

Michael J. Sworen, 86, Army Veteran; Worked as Railroad Car Inspector

Michael J. Sworen, 86, of Westfield died on Wednesday, December 3, at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in Avoca, Pa., he was a resident of Westfield since 1952.

Mr. Sworen was a car inspector for the Jersey Central Railroad and an officer for the Brotherhood of Railroad Carmen.

He served in the Pacific Theater during World War II in the United States Army, earning a Bronze Star, and was a member of the CNJ Vets and the AARP of Westfield.

Surviving are his wife of 62 years, Lottie (Ruda) Sworen; four children, Ronald, Judy Jones, Stephen and Karen Hevey, and 10 loving grand-

children.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Tuesday, December 9, at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church in Garwood. Entombment took place at Saint Gertrude Cemetery in Colonia.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Dooley Funeral Home, 218 North Avenue, West, in Cranford.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105, the Westfield Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 356, Westfield, N.J. 07091, or to St. Anne's Church, 325 Second Avenue, Garwood, N.J. 07027.

December 11, 2008

Geraldine Cantore, Worked For NBC; Had Been Active In Mothers Circle

Geraldine Frances Cantore (née Bohne) of Westfield died on Thursday, December 4, at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born December 12, 1922 in Brooklyn, N.Y., she graduated from Girls Commercial High School in 1939 and went on to work in the programming department of NBC.

A former "Miss Steeplechase" beauty pageant winner, she married Dr. Anthony J. Cantore, M.D. on November 25, 1944. The couple had lived in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn and also had a summer home in Breezy Point, Queens before moving to Westfield in 2003.

While living in Brooklyn, Mrs. Cantore was an active member of the

St. Anselm's Mothers Circle.

Her husband predeceased her. Surviving are six children, Carol of New York City, Robert of Los Angeles, Calif., Patricia O'Connor of Westfield, Doris O'Hara of Malibu Beach, Calif., William of Hershey, Pa. and Jean Daly of Centerville, Ohio; 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A Catholic blessing took place on Monday, December 8, at the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Father Flanagan's Boys and Girls Town, 13940 Gutwoski Road, Boys Town, Neb. 68010.

December 11, 2008

Ann 'Nancy' Burke, 86, Was Golfer; Business Office Supervisor at NJ Bell

Ann "Nancy" Burke, 86, of Scotch Plains died on Sunday, December 7, at Haven Hospice in Edison.

Born in South Amboy, she lived in Scotch Plains since 1950.

Mrs. Burke graduated from Georgian Court College in 1943 and had been employed as a business office supervisor with New Jersey Bell in Perth Amboy before retiring.

She was a member of the Plainfield Country Club, where she played in the ladies' nine-hole group. Mrs. Burke also was a communicant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains.

Surviving are her husband, Robert J. Burke; her daughter, Sharon Murray, and her husband, William

Reichardt; her son, Christopher Burke and his wife, Tylene; her sister, Mary Coan; her grandchildren, Colin Murray, Melissa Murray and Brittany Burke; her step-grandchildren, Kristen and Erin Reichardt, and many loving nieces and nephews.

A son, Gerald, predeceased her in 1975.

The funeral will be held at 9 a.m. today, Thursday, December 11, from the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue in Fanwood. A Funeral Mass will be offered at 10 a.m. at the Immaculate

Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church, 1571 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. Interment will follow at Hillside Cemetery in Scotch Plains.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Haven Hospice, 80 James Street, Edison, N.J. 08818 or to the Alzheimer's Association, 400 Morris Avenue, Suite 251, Denville, N.J. 07834 (www.alz.org). For additional information or to express condolences, please visit www.fanwoodmemorial.com.

December 11, 2008

Jane Charshee, 83

It is with profound bereavement that the family of Jane Charshee affirms that she recently passed away at Overlook Hospital in Summit, N.J. Ms. Charshee was 83 years young.

Ms. Charshee had been a resident of Westfield for over 50 years. Her accomplishments were plentiful, but she may mostly be remembered for being a primary participant in the start up of the Opera Theater of Westfield, which ultimately grew into the New Jersey State Opera.

She is survived by her three children, Katherine Fricker, Peter Hall and Elizabeth Hall, as well as three grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held for Jane this spring. Her family may be contacted for details. Memorial contributions may be made to the New Jersey State Opera.

Arrangements are by the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street in Westfield.

December 11, 2008

Obituaries

Dr. James Gillin, 83, Chemical Engineer; Past President of Animal Health Inst.

Dr. James Gillin, 83, of North Palm Beach, Fla. and Westfield, N.J. died on Monday, December 8, at his residence in New Jersey.

Born in Floral Park, N.Y., he lived in Westfield since 1951 and also maintained a dual residence in North Palm Beach.

A chemical engineer with Merck and Co. in Rahway, N.J., Dr. Gillin had worked there for 38 years before retiring in 1987. He also was president of Merck's AgVet Division.

He received a bachelor's degree and a Doctorate, both in chemical engineering, from Cornell University, and was elected to The National Academy of Engineering.

Dr. Gillin was past president of The Animal Health Institute and COMISA - International Animal Health Organization, and held several patents in his field.

He was president of The Lost Tree Charitable Foundation of North Palm Beach and was a board member of Elizabeth General Medical Center in Elizabeth, N.J. Additionally, he was a member of Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield, the Lost Tree Club in North Palm Beach and the Everglades Club in Palm Beach, Fla.



Dr. James Gillin

Surviving are his wife, June (Jacobi) Gillin; his daughter, Sheryl G. Tuohy (wife of the late Timothy); his son, J. Scott Gillin, M.D. and his wife, Elizabeth; his five grandchildren, J. Brian Gillin, Bradley Gillin,

Kristin Morgan and her husband, Ryan, Kathryn DeMarais and her husband, Dean, and Kelly Tuohy, and his two great-grandchildren, James Ryan and Caroline Claire.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, December 12, at the Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church in Mountainside, N.J., following the funeral from the funeral home. Cremation will be held privately.

Visitation will take place today, Thursday, December 11, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at the Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home, 582 Springfield Avenue in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the James Gillin Chemical Engineering Scholarship Fund at Cornell University, c/o Tim Dougherty, 256 Carpenter Hall, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853 or The International Fund for Animal Welfare, P.O. Box 97105, Washington, D.C. 20090-7105.

December 11, 2008



Carolyn Freundlich for The Westfield Leader and The Times
TASTE BUDS...Chefs from Fusion Caterers in Newark helped make the Taste of Newark event, which Westfield residents took part in planning, a success. Restaurants from Cranford and the surrounding towns donated their services by helping to cater the event.

Link School Earns Delicious Reputation in Newark

Westfield Residents Take Part in Gala Committee

By CAROLYN FREUNDLICH
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

NEWARK — A Taste of Newark, held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center earlier in the month, is an annual event used to benefit the Link Community School of Newark. This year, the event celebrated the rebirth of Newark and recognized the school's 40th anniversary as an independent middle school serving youth of all ability levels from families of limited means in Newark and the surrounding areas.

All Link students go on to attend independent, private and competitive magnet high schools on a scholarship. In 2008, more than \$1.7 million in scholarships were granted to members of the graduating eighth grade class at Link.

After high school, more than 80 percent of Link graduates attend college. During the two years students spend at Link, each student's standardized test scores increase on an average of two grade levels annually. This is a testament to their dedication to motivating students and providing a great education.

Iman Thomas, a 13-year-old former Link Community School student, believes in Link's ability to help its students accelerate in life.

She attended Link because "the teachers are really good. They are understanding if you need help, and they know how to chop down information for the students. Also, they are always available to provide extra help and assistance."

Perhaps that is why students who

Genealogical Society To Gather Today

WESTFIELD — The Genealogical Society of the West Fields will present "Show and Tell, Part II" as part of its holiday celebration today, Thursday, December 11, at 1 p.m. in the meeting room of the Westfield Memorial Library. This will be the second part of an earlier program.

In keeping with the organization's goal to teach and share its expertise, veteran members will discuss some of their adventures in genealogical research and display family artifacts and pictures as they tell their personal stories. An Edison cylinder phonograph with a rich history will be among the featured items, along with some memorabilia from early 20th-century Westfield High School baseball and football events.

Members from diverse ethnic backgrounds and some with ties all the way back to the pilgrims will offer family heirlooms and pictures.

The public is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street. For more information, call Nancy Humphrey at (908) 612-6029.

Imperial Brass Presents Christmas Music in Area

WATCHUNG — The Mount Saint Mary Academy presents a Centennial Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 14, at 3 p.m., featuring

Broadway actress Laura Schutter, currently performing on Broadway in *Mary Poppins*, will join them in concert. Together, they



CHRISTMAS MUSIC...The Imperial Brass, a 30-piece brass ensemble based in Scotch Plains, pictured above, will participate in Mount Saint Mary Academy's Centennial Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 14, at 3 p.m.

will perform "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "White Christmas."

The band will then join forces with the Chorale in a performance of "What Child is This?" "Christmas Festival" and "O Come All Ye Faithful."

Guest conductor Glen Daum will lead the band. An active composer, arranger and producer in New York for a quarter century, his works have been performed by the Boston Pops, artists such as Mandy Patinkin and on television programs such as "Sesame Street," "ABC World News Tonight" and "CNN Headline News."

Admission to the concert is free, and there will be a Grand Finale Reception immediately following the concert. For further information, call (908) 757-0108 or go to imperialbrass.org.



DARE TO CARE...Secretary of State Nina Mitchell Wells, center, presents the award for "Best Statewide Volunteer Organization" to CONTACT We Care's President Amy Green and Executive Director David Owens, both of Westfield.

CONTACT Named Best Statewide Volunteer Org.

WESTFIELD — The Governor's Office of Volunteerism recognized CONTACT We Care, the 24-hour caring and crisis hotline in New Jersey, as the "Best Statewide Volunteer Organization" at a special ceremony at the Governor's Mansion on Friday, November 14.

Secretary of State Nina Mitchell Wells officiated at the event, which recognized 11 different categories of volunteerism in New Jersey and celebrated the work of the Union County non-profit that offers the gift of listening to callers throughout the state who are lonely, depressed, stressed or suicidal.

"Volunteers are our true unsung heroes and leaders," said Ms. Wells before an audience of approximately 100. "Now, more than ever, it's important to volunteer."

CONTACT We Care volunteers respond to more than 12,000 calls per year on a wide variety of issues including abuse, addiction, anxiety, depression, economic and family problems, loneliness, physical illness, relationship problems, sexual orientation and suicidal thoughts.

The highly trained volunteers offer a compassionate, listening ear to anyone who calls.

Part of a nationwide network of crisis hotlines affiliated with CONTACT USA and internationally with Lifeline International, CONTACT We Care is the primary responder in New Jersey to calls made to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline numbers, (800) 273-TALK or (800) SUICIDE.

The organization is dedicated to preventing suicide and making a positive difference in people's lives.

"CONTACT's free and confidential service is critical for underserved and vulnerable residents of New Jersey who have nowhere else to turn," said David Owens, executive director.

"With intensive training and supervision, the men and women who volunteer for CONTACT also provide an important 24-hour supplementary service for mentally ill individuals who are already in treatment," he continued.

The Governor's Office of Volunteerism recognized that over the course of CONTACT We Care's 33-year history the organization has developed a high quality 50-hour volunteer training program, which is continually enhanced.

"CONTACT's comprehensive training program has garnered praise from participating volunteers and mental health experts," Mr. Owens said. "It has even inspired some volunteers to change careers and become professionals in the field."

CONTACT We Care has responded to the ongoing challenge of recruiting and retaining enough volunteers to staff the 24-hour service by holding at least two training sessions a year and incorporating the use of trained volunteers to serve as training facilitators, assistants and mentors.

The next volunteer training class will begin Monday, February 23, 2009, in Westfield. For more information or to register, call (908) 301-1899, or visit contactwecare.org.

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