 for children age 6 through 10. Children under age 5 eat for free.

## Wrestling registration begins tonight

Registration for Kiwanis Club youth wrestling is tonight, Jan. 29, at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, Jan. 30, at 6 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. The first practice session is after registration on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Subsequent practices will be on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Children in kindergarten through grade-six are eligible. There is a \$15 registration fee for each child.

For information, call Rob McCartney at 861-5733.

## Planners to meet

The New Scotland planning

board's monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m. at town hall on Route 85.

The town board has changed its regular meeting date to the second Monday of the month. This month's meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m.

## Committee says thank you to V'ville community

The Human Concerns Committee will like to thank Cub Scout Pack 73, Voorheesville postal workers, SuperValu market and the entire community for their overwhelming support of the holiday giving program.

The committee, a non-denominational group, which operates a food pantry at St. Matthew's Church, was able to provide food and gifts to 45 families during the holidays.

Thanks also for everyone's ongoing support of the food pantry. The committee's vision of "neighbor helping neighbor" is truly a reality in this village.

## Businesswomen plan presentation on Africa

The Bethlehem Business Women's Club will meet Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 6 p.m. at the Days Inn on Route 9W in Glenmont.

Guest speaker and club member Joan Johnson will discuss, "The Wild Adventures of Africa." The talk will include a visual presentation on Botswana.

For information, call Doris Davis at 439-5786.

## Cub Scouts planning candy fund-raiser

Cub Scout Pack 232 of Glenmont will conduct its annual candy sale fund-raiser through mid-February. In addition to selling candy door-to-door, the Scouts will sell it at the Grand Union in the Glenmont Plaza between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1.

# Youth Network

A BETHLEHEM NETWORKS PROJECT

## Parenting classes to be offered

Bethlehem Networks Project and the Bethlehem Central School District are sponsoring two new series of parenting classes. If you are a parent of an elementary school child or a middle or high school student, you can take advantage of the new classes.

BC guidance counselor Maryalice Svare will facilitate the series for parents of children in elementary school. BC counselor Gwen Guillet will lead classes for parents of middle and high school students.

The topics in the series are positive discipline, setting limits, self-esteem and conflict resolution. Participants will be able to discuss concerns in a warm and supportive atmosphere.

Classes begin on Tuesday, Feb. 25, and run for six weeks. Classes will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. There will be no class on March 18. There is a fee of \$25 for the series and participants will need to purchase a textbook.

To register or for information, call Networks at 439-7740.



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Great Performances: Robert Altman's Jazz  
34  
Wednesday, 9 p.m.

Nick Brignola in Concert  
Thursday, 10 p.m.

No Time To Be A Child  
Friday, 10 p.m.

Austin City Limits  
Saturday, 11 p.m.

Mobil Masterpiece Theatre: "Breaking the Code"  
Sunday, 9 p.m.

The American Experience  
Monday, 9 p.m.

NOVA: This Old Pyramid  
Tuesday, 8 p.m.

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Nathaniel Goldman and Christine Casalenuovo

## Casalenuovo, Goldman to wed

Christine Marie Casalenuovo, daughter of Gregory and Frances Casalenuovo of Liverpool, Onondaga County, and Nathaniel Goldman, son of Al and Beth Goldman of Delmar, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Liverpool High School and Central City Business Institute. She is employed as an insurance account

representative by Medical Management Resources in Dewitt, Onondaga County.

The future groom is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and the University of South Florida. He is employed as a medical information clerk by the state of New York in Syracuse.

The couple plans a July 20 wedding.

## AARP offers seniors tax form assistance

Bethlehem Senior Services is accepting reservations for the AARP Income Tax Form Assistance Program to be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays from Feb. 4 to April 8 at the town hall at 445 Delaware Ave. in Delmar.

Copies of 1995 federal and state

tax returns should be brought in, along with a W-2 form, 1099 forms and receipts for contributions, interest, medical bills and school tax receipts.

To make an appointment, call 439-4955, ext. 170.

## Mail weddings, engagements

The Spotlight would like to publish your engagement, wedding or anniversary announcement and photo. There is no charge for this community service.

Black and white photos are preferred, but color photos are acceptable. Polaroid photos cannot be printed.

For information and submission forms, call 439-4949. Mail announcements to 125 Adams St., Delmar 12054.

## Births

### St. Peter's Hospital

Girl, Kylie Morgan McKenna, to Karyn and Brian McKenna of Selkirk, Jan. 7.

Boy, Casey Michael Briscoe, to Shannon and Gregory Briscoe of Delmar, Jan. 10.

### Albany Medical Center

Boy, Jeremy Andrew Glazer, to Gayle O'Brien and Joseph Glazer of Delmar, Nov. 22.

### Out of town

Boy, Garrett Patrick Jackson, to Holly and Joseph Jackson of Newport News, Va., Jan. 15. Paternal grandparents are Skip and Sharon Jackson of New Scotland.

## Dean's List

The following local college students were recently named to dean's lists at their respective schools.

Boston College — Katie Tobin of Delmar.

Buffalo State College — Melissa Blattner of Delmar.

Cedarville College — Debbie Woods of Delmar.

Clarkson University — Kenneth Halvorsen of Glenmont, Elizabeth Lucia of Voorheesville.

Purdue University — Cheryl Goeldner of Delmar.

Skidmore College — Betsey Languish of Delmar and Kevin Relyea of Voorheesville.

SUNY New Paltz — Jacqueline Ahl of Feura Bush.

SUNY Oswego — Maureen Smith of Feura Bush (president's list).

SUNY Plattsburgh — Jeffrey Rosenblum of Glenmont.

SUNY Potsdam — Leah Everhart, Jennifer Mallery and Elizabeth Patchen (all on the president's list), all of Delmar.

Tufts University — Dana Cole of Delmar.

University of Delaware — Amanda Conway and Molly Conway, both of Delmar.

University of Rochester — Rebecca Cole of Delmar.

Western New England College — Lisa Morris of Delmar.



Paula and Keith Coccozza

## Modarelli, Coccozza marry

Paula Jo Modarelli, daughter of Walter and Claire Coccozza of Tampa, Fla., and Keith John Coccozza, son of Joseph and Frances Coccozza of Selkirk, were married Sept. 28.

The Rev. James Nunes performed the ceremony in Our Lady of the Cape Church in Brewster, Mass., with the reception following at the Captain Linnell House in Orleans, Mass.

The maid of honor was Pamela Modarelli, sister of the bride.

The best man was Peter Coccozza, the groom's brother, and ushers were Daniel Coccozza, the

groom's brother, William Dotterer, Daniel Fuller, Brian Morrissey and Christopher Reilly.

The bride, a graduate of the University of Maryland, is a writer/producer for WABC-TV News in New York City.

The groom is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Providence College. He is employed as director of consumer relations for the New York City Department of Transportation.

After a wedding trip to Virgin Gorda, in the British Virgin Islands, the couple lives in Manhattan.



## CHP sets workshops on Medicare

Community Health Plan (CHP) will hold free informational workshops on understanding Medicare coverage on Wednesdays, Feb. 5 and 12, at 1 p.m. at the CHP Delmar Health Center at 250 Delaware Ave.

## Here's to a Wonderful Wedding!



### RECEPTIONS

Normanside Country Club, 439-2117. Wedding and Engagement Parties.

Albany Ramada Inn, 1228 Western Ave., 489-2981. Banquet Room up to 300 people. P.S., do it on Sunday and save a lot of \$\$.

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# Witness a compelling courtroom drama

By Dev Tobin

From O.J. parts I and II on the national scene to the local trial of Troy Tenace, there is plenty of real-life drama in the ultimate courtroom confrontation — a murder trial.

Recognizing this, the grande dame of mystery writers, Agatha Christie, tackled the courtroom genre in *Witness for the Prosecution*, which quickly became one of her most popular works.

The play is so popular that the New York State Theatre Institute is producing it for the second time (the first was in 1980) beginning this week.

"It's the same script, but a completely different production with a new director," said Ron Nicoll, institute spokesman. "It's a good play, worth doing twice."

John Romeo, a Shaker High graduate who now lives in Feura Bush, plays the lead role, defense counsel Sir Wilfred Robarts.

For institute regular Romeo, the role is a change of pace from his usual work in institute productions.

"I usually play more comedic, bombastic or character roles," he said. "Sir Wilfred is more straightforward — British, reserved and refined."

Romeo said the current production, directed by Tony-nominated playwright Ralph Allen, is notable for "having good actors in every role, even the small ones."

The actors are able to overcome one of the basic problems with Christie's

plays, Romeo said.

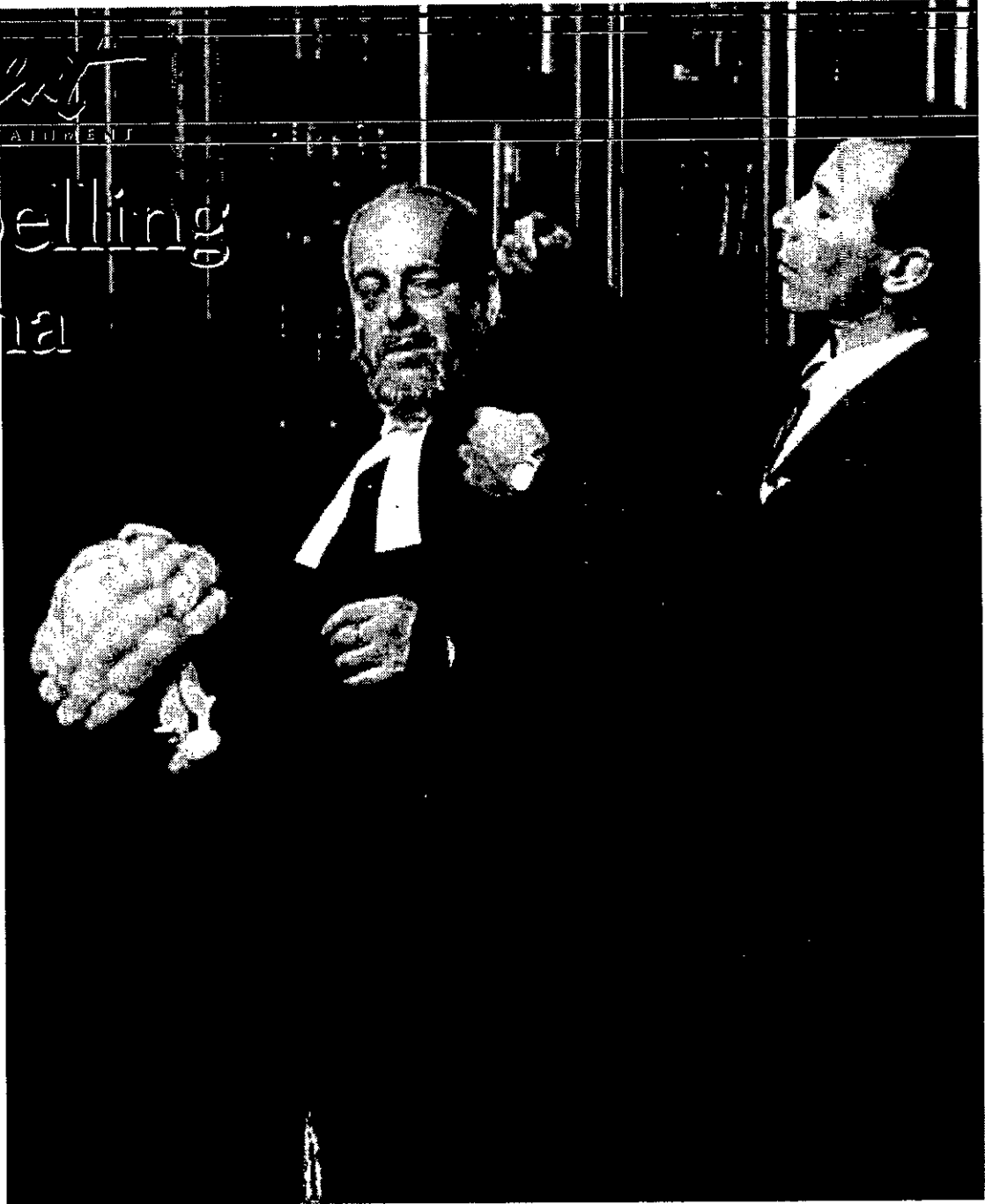
"The original play is a little dry, and Christie's characters tend to be a little cardboardish — stock mystery characters," he said. "We try to expand our characters beyond one level, give them a little more personality."

Romeo said Allen's direction is "incredibly astute, breathing life into the show."

Institute regulars fill out most of the leading roles — David Bunce as defendant Leonard Vole, John McGuire as prosecutor Mr. Myers, and Joel Aroeste as solicitor Mr. Mayhew.

Guests artists include Sondra Weimar as Romaine Vole, the defendant's wife whose alibi testimony is crucial; Eileen Schuyler and Joseph Quandt as Sir Wilfred's assistants; Michael Steese as the judge; Larry Gray and Inspector Hearn; and Mychelle Lee Vedder as the Other Woman.

*Witness for the Prosecution* premieres with a preview Friday, Jan. 31, at 10 a.m., and subsequent 10 a.m. performances will take place Feb. 4 through 7 and Feb.



John Romeo, left, plays the role of defense counsel Sir Wilfred Robarts with Joseph Quandt as his assistant, Carter, in the NYS Theatre Institute's new production of Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*.

11 through 13. Evening performances will be at 8 p.m. on Feb. 8, 14 and 15; and matinees at 2 p.m. will be on Feb. 2 and 9.

Tickets are \$15, \$13 for seniors and students; and \$8 for children under 13.

Performances are in the Schacht Fine Arts Center of Russell Sage College in Troy, just over the Congress Street (Route 2) Bridge from Watervliet and I-787.

For information, call 274-3256.

### Kennedy Center producer to stage Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*

Ralph Allen has made a name for himself in theater as a teacher, writer, producer and leading authority on burlesque. This week he is completing rehearsals in Troy for the Friday, Jan. 31, preview of Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution* at the NYS Theatre Institute.

Allen, who is also producer at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, is better known for his work as a playwright and songwriter for such shows as the Broadway success *Sugar Babies*, a retrospective of burlesque, and *Honky Tonk Nights*, another musical in New York in the same genre. His work as a theater scholar has drawn Allen to the Christie play which is hailed as her most dramatic work.

Originally produced in 1953 in London and then appearing for two years in New York, *Witness* is the epitome of courtroom drama combined with the special Christie red herrings and mysterious characters. A defendant in a murder case with a slim alibi must depend upon his wife's testimony. But will the testimony be double-edged?

This will be a reprise for the Theatre Institute company which produced the play in 1980 at The Egg and then toured it to the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in the summer.

Following the success of the London and New York productions in the 1950s, the play was turned into a movie in 1957 with Tyrone Power and Marlene Dietrich playing the leading roles and Charles Laughton as the defense attorney.

In this production at the Schacht Fine Arts Center at Russell Sage College, David Bunce will play the role of the defendant accused of killing a wealthy woman. Bunce, a 14-year veteran with



the Theatre Institute, has played a number of leading roles with the company, including a number of Christie plays.

A guest performer, Sondra Weimar, will play the role done by Dietrich in the movies, the aloof, foreign-born wife of the accused with her own agenda. John Romeo will play the defense attorney, the role done by Laughton. Now in his 15th season with the Theatre Institute, Romeo has played a whole range of roles, including a number of Christie characters.

The production continues through Nov. 15 with performances at 10 a.m. weekdays, and Sundays at 2 p.m. Evening performances will be at 8 p.m. Feb. 8, 14, 15. Reservations and information are available at 274-3256.

### Capital Rep turns to The Egg to present one-man show

When the interest mounted from non-subscribers of Capital Rep's plays to see the special one-man show by Fred Curchack doing *Stuff as Dreams Are Made On*, the Albany's downtown theater decided to go from one performance for subscribers to a week's run at The Egg for subscribers and non-subscribers alike.

Curchack is a retelling of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in which the English dramatist gave philosophical insight into his own life. The performer has been doing this show in New York and throughout the country and will be sponsored by the Capital Repertory Company as one of its special events throughout the season.

The performances will be given Feb. 11 through Feb. 16, Tuesday-Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at

4:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Sunday performances are slated for 2:30 and 5:30 p.m. Reservations are available at the Capital Rep box office, 462-4531.

### Albany Civic Theater looking for new playwrights and directors

As part of its on-going education program, Albany Civic Theater is seeking new long and short plays for its Playwrights Showcase the weekend after Labor Day. Experienced directors will be assigned plays believed ready for a showcase reading and actors will be recruited by the directors to work in the plays.

Meanwhile, the theater is also looking for would-be directors to show their stuff during the last two weekends in June when a directors' showcase will be offered. This showcase is for directors who wish to be considered for major productions at ACT.

Richard Michael Roe is coordinating this showcase while the theater's education committee is handling the playwright's showcase. Information for both showcases is available at 455-4775.

### Inauguration singer to appear Feb. 14 at Schenectady church

Brenda Jackson, the American opera singer working in Germany, will perform a selection of classical, spiritual and gospel music in a benefit concert for Schenectady Inner City Ministry at 8 p.m., Friday Feb. 14.

While known for her operatic work, she more recently was featured at President Clinton's inauguration festivities.

The concert will be given at St. John the Evangelist Church on Union Street, across from Union College. Tickets are available at Shop 'n Save stores in Colonie, Clifton Park, Niskayuna, Glenville and Rotterdam.

The Schenectady Inner City Ministry is an ecumenical partnership of 53 churches operating a food pantry, hospital center for the homeless, social center for people infected by HIV/AIDS and an inner-city job center.



Martin P. Kelly





# AROUND THE AREA

**WEDNESDAY**  
**JANUARY 29**

**ALBANY COUNTY**

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Doane Stuart School, Rt. 9W,  
Albany, 5:30 p.m. Information,  
465-5222, ext. 210.

**PRAYER IN DAILY LIFE**  
eight week course, Abba House  
of Prayer, 647 Western Ave.,  
Albany, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
Information, 438-8320.

**COXSACKIE ANTIQUE CENTER**  
"Prints and How to Identify  
them", Corner of Rt. 9W at Rt.  
81, West Cocksakie, 7 p.m.  
Information, 731-8888.

**WINTER FARMERS' MARKET**  
Grand Concourse, Empire State  
Plaza, Albany, 11 a.m.

**FARMERS' MARKET**  
Holy Cross Church, Western  
Avenue and Brevator Street,  
Albany, 2 to 6 p.m. Information,  
272-2972.

**SQUARE DANCE**  
Single Squares of Albany, St.  
Michael's Community Center,  
Linden Street Extension, Cohoes,  
7:30 p.m. Information, 459-2888.

**SCHENECTADY COUNTY**

**RIVER VALLEY CHORUS  
MEETING**  
Glen Worden School, 34  
Worden Road, Scotia, 7:30 p.m.  
Information, 355-4264.

**THURSDAY**  
**JANUARY 30**

**ALBANY COUNTY**

**CHORUS REHEARSAL**  
sponsored by Capital and  
Chorus of Sweet Adelines, New  
Covenant Church, 916 Western  
Ave., Albany, 7:30 p.m.  
Information, 237-4384.

**FARMERS' MARKET**  
corner of Pine Street and  
Broadway, Albany, 11 a.m. to 2  
p.m. Information, 272-2972.

**SENIOR CHORALE**

Albany Jewish Community  
Center, 340 Whitehall Road,  
Albany, 1 p.m. Information, 438-  
6651.

**FRIDAY**  
**JANUARY 31**

**ALBANY COUNTY**

**EIGHTH STEP DANCING**  
for experienced dancers, First  
Lutheran Church, 181 Western  
Ave., Albany, 8 p.m.  
Information, 489-9066.

**MOTHERS' DROP IN**  
sponsored by the Capital District  
Mothers' Center, First  
Congregational Church, Quail  
Street, Albany, 9:30 a.m. to  
noon. Information, 475-1897.

**SENIORS LUNCHE**

Albany Jewish Community  
Center, 340 Whitehall Road,  
Albany, 12:30 p.m. Information,  
438-6651.

**SUNDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 2**

**ALBANY COUNTY**

**DANCE PROGRAM**  
"Polka Guys and Dolls," for  
children 3 and older, Cohoes  
Polish National Alliance,  
Cohoes, 6 to 7:30 p.m.  
Information, 237-8595.

**SCOTTISH DANCING**  
Unitarian Church, Washington  
Ave., Albany, 7 to 10 p.m.  
Information, 377-8792.

**MONDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 3**

**ALBANY COUNTY**

**INFORMATION SESSION**  
"How to Begin and Build Your  
Own Successful Consulting  
Practice," Ramada Inn, Western  
Avenue, Albany, 6 to 9:30 p.m.  
Information, 475-0152.

**SENIORS LUNCHE**  
Albany Jewish Community  
Center, 340 Whitehall Road,  
Albany, 4:45 p.m. Information,  
438-6651.

**SCHENECTADY COUNTY**

**SCOTTISH DANCING**  
Salvation Army, Smith Street,  
Schenectady, 8 to 10 p.m.  
Information, 783-6477.

**TUESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 4**

**ALBANY COUNTY**

**TRUE FRIENDS**  
female incest survivors support  
group, Pineview Community  
Church, 251 Washington Ave.  
Extension, Albany, 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Information, 452-7800.

**SINGLE PARENTS MEETING**  
sponsored by Parents Without  
Partners Chapter 380, Colonie  
Community Center, Central  
Ave., Albany, 7 p.m.  
Information, 869-0870.

**BINGO**  
Albany Jewish Community  
Center, 340 Whitehall Road,  
Albany, 7:30 p.m. Information,  
438-6651.

**RECOVERY, INC.**  
self-help group for former  
mental and nervous patients,  
Unitarian Church, of Albany, 405  
Washington Ave., Albany, 7:30  
p.m. Information, 346-8595.

**SAMARITANS SUPPORT GROUP**  
for suicide survivors, 160 Central  
Ave., Albany, 7:30 p.m.  
Information, 463-2323.

**SENIORS LUNCHE**  
Albany Jewish Community  
Center, 340 Whitehall Road,  
Albany, 12:30 p.m. Information,  
438-6651.

**SAFE PLACE**  
support group for those who  
have lost a loved one to suicide,  
St. John's Lutheran Church, 160  
Central Ave., Albany, 7:30 p.m.  
Information, 463-2323.

**CIVIL AIR PATROL**  
Albany Senior Squadron, Albany  
Airport, 7 p.m. Information, 869-  
4406.

**SCHENECTADY COUNTY**

**MS SELF-HELP GROUP**  
Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help  
Group of Schenectady County,  
Sunnyview Hospital, Belmont  
Avenue, Schenectady, 9:30  
a.m. Information, 427-0421.

**RECOVERY, INC.**  
self-help group for former  
mental and nervous patients,  
Unitarian House, 1248 Wendall  
Ave., Schenectady, 7:30 p.m.  
Information, 346-8595.

**SECULAR SOBRIETY GROUP**  
group for recovering alcoholics,  
Temple Gates of Heaven,  
corner of Ashmore Avenue and  
Eastern Parkway, Schenectady,  
7:30 p.m. Information, 346-5569.

**EATING DISORDERS GROUP**  
Union College, fourth floor  
campus center, Schenectady,  
7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Information,  
465-9550.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 5**

**ALBANY COUNTY**

**DEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
CLINIC**  
Bellevue Women's Hospital, Troy  
Road, Niskayuna, 10 a.m. to 4  
p.m. Information, 346-9438.

## MagicMaze

### ● STEVE —

J A X V S Q N K I F D A A X V  
T Q O M J H N F C O A L B Y W  
U R P N L I J H F V L A D B Z  
X V G U T T E N B E R G T R E  
Q O M R K I N H N T E T F C D  
B C A N Y O N E K T I N N Y Z  
Y M W V T T E O H G R E B E D  
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I H R F Q S D U C W U R K R A  
Z A X C K W O V A U P A O A S  
C R M I O Y O L N M S L C G K

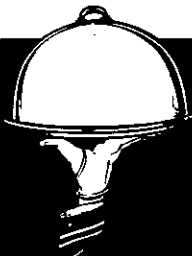
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions-forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- |           |         |            |          |
|-----------|---------|------------|----------|
| Allen     | Carlton | Guttenberg | Ovett    |
| Barkowski | Cauthen | Largent    | Spurrier |
| Biko      | DeBerg  | Lawrence   | Young    |
| Canyon    | Garvey  | McQueen    |          |

### Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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# Spotlight on Dining



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Bethlehem in the County of Albany, State of New York has on the 22nd day of January 1997, duly adopted, subject to a permissive referendum, a resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Bethlehem has determined that it is necessary to make improvements to playing fields at Elm Avenue Park, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the costs of said work will be approximately \$311,000 and

WHEREAS, in recognition of these needs, funds for such construction are in the Recreation Capital Reserve Account; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is in the public interest to complete this playing field work; and,

**LEGAL NOTICE**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the expenditure of the reserve monies to fund this project up to a maximum amount of \$311,000 and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Comptroller is authorized to expend from the Recreation Capital Reserve Account the funds necessary up to \$311,000 in said reserve fund; and

This resolution shall be subject to a permissive referendum, as permitted by law.

The motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mrs. Davis, was second by Mr. Johnson and duly adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Johnson.  
NOES: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Putne  
DATED: January 22, 1997  
(January 29, 1997)

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**The Real Estate Corner**  
By A. Gresham Morris, Associate Broker

**What makes one offer more attractive to sellers than another?**

Obviously, the price is usually the most important element, but there are other factors that make an offer more or less attractive. For instance, one obstacle is a "contingency", a clause that allows a buyer to back out if certain conditions aren't met. Of course, offers with the fewest contingencies are most attractive to sellers.

When it comes to contingencies, first-time buyers are often better prospects for a seller's home than move-up buyers. Why? Because offers from homeowners usually are contingent upon the sale of their present home. And, even if a move-up buyer has an offer for their home in hand, their buyer's offer may be contingent on another contingency (or sale) and so on down the line. If one transaction in the chain falls through, they all might.

Cash offers can also be more attractive to sellers. Why? After all, the seller will get their money at closing whether or not the buyer has cash or takes out a loan. True, but cash offers don't require lender approval, and loan approval is never a certainty — it may delay closing. (Incidentally, for this reason, buyers who get pre-qualified for a loan have an edge over other buyers).

Buyers offering a larger than customary amount of "earnest money" (a deposit that accompanies an offer) can be more appealing, too. More money demonstrates greater sincerity and motivation to close the transaction.

Naturally, sellers are always looking for the best price for their home, but remember they also want an easy, trouble-free reliable transaction. Thus, as a rule, the fewer the contingencies and the greater the commitment - the smoother the transaction.

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## Gables

(From Page 1)

series," Leavitt said. "This musical was based very carefully on the first book of the series. It was first commissioned for the Charlottetown Festival on Prince Edward Island in Canada.

"Charlottetown was L.M. Montgomery's home, and the house where she wrote *Anne of Green Gables* is a national monument now."

Leavitt has been a part-time music teacher and a soccer coach at the middle school for the last seven years; this is his fifth year directing the school show.

"The choreographers and I choose the show each year," Leavitt said.

The choreographers are Fran Coccozza and Muriel Welsh, and *Anne of Green Gables* will be their fifth show together.

"We're all on the same wavelength," Leavitt said. "We see a lot of things the same way, and we also tend to be flexible about things. We all work on blocking (which actors move where when) together, and sometimes after we've arranged things, then let it set for a while, we might come back and say, 'I was thinking about that scene,' and it turns out we've all been thinking about it. I really count highly on Fran and Muriel."

Leavitt says he's been involved in theater for as long as he can remember.

During high school in Burlington, Vt., he was in a number of one-act plays and *The Silver Whistle*. He was a music education major at the University of Vermont, where he lived in a suite of rooms filled with drama majors.

While at UVM, two of the plays



Bethlehem Central Middle School pupils, from left, Helena Kopchick, Irie Dunne and Matt Treadgold get some pointers from *Anne of Green Gables* director Frank Leavitt.  
Katherine McCarthy

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he performed in were *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Charley's Aunt*.

From UVM, he moved to Crane School of Music in Potsdam continuing to study music education and drama. He stayed in Potsdam in the summers, performing in the Music Theater North, which provided him with some of his life's major influences.

"That's where I learned what professional theater can be, and what educational theater can be," Leavitt said. "If there were 30 people in the cast, two would have equity cards. MTN held auditions in New York City and in Potsdam, so there were always a lot of theater majors. I learned how to present drama so people are learning as they go."

Two faculty members in particular stand out in Leavitt's mind.

"Craig North taught me how to put things together," Leavitt said, "and William Champney gave me the tools to be a good actor."

Leavitt recalls his lessons clearly, and it is easy to imagine

him passing them on to middle school actors.

"Bill taught me awareness," Leavitt said, "in general and physically who and what is around you. I learned to listen and be aware of what's around from a new perspective. Each time your character hears something, it's for the first time. I learned how expressive the human body can be. Most importantly, Bill taught me about living in the moment, not where you're going later or the fight you're having with your girlfriend. You're the governor; you have to live in that space at that time. Between Bill and Craig, I have a tremendous amount I can pass on to the kids."

A tremendous amount that he passes on to a lot of kids — 82 auditioned for *Anne of Green Gables*; 45 will perform on stage. Eighty-seven people are working on crews behind the scenes, and the pace has been frenetic from the start.

"We cast at the end of October," Leavitt said. "Except for holidays, we've rehearsed three times

a week, for two hours each day, and three hours every Saturday afternoon."

This is the first year that pupils have designed the set, and Leavitt is very happy with the nine panels they've created.

With a couple of weeks left to go, Leavitt said optimistically, "We are ahead of where we should be."

For a large part of that, Leavitt credits parent volunteers who've worked on the show.

"We could not do it without the parents," Leavitt said. "When I get in at 11 on a Saturday, there are parents who've already been here for two hours."

Leavitt also has high praise for his colleagues at the middle school.

"I adore it here," he said. "A lot of people take for granted what we have in this district. This is the finest faculty I've ever worked with; they're dedicated, concerned and energetic. These people care about the kids, and I care, so it works."

Leavitt is also active in The Village Stage, where he directed *Little Shop of Horrors* last spring. He plans to audition for Park Playhouse's upcoming production of *Man of La Mancha*.

Leavitt will finish work on his master's degree at the University of Connecticut this spring. "Then I'll be able to audition for more things."

For now, though, all his efforts are concentrated on *Anne of Green Gables*, and as pupils and parents begin arriving, his concentration is required in a number of areas.

On stage, Muriel Welsh is rehearsing with Miss Stacy, (seventh-grader Risa Sarachan); a parent wonders where the show's no-speed bike should be stored; a pupil borrows a copy of the script from Leavitt, who's conferring with a father about a student's hockey/play practice scheduling conflict.

That settled, Leavitt mounts the stairs to the stage to begin tonight's rehearsal.

At the edge of the stage, his hero sandwich and Diet Coke remain uneaten.

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