

COMMUNITY



MERRILL SILVER Silver Named Teacher Of The Year

Montclair resident Merrill Silver recently received the Teacher of the Year Award from the New Jersey Association for Lifelong Learning (NJALL).

NJALL is the professional association for adult educators in New Jersey.

Silver was recognized for her commitment to providing high-quality English as a second language instruction to immigrant adults at Jewish Vocational Services in East Orange.

Silver's acceptance speech, "This 'Calling' I have for Teaching," can be found on NJALL's Web site, www.easternlincs.org/njall. She received the award at NJALL's annual conference, which this year was run jointly with Literacy Volunteers of America-New Jersey, and New Jersey Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages/New Jersey Bilingual Educators.

Her speech described the special needs and ambitions of her many immigrant students, who come from all over the world and are seeking an education to allow them to hold jobs, deal with family needs, and become part of American society.

Training Offered For 'Mental Health Players'

The Mental Health Association in New Jersey is offering comprehensive training for volunteers in the northern region of New Jersey, for the Mental Health Players program.

Training is offered on Thursday, Aug. 8, and again on Wednesday, Aug. 21, from 1 to 4:30 p.m., at the Social Services Building, 60 South Fullerton Ave., Room 208.

The Mental Health Players Program has provided New Jersey residents with mental health educational programming for 22 years. The program uses realistic, improvisational role-playing, immediately followed by interactive discussion between the audience and the presenters, to better understand mental illness and find mental health resources in their own communities.

Volunteer players come from all walks of life, and include professionals, nonprofessionals, and individuals recovering from mental illness; ages range from teenager to senior.

Four hours of completed training will enable registered volunteers to begin serving the public as fully trained presenters in the Mental Health Players program's educational presentations, beginning in September.

For more information and to register for either of the two training dates, call (973) 571-4100, Ext. 25. The deadline for registration is Friday, Aug. 2.

This Week On Caucus New Jersey

Cecilia Zalkind, Montclair resident and executive director of the Association for Children of New Jersey, will appear with anchor Steve Aduabato on a special series of "Caucus: New Jersey" titled "Agenda New Jersey." The series looks at key issues affecting the quality of life in our state.

This edition focuses on "Strengthening Families," and discusses what can be done to provide support to New Jersey's families who face poverty and other crises. The program will air on Thirteen/WNET on Saturday, July 27, at 12:30 p.m. and on NJN Saturday, July 27, at 6:30 a.m. and Sunday, July 28, at 10 a.m.

Deadline for Community copy is Friday, 5 p.m.

Doing Miracles, Just Doing His Job

By ELIZABETH S. LUDAS
of The Montclair Times

A jeweler who has been in business for 20 years, Craig Brady of Valley Jewelers in Montclair specializes in custom design work. He also does repairs, fixing everything from broken clasps to more seriously damaged jewelry.

Brady had never seen anything like what Glen Ridge resident Kate Selich brought to him last winter. In a plastic bag was what he described as "a charred mess."

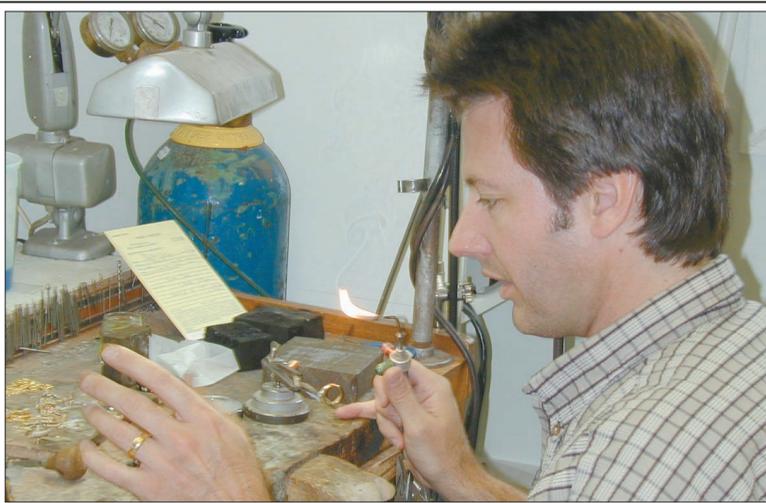
In January, Selich's brother-in-law, Timothy Patrick, and his wife Sandra, who had resided in Pennsylvania, died in a crash of their private plane on their way to a Patrick family reunion in Vermont. They left behind four grown children, three of them married.

The wreckage of the plane was located the following day in a remote mountain location. It had been nearly a vertical descent, said Selich's husband, Stuart Patrick, himself a pilot. Stuart Patrick said, "When the state troopers returned from the site, they said there was one thing recognizable: half a burned ski boot."

The troopers also brought back a packet of "twisted, mangled, charred jewelry."

Sandra Patrick's wedding and engagement rings were found yards apart. The prongs of the engagement ring were sprung open, and the diamond was gone.

The troopers also found a silver and turquoise belt buckle that Timothy Patrick always wore, and that nobody else much liked. The buckle was the



only way they had of identifying which body was which.

He loved that belt buckle, Patrick said, and "he liked his chains."

Stuart and Kate said it was difficult to tell what was in the bag, that the metal was very black, and that it had been melted together with burnt flesh and pieces of wreckage. They tried to clean the jewelry themselves by putting it in a bottle of soapy water and shaking it gently, but it accomplished little besides filling the kitchen with the smell of scorch.

Selich thought of Craig Brady, who had done some repair work for her in the past.

"She came in with a bag full of black jewelry," said Brady. "The chains were indistinguishable. [There were] globs of plane components, Fiberglas, charred onto it."

Selich asked, "Can this be cleaned up, brought back to life?"

Brady, who frequently works with insurance companies and has dealt with many a melted jewelry box retrieved after a house fire, explained that in addition to the melting, this jewelry had been "stretched out, mangled, and flattened" because of the crash. It was the most badly damaged jewelry he had ever seen, he said.

"Leave it with me. I will tell you what I can do with it,"

Brady told the Patricks.

What Brady did, in his own words, was to bring some of the jewelry "back from annihilation." One gold chain turned out to be, when cleaned, almost in perfect condition. One chain lacked only a clasp. He was able to make a bracelet of a third chain that had lost a good deal of its length.

The rest was melted down, and Brady made two crosses, and a wedding band for the one unmarried child. Brady reconstructed the wedding rings, so that in Stuart Patrick's words, they look untouched.

"All out of what we thought was hopeless," Selich said.

In the engagement ring, Brady had set a cubic zirconium at no charge because, he said, he didn't want the Patricks' children to see it empty.

When Brady showed Selich what he had done, she began to cry.

"When you can do something and someone is so happy they start crying, it kind of jerks your emotions, too. To see it in their eyes...it's [bringing] something positive out of a tragedy," Brady said.

Three weeks ago, the Patrick family held a reunion in Vermont. They visited the crash site. Because of its near-inaccessible location, state troopers had gone there the day before and marked the route with rib-

CRAIG BRADY

bons for the family's hike, which was not an easy one, either for the terrain, or for the emotional purpose of the trip.

Much of the debris had been removed, but not all. "There was a tremendous amount of debris," Stuart Patrick said, all tiny bits. "Nothing could come out of there."

But Stuart's daughter saw something on the ground that caught her eye, something that wasn't a shard of airplane. It was a gold chain. Timothy's children, not knowing about the other jewelry, didn't want anything done with it.

After the hike to the crash site, the Patricks presented their nieces and nephews with Brady's handiwork, the jewelry their parents had been wearing when they died.

They were able to share a light moment when they saw the turquoise belt buckle. "They all said, 'Why did that survive? That's the ugliest thing in the world,'" said Stuart.

They've changed their minds about the last gold chain to be found, and it is now at Brady's shop.

Selich said that all her life, she has carefully chosen presents for the people she loves, but that "This is the greatest gift I've ever been able to give anyone."

"What Craig did was a miracle."

Tunnel Vision Registering For Fall

Tunnel Vision Writers' Project is currently holding registration for new members in its Multi-Genre, Fiction Only, and Playwrights Only critique groups running from September 2002 through June 2003. The groups will be run by TVWP Director Roselee Blooston, and longtime TVWP writers.

Participating writers must have the willingness and ability to give and receive honest, specific and constructive criticism. Regular attendance is expected. Each group will hold an end-of-year reading in June and group members will have the possibility of contributing to the annual Writers' Theater Festival as well as inter-art collaborations and special events. Members also receive substantial discounts on TVWP workshops and performances.

The Multi-Genre Group, begun in 1998, includes poets, fiction writers and memoirists and will meet monthly on Tuesday evenings from 7 until 9:30, beginning Sept. 17.

The Fiction Only group is composed of novelists, short story writers and children's book authors. It will meet bimonthly on Tuesday nights from 7 to 9, beginning Sept. 10.

The Playwrights Only group meets monthly on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. beginning Sept. 14.

All groups will meet at Central Presbyterian Church, Park Street and Claremont Avenue.

Writers may apply by sending a sample of their work (five or six poems, a short story or chapter of a novel, or one act of a play) and a short biography to Tunnel Vision Writers' Project Inc., P.O. Box 43323, Upper Montclair, New Jersey 07043.

Applicants will be contacted for an interview. The participation fee for the 10-month period is \$60, payable upon acceptance. For further information, contact Roselee Blooston at (973) 783-2372, or visit www.tunnelvision-wp.org. Tunnel Vision Writers' Project Inc. is a nonprofit tax-exempt organization dedicated to the support and growth of writers in all genres.

recent ENGAGEMENT

Martindale — Brown

Nancy S. Martindale of Charlotte, N.C., formerly of West Caldwell, and Ross Martindale Jr. of Caldwell, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Terry Martindale, of Lincoln Park, to Jason Andrew Brown of Emerson, son of Marc and Marianne Brown of Paramus.

The bride-to-be is the granddaughter of Doris and Richard Stone of Montclair, and of Ross and the late Nancy Beach Martindale, formerly of Montclair.

The future bride is a second-grade teacher for the Lincoln Park school system. She graduated magna cum laude from East Stroudsburg University, and is currently pursuing a master's degree from William Paterson University.

The prospective groom is the



LISA MARTINDALE and JASON BROWN

co-owner of "We're Your Pool Service" and Sun Fiberglass Northeastern Distributors. He is a graduate of Ramapo College with a degree in environmental studies.

An April 2003 wedding is planned.

recent ANNIVERSARIES

Golden Anniversary For The Williamses

Agerene and Richard Williams, of Montclair, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 28. The event for 100 guests was hosted by their children Rita Williams-Bogar, Rhonda Stuckey, and Richard O. Williams, along with their sons-in-law, Lawrence K. Bogar and Alan Stuckey.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams reaffirmed their vows in a ceremony officiated by Evangelist Clarence Wright, of Zion Holy Church, Newark, at the Forge Banquet Center in Woodbridge. They were attended by their children, children-in-law, and by their granddaughter, Sephorah B. Williams.

Following a buffet dinner, the



MR. and MRS. RICHARD WILLIAMS

Williamses were honored in a program that included tributes from their grandchildren, four generations of family members, friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners.

During the festivities, seven members of the original wedding party posed for photographs with the "bride and groom."

Police To Hold Special Bicycle Registration

The Montclair Police Department will hold two special bicycle registration dates to accommodate citizens who are not able to register during the week.

The first will be at the Montclair Police Community Substation, 1 Lackawanna Plaza, on Saturday, July 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The second registration period will be at Edgemont Park, on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The registration fee is \$1. For more information, call the Community Policing Bureau at (973) 509-4736.

'Iyengar Basics' At Yoga Workshop

On Saturday, July 27, yoga teacher and practitioner Gabriel Halpern will visit the Starseed Center for Yoga & Meditation at 356 Bloomfield Ave. to present a workshop, "Putting Passion Into Your Practice: Iyengar Basics."

The workshop is scheduled to run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Halpern is a full-time certified yoga instructor in the Iyengar tradition and has studied three times at the Ramamani Institute in Pune, India. After 30 years of study and practice, he is acknowledged as a senior student in this art. For the past 15 years he has been the director of the Yoga Circle in Chicago. He holds degrees in philosophy and health psychology, is a vegetarian chef, guitar player, sacred dance leader and New Warrior.

Attendance at the workshop is \$50 per participant. Call Starseed at (973) 783-1036 for further information.

Nature Program For Kids At Crane House

Children are invited to participate in an "18th-Century Herb Garden Walk and Craft Project" at the Israel Crane House on Monday, July 29, from 2 to 3 p.m.

They will learn about herbs and their role in early American life, see apothecary tools in the Country Store, and make a potpourri/sachet. The program is suitable for children ages 7 to 12. The fee is \$10, which includes supplies, and advance registration is required.

The Israel Crane House, 110 Orange Road, is open to the public this summer for the first time. Guided tours are offered Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children.

For more information, contact the Historical Society at (973) 744-1796, or www.montclairhistorical.org.



PALS IN A PINCH—The Montclair Police Athletic League recently donated \$225 to help another community organization in need, the Montclair Volunteer Ambulance Unit. The money represented donations from the youth participants, their families, and PAL board members.