

# Singers

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she "loves to bring joy to the patients." And Ruth Neely, RSM, of Dallas described the music as bringing "life to wherever we go."

But the singers believe that they receive from their audiences much more than they give.

"We bring joy to people, but we get more back from them," said Anna Winkler, Dallas, who has been with the singers for five years.

Sr. Neely said singing soothes the soul. Neely has been in the group for 16 years and does not mind when the other women playfully joke that she is their spiritual leader. Neely shared a little known fact with the group. The Macarena dance can be done to Deck The Halls. Try it.

The singers have also sung at Radio City Music Hall and the Kirby Performing Arts Center.

Many of the singers have been in the group more than 10 years and say it's more than the singing that brings them back year after year. It's obvious the singers are a close-knit group who take in the new members as family. "This is my support group," said Louella Prutzman, a nurse from Shavertown. "They have helped me through the death of a husband and the near death of a son."

Annette Russett of Larksville has been singing in the group for 14 years. "This group is absolute therapy. I get my jolt from them," she explained.

Kay Sigmund of Shavertown likes to sing, but also enjoys hanging out with her pals. "We have always been supportive of each other. There have been deaths and illnesses. They are a great group of women," she said.

On the singers' last night of rehearsal, Sigmund shared happy news with her friends. She showed everyone a picture of her brand new grandson.

Sharon Bartolini, the accompanist and director, joked that she comes back every year to see these cute little faces. And, as director, "to keep them in order when they stray," she said, with a laugh.

Laughing is key to being a Community Singer. Although they

*"I like to sing in the nursing homes because it brightens the people's days."*

Doris Kitchen  
Community Singer, Dallas

share some difficult times, they know how to enjoy each other.

The Community Singers will be performing at Mercy Center Nov. 30 at 7 p.m., The Meadows Nursing Center Dec. 12 at 2:30 p.m., and at Lakeside Nursing Center Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m.

In right photo, Louella Prutzman, left, has been a Community Singer since 1975. She sang with Doris Kitchen. The singers, from left, Annette Russett, Lois Schwartz, Sandra Trocki, Anna Winkler, Ruth Neely, Doris Kitchen, Louella Prutzman, Nancy Space, Cele Okrasinski and Kay Sigmund. Seated is Sharon Bartolini. Mary Beth Banos is not pictured.



## DISTRICT COURT BRIEFS

### D.U.I. CHARGES

West Pittston resident Mark V. Krefski, 31, was arrested Aug. 22 by Kingston Township patrolman Frank Buckler after police were called to the scene of an accident involving two vehicles on Mt. Zion Rd.

On arrival police found two people lying on the ground, a charred motorcycle and a car against trees in a front yard. Krefski told police he was driving the car. After failing field sobriety tests he was taken to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital where his blood alcohol level was determined to be .178.

After investigating the incident, police concluded that Krefski caused the accident by crossing into oncoming traffic and hitting the motorcycle head-on, injuring both the driver and passenger of the motorcycle. He was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, failing to notify change of address, failing to keep right, reckless driving, and aggravated assault with a vehicle.

Chester Smith, 46, Plymouth, was arrested Aug. 15 by Dallas Twp.

patrolman Wayman Miers after police observed him driving erratically on Rt. 309.

After failing field sobriety tests, he was taken to the Luzerne County Central Processing for a breath test that determined his blood alcohol level to be .199, twice the legal limit. He was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and exceeding the speed limit by 32 mph.

Dallas resident Steve Volinsky, 32, was arrested Sept. 28 by Kingston Township patrolman Robert Parrish after police were dispatched to an accident near Shavertown Methodist Church.

Volinsky refused a blood alcohol test, which results in a one-year suspension of a driver's license. He was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. A related charge of careless driving was dismissed.

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