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## New program gives youngsters reading opportunity

First session for second to fifth-graders has 26 participants.

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Starting last Monday and continuing through August 19, the summer reading program in the Back Mountain Memorial Library's Children's Room has already made an impact - overtly and in ways that might not be so obvious.

Twenty-six children attended a new special program for second to fifth-graders interested in learning the basic, early levels of a book discussion.

Maria Sorokin, a volunteer, om who has been a Story Hour reader for seven years, started this book discussion group. It includes her daughter, Samantha, who was too young to join the older age-level book discussion groups.

Sorokin volunteered for the job and, gracefully and enthusiastically, led the children through a book about a trip to Niagara Falls.

She augmented the reading with large, colorful pictorial books about the Falls with historic stories and old cartoons showing people going over the Falls in barrels. Sorokin presented plenty of statistics (790,000 gallons of water go over the Falls each sec-

ond).

Sorokin said she loves reading to the children. The book "A Field Trip to Niagara Falls" by Geronimo Stilton, recounts the trip a class of mice make to Niagara Falls.

"It sounds like a pretty nice trip, even though it's a five hour drive," said Danny Dudick, of Dallas, within earshot of his mother after the reading and discussion.

The book discussion triggered the imaginations of many of the children, like Nicole Amoachi, of Shavertown. "I'd like to go swimming in the Falls," she said, "but I don't know if you can drink the water. I liked learning about the book."

Johanna Kiska, of Shavertown, got the most inspiration from the book discussion. "I like anything with water in it, or if it's about water," she begins. "That's because I'm afraid of the water. Everybody makes fun of me because I can't swim." The 9-year-old continues, "I want to take some more swimming lessons soon, maybe this summer," she thought.

Parents interested in the summer reading programs and their schedules at the Back Mountain Memorial library are asked to call Children's Librarian Janet Bauman at 675-1182 to pre-register for the many different age-based programs through Aug 19. There is no fee for these programs.



Volunteer Story Hour Maria Sorokin and her daughter, Samantha, present a "Field Trip to Niagara Falls" at a book discussion group in the Children's Room at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK / FOR THE DALLAS POST

## DMS CHORAL STUDENTS PERFORM WITH ANDRE RIEU



Members of the Dallas Middle School Select Chorus join world-renowned Dutch violinist, conductor and composer Andre Rieu on stage at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza on June 21. The fourth through eighth-grade students joined Rieu in performing Michael Jackson's "Earth Song" as a special tribute to the late singer. The chorus is under the direction of Hollie Major. Students who performed with Andre Rieu are Nell Adams, Casidhe Menig, Maddie Gilhooley, Emily Banta, Sarah Blamire, Ruby Mattson, Troy Reinert, Cassidy Buda, Katie Colacito, Krista Zimmerman, Madison Ziemba, Jared Blockus, Cortlyn VanDeusch, Luby Kiriakidi, Abbie Bendick, Allie Bruch, Hannah Kimball, Christina Valenti, Rory Mullin, Patrick Newhart, Samuel Reinert, Jared Hoats, Luke Matusiak, Will Colacito, Mark Pall, Jake Bozentka, Dominic Augustine and Aaron Napkora.

### BACK MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

## Members want water study, discuss ways to obtain funding

By REBECCA BRIA  
For The Dallas Post

Members of the Back Mountain Community Partnership

Thursday afternoon proposed a water study of the area and discussed ways to obtain funding for it.

The partnership is an inter-municipal group composed of Dallas, Franklin, Jackson, Kingston and Lehman Townships and Dallas Borough.

In his solicitor's report, Attorney Jeffrey Malak gave examples of what some other Council of Governments (COGs) in the state are doing, including a wa-

ter table study, a joint detective borough, a joint youth center, a stormwater plan and a UCC (Uniform Construction Code) appeals board.

Raymond Iwanowski, a supervisor from Lehman Township, said he does not believe a water study has ever been done in the Back Mountain. Iwanowski said a source of funding for such a study may be gas companies. He suggested that Brian Oram, a geologist and professor at Wilkes

University, complete the study.

BMCP Vice President James Reino, chairman of supervisors in Kingston Township, suggested the group write a letter to gas companies to see if they would fund a water study.

Iwanowski said he will first make some phone calls, including to EnCana Oil & Gas, to find out if there is interest on an informal basis before the group makes a formal request.

Joseph Chacke, of NEPA Alli-

ance, said he will also check to see if any funding is available from the Department of Environmental Protection. NEPA Alliance is a non-profit organization which provides administrative and professional services to the BMCP at no cost.

Reino added that water companies may be interested in participating as well. Iwanowski then asked Malak to find out

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## Church sells one, buys two

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK  
For The Dallas Post

The sale of a property on 13 Warren Dr. in Shavertown by Gate of Heaven Church and the acquisition of two more properties by the church Parish and Finance Councils have drawn attention to ongoing and future changes for Catholics in the Back Mountain.

The single-family house in Shavertown had been housing for the former Gate of Heaven Pastor Fr. Kevin Mulhern from October 2006 until July 2009, after the original rectory on Machell Avenue was sold to Snowdon Funeral Home. Fr. Mulhern lived in the home until last year when he was re-assigned to serve in another area.

Fr. David Toomey, now the pastor of Gate of Heaven in Dallas and Our Lady of Victory Church in Harveys Lake, resides in the rectory at Harveys Lake.

"The maintenance and upkeep expense of this property (13 Warren Dr.) was not cost effective" the parish noted in this week's bulletin. The Warren Dr. property was sold for \$211,000 in May 2010.

But the sale again brings up the possibility of more changes for Back Mountain Catholics.

"This has nothing to do with consolidation or closure. Absolutely not," Father Toomey said, emphatically. "The Back Mountain is growing."

The parish's weekly bulletin stated, "the release of the expenses made financial sense."

Fr. Toomey pointed out that the parish has also purchased two additional properties.

A property formerly owned by Lee Cyphers at 22 King St. in Dal-

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