



**SHARING THE DAY...** During Catholic Schools Week, the Holy Trinity Interparochial School, Mountainside Campus, held Grandparents Day. Above, Michael Bonner makes a craft with his grandparents, from left to right, Ed and Ann Bonner, Pat and Jack Stanton.

## Democrats, Gov. Blast Bush Homeland Security Budget

WASHINGTON - United States Senators (D-NJ) Robert Menendez and Frank Lautenberg, as well as Governor Jon Corzine (D-NJ) and U.S. Representative Donald Payne (D-NJ), last Monday denounced President George W. Bush's proposed homeland security budget.

They wrote that the budget would negatively impact New Jersey's ability to equip first responders, and to protect trains, buses, ports, and chemical plants. They said the proposed budget freeze funding for critical security grant programs and slash others by as much as 94 percent.

"Just months after the passage of historic ports security legislation, the President's budget proposes just half of what the new law says is necessary to protect our ports," Sen. Menendez said.

"The president's budget offers insecurity on New Jersey's rails and roads, insecurity on Amtrak and insecurity when it comes to protecting the communities surrounding our chemical plants," Sen. Lautenberg said.

"Homeland security funding should be distributed according to threat, vulnerability, and consequence," Gov. Corzine said. "The state is doing its part, and now we need the federal government to step up and do the same."

"Denying first responders, including firefighters and law enforcement offices, the resources they need to protect our New Jersey communities is wrong and dangerous," Rep. Payne said. "First responders were our heroes on September 11th. I will be vigorously opposing these short-sighted budget proposals which undermine homeland security effectiveness."

## Nominations Welcomed for Annual Philhower Award

WESTFIELD - Edred Shen, president of the Westfield Rotary Club, announced that Friday, March 16, is the deadline for nominations for the 15th annual Charles Philhower Fellowship award designated for a full-time elementary teacher in the Westfield Public Schools.

Letters of nomination are invited from interested citizens and Westfield public school staff members. Letters should be addressed to: Charles Philhower Fellowship Committee of the Westfield Rotary Club, c/o Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 302 Elm Street, Westfield, N.J. 07090.

Nominations should specify ways in which the teacher has demonstrated outstanding teaching, interest in children and continued pursuit of professional growth.

The teacher must be a full-time faculty member in kindergarten to fifth grade in the Westfield Public Schools for a minimum of five years. The fellowship recipient is honored at a Rotary luncheon and receives a grant to further professional growth or to enhance classroom activities for students.

The Westfield Rotary Club instituted the award in 1993 to recognize the importance of teaching in the elementary grades and to honor Westfield Rotarian and School Superintendent Charles Philhower.

Mr. Philhower, who died in 1962, was supervising principal (superintendent) of Westfield Public Schools for 30 years - from 1917 to 1947 - and was president of the Westfield Rotary Club in 1929-1930. As Rotary president, he instituted the club's annual scholarship awards to graduating Westfield students.

Members of the selection committee will include two Rotarians, two elementary school principals and the immediate past Philhower fellow, Karen Yula, vocal music teacher at Jefferson Elementary School.

Past Philhower fellowship recipients also include Mary Dura, Stacie

DeChristopher, Michele Moise, Carole Kling, Anna Jane Sabbagh, Trista Polard, Eva Morton, Angela LaCarrubba, Claudia Andreski, Bette Tuthill, Carol Joyce, Carol Mastroianni and Susan Feldman Glick, who received the first award in 1993.

"The Westfield Rotary Club's Philhower Fellowship continues an outstanding tradition of excellent cooperation with our schools for the benefit of our children," Superintendent of Schools William Foley said. "I am always pleased when outstanding education is spotlighted; when honor is bestowed on an outstanding educator and when recognition is given to teachers," he added.

## Rachel Holtzman Wins District Spelling Bee

WESTFIELD - Twenty-five fourth and fifth graders competed at the annual Junior Woman's Club District Spelling Bee last Tuesday night at Westfield High School (WHS). The children came from 10 towns in the state, including Westfield and Scotch Plains, to compete for one of three spots to go to state finals in March.

The local level spelling bee winners in the fourth and fifth grades are Westfield participants Emma Chen, Jonathan Friedlander, Rachel Holtzman, Caroline Kelly and Kelly O'Conner and Scotch Plains participants Judah Axelrod and Sam Mahler.

Fifth grader, Rachel Holtzman of Westfield, won first place and a check for \$75. Last year, she came in third place at the state finals as a fourth grader.

## SP's Francis Walker Makes Dean's List

SCOTCH PLAINS - Scotch Plains resident Francis Walker has been named to the Essex County College Dean's List for the fall 2006 semester. Students must attain a 3.5 or higher grade point average to be named to the Dean's List.



**PREPARING FOR CONCERT...** Howard Toplansky reviews music to be presented at the forthcoming Union County College concert with bassoon soloist Jennifer Dilzell. Standing is Kristin Dilzell, bass clarinet, and Dave Dilzell, alto sax, who are also members of the NJWA Concert Band.

## NJWA Band to Perform At UC College on Feb. 24

WESTFIELD - The New Jersey Workshop for The Arts (NJWA) Concert Band, under the direction of conductor Howard Toplansky will perform at the Union County College's Roy Smith Theater located at 1033 Springfield Avenue in Cranford on Saturday, February 24, at 7:30 p.m. The concert is open to the public and tickets cost \$10.

The musical selections are geared to a variety of tastes and range from Australian composer Alex Lithgow to Czech composer Julius Fucik. The "Ensenanda," a Spanish overture, and the melodic, "On the Hills of Manchuria" waltz, will be part of the first half of the two-hour concert. Soloist Jennifer Dilzell will play a bassoon solo by Fucik. The Scottish harmony, John Zaumeyer's "Highlander Suite," will also be featured.

Mr. Toplansky has been introducing an old sound to a new audience such as classic foxtrots with Matvey Blanter's "John Grey." The foxtrot is a ballroom dance named after its originator, Harry Fox, who developed the dance in 1914 for his vaudeville act. Interestingly, when the foxtrot first gained popularity, it was often tied to the performance of the Charleston, and many publications and family organizations denounced the dance as impure. This disapproval only incited young people to learn the foxtrot as quickly as they could.

Mr. Blanter's piece is composed with the syncopated beat of a two-beat measure and has become a favorite among the NJWA Concert Band fans.

The concert will also feature Lumir Havlicek's "Caprice for Band." Mr. Havlicek, born in 1895 in Nebraska, was director of the Navy Band in 1944-

1945 when it was stationed in Doane College. While in the Army in World War I, he was a member of the 355th Infantry Band of the 89th Division. He was warrant officer and director of the 110th Medical Regiment Band, the first National Guard band west of the Mississippi River. As a composer, Mr. Havlicek wrote "On the Big Blue," dedicated to the city of Crete, Nebraska as well as "Sunset Trail," "Sky Pilot" and American Hymns."

Also planned for the February 24th concert is Charles Johnson's "Dill Pickles" a ragtime feature. Ragtime enjoyed its peak popularity between 1899 and 1918 and can be considered the first American musical genre, predating jazz.

It was usually written in 2/4 or 4/4 time, frequently with a predominant left hand pattern of bass notes on odd-numbered beats and chords on even-numbered beats accompanying a syncopated melody in the right hand. The defining characteristic of ragtime is a specific type of syncopation in which melodic accents fall between metrical beats. Scott Joplin known, as the king of ragtime, called the effect "weird and intoxicating."

During his lifetime, Charles Johnson published 30 ragtime compositions including "Doc Brown's Cake Walk," and "Snookums Rag." He made use of a pseudonym in addition to his own name - Raymond Birch. His largest moneymaker was a ballad entitled "Sweet and Low."

For further information about the concert or the NJWA Concert Band, call (908) 964-1793 or e-mail at njwaband@att.net.

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