

Ferguson Assists Couple Left Homeless by Red Tape

SCOTCH PLAINS – Denise and Lou Laster of Scotch Plains had struggled for nearly a year. She's legally blind; he's disabled with a back injury.

Without monthly Social Security disability income, the Lasters couldn't make ends meet. When their application to the Social Security Administration stalled, the couple couldn't pay the bills. They were evicted from their home and lived in their car for weeks. They even hired an attorney to help them, but to no avail.

Then the Lasters turned to Rep. Mike Ferguson (D-7th) for help.

His office contacted federal officials and corrected the problem, and today, the Lasters have their Social Security disability checks. And they're no longer living in a car.

"Congressman Ferguson came to our rescue," Mrs. Laster said after visiting with Mr. Ferguson on Friday at the Scotchwood Diner. "Congressman

Ferguson really went to bat for us, and because of him, we're off the streets and have a warm place to sleep at night."

Mr. Ferguson said fighting for his constituents before federal agencies is among the most important parts of his job – and the most rewarding.

"Denise and Lou needed help and qualified for help, but their case was caught up in red tape," he said after visiting with the Lasters in Scotch Plains. "There's nothing more rewarding for me than cutting through that red tape and delivering for the constituents I represent."

Mr. Ferguson's congressional office helps thousands of 7th District residents each year on issues ranging from Social Security and Medicare to visas and appointments to U.S. military academies. Anyone with a question, comment or concern about a federal agency, can contact Mr. Ferguson's office for assistance at (908) 757-7835.



KEEPING WARM...The Westfield Service League will sell coats at its thrift shop beginning Tuesday, October 17. The league's thrift and consignment shops, both at 114 Elmer Street in Westfield, offer fall and winter clothing for the entire family, plus books, toys, shoes, household items and jewelry. Shop hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday. Pictured, from left to right, shop employee Lee Pratt and Service League volunteers Jill Sitzer and Judy Duchek model various coats available for sale. For more details, please call the thrift shop at (908) 233-2530.

Chelsea at Fanwood to Host Finals of Senior Art Show

FANWOOD – The Chelsea at Fanwood, an assisted living community, will host the finals of the Chelsea Senior Living first annual juried senior resident art show on Friday, October 20, at 11 a.m.

Warren artist and photographer Monica Giglio will do the judging and the art will be on display for the public to view until 2 p.m. The Chelsea at Fanwood is located at 295 South Avenue.

In September, each of Chelsea Senior Living's seven New Jersey communities held its own juried art show. The winning artwork from these seven shows will comprise the entries for the October 20 competition and viewing. All Chelsea residents were invited

to enter up to three pieces of art. All work must have been an original creation of the artist or group. Eligible categories included pen and ink, oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, drawing, mixed media, photography, sculpture, computer graphics and crafts. The Chelsea provided all supplies.

"We are very excited to be hosting this event because it is a wonderful showcase of the talent and creativity of Chelsea Senior Living residents," said Jennifer Ricci, executive director of The Chelsea at Fanwood.

Following the exhibit at Fanwood, a replica of the winning artwork will be made for display at the headquarters of the American Health Care Association in Washington, D.C.

HUNG UP!!

Newcomer Hurt By Neighbors Who Don't Wish to Socialize

By Milt Faith, Executive Director
Youth and Family Counseling Service

A Frustrated Woman writes: What advice do you have for someone who has moved into a new home and has a neighbor who is a grouch? My family (and I) moved into a new home in a lovely town. The neighbors are very nice and welcomed us warmly. My problem is with my next-door neighbor, who never greeted us and treats us like we are intruders or aliens.

Both the husband and wife never say hello, have never invited us over, go to work early and come home late at night. Their children are seldom around. They are always chauffeured around. Should I accept this and tell my children to just play with the other children in the community? It hurts.

Answer: We cannot choose our neighbors; for that matter, we cannot choose our relatives. What we do is enjoy the relationships with those with whom we are comfortable and tolerate and/or avoid the others. In general, your area seems to have pleasant families. Your next-door family seems to have a busy lifestyle and may need to concentrate on their immediate family and work needs, which gives little time for socializing. And/or they may be antisocial. Go on with your life, have the children play with other children who are receptive and friendly. We cannot always control life's processes.

An Aggravated Mother writes: I have a 24-year-old, brilliant son who has made a mess of his life and I do not understand why. He was raised in a good home, did well in school, always got what he wanted (maybe he is spoiled), has had no financial stresses because my husband has done well as a stockbroker.

"John" (disguised name) had friends, but could not sustain them. He smoked pot and drank when he was in his teens. I felt all teens go through this stage and did not want to confront him (my husband and I disagreed). John graduated from Cornell as a business major, but does not want to join my husband nor do anything with it. Shouldn't a bright person know when he is doing things that are not in his best interest?

Answer: John seems confused and may have an entitlement problem; that is, he feels he is entitled to get, and do, what he wants. It appears that you did not communicate with him during his teen years when he was abusing substances. Parents need to talk, express interest and concern, and set appropriate limits with a child. He seems to have no healthy direction and needs guidance. Please refer him to a mental health clinician.

To respond to your question regarding a bright person not using his/her intelligence, I came upon a "fortune" in a Chinese fortune cookie which answers your question simply and to the point: "It is not enough to have a good mind; the main thing is to use it well." Unfortunately, John has not. Possession and utilization of intelligence are two different things.

An Upset Mother writes: My daughter lost her boyfriend during the 9/11/01 disaster. She mourned for a brief period of time and then seemed to have adjusted well. She works, has girlfriends, goes to parties, etc. Recently, she took part in the 9/11 fifth anniversary ceremonies at a local church. Since then, she has become very morose and prefers to stay home, listening to quiet music and crying. She won't talk about what bothers her. I am sure it is connected to the recent 9/11 anniversary. Shouldn't she have resolved her grief years ago? She seemed to have gone through the grieving process.

Answer: Your daughter seems to have mourned after her loss; however, frequently, we may need to revisit our feelings later on, feelings which were repressed or suppressed because of an individual's inability to continue to cope with the enormous trauma which he/she is experiencing. In this particular situation, it would appear that your daughter was unable (fully) to face the horrors of the situation and the anniversary has brought forth the unresolved issues. This is not unusual. I have worked with, and continue to counsel, friends, relatives and survivors of 9/11 as they recall and identify feelings about their loved ones and the consequences of the disaster. This process is not only limited to 9/11, but to other traumas and experiences which we encounter in life.

Our psyches and our bodies are unable to deal with the strong emotions which would result in difficulties in functioning and emotional stability. As a result, we "bury" them until such time when we can handle them, or until something occurs which provokes feelings to emerge. Your daughter needs your support. I would recommend that you encourage her to see a professional to help her through this difficult time. Good luck.

KENT PLACE SCHOOL



OPEN HOUSES

Middle School/Upper School • Grades 6 – 8 / Grades 9 – 12
Sunday, October 15, 2006, 1-3 p.m.

Primary School • Kindergarten – Grade 5
Wednesday, October 18, 2006, 9-11 a.m.

All School • Nursery – Grade 12
Sunday, November 12, 2006, 1-3 p.m.

Kent Place School is an all-girls K through 12 independent college-preparatory day school with a coeducational nursery and pre-kindergarten program.

October 18	Open House Program	October 15/ November 12
9:00 - 9:15	Refreshments & Registration	1:00 - 1:15
9:15 - 10:00	Information Session	1:15 - 2:00
10:00 - 11:00	Tours	2:00 - 3:00

Kent Place School • 42 Norwood Avenue • Summit, NJ 07902-0308 • 908.273.0900 • www.kentplace.org



Commissioning and Validation For Regulated Industries

- Equipment Validation
- Utilities Start-Up Validation
- Computer Validation
- Laboratory Instrumentation
- Process Validation
- Method Validation
- Cleaning Validation
- Facility Validation

www.ctg-gmp.com

908-612-6545

john.lindros@ctggmp.com

Step up to the Extraordinary

Make Our Mansion Your Mansion

Weddings
Sweet 16 Birthdays
Anniversaries
Funeral Luncheons
Communion Parties

Confirmation Parties
Family Reunions
Team Building
Fund Raisers
and All Celebrations

"The James Ward Mansion"

Catering Facility

Josie Ward - Gallagher: 908-413-0040 (Cell) or 908-389-0014
169 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090
Visit our website www.Jameswardmansion.com

Puglisi Insurance Agency
1831 East Second Street, Scotch Plains
908-322-5150
www.puglisi-insurance.com

Our 67th Year

"We Service Our Clients."

A Family Institution Providing Multiple Lines Of Insurance.

Specializing in:

- Attorneys • Physicians Offices
- Commercial • Home Owners • Workers Compensation

PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENT

OCG OHIO CASUALTY GROUP

Trusted Choice

FRANCIS M. SMITH

ATTORNEY AT LAW

PERSONAL INJURY

Slips & Falls
Motor Vehicle Accidents
Defective Products & Machines
Head & Brain Injuries
Construction Accidents
Wrongful Death
Job Related Injuries
Serious Burns & Scars
Nursing Home Abuse

PERSONAL ATTENTION

The Only Attorney Involved In Your Case
Over 25 Years Of Experience Settling Cases

2281 South Avenue • Scotch Plains
No Fee If No Recovery • Call For A Free Consultation
908-233-5800
www.franksmithlaw.com

LAW OFFICES
FRANCIS M. SMITH
PERSONAL INJURY LAW

Our Alzheimer's care begins with what's been forgotten.

Each senior has a history that makes them a unique individual. At Sunrise our approach to Alzheimer's care begins with understanding the stories and details of a senior's life.

Knowing our residents better means we can help them attain what we call "pleasant days" by finding activities they can enjoy and be successful at. We do this in specially designed surroundings that are both safe and nurturing, where who they are is never forgotten.

Visit or call a Sunrise Senior Living community for more information about how we care for seniors with memory impairment. In Mountainside and Westfield, we feature our Reminiscence program for Alzheimer's residents.

Upcoming Event at Brighton Gardens of Mountainside
"Open House and Book & Gift Sale"
Saturday, October 14 • 11:00am-2:00pm • Refreshments

SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Mountainside	Brighton Gardens of Mountainside	908-654-4460	1350 Route 22 West	AL, ALZ
Westfield	Sunrise of Westfield	908-317-3030	240 Springfield Avenue	AL, ALZ

AL=Assisted Living ALZ=Alzheimer's Care

For more information and a FREE online newsletter, visit www.sunriseseniorliving.com