

Nancy Madden, 71, Musically Talented; Member of Westfield Service League

Nancy Lynn Madden, 71, of Dataw Island, S.C. and Bay Head died on Thursday, August 18, at Meridian Hospice in Brick, N.J.

Mrs. Madden was born in Monongahela, Pa. on December 24, 1933 to Nellie and Alexander Panchur. A long-time resident of Westfield, she was an active member of the Westfield Service League and the Plainfield Country Club. Upon retirement, she and her husband, Frank, moved to Dataw Island.

Mrs. Madden was a member of the Bay Head Yacht Club of Bay Head and the Dataw Island Club in South Carolina.

Nancy was endowed with a formidable musical talent which was apparent at a very early age. Starting classical piano lessons in elementary school, she was by middle school and high school regularly playing the organ for both Transfiguration and St. Anthony's Catholic Churches. During her high school years, her love of music broadened to include a lifelong love of jazz as well.

She attended Central Washington College at Ellensburg, Wash. Returning to Pittsburgh after college, Nancy soon became an Eastern Airlines stewardess and moved to New York City, where she met and married Frank Madden.

Surviving are her husband, Frank; two sons, William and his wife, Theresa, of Wall Township and Frank,

Jr. of New York City; a granddaughter, Elizabeth; her sister, Mary Ann Ferguson of Mount Kisco, N.Y., and a brother, James Puncher of Camp Hill, Pa.

A funeral service was held yesterday, Wednesday, August 24, at The Kingston Presbyterian Church in Kingston. Burial took place in the family plot in the church cemetery.

The Colonial Funeral Home of Brick is in charge of the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mrs. Madden's name can be made to the American Cancer Society, 1035 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, N.J. 08753.

August 25, 2005

Mary Joan Lada, 91

Mary Joan Lada, 91, died on Tuesday, August 9, in Country Villa Terrace in Los Angeles, Calif.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, she had lived in Mountainside for many years before relocating to Los Angeles in 2001.

Mrs. Lada was a homemaker. She was predeceased by her husband, Charles Lada, in 1984.

Surviving is a son, Dennis Lada. Private burial took place at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street in Westfield.

August 25, 2005

Nancy Hayes Rogers, 87, Co-Chaired USGA Women's Open at Baltusrol

Nancy Hayes Rogers, 87, of Westfield passed away peacefully on Tuesday, August 16, at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born on July 10, 1918 in Milwaukee, Wis., she graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. While there she was a Junior Phi Beta Kappa recipient.

Nancy married Richard W. Hayes on November 15, 1941 and the couple settled in Westfield in 1954. Mr. Hayes died in 1970, and she married Robert Rogers in 1975.

She was very active in the Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, and won the 18 hole Women's Golf Championship in 1976 and 1986. Nancy was honored as Golfer of the Year in 1979, and in 1985 served as Co-Chairwoman for the United States Golf Association's Women's Open held at Baltusrol. She also belonged to the Women's New Jersey Golf Association. Into her 70s, she bowled two 200

point games in the same day. Nancy will be remembered by her many friends and family.

Surviving are her children, Mary and Sam Hayes; her stepchildren, Chuck Rogers and Connie Wesley; her daughters-in-law, Gretchen Hayes and Linda Rogers; her son-in-law, John Wesley, and her grandchildren, Porter and Emma Hayes, Gwynne Attarian, Gina Wesley-Hunt, Drennan Wesley, Todd Wesley and Lynnette, Mark and Cindy Rogers, and four great-grandchildren.

Private services will be under the direction of the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street in Westfield. Memorial donations may be made to the NJSGA Caddie Scholarship Fund, 1000 Broad Street, Bloomfield, N.J. 07003 or the Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, Mountainside, N.J. 07092.

August 25, 2005

Ethelnyne Leonard, 78, Exxon Retiree; Active In Fanwood Presbyterian Church

Ethelnyne Heidick Leonard, 78, of Tinton Falls died on Friday, July 8, at the Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune.

Born in Elizabeth, she had lived in Fanwood before moving to Tinton Falls five years ago. As a young woman, she was active with the Linden chapter of Rainbow Girls.

Mrs. Leonard had worked for over 30 years for Exxon Research and was Administrative Assistant to several directors in Linden and Florham Park. After retiring, she became a founding member and secretary of the Exxon Annuitants Club.

A resident of Fanwood for 40 years, Mrs. Leonard was a member of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, where she served as a parish worker for many years. She provided a pet sitting and bill paying service for vacationing families, with all the proceeds benefiting the church.

She was active in the Woman's Club of Fanwood and was a generous supporter of local organizations. Mrs. Leonard bequeathed gifts to the Fanwood Memorial Library, the Fanwood Foundation and the Fanwood Policemen's Vest Fund.

She was predeceased by her husband, Stanley Leonard.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, September 11, at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, located at the corner of Martine and LaGrande Avenues.

Arrangements are by the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue in Fanwood.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Memorial Fund of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 69, Fanwood, N.J. 07023.

August 25, 2005

Ann H. Bonfield, 69

Ann H. Bonfield, 69, of Westfield died on Sunday, August 14, at her home.

Born in St. John's, Newfoundland, she had lived in Plainfield and in Clark before moving to Westfield 15 years ago.

Miss Bonfield retired in 1998 after 31 years with the Westfield Board of Education as a reading specialist in all the elementary schools.

She graduated in 1956 from the Memorial University in Newfoundland with a degree in education and was awarded a master's degree from Teacher's College at Columbia University in New York in 1963.

Miss Bonfield also received a professional diploma in learning disabilities from Teacher's College at Columbia University in 1967.

Surviving is a sister, Eileen F. Bonfield.

A prayer service was held on Friday, August 19, at the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield.

August 25, 2005

Obituaries

Neva J. Blevins, 89, Had Been Active In PTA, Scouting and Women's Clubs

Neva Jessie Payne Blevins, 89, of Basking Ridge died on Friday, August 12, at Fellowship Village in Basking Ridge.

Born on August 6, 1916 in Republic, Kan., she was the daughter of Raymond and Letha King Payne. Both her parents died in the 1918 flu epidemic, and she was raised by her aunt, Lida King Wood, in Kansas.

She and her husband, Herbert H. Blevins, who survives her, resided in Fanwood from 1946 to 1955. They then lived in Scotch Plains from 1955 until 2001, when they moved to Fellowship Village. The couple, married for 65 years, also maintained a residence in Key Biscayne, Fla.

A member of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Parent-Teacher Association, Mrs. Blevins also was active in scouting and was a longtime member of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church. In

Key Biscayne, she was a member of the Woman's Club, the Garden Club and the Republican Women's Club.

She was predeceased by a daughter, Dixie Lee Blevins, who died in infancy.

Surviving, in addition to her husband, are a son, Dr. Robert L. Blevins of Exton, Pa.; a daughter, Patti Blevins Baird of Scotch Plains, and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, August 18, at the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue in Fanwood. Interment followed at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Memorial donations may be made to the Kansas State University Foundation for the Herbert and Neva Blevins Scholarship Fund, 2323 Anderson Avenue, Manhattan, Kan. 66502.

August 25, 2005

Kenneth E. Walker, 2nd, 51, Attorney; University of Pittsburgh Graduate

Kenneth Edward Walker, 2nd, 51, of Westfield died on Monday, August 15, at his home.

Born in Evansville, Ind., he was raised in Chappaqua, N.Y. and had lived in Scotch Plains and Elizabeth prior to moving to Westfield 10 years ago.

An attorney, Mr. Walker was associated with the firm of Roche and Carter in East Orange.

He was a 1976 graduate of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. and received his law degree in 1979 from the University of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Walker was a member of the

New Jersey Bar Association.

Surviving are his wife, Martha Lynes; a daughter, Katherine Elizabeth Walker; a son, Benjamin Samuel Walker, and his mother, Evelyn Cox Walker.

Memorial services were held on Thursday, August 18, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 101 Eisenhower Parkway, Roseland, N.J. 07068.

August 25, 2005

Anna Lavornia, 87, Helped Others; Devoted Wife, Mother and Friend

Anna Lavornia, 87, of Berkeley Heights died on Friday, August 19, at the home of her son, August, and daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, in Berkeley Heights.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she grew up in Stirling. She had lived in Fanwood for 30 years and then in Clark for three years before moving to Berkeley Heights in 2004.

Making herself available to help others was a persistent theme in her life. She used her God-given talents and boundless energy to quietly help others and significantly impacted many lives through her simple acts of kindness.

She brought love and good humor to all her activities, such as running bake sales and chaperoning teen ski trips at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains; being a nanny for two children for nine years; house-sitting for a neighbor so their plumbing could be repaired, and making her attic available to a friend to hide Christmas presents for her four boys.

Her favorite pastimes included sewing and crocheting, making Halloween costumes, baby blankets and slippers for family and friends. She also participated in the SAGE Spend-A-Day program in Summit.

She was predeceased by her husband, Nicholas Lavornia, in 1978.

In addition to her son and daughter-in-law, she is survived by her sister, Dorothy Vincent of Basking Ridge; her brother, Vincent Groppi of Berkeley Heights; three grand-

children, Christine Armstrong, Amy Congdon and Julianne Lavornia, and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held on Tuesday, August 23, from the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue in Fanwood. A Funeral Mass took place at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Interment followed at Hillside Cemetery in Scotch Plains.

Memorial donations may be made to SAGE Eldercare, 290 Broad Street, Summit, N.J. 07901 or the Center for Hope Hospice, 1900 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076.

August 25, 2005

Thomas Coniglio, 83

Thomas Coniglio, 83, of 259 Creekside Drive, Sunset Beach, N.C., a native of New Jersey, died on Wednesday, August 10, at his home.

Mr. Coniglio and his wife, Janet Smith Coniglio, resided on Minisink Way in Westfield from 1974 until 1991, where he was an active member of the Echo Lake Country Club.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. on Monday, August 29, in St. Brendan, the Navigator Roman Catholic Church in Shallotte, N.C.

Brunswick Funeral Service and Crematory of Shallotte is in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Lower Cape Fear Hospice, 10 Doctors Circle, Suite No. 3, Supply, N.C. 28462 and/or the USO, in care of USO World Headquarters, P.O. Box 9680, Department WS, Washington, D.C. 20090-6860.

August 25, 2005

People Pick and Choose Elements Of Faith Through 'iPod Religion'

By REV. PAUL E. KRITSCH

In a recent article in *Plugged In* magazine, Tom Neven writes about "iPod religion." Just as people program their iPods to play only the songs they like, or their TiVo's to show only the TV programs they want to see when they want to see them, so people also pick and choose what they want as their own personal religion. A little bit of this, a little bit of that, and voila! No two people have exactly the same religion, only what seems best for each one.

Neven quotes a California teenager who says, "I mean, I go to church, but I'm not like, 'Oh my god, I have to do what God tells me....' I'm not like that."

Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer had a phrase for just such an idea as iPod religion. He wrote about "cheap grace." In fact, Bonhoeffer spent a whole book on this very topic. The book is the Christian classic "The Cost of Discipleship." "Cheap grace" is relying on God's love without expecting that anything will change in one's life. "Cheap grace" means following one's own dictates and whims while putting the stamp of religion upon them.

Over my three decades as pastor, I have seen "iPod religion" take different shapes. In recent years, it has been expressed with the words, "I'm a good Lutheran (or Roman Catholic or Presbyterian, etc.), but I don't believe that particular doctrine the church teaches."

"So what?" you might be asking. "And why are you bothering me with this topic?" Besides, doesn't separation of church and state also include separation of church and newspapers?"

I remember reading years ago a

quote from a Jewish rabbi which sheds light upon your questions. This particular rabbi said that he was glad when Christians are serious about their religion, because then it is impossible for them to do horrific things to others.

In other words, when Christians are serious about being disciples of Jesus, then they will not only love God above all things, but they will also love their neighbors as themselves. Following Jesus, they will be unable to make up their own religions, justifying anything and everything they may want to do.

That is exactly the main reason why it is important for this newspaper to report the various programs of all the local religious congregations and the thoughts of our community's religious leaders. Even if you are not religious and never attend a worship service, you still have an opportunity to keep an eye on the direction of the churches and the synagogues. You will be able to affirm and encourage them when they show committed love for neighbors, and you can raise a red flag if they try to conceal hatred and bigotry under the cloak of religion.

This year, Redeemer Lutheran is celebrating its 75th anniversary as a congregation and the 80th year of Lutheran worship services in Westfield. We are neither the youngest nor the oldest congregation in town. But we are proud to be part of those who have sought to make this place a better community in which to live by following the teachings of our faith.

Reverend Kritsch has served for the past 17 years as Senior Pastor of the Redeemer Lutheran Church and School, located at 229 Cowperthwaite Place in Westfield.

Activities at Willow Grove To Begin Anew This Fall

SCOTCHPLAINS—Families with children are invited to attend the 10:30 a.m. worship service Sundays at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, located at 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains.

This fall, Willow Grove will offer for the third year its Sunday school curriculum called "Discovery Kingdom: God Made Us Special." Designed to help children discover the path of God, it makes use of multimedia resources like computers, music, science, puppets, drama, arts and crafts, puzzles, games and videos.

Following Kids' Time in worship, youngsters age four to eight will leave to attend a lesson applying a Bible story theme. Each week, children will engage in a different type of activity related to the theme.

The repetition of the same Bible story, demonstrated through different media, is aimed at deepening their understanding and memory of the story. On Sunday, September 11, at 10:30 a.m., the children will begin their study of "Adam and Eve" from Genesis 2:7-3:24.

On the first Sunday of each month, from 10 to 10:20 a.m., Maryjane Finne will conduct a session for parents of the Sunday school children to help them better understand, follow through and answer their child's questions regarding that month's theme.

Childcare will be provided during this session.

"A Walk Through The Bible," a weekly study class for children ages nine and up, will start on September 11 and be held from 9 to 10 a.m.

Beginning on Sunday, September 18, from 9 to 10 a.m. in the lounge, this year's Adult Sunday school will continue a study of "The Resurrection of Jesus—What is the Evidence? What Difference Does It Make?"

These questions will be investigated in light of biblical, theological and historical scholarship. Various book resources and excerpts from movies will be used to inspire group discussion.

Childcare is available in the Children's Ark, a nursery staffed by congregation volunteers, where children under age four can play while parents attend worship services. Fellowship time is offered every Sunday from 10 to 10:25 a.m. in Ryno Hall.

All church facilities are handicap-accessible. For more information about Willow Grove Church, please call the church office at (908) 232-5678, e-mail wilgrv@netzero.com or visit www.scotchplains.com/wgpc on the Internet.

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