



Tredyffrin at Twilight

SOCIETY 1C

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Schools should 'leave no child inside'
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A revolutionary collection

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Carroll field hockey

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John Welsh

The tight-knit community of Garrett Hill is preparing itself for going through the process of with developing a "master plan" and new zoning and subdivision ordinances the township and consultants that will guide future redevelopment of the historic area.

Small community, big presence

Garrett Hillians galvanize in preparation for a town plan

By Sam Strike

A group of people in the Garrett Hill section of Radnor Township issued a "call to action" to their fellow residents.

More than 60 answered that

call Tuesday night by going to the township building to demand they be allowed to attend a reportedly scheduled meeting of the committee that is charged with working on a plan for that small enclave.

Residents want to know more

about the possibility of developing a master plan and new zoning and subdivision ordinances for the small but densely populated Garrett Hill.

But when they showed up, none of the committee members were there.

The meeting of the township's Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee had been canceled that afternoon, according to a committee member whom someone called.

Although committee chair John Simon said Wednesday, "I

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Supervisors back Paoli's Town Center District

By Dan Kristie

The Tredyffrin Board of Supervisors met on Monday night to discuss zoning, mailboxes and sewer gas.

Supervisor Paul Drucker (D, western) took a straw poll to see if any of his fellow supervisors would be interested in rescinding Paoli's Town Center District zoning.

Only Mark DiFelicantonio, the other Democrat on the board (at-large), said he would be interested.

"I didn't vote for the zoning in the first place," DiFelicantonio said.

Seeing a lack of support, Drucker decided not to pursue the zoning change.

The Town Center District, or TCD, is part of the new zoning package for Paoli that the supervisors enacted last month.

The TCD covers the Lancaster Pike corridor from Route 252 to the township line and allows for buildings up to 52 feet high that could contain both residential and commercial uses.

Drucker said that this zoning would bring unnecessary density to Paoli. But he added that he thought the Transit District zoning — the other part of Paoli's new zoning package — was vital, since the township needs to get behind what Amtrak is doing with its rail-yard property

The Transit District, or TD, which covers Amtrak's now-vacant Paoli Rail Yard property, allows for dense, mixed-use development there — development that would complement and help fund the new

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Ryan Richards

Phanatical over the Phillies

Radnor Middle School principal Anthony Stevenson (left) and students display their Phillies pride on Wednesday. The school celebrated "Radnor Middle School Loves The Phillies Day."

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ZHB grants variances for new Islamic Society hall

By Dan Kristie

The Islamic Society of Valley Forge is one step closer to erecting the 200-person worship hall it has been hoping to build since the mid-1990s on its property on Valley Forge Road.

Tredyffrin's Zoning Hearing Board on Thursday night granted

the religious group the zoning relief it needed to build the hall.

Construction can get underway after the group receives land development approval from the township's planning commission. This could happen by year's end.

But the process could take longer if the Islamic Society's neighbors appeal the Zoning

Hearing Board's decision. Although they haven't yet taken legal action, they are contemplating doing so.

"There will be appeals," said a man who refused to give his name. He was talking with a group of five like-minded neighbors outside the township building minutes after the Zoning

Hearing Board announced its decision.

Appeals would be heard by the court of common pleas.

Some who live near the Islamic Society's property believe the new worship hall will bring too much traffic to Valley Forge Road. They also say the new parking lot will generate too

much stormwater runoff, which they believe will harm the Valley Creek tributary that bisects the Islamic Society's property.

The Islamic Society disputes these claims.

Mohammad Jan (pronounced "John"), the Islamic Society representative who has been negoti-

SEE ZHB, PAGE 8A

Write what you know, sell what you write

Local bookseller pens novel based on true happenings in his life

By Sam Strike

The book "Without Knowing It" isn't just a story.

Its contents have been thoroughly lived by its author, Ed Luoma, the co-owner of the Readers Forum on North Wayne Avenue in Wayne, who earlier this summer published his own book.

While the cover and jacket description are somewhat vague, Luoma will tell you that it is a tale (a mostly true one) that includes an off-beat romance, friendship, sexuality issues, and loss and grief.

"Anyone should be able to relate to it," he said.

Most interestingly, a series of hand-written letters penned by Luoma to a Readers Forum cus-

tomers in 1998 was the genesis of the book published nearly a decade later.

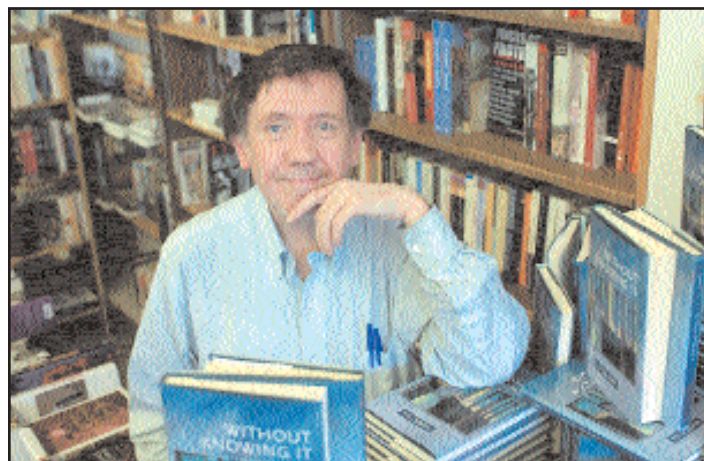
He calls the book, which is divided into sections, the first being edited and revised versions of the aforementioned let-

ters, "slightly fictionalized fact."

While one character is a composite of numerous people, everyone else and the time line of the story are real.

Luoma says it's "100-percent

SEE LUOMA, PAGE 8A



John Welsh

Ed Luoma, co-owner of the Readers Forum in Wayne, has turned from bookseller to book writer, and has been successful so far in the sales of his nearly completely true story, "Without Knowing It."

Raising funds and hope

Radnor-based National Transplant Assistance Fund celebrates its 25th anniversary

By Ryan Richards

In the reception area of the National Transplant Assistance Fund (NTAF) offices, a large map of the United States is thick with colorful thumbtacks. Each marker indicates a person aided by the organization over the years. Not one state is left bare.

"We're a small organization that makes a huge impact on people's lives," points out Lynne Coughlin Samson, NTAF's executive director, during an interview.

The organization, headquartered in the Radnor Financial Center, is beginning a yearlong celebration of its 25th anniversary.

Villanova residents Dr. Jack Kolff and his wife, Patricia, founded NTAF in 1983. Jack Kolff had established the heart-

transplant program at Temple University Hospital back when this operation was still experimental so people's insurance didn't always cover it. The couple thought people should not die because of lack of money.

Patricia Kolff, a nurse, became the organization's first executive director, serving from 1983 to 2003.

In 2000, NTAF expanded its mission to include helping patients with traumatic spinal-cord injury.

Samson, an attorney by trade and now serving her fifth year as NTAF's executive director, knows from experience the challenges families face when a loved one needs care after a traumatic injury.

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NTAF celebrates 25 years of service to those in need

NTAF, FROM PAGE 1A

The Wayne resident is the stepmother of Katie Samson, who became quadriplegic after injuring her spinal cord in a sledding accident in Radnor on Jan. 29, 2000. Today, at 25, Katie is living in Tucson, Ariz., teaching at a community college, recently earning her master's degree in art history at the University of Arizona and now contemplating pursuing a doctoral degree, says her stepmother.

Now in its eighth year, the Katie Samson Lacrosse Festival is held every spring at the Haverford School and Radnor High School for high-school teams from the tri-state region. Proceeds go to both traumatic-injury research and Katie Samson's support-services expenses.

The director says NTAF strives to be a personal link, a lifeline to people financially impacted by a catastrophic injury or in need of or recovering from an organ transplant or blood transfusion.

Samson has no shortage of success stories of people aided by the nonprofit organization over the years. She mentions, for example, one Louisiana man paralyzed after he was hit by debris while swimming toward rescue dogs during Hurricane Katrina. Funds raised so far have put in ramps at his home for a wheelchair.

NTAF's main mission is helping families raise money and get grants for family members impacted by traumatic injury or who need a transplant and whose insurance doesn't cover all their related needs.

"We help patients to organize, launch and sustain grassroots fund-raising campaigns for their uninsured medical expenses," she says.

Transplant centers nationwide send NTAF referrals of patients who need its help.

The fund coordinates fund-raisers with a loved one's family, friends, co-workers or other volunteers; contracts the local media; makes effective flyers, banners and signs promoting the

events; helps compose appeal letters to the community; and develops a Web page to promote a transplant patient's or spinal-cord-injury survivor's story. Fund-raising events include car washes, beef'n'beers, golf outings, bingo nights, bike-a-thons, swim-a-thons and black-tie dinners.

"It allows the community to get involved and give financially," says Samson.

A fund-raising campaign for a transplant patient averages \$15,000 to \$20,000 and for a catastrophic-injury patient between \$50,000 to \$75,000. She says campaign amounts often depend on a community's size, organization and enthusiasm.

Each patient working with NTAF is provided a Web page that has information about the person, a guest book for well-wishers and a secure link for donations. Samson believes the computer provides a vital resource for patients "to break down the isolation."

NTAF, which was one of three finalists for the Main Line Chamber of Commerce's 2006 Non-Profit Business of the Year honors, also manages the tax-deductible contributions on behalf of the patient.

The director cites that one in six Americans do not have health insurance, a total of 47 million.

She says medications such as anti-rejection drugs for a transplant patient may exceed \$5,000 a month. Most transplant patients have uninsured transplant-related medical expenses, according to NTAF.

In the organization's 25-year history, Samson says nearly \$50 million has been raised to help transplant and catastrophic-injury patients. Last year, \$6 million was raised, and this year NTAF expects to top that.

And how many people have been helped?

"It would be thousands and thousands of patients," she proudly estimates.

The organization's secondary objective is raising awareness of

the critical need for bone-marrow and blood donations to help people with blood cancers such as leukemia, says the director. In addition, the organization tells people about experimental procedures involving stem-cell transplants for those afflicted with such ailments as lupus and muscular dystrophy.

To celebrate NTAF's 25th anniversary and Temple University's 1,000th bone-marrow transplant, the organization has set a goal of registering 250 new people to the National Marrow Donor Program registry.

"That's pretty exciting," exclaims Samson.

She mentions that members of the Villanova, Temple and Penn football teams have pledged to be on the bone-marrow donor registry and to recruit other students for campus-registry drives in the spring of 2008.

Donor-recruitment drives will also take place at the Radnor Financial Center.

Each year, more than 35,000 people in the United States will be diagnosed with leukemia or other life-threatening diseases that can be treated by transportation of marrow (spongy tissue found in larger bones and concentrated with blood stem cells) or blood stem cells from the bloodstream, according to Samson, and about 30 percent of patients are able to find a matching donor from within their families. The remaining 70 percent, however, must search the registry for a life-saving donor match.

Determining whether one is a potential donor match is a simple procedure, according to the director. It involves swabbing with a cotton swab the inside of the cheek for DNA found in saliva.

If a match is made, the potential donor will be contacted and asked to undergo additional testing.

Blood stem cells may then be extracted from the bloodstream (a peripheral blood stem-cell donation, or PBSC) or bone marrow.

Through a sterile process



John Welsh

Lynne Coughlin Samson (left), executive director of the National Transplant Assistance Fund, and Judy MacGregor, NTAF's patient services manager, are celebrating the nonprofit organization's 25 years of helping to raise funds for transplant and spinal-injury patients.

called aphaeresis, stem cells are separated from the blood, which is safely recirculated back into the body.

For five days before the donation, the donor takes a medication, filgrastim, which increases the amount of stem cells in the blood.

Generally, bone marrow is taken from your pelvic bone while you are under general anesthesia in an outpatient procedure. The marrow is in liquid form and completely regenerates itself within four to six weeks.

"You're saving someone's life, literally," stresses Samson. "In this world what could make you feel better?"

NTAF is helping 116 marrow-transplant candidates, almost half of whom are awaiting transplants, Samson says.

She is encouraging people of all ethnicities and races to join the national registry, as many groups are underrepresented but

their blood-forming cells widely needed to help patients of matching races and ethnicities.

To honor outstanding donors and supporters, the organization holds its Annual Organ Donor Awareness Luncheon every spring. Andy Talley, head coach of the Villanova football team, was feted in 2007. One of his current players, place kicker Joe Marcoux, was also honored for donating his bone marrow twice to a woman with leukemia.

Next year's awareness luncheon will pay tribute to the organization's founders, Jack and Patricia Kolff.

"I feel honored to be able to lead this organization during such a significant celebration and we know we can continue to grow

the number of patients that we are able to help through grassroots fund-raising," remarks Samson when asked what the anniversary personally means to her.

NTAF will sponsor a marrow registry drive on Saturday, Oct. 13, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., during the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk at Wilson Farm Park, 500 Lee Road, Chesterbrook.

To give to the Fund, send a check to NTAF at 150 N. Radnor-Chester Road, Suite F-120, Radnor, PA 19087. For more information, call 1-800-642-8399, or visit www.transplantfund.org. You can find donor-registry centers by visiting www.marrow.org.

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