

John Jones, 70, Had Been Marine; Senior Marketing Representative

John "Jack" Jones, 70, of Ocala, Fla. died on Wednesday, May 31, at the Munroe Regional Medical Center Emergency Center at TimberRidge.

Born in Chicago, Ill., he had moved to Ocala from East Jordan, Mich. in 2001.

Mr. Jones had been a senior marketing representative for IBM in the Detroit, Mich. area for 34 years before retiring.

He served in the United States Marine Corps.

He was a member of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Ocala, the Shakers Parkinson Support Group, the Marine Corps League, the Central Florida Symphony Chorus and the Troubadours in Oak Run. Additionally, he belonged to the Rotary Club of Ocala Southwest and was a Paul Harris Fellow.

Surviving are his wife of 25 years, Marilyn Jones; a daughter, Dr. Barbara Jones of Davis, Calif.; two sons, the Reverend Kenneth Jones of Shelton, Wash. and Steven Jones of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; two step-daughters, Katherine Loomis of Morrow, Ohio and Elizabeth Ludwig of Ho-Ho-Kus; a stepson, Edward Hulse of Hawthorne; a brother, Connett Jones of Kansas City, Mo., and 12 grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the National Parkinson Foundation, Inc., 1501 NW 9th Avenue, Bob Hope Road, Miami, Fla. 33136.

Arrangements were by the Hiers-Baxley Funeral Services TimberRidge Chapel in Ocala.

June 15, 2006

William Walzer, Sr., 87, Army Veteran; Plant Manager and Superintendent

William C. Walzer, Sr., 87, of Scotch Plains died on Saturday, June 10, at Atlantic Inpatient Hospice in Morristown.

Born in Irvington, he had lived in Belmar before moving to Scotch Plains 52 years ago.

Mr. Walzer had been employed as plant manager with Bow Solder (Canfield Associates) in Union prior to retiring in 1982. Earlier, he was a superintendent with P. Ballantine & Sons in Newark for 32 years.

A United States Army veteran, he served as a staff sergeant during World War II.

He was a member of American Legion Post No. 209 in Scotch Plains, the Scotch Plains Senior Citizen Meridians and St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains.

His wife, Margaret Brennan Walzer, predeceased him in 2001. Two brothers, Elwood Walzer and Joseph Walzer, also predeceased him.

Surviving are a son, William C. Walzer, Jr.; a daughter, Kathleen A. Soriano; a brother, Robert Walzer, and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held yesterday, Wednesday, June 14, from the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue in Fanwood. A Funeral Mass followed at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church. Interment took place at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 815, Elizabeth, N.J. 07207.

June 15, 2006

Virginia C. Steffen, 83, Homemaker; Formerly Worked For Art Color

Virginia C. Steffen, 83, of Westfield died on Monday, June 12, at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in Plainfield on March 7, 1923, the daughter of the late Aurelio and Lillian Ianotta Coletta, she lived in Westfield since 1959.

Mrs. Steffen had been employed as a factory worker at Art Color in Dunellen for 13 years before retiring in 1955. She then became a homemaker.

She was a member of the Jehovah Kingdom Hall in Plainfield.

She was predeceased by her husband, Richard Steffen, in 1993.

Surviving are a daughter, Donna J. Farnum of Edison, and two sons, Gregg P. Steffen of Middlesex and Douglas J. Steffen of Reseda, Calif.

Visitation will take place from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, June 16, at the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street in Westfield. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 17, at the funeral home. Cremation will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Watch Tower Society, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

June 15, 2006

Westfield Business Owner Frustrated By Parking Problem and Ticketing

Editor's Note: The following letter also was sent to the Downtown Westfield Corporation and the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

I received a ticket on Saturday, May 27. I will not pay. I had pulled into the loading zone in front of our store, Little Treasures, to pick up some items as we are closing down the business. I was in the store less than five minutes with my blinkers on.

How is it that local restaurants can keep their delivery vehicles parked in the loading zone all day and not get a ticket? It is my understanding that the loading zone is not private parking for local law enforcement for lunch. Are we now going to ticket UPS, FedEx and others for making deliveries?

Instead of ticketing for parking, would it not be more advantageous to ticket those who could possibly endanger the life of a pedestrian? I can count on an average day at least eight cars making illegal U-turns on Broad Street to get that ever-elusive parking space. Or even better: how about directing traffic at Prospect and Broad Streets after 5 p.m. as rush hour moves through Westfield?

I would think that Westfield should spend more time in thinking how to retain small, independent business in town, making parking easy and not stressful for those choosing to shop here.

I cannot even tell you the number of our customers who constantly complain about the lack of parking and length of time they can spend in town. Our average customer would spend in excess of two hours in our store and would also want to enjoy one of our many restaurants. This has been an impossible feat.

My brother, who runs our shop, is looking forward to moving out of Westfield and finding a town that embraces its independent specialty shops and its customers.

Julie Spector
Scotch Plains

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Obituaries

Madeline Cervasi, 94, Owned Properties; Active With Church and Senior Citizens

Madeline Cervasi, 94, of Mountainside died on Monday, June 5, at Bayshore Community Hospital in Holmdel.

Born in Costantino Potenza in Albanese, Italy, she came to the United States in 1919, settling in Newark. She then lived in Middlesex for many years before moving to Mountainside in 1978.

Following World War II, Mrs. Cervasi became the only Albanian landlady in Newark and owned and managed several rental properties. She then was a homemaker.

She was a parishioner and member of the Ladies Rosary Altar Society of the Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church in Mountainside. Additionally, Mrs. Cervasi was a

member of the Mountainside Senior Citizens and also a member of its dance troupe, which performed at several area nursing homes.

She was predeceased by her husband, Columbo Cervasi.

Surviving are two sons, Daniel Cervasi and David Cervasi; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren and a great-great grandchild.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Friday, June 9, at the Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Interment followed at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Newark.

Arrangements were by the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street in Westfield.

June 15, 2006

More Letters to the Editor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

By Patricia Quattrocchi, Candidate for Freeholder The Question of Free Speech in Freeholder Meetings

As my children have been growing up, there has always been one "smart little you know what" in the group who thought he/she had everything all figured out and attempted to share his newly gleaned knowledge of what democracy means. Most parents have encountered this scenario usually around the sixth or seventh grade.

"It's a free country you know, I have rights, and I have freedom of speech." My response usually went something like, "Yes, it is a free country, and yes, you have rights; however, they end at that door. In here it is Mommy and Daddy Land, a benevolent dictatorship, and guess who is in charge."

Being extremely fortunate that all five boys and two girls got the message at the time of this initial exercise, we haven't had any repeat performances. Actually, that was also about the same time that they learned about diplomacy and, to their credit, wisely chose that alternative route to express future opinions. These early civics lessons came flooding back to my mind last Thursday after attending a meeting of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The freeholders were slated to vote on accepting the county budget, totaling \$409 million, so it is understandable that this meeting would attract a number of county residents who felt the need to speak out on the budget. Residents are allowed to address the board at certain points during the meetings, prior to when votes are taken regarding ordinances and resolutions and only about those items being voted on, and questions are frowned upon, though grudgingly answered.

At the end of the meeting, a time is provided when attendees are allowed to address the board by way of "comments only" on any topic they care to discuss. Residents are limited to five minutes each; a green, yellow and red light system is used to control the session, and I have noticed that the lights are generally in play when "certain" individuals approach the podium.

When the yellow light goes on, the speaker is alerted that their allotted time is almost up, reminding me of the old TV game show "Beat the Clock." Should the red become lit, the speaker is told, "Thank you, your time is up." Refusal to leave the podium can lead to ejection, which has taken place, and there are restrictions regarding content and language.

One would think that this is a great opportunity to get what is on one's mind off one's chest by making a comment or two about the budget, no bid contracts or hiring practices. However, just mentioning the word nepotism in relation to county government elicits a stern warning from the county counsel that the speaker is getting "dangerously close to crossing the line."

Attending these meetings for three years now has made me acutely aware that those who offer kudos can go on forever, well past the allotted five minutes. While it seems that those who speak of their disappointment in the freeholders' performance are "crossing the line," this could translate into: "you are out of order and had better sit down before we throw you out for criticizing us."

In his closing comments during last Thursday's public meeting, Freeholder Chester Holmes reminded residents in the audience that, "Our chairman here has his attorney sitting next to him. You need to ask yourselves, do you have your attorney sitting next to you? You should keep that in mind when you cross the line while addressing this board." So much for freedom of speech, freedom to possess a differing opinion and thinking that we are participating in the democratic process here in Union County.

I have given great consideration to doing just as Freeholder Holmes has suggested and perhaps will have my attorney in tow when I go through the door into the next meeting, as it appears that one must leave one's Constitutional rights outside like children when we cross the threshold into "Freeholder Land."

WF Resident Reacts to BOE Meeting; Offers Views on Changes to Schools

Editor's Note: This letter also was sent to the Westfield Board of Education.

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for taking the time to listen, but not necessarily hear, the voices of the parent and staff communities of Wilson and Washington Schools. I am glad that you know the board believes change is good. I, too, believe change can be good.

If the voices heard tonight raised even the slightest temptation to change your decision, then a good thing was accomplished. Having spoken to parents at Wilson School, it wasn't the actual decision as much as the method, in particular the lack of knowing why, as well as the timing, that has made people frustrated and upset.

Lack of information is very frustrating - I am sure you can appreciate this fact. How often has the entire teaching staff come to a board meeting because you were not offering tenure or transferring a teacher out? I am going to make my educated guess as it has not been often, if ever. Please correct me if I am wrong.

Sadly, I had hoped you would listen with your minds open, and make a modified decision which would have been in

the best interest of the two school communities directly affected. You would vote yes (we knew you would not reverse the decision), making it effective in July 2007, allowing Ms. Dunkiel to spend one year in the school before changing Dr. Perry and Mr. Malanga.

Yes, this is an educated decision by Dr. Foley. But you are all educated members of our community, elected to the BOE by the community of Westfield, who may or may not have neglected to the possible detriment of Wilson and Washington Schools) to ask Dr. Foley the many questions the parents of these communities wanted answered (and regretfully many were not answered but delightfully side-stepped at the meeting).

Dr. Foley is the "executive officer of the BOE," so to speak, but look what happened to Worldcom, Tyco or Enron when they didn't question their boss.

I wish both schools the best of luck. I know Dr. Perry will be a valuable asset to the Washington School district. I am assuming Mr. Malanga will be likewise for Wilson School.

Ingrid McKinley
Westfield

Frances Walsh, 95, Former Teacher; CSH Volunteer For Over 25 Years

Frances Connor Walsh, 95, of West Hartford, Conn. died on Friday, June 9, at the John N. Dempsey Hospital in Farmington, Conn.

Born in Proctor, Vt., the daughter of the late John P. and Anna Hanley Connor, she had lived in Somerville, Mass. for several years, Westfield for 60 years and West Hartford since 1998.

Mrs. Walsh was a member of the second graduating class of Regis College in Weston, Mass., Class of 1932, and had been a fourth-grade teacher in the Somerville, Mass. public school system.

While living in Westfield, she was a volunteer for over 25 years with Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside.

She was a communicant of the Church of St. Helena in West Hartford.

Her husband, Francis E. Walsh,

predeceased her. Four brothers, John, James, Bernard and Richard Connor, and four sisters, Sister M. Anna Mildred, Bertha, Anna and Mildred Connor, also predeceased her.

Surviving are a son, Richard E. Walsh of Old Lyme, Conn.; a daughter, Marcia A. Hess of Middletown, Conn., four grandchildren and a great-grandson.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, June 13, at the Church of St. Helena. Interment took place yesterday, Wednesday, June 14, at St. Paul's Cemetery in Arlington, Mass.

Arrangements were by the Sheehan-Hilborn-Breen Funeral Home in West Hartford.

Memorial donations may be made to the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston, 93 Bethany Road, Framingham, Mass. 01701.

June 15, 2006

Community Participation Needed For Blood and Bone Marrow Drive

In anticipation of a fantastic turnout at the upcoming bone marrow and blood drive in honor of Joanne Heller-Saunders at Temple Emanu-El on June 25, I want to thank some people who have generously contributed their time, money and efforts to Joanne's cause.

For those in the community who are not aware, Joanne Heller-Saunders, a Westfield mother of twin two-and-a-half-year-olds, Carly and Jack, is suffering from severe autoimmune dysfunction following decades of debilitating Crohn's Disease. Over the last several years, Joanne has been stricken with a rare and life threatening complication of severe immune system compromise, and is in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant.

Joanne has been on the list of the National Bone Marrow Registry for over two years with no exact matches to date. Time is running out for Joanne.

The staff and congregation at Temple Emanu-El have been instrumental in this endeavor to save Joanne's life. Staff and parents alike in the Early Childhood Education Department (Eced), headed by Jill Cimafonte, have been especially generous in their quest to raise awareness and funds for the drive by donating recent tzedakah contributions (anonymous charity fund), as well as matching those con-

tributions from the Early Childhood Education Committee fund up to \$1,000.

The response from the community thus far has been phenomenal, with a large anticipated turnout of potential bone marrow donors and financial contributors to offset the cost of the drive. Joanne and her family are extremely grateful to the community in this endeavor to find a marrow match to save her life. The caring and generosity of Westfield and the surrounding area community is a primary reason why Joanne wants to raise her toddlers here in Westfield.

The bone marrow and simultaneous blood drive will be held on June 25 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield. To be tested as a bone marrow donor, a simple, painless cotton swab to the inside of a cheek is all that is required. More information about becoming a donor can be found at www.marow.org or by calling the HLA registry at 1(800) 336-3363. Financial donations can be made directly to Joanne's cause by using the fund name "Joanne Heller-Saunders."

Thank you in advance for your generosity in saving the life of this Westfield mom! We hope to see you at the drive on Sunday, June 25!

Abby Saunders
Westfield

More Community News

St. John's Baptist Reveals Series of Special Activities

SCOTCH PLAINS - St. John's Baptist Church, located at 2387 Morse Avenue in Scotch Plains, has announced its schedule of upcoming activities.

The Pastor's Aid Ministry will sponsor a "Father's Day Gospel Explosion" performance this Sunday, June 18, at 5 p.m. at Terrill Middle School on Terrill Road in Scotch Plains.

This program will feature the "New York Hallelujah Company Jr." which has traveled extensively in the United States and Asia, and the St. John's Male Chorus. A \$20 donation is requested and the public is welcome.

Additionally, the St. John's Annual Women's Day Week will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 24 and 25. The Women's Day Ministry will serve a "pre" Women's Day

breakfast that Saturday at 9 a.m. at the church. The festivities will include a speaker, fun activities and fellowship.

On Sunday during the 10 a.m. service, the Women's Day Ministry will present its annual service, featuring the theme "Jesus Christ Only, Always." All women are asked to wear white.

Evangelist Dorothy Clark, president of the Women's Auxiliary, New Jersey State Baptist Convention, will give the exposition on this theme. The Women's Day Choir, under the leadership of Sister Johnetta Bush, will sing a medley of old hymns. The public is invited to attend.

For more information on any of these events, please call St. John's Baptist Church at (908) 232-6972.

Unitarian Society to Begin Short Plays Tomorrow

AREA - Seven short, lighthearted plays are on the bill for June, beginning tomorrow evening, at the Parish Theatre of the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield, the congregation of which includes residents of Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

The church-based theater group Act IV will give performances at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, June 16, 17, 23 and 24, with matinees at 4 p.m. on Sundays, June 18 and 25. The church is located at 724 Park Avenue in Plainfield. Tickets are \$15 and may be reserved by calling (908) 756-0750.

The plays, featuring an ensemble of actors from around Central Jersey, include *A Pink Cadillac Nightmare* and *The Parrot* by Le Wilhelm; *The Theodore Roosevelt Rotunda* by Jennifer Camp; *The Casseroles of Far Rockaway* by P. Seth Bauer; *Hot Rod* by Jeremy Kareken; *Tickets, Please!* by Anthony Sportiello and *Three Questions* by Maurice Martin. Cass Cochrane is the director.

Cast members hail from South Plainfield, Colonia, Plainfield, North Plainfield, Metuchen, Glen Ridge, Clark and Madison.

"Short plays are featured in numerous festivals and competitions

across the nation and are a favored form for the amount of entertainment they pack into minutes instead of hours," the director noted.

For further information about events at the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield, interested individuals are asked to visit www.fusp.org.

Men Invited to Join 'Y' Basketball League

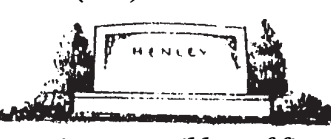
WESTFIELD - The Westfield Area "Y" will offer an in-house Men's Summer Basketball League for ages 18 to 30 and ages 30 and up. Men may participate as a team or as an individual player.

This summer league will run from Sunday, July 9, through Sunday, August 20. Games will be played on Sundays from 3 to 8 p.m. at the main "Y" facility, located at 220 Clark Street in Westfield. Certified referees will be used.

This league is open to individual members and non-members. At least one person per team must be a member of the Westfield Area "Y."

For more information about the league and pricing, please call Sherri Carter or Steve Kralovich, Sports Coordinators, at (908) 233-2700, extension no. 258.

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