



Grace Fielding, of Follies Road, Jackson Township, a life-long Back Mountain resident, recently helped celebrate the advancement of her grandson, Stephen Walter, to the rank of Eagle Scout.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Grandson of locals attains Eagle Scout

Grace Fielding, of Follies Road, Jackson Township, a life-long Back Mountain resident, recently helped celebrate the advancement of her grandson, Stephen Walter, to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Walter is a member of BSA Troop 12 in Barren Hill. He is 16 years old and a junior at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School in Plymouth Meeting. He is the son of Fielding's daughter, Ann Marie, and her husband, Gregory, and has a twin sister, Sarah, and an older sister, Amanda.

Walter's Eagle Scout project was planning and organizing the staining and sealing of the Hawk Watch Observation Tower at Fort Washington State Park. He enlisted the help of fellow troop members and family and friends to carry out the project.

Walter has been active in Scouting since joining the Tiger Cubs and joined Troop 12 as a Boy Scout in 2003. He is also a member of the Order of the Arrow, a national brotherhood of Scouts dedicated to service. He

has a letter for varsity cross country and participates in track and field. He has toured Europe as a percussionist for the American Music Abroad program. He remains on the Honor Roll and has been recommended for membership in the National Honor Society.

Mrs. Fielding gathered with family and friends at St Peter's Lutheran Church, Lafayette Hill, on September 14 for the Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Walter received many letters of recognition and certificates commemorating his accomplishment, including letters from Pope Benedict XVI, Presidents George W. Bush, George H. Bush and Jimmy Carter and former Vice-President Al Gore. There were additional recognitions from both Senators Arlen Specter and Bob Casey, along with a card from Governor Ed Rendell.

A reception was held following the Court of Honor in the Fellowship Hall of St Peter's Lutheran church.

Jeckell family members hold 50th anniversary reunion

The 50th Jeckell Family Reunion was held on August 30 at the Checkerboard Inn Pavilion in Trucksville with 91 family members present. A full day of fun, food, music and family activities were planned by the 50th Reunion Committee (Warren Williamson, Jr., Doreen Pavese, Vince Bonsavage, Dana Daniels, Linda Thoma, and George Bath, Jr.).

To mark this special occasion, a family cookbook was begun with recipes for family favorites being contributed. A special themed dessert contest was held with Susan Sharkey winning for her interpretation of the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helen's. Following the contest, the entries were auctioned off and devoured by family members.

Attendees were encouraged to dress in a costume from their favorite decade. Kayla Jeckell won for her Material Girl outfit. Very close runners-up were Jeanne Jeckell as a hippy from the 60s and John Bath as a greaser from the 50s. Other games were played and prizes were awarded.

Learning about the family's Lithuanian heritage became the highlight of the afternoon. Special guest William C. Kashatus, Assistant Professor of History at Luzerne County Community College, performed his "Living History: An Immigrant's Search for the American Dream." It is a story told in the first person that depicts the immigration and struggle of a Lithuanian family as it makes its home in Glen Lyon in the late 1800s.

The family tree continues to fill



SUBMITTED HPOTO

Ninety-one members of the Jeckell family attended the 50th anniversary family reunion on August 30 at the Checkerboard Inn Pavilion in Trucksville.

in as family members brought photographs and documents to be scanned by family genealogist, Linda Thoma.

Jeckell family connections are sought for the following ancestors who arrived here from Lithuania in the 1800s: Joseph H. Jeckell (son of George Jeckell and Mary Youkshutic) and Eva Sokoloski (or Sakalauskas); Jacob Balchun (or Balchunas), Sr. and Anna Sokoloski (or Sakalauskas); Mr. Alanski (or Alansky) and Agatha Sokoloski (or Sakalauskas); Antanas John Sakalauskas (or Sokoloski), Jr. and Petrone Michas.

To make a family connection, contact Linda Thoma by phone 675-2274 or by email lthoma@ptd.net. The evening was topped off with music - a family sing-along led by George Bath, Jr. of Trucksville and Frank Jeckell III of New Jersey, an original and current band member of the 1910 Fruitgum Company, remembered for the gold record hits, "Simon Says"

and "1-2-3 Red Light." Officers for the coming year are Ron Jeckell, president; George Bath Jr., vice-president; Linda Thoma, treasurer; Milly Jeckell, secretary; and Effie Ann Metcalf, historian.

Family members in attendance at the reunion were:

- Connecticut: Mary Catalina, Anthony Catalina, John and Joyce Perugini, Paul and Nancy Jo Ciminera, Melissa Ciminera, Matthew Ciminera, Stephanie Pascual
- New Jersey: Frank Jeckell Jr., Debbie and Frank Jeckell III, Deyna Jeckell, Angela Dachisen, Joyce and Rory Shotwell, Brandi Mahedy, Carol Bright, Bernie and Barbara Jeckell, Barry and Jill Jeckell, Vivian Jeckell, Charles Jeckell, Martin and Sande Salowe, Ken and Doreen Pavese, Lexie Born, Randi Born, Kristen Pavese, Al Jeckell Jr., Janet Frank
- South Carolina: Joe and Lore Scarpatti
- Bear Creek area: Paul and Mary Jo Bath, Zachary Bath, Rachel Bath

- Dallas area: Bernie and Linda Thoma, Diane and George Bath Jr., Stephen Bath, John Paul Bath, Matthew Checkiewicz
- Mountain Top: Cindy Jeckell, Bill and Tina Jeckell, Irene Sabol, Jeanne Jeckell, Kayla Jeckell, Brittnee Jeckell, Jimmy Jeckell II, Milly Jeckell
- Pittston: Joe Sirochman
- Wapwallopen: Ron and Cheryl Jeckell, Matt and Judi Kotarsky, Alia Kotarsky, Noah Kotarsky
- WB area: George and Susan Bath, Sharkey, George Sharkey Jr., George Bath, Effie Ann Metcalf, Dana Daniels, Lisa Bath, Adrian Welsh, Dalton John Bath, Taylor Ann and Ashley Marie Bath, Ed & Beverly Bath, Barbara & John Bath, Wayne and Lynne Jeckell, Bill and Donna Sabol, Emily Sabol, Billy Sabol, Will and Cam Bonsavage, Vince and Ann Bonsavage, Brooke Bonsavage, Becca Bonsavage
- Brockway: Betsy and Warren Williamson Jr.

CIVIC BRIEFS

Teddy Bear Tea planned

Dallas Chapter Eastern Star will hold a Teddy Bear Tea from 2 to 4 p.m. today, Oct. 19, at the Dallas Eastern Star Hall, Foster Street (behind CVS Drug Store), Dallas.

There will be refreshments, door prizes and entertainment by an Elvis impersonator.

For ticket or more information, call Sharon Jones at 675-5784 or Patricia Norris at 333-0526.

Meet the candidate event slated for today in HL

Meet Russ Bigus, candidate for state representative, at 1:30 p.m. today, Oct. 19, at the American Legion in Harvey's Lake. There will be complimentary food and beverages at this free event.

NHCA plans Halloween party

The Noxen Historical Community Association (N.H.C.A.) will hold its Sixth Annual Halloween Party and Costume Contest from 7 to 10 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 24, at the Noxen School. There will be music for all by D&D DJ's, door prizes, costume contest with prizes, food and refreshments. Costumes are optional.

Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call 298-2052. All proceeds benefit the Noxen School building project.

Musical comedy slated for Music Box

"Hansel and Gretel's Fright Night," a musical comedy for children will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 24, at 1 and 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25, and at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Music Box Dinner Playhouse, 196 Hughes St., Swoyersville.

Admission includes a McDonald's Fun Meal.

School-day performances will be held at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 24, and Wednesday, Oct. 29.

For more information, call 283-2195.

Family style dinner set

The Sweet Valley Volunteer Fire Company will hold a family style beef dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25, with take-outs beginning at 4 p.m.

Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 6 to 11 and free for children under 6.

Spaghetti dinner planned

The Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Co. will hold an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25, at the fire hall.

Cost is 47 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 6 to 12 and free for children under age 3. Dinner includes unlimited spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and beverage. Takeouts will be available.

For tickets or more information, contact Maureen at 333-5970.

Kiwanis Club plans annual Halloween parade

The Dallas Kiwanis Club will sponsor its annual Halloween Parade at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26. All Back Mountain children are invited to participate in the parade which will start at the old Dallas Elementary School on Lake Street.

Judging will be held at noon at the elementary school.

For more information, call 675-3913.

Pumpkin carving contest set in Jackson Township

The Third Annual Children's Pumpkin Coloring and Carving Contest and Emergency Services Safety Awareness Day will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Jackson Township Municipal Park and Pavilion.

There will be prizes, food and demonstrations of emergency equipment on display, along with a hayride and Castle in the Park.

The event is sponsored by the Jackson Township Police Department and Board of Supervisors.

Music Box sets auditions

The Music Box Repertory Company will hold auditions for "A Christmas Festival" at 7 p.m. on Sunday and Monday, Oct. 26 and 27, the Music Box Dinner Playhouse, 196 Hughes St. Swoyersville.

All roles are open for the one-act musical, "The Gifts of the Magic" and festival singers. Performance dates are November 29 and 30, December 4-7, 11-14 and 18-21.

All those auditioning will be asked to sing a song of his/her choice. Children ages 8 to 15 will audition at 7 p.m. while adults ages 16 and over will audition at 8 p.m.

For more information, call 283-2195.

Soup orders being taken

The Dallas Chapter Easter Star is taking orders for chicken noodle and vegetable beef soup at \$4.50 a quart. Orders must be placed by October 27.

To order, call Pug Berti at 675-7247 or Dianne Corby at 675-4893.

Alzheimer's Candle Light

Vigil planned for Oct. 27

An Alzheimer's Candle Light Vigil with clergy, music, and flag ceremony by Boy Scout Troop 155 will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 27, in the chapel of the Meadows Nursing Center, 55 W. Center Hill Rd., Dallas. Candles will be lit around the pond on the campus, followed by light refreshments.

Please make a reservation by calling 675-8600.

Eastern Star plans craft sale for November 1

The 16th annual craft sale will be held by the Dallas Chapter Eastern Star Building Association from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1, in the Eastern Star building, Foster Street and Woodlawn Avenue, Dallas (behind the CVS Drug Store).

Vendors will sell various items and the Eastern Star members will also sell Welsh cookies.

For information, call Irene Transue at 675-1367.

Haunted house benefits HL Fire Company

Brokenharts Haunted Asylum, presented by Screaminmonshunts.com to benefit the Harveys Lake Fire Company will be held every weekend in October

and November 1 at the Luzerne County Fair Grounds in Dallas. Hours are from 7 p.m. to midnight on Fridays and Saturdays and from 7 to 11 p.m. on Sundays.

Brokenharts, a walk-through haunted house, is a self-guided tour with high tech effects, specially trained scare actors, animatronics and more.

For more information, visit www.screaminmonshunts.com or call 760-8027.

Alzheimer's Support Group meeting slated

An Alzheimer's Assoc. Support Group meeting will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6, in the board room at the Meadows Nursing Center, 55 W. Center Hill Rd., Dallas.

For information, call 675-8600 or 675-3767.

Sportsman's raffle set

The North Moreland Township Volunteer Fire Company of Center Moreland will hold a sportsman's raffle on November 8 at the fire hall. Tickets may be obtained by calling Jim at 333-4906.

Ham dinner planned

The Sweet Valley Volunteer Fire Co. will hold a family style ham dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 8. Take-outs will begin at 4 p.m.

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Rep. Boback

Get-together with State Representative Karen Boback slated for Dallas

Election News

State Representative Karen Boback (R-Luzerne) will be attending a special evening Get-Together at American Legion Daddow Isaac Post 672 in Dallas. Friends of Karen Boback are sponsoring the pre-election Get-together with Karen in the Banquet Room at the American Legion on Thursday, October 23rd from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Representative Boback will be on hand to meet & greet her constituents. Open to the public. No charge for admission. Complimentary light refreshments will be served. For more information call Friends of Karen Boback Campaign Headquarters in Dallas at 674-0808, e-mail repboback@karenboback.com or go to the website www.karenboback.com on the internet.

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