



AMAZED...WHS graduates have chance encounter. Vic Barbiero, Stephanie Novak, Candace Gilmartin, John Gilmartin and Steve Atwood pose at the Vignan Bihvan Building in New Delhi, India in September of 2000.

Westfield Graduates Amazed By Reunion in New Delhi

By Vic Barbiero
NEW DELHI - Worlds apart and convergent memories characterized the surprise reunion of five Westfield High graduates on September 24, 2000. Dr. Vic Barbiero, Ms. Stephanie (Barbiero) Novak, Ms. Candace (Miles) Gilmartin, Mr. John Gilmartin, and Dr. Steve Atwood were sitting together at the Rotary International India Pulse Polio Eradication Ceremony in New Delhi. During conversation, they were astonished to find out that they were Westfielders, and that they all were graduates of Westfield High School. Stephanie ('60), Vic and Candy ('68), John and Steve ('64) were marveled at the coincidence and remarkable circumstances that brought them together. Vic, Steve and John work together in India on Polio Eradication and other health issues.

John Gilmartin is the Chief of Supply and Procurement for UNICEF/India and is responsible for buying and monitoring the flow of supplies for polio eradication and other UNICEF health programs. Steve Atwood, MD, was Chief of UNICEF's Health Program in India and presently is UNICEF's Regional Health Chief for South East Asia. UNICEF works throughout India, supporting polio eradication, childhood immunizations, child rights, and maternal health. He has lived in India since 1988 and will move to Bangkok, Thailand in December to become the UNICEF's Southeast Asia Regional Health Director. Vic Barbiero, PhD, is Director of Population, Health and Nutrition for the United States Agency for International Development in Delhi.

USAID's PHN Program focuses on reproductive health, family planning, HIV/AIDS control, improving child survival, and reducing the spread of infectious diseases such as polio and tuberculosis.

Candy Gilmartin is an occupational therapist working with elderly and

disabled persons. Stephanie Novak works in the Zita Boutique and lives in Naples, Florida. She was visiting Victor on holiday, and helping to deliver polio immunizations when the group met.

"It was just amazing," remarked Novak. "Candy and I were chatting and asked where I was from. I told her Naples, Florida, but I said I was originally from New Jersey. She said she was from New Jersey too, a town called Westfield. Well, my mouth dropped and then she said John and Steve were also from town." The mini-reunion shared stories about teachers like Walt Clarkson, mutual friends, tales about Westfield in general, and memories of good old Westfield High.

Vic and Stephanie were raised on Colonial Avenue, John lived on Coleman Place, Candy's house was on the Boulevard, and Steve grew up on Tice Place. All of us agreed growing up in Westfield was great!

"It's such a small world. Who would've ever believed we could meet here in Delhi!" remarked Candy Gilmartin. Steve and Vic, who worked closely on polio eradication and other child and maternal health projects, were astonished. "Think of how much more we could have done, if we knew we were from the same town," kidded Atwood.

Remembering the beauty and prosperity of our town, the group noted: "each of us is trying to give something back, trying to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We're trying to make a difference and that's a great feeling."

Polio elimination is within reach in India, where over 650 million children are immunized through multiple immunization days each year. Within the next year, India may be polio free, capping a public health milestone, and bringing the world closer to total eradication. WHS grads are helping.

We'll never forget coming together in New Delhi. "Saach meah chotha aur sunder sansar hai... Truly, it is a small and beautiful world."

Dyslectic Children Program Honored By State Leaders

The Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey passed a joint resolution on June 20, 2002 honoring the 32nd Degree Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc. Senator Richard Bagger and Assemblymen Tom Kean and Eric Munoz M.D. introduced the resolution. Senator Richard Codey, Senate Co-President, presented the resolution to Thurman Pace of Westfield, who was responsible for establishing the first four learning centers in the state.

Currently, New Jersey has five centers, with a sixth one on the drawing board. Dyslectic children from ages 6 to 17 are remediated free of charge. The centers are located in Scotch Plains, Newark, Tenafly, Burlington and Hasbrouck Heights. The next center is expected to open by year's

end in Mays Landing.

Dyslexia is a hereditary condition that affects approximately 10 percent of the population. Dyslectics are generally more highly motivated and have a higher IQ than the average person. However, without the necessary training, dyslectic children may have difficulty socially or a low self-image. With remediation in reading, writing, and comprehension, they become productive members of the community and society.

A few dyslectics who overcame their handicaps were Governor Thomas Kean of New Jersey, Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York, President Woodrow Wilson, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein and General Norman Schwartzkopf.



MASONIC HONORS...State leaders presented a resolution this June honoring the Masonic Learning Center program for dyslectic children. Pictured above from the left are Everett Lang of Union, Frank McDermott of Westfield, Verdon Skipper of Burlington, Thurman Pace of Westfield, Senator Richard Codey, Donald Miller of Moorestown, Senator Richard Bagger and Senator John Bennett.

Used Printer Cartridges Now Being Accepted At Recycling Center

FANWOOD - The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Recycling Association has begun a test program accepting used printer cartridges for recycling. Businesses and residents in the area are invited to bring used cartridges to the center, located on North Avenue in Fanwood. The cartridges will be rebuilt and reused.

Ink and laser cartridges of all types and manufacturers are welcome. Since they are delicate, they should be handled with care. Preferably, they

should be brought to the center in their original boxes. If this is not possible, they should be in some protective packaging and placed in the specially-marked box.

The association which operates the Recycling Center is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization comprised of 22 civic groups in Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Westfield and Plainfield. For further information, please call Bob Sommerich at (908) 889-1891 or Alan Ebersole at (908) 889-8347.

Workshop to be Offered On Retirement Planning

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Recreation Department will sponsor a workshop entitled "Passport to Retirement" on Thursdays, September 12 and 19, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Westfield Municipal Building Community Room, located at 425 East Broad Street. The two-session workshop will take participants through the important areas of retirement planning. It is designed both for individuals approaching retirement and those for whom it is still a long way off.

Keith Toussaint of Bellmare Financial Group will be the instructor. The cost is \$20 (\$30 for two people). Make checks payable to 1717 Capital Management and mail to the Town of Westfield, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield 07090, attention Recreation Department. Participants will receive a 145-page retirement planning workbook.

Seating is limited. Call the Recreation Office at (908) 789-4080 by Thursday, September 5, to reserve a seat and workbook.

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