

Family Service bestows Champion for Youth Award

Family Service recently honored the Bucks County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PASR) with its 2018 Susan N. Altomari Champion for Youth award.

The Susan N. Altomari Champion for Youth Award recognizes an individual or group that positively impacts the lives of youth in Bucks County through Family Service. The Bucks County Chapter of PASR was selected to receive the award in recognition of the organization's leadership and contributions to Family Service's Back to School Drive over the past 13 years.

The back to school season is a difficult time of year for some families - lists of supplies can be long and costly. In 2017, parents on average spent \$104 per child on back to school supplies, ac-

ording to a yearly survey by DeLoitte. Parents spent an additional \$284 per child on clothing and accessories.

The Bucks County Chapter of PASR has made a difference in the lives of children and families in the community by sponsoring students to make sure they have backpacks, supplies, shoes, clothing and many other necessities for the back to school season. The thousands of back to school items that PASR members have donated over the years have brightened the lives and boosted the confidence of more than 1,600 children.

Last year, thanks to donations from individuals, corporations and organizations including PASR, Family Service provided 329 children with new backpacks filled with supplies for the 2017-2018 school year. Many of

the backpacks included back to school outfits and sneakers, as well.

All donated items go to Family Service clients or children of clients between the ages of 4 and 18 years old with demonstrated need.

To participate in Family Service's Back to School Drive, contact Susan Fischer-Flagg at sfischer@fsabc.org or 215-757-6916 x218.

Members of the Bucks County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees drop off 73 backpacks filled with clothing, shoes and supplies for Family Service's 2017-2018 Back to School Drive. The group has been sponsoring children each back to school season since 2005.



On the Spiritual Side

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Pebble Hill Church celebrates 50th anniversary

Pebble Hill Church celebrated its 50th year anniversary Saturday, Aug. 25, with an event that included a reunion of the World Peace Choir and presentations from founding Coordinating Minister Gordon Dragt and retired Coordinating Minister Gary Culp.

The Rev. Gordon Dragt began Pebble Hill Church in 1968 as an experimental outreach of the Reform Church of America.

Although sprung from a conventional Christian denomination, Pebble Hill was never a conventional church. Dragt took a stand against the Vietnam War, declaring that Pebble was part of the "revolution of our times," like it or not.

After a decade, Dragt moved on. Pebble's energy had outgrown the restraints of any denomination and the ties to the Reform Church were cut.

In 1983, the Rev. Gary Culp, another one-of-a-kind minister, came to Pebble Hill and immediately adapted to the congregation's loving, free-to-be personality.

Although the Vietnam War had ended, the Cold War with its nuclear standoff still loomed, and Pebble remained very peace conscious.

Culp immediately got Pebble registered as one of the few official peace sites in the country.

Pebble Hill annually gives the

Peace Award to a deserving activist promoting nonviolence or selfless service to humanity in the Delaware Valley.



The Rev. Larry Hall, left, the Rev. Gordon Dragt and the Rev. Gary Culp.

This year, the Harold and Alma Abel Peace Award was given to Janet Berkowitz for her work with Suicide Anonymous, a suicide awareness and prevention organization.

Berkowitz received the Peace Award at the Sunday Celebration on Aug. 5, corresponding with the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki marking the ending of World War II.

More than 150 people showed up for the 50th Anniversary Celebration, which began with a cleansing ceremony by the Rev. Siobhan Comisky and a welcome by Council President David Cook.

The Rev. Susan Manning from Pebble Hill's School of Sacred Ministry facilitated interfaith prayers by representatives of Christian, Sufi, Sikh, Hindu and Jewish faiths.

Other features of the 50th Celebration included a "Wall of Remembrance" that displayed pictures of Pebble Hill members, plus an art gallery and silent auction of paintings by the late Pebble Hill Church member Ray Winfield.

Also featured were a Pebble Hill book, volume 2 of "Pebbles On The Hill" originally published

for the 40th anniversary; a 50th anniversary mug with the 50th anniversary Pebble Hill logo; a banquet of food and beverages; and a

show starring the "Pebble All Star Players" followed by a drum circle and a bonfire. For information, visit pebblehillchurch.org.



Peace Award recipient Janet Berkowitz, center right, and her dog Gracie, with from left, Pebble Hill Church Celebration Coordinator the Rev. Larry Hall; Annette and Len Silverston, cousins of Berkowitz's late husband Phil Garber; Berkowitz's friend, Moose; and Pebble Hill Church Council President David Cook. Berkowitz has been a leader in offering Suicide Anonymous meetings in the area with Garber, plus internationally through Skype sessions online.



Members of the World Peace Choir.



2018-2019 VISITORS GUIDE & MAPS
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Advice & Advocacy for the Older Adult

ESTATE PLANNING: A subject many believe is for the wealthy and those with charitable intentions. Basic estate planning is to protect your autonomy in the face of unexpected health developments; confirming what should happen with your assets to continue benefiting you and how they should be transferred after your life ends. A popular saying: *If you don't have an estate plan, then the government has one for you.* Because I believe individuals hold ideas very different from those of the government, I recommend your Estate Plan include the following documents:

- Durable Financial Power of Attorney
- Health Care Power of Attorney
- Advance Directive for Medical Care (Living Will)
- Last Will and Testament
- A Revocable Living Trust

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HAPPENINGS

Old Rock Church sets 175th anniversary event

Old Rock Church, 260 Mt. Airy-Harbourton Road, Lambertville, N.J., celebrates its 175th anniversary with a service at 11 a.m., followed by a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9.

R.S.V.P. by Sept. 2 to Betty Jane Hunt at 609-397-1333. Leave a message.

Volunteers wanted for Evangelical Lutheran Bishop's installation

Volunteers are needed to help celebrate the installation of Bishop Patricia Ann Curtis Davenport, the first African-American woman elected Bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The installation is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, at New Covenant Church of Philadelphia, 7500 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia.

Needed are ushers, greeters, Communion servers, on-call

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