

Obituaries

Charles Cosgrove, 79, Merck Executive; Active Member of St. Helen's Church

Charles V. Cosgrove, 79, of Westfield died on Tuesday, February 27, at Overlook Hospital in Summit. Born in Philadelphia, Pa., he had lived in Montreal, Canada and Paris, France before moving to Westfield in 1972.

Prior to retiring in 1993, Mr. Cosgrove had been director of finance with Merck & Co. in Rahway. He had worked for Merck for 40 years, holding various executive positions.

He was a member of Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield and was very active at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, also in Westfield, where he served as a member of the board of trustees, helped with collections and assisted senior citizens with tax preparation.

Surviving are his wife, Kathleen Breslin Cosgrove; a daughter, Kathleen C. Maloney; two sons, Charles V. Cosgrove, Jr. and Mark P. Cosgrove; six grandchildren, Erin, Joseph, Christopher, Emma, Edward and Kathleen, and a sister, Joan Cosgrove.

The funeral took place on Friday, March 2, from the Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home in Westfield. A Funeral Mass followed at St. Helen's Church in Westfield. Cremation was held privately.

Contributions in his memory to Helping Hands and Hearts, in care of St. Helen's Parish Center, 1600 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, N.J. 07090 would be appreciated.

March 8, 2007

Stephen Banyasz, Sr., 95, Hall of Famer; Had Owned B&B Liquors in Garwood

Stephen J. Banyasz, Sr., 95, of Garwood died on Saturday, March 3. Born in Riverside, he was raised in Lancaster, Pa. and lived in Garwood since 1928. He graduated from Westfield High School in 1931.

Mr. Banyasz had owned B&B Liquors in Garwood from 1944 to 2000.

He was inducted into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame in 1987.

His wife, Sophie Banyasz, predeceased him in 2001.

Surviving are two sons, Stephen J.

Banyasz, Jr. and Joseph Banyasz; two daughters, Susan Chmura and Margaret Banyasz, and three granddaughters.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered yesterday, Wednesday, March 7, at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Anne in Garwood. Burial took place at Saint Gertrude Cemetery in Colonia.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Funeral Home, 218 North Avenue in Cranford.

Memorial donations may be made to the Garwood First Aid Squad, P.O. Box 143, Garwood, N.J. 07027.

March 8, 2007

John Frederick Kruse

John Frederick Kruse of Westfield died on Saturday, March 3, at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights.

Born in Ponca City, Okla., he graduated from Westfield High School, attended Villanova College and graduated from Columbia College.

As an infantry officer in the United States Marine Corps, he saw combat during the Korean War. Later, he did graduate work in international relations at Columbia University.

He is survived by his brother, Theodore, of Piscataway and by his sisters, Stephanie Kruse of Albuquerque, N.M., Margaret Wallenberger of Pittsburgh, Pa. and Helen Kruse-Larkin of Santa Cruz, Calif.

A memorial gathering will be held tomorrow, Friday, March 9, at 10:30 a.m., with a service at 11 a.m., at the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield.

Donations may be made in his name to the Westfield Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 356, Westfield, N.J. 07091.

March 8, 2007

Rosemary Dunlap

Rosemary Dunlap, known to her friends as Roe, died in Westfield on Sunday, February 11, surrounded by her loved ones.

She was a longtime resident of and realtor in Westfield and a lover of animals and people.

Roe is survived by her son, Jesse Weiss; her nephew and niece, Keith and Maureen Cozier; a grandniece and nephew, Jenna and Matthew Cozier; seven sisters and two brothers, and numerous cherished friends.

She was predeceased by one brother.

A memorial will be held in her honor on Saturday, March 24, at 3 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations "In Memory of Roe Dunlap" can be made to Atlantic Homecare and Hospice and to the Greater Union County Association of Realtors. She will be missed by all who loved her.

March 8, 2007

FUSP Lecture Series Set To Resume on March 16

AREA - Leigh Davis, co-founder of the Union County Peace Council, will be the speaker on Friday, March 16, as the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield continues its "Think Globally, Act Locally" lecture series at the FUSP church.

The event will include a potluck

Screenings Available For Blood Pressure

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Regional Health Department is offering free blood pressure screenings at the Westfield Memorial Library, located at 550 East Broad Street.

These screenings will continue indefinitely on the third Friday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. They are open to residents of Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, New Providence, Roselle Park, Springfield, Summit and Westfield.

Pre-registration is not necessary. For further information on this screening or others, please call the health department at (908) 789-4070.

supper at 6 p.m., with the lecture following at 7 p.m. Childcare will be provided. The church is located at 724 Park Avenue in Plainfield and its congregation includes members from Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

The lecture will probe a growing global movement to shift resources from war and genocide to food, housing, education and non-violent conflict resolution projects with the goal of achieving peace and stability.

The "Think Globally, Act Locally" lecture series will continue in April with a presentation by the Plainfield Peoples Organization for Progress on racial justice and police brutality.

The lecture series is a project of the Social Justice Committee of the FUSP, which last year ran a film series on social justice issues. Some of the films are available for lending through the committee at the coffee hour following 10 a.m. Sunday services at the church. For more information, please visit fusp.org or call (908) 756-0750.

Area/Community News

Reform DEM Org. Seeks Candidates for Primaries

UNION COUNTY - Members of the Reform Democratic Organization say they are near the end of their screening process for this year's candidates, and would like registered Democrats who have an interest in local elected office to forward their resumes to committee Chairman James Devine.

"Interviews will be conducted through March 31 at locations throughout the county to select candidates who will challenge insiders allied with the corrupt power brokers who dominate key positions in state and county government," said Mr. Devine, a former political director for the state Democratic Party and president of the Elizabeth Democratic Association. "We are particularly interested in recruiting women and people from minority groups that have been under-represented due to exclusionary tactics of the prevailing political machine."

Democrats and unaffiliated voters interested in seeking public office or

signing up as district leaders may contact Mr. Devine at devine25@gmail.com or by calling (732) 340-9895. For additional information about the reform effort, visit unioncountymocrats.net or write to Reform Democratic Organization for Union County, 492 W. Grand Avenue, Suite 300, Rahway, N.J. 07065.

Suburban Vegetarians Plan St. Pat's Party

AREA - Suburban Vegetarians will hold a St. Patrick's Day party on Wednesday, March 14, at 8 p.m. at the Winberie Restaurant and Bar, located at the corner of Springfield Avenue and Kent Place Boulevard in Summit.

All are welcome and attendees need not be vegetarians. Suburban Vegetarians is a non-profit organization that does not charge any dues or fees to attend its events. Participants usually meet at restaurants. Each person orders whatever he or she wants and pays for his or her meal.



PRIVATE TRAIL RIDES...Wilma, left, and Charming, right, two of Union County's resident horses, invite the public to join them on a guided trail ride through the Watchung Reservation. Call the Watchung Stable at (908) 789-3665 to reserve a Sunday morning trail ride.

Public Can Enjoy Guided Trail Rides at Stables

MOUNTAINSIDE - With the arrival of spring in late March, Union County's Watchung Stable has invited youth groups, neighborhood associations, birthday celebrants and all others to consider horse riding.

Anyone can call now to book a private group ride of 10 or more participants over the age of nine.

These rides, held only on Sunday mornings, need to be set up in advance with a full deposit for all riders before the set date.

The cost of the private group trail ride is the horse rental fee (\$23 for Union County residents, \$29 for out-of-county participants, per person for one hour) plus \$25 for one of the Watchung Stable riding instructors to accompany the group.

For young riders under the age of nine, Watchung Stable offers horseback rides with lead lines on Sundays from 9 to 10:45 a.m. Lead lines are

available during the week if the weather permits and are accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The cost for a lead-line ride is \$13 for Union County residents and \$19 for out-of-county participants. Lead-line rentals are 30 minutes in duration.

The trail rides and lead-line rides are held at Watchung Stable, located at 1160 Summit Lane in Mountainside. Office hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. daily. For further information, call (908) 789-3665 during the normal office hours or e-mail questions to stablequestions@ucnj.org.

Fanwood Committee Posts Cleanup Date

FANWOOD - The Fanwood Clean Community Committee will hold its 18th annual cleanup on Saturday, April 21, in celebration of Earth Day. Volunteers will assemble at 8:30 a.m. at the southside Fanwood train station parking area and will be assigned to clean a specific area.

The work should be completed before noon. Earth Day T-shirts, work gloves and litterbags will be furnished to all participants.

Fanwood Public Works Director Clinton Dickson chairs the committee, which also includes Bob McCarthy, Greg Cummings, Pam Sayles, Linda Talcott and Dean Talcott. The committee is working in conjunction with the Fanwood Department of Public Works.

Volunteers are asked to notify the Fanwood Public Works Department in advance of their interest in participating in the cleanup by calling (908) 322-7404. Walk-ins also will be welcome.

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Another Letter to the Editor

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Blaming Deficit on Assisted Living Facilities, Baby Boomers Is Nonsensical

While most Union County residents were at the grocery store, bank or perhaps just sleeping in on a recent Saturday morning, they were unaware that another round of the county-budget blame game was well underway. The winners deemed deserving to wear the mantle of blame on this particular morning were "the Baby Boomers," as well as "assisted living facilities." Both were cited among factors responsible for creating a \$3.5-million shortfall for the county-run Runnells Hospital in 2006.

Undeniably, we Boomers are heading into our senior years as the healthiest Americans in history. Most of us are not ready to check into a nursing home any time soon and, likewise, our aging parents have preferred to remain living on their own for as long as possible. According to those running the hospital, we have created a shortage of likely county residents willing to sit back and wait for God. A 1986 *New York Times* article said it was costing Union County \$1 million a month just to run the 300-bed hospital, which specialized in geriatric care. The cost of repairing and maintaining some of the old buildings had driven up the operating deficit substantially. County officials came to the conclusion that the only way to increase efficiency and to cut long-term costs would be to build a new hospital, an option that was first reviewed in detail but discarded way back in the mid 1970s.

As the result of a 5 to 4 vote, the then-board of freeholders sold a chunk of the hospital's land to the Connell Realty and Development Company, then knocked down the existing buildings and built new. Opposed to the project at the time, Union County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow, then mayor of Berkeley Heights, had questioned whether the county should continue to be in the business of running what was basically a nursing home when there were private operators willing to do so. From that time until 2004, when it briefly operated at a profit, and barely breaking even in 2005 and 2006, Runnells Hospital continued to

run in the red for another full 17 years since building the new facility.

At the Saturday budget hearing, Runnells Hospital Administrator Joseph Sharp, a retired county employee kept on as a paid contractor, cited a change in billing procedures, which would bring in some sizeable additional revenues. And, his exploring some new ways to get the word out about Runnells is commendable and shows Mr. Sharp is serious about making the hospital a success.

However, he compared apples to oranges when he spoke of the impact assisted living facilities have on the hospital's bottom line. Mr. Sharp stated that the hospital possessed an "acute care license," though on the state of New Jersey website it is classified as a "special hospital" but, from the services offered, it appears that both these classifications do apply. Further, the state describes Assisted Living facilities (ALRs) as "appropriate for someone who is unable to live at home but may not need the type of care provided by a nursing home." ALRs are also state licensed and regulated, often referred to as communities and certainly not offering the types of acute care services for the types of patient situations that Runnells handles because, after all, they are not hospitals.

Blaming assisted living facilities for contributing to the deficit when they obviously are not in direct competition with Runnells Hospital is nonsensical, and blaming the "Baby Boomers" for being too healthy could make one laugh out loud. An intelligent man, Mr. Sharp cannot possibly for a minute believe these scenarios to be plausible. However, he can be perceived as an admirable paid player of the blame game in the eyes of the freeholders. He has managed to deflect the blame for Runnells' 20-plus years of repeated and continuing failures away from the board, putting it back on the taxpaying Baby Boomers, and he has managed to do it with a most creative flair.

Patricia Quattrocchi
Garwood

Organ Concert at Plainfield Church Benefits Habitat

FANWOOD - The "Festival of Organists," to be held on Sunday, March 18, at 3 p.m. at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church at Watchung Avenue in Plainfield, will kick off its 25th anniversary season.

As a part of this series, Greater Plainfield Habitat for Humanity (GPHFH) will be the beneficiary of 50 percent of the advance sales for this event.

Secretary of Greater Plainfield Habitat for Humanity Ann Brackbill said, "We're inviting the public to come hear five prominent organists from New Jersey and to help raise funds for the work we do at Greater Plainfield Habitat for Humanity."

Ms. Brackbill and Habitat board member Liz McNish met at 2 Randolph Avenue, the Habitat headquarters, to

bundle tickets for distribution among the other board and committee members in the coming weeks.

At the Sunday matinee on March 18, five prominent New Jersey organists will perform organ works on Crescent Avenue's G.F. Adams organ. Among them will be Fanwood Presbyterian Church's Robert Gangewere, Jr.

General admission tickets are \$20, senior citizen tickets, \$15 and student tickets, \$5.

For information on purchasing the advance tickets, please call the Habitat office at (908) 769-5292 to leave a reservation, see Habitat board members or call the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church at (908) 756-2468 for more details.

No tickets will be sold at the door.



ORGAN CONCERT TICKETS FOR A CAUSE...Ann Brackbill, left, secretary of Greater Plainfield Habitat for Humanity, and Board Member Liz McNish, sort tickets for the March 18, 3 p.m. matinee performance of the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church's "Festival of Organists." The performance will include Fanwood Presbyterian's Minister of Music Robert Gangewere, Jr. Half of the advance sale tickets will profit Greater Plainfield Habitat. For tickets, call (908) 769-5292.

Temple Emanu-El to Hold Kids Carnival on March 18

WESTFIELD - Temple Emanu-El, located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield, will host its annual Kids Carnival on Sunday, March 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Described as ideal for families with children ages two through 12 years old, the event will feature interactive games, fun and creative arts and crafts. There also will be a "moon bounce;" physical activities provided by The Little Gym; face painting; food and prizes, among other offerings.

A silent auction and tricky tray raffle will be featured as well. Many businesses from downtown Westfield and surrounding communities will provide a variety of products and services to bid on.

The carnival is open to the public. Admission wristbands are being sold in advance for \$15 and will be available at the door for \$17. Adults accompanying

children will be admitted for free.

Wristband wearers will have unlimited access to games, entertainment and activities. If interested in purchasing wristbands in advance, please call the temple's Early Childhood Office at (908) 232-7663 or stop by in person weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Temple Emanu-El Kids Carnival is organized and run entirely by volunteers and is the preschool's largest annual fundraiser. Proceeds from the event benefit Temple Emanu-El's Early Childhood Education Program with scholarships and program enhancements.

Temple Emanu-El's Early Childhood Education Program is accredited by the NAEYC's National Academy of Early Childhood Programs. The school serves young children ages 13 months through six years and includes a full-day kindergarten.

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