



CELEBRATING THE CONSTITUTION...Westfield DAR women met last week to plan their service to the community. The chapter is celebrating its 83rd year.

## 'We The People'...DAR Honors Constitution Week

The Westfield Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is starting its 83rd year by celebrating Constitution Week. September 17 through 23 commemorates the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America.

"Constitution week gives us time to reflect about the document written to know your rights, freedoms and responsibilities as a citizen," said Regent Stephanie Mannino. "Americans need only to glance at today's headlines to find reasons why we must honor all of the patriots, veterans and those that have died for American freedom. The Daughters face a challenge to keep the memory alive of the courage of the founding fathers. Everyone is invited to join the Daughters of the American Revolution in defending and preserving

the American way," she added. The Westfield Chapter of the DAR awards good citizenship medals and American History awards to students, ROTC and Girl Scouts. The chapter is devoted to veterans. Members visit Lyons Hospital and hold a Christmas party for the veterans. "We appreciate their providing us with our freedoms by sacrificing their lives during the war," said Mrs. Mannino.

The Westfield DAR also gives assistance to needy families and makes contributions to children in remote area schools and on Indian Reservations.

Membership in the Westfield DAR is open to those with a patriot ancestor. Anyone interested in membership and lineage research are invited to call Mrs. H.D. Blauvelt at (908) 232-8674.

## SP Resident Dave Swiderski Is Making the Canine Calls

By BILL SHEPPARD

Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Every sport or competition needs unbiased officials who know the rules and can "make the call." Referees, linesman, umpires and judges do their job of making decisions on the field or in the ring. Their level of required training and experience varies according to the authority that certifies them as an official judge.

Judging "show dogs" for completions under the American Kennel Club (AKC) standards is demanding. Scotch Plains resident Dave Swiderski, an AKC judge, has been involved with show dogs for 25 years. "It all began as a hobby when I started as a breeder." The former high school teacher, now retired, told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*.

"It took many years to become a judge. There are numerous specific prerequisites outlined by the American Kennel Club." Mr. Swiderski pointed out that each prospective judge is required, among other things, to be an active member of a local AKC club, attend "Breed Specialty" seminars and complete a number of weeklong workshops. Although all judging is by nature of this type of sport subjective, there are very specific standards in all breed categories that a knowledgeable judge must be aware.

Basic structure and movement (of the dog) is the same in all breeds. A judge must be qualified in each breed individually. It took me nine years to get qualified in one category.

He told the *Leader/Times*, there are 150 breeds eligible for AKC registration. Every breed is assigned to one of seven groups or miscellaneous class, based on the uses for which the breeds were originally developed.

The American Kennel Club lists seven categories of show dogs: toys, terriers, herding, working, sporting, hound, non-sporting and miscellaneous. These dogs are judged on specific physical characteristics, such as basic structure and movement, as well as their demeanor and performance.

Judges examine the dog's general appearance, size, proportion, substance, head, bite, body, top line, etc. The judge's evaluate the dog's movement as the handler puts the dog through their paces, looking for gait and temperament. Each breed characteristics is outlined in detail in the AFC official standards book.

For example, the gait of the Old English Sheepdog, a member of the herding group is described as, "When trotting, movement is free and powerful, seemingly effortless, with good reach and drive, and covering maximum ground with minimum steps...very elastic at a gallop...may amble or pace at slower speeds."

Mr. Swiderski told the *Leader/Times*, "The highlight of my 25 year association with show dogs wasn't at an AFC event but in Japan, where I participated as an International Judge representing the United States." Judging outside of the U.S. falls under Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI) set of standards that are similar but markedly different than the American Kennel Club.

At the Asia International competition, held in Japan, the event was very formal, in a stadium used for the Olympics. Judges and competitors were introduced by the country they represented. "Hearing our National Anthem played with the American Flag raised in the stadium was a moving experience," Mr. Swiderski told the *Leader/Times*.

Mr. Swiderski offered prospective show dog owners a bit of advice, "purchasing an animal whether for a pet or a show dog is a responsibility. The prospective owner should be

prepared to properly care for the dog. Show dogs require constant maintenance, from proper food, to regular grooming, exercise and the care of a veterinarian. A common misconception is that a dog registered with the American Kennel Club automatically insures quality." You be the Judge!



DOG'S WORLD...Judge Ray Swiderski is shown with winning dog of the breed during an American Kennel Club event last year in Union County.

# Scotch Plains Library Director Bernstein Shelves Career After 30 Years of Service

By JENNIFER PINTO  
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SCOTCH PLAINS -- Scottish historian and famous author, Thomas Carlyle once said "What we become depends on what we read after all of the professors have finished with us. The greatest university of all is a collection of books." For Norbert Bernstein, former Library Director of the Scotch Plains Public Library, his "greatest university" is located in Scotch Plains.



Norbert Bernstein

For the past 30 years Mr. Bernstein and his staff have collected over 30,000 volumes for their children and adult collections. He told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that one of his main goals was "to build a collection that would appeal to everyone...it used to be a small collection," stated Mr. Bernstein.

The Scotch Plains Public Library was built in 1968 and just four years later, Mr. Bernstein joined the library. For the past 30 years, he has assumed the position of Library Director at The Scotch Plains Public Library.

In 1954, after graduating from Columbia Library School at Columbia University in New York City, Mr. Bernstein joined the team at the New York Public Library as a Document Searcher. Shortly after, he took a position in Rhode Island as the Assistant Head Cataloguer at The Providence Public Library. In 1958 Mr. Bernstein moved west to Ohio where he became Head of Technical Services in Youngstown, Ohio. In 1962, he moved back to New York to assume the Library Director position at the Auburn New York Public Library. Auburn is a community with roughly a population of 35,000 and is located just below Syracuse in New York State. From 1966 to 1970, Mr. Bernstein headed closer to his hometown of Boston and found himself in Waltham, Massachusetts accepting a position as Assistant Library Di-

rector at Brandeis University. One of the main reasons why Mr. Bernstein accepted the position at Brandeis was to be closer to his son who at that time was a student at the university.

In 1971 Mr. Bernstein found himself in New Jersey. He worked as Library Director of the Union City Public Library in Union City, N.J. until September of 1972. That September Mr. Bernstein was offered a position as Library Director of the Scotch Plains Public Library where he has served the community for the last 30 years.

When *The Times* asked Mr. Bernstein about his greatest accomplishments, he modestly thanked his staff and the board of trustees for all their hard work.

Mr. Bernstein spoke of The Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Library and how they started five years ago. "Supportive as far as purchasing references, summer reading club, and annual book sale, credit for this is deserved to Ted Czarnomski."

Mr. Bernstein told *The Times* that he was proud to initiate The Scotchwood Chamber Ensemble concerts; that is with the leadership of Conductor Ms. Lubove Schnable.

"My proudest accomplishment with the help of Horace Corbin (publisher of *The Times*) was getting *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* on microfilm within the past year in a half," said Mr. Bernstein.

However, something that bothered Mr. Bernstein was the library's high ceiling, "from a physical viewpoint, attractive but changing the lights would be a problem."

"A new roof was installed ten years ago, it leaked from the time it was built. Finally we decided enough was enough," said Mr. Bernstein. "We also just put in a new lift elevator for the handicap and the elderly...it is cur-

rently being inspected."

"We have also installed new lighting and carpet about three years ago. New furniture and a new reference desk as well."

Mr. Bernstein also mentioned how the Scotch Plains Library has been very fortunate. "Two years ago a car came down Forest Road and plowed through the library. It happened to be a Saturday in the summer so no one was injured, "that wall is near my office and I was lucky."

Other accomplishments include an automated catalog and the implementing of the Internet.

"It has not been a difficult transition because we had a good staff interested in doing this and a great board of trustees," said Mr. Bernstein.

When *The Times* asked Mr. Bernstein why he chose Scotch Plains to spend the bulk of his career, he responded: "Nice people, nice community, I was interested in their library, nice people to work with."

"Seriously, I have been here 30 years. There comes a time when we have to let go and have to give someone a chance to do things, perhaps differently."

*The Times* asked Mr. Bernstein about his replacement, Meg Kolaya, the current Library Director in Clark.

"I have a successor that I hope will do better than I do...let her be herself and do what she needs to do for the better of the community."

Mr. Bernstein plans on staying in his

present Fanwood home. He has two sons, one in Western Massachusetts and one in Florida and also three grandchildren.

He told *The Times* that he is looking forward to visit his son in Florida more often. He doesn't get to Florida as much as he would like to.

He also plans on writing, "perhaps on the great American novel. I have always liked to write". However, he will not totally distance himself from the world of libraries.

After the interview, Mr. Bernstein showed *The Times* the children's wing of the library. He told *The Times*, one thing he didn't like about the library was how the story pit was built, "what bothered me was that it was in the center of the children's room and didn't allow people to look around". However, one thing that Mr. Bernstein was extremely proud of was the mural painted on the glass partition of the story pit. Carlos Sanchez, a Latin-American artist, painted the mural in 1998. It is obvious that the mural encompasses an idea based on the famous African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." In the center of the piece is a young man with a beard, and according to Mr. Bernstein it is supposed to be a younger version of himself.

After 30 years of reflection, Mr. Bernstein moves on to the next chapter of his life, leaving a new director in charge of his "greatest university."

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