

Adoption

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to recommend adoption," said Gallagher who is also on the Adoption: A Choice for Life Committee. This committee, in conjunction with the Diocese of Scranton, will hold its fifth annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass for May 14 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton. Bishop James C. Timlin will be the principal celebrant.

"Everyone involved with this mass is also involved in the adoption process," said Rosemary Gallagher, committee facilitator. "Father Andrew Kurovsky, an adoptee who is stationed at St. Anne's Church in Williamsport, will be the homilist. His mother will carry one of the banners. Everyone else, including the altar servers, gift bearers, lectors and Eucharist ministers were in the adoption process," she explained.

"We honor not only the adoptive mothers but also the biological mothers who were so courageous, responsible and loving to give up their babies. We're trying to promote the idea that adoption

is a wonderful option. It can help to prevent child abuse, abandonment, and neglect," Rosemary Gallagher said.

Ken and Bonnie Greenwood of Dallas have been involved with the Adoption Mass in past years. "Our daughter Wendy carried a banner in last year's Mass," said Ken Greenwood.

"We adopted Wendy from China in 1995. I had to travel for 26 hours to get to Nanchang City. I was with a group of potential parents and we picked up eight babies," said Ken.

"They brought the babies to our hotel rooms a few hours after we arrived and we became instant parents. We brought diapers, baby clothes and formula with us. We stayed in China for eight days to complete all the formalities," he said.

The couple adopted a second baby from Korea in May 1999. "Korea has a different policy. They send the babies here so we picked Mia up at Kennedy International

Airport," said Greenwood.

"We've formed a group of Families with Children from Asia in NEPA. There are about 30 families in our group and we get together during the year. We are also planning a 5-year reunion at the Jersey shore this summer with the families that traveled to China with me," he added.

Gov. Casey's administration strongly supported legislation that would push more children out of foster care limbo. "Children can be in foster care from birth until they are 18 years old," explained Rosemary Gallagher. "The rules have changed and more children are available for adoption from foster care," she added.

Dave and Debbie Katyl of Dallas have two biological sons. "We took in some short-term foster children but in our hearts our goal was to eventually adopt a child," said Debbie.

"Mary Kate came to us as a 4-month-old baby in October, 1996. We were told it would be a long-

term placement with no chance for adoption talk for at least a year."

The goal of the foster care system is to rehabilitate the parents and eventually reunite the child with the biological parents. That isn't always the best thing for the child. "They have a hard time adjusting as a foster child. They don't feel like they belong to their foster parents but they don't feel that they belong to their biological parents either," said Debbie.

"We just bonded with Mary Kate right from the start. Many people commented on how our sons behaved with her. It was just a real bonding. We prayed for her and knew that if it was God's plan it would work out."

Mary Kate's adoption became final in August, 1999. Dave Katyl frequently tells people that Mary Kate is adopted.

"My husband said he wants to let people know how wonderful this is," explained Debbie. "Adoption is a great option."



The Katyl family. From left: Danie., Dave, Debbie, Mary Kate and Joshua, at a celebration of Mary Kate's adoption Sept. 4, 1999.

Bakker

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March, 1998. She said some of the 11 committee members were independent, but others were selected by the company. "I felt like it was always a negotiating process to include a basic amount of responsible policies," she said.

The committee was assisted by consultants who worked for PG&W.

The committee settled on dividing the land into three categories: some that could be developed, some that should be left as conservation land, and some suitable for mixed uses. A 151-acre tract around Huntsville Reservoir was found suitable for development, while 1,733 acres near the Ceasetown Reservoir were tagged for mixed use.

Now, Bakker is dismayed that the land has been sold to an unidentified buyer who has given no indication how it will be used. "I thought it would be taken more seriously," she said. After the study was completed, committee members were told they would be called back to review any actions before they were taken, as an advisory council. "They never called," she said.

In the end, Bakker came to believe the company simply went through the motions to comply with its legal obligations. "I felt like we gave a lot of our time and it was a waste of time," she said.

Bakker thinks more of the land should have been left untouched. "It's so important to save some open space and not have everything developed," she said. "This (the present situation) is outrageous."

by Ronald Bartizek

Watershed

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can Water Co. "Why is there a need for the ownership to remain anonymous?" asks Marilyn Lipfert of Trucksville, a member of the new group. "I think that kind of secrecy raises questions."

Lipfert became concerned when she read that over 40,000 acres of land had been sold. "I have a genuine interest in green space," she said. "Preserving that is im-

portant to me." She recently saw a patch of forest being timbered off I-81 near the Nuangola rest stop. "When I see a large tract being timbered out, my heart skips a beat," she said.

Members of Defenders of the Watershed aren't opposed to productive uses for some of the land, they say. But, like Lipfert, they would like to see better planning and an open process, not the

"helter-skelter" development that now occurs.

The land was removed from watershed status after filtration plants were installed about five years ago. At that time, the state Public Utilities Commission required that the land's status be reviewed by a citizens' committee, although there was no requirement for the company to follow recommendations that came from

that review. The committee suggested that about 75 percent of the land remain undeveloped, and the new group wants that recommendation to be honored.

"Whoever it is, whatever it is," Defenders of the Watershed wants to put pressure on them to refrain from developing much of the land, Niezgoda said. The group is looking for public or private funding that could be used to help that

effort, and perhaps turn over some land to a conservation trust. "It's a big undertaking, but we think it's worthwhile," Niezgoda said.

Defenders of the Watershed will meet Thursday, May 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the office of the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust, 11 Carverton Rd., Trucksville, in the former Kingston Twp. municipal building.

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Black belt

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there", she says.

"Overall they're pretty proud of her. They're very supportive," says Barnes. "She's opening the door for the rest of them." Besides her martial arts studies, Angela plays softball, and likes computers and drawing.

Angela is active in competition. These all-day tournaments often attract 150-300 students. She has earned 30 trophies for both the presentation of forms and fighting technique, 10 of which are first place. She thinks more and more students are competing. "Competition is getting harder and harder now," she says.

For her next step, Angela will study a specialized adult curriculum that focuses on street defense, as well as martial arts weapons and weapon defenses. "I hope her interest level stays where it is," says her father.

Angela has very practical reasons why she believes kids should study the martial arts: "They should at least know how to defend themselves," she says. "I don't want to be stuck in a situation I can't get out of."



Gary Barnes, Angela's principal instructor, tied her new black belt.

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Stamp

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Karl Keck. "The Postal Service has a proud tradition of issuing stamps to help raise awareness of social issues. This stamp continues our active role in the fight against breast cancer, one of the deadliest diseases among women. We encourage everyone to purchase and use the stamp before it goes off sale July 29."

The Dallas Post Office will kick off its campaign to sell over 1000 sheets of Breast Cancer stamps Monday, May 8, at 8:45 a.m. Local speakers will be on hand and refreshments will be served. The Post Office is asking for your support for this worthy cause. Breast cancer patients, survivors and their families are encouraged to come and sign a guest book.

The 40-cent, self-adhesive Breast Cancer Research stamp is valid for postage at the 33-cent First-Class letter rate, with up to 7 cents per stamp sold going to research. Seventy percent of net proceeds above the cost of postage is given to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Thirty percent goes to the Medical Research Program of the Department of Defense (DoD). The NIH and DoD, which both conduct breast cancer research, were identified as recipients of the funds by legislation.

To see an image of the Breast Cancer Research stamp, or to order stamps, visit the Postal Service's Web site at www.stampsonline.com. The stamps are also available toll-free at 1-800-STAMP-24.



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